



Buried Treasures
Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc.
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The Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. meets monthly, September through May.
 Meetings are held at the **MARKS STREET SENIOR CENTER** on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
 Marks Street Senior Center is located at 99 E. Marks St,
 which is between Orange Ave. and Magnolia, 4 blocks north of East Colonial (Hwy 50).
 The Daytime Group meets year-round at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday afternoons bi-monthly (odd numbered months.)
 The Board meets year-round on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the **ORLANDO PUBLIC LIBRARY**.
 All are welcome to attend.

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Sallie Belperche	Elaine Powell
Barbara Lemay	Betty Jo Stockton
Ann Mohr Osisek	Spessard Stone

President's Message

November has been a strange month for my family. As I mentioned in TCN, we were very happy to learn that our youngest son became engaged and will be adding a wife to our family tree.

Right before Thanksgiving my husband found out that he will have to have open-heart surgery to replace his mitral valve. His dad died at the age of 47 while waiting to have that same surgery. The doctor told my husband that the condition is genetic, so he alerted his siblings and other family members about his condition.

Just this week I found out that I have a serious inflammatory eye disease. This morning I recalled that my Grandma was blind. I need to ask my dad what caused her blindness since I never knew.

I realize now more than ever how important it is that we keep a record of the cause of death for each family member and also to record what other diseases they might have had, especially those that are genetic.

The information from the Hardcastle Bible that is in this issue came from the Bible that my mother-in-law ended up with when her 2nd husband, John Robert Hardcastle, died. He had no children. Since there is so much family information in the Bible, I decided to try to find a family home for it. I put a query into the Greene County, Illinois Rootsweb mailing list, and asked if anyone wanted the bible. A Hardcastle family member, whose mother is listed in the bible, contacted me. I also sent her two photos that I found from this family. I took digital photos of the Bible and the family pages and will also scan the info into my computer. I will then submit all that information to the DAR & NGS Bible projects, so that anyone looking for this Hardcastle information in the future can find it more easily.

I would like to thank the following members for helping with our Lady Teviot conference: Martha Burns, Maura Swisher, Mary Ellen Kammert, Sallie Belperche, Lynne Knorr, Betty Jo Stockton, Susan Goff, Anne Tanner, and Mary Phillips. The conference was a real success. We had a couple attendees join that day plus we learned a lot about British genealogy.

Happy Holidays!

Elaine

Thoughts from your editor...

Christmas just doesn't seem to be as much fun as it used to be. Part of it is that we don't have any little people in the family any more; dolls and tricycles are more fun than gift certificates and video games.

I remember as a kid, we always went to the family home in Jacksonville for Christmas day with Mom's brothers and sister and their families. Someone must have planned the meals and sleeping arrangements for the eight siblings, their wives and the twenty-six kids, but I certainly wasn't aware of it. Meals appeared – the kids grumbled about doing the dishes; Santa came – everyone had a great time. Or so I thought.

Now I'm the grown-up in the family and in charge of planning and execution – meeting planes, finding beds for everyone and planning meals. Everyone helps, but someone has to be in charge. I've begun to wonder if perhaps I missed seeing a bit along the way.

In my earliest Christmases in Jacksonville, we went to our grandparents who, to me, were terribly old (early 60s at that time). Now that doesn't seem old at all. Grandmother Stalder did the planning and much of the cooking, although each family did bring desserts or casseroles to add to the meal. Looking back – I don't know how she managed. At that point there would have been only 10 or 12 children, but still eight families. Most of us stayed at her house, with the kids stacked up in pallets on the floor. In addition, she had her step-mother full time (with what was probably Alzheimers) and her mother-in-law who came down from Indiana to spend the winters.

I recently came across notes in the back of an address book that Grandmother had kept. Inside the back cover she had a list of what she was getting everyone for Christmas in 1945. The men all were getting *Reader's Digest*, but she made something for each of the women and children – aprons or slippers or toys. How did she do everything?

Guess I'd better think again about how overworked I am – and get back to my cookie making. We do have it easy!

Betty Jo

Obituary of D. H. Bowers
submitted by Ann Mohr Osisek

**D. H. BOWERS DIED FROM PARALYSIS
WAS WIDELY KNOWN CARPENTER AND CONTRACTOR**

Mr. David H. Bowers, for years a prominent lumberman and builder in this community, died Wednesday evening at 5 o'clock of paralysis at his residence, 612 West King Street. He was in the 76th year of his age. He suffered a paralytic stroke last April four years ago and had been practically an invalid ever since. He was taken very ill yesterday morning and it was then seen that the end was not far off.

He is survived by his second wife and ten children: Samuel A., William H. and Mrs. Howard Keedy, this city; John D. Roanoke, Va.; Harry A. Grafton, W. Va.; Mrs. F. E. Hare, Boothbay Harbor, Me.; Misses Ida J., M. Alice and Carrie E. and James G., at home; also three brothers and a sister: James, Huntington, Ind.; George, Urbana, Ind.; John and Mrs. David Hippensteel, North Manchester, Ind.

Mr. Bowers was born near Shippensburg, Cumberland Co., Pa., the son of James Bowers. He resided in Martinsburg for 34 years and was actively engaged in the line of his work until four years ago. He was a soldier in the Union army for about two years during the Civil War serving in the 207th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He was married twice, his first wife being Miss Mary Forehope and the second Miss Elizabeth Shriner, of Cumberland County, Pa. who survives him. He was a member of the United Brethren Church, Lincoln G.A.R. Post, Royal Arcanum and Knights of Honor. He was widely known in this county and was everywhere held in high esteem.

Funeral Friday at 3 p.m. at the house in charge of Rev. Dr. W. F. Gruver and Rev. Dr. J. Paul Wright. Interment in Green Hill Cemetery.



Top Row: James Garfield Bowers - 10 Sept 1881; Harry Abner Bowers - 10 Nov 1871; William Hayes Bowers - 19 May 1874

Front Row: Samuel Aquilla Bowers - 2 Oct 1861; David Hayes Bowers - 2 Oct 1834; John Dickerson Bowers - 12 Mar 1869.

Bowers Family Bible
submitted by Ann Mohr Osisek

David Hayes Bowers is a maternal great-great grandfather of CFGS member Ann Mohr Osisek. David was born 2nd October 1834 and died 6th July 1910 and was the son of James **BOWERS** and Anna Catherine **AHL**. The following is a family Bible record showing both of David's wives and the children from each of those unions along with their respective birth dates:

BOWERS FAMILY BIBLE:

David Hayes Bowers, Oct. 2, 1834

Mary E. Forehope, Mar. 8, 1840 (wife #1)

- * Samuel Aquilla, Oct. 2, 1861
- * George A., Apr. 18, 1862
- * Sarah Catherine, Oct 23, 1864
- * Ida Jane, July 27, 1867
- * John Dickson, Mar. 12, 1869
- * Harry Abner, Nov. 10, 1871

Elizabeth Shriner, Oct. 8, 1848 (wife #2)

- * Wm. Hayes, May 19, 1874
- * Minnie Viola, Oct. 30, 1875
- * Anna Maude, Mar. 6, 1879
- * Jas. Garfield, Sept. 10, 1881
- * Mary Alice, June 11, 1885
- * Carrie Elizabeth, Aug. 13, 1888

All of the children from David's first marriage to Mary Elizabeth Forehope were born in Cumberland Co., PA while only the first two children from his marriage to Elizabeth Shriner were born in Cumberland Co., PA. David and Elizabeth moved to Martinsburg, Berkeley Co., WV in the late fall of 1875 after the birth of Minnie Viola and the four remaining children were born there in Martinsburg. Ann Mohr Osisek is descended from Samuel Aquilla Bowers, the first child of his marriage to Mary Elizabeth Forehope.

Research Trip to New Jersey

by Sallie Belperche

John and I recently travelled to New Jersey for research and his high school reunion. We spent 3 days in Trenton at the State Archives going through rolls of microfilm. I prepared a to-do list before leaving home. My main objective was to find "where in Ireland" his DORRITY and CARRIGAN ancestors had originated before showing up in Thornliebank, Renfrewshire, Scotland, in the 1850's. I had my fingers, toes, everything else crossed that a death certificate, obituary, or tombstone would give clues. Unfortunately I still don't know where, but the trip was definitely worthwhile.

For those who haven't used the resources of a state archive, you're missing a good bet. I've been to Virginia, North Carolina and New Jersey archives. It's very satisfying to pull microfilm, look at it, either find what you're looking for or get another one and keep searching.

Before visiting one of these facilities, you should check their website for days and hours of operation, parking info, and holdings. New Jersey State Archives website is www.njarchives.org.

New Jersey and North Carolina have lockers where you store notebooks, purses, jackets, etc. You are only allowed to use a pencil. NJ does allow laptops; I don't know about NC. New Jersey has an ample number of microfilm readers - printers, automatic winders, and hand-crank. The readers are assigned to you for a 2-hour period (this may be shorter if they are really busy; I'm not sure). If you should be assigned a non-printer and find something to be printed, you just take off both spools and the staff copies it on a printer they reserve for staff use.

John hadn't done any of this before, but since it was his ancestors we were researching, I handed him a roll of microfilm, told him what to look for, and left him to find it. He is very detailed and spent all one day looking for one item - in vain! He may now have a better appreciation of what is involved in the research. We copied marriages, deaths, obituaries, naturalization, city directories, and deeds, but weren't able to locate 2 births. We copied about 80 pages!

John's father had a manufacturing business in Paterson, NJ, in the 1930's and we wanted to get information on the company. That was a different office in the same building. We obtained the Article of Incorporation and Annual Reports for the 6 years the company was in existence. John knew his father had been swindled and the annual reports seem to reflect this.

Our last afternoon in Trenton we went to the State Library, two buildings away. They have the state censuses (unfortunately not indexed) which I had already searched. They also have some city directories unavailable at the archives, which proved useful.

Both facilities have many holdings that I haven't listed.

There is a small café at each of the Archives - soups, snacks, and machines with drinks and other snacks. There is also a bookstore in the NJ Archives building with books on various counties. I found a book on the history of Paterson - "the silk city" - that came home with us.

We then drove to Paterson, where John's maternal immigrant ancestors settled. First stop was the courthouse, where we searched for and copied more deeds. We also obtained a copy of the Petition for Probate and will for a niece of John's grandfather. I had not seen a Petition for Probate, but wish the ancestors had more! It listed "all known next of kin and heirs at law" of the niece, with relationships and addresses!

The following day we visited the cemetery where the ancestors were buried and were able to locate several burial plots. Unfortunately the cemetery seems to have lost great-great-grandma! I've since written them, enclosing death certificate and obituary showing she was buried there, and asking them to continue searching.

Before leaving Florida, I had talked to John's 2nd cousin. Her grandmother was buried in the same cemetery according to the death certificate, but the office told her several years they had no record. I promised to find her grandmother's grave - and did! She's right where she belongs - with her parents and several sisters. We were unable to find any clues on the tombstones about monument makers.

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Finding families - Who are you looking for?

One of the benefits of a genealogical society is the possibility of finding living relatives or those researching the same families or geographic areas. The CFGS Family Finder is still in search of a chair, so that we cannot run a listing from it as we have in the past. So, in order to help members find others looking for the same folks or in the same places, we asked several members to send in their areas of research. Perhaps you can match up with one of them. If not, send your names, dates and places to your editor via the CFGS post office box or email and we'll post yours in a future issue.

SMITH / GRAY / DAVIS / CAUSEY

Barbara Dann LeMay says: "I am working on the **SMITH** family of Dale Co. Alabama 1867. Also the **GRAY** family in Alabama, I need a ? **GRAY** who married a Mary born about 1815 in VA. The **DAVIS** and **CAUSEY** families came from South Carolina; I am looking specifically for Thomas B. **DAVIS** 1807. I can be e-mailed <Blemay@cfl.rr.com>

KIESER/ STALDER /LEVI/HICKS /UMBAUGH /CURTIS

Your editor is in search of:

KIESER/KEISER in Wurttemberg before 1850, Ohio (Marion, Delaware, Franklin & Fairfield Counties) after 1850.

STALDER in Holland, Switzerland or Germany before 1800; Philadelphia and Berks County, PA 1800-1860; Dearborn and Knox Co, IN 1860-1920.

LEVI in London, England before 1760; Fauquier Co, VA 1770-1800; Mason Co, KY 1800-1860; Clermont Co, OH 1860-1920.

HICKS in Surry Co, NC before 1800; Clermont Co, OH 1800 to present.

UMBAUGH in Germany bef 1770; Frederick Co, MD 1770-1820; Pickaway and Franklin Co, OH after 1820.

CURTIS in Medbourne (Leicestershire) England before 1810; Ostego Co, NY and Dearborn Co, IN after 1810.

Contact: Betty Jo Stockton <bjstock@cfl.rr.com>

Sallie Belperche writes: "OK, you asked for it!" Contact: Sallie Belperche <sbelper@earthlink.net>

MARSH, BERKLEY, CHILDRESS, DICKERSON, WOODRUM, GAMBLIN, WHEELER, TISDALE - all in Virginia, mostly in Appomatox and parent counties

BELAND/BEELAND, JORDAN, ARMSTRONG, WINSTEAD, LAND, WILLIFORD, BULLOCH, EDWARDS, LAND, NEWSOME, MCLEMORE, BULL, JACKSON - in North Carolina, primarily in Wilson and parent counties - prior to 1850. Some originate in early Virginia counties.

JOHNSTON, SIGMON, STILWELL - in North Carolina [Mecklenburg, Lincoln, Catawba counties] - prior to 1800

BELPERCHE/BELLEPERCHE, PECHIN, HENAUX/HINAUX, DEBRAY, BOTIERE, HORDE, DESMASURES/DEMARURE - in Somme (80), France; possibly other locations in France - prior to 1800

VALLET, DUBOT - in Paris, France, in Paris, France, in 1865; no other info available

DORRITY/DORITY/DORIETY/DOHERTY/etc. - in Paterson, NJ, late 1800's; immigrated from Scotland, originally from Ireland - Where???

CARRIGAN - in Paterson, NJ, 1865?-1900's; immigrated from Scotland, originally from Ireland - where???

GORE, HARROW, BURBERY, BOWLES, HARDYMAN, BROCKHURST - in Coventry, Warwickshire, England; possibly other locations - have most of 1800 information; need earlier

Company B, Second Florida Cavalry, United States Army

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OFFICERS

Lt. & Capt. **James Dopson GREEN** - Born Oct. 6, 1823, Anderson Co., South Carolina. In Hillsborough Co., FL. on July 11, 1849, he married Eliza Whidden, daughter of Willoughby and Eliza (Pennington) Whidden. The Greens were living in the Simmons Hammock settlement in 1850 and settled at now Fort Green (named for him in 1856), Manatee (now Hardee) Co. in 1854.

In March 7, 1864, Green, his draft exemption repealed, left his Fort Green home and went to Fort Myers. He was commissioned 1st Lieutenant and on May 26, 1864 received a provisional commission as Capt. of the 2nd Florida. In Sept. 1864 Green was denied a promotion to Major. In late 1864, Capt. Green's military service abruptly ended with arrest and confinement after he and Lt. William McCullough of Co. A made charges against officers, including, Capt. J. W. Childs. At Cedar Keys on April 15, 1865, he appealed to the President and the Secretary of War. On March 27, 1866 and March 13, 1872, the War Department approved his service as 1st Lieutenant, Company B, 2d Florida Cavalry to date May 1 to 26, May 1864, and as Captain, Company B, May 26, 1864 to Feb. 3, 1865 and March 26, 1865 to April 12, 1865.

Following the Civil War and during Reconstruction, Capt. Green, a member of the Republican Party, represented Manatee County in the Oct. 1865 state constitutional convention and in the State Assembly in the sessions of 1865 (he resigned in the summer of 1866 and was succeeded in October by his brother-in-law John W. Whidden, a former Confederate officer), 1868, 1869, and 1870. Green died April 8, 1886 and was buried in Pine Level Campground Cemetery, Pine Level, FL.

1st Lt. **John Wesley PLATT** - A son of John Platt (1793-1874) and Alice Blackshear Platt (1807-1891), he was born Dec. 26, 1833, Lowndes Co., GA. In the 1840s the family moved to North Florida, then to Hernando Co. before 1852, and in 1855 to Lily, Manatee (now Hardee) Co., FL. He enlisted as 1st Lt, Co. B, May 26, 1864 at Fort Myers and was dishonorably discharged Feb. 28, 1865 at Fort Myers. After the war, the U. S. War Department revoked his dishonorable discharge and discharged him Jan. 19, 1865. He died Jan. 6, 1920. On July 7, 1859, he had married Mary Jane Jackson. See John Platt 1793-1874, *South Florida Pioneers* 29/30 (July/Oct. 1981) pp. 19-21.

2nd Lt. **Seth STEPHENS** - Born 1845, he enlisted on Aug. 25, 1862 in Co. H, 110th New York Volunteers at Oswego. He was appointed corporal on Sept. 2, 1862 and sergeant on Nov. 14, 1863. At Cedar Key on Feb. 1, 1865, he was appointed 2nd Lt. of Co. B and was mustered out Nov. 29, 1865

2nd Lt. **William J. DILLON** - He was assigned to duty on May 28, 1864, but deserted to the CSA in mid-1864.

NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Henry Green ARNOLD - Born 1825, Montgomery Co., GA., he, a refugee from the Confederacy, enlisted Jan. 29, 1864 at Fort Myers, was promoted to corporal March 26, 1864, quartermaster sergeant June 29, 1864. He died of diarrhea on Jan. 30, 1865 at Fort Myers.

David J. W. BONEY - Born Jan. 14, 1815, Duplin Co., NC, he served in 1841 in 2nd Seminole War. In the mid-1840s, he moved to Hillsborough Co., FL. He married on Oct. 8, 1846 Lydia A. Whidden, b. Sept. 27, 1831, daughter of Maxfield & Sophia (Crews) Whidden, died Jan. 23, 1910, lived Zolfo Springs. David died May 4, 1889 at Popash. About 1858 Boney moved to Ft. Hartsuff. 1860 selected county commissioner. On Apr. 20, 1864 he enrolled at Fort Myers under Capt. James D. Green, promoted to 1st corporal May 28, 1864. He was home on sick furlough when war ended 1865. In 1870 in township, 34 in Popash area along with Nathan Lowe. He died May 4, 1889, Popash. See David J. W. Boney 1815-1889, *South Florida Pioneers* 13 (July 1977), pp. 2-3

John Milledge (Milliage) BRANNEN - He first served in Co. K, 8th FL. Inf., CSA. He enlisted Feb. 24, 1864 at Fort Myers by Capt. R. A. Graffe, Rank of 1st Sergeant.

Reuben CARLTON - Born Dec. 16, 1842, Thomas Co., GA., son of Daniel Wilson and Sallie Ann (Murphy) Carlton, he moved with his parents in the 1840s to Alachua or Marion County, Florida and then to the Alafia Settlement in Hillsborough County, Florida, being enumerated with his family in the 1850 census. Before 1855, they had relocated to Fort Meade and later to Troublesome Creek in Manatee (now Hardee) County, FL. Reuben enlisted on April 10, 1862 as a private in Co. E, 7th Florida Infantry. Pvt. Carlton appears on company muster rolls from April 1862 to February 1864. Due to the humiliating mistreatment by Confederate agents of his father Daniel, Reuben deserted Co. E. At Fort Myers on May 28, 1864, Reuben was enrolled as a private by Capt. Henry A. Crane in Co. B, 2nd Florida Cavalry. Co. B records described Reuben as: "Born in Thomas County, Georgia; age 23; refugee from Confederacy; grey eyes; light hair; dark complexion; 5 feet 9 inches; promoted to 5th Sgt. on June 29, 1864." He was reported "on roll to June 30/64. Sergt. present -Same to Aug. 31, 1865 Sept. & Oct. 65, not on file." Sergeant Carlton was mustered out with his company Nov. 29, 1865, Tallahassee. After the war, Reuben settled at Fort Pierce where the Carltons were prominent cattlemen. Reuben Carlton died Sept. 12, 1917, Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, with burial in the Carlton Cemetery, about ten miles west of Fort Pierce, FL.

CALVIN C. COLLIER - Born June 22, 1842/3, Dooly Co., GA., son of John and Caroline (Hall) Collier, he, a refugee from the Confederacy, enlisted May 28, 1864 at Fort Myers by Capt. Bartholf, promoted to corporal on March 1, 1865, mustered out Nov. 29, 1865 at Tallahassee. He married Katie Parnell & Beulah Whidden Sparkman. He died Aug. 17, 1922, buried Pleasant Gardens Cem., Lake Wales. See Kyle S. VanLandingham , John Collier c1815/24-1896, *South Florida Pioneers* 15/16 (Jan./April 1978), pp. 22-24.

GEORGE DISHONG - Born Gwinnett Co., Ga in 1846, he, a refugee from the Confederacy, enlisted April 26, 1864 at Key West by Lt. Pretz, promoted to corporal on April 1, 1865. He was mustered out Nov 29, 1865, Tallahassee.

BENJAMIN F. DUNCAN - Born 1839 Twiggs Co., GA., he, a refugee from the Confederacy, enlisted April 16, 1864 at Fort Myers and was appointed corporal on Aug. 13, 1864. He died of diarrhea Feb. 2, 1865 at Fort Myers. According to Clyde S. Stephens, *Stephens Ancestors and Pioneer Relatives*, July 1982, p. 51, Charity Ann Stephens (born March 21, 1844 Ramer, Ala.; died April 4, 1926, Ona, FL.) married on August 23, 1862 in Hernando Co., FL. Benjamin Franklin Duncan (1823- Feb. 2, 1865, Fort Myers), who served from April 16, 1864 to Feb. 2, 1865 in Co. B, 2nd FL., U.S.A.

MARVEL M. EDWARDS - Born 1831, Thomas Co., GA., he enlisted May 5, 1864 at Key West by Lt. Pretz, appointed 4th Sergeant on May 28, 1864.

JAMES MADISON HENDRY - Born July 23, 1839, Lowndes Co., GA., he moved with his parents, Robert & Zilla Ann (Moody) Hendry to Hamilton Co., FL. in 1848. After June 1860, he and his wife, Mary Jane (Payne) Hendry, moved to Polk Co. He enlisted as a private at Fort Meade, FL. on May 4, 1862 in Co. E, 7th Florida Infantry, CSA, which was attached to the Army of Tennessee. At Knoxville on May 30, 1863 by order of General Mauray, he was granted a medical discharge. He was enlisted by Capt. J. D. Green on June 15, 1864 at Fort Myers, Florida as a private in Co. B. He was promoted to corporal March 1, 1865. He was furloughed Sept. 28, 1865 and honorably discharged Nov. 29, 1865 at Tallahassee, FL. He married (2) Martha Frances Wingate, daughter of John Hiram Wingate He died April 14, 1922, buried New Zion Cemetery, Ona, FL.

JOHN J. HORTON - Born 1844, Darlington Co., SC, he enlisted Mar. 8, 1864 at Key West by Capt. Brown and was appointed corporal on June 29, 1864. He was AWOL in mid-1865 and reduced to ranks. He was discharged Nov. 29, 1865, Tallahassee.

WILLIAM LOWE - Born Colquit Co. GA., he, a refugee from Confederacy, enlisted on March 18, 1864 at Fort Myers by Capt. Crane and appeared as a member of Co. B from mid-1864. He was appointed corporal and was mustered out Nov. 29, 1865 at Tallahassee. He, according to Hartman and Coles, is buried Friendship Cemetery, Zolfo Springs, FL.

LUTHER A. MARTIN - Born Thomas Co., GA., he, a refugee from the Confederacy, enlisted on April 20, 1864 at Key West. He was appointed corporal on June 29, 1864 and mustered out on Nov. 29, 1865, Tallahassee.

EDWARD J. MURPHY - Born 1844 in Jefferson Co., AR, he, a refugee from the Confederacy, enlisted on May 5, 1864 at Key West by Lt. Pretz. He was appointed corporal on June 29, 1864 and was mustered out Nov. 29, 1865 at Tallahassee.

SAMUEL J. PEARCE - Born 1824, he, a refugee from the Confederacy, was enlisted May 5, 1864 at Key West by Lt. Pretz and was promoted to commissary sergeant on May 28, 1864, then quartermaster sergeant on March 1, 1865. He was mustered out Nov. 29, 1865 at Tallahassee.

WILLIAM R. SMITH - Born 1840, FL., he was enlisted in Co. A on Feb. 23, 1864 at Key West by Capt. Brown, but appeared as a member of Co. B in mid-1864. Promoted to corporal on June 29, 1864, he was mustered out on Nov. 29, 1865, Tallahassee. He is buried in the Smith Cem., Dade City, FL. See also Co. A.

JAMES H. STEPHENS - Born 1843, Montgomery Co., Ala., he, a refugee from the Confederacy, was enlisted in Co. A on April 11, 1864 at Key West by Lt. Pretz, but appeared as a member of Co. B in mid-1864. He was appointed commissary sergeant on March 1, 1865 and was mustered out Nov. 29, 1865 at Tallahassee.

THOMAS L. THIGPIN - Born Laurens Co., GA. in 1812; he prior to 1856 moved to Manatee Co. He enrolled April 15, 1864 at Ft. Myers as a private, appointed corporal on May 28, 1864, corporal per roll of June 30, 1864; mustered out Nov. 29, 1865. After the war, he lived at Pine Level. He died July 30, 1908, Sarasota. In 1835 in Monroe Co., Ala., he had married Lavina Smith. See also Co. A. See Thomas L. Thigpin 1812-1908, *South Florida Pioneers* 31/32 (Jan./Apr. 1982), pp. 40-41. (Hartman & Coles have him born 1819, Lawrence Co., GA. and list him in Co. A.)

EDWARD WHIDDEN - Born 1843, Ware Co., GA., he, a refugee from the Confederacy, was enlisted by Lt. Myers on Dec. 20, 1863 at New Zeppa Island, was appointed corporal Feb. 8, 1864 and was promoted 2nd Sgt May 28, 1864. He was furloughed Sept. 28, 1865 and mustered out at Tallahassee on Nov. 29, 1865.

MAXWELL WHIDDEN - Born April 18, 1833, Columbia Co., FL., son Willoughby & Eliza (Pennington) Whidden, he was living at Fort Hartsuff when he enlisted April 10, 1862 in Co. E, 7th FL. Inf., CSA. He enrolled on April 20, 1864 in Co. B, 2nd FL. Cav., enrolled April 20, 1864 and served as a sergeant, mustered out Nov. 29, 1865. He died April 27, 1887, Nocatee. He had married Emeline Williams and Florida Judith Hendry, daughter of John Hendry, Jr. See Maxwell Whidden 1833-1887, *South Florida Pioneers* 25/26 (July/Oct. 1980), pp. 11-12

PRIVATES

James Arthur ALBRITTON - Born Columbia Co., FL. July 15, 1846, son of Thomas H. & Frances (Waldron) Albritton, who moved from Putnam, Co. to Lily, Manatee (now Hardee) Co. before 1860. He enrolled March 16, 1865 at Punta Rassa; mustered out Nov. 29, 1865. He married on Feb. 9, 1871 Mary Frances Ivey, daughter of Francis A. Ivey. He died May 16, 1921 at Limestone, buried Lily Cemetery. See James Arthur Albritton, *South Florida Pioneers* 43/44 (Jan./April 1985), pp 32-34 and Thomas H. Albritton 1818-1897ö *South Florida Pioneers* 7 (January 1976).

Matthew A. ARNOLD - Born 1838, Lowndes Co., GA., he, a refugee from the Confederacy, was enlisted on May 13, 1864 at Fort Myers by Capt. Jas. D. Green. He was mustered out Nov. 29, 1865, Tallahassee.

Willis BAXLEY - Born 1837, Emanuel Co., GA., he enlisted on Feb. 23, 1864 at Key West by Capt. Brown. He was mustered out Nov. 29, 1865, Tallahassee.

John William BENTON- See Co. A.

Alexander P. BURNETT - Born May 5, 1845, Hillsborough Co., FL. He, a refugee from the Confederacy, enlisted April 20, 1864 at Key West by Lt. Pretz, mustered out Nov. 29, 1865, Tallahassee. He died Oct. 29, 1922, buried Hurrah Cem., Lithia, FL.

Matthew B. BURNETT - Born Nov. 14, 1835 in Hillsborough Co., FL., he enlisted on Apr. 1, 1865 at Cedar Keys, mustered out Nov. 29, 1865, Tallahassee. He died Dec. 23, 1921, buried Hurrah Cem., Lithia, FL.

To be continued

CFGS Members help with preservation of abandoned Oakland-Tindenville Cemetery

by Betty Jo Stockton

CFGS made the newspaper again this week. Daryll Owens, a columnist for the *Orlando Sentinel*, had a feature article in the Life and Times section on Sunday, December 5th entitled "Cleaning up the Past." This was about the discovery and, hopefully, preservation of an abandoned and overgrown small African-American cemetery near the town of Oakland.

About two years ago, CFGS member Ralyne Westenhofer heard from surveyors talking about finding some tombstones in an area that might be destroyed by the interchange of Rt 50 and the Florida Turnpike. She obtained its approximate location and passed the information on to the CFGS Cemetery Committee. In the fall of 2002, Lynne Knorr and your editor attempted to find the site – checking with the mayor of Oakland and local residents, then looking for anything that might be a clue to the right place. Finally, after a number of misses, we found the site – down a steep slope in a sinkhole beside Highway 50, near the Florida Turnpike intersection. We worked our way down the steep incline into what had been the Oakland-Tildenville Cemetery. Armed with a GPS, cell phones, shovels, and water bottles, we scrambled (and tumbled at times) through the heavy growth. The area was so dense that we often lost sight of each other – and used our cell phones for contact.

The area was badly overgrown - with downed trees, high grass and asparagus fern shoulder-high. Only a few stones were visible – most were under downed trees, buried under several inches of soil or in high grass. We found, photographed and recorded 18 stones. There were also a number of metal stakes that were all that remained of funeral home markers. A second trip revealed a few more stones – but some of the original ones were nowhere to be found. We did some research and found a bit about some of the folks interred and asked around to see if anyone knew more but did not pursue it vigorously. One Boy Scout expressed interest in cleaning up the cemetery as an Eagle project but evidently found the job to be too daunting, since he was never heard from again. Sharon Lynch, another CFGS member, mentioned our find to Daryll Owens as they were both researching at the UCF library. Daryll called your editor for more information. I told him what we'd found; he asked to be informed if we found anything else.

More recently, a group in the West Orange area also "discovered" the cemetery and formed a commission to preserve the cemetery. Some of them are descendants or friends of those interred there. They are in the process of clearing the underbrush, cutting a path to the site and cleaning stones. Estimates are that as many as 400 people may have been buried there since its beginning in 1916.

According to the *Sentinel* article, Castle and Cooke, the developers who now own the land are working with the local African-American churches to help them acquire title to the cemetery. The developer promises that any development of the land will be planned around the old cemetery, so that it will be preserved.

A phone call to Michael von Goebel, a volunteer for the Florida Tombstone Transcription Project, who was the impetus behind the "new" group, all is not quite as rosy as the article lead us to believe. The "old" cemetery seems to be safe from improachment, but the "new" cemetery a few hundred feet away is in danger. The developer is seeking to purchase part of that cemetery to give access to Highway 50 for his development.

Both cemeteries are owned by the St Paul's Missionary Baptist Church. The deed to the old cemetery had been lost somewhere along the line, so its ownership did not appear in county records and was not found on a title search. As Michael researched more deeply into the history of the area, he found names of some of the early church leaders and of those who were interred there. Using those names, he went back to the county records and searched again. The deed had been registered in the names of the trustees of the church, rather than by the church itself. He now has the deed in hand to prove ownership of the land by the church. So the church already owned the land that the developer was supposedly helping them acquire.

The Oakland-Tildenville Cemetery Commission meets monthly to discuss the progress of the cleanup and preservation project. As of now, a path has been cleared into the cemetery and several phases of clearing have been completed. Michael says "you can now see from one end to the other" – a major accomplishment. They have discovered many more stones by a variety of means. First, they check out the plantings – figuring that anywhere there is a clump of non-native flowers or plants, there was probably a burial. Then they are using a

metal rod to probe the soil, digging where ever they feel something solid. Most importantly, they are querying the older residents of the area as to what they remember of the cemetery. They have now found almost 100 stones or parts of stones. a marker stating "unknown" will be placed Where an interment is found without any identification,.

There is now talk of seeking to have the cemetery placed on the National Historic Register, which would insure its future. If funds can be found, the group hopes to establish paths and a signboard telling of the history of the project. The total area of the old cemetery property is 2.6 acres, but only a small portion of that is obviously a cemetery. The unused portions will be allowed to return to a natural state to screen the area and make it environmentally friendly.

Von Goebel says that the group would welcome help with the clean up project. He will inform your editor of the next work party and future progress. If you're interested in helping, let me know and I'll keep you informed.

Small Oakland Cemetery

abt 2 miles west of Oakland on north side of Highway 50 and near intersection of Florida Turnpike
[N28 / 33.025; W 081 / 38.190]

Name	Birth	Death	Inscription	Other
____, Nat	Sep	Ma ____	Stone broken in many pieces, mostly buried	writing appears to be scratched into stone — could be Nup..
Bronson, Joseph	-	7 Jan 1939	"FL - Pvt - Inf 16 Engr" Military marker	Did not find this stone on second survey.
Brunson, Bulah	12 Jul 1891	29 Sep 1927	"Mother"	Bula Bronson, col, 23, married, res: Winter Garden, born Oakland, domestic [Orlando Death Index]
Coleman, Carry	11 May 1913	12 Aug 1921	"Gone to a better land" "The Lord is my Shepherd"	
Croskey, Richard	-	13 Sep ____	"Age 59", Carey Hand marker in shape of small metal vase	Name: Richard Croskey; Death Date: 1936; Place: Orange; Gender: M; Race: B; Volume: 727; Cert: 16007 [Carey Hand records at UCF]
Crosky, ____e James	-	12 Jan 1949	"__ . 1 mo, 9 da" Metal FH marker	Name: Willie James Croskay; County: Orange; Gender: M; Race: B; Volume: 1342 ; Cert: 3885; Death Date: 1949; [Carey Hand records at UCF]
Davis, Tom	-	5 Nov 1937	{one stone with Delia	Name: Tom Davis; Place of Death: Orange; Death Date: 1937; Gender: M; Race: B; Volume: 776 ; Cert: 18196 [Carey Hand records at UCF.] Did not find this stone on second survey.
Davis, Delia	-	13 Jan 1944	[one stone with Tom	Did not find this stone on second survey. Name: Della Davis Place: Orange; Death Date: 1944; Gender: F; Race: B Volume: 1079; Cert: 1912 [Carey Hand records at UCF]. Tom Davis (Oakland) married Della Howard (Oakland) on June 25, 1922 Orange Co., FL (Orange Co Marriage Book 5, page 74)

Name	Birth	Death	Inscription	Other
Dixon, Mamie Lue	-	26 Aug 1925	"age 26"; "Gone to Rest"; DIXON written across top of stone	
Eason, Mallie J. Pierce	-	29 Nov 1943		-
Fulton, Liza	-	25 Jan 1918	"Age 49"; "Gone to rest"	
Grady, Joe	-	22 Jan 1919	"Age 62"; "At Rest" - Masonic Emblem	
Herriott, Aaron	-	7 Feb 1925	"Age 64" "At Rest"	
Howell, Mabel Evelen	7 Oct 1919	20 Feb 1924	"Age 4"; "Gone to rest"; HOWELL on stone	
Johnson, Robert Moses	11 Mar 1899	12 Oct 1918	"At rest"; "In loving remembrance of our dear one"	
Mamgo, Janice J.	-	5 Sep 1934	"Age 57" Metal FH marker	Did not find this stone on second survey.
McFarlane, Bettie L.	20 Jul 1916	17 Jan 1917	"Dau of O. [G?] H. & Curley McFarlane"; "At Rest"	Enclosed in 3 ft wire fencing
Rich, Mary	28 Apr 1871	16 Feb 1922	"age 50"; "Asleep in Jesus"	
Taylor, Priscilla	-	5 Oct 1923	"age 18"; "Gone but not forgotten" TAYLOR written across top of stone	
unmarked stone			Nothing on stone except "1936"; indentation in stone as though there might have been a 6 x 12 plaque or photo.	In same area as ___, Nat
Walker, James W.	-	20 Oct 1918?	"Age 37"; "Gone to rest" - Masonic Emblem?	

New Jersey Research Trip

continued from p. 77

Our final day we took pictures of the various houses where the ancestors had lived [here's where the city directories really come in handy; you can get an annual address]. After returning home and having the pictures developed, I put them in order from earliest to last residence; that put it into perspective.

In between all the research we attended reunion functions. We enjoyed the entire week immensely; in fact I enjoyed it more than our trip to Alaska!

HARDCASTLE BIBLE

submitted by Elaine Powell

The Bible has a brown leather cover with some minimal scrollwork. There is no title page; therefore there is no date on the bible itself.

Written in ink: This is the Hardcastle Bible

There is an obituary glued to the inside cover of the bible. It reads:

Mrs. J. Russell

Mrs. Lucy Hardcastle Russell, wife of James M. Russell, died at their home near Smithboro, Bond County, (Illinois) last Friday, July 22 at 2 p.m. She had been ill and a great sufferer for a long time. The body was brought here last Saturday, and taken out to Walnut Grove. The funeral service was conducted at the church there Sunday at 10:30 a.m., by the pastor, Rev. Reuben L. McWherter. A large company of relatives and friends were present and followed the body to the place of interment, the family burying ground west of Robt. Hardcastle's home.



John Hardcastle

Lucy Hardcastle was born on the farm west of Walnut Grove, now the home of her brother, Robt. Hardcastle. She was married to James M. Russell February 20, 1868. Seven children were born to them, all still living to mourn the loss, for a little while, of their best and truest earthly friend, their mother. Mrs. Russell professed conversion and united with the Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church during the pastorate of Rev. John N. Beall. Her faith was strong and her hope bright. In her last illness she expressed an assurance of a home with her Saviour. She selected part if not all the hymns sung at the funeral, and also chose the text, John 16:16 – “A little while and ye shall not see me; and again, a little while and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.” For the past year she had been a great sufferer, yet there was no murmuring. During this while, as in all her life, she exhibited great patience and cheerfulness.

Below the obit, someone has written “Margaret Hardcastle Great Granddaughter of John Hardcastle

Inside the Bible, on the “Family Record” pages, the following information is written:

Marriages:

John Hardcastle married Margaret Hamilton June 9, 1829

William J. Hardcastle married to Sarah McDaniel May 20, 1846

William Vanmeter married to Elizabeth A. Hardcastle October 14, 1858

Edward R. Hardcastle married to Nancy A. Vitt February 7, 1861

James Russell married Lucy Hardcastle February 20, 1868

James Waller married Mary E. Hardcastle April 20, 1871

Robert Hardcastle married to Clara Smith December 4, 1873

John Robert Hardcastle Son of Robert & Clara Hardcastle married Lucy E. Scruby February 20, 1906

Lucy Borch (?) Hardcastle married to Oscar A. Scirl (?) April 11, 1907

Paul Smithy Hardcastle Son of Robert & Clara Hardcastle married to Alona A. Eldred December 19, 1914

Births:

William T. Hardcastle Son of John and Margret Hardcastle Born April 3th, 1830

James Hardcastle Son of John & Margret Hardcastle Born April 27th 1831

Andrew H. Hardcastle Son of John & Margret Hardcastle Born Oct 9, 1831

Elizabeth Ann Hardcastle Daughter of John & Margret Hardcastle Born Sept. 14, 1834

Thomas Hardcastle son of John & Margret Hardcastle Sept. 20, 1836

Edward R. Hardcastle son of John & Margret Hardcastle Born Sept. 22, 1838

Matilda Hardcastle Daughter of John & Margret Hardcastle Born Jan. 6, 1841

Lucy Hardcastle daughter of John & Margret born April 20, 1843
Mary E. Hardcastle daughter of John & Margret Hardcastle Nov. 22, 1845
Robert Hardcastle son of John & Margret Hardcastle Born Jan. 26, 1848
James Russell born 1840
John Hardcastle born January 27th, 1793
Margret Hardcastle Born December 3 1806
Charles S. Hardcastle Son of William and Maria Hardcastle, Born June 4th, 1857
Lucine H. Hardcastle son of William and Maria Hardcastle Born Dec. 11, 1858
Lucy B. Hardcastle Daughter of Robert & Clara Hardcastle Born August 13, 1876 Sunday
Ella J. Hardcastle daughter of Robert & Clara Hardcastle Born July 9, 1878 Tuesday
John Robert Hardcastle Son of Robert and Clara Hardcastle Born Dec 13th 1882
Paul Smith Hardcastle Son of Robt & Clara Hardcastle Born April 19th, 1885
Clara Smith Hardcastle Born Sept. 12, 1849
Andrew Hamilton born July 1, 1776
Elizabeth Hamilton July 13th 1778
Margaret Hamilton Hardcastle Mother Elizabeth Kincaid

Deaths:

Matilda Hardcastle died August 12th 1845 age four years and seven months
James Hardcastle died August 8th 1852 age 21 years 3 months
Thomas Hardcastle died August 2 1854 age 17 years 11 months
William Hardcastle died March 1st, 1871 age 40 years 11 months
Clara Smith Hardcastle died June 11 1920 Age 71
Robert Hardcastle died August 29, 1921 Age 73
John Hardcastle died Sept. 16, 1873 age 81 years 9 months
Margret Hardcastle died March 27, 1882 age 76 years & 4 months
Edward R. Hardcastle died Nov. 29, 1891 age 52
Lucy Hardcastle Russell died Friday July 22nd 1894 age 54 years
James Russell died 1926 (*in same blue ink as entry for James Russell born 1840*)
Elizabeth Hardcastle Van Metre died Jan. 1898
Andrew Hamilton Hardcastle died June 1905
Eleanor Elizabeth Hardcastle daughter of John R. & Lucy Scrubby H. died March 30, 1911 age 20 mo.

On the inside of the back cover of the Bible there is an obituary from a newspaper glued to the inside. It reads:

Margaret Hamilton Hardcastle died at 4 o'clock, a.m. 27th inst. At the residence of her son-in-law James Hardcastle, in the 76th year of her age. Mrs. Hardcastle was born in Bourbon Co., Ky., Dec. 6th, 1806. She was the daughter of Andrew Hamilton and Elizabeth Kincaid Hamilton. Her father was born June 12th, 1776, and her mother July 19th, 1776. In the pleasantries of the family circle her mother was accustomed to boast that she was free-born, but her husband was by birth a British subject.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton removed, with their family, to this state and county, (*Greene County, Illinois*) and settled near Greenfield, in 1827 – the year in which the first mile of railroad in this country was built. In 1829, John Hardcastle and Miss Margaret Hamilton were married and began life together, on their farm at Walnut Grove, where they ever after lived and where they now lie buried. The husband was buried seven years before the wife. In this home also the father and mother died. She was the last of her father's family. Here were born to them ten children, six of whom survive them. Two sons reside in Texas; one daughter in Kansas; the youngest son Robert retains the old home, while two sister Mrs. William Waller and Mrs. James M. Russell also reside in this county. Twenty five grandchildren and a very large circle of relatives are greatly bereaved in Mrs. Hardcastle's death.

When 17 years old, in Paris, Ky., she publicly confessed the Lord Jesus Christ as her saviour, and in her last conversation with her pastor, she said she had never for a moment regretted it, but more and more her

confidence was strengthened. "He is my only hope," she said, with strong emphasis. She dreaded the thought of living to be burdensome to her children. She did not dread death. She expressed the feeling of many a widowed heart: "I have been very lonely since my husband died."

She was the last of the original members of the Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church, and was (*next several words are torn away*). Living more than fifty years upon one farm, and not given to going about much, her good deeds have been confined to the few miles about her home, but within that circle who has won so many hearts? The whole community sorrow in the thought that we shall see her face no more. All felt that the text of the funeral discourse was appropriate in her case; Rev. XIV, 12 – "blessed are the dead which die in the Spirit, that they may rest from their (?) and their works do follow them.

Next to the obituary, written in blue ink:

Her Childrens names:

1. **William Hardcastle**
2. **James Hardcastle**
3. **Andrew Hardcastle**
4. **Elizabeth Hardcastle**
5. **Thomas Hardcastle**
6. **Edward Hardcastle**
7. **Matilda Hardcastle**
8. **Lucy Hardcastle**
9. **Mary Hardcastle**
10. **Robert Hardcastle**

Santa in Missouri

Form 154
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State Missouri Incorporated place Marshall, Mo. Enumeration District No. 99-20 Sheet No. 12 A 196
 County Saline Ward of city 2 Block No. _____ Supervisor's District No. 6th
 Township or other division of county Marshall Township Subincorporated place _____ Institution _____ Recommended by the cc. April 18, 1930 Minnie Brown, Enumerator

PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME	HOME DATA	PERSONAL OCCUPATION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	MOTHER TONGUE OR NATIVE	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	INDUSTRY
Missouri	Head, Don	Head			Missouri	Missouri			None
Missouri	Wife, Santa	Wife			Missouri	Missouri			None
Missouri	Child, Mabel				Missouri	Missouri			None
Missouri	Child, William				Missouri	Missouri			None
Colorado	Child, Raymond				Colorado	Missouri			None
Missouri	Child, Fred				Missouri	Missouri			None
Missouri	Child, Joseph				Missouri	Missouri			None
Missouri	Child, James				Missouri	Missouri			None
Missouri	Child, Bertha				Missouri	Missouri			None

Did you know that Santa Claus was living in Saline County, Missouri in April of 1930 with his wife and 6 children. Here's the proof!

Forward to the Past - My search for Freidrich Kieser (1842-1909)

by Betty Jo (Kieser) Stockton



Frederick & Maria (Gammerdinger) Kieser -
Columbus, OH - about 1900

For more than 35 years I've been looking for the birthplace and parents of my great grandfather, Freidrich (Frederick) Kieser. I wish that this could be a grand announcement that I'd found him – though you'd be hearing me shout it from the rooftops if I had. But after hearing Harold Bergman's talk at the CFGS meeting last month, I've decided to go back to the beginning and start all over again.

It's not as though I don't know a lot about him. I have his family Bible with birth, marriage and death dates for Freidrich, his wife Maria and their 6 children. I have records on his brother/half-brother/stepbrother, John. I have all the census records since his arrival in the United States, his military and pension records, his death certificate and obituary... but none of them give a birthplace other than Wurttemberg. His obituary in a German language newspaper gave only the bare facts. I even sat on his tombstone in Columbus, OH and asked him where he was born, but he didn't answer. Since German records are kept at the town level, I'm still searching.

I know that he immigrated in 1854 as a 12 year-old from Wurttemberg. I cannot find him in any immigration records and think that he might have traveled with another family and been listed with them. In 1860 he was working on the farm of Christian Lehner in Marion County, OH. In 1861, he enlisted in Co B, 48th Ohio Volunteer Infantry for a three year term of service. His occupation at enlistment was "tanner"; he was aged 19, 5' 9¼ in height, with light complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair. In 1863, he was transferred to the Signal Corps by the order of U. S. Grant. During the war he contracted an eye infection due to exposure at Vicksburg and was determined to "three-quarters blind" by the time the war was over.

He married Maria Christina Caroline Gammerdinger in Delaware Co, OH in 1866. The church in which they were married no longer exists and I (even with the help of the Methodist Archives) have not been able to determine what became of the church records. Both Frederick and Maria were from Wurttemberg, but nothing I have found leads me to think that they were from the same town. I have Maria Gammerdinger's family traced back to the early 1700s and there are no Kiesers in or near the town where she was born or lived. She immigrated with her brother, Charles, seven years later than Frederick had.

Frederick and Maria had six children. The first two were born in Delaware County, OH; the others in Franklin County, OH. Christening records for the children give their birth dates and the names of their parents, but no birthplaces for the parents. There were no godparents named.

After the Civil War, Frederick tried to resume his occupation as a tanner but his poor vision made that impossible. He then became a "huckster" – selling his garden produce from the back of his wagon. He was killed on the way home from his vegetable route in 1909 when his horse and wagon were hit by a train. Family stories say that Frederick was asleep (or drunk) in back of the wagon, the train was late and the horse followed its usual path – directly into the path of the train. The headlines stated "Elderly Gardener Hit by Train - Horse Dies Too"

I have not found any naturalization records for Frederick. The Archivist at the Ohio Historical Society suggested that he was given citizenship on the basis of his Civil War service without having to go through the

paperwork. Neither the National Archives, the Regional Archives or courthouses in any of the counties where he lived have any records of his naturalization.

Frederick had a brother (or half brother or step brother) John Keiser, born in Marion County in 1854. I have not been able to find any records of him before 1878, where he shows up in Fairfield Co, OH with his marriage to Caroline Raver. He remained in Fairfield Co where he was superintendent of the County Infirmary (family stories say it was the “poor farm” and that they went there for vacations). His obituary says “he was one of the best loved men in the County” – but doesn’t give names of his parents or confirm his birthplace. His death certificate gives his father as Frederick and mother unknown – but there is no other Frederick Kieser/Keiser to be found who fits as his father. I have not been able to locate any descendants of John Keiser.

One of our speakers at a CFGS conference a few years ago (Sandra Leubking, I believe) suggested that when you’re hopelessly stuck, consider hiring a professional researcher. By the time you’ve organized your information and have everything together, you’ll probably discover enough leads that you won’t need the expert help. So that was what I determined to do. I’m not finished - and I’ve not found Grandpa - but, sure enough, it seems to be helping find new leads.

I’d asked Harold Bergman, who spoke at our CFGS November meeting on “Finding Grandpa’s Birthplace”, if I could send my information to him for review. Perhaps he could come up with clues I’d overlooked or new paths to explore. He agreed, so I set out to document everything I know about Frederick Kieser, his family and close connections. To do this, I set up a document in Word Perfect with all the information I had gathered. I listed events chronologically – and footnoted each to document and/or explain what I’d done. A sample follows.

In the process, I discovered several avenues I’d not explored. I’ve begun to trace the farmer Frederick was enumerated with on his first census in the US in 1860. I’m also putting more effort into collecting background and geographic information. Among other things, I found that, even though Frederick had lived in three Ohio counties (Marion, Delaware and Franklin) for the census years 1860 to 1910, the distances involved were less than 30 miles. So I needed to look closely at folks from Wurttemberg in all three counties. I’m hoping that the various Archives that had no naturalization records for him 30 years ago might have computerized or discovered misplaced records in the intervening years, so it’s time to query those sources again. I also discovered that Abraham Blymer, one of the doctors who signed his medical forms in pension applications in 1887, stated that he had been the family physician for 25 years and that “neither he *nor his father’s family* had ever had any vision problems”. Perhaps, if I can trace the origins of that doctor, it will lead me to Frederick’s family.

In the 35 years since I started this search, the internet has opened up so many more sources of information. I discovered that haven’t begun to check them all. Message boards and mailing lists are now available for all parts of the world and most surnames. Now getting an answer to requests for information is often a matter of hours, rather than months (or never) as often happened when I was writing letters. I’ve joined the mailing lists for Wurttemberg, the Ohio counties and the Kieser surname – and have my fingers crossed. Surely there is a record out there somewhere that will point me a new direction.

I also found several research check lists – and used ideas from them to make up my own. Now it is easier to see what I might have overlooked. A copy of my check list follows.

So, it is back to the beginnings for me... with hopes for more success this go-around. Even if I don’t find Grandpa Kieser, I’ve honed my research skills a bit – and will keep my fingers crossed. Any suggestions for further research would be greatly appreciated.

In the meantime, if any of you see Frederick Kieser anywhere, please send him my way!

Sample Chronology and Documentation for Frederick Kieser

- 1842 - Birth of Freidrich Kieser¹ 11 Aug 1842² in Wurttemberg.³ No parentage or birthplace indicated in any known record.
- 1854 - Immigrated⁴. No immigration records found.⁵
- Birth of John Keiser in Marion Co, OH.⁶
- 1860 - Working on farm of Christian Lehner⁷ in Middletown, Marion Co, OH. 18 years old, farm labor, born Wurttemberg.⁸
- 1861 - Enlisted Co B, 48th Ohio Volunteer Infantry⁹ for 3 year term. In battles at Shiloh, Holley Springs, Arkansas Post, Magnolia Hills, Vicksburg, Jackson and New Orleans.
- 1863 - Transferred to Signal Corps on orders of Ulysses S. Grant.
- 1864 - Discharged at end of enlistment¹⁰.
- 1866 - Married Maria Christina Carolina Gammerdinger in Delaware Co, OH.¹¹
- 1867 - Birth of daughter, Louisa Christine. Christened at Methodist Episcopal Church, Delaware, OH¹².
- 1870 - Birth of son, Charles Frederick. Christened at Methodist Episcopal Church, Delaware, OH¹³
- Census: Delaware Township, Delaware Co, OH¹⁴.

¹I believe that this is the correct spelling of the name as it is the spelling used in the 1867 will of Gottlieb Gammerdinger, a schoolmaster in Wurnberg, Wurttemberg, referring to his son-in-law.

² Kieser/Gammerdinger Family Bible, given to Frederick Kieser by the YMCA in New Orleans, 1863 (during Civil War). Bible is in German as are family entries.

³ Census records 1860-1900 are consistent as to birthplace.

⁴ Census records 1900 gives year of immigration as 1854; 46 years in US. Naturalized citizen.

⁵ Queries to National Archives and Northwest Regional Archive were negative. No records found in Marion, Delaware or Franklin Counties.

⁶ Pension File #814362 application gives John's birth date as 15 Mar 1854 in Marion Co, OH.

⁷ Census - 1860 Marion Co, OH, Middletown, Prospect P.O., 24 July 1860, p. 438. Frederick Keiser, born Wurttemberg, aged 17, farmer. Enumerated with Christian Lehner, aged 30, farmer, real estate valued at \$2000, personal estate \$1000, b. Wurttemberg; his wife Angeline, aged 25, b. Baden. children John aged 4 b. Ohio & Emma C. aged 1, b. Ohio

⁸ Other Kiesers (any spelling) in Marion Co in 1860 were:

Mary Kiser	Marion, Marion, OH	17	1842	Ohio	Female
Jacob Kizer	Big Island, Marion, OH	29	1830	Germany	Male
Ann Kizer	Big Island, Marion, OH	29	1830	Ireland	Female
Ann B Kizer	Big Island, Marion, OH	5	1854	Ohio	Female
John Kizer	Big Island, Marion, OH	3	1856	Ohio	Male
Martha Kizer	Big Island, Marion, OH	1	1858	Ohio	Female
Barbars Kiser	Big Island, Marion, OH	50	1809	Germany	Female
Lana Kiser	Big Island, Marion, OH	12	1847	Ohio	Female

⁹ US Army - Pension File: #428025 Cert.# 265388.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Marriage: Delaware Co, OH Marriage Records, P. 373. [LDS M514163 391396] Rev. Kerzer, minister.

¹² Bible Record; Christening: Louisa Christina Kieser. Methodist Episcopal Church, Delaware, OH.

¹³ Bible Record; Christening: Charles Frederick Kieser. Methodist Episcopal Church, Delaware, OH.

¹⁴ Delaware Township, Delaware Co, OH, p. 345. KEISER, Fredck, age 28, huckster, real estate \$1800, pers \$300, b. Wurttemberg, parents foreign born, eligible to vote. Mary C. 31, keep house, b. Wurtemberg, parents foreign born; Louisa 3 b. OH; Charles F. 6/12 b. Feb, OH.

RESOURCES CHECKLIST

VITAL RECORDS... Doc #
 Birth _____
 Christening _____
 Marriage _____
 Death _____
 Burial _____

CENSUS RECORDS
 1790 _____
 1800 _____
 1810 _____
 1820 _____
 1830 _____
 1840 _____
 1850 _____
 1860 _____
 1870 _____
 1880 _____
 1890 _____
 1900 _____
 1910 _____
 1920 _____
 1930 _____

STATE CENSUS RECORDS

MORTALITY SCHEDULES

PROBATE RECORDS
 wills _____
 inventories _____
 settlement of estates _____
 guardianships _____

CHURCH RECORDS

CORRESPONDENCE

NOTES

Researcher _____

HUSBAND'S NAME _____

HUSBAND'S PARENTS _____

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME _____

WIFE'S PARENTS _____

DATES _____

LOCALES _____

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS Doc #
 Bible _____
 passenger lists _____
 immigration _____
 naturalization _____
 school _____
 orphanage _____
 voting records _____
 tax lists _____
 court records _____
 military records _____
 pension records _____
 land records _____
 deeds & abstracts _____
 divorce _____
 newspaper _____
 mortuary _____
 cemetery _____
 tombstones _____
 obituary _____
 county histories _____
 occupational _____
 societies _____

BOOKS & PRINTED SOURCES

INTERVIEWS WITH...

FAMILY TRADITIONS...

Adapted by Betty Jo Stockton from Comanche Lodge Research Checklist <<http://www.comanchelodge.com/rescheck.html>>

Florida State Census - 1885 Orange County, Florida

(Film M845 Roll #10 at Orlando Library & Archives; #088971 at Family History Center.)

Page	House hold	Name	Race	Age/ Gender	Relationship to Head of House	Marital Status	Birth/Father's Birth/ Mother's Birth	Occupation
38	348	West, E. F.	W	34 M	Head	M	NC/NC/TN	Carpenter
38	348	West, M. E.	W	32 F	Wife	M	NC/MD/NC	-
38	348	West, Sarah A.	W	6? F	Dau	S	NC/NC/NC	-
38	348	West, Violet E.	W	11 F	Dau	S	NC/NC/NC	-
38	348	West, David A.	W	1 M	Son	S	NC/NC/NC	-
38	349	Anderson, Abe	Mu	47? M	Head	W	GA/NY/GA	Eating House
38	349	Richardson, Wm	Mu	26 M	Boarder	S	GA/GA/GA	Railroad Hand / rheumatism
38	350	Shelby, W. A.	W	50? M	Head	M	GA/GA/SC	M. D.
38	350	Shelby, Louise	W	40 F	Wife	M	GA/GA/GA	-
38	350	Shelby, Anne	W	22 F	Dau	S	GA/GA/GA	
38	350	Shelby, William	W	17 M	Son	S	GA/GA/GA	
38	350	Fleming, Sprague	B	25 M	Servant	S	NC/NC/NC	Gardener
38	351	Fries, J? O.	W	46 M	Head	M	Sweden/Swe/Swe	County Surveyor
38	351	Fries, Christine	W	50 F	Wife	M	Sweden/Swe/Swe	
38	351	Fries, Kina?	W	16 F	Dau	S	Sweden/Swe/Swe	
38	351	Fries, Eva	W	14 F	Dau	S	Sweden/Swe/Swe	
38	351	Olson, Matilda	W	24 F	Servant	S	Sweden/Swe/Swe	
38	352	Ormsby, Eustatia	W	43? F	Head	W	KY/KY/KY	-
38	352	Ormsby, Mattie	W	22 F	Dau	S	KY/KY/KY	
38	352	Ormsby, Eustatia	W	21 F	Dau	S	KY/KY/KY	
38	352	Ormsby, Edwina	W	18 F	Dau	S	KY/KY/KY	
38	352	Ormsby, Charlton	W	16 F	Dau	S	KY/KY/KY	
38	352	Ormsby, Laura	W	13 F	Dau	S	KY/KY/KY	
38	352	Cates, Mattie	W	30 F	Sis	S	KY/KY/KY	
38	353	McDonald, Andrew	W	65 M	Head	M	PA/VA/VA	Planter
38	353	McDonald, Jane	W	60 F	Wife	M	VA/IRE/VA	
38	353	McDonald, Maggie S.	W	21 F	Dau	S	KS/PA/VA	
38	353	McDonald, Marion F.	W	15 M	Son	S	AL/PA/VA	
38	354	Emerson, Wm J.	W	31 M	Head	M	NY/NY/NY	Planter
38	354	Emerson, Harriet	W	27 F	Wife	M	NY/NH/NH	
38	355	Hyer, J. M.	W	30 M	Head	M	GA/SC/SC	Farmer
38	355	Hyer, Martha	W	23 F	Wife	M	GA/GA/GA	
38	355	Hyer, Harry	W	2 M	Son	S	FL/GA/GA	
38	356	Blanton, S. S.	W	22 M		S	GA/NC/NC	Carpenter
38	356	Greer, J. F.	W	24 M		S	FL/MI/SC	“
39	356	Cook, L. C.	W	39 M	Head	M	VA/VA/VA	Saw Mill Hand
39	356	Cook, N. J.	W	30 F	Wife	M	VA/VA/VA	Boarding House
39	356	Cain, J. W.	W	33 M	Boarder	S	GA/GA/GA	Saw Mill Hand
39	356	Williams, J. A.	W	31 M	Boarder	S	MS/GA/GA	Saw Mill Hand

Page	House hold	Name	Race	Age/ Gender	Relationship to Head of House	Marital Status	Birth/Father's Birth/ Mother's Birth	Occupation
39	356	Walker, P. B.	W	25 M	Boarder	S	VA/VA/VA	Saw Mill Hand
39	356	Smith, F. M.	W	29 M	Boarder	S	GA/GA/GA	Saw Mill Hand
39	356	Heet?, H. S.	W	28 M	Boarder	S	GA/GA/FL	Saw Mill Hand
39	356	Carter, E. M.	W	23 M	Boarder	S	FL/FL/FL	Saw Mill Hand
39	357	Speir, W. R.	W	30? M	Head	M	FL/NC/NC	Carpenter
39	357	Speir, M. F.	W	29 F	Wife	M	FL/FL/GA	
39	357	Speir, Ann	W	6 F	Dau	S	FL/FL/FL	
39	358	Lucky, S. A.	W	38 M	Head	W	GA/AL/FL	Sawmill
39	358	Lucky, Hugh W.	W	15 M	Son	S	GA/GA/FL	
39	358	Lucky, Josephine	W	14 F	Dau	S	FL/GA/FL	
39	358	Lucky, Sabrina	W	14 F	Dau	S	FL/GA/FL	
39	358	Lucky, Clifford O.	W	9 M	Son	S	FL/GA/FL	
39	358	Lucky, Bianca C.	W	7 F	Dau	S	FL/GA/FL	
39	358	Lucky, Eliza C.	W	42 F	Sis	S	GA/GA/FL	
39	358	Harden, H.	W	18 M	Servant	S	GA/GA/FL	Gardner
39	358	Early, Thos.	B	14? M	Servant	S	FL/FL/FL	"
39	358	Lindsay, Fred	B	42? M	Servant	W	GA/GA/GA	"
39	359	Mizell, A. A.	W	47 M	Head	W	GA/GA/GA	
39	359	Mizell, J. T.	W	21 M	Son	S	FL/GA/GA	Planter
39	359	Mizell, J. M.	W	18 M	Son	S	FL/GA/GA	
39	359	Mizell, D. B.	W	15 F	Dau	S	FL/GA/GA	
39	360	Russell, S. A.	W	27 F	Head	W	FL/GA/GA	-
39	360	Russell, Drue	W	8 F	Dau	S	FL/FL/FL	
39	360	Russell, Ardie?	W	5 M	Son	S	FL/FL/FL	
39	361	Wilson, John M.	W	36 M	Head	M	Can/Scot/Scot	Planter
39	361	Wilson, A. A.	W	31 F	Wife	M	NY/VA/NY	
39	361	Wilson, Robt B.	W	10 M	Son	S	IA/Can/NY	
39	361	Wilson, Grace M.	W	5 F	Dau	S	IA/Can/NY	
39	362	Myers, C. O.,	W	57 M	Head	M	NY/CT/CT	Planter
39	362	Myers, Estelle L.	W	45 F	Wife	M	NY/VT/NY	
39	363	Glover, Thos.	B	45 M	Head	M	SC/SC/SC	Farmer
39	363	Glover, Jane	B	42 F	Wife	M	SC/SC/SC	
39	363	Glover, Frank	B	19 M	Son	S	??/SC/SC	
39	363	Glover, Hassie	B	16 M	Son	S	FL/SC/SC	
39	363	Glover, Clarence	B	13 M	Son	S	FL/SC/SC	
39	363	Glover, Pinkney	B	10 M	Son	S	FL/SC/SC	
39	363	Glover, Jessie	B	5 F	Dau	S	FL/SC/SC	
39	364	Glover, Henry	B	26? M	Head	M	SC/SC/SC	Laborer
39	364	Glover, Maria	B	26? F	Wife	M	FL/FL/FL	

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