

# SCCOGS NEWS

The Scioto Chapter of  
the Ohio Genealogical  
Society

VOLUME 37, ISSUE 6  
November / December 2012

## A Note From The Editor

Hello Members,

I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It seems, as usual, that another year has come and gone quickly! Remember to pay your SCCOGS dues for 2013!

As the year comes to a close, I leave you with this quote I found:

*"The most heinous crime in genealogy is for those with historical knowledge to become intentionally illiterate with regard to putting it in the written word form for future generations to value and gain insight. The sentence for such failure is family history lost forever. This, I say, is one of the greatest and most sorrowful of family tragedies known to mankind, affecting countless future generations who seek to know themselves through the precious roots of wisdom from which they have come".*

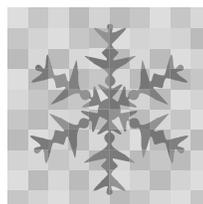
William "Doug" Park

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/p/a/r/William-D-Park/FILE/0041page.html>

SCCOGS is still looking for a newsletter editor and webmaster. If anyone would be interested in either one of these positions, please contact one of the officers listed on page 2. They really need someone who can dedicate more time to these jobs than I can at the moment.

Until the next edition, here's wishing the best for you and yours.

Joyce M. Sadler



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### Next Meeting—December 8th

**The next meeting of the Scioto County Genealogy Society will be Saturday, December 8, 2012, at 1:00pm at the Masonic Temple Building, 612 Chillicothe Street—7th Floor, Portsmouth, Ohio. The building is located at the corner of 6th and Chillicothe Streets.**

**The topic of the meeting will be a workshop— "Ask Granny" - A Genealogical Gift To My Family.**

**Officers will provide Holiday Refreshments.**

**Meetings are free and open to the public. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact: Jodi Wright 740-285-2424**

### Upcoming Meetings

•February 9, 2013—  
To Be Announced

## 2011 SCCOGS Officers:

**President** - Patricia Lacy  
russell8447@roadrunner.com

**Vice President** - Jodi Wright  
jwwyoming@hotmail.com

**Corresponding Secretary** - Jan Edwards  
gennee@roadrunner.com

**Recording Secretary** - Phyllis Crawford  
rlc.pac@frontier.com

**Treasurer** - Gladys Reynolds  
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**Librarian** - Jackie Journey  
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**Co-Chairs of Publications** - Evelyn Baker  
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Patricia Lacy  
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**Historian**— Mary Elizabeth Flanagan

## What Happened at the October SCCOGS Meeting?

The October Meeting of SCCOGS was held at the Portsmouth Library Main Branch October 13, 2012 with 13 members present at 1:00p.m.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Cemetery:** Jan Edwards stated that Bloom-Vernon Township Cemetery Book will be finished as soon as it has been indexed and will be ready to be published as a CD, Book or both. Gladys Reynolds stated that Greenlawn Cemetery computer records have been transferred from the old records to the new system and the new burials need to be updated, and they were asking for volunteers to work to update the data.

**Newsletter:** Gladys Reynolds stated that we are now doing 6 newsletters again with the help of Joyce Sadler. It was discussed whether we need to mail the reminder cards to membership of meeting dates before the meetings. The data is in the newsletters and an e-mail is sent before the meetings. It was suggested that a "Save the Date" sheet be sent or given to membership at the December meeting for the following year for a reminder so they can mark their calendar. A motion was made by Molly Stroud to send a "Save the Date" to membership in the newsletter and seconded by Jan Edwards and not to send the reminder post-cards.

**Publication:** Evelyn Baker stated that sales were down.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Nominating Committee for the slate of Officers for the 2013 year. Pat Lacy asked for volunteers for this committee. Jan Edwards, Molly Stroud, and Jodi Wright volunteered to serve on this committee.

OGS Car Raffle Tickets to help to pay for the OGS Library Building. The chapter was sent 5 booklets to be sold, which were bought by those in attendance.

### **Announcements:**

The December meeting will be at the Masonic Temple Building on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor meeting room and the Officer will bring the refreshments for this meeting.

### **Speaker:**

Jodi Wright introduced today's speaker Carolyn Cottrell Local History Supervisor for the Portsmouth Public Library presenting "The Ologies" the marriage of Technology and Genealogy and what the offspring mean to you. Carolyn presented a Power Point Program with hand outs for those in attendance, answering questions as each displace was given.

We were adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Crawford, Recording Secretary



**Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues!**  
We Appreciate You, and Thank you for being a valued member of *SCCOGS*!

## Pictures from the August Meeting

### Those who are no longer with us

#### Former OGS Member and Past SCCOGS Speaker in February 2010

#### Oliver Collins Jr., 73

Oliver Collins, Jr., 73, of McDermott, died Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012, at SOMC Hospice.

He was born March 24, 1939, in New Boston, a son of the late Oliver and Mabel Phipps Collins, Sr. Ollie was a journeyman electrician, President and co-owner of Marbex Surgical Instruments, and a 1957 Glenwood High School graduate. He was a Native American Activist and Principle Chief of the Tallige Fire Cherokee Nation. He traveled extensively to Pakistan, Germany, Israel, and Taiwan.

He is survived by his wife, Erma Lee Phipps Collins, whom he married Aug. 19, 1961, in Portsmouth; three sons, Jeffrey (Debbie) Collins of McDermott, Sean (Wanda) Collins of West Portsmouth, and Matthew Collins of McDermott; two daughters Kayla and Ellie Collins at home; 12 grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; two sisters Teresa Moore and Mary Ann Mueller both of California; and a very special Native American Sister, Barbara Crandell.

He was also preceded in death by one son, Mark Anthony Collins; and one brother, Nathaniel Phipps.

A Native American Celebration of Life Ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14, 2012, in Kalanu Cemetery next to Earl Thomas Conley Park on U.S. 52, in West Portsmouth. Arrangements are under the direction of the McKinley Funeral Home in Lucasville.

#### SCCOGS Member and Cemetery Information Compiler/Locator

#### Pamela Hager, 45

Pamela Hager, 45, of Cocoa, Fla. died Friday, Oct. 26, 2012, in Florida. She was born Nov. 9, 1996, in New Orleans, La., the daughter of the late Edwin and Peggy Wolfe Hager. Pam was receptionist at Huntington Place Rehabilitation Center in Cocoa. She was member of the

Roman Catholic Faith.

Surviving are her sister Jeri (Robert) Diffendal of Waverly, her nieces Peggy Crabtree, Katie Willis, and Stephanie Crabtree, her beloved dog Belle, two special friends, Mary Densmore and Derek Beckman.

Graveside services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012, at Greenlawn Cemetery in Portsmouth with Rev. David Young officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of MEL-CHER FUNERAL HOME.

- *Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life.*
- *Always give a word or sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend or even a stranger, if in a lonely place.*
- *Show respect to all, but gravel to none.*
- *When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light, for life, for strength. Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself.*
- *Seek to make your life long and of service to your people. Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the Great Divide.*
- *When your times comes to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so when their time comes, they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song and die like a hero going home.*

—Tecumseh (Shawnee) 1768—1813

The following article is from a scrapbook at 2nd Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth, Ohio which contained a Newspaper of Jackson, Ohio dated Wednesday, September 22, 1903.

### RIEGEL REUNION

Held Sunday Was Attended by 91 Direct Descendants and Many Friends.

The Family One of the Oldest and Most Numerous in the County. The Record of a Day That Will be Long Remembered.

"The Old Home Days" that are becoming so popular in the older states of the Union are perhaps only second in importance to the reunion of a great family. All of us who have been separated from friends and acquaintances for a great number of years know what a pleasure it is to return again and renew old acquaintances and greet old friends; and so those who have been separated from their kindred for many years know what a greater blessing it is to return to the scenes of your childhood and there clasp the hand of your own kith and kin and recount again events and associations that must ever remain a precious memory.

The reunion of the Riegel family on last Sunday at the home of William Riegel was one of the most memorable events of this character that has taken place in our county recently. Owing to the fact that a few of the family from Illinois, now visiting here, must return the present week, but little time was given for preparation and many who might otherwise have attended could not be present. As it was 91 of the lineal descendants of Daniel and Benjamin Riegel, the founders of the Riegel family in this county, were present to honor the occasion. With them met perhaps 200 other persons who were either related to the family by marriage or were friends or neighbors. They all met in a beautiful grove near the home of William Riegel and passed the day most pleasantly. In the morning, Rev. P \_\_\_\_\_ of Stockdale made an address after which dinner was served in the grove. And such a feast is seldom enjoyed—that which was served upon a long table under the grateful shade of the trees! There was an abundance of the very best the farmer's wife can prepare for such an occasion and that it defied enumeration or description goes without saying. During this dinner hour all restraint was thrown aside, the vast throng passed along the table greeting those whom they had not met earlier in the day. After dinner our local photographer, Mr. J.W. Miller, grouped the family and a picture was taken. In the group were more than 100 persons. Mrs. Margaret Riegel,

the venerable widow of Daniel Riegel, had the place of honor. She bears her 83 years of age with remarkable ease and is in possession of all of her faculties. Then followed her step sons and their sons and grand sons until a maze of faces were ranked tier upon tier making a grand picture full of interest to anyone who might look thereon. After the artist had completed his work, other light refreshments were served, then fond farewells were spoken and hands clasped that may not clasp again on Earth and the reunion was over.

### A Brief History

Daniel Riegel moved from Carroll county in April 1847 and settled in Hamilton township. His two oldest sons, Solomon and William in company with one George Karn drove through with a four horse team while other members of the family came by boat from Steubenville to Portsmouth. One year later this family was joined by the family of Benjamin Riegel, Daniel's younger brother, and from these two families have sprung the numerous progeny of our day. The two brothers had married sisters, Christina and Mary Shultz and thus the two branches of the family are closely related. Daniel was the father of 11 children, 9 of whom lived to a considerable age and reared families.

Solomon, the eldest, was born in 1827, was married to Catharine Wittman and to the union were born a son, Henry, and a daughter, Mary. Both are married and the latter has a family of five children. They reside at Gallatia, Ill.

William was married to Ellen Culp and 8 children came to bless the union, Joseph, John, Hiram, Louisa, Allen, Laura, Eliza and Mary; of these Laura and Louisa are now deceased. There are at present 20 living grand children and in respect to numbers William's family seems to wear the honors.

Samuel was married to Sarah J. Gillilan and the following children were born to the union: David, A.W. and Charles, the latter residing in Illinois. There are but 6 grand children in this family.

John chose for his wife Christina Flaker and the union was blessed by the birth of 2 sons and 2 daughters; Hiram, Sampson, Mary and Anna. This family boasts 10 grand children and 3 great grand children and in respect to the latter, stands alone.

George married Rosana Wyant and as a result of this union were born 6 children—Katharine, Daniel, Jacob, John, Esther and Rachel. To this family belongs 10 grand

children.

Hiram chose for his wife Wilmina Trexler and four children were born to the union—J.O., Rosa Lilly, Frances and Daisy. But 6 grand children have been born to this family.

Sarah was married to John Pierce and to the union were born 4 children, Wesley, Webb, Emma and Johnson the latter now deceased. But 5 grand children have been born to this family.

Elias was united in marriage to Catharine Spohn and to the union were born 9 children, four of whom and the father are now deceased. Those living are Henry, Maggie, Frank, William and Salomon. This family resides in Illinois and was not represented at the reunion. To this family have been born 7 grand children.

Douglass, Daniel's only child by his second marriage, married Cornelia Lesser and to the union were born three daughters, Cora, Maggie and Grace. This family moved to Marion, Ind., last spring and was not represented. This family is the only one having no grand children. This, then, in brief, is the history of the tribe of Daniel. We shall next treat of the tribe of Benjamin.

As related above, Benjamin Riegel and his family settled in Hamilton Township in 1848, but in later years he removed to Portsmouth when his death occurred about 12 years ago. He was the father of 7 children, 5 of whom survive as follows: Isaac born in 1831, G.W., born in 1833, Mary A. born in 1835, Lehr, now deceased, born in 1837, Rosa Anna, born 1840 and died at an early age, Belinda, born 1847.

Isaac was married to Mary A. Hammonds and to the union were born 4 children, E.W. of Cleveland, O.B. of Portsmouth, M.O. and W.R. of this county. All are married. This family has 5 grand children.

George W. was married to Perthena Sheward and the union was blessed by the birth of 6 children; Eliza, H.M., Media, Cressie, Mamie and Stella. Eliza and Cressie reside at Milwaukee. Three are married and the grand children in this family number 9.

Mary A. was married to Heny Nagle and the family has always resided at Portsmouth. Their family consists of 4 children, all living; William, Edward, Emma and Charles. Four grand children have been born to this family.

Lehr, now deceased, was married to Lewis Flaker and 3 children were born, Ella, Charles and Matilda. But one grand child has been born to this family.

Elias was married to Wilmina Smith and resides at

Youngstown, Ohio. He has three children; Clarence, William and Ernest.

Many interesting incidents have been crowded out, and we have also been unable to give a more complete genealogy because of lack of space.

From the Portsmouth Daily Times 09/02/1899

#### DEATH

Claimed Miss Anna E. Purdum This Morning.  
She Never Regained Consciousness After Being Injured  
in the Runaway Last Tuesday.

Miss Anna E. Purdum, who was so seriously injured in an accident at Wheelersburg last Tuesday, caused by a horse running away, that she never regained consciousness, passed away to her reward this morning at 10 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. Rogers, where she was taken immediately after the accident.

She was born in this city in 1853 and was the daughter of the late J.W. Purdum, her mother dying when she was quite young. Her stepmother died within the past two years.

She became an attendant at the First Presbyterian church when yet a child and from her youth up was active, interest and willing in all church work. When the Second church was organized she transferred her membership there, and no one was more active in building up the societies within the church. A regular attendant upon the Sunday school, she became, after some years, a teacher, and seldom indeed was it that she was not present to instruct her class. She was of late years also pianist, was president of the King's Daughters and a member of the Christian Endeavor society. She was also a member of the Woman's Literary club and of the Ladies Musicale.

She leaves one brother, J.P. Purdum, the attorney, to whose home, at 28 East Eighth Street, the remains were brought this afternoon, accompanied by her brother and Mrs. T.J. Pursell.

The funeral will take place Monday afternoon from the Second Presbyterian church. Rev. Dr. S.B. Alderson, who is in Washington City, has been communicated with, and it is expected that he will reach here tomorrow. The remains will be laid to rest in beautiful Greenlawn, beside her parents.

## John Richardson, Splendid Citizen, Answers The Call

From the Portsmouth Times 11/27/1909

Death came suddenly to John Richardson, the well known retired business man, at five o'clock Monday evening at his home, corner Eighth and Findlay streets.

Saturday he was out driving, looking apparently as well as he ever did. But the malady with which he was afflicted, and which had brought him face to face with the Grim Reaper many times in the past few months, is a treacherous one and seems often to play with its victims before making the final spring.

Death never called for a man more ready for the last great trip than John Richardson, - merchant, gentleman, Christian.

John Richardson was born in 1845, near Fisblan, Ireland, of ancestry running back to the days of Cromwell and the advent in Ireland of the English Puritans and Scotch covenanters. In 1861 his uncle, the late James Richardson, then in business in Portsmouth, returned to his home in Ireland on a visit, and while there pictured the advantages and pleasures of the New World in such glowing colors that the impressionable nephew then and there made up his mind to come to America and cast in his lot with the citizens of the great Republic. John Richardson never regretted having made that resolution. He came to America and having relatives at Lansingburg, New York, went to that city and lived there three years. He came to Portsmouth in 1864 and started in as a clerk in the store of his uncle, James Richardson. He was quick to learn, polite and active, and soon became a valuable acquisition to his uncle's business. The uncle and nephew subsequently formed a partnership, which was the beginning of the well known and always popular and prosperous grocery, house of Richardson Brothers. The house is still here and still prosperous and popular, but both of the founders have closed the books and made the last trial balance. New names are on the letter heads, but the spirit of the splendid founders is still there. The partnership continued till 1875, when James Richardson retired, and John Richardson associated with him Lawrence Neudoerfer, who had grown up in the house and proved himself worthy of the trust Mr. Richardson had placed in him. Other persons were afterwards admitted to membership in the firm, including George Helfenstein, David Davis and later Will C. Silcox, the long time faithful bookkeeper.

The firm was then Richardson, Neudoerfer & Silcox, and continued thus until 1907, when Mr. Richardson retired

from the firm and devoted his time to his real estate and farming interests. The firm then became Neudoerfer & Silcox, and so remains.

In 1869 Mr. Richardson was married to Miss Philura E. Orm, daughter of John Orm, a well known and wealthy Scioto valley farmer in his day. This excellent lady died only eighteen months ago. Her two sisters, Mr. Jas. Richardson and Mrs. O.B. Cole, are still living. The children of John and Philura Richardson are Robert Orm with the National Biscuit company, Columbus, and Essie, wife of George Thomas, manager of the Portsmouth Hominy Mill. Deceased has one surviving brother in Ireland.

In 1895 Mr. Richardson visited his old home in Ireland and stayed four months. Since that time four members of the immediate family in Ireland have died.

Mr. Richardson never belonged to any fraternities. He was a great lover of his family and spend his spare time at home. He was a director in the Portsmouth Building and Loan Association, was a member of the commission appointed to look after the blind but never entered politics. He had neither time nor taste for it. He was a member of the Second Presbyterian church, was a charter member of the society, he and his wife forming one of the twenty-five families that went from the First church as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the newer congregation \_\_\_\_\_ a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ committee that superintended \_\_\_\_\_ erection of the present \_\_\_\_\_ church building, and only a few weeks ago was appointed on the building committee that will erect the proposed new church. He was a man of great purity of life, his personality being a happy commingling of the Puritan and the Celt. He loved his home, loved beautiful things and beautiful surroundings. His death will be a great blow to the loving son and daughter. His language was always chaste, with just enough racial brusqueness to discourage undue familiarity. No one ever thought of indulging in profanity while in his presence. Drummers never attempted to work off their stock yarns on Mr. Richardson more than once.

The funeral will be held at the house Wednesday afternoon at half past two o'clock, Rev. Robertson officiating.



**MEMBER UPDATES**

Pam Simones, 20 Salut Ct, Ft Meyers, FL 33912 Researching: ADAMS, CALL, CROSS, HOWELL, MARTING, MITTENDORF, SEMONES/SIMONES.

Gladys Reynolds, 1610 28th St, Rm 3129, Portsmouth, OH 45662

**QUERY**

Seeking information on possible marriage and child of Nelson Robert DOWNEY and Elizabeth J. BOREN. Elizabeth born ca 1841 in PA, possibly died 11 Nov 1880 in Scioto County and buried in Vernon Twp. Her daughter Hannah Mina, born 16 September 1871 in Wheelersburg, Porter Township, Scioto County, Ohio. Mother and daughter, using surname BOREN, were living in Elizabeth's parents Bloom Twp household in 1880,

Also—Seeking information on William M. FERGUSON, born February 1880 to Alice DOWNEY BECKMAN FERGUSON FULTON. He may have married ca 1910. Last known to be living in Portsmouth, Scioto County, Ohio May 1937 when he provided information for his mother's death certificate

Patricia Downey Lord, 3809 Norbourne Blvd, Louisville, KY 40207.  
Email: pat3737@bellsouth.net

**MACKAY, WOOTEN, SMITH, AYERS**

Seek information and descendants of Russell Shade MACKAY, b. 1907, Campbell County, Kentucky; d. 1986, Scioto County, Ohio, who about 1942, married Sarah Evalena WOOTEN, b. 1907, Vinton County, Ohio; d. 2001, Portsmouth, Scioto County, Ohio. Both are buried in the Hamden Cemetery, Vinton County, Ohio.

Also—  
FOSTER, MCCORD, FLEMING, HENDRICKSON, SMITTLE, BOATMAN, GREGG, WILEY, MITCHELL, PARTRIDGE, LEE

Seek information and descendants of Robert and Margaret (MCCORD) FOSTER who brought their pioneer family into northwestern Adams County, Ohio, in the fall of 1797 and homesteaded near present day Cherry Fork, Ohio. Known children (spouses shown parenthetically):

Thomas, b. 1791, d. 1825, Preble Co. OH (Nancy FLEMING)

John, b. 1793, d. 1883, Ripley Co. IN (Sarah HENDRICKSON)

Martha, b. 1794, d. c1830, Adams Co., OH (David SMITTLE)

Nancy, b. 1795, d. c1825, Adams Co., OH (John SMITTLE)

Alexander, b. 1796, d. 1880, Adams Co., OH (Nancy SMITTLE)

James, b. 1798, d. 1880, Grant Co. IN (1st Margaret SMITTLE, 2nd Nancy Jane BOATMAN)

Margaret, b. 1799, d. c1840, Adams Co., OH (Joseph SMITTLE)

Samuel, b. 1801, d. 1852, Adams Co., OH (1st Susan SMITTLE, 2nd Susan GREGG)

Mary, b. 1804, d. 1873, Adams Co., OH (Isaac WILEY)

Eleanor, b. 1805, d. 1899, Scioto Co., OH (Alexander MITCHELL)

Sarah, b. 1807, d. 1879, Holt Co., MO (Robert PARTRIDGE)

Andrew, b. 1809, d. 1873, Holt Co., MO (1st Mary WILEY, 2nd Sarah LEE)

Robert, b. 1810, d. 1849, Clinton Co., OH (Nancy WILEY)

Col James E. Foster  
8006 El Dorado Drive  
Austin TX 78737-1343  
(512) 288-0254

## Back to Basics

This was taken from Ohio's Last Frontier, the Williams Co. Newsletter, Jan. 2001

**Definitions of Early Immigrant groups**-- The following list will help introduce beginning researchers and others to groups of people who came to the New World in the very early years of settlement.

**Hessians**—German troops used by the British in the Revolutionary War, many of whom deserted and remained in America. Most were from Hesse, Germany.

**Huguenots**—French Protestants who fled from persecution, mainly from 1685 onward. They first went to Prussia, the German Palatinate, Holland, England and then came to America. Those in the French West Indies escaped to the southern coast of America.

**Mennonites**—A Swiss Protestant group, founded in 1525, who migrated to America by way of Alsace, England and Russia. They settled mainly in Ohio, Kansas, Pennsylvania and Minnesota.

**Moravians**—The United Brethren is a Protestant group formed in Bohemia about 1415 and spread to Poland, Prussia, Germany and England.

**Palatines**-- In 1688 Louis XIV of France began persecuting German Protestants on the banks of the Rhine River. Queen Anne of England helped a group to come to America in 1708. More than 2,000 arrived in New York in 1710 and settled along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers. Many went to Ireland.

**Quakers**—The Society of Friends was formed in England in 1648. Early restrictions brought them to New Jersey in 1675 and some 230 English Quakers founded Burlington, New Jersey in 1678. 1681 was the year William Penn was granted the territory of Pennsylvania, and within two years there were 3000 Quakers there.

**Scots-Irish**—The Descendants of the Pennsylvania Scots were placed in northern counties of Ireland by British rulers in the early part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Most came to America from 1718 until the Revolution. They settled in Pennsylvania first then moved south and then westwards with the frontier.

**Walloons**—From southern Belgium, the language of the Walloons is a French dialect. Cornelius May of Flanders, Holland and about 30 to 40 families came to America in 1624 and established Fort Orange. It is now known as Albany, New York.

## GENEALOGY HUMOR

### Top 10 Indicators that you've become a gene-aholic:

10. You introduce your daughter as your descendent.
9. You've never met any of the people you send e-mail to, even though you're related.
8. You can recite your lineage back eight generations, but can't remember your nephew's name.
7. You have more photographs of dead people than living ones.
6. You've taken a tape recorder and/or notebook to a family reunion.
5. You've not only read the latest GEDCOM standard, but you also understand it.
4. The local genealogy society borrows books from you.
3. The only film you've seen in the last year was the 1880 census index.
2. More than 1/2 of your book collection is made up of marriage records or pedigrees.
1. Your elusive ancestor has been spotted in more different places than Elvis!

"Why waste your money looking up your family tree?

Just go into politics and your opponents will do it for you!"

-- Mark Twain

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

Many many years ago when I was twenty three,  
I got married to a widow who was pretty as could be.

This widow had a grown-up daughter, who had hair  
of red.

My father fell in love with her, and soon the two  
were wed.

This made my dad my son-in-law, and changed my  
very life.

My daughter was my mother, for she was my father's  
wife.

To complicate the matters worse, although it brought  
me joy.

I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy.

My little baby then became a brother-in-law to dad.  
And so became my uncle, though it made me very  
sad.

For if he was my uncle, then that also made him  
brother

To the widow's grown-up daughter who, of course,  
was my step-mother.

Father's wife then had a son, who kept them on the  
run.

And he became my grandson, for he was my daughter's  
son.

My wife is now my mother's mother, and it makes  
me blue.

Because, although she is my wife, she's my grandma  
too.

If my wife is my grandmother, then I am her grand-  
child.

And every time I think of it, it simply drives me wild.

For now I have become the strangest case you ever  
saw.

As the husband of my grandmother, I am my own  
grandpa!!

## Why Immigrants Change Their Name

A common problem in genealogy is tracing people who have changed their name. This occurs most often when someone migrates to another country. The general assumption in genealogy is that immigrants change their name to help them become more assimilated into their new homeland. There are, however, a variety of other reasons why immigrants may change their name.

A study published in the *Journal of Labor Economics* provides valuable proof to the field of genealogy that money can be a major incentive for immigrants to change their name. The study by Mahmood Arai and Peter Skogman Thoursie of Stockholm University studied recent immigrants to Sweden ([Renouncing Personal Names: An Empirical Examination of Surname Change and Earnings](#)). In Sweden, there are only two ways for a person to change their name: by marriage and by legal application to the government. The researchers looked at immigrants who changed their name by legal application, a process that takes from one to two years to complete.

The study focused on immigrants who changed their name to make it more Swedish sounding or more ethnically neutral sounding. The researchers looked at the pay of this group of immigrants before and after the name change. What they found was that an immigrant could significantly increase their earnings by adopting a more local-sounding name. Specifically, an immigrant could more than double their earnings potential simply by changing their name.

Interestingly enough, the impact of a name change had a larger economic impact for women than men. The authors hypothesize that the local populace assumes the name change is due to marriage to a local husband. According to the authors, this provides fur-

ther proof “that individuals are treated differently [in their new country] depending on their name”.

The United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are all examples of countries founded by immigrants. Most immigrants were motivated by a desire to lead a better life for themselves and their families. A cornerstone of living a good life is to have a good job. For genealogy, this study helps validate the notion that immigrants changed their name to help improve their economic prospects.

[http://www.genealogyintime.com/NewsStories/2009/March/why\\_immigrants\\_change\\_their\\_name.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/NewsStories/2009/March/why_immigrants_change_their_name.html)

## GENEALOGY TIP

**Pension Records** - Check to see if your ancestor ever received a military, government or private company pension. This can be an important source of information that genealogists often overlook.

Pension application forms generally required many personal details such as proof of age, current address and sometimes next of kin. They can be a great source of genealogical information about your ancestors.

Pensions also provide useful career information, which can be valuable if you want to understand the historical context of your ancestor's life.

**Searching Historic Small-town Newspapers** - Newspapers have often been described as the first draft of history. They can be an excellent source for chronicling the lives of our ancestors. Newspapers are particularly useful in countries and times where government records are thin to nonexistent. Some newspapers, however, are more useful than others for genealogists searching for their ancestors. You can read more in our article.

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Tools/genealogy-tip-of-the-week-page03.html>

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**The Scioto Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society**

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**Researching the Past to Preserve the Future**



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