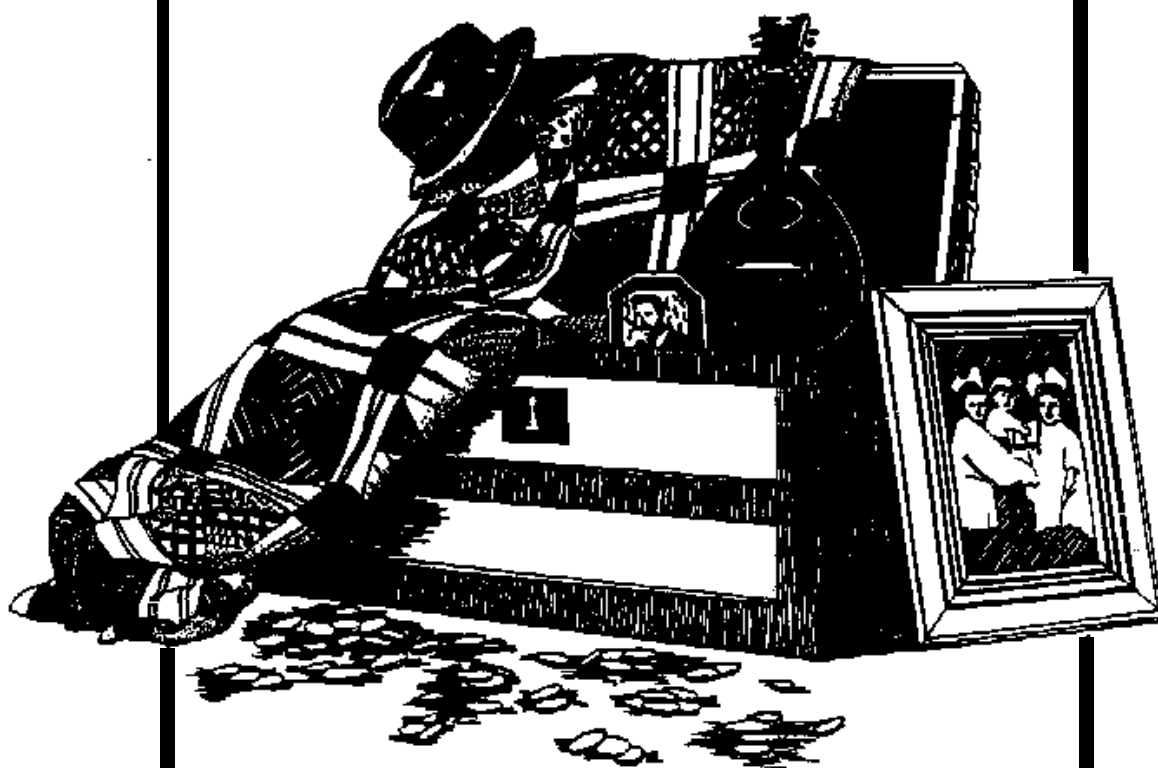


Buried Treasures



Vol. 48, No. 1
January - March 2016

Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc.

Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc.
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The Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. (formerly known as the Central Florida Genealogical & Historical Society) was formed in 1969 and incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1981. The Society welcomes everyone with an interest in genealogy, the history of Florida and the United States as well as our ancestral nations, to further our objectives through education and publications.

Meetings - Regular monthly meetings are held September through May at the **LDS CULTURAL HALL** on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. at 45 E. Par St (the corner of Par and Formosa). A Daytime Group meets bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday afternoon of odd-numbered months. A Computer Special Interest Group meets monthly on Saturday morning. The Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the LDS Cultural Center. The President designates exceptions to the date and place for meetings. All meetings are open to the public. Visitors are welcome and members are encouraged to bring guests.

Membership:

Individual - Year \$20

Family - Year \$25

Membership begins the first day of September, extends for one full year and includes a subscription to the following Society publications.

Buried Treasures, a quarterly publication, features 24 pages of articles, book reviews, Bible records, old letters, wills, etc. submitted by members. Gina Simmons Herbert designed the cover for **Buried Treasures** in 1989.

Treasure Chest News, a newsletter published nine times a year features 10-12 pages of Society news, library acquisitions, genealogy tips, announcements of workshops, conferences, meetings, etc. *Note: Beginning with the Aug/Sept 2010, the newsletter will be delivered electronically to those who have an email address.*

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Publications of the Central Florida Genealogical Society Unless otherwise noted, books are soft cover, 8 1/2 x 11" and include an every-name index. #Available through Amazon.com

Culinary Treasures Cookbook \$6
 [180 p., soft cover, spiral bound, 6 x 9"]

#Early Settlers of Orange County, Florida - a reprint of the 1915 book by C. E. Howard [indexed, 80 p.] Rev ed. 2015 . \$15

#Greenwood Cemetery Historic Hike: a visit with over 425 Orlandoans at their final resting place by Steve Rajtar [220 p., indexed, photos]. \$20

Hawthorne Funeral Home Records Vol 1 (1954-1961) [220 p., 3 indices]. \$20

Marriages of Orange County, Florida

#Vol 1: 1869-1909 [indexed, 196 p.] \$17

#Vol 2: 1910-1924 [indexed, 165 p.] \$17

#Vol 3: 1925-1934 [indexed, 180 p.] \$17

Orlando Births 1910-1922. [180 p., every name & geographical index] \$17

Orlando Deaths 1910-1922. [190 p., every name & geographical index] \$17

#Orlando Deaths 1922-Apr 1929 [190 p., every name index].
 \$17

Orange County, Florida Cemeteries:

#Vol I: Smaller Cemeteries of SW Orange Co (13 small cemeteries). [indexed, 124 p.] \$14

Vol II: Larger Cemeteries of SW Orange Co - Washington Park & Winter Garden [indexed, 213 p.] \$20

Glen Haven Cemetery (Winter Park) - Vol I (Sect A-H). [indexed, 162 p.] \$17

#Greenwood Cemetery (Orlando) - Vol. 1 (Sections A-J). [indexed, 270 p.] \$20

#Greenwood Cemetery (Orlando) - Vol 2 (Sections K-W). [indexed, 320 p.] \$22

Miller's Orlando City Directory 1907 - A reprint of the 1907 city directory with added index. [indexed, 115 p] \$15

Orlando City Directory 1912. [215 p., index of names, locales, streets & occupations]. \$20

Orange County Gazetteer and Business Directory -

A reprint of the 1887 directory with added index. Orange County included parts of Lake, Seminole & Osceola Counties in 1887 [300 p. directory; 66 p. index.] \$25

#Powell Cemetery in Orange County, FL. [134 p, full color cover, perfect binding, fully indexed]..... \$12

Where Did They Put Wakulla? A Genealogist's Guide to the Library A listing of library call numbers (Dewey) for every state, county and major genealogical topic. [42 p. booklet, soft cover, stapled, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2"]..... \$6 postpaid

World War I Discharge Papers - Orange County, Florida, [indexed, 97 p]..... \$14

To order any of these publications, send check or money order to the
 Society address (above)

Please add \$2.50 per book for shipping plus applicable taxes.



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 Cultural Hall, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints

on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

The LDS Cultural Hall is located at 45 E. Par, Orlando, FL (at the corner of Par St & Formosa Ave)

The Daytime Group meets bimonthly on the fourth Thursday afternoon of odd-numbered months at the Winter Park University Club. The Computer Special Interest Group and the Family Tree Maker Interest Group each meet monthly on Saturday morning. The Board meets year-round on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the LDS Cultural Hall. All are welcome to attend.

January-March 2016

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Blanche Wallace

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Thoughts from your Editor: Samuel Barney c1770-1827 Ross Co, Ohio

by Betty Jo STOCKTON

Every genealogist needs a research plan and to stick to it - right? I do have a plan (sorta!), but have found it useful to deviate at times. If I have a few minutes to spare, I like to open up FamilySearch.org or Genealogy Bank and put in one of my "problem children" to see if there is anything new.

I did that this week with my John BARNEY - for whom I've been trying to locate parents for years. I had a few minutes so typed his name into Genealogy Bank. To my amazement, up popped a 1827 legal notice from the *Scioto Gazette*, in Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio. What's more, there were a number of them! It seems that Samuel Barney, apparently the father of my John, had died in Richmond, Ohio. (As far as I knew, he was still in Connecticut.) The notice was the Hiram MEAD, administrator of the estate, vs. the eight named heirs of Samuel Barney. He was petitioning the court to be allowed to sell land owned by Samuel, in order to pay Samuel's debts.

Thursday, April 12, 1827, Scioto Gazette (Chillicothe, Ohio), Vol: L , Issue: 7, Page: 1

Ross County Pleas, March Term 1827

Hiram N. Mead - Administrator of Samuel Barney, deceased; vs. Solomon BARNEY, John BARNEY, Daniel BARNEY, Samuel BARNEY, Barbet BARNEY & Lydia his wife, Nicholas ELSEY and Polly, his wife (late Polly BARNEY). Betsey BARNEY. and Anne BARNEY - Heirs of Samuel BARNEY, deceased.

Petition for the sale of land: The petition sets forth, that Samuel Barney, late of Ross county, deceased, died seized of certain Real Estate, situate in said county, and that the personal estate of the said deceased is not sufficient to satisfy his debts; and prays, that certain Lots of ground, situate in the town of Richmond, in said county, may be sold, in order to pay the debts of the decedent &c. And it appearing to the Court, that part of the defendants vis: Solomon BARNEY, Samuel BARNEY, John BARNEY, Daniel BARNEY, BARNEY and Lydia his wife, are not inhabitants of the state; on motion, ordered that said defendants do appear and answer said petition, on or before the 1st day of the next Term of this Court, otherwise the same will as to them be taken as confessed and the matters in said petition decreed accordingly; and it is further ordered that this order be published in the Scioto Gazette, a paper printer in Chillicothe, for nine weeks successively, previous to the next Term. Attest. H. FULLERTON, Clerk. March 24, 1827. (Notice repeated in this paper for nine issues)

Another notice - posted in the *Connecticut Journal* (New Haven, Connecticut) and a number of other Connecticut papers in April 1827: "At Richmond, Ross Co, Ohio Mr Samuel BARNEY, formerly of Canaan, Connecticut, aged 75. Also Mrs. Sarah BARNEY and Mr William BARNEY, wife and son of the above." This gave me the name of a wife and another son. The name of the wife disagrees with other information I've been given, so - was my original information incorrect or was there a second wife?

With this information, I went back to FamilySearch.org and searched for a will for Samuel BARNEY in Ross Co, OH in 1827 (see articles on p. 17 for searching unindexed records). Evidently Samuel did not have a will, but his estate package spanned 40 pages. It included an inventory of his estate, his debts and not much more. Written in the margin of one page was "Samuel BARNEY had eight children." Evidently they didn't include the deceased son, William. There were signatures (by mark) of the three younger daughters, who were probably still living at home.

I can't be positive yet that this is my John, but I do have a John BARNEY enumerated next to Solomon BARNEY in Harpersfield, Ashtabula Co., Ohio in 1830. A Masonic biography stated "[John] returned to Harpersfield to collect some old debts & something from the estate of his father. Apparently Barney's brother had moved to Harpersfield and had recently passed away. The anticipated estate had dwindled to nearly nothing."

I've ordered the Family History Library's film of town records of Canaan, Connecticut, (where John Barney was born), since they haven't been digitized yet. I'll keep working to prove this relationship, but this listing of heirs of Samuel (and probable siblings for my John), gives me more names to follow - and hopefully lead to even more information. Serendipity strikes again!

My Most Famous Ancestor: Mary BICKERDYKE 1817–1901 by Lea COLLINS

Mary BICKERDYKE, also known to many Union Army soldiers as Mother BICKERDYKE, lived in Galesburg, IL. She attended Sunday Services and was inspired by the traveling pastor, Brother BEECHER, who was the brother of Harriet Beecher STOWE. Brother BEECHER had been to the Union Army camp at Cairo, Illinois, and told how filthy the conditions were in this hospital encampment. He told how the soldiers, more often than not, were dying of the infections from surgery rather than the wound itself.

So Mary BICKERDYKE, who was a widow with two small children, was very motivated to do something to help the cause. The conditions she learned about were unacceptable to Mary BICKERDYKE, the nurse. Meanwhile the church started raising money to buy supplies to send to the camp at Cairo. With over \$500, they set about to buy a wagon a team of horses and filled it with clean bandages and other items to help clean up the conditions in the camp. The next hurdle was to find someone to drive the wagon to the camp which in itself was a dangerous trip. No one came forward - after all, the men were out fighting the war. Mary went to her neighbor and asked if the neighbor would care for her children. They reached an agreement and off Mary went to deliver the goods.



Mary Bickerdyke

As she approached the camp, the sentry stopped her and told her that she could not enter the camp, because she was a woman. She told the sentry that she was coming in, and he stepped in front of her and barred her way. Undeterred, Mary asked who was in charge of the camp, she wanted to see him. Shortly, General SHERMAN appeared and asked what the problem was. Mary explained that she was a nurse and she had supplies to stop the needless deaths in the camp and she was coming into the camp for that purpose. General SHERMAN asked by whose authority did she think she was coming in to his camp. Mary replied "the Lord Jesus Christ, do you think you outrank him?" She entered the camp and it was miraculous what was accomplished. This was the beginning of over 300 hospital encampments that she went on to clean up. She and her band of nurses worked on at least 19 battlefields. When SHERMAN left for Vicksburg, he took Mary BICKERDYKE with him and from there she boarded a hospital ship and worked there on wounded soldiers.

At the request of SHERMAN and GRANT she and her nurses were at the head of the parade of the Grand Revue in 1865.

Mary continued with her works after the war had ended, helping soldiers get their pensions. She was instrumental in the creation of the Veteran's Administration.

Lea Collins, Cousin to Mary Bickerdyke

Early [Florida] Auto Registrations, 1905-1917

The Florida Memory Project has recently posted early auto registrations on its website at <https://www.floridamemory.com/collections/early-autos>. The home page gives a nice overview of the role of the automobile in early Florida.

Each entry includes the name and post office address of the registrant plus the manufacturer, style, horsepower and factory number of the vehicle. Each entry was dated and assigned a unique registration number. Searches can be made by name or by county. Searching on Orange County, shows 1316 autos registered between 1905 and 1917. For example, Cary HAND (of local funeral home fame) registered two vehicles in 1916 - a Winton funeral car and a Studebaker touring car. His father, Elijah, registered a Mitchell Touring car; while his mother, Clara, registered a Cadillac Touring car in November 1915; an Oakland Roadster in April 1916, and a Haynes Roadster in 1917.



Haynes Roadster
1917

1906 School Roster - Orlando Public School

1 West Jackson St

From records discovered in a "time capsule" under the cornerstone of the school in February 1972
continued from previous issue

Pupils of Fourth Grade
Mabel F. JAMESON, Teacher

Gayle McDael DAVIS
Bessie E. QUIGG
Bessie F. KEEN
Lura WESTOVER
Bessie A. MIZELL
Leona HOLOWAY
Goldie Evalena MILLER
Annie Eulala CRUX
Gladys PATRICK
Annie MUSSELWHITE
Pearl MIZELL
Hilary Magnolia BYRD
Mary Margert MCCOLLOUGH
Marie Louise HORNER
Ruth Annie Mary ISAACSON
Davida LOCKHART
Helen HULETT
Bertha LANDEN
Eleanor G. MILLS
Nellie M. JOHNS
Laura E. PINKERTON
Roxanna IRVINE

Corine BARKER
Ruby LLOYD
Stella HODGES
Vera HYRES
Walter W. C. POST
Marshall ROWLAND
Joe FERRIS Jr
Barbet SMITH
Albert Manly ?HEFFIELD?
James Kirby FULLER
George C. DOLIVE
Delaney WAY
Robert COX
Thomas Gilbert LEE
John Louis KILGORE
Godfrey KEEN
Jackson CARTER
Payton MUSSELWHITE
Leslie NICHOLSON
Maxie BENNETT
Clyde SWEARINGEN
Chester SMITH
Cecil C. B. BARBER
Roland DANN

John Louis, Kilgore.
Godfrey Keen
Jackson Carter
Payton Musselwhite
Leslie Nicholson
Maxie Bennett.
Clyde Swearingen
Chester Smith.
Cecil C. B. Barber
Roland Dann

Lucile Juanita KEYES
Lillian BAGGOTT
Willie M. DEAN
Huldah I. HOLT
Rosa BELLAMY
Irma LOBEAN
Blanche MCCAMY
Ethel DANN
Ethel MIZELL
Ruth GROSS
Marian SMITH
Ida JANSEN
Carolyn A. DADE
Ruth THOMPSON
Mary Elma GETTIER
Annie May COOPER
Clara HOLLAND
Silvia MILLER
Bertha DAWSON
Dorothy SLEMONS
Roberta BEACHAM
Lucile ATKINSON
Grace NICHOLSON

Doris WALKER
Tell KUHN
Carl W. DOLLINS
Thomas B. ?SEMANS?
James POST
George B. PATTERSON
Edgar H. WHITTEN
Charley MAGRUDER
Henry PORTER
Howard SACKETT
Fred SACKETT
Robert Telford MAGRUDER
Geo PEGUES
Henry BANKS
Sinclair DELANEY
Willie HYRES
Edgar Allan PLATT
John BOONE
Vance DOUGLASS
Robert HANSON
Charlie ARNOLD
Everett L. PASSMORE
Walter MOORMAN
Alva Sam KILGORE

John Boone
Vance Douglass
Robert H. Hanson
Charlie Arnold
Everett L. Passmore
Walter Moorman
Alva Sam Kilgore

Sixth Grade May RINALDI, Teacher

Pauline COX
Annie Mae WHITTEN
Thomas Propret BLYTH
Mattie Emily GORDON
Irma Lee NICHOLSON
Rosa Mary DANIEL
Katherine Crutcher HEFFIELD
Lylian HYER
Mary Brummel HYER
Alfred PORTER
Gladys Irene CHILDRESS
Ella LeBelle SMITH
Sarah Eulene CRAWFORD
Lou ?Matcur? MCILVAIN
Elisabeth BRANHAM
Ruby Love QUIGG
Gladys Marie OLIVER

Ida Lester PASSMORE
James Mulcum PLATT Jr
Horace BRADFORD
Edwin ?BUMAN?
Robert CARTER
John Earle VICK
John Dwight MILLS
Mr Herbert Ray CHAPMAN
Herbert Archie VIVIAN
Freeman Van Darn PHILLIPS
George Alfred BAAS
Arthur MCQUARTERS
Walter Andrew CUMMINGS
Eugene Bruce HUNT
Bruce Leo FLOYD
Marion McDonald LEE

Seventh Grade Mollie E. RAY, Teacher

Harriet THORNTON
Mildred HULETT
Vida MILLER
Margaret NORMENT
Stanley BOUGHTON
George HAMILTON
Eulie MUTTIN
Maggie PERRY
Herman BOSSE
John BANDEL
Corrine LOCKHART
?DOLEY?LOCKHART
Blyth WATSON
Tom YANCEY
Ethel BARLOW
Hugh DAVIDS
Frank HOLLAND
Edgar R. THOMSON
Francis LARSON
Elsie CLOUSER
Jessie CLOUSER
Joe DAWSON
Ernestine CRUX
Lauretta CRUX
Lawrence THORNTON
Ray FAULKENDER

Bruce H. FAULKENDER
Juddie CHAPMAN
Edna HYER
Edith DAVIDS
Nora NICHOLSON
Essie PONDER
Beatrice YATES
Selma ?DOELLMANN?
Forrest KILGORE
Lawrence BROWN
Donald John NICHOLSON
LaRossa ANDERSON
Marjorie DANIEL
James MAGRUDER
Harry HAMMOND
William DOLIVE
Jeannette GORDON
Leonard BUMBY
Pearl BRADFORD
Ella ?ZOUR?
Edward KISSAM

Pupils in the Eighth Grade April 12 - 1906
Eunice DeLaney, Teacher

Ruth Mildred HENDRICKS
Ada Matsie PUGH
Maurine BERRY
Ruthie May SADLER
Zelma K LEUTER
Vivian E RUSSELL
Flossie ROSS
Violet Erma QUIGG
Annie Myrtle DOLLINS
Cora Minetta DANN
Alma DELANEY
Nellie ROWLAND

Lillian SMITH
Gracy Hazel PRESTON
Bernice FRENCH
Walton Pratt JOHNSON
Bonny BEACHAM
Marcus B. FLOYD
Hugh W. MURPHY
Alex H. DARROW
William KISSAM
Albert G. BRANHAM
Harrold CLARK
Leiper BRANHAM
S. Kendrick GUERNSEY
Leonard S. THORNTON

High School Class Roll 1906
Celebration of the Laying Cornerstone of New School Building April 12, 1906

Claire ROBINSON
Millie SMITH
Margie SMITH
Ethel CRAWFORD
Fannie BERRY
Fanny S. ROBINSON
E. Frances LEAKE
Cassius A. BOONE Jr
Edith R. FAULKANDER
Hotabel HYER
Louis M. DOLIVE
Belle CRAWFORD?
Mabelle O'NEAL
Eunice A. BALDWIN
Mary L. BRANHAM
Louise SMITH
Eva MCQUARTERS
Norma P. GITTIER
Edna SMITH
Florence E. KELLY
Frank A. SMITH
Edna J. CLARK
Ruby B. PLATT
Ollie M. QUIGG
Laura LEWTER
James BIGGS Jr
Walton MATHEWS

Jennie E. BAAS
Johnnie SMITH
Willis McAlister PALMER
Cyril A. PURAN
William Randolph ROBINSON
Leigh Gibson NEWELL
Thomas Julius DOLIVE
Lettie SWEARINGEN
Ollie May NICHOLSON
Marie Thersa NORMENT
Jeseoph Young CHENEY
DeWitt Cllinton MILLER
?Kirla? Clyde WILLIAMS
Minnie Blair BARBER
Berta L. BRANCH
Sarah Belle DIMERICH

Wm SMITH

Records from the Orange County Regional
History Center; transcribed by Betty Jo
Stockton 2016

History and Memories: The Honey Green House circa 1923 - Mount Dora, FL

406 E. 9th Avenue, Mount Dora, FL

By Blanche M. WALLACE



This house is a special place for me because I spent a number of years there as a young child and frequently visited my grandparents who owned it from 1936 to 1979. It was purchased by George W. and Amelia LAMOREUX (believed to be the first owners) on April 6, 1923, from T. W. HACKETT. They sold the property to my grandmother, Blanche L. GREEN, on October 17, 1936. Blanche and her husband, Luther Cleveland Green(e), Sr., raised their three children (Lurlene Rosalie, L. C., Jr. and Dedrick Bernard) in the home and lived there until their health no longer permitted. Luther was admitted to a nursing home about 1965. About

1987, Blanche and her daughter, Lurlene, moved across Hackett Court to 340 E. 9th Avenue and Blanche continued to rent out the house and apartments. Lurlene had purchased the adjacent property about 1974 after selling her home in Eustis following the death of her husband, Clyde WALLACE, and marriage of her son, Kelly.

Luther first worked for a local utility company when the family arrived in Mount Dora. Later, he was the custodian at the Mount Dora Community Center for a number of years and a member of the Masons. He also operated a honey processing and packing business in the 3-bay garage located behind the home. His bee hives can be seen in the orange grove on the east side of the property in a family photo labeled "Christmas 1938." Sometimes he would let me keep him company in the honey processing area and on one occasion when I was about two years old I stuck both arms into a container of honey. This required a great cleanup effort by my mother and grandmother and they were very upset over the situation. This was during the time my mother and I lived with Blanche and Luther (I called them Gama and Luker). My father, Clyde WALLACE, was in the Navy during World War II.

On the east side of the house (connected to the master bedroom) was a "sun room" where Gama would make clothes for me using her treadle-operated Singer sewing machine. I would sit beside her and watch intently. During one of these sessions I swallowed three small brass safety pins. X-rays showed the pins were closed and nature was allowed to take its course without medical intervention.

Gama kept chickens and I loved to go with her to feed them and collect the eggs. The rooster attacked me during one visit and when Luker heard about it the rooster was promptly dispatched. My grandfather doted on me and for many years he and I would go out to supper about once a month to the Green Lantern Restaurant for a frog leg dinner.



Before the back porch was enclosed and an eating and laundry room/pantry area created, laundry was done by hand in the yard beside the back porch. I remember Gama would go into "East Town" and pick up a black lady to help her. There was a bath tub buried in the yard near the steps to porch and Blanche kept

gold fish in it. They sometimes became a meal for her large white cat, which she also gave a small bowl of condensed milk each morning on the back porch stairs.

We had many enjoyable family meals in the dining area of the enclosed porch which included Thursday evening family dinners - often steak cooked by Blanche on an outside grill. I was once allowed to travel by horseback from our home in Eustis for one of the dinners. On holidays and other special occasions she served "highballs" to the adults in glasses decorated with gold leaves. I inherited these glasses and enjoy the memories associated with them. There were many card games played in the house on an old card table. I was allowed to sit nearby and watch until my bedtime. Lila Greene CHAMBERS (granddaughter of Blanche and Luther by their son of L. C. GREENE, Jr.) remembers Blanche bringing fresh baked biscuits to her when she rode her tricycle among the orange trees in the side yard.

I was told that during prohibition, men would come to the house and buy large amounts of honey. Since the Prohibition Era lasted from January 16, 1920, through December 5, 1933, this indicates that Blanche and Luther may have lived in the house before they bought it in 1936. We know that they were living in a rented house on Tremain Street at the time of the 1930 U.S. census. From the same census year we know Luther was an electrician for the Town Light Plant and Blanche was working as a painter tinting photographs. Around this time, Luther fell from a utility pole, broke his back, and was bedridden for a year. Blanche supported the family by working at the Lamoreux Studio in Mount Dora. Three of her tinted-photographs are still in my family.

Blanche had various rental houses added to the 9th Avenue property: the DEGRAFF house on the east side (named for the couple who rented it every winter); an area above the carport at the north end of the garage was renovated to be used as an apartment and the area below it, including one bay of the garage, was converted to an apartment. A second small home was added at the south end of the garage (the WILKENS Cottage). In the beginning, most of the renters were snowbirds who came south for the winter. On some occasions, Blanche and Luther would vacate the main house and move into one of the apartments for the winter season.

Luther and Blanche added the final "e" to their name sometime after they purchased the house; therefore, the name of the house has no "e". The spelling change appears to have occurred between 1945 and 1952, based on land records. I have used the spelling as it was found in documents created by them. So, both spellings are found in this sketch.

In 2006, restoration of the home was undertaken and the old siding was removed to expose the original clapboards. The carpets were removed and the hardwood floors refinished. When I made a spur-of-the-moment trip by the house to show it to a friend, we discovered the owner working on it. He graciously allowed us to go inside and was interested in hearing what I knew about its history. He had conducted research and compiled the documentation necessary to have the house certified as historically significant. A plaque was installed on the front of the house by the City of Mount Dora Historic Preservation Board. The name "Honey Green House" was selected based on research showing Luther was known as "Honey Green" because of his apiary business. His brother, Esbon Monroe Green(e), was known as "Farmer Green".

Genealogy: Where to search for your ancestors' writings

By Barry J. EWELL - used with permission

Blog entry posted on July 5, 2015 - <GenealogyByBarry.com >

The writings of your ancestors hold many wonderful clues and stories that can dramatically aid your genealogy research. The hard part is knowing where to search for your ancestors' writings.

The following are few ideas to aid your search:

1. Getting access to ancestors' writings that are in the possession of others

These journals, letters and writings of our ancestors are very precious to those who own them. The owner's response to your request to access them depends a lot on how well you know each other. If they know and trust you, they may allow you to take the documents on loan for a specific time period — usually 24 to 48 hours — to scan or photograph the article.

In cases where information is a little more difficult to secure, consider the following approaches:

- The insurance copy argument: If they have the original item, remind them that it could be lost or gone forever in a house fire or other disaster; by letting you copy it, the family gains a backup, security or insurance copy.
- Broker: Offer to make them a copy when you make a copy.
- Trade: Offer to exchange copies of records or items that you have in return for them letting you copy their materials.
- Family project: Design a family project — biography, photo collection or newsletter — for which you need to copy and use their materials. This links your request to a family cause rather than just being personal.
- Purchase: If the person's reluctance to share is because of the monetary value of the items, consider buying the material, or at least a part of it.
- Take pictures: They might have an heirloom locket or Civil War uniform or other valuable items they won't let out the door. In such cases, take pictures of them and offer to share copies of your photos.

2. Searching the Internet for ancestors' writings

The Internet is an incredible resource in finding diaries, journals, postcards, letters, and other writings. I have found family documents on Internet sites of library collections.

For example, as I was doing research for a presentation, I found 30 letters that were written between Thomas Jefferson and my ancestors in the Jefferson Papers, and 15 journal entries relating to my ancestors' pioneer experiences in the Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847-1868 collection.

To search the Internet for ancestral writings, enter the following information:

- Names of ancestors (direct and collateral lines)
- Surnames (include various spellings)
- Names of individuals the ancestors were known to have worked with or had relationships with
- Places they lived and visited
- Important events they lived during or were a part of, such as the civil war, influenza, or pioneer treks

A note about spellings: You will find that spelling was informal and inconsistent in old records. Do not dismiss the name "Hewes" if you are searching for "Hughes." In an early census enumeration, census takers reportedly spelled the surname "Reynolds" 34 different ways. As you get deeper into genealogical research, you will become an expert at guessing how many ways a name may be spelled (or misspelled).

Keyword searches

- diar* and literature (will retrieve “diary,” “diaries,” and so on)
- diar* and bibliography
- Virginia and diaries (for locating many individual)
- diar* and statesm*n
- memoirs and wom*n

Subject searches

- American diaries women authors
- Women United States diaries
- Women diaries
- English diaries

Personal narratives [relating to individual events or time periods]

Searching in libraries and archives for ancestors’ writings. I have found journals, diaries, and letters that have been preserved in local historical societies, universities and other institutions where they are available to researchers. Some have been published as books, and increasingly many are available on the Internet. A good place to start is searching for writings in the areas where your family lived.

One genealogist told of an experience where she found a diary of an ancestor, who lived in Virginia, in New Mexico. The descendant who inherited the diary lived in New Mexico and gave it to a repository.

3. What to do when you still can’t find the written word of your ancestor

My mother passed away in 1997, and I realized there was a lot I didn’t know about her. I began to interview family and friends to gain their insights of her. To my joy, many of these people had kept letters, greeting cards and postcards that she had sent them over the course of her life. The information provided insights to her feelings about her children and her pains, joys and desires. I was allowed to scan and photograph these documents.

Strategy 1: Your first option is to contact all of your relatives and see if they saved the writings of ancestors with whom your family may have had a relationship. Letters and diaries written by your ancestor’s relatives, friends and neighbors may contain material about your ancestor. These letters and diaries will give you a glimpse into what your own ancestor’s life was probably like, since relatives, friends, and neighbors probably came from the same socioeconomic background as your ancestor.

Several of my ancestors were Mormon pioneers in the mid-1800s. Although there are no surviving journals from my family of this time period, I have found journals of people who were part of the same wagon train or handcart company. I have been able to review these writings and gain a better understanding of what my ancestor may have experienced. I found an entry about my progenitor from the Dan Jones Emigrating Company, Journal 1856 May-Dec.

Sept. 9, 1856 Tuesday 9th(.) The remaining Waggon taken over the river(.) finished at 2 p.m. A yoke of Oxen belonging to the Church was missing. several brethren sent to search for them, and they returned to camp with them at 4.15 p.m. Bro. Elias JONES lost two gentle Cows on Sunday last and up to this time they have not being found. We moved forward at 5 p.m. and camped at 8 p.m(.) travelled 7 miles along the banks of the Loup Fork.

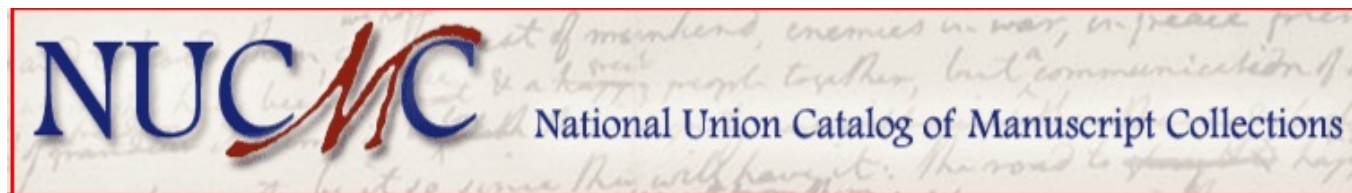
Strategy 2: Look for writings that discuss the same time period, event and so forth. Circumstances similar to theirs may be available in a personal account written by another person from the same area. If you can find a relationship, either through blood lines or common bonds, you’ll discover a way to understand and add depth to your family’s history. Look for similarities in lifestyle, social status, profession or neighborhood. All of these can give you a good sense of how your ancestors lived and what they experienced.

Strategy 3: Place a query online or in a genealogical magazine or message board to see if some distant

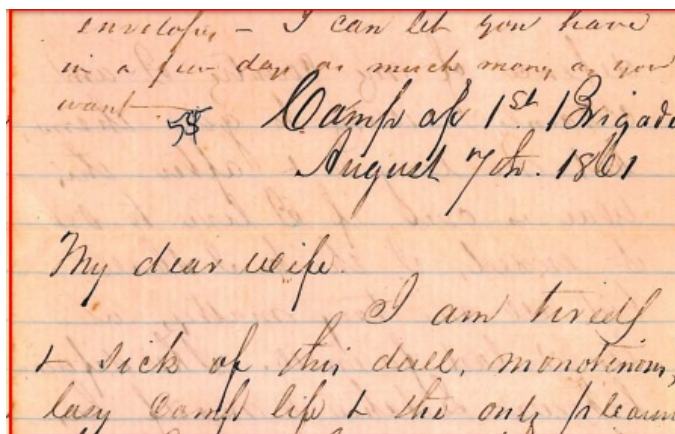
relative might be in possession of an ancestor's writings. On one occasion, I had received a clue about a letter that existed from a relative in 1862. I had seen the text — a photocopy of photocopies — but I wanted to see the original. I placed a query on the message boards and, in time, received a clue of where to go. I eventually found the owner and was able to get a photograph of the letter.

Summary checklist: Where to search for ancestors' writings. The following is a recap of where to search for writings (diaries, journals, letters or postcards) of your ancestors:

- Ask relatives if they possess any ancestors' writings.
- Put queries in genealogical magazines or message boards and online, seeking writings from distant "genealogy" cousins.
- Write to historical societies, archives and libraries in your ancestor's locality to see if your ancestor's writings were deposited there.
- Check reference guides to help locate writings in repositories.
- Look for published writings, including anthologies.
- Look for writings of your ancestor's friends, relatives and neighbors.
- Look for writings of people, like your ancestor, who lived in the same geographic area during the same time period and from the same socioeconomic background.



Editor's Note: Check also NUCMC (pronounced nuk-muk) - the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, a division of the Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html>. This will let you search by surname or locale. Few of the actual records are not online; this is simply an index as to what institution holds the manuscript.



Civil War letter from James Kerr EDMONDSON to his wife.
Held by Washington & Lee University.



Brief History of Klaus Hans Friedrich PETERS continued from previous issue...

By Kim PETERS

A few days later, they transported us near the Netherland coast to the town of Haamstede on the Island of Schouwen close to the English Channel. After the basic training I was selected to be a navigator. Those selected for the Luftwaffe were transferred by train on March 27, 1943 to Thorn, Germany on the Weichsel river (now Torun, Poland on the Vistula river) for training at the local Luftwaffe navigator school.

Klaus was promoted to Gefreiter on June 1, 1943 while in Thorn. He returned home to Stolpmünde in September 1943 to visit his parents. Klaus described his training in Thorn:

The officers and teachers all came from the German Navy. The classroom training was not so easy. In between classes, we had some introductory flights on twin engine planes. After several weeks I passed my training and was flown to Schwäbisch Hall, Germany. There, more navigational flight training began on the Heinkel HE111 and HE177.

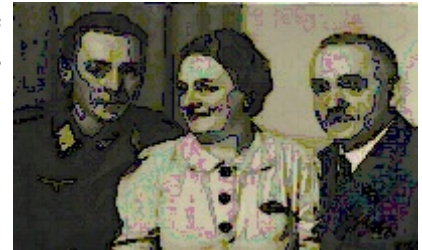
Klaus trained with pilot Julius SCHNEEBERGER at Schwäbisch Hall. Schneeberger's Flight log includes missions he flew with Klaus and others between January 26 and August 6, 1944. Klaus was an Observer (navigator) and co-pilot in both the Kampfgeschwader (bomber wing group) 100 Viking from September 15, 1943 to June 8, 1944, and the Kampfgeschwader Hindenburg 1 from June 9 to September 28, 1944. Klaus was promoted to Obergefreiter (leading aircraftman) on July 1, 1944.

When Klaus' flying unit was disbanded due to fuel shortages they were assigned to the Fallschirm Panzerkorps Regiment 2nd Hermann GÖHRING Division on September 29, 1944. They were re-assigned to the Führer Escort Division in Berlin to provide general security for Hitler and others. Klaus never saw Hitler, but he was stationed at the Wolf's Lair where the failed attempt on Hitler's life took place in July 1944.

On March 15, 1945 Klaus' unit was guarding the German General Staff (Army) Headquarters south of Berlin in Zossen. The 8th Air Force Mission 889 resulted in 308 B-24 and 276 B-17 bombers dropping thousands of high explosive and incendiary bombs on the headquarters. Klaus and his six companions somehow managed to survive despite the fact that they were unable to seek cover in the bunkers.

The Führer Escort Division moved often and at times to places where Hitler was not in an attempt to misdirect the Allies. One such move put Klaus in Czechoslovakia during the closing days of the war. The troops were being moved by rail and were being strafed by the Americans and British fighter planes. Realizing that the war would soon be over, Klaus' small unit proceeded to work their way back to the west using trucks, driving by night and camouflaging the vehicles by day. Their goal was to make it to the American or British-held territory so they could surrender. While on this trek a chance encounter in the middle of April 1945 led him to his future wife, Dorothea Elisabeth SCHNEIDER.

Dorothea and her family resided in Sankt Goarshausen, Germany a quaint little village on the Rhein River near the Lorelei. Dorothea was called into service by the Reich despite the protests of her father Ernst SCHNEIDER. Dorothea, like other girls her age, was required to serve in the Reichsarbeitsdienst der weibliche Jugend (Labor Service of the Reich for the female youth) and she was eventually assigned to RAD 13/103, an anti-aircraft unit in Czechoslovakia. Her unit identified aircraft based on the sound of the engine and silhouette of the aircraft. In April 1945, Dorothea's unit disbanded as war was quickly coming to a close.



Klaus, his mother Erna and his father Eduard Peters, in Stolpmünde Sept. 1943. Insignia reflects his promotion to Gefreiter June 1, 1943.



Dorothea Schneider & Gertrude Gruber
c1945



Dorothea & Klaus,
June 4, 1950

Dorothea and her friend Gertrude GRUBER found themselves stranded in Czechoslovakia with the Russian army advancing. The two 19-year-olds were determined to make their way back home - a journey of over 300 miles. They were on this journey when they came upon Klaus' unit in Domažlice, Czechoslovakia (called Taus by the Germans). At the time, Taus was the location of a military hospital and it is likely members of Klaus' unit were taken there for treatment of injuries incurred during the Allied strafing of the transport train. Klaus and Dorothea were immediately drawn to each other, but they soon parted.

Dorothea and Gertrude made it back to the Rheinland traveling on foot from one farm to the next, seeking shelter, sustenance and safety from the advancing Russian Army. Klaus and his unit were also heading west hoping to surrender to the Americans or the British and evade capture by the Russians. Klaus and his unit were hiding at a farm near Wasserburg, when they encountered two American soldiers and surrendered. Klaus wrote: *"On May 2, 1945, I was captured by the Americans and put into a prison camp in Ulm, Germany, until I was released on June 28, 1945."*

Klaus was unable to return to his home in Stolpmünde as it was now part of Poland and occupied by the Russians. He and his parents were now refugees, and for some time he did not know where they were. He eventually learned that his mother fled to Honigfleth on August 3, 1945, as the Russians arrived to occupy Stolpmünde. His father was forced to remain for a year and a half, because the Russian occupiers needed his experience as a municipal employee. He was eventually allowed to leave Stolpmünde and join his wife Erna in Honigfleth. Eduard and Erna were eventually permitted to leave Honigfleth and on November 4, 1950 relocate to Oberwesel on the Rhein. An apartment was provided for the now 65 year old Eduard and his wife in reparation for losing their home and all their possessions in Stolpmünde.

After the war, Klaus worked a number of different jobs before coming to the Rhein in 1948:

After my release from imprisonment, I worked as a farm laborer in Hermannsburg [in the Lüneburger Heide region]. On August 22, 1945, I changed my place of employment and was hired by the North German Timber Control in Unterlüß. I was employed from August 22, 1945, until Jan. 1, 1948, by the 2nd Forestry Company, Canadian Army Overseas as a translator.

After that I was employed by the British Timber Production Agency as a heavy equipment driver and mechanic until [the unit was dissolved on] September 15, 1948.

Klaus remained smitten with Dorothea since their meeting in April 1945. Through his friend Fritz ANDRES and Dorothea's friend Gertrude GRUBER, Klaus was finally able to locate her in 1948. Shortly thereafter, Klaus relocated to her home town of Sankt Goarshausen in the French held territory and took a job at the Schlaadt Company, a sawmill and millworks business in the town. The two married on June 3-4, 1952, and lived with Dorothea's parents in Sankt Goarshausen.

Three months later Klaus took a job as a heavy equipment driver at a raw material handling company about 30 km from St. Goarshausen in Oberlahnstein. His next job would change the course of his life forever.

On July 24, 1951, Klaus took a job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Frankfurt as a mechanic and heavy equipment driver operating bulldozers and road graders. A letter of recommendation dated August 8, 1956, signed by Buildings and Grounds Chief, A. F. HOFFMAN, states: "During his



Klaus with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a mechanic and operating bulldozers and road graders

employment he has proven to be efficient, honest and co-operative and performed all tasks assigned to him to the fullest satisfaction of his supervisors."

While working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Frankfurt, Klaus made the acquaintance of Army Major Arnet HENNINGS and they became friends. Major HENNINGS offered to sponsor Klaus and his family so they could immigrate to the United States. Ready to start a new life with his family, and eager to experience the opportunities that America had to offer, Klaus decided to take Major HENNINGS up on his invitation, despite the apprehensions of his wife. On August 20, 1956, Klaus, Dorothea, and their three-year-old son Oliver, boarded the steamship Irpinia in Vlissingen and on September 6, 1956, they disembarked in Miami and were greeted by Major HENNINGS and his wife. After the long drive from Miami, they arrived at the Hennings' home in the very rural town of Umatilla in Lake County that Dorothea described as "the end of the earth".

In the beginning, Klaus found work at Daniels Appliance store in Umatilla and Dorothea worked as the Hennings' housekeeper. The family resided in a cottage on the Hennings' property and Oliver played with the Hennings children, quickly learning English. Since their German diplomas were not valid in the United States, Dorothea and Klaus took night classes and were awarded diplomas through Eustis High School - Klaus in 1958 and Dorothea in 1959. Finally, on June 20, 1962, Klaus, Dorothea, and Oliver became citizens of the United States of America.

Klaus took a job delivering and repairing major appliances at W. M. IGOU in Eustis, Florida, and the family was able to move into an apartment on Grove Street in Eustis. Klaus took electronics correspondence courses and learned to repair radios and televisions. He left W. M. Igou after many years and opened his own radio and television repair business in a shop on the back of his home as a certified Zenith technician.

In 1963, Dorothea accepted a position at the Eustis Lake Region News. She was a reporter, photographer and columnist, becoming a regular fixture covering city council meetings and local social events. In 1970, Dorothea became the bookkeeper at H. Jennings Rou Citrus Company in Eustis, continuing in that capacity until her retirement.

Dorothea died on September 24, 2012 and Klaus lost his best friend and his zest for life. Klaus died on March 7, 2015, 70 years after their first meeting in April 1945.

NOTES

¹ Klaus really liked being in the Jungsturm as he enjoyed the comradeship and outdoor activities. Klaus joined Jungsturm in 1936, but states it was in 1934 when all youth groups were merged into HitlerJugend. A Jewish site states: "From December 1, 1936, under the Jugenddienstpflicht all other youth groups were banned and their membership was merged into the Hitler Youth." It appears that Klaus is just stating that in 1934 the youth groups came under NAZI control and eventually the uniform changed, probably in December 1936. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/Holocaust/hitleryouth.html>

² In Germany it is customary to marry at the courthouse one day and marry in the church later. Klaus and Dorothea married at the courthouse June 3, 1950 and in the Lutheran Church the following day. The photo is from the church ceremony June 4, 1950.

Names We're Researching

RAASCH >1815 – present>Prussia/WI/NE
BRAASCH >1700 – present>Prussia/WI/NE
MCCUMBER >1770 – present>NY/OH/MO/NE
PENDLETON >1707 – present>/England/MI/NE
IRISH >1812 – present>NY/MI/NE
HENRY >1765 – present>Ireland/PA/OH/MO
OESTREICH >1843 – present>Germany/WI/NE

Contact: Judy WEINBERG
<jweinberg@cfl.rr.com>

de HORTON 1135 – 1413 England

HORTON 1410 –present England/MA/NY/WI
BASS 1809 – present OH/WI/NC

Contact: Jowan HEARN:
<jhearn8@cfl.rr.com>

MUTH/ MEADE/MEAD >Palatinate region
Germany>West Camp Germantown >
Rensselaerwick, Albany >Columbia> Dutchess,
NY _1710 to present

Contact: Carol MEADE:
<carolcdm@hotmail.com>

REYPHENBERGER>RYFENBURG/REIFFENBURGH/
RIFENBURGH/REIFENBURG /RIVENBURG>
Flammersback, Haiger, Germany>East Camp
Germantown>Columbia>Dutchess, NY _1710 to
present

FRIEND, _George born1746 in New Haven,
CT>Brooklyn, Kings, NY_ ca 1700's to present

DAVISON> Antrim, Philadelphia, PA, Brooklyn,
Kings, N_circa 1860/1873 to present

SCHOENSTEIN >Germany>Brooklyn,
Kings>Glendale, Queens>NY _circa 1880 to
present (Long Island)

KOELBL/KOLBL/KOLBLE/KAELBL/ KESIBE>
Bavaria, Germany>Manhattan, NYC, NY _1892
to present (NC/ FL)

SCHMIDT >Germany>Brooklyn, Kings>Queens,
NY_1860 to present

Finding Your Family in Unindexed Records on FamilySearch.org

by Betty Jo STOCKTON





Did you know that only about 30% of the digitized records on FamilySearch.org are indexed? Even though more than four billion names are searchable, there are many more records available with just a bit more work on your part.

The folks at FamilySearch are digitizing records quickly. At one time I'd heard that they thought it would take 10 years to digitize - and 100 years to get it all indexed. Updated equipment has sped up the digitization process, but most of the indexing is still being done by volunteers, so is much slower. Currently they are experimenting with machine indexing of printed materials, but that is still in trial stages.

In order to make records available, the digitized - but unindexed - collections are being placed online as they are completed and are available for browsing. This is similar to using the records on microfilm - but more convenient and somewhat easier.

To find the records of interest, go to the FamilySearch catalog "Search," "Catalog". That takes you to the Records Search form, which covers only collections indexed by name. (Note: a recent change in page layout removed the catalog search from the main search for a while. If this happens, click on the menu icon in the top right corner - then select "catalog"). In the Catalog search form, select the locale or record collection you're looking for. To see a list of all collections, scroll down to the bottom of the Catalog search form and click on "Browse All Published Collections".

The Historical Records Collections are listed alphabetically, but can be filtered using the box in the upper left corner. Each entry lists the title of the collection, number of records in the collection and when it was last updated. If the collection has been digitized, a camera icon appears before the title of the collection. If the records have been indexed, the number of records indexed will appear in the center column; if they have not been indexed, "browse images" will appear beside the title.

 Ohio Marriages, 1800-1958	2,198,000	22 Feb 2016
 Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996	Browse Images	17 Dec 2014
 Ohio Soldier Home Records, 1888-1919	Browse Images	12 Nov 2014
 Ohio Tax Records, 1800-1850	1,101,150	31 May 2011
 Ohio, Bloomfield Township, Brownwood Cemetery Records, 1824-2012	Browse Images	30 Apr 2015
 Ohio, Cleveland Cemetery Interment Records, 1824-2001	346,248	05 Feb 2013
 Ohio, Cleveland, Trinity Lutheran Church Records, 1853-2013	Browse Images	15 Jun 2013
 Ohio, County Births, 1841-2003	3,378,538	18 Jun 2014

Click on the title of the collection for more information about that collection - a short description, the citation and a "learn more" link. The "learn more" link takes you to the FamilySearch Wiki about that collection, with information on the collection, how to search it, known issues and related web sites.

Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996

Description

Probate records and estate files from county courthouses in Ohio. The content and time period varies by county.

[Learn more »](#)

VIEW IMAGES IN THIS COLLECTION

[Browse through 6,997,828 images](#)

CITING THIS COLLECTION

"Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996." Images. *FamilySearch*. <http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 2016. County courthouses, Ohio.

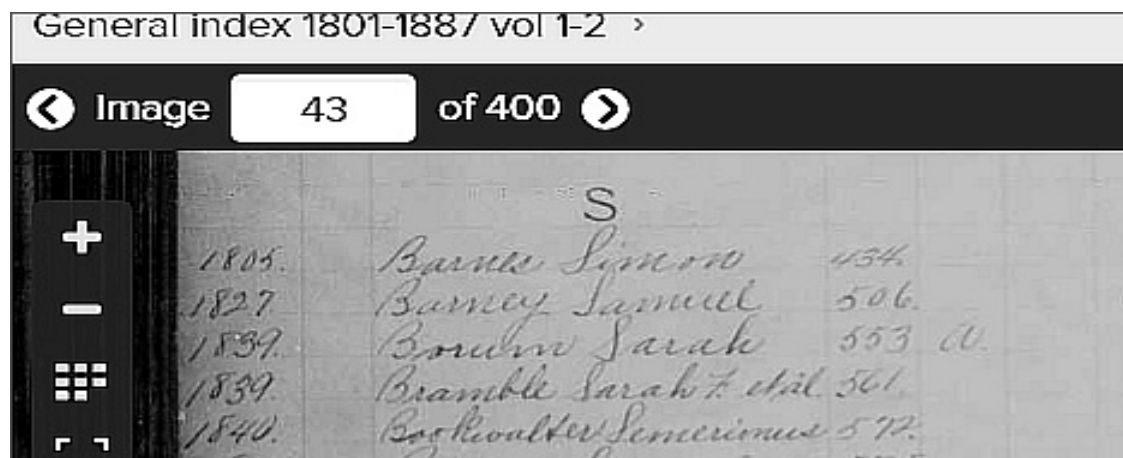
Click on “browse images” to go to the records. The next page will have what FamilySearch calls “waypoints” to make the search easier. For example, on the Ohio Probate records above, the first click will get you to a page breaking the records down by county

Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996 ▼		SQL
County		
Adams		Logan
Ashland		Lorain
Ashtabula		Lucas
Athens		Madison
Auglaize		Mahoning

Clicking on the county name takes you to the records available in the collection.

Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996 ▼		Ross >	SQL	SOURCE BOX	Attach to Fam
Volume Title and Year					
Administration and executor dockets 1881-1898 vol 2				Probate case files 1803-1900 no 4339-4456	
Administration bonds 1849-1858 vol 1				Probate case files 1803-1900 no 4456-4503	
Administration bonds 1858-1871 vol 2				Probate case files 1803-1900 no 4504-4546	
Administration bonds 1871-1882 vol 3-4				Probate case files 1803-1900 no 4546-4587	
Administration dockets 1853-1861 vol 1				Probate case files 1803-1900 no 4588-4601	
Administration, executor and guardian dockets 1874-1898 vol 1				Probate case files 1803-1900 no 4601-4607	
Administrator appointments 1882-1886 vol A				Probate case files 1804-1860 no 8391-8470	
Executor appointments 1882-1891 vol A				Probate case files 1804-1885 no 8471-8529	
Executor bonds and letters 1849-1881 vol 1-2				Probate case files 1804-1885 no 8530-8598	
General index 1801-1887 vol 1-2				Probate case files 1805-1885 no 8599-8671	

Finally, click on the title of the record collection. If there is an index, it is generally best to check it first to narrow down your search. For example, the General Index of Ross County, OH breaks the entries down by first letter of the surname, then by first letter of given name, then by year. I generally use the image number box at the top left to skip through the images until I'm close to the right pages, then go page by page to find the proper page.



This index shows that the probate package for Samuel Barney is on page 506. Since an individual file may contain any number of pages, you'll need to do some searching to find the specific pages you need. In this case, the images for Samuel Barney's probate packages ran from 568 to 608.

Images can be enlarged, reduced, viewed in multiples or full screen with the icons on the left. The tools tab on the right allow rotation, adjustment or inversion of the image. Records may be downloaded, printed or saved to your "source box" for later viewing. Use your mouse to click and drag the image to see a different portion of the page. The wheel of your mouse will usually zoom in and out on the image.

In the lower left are two tabs "image index" and "information". On the digitized but unindexed records, there is generally no index available. The "information" tab gives the source information. Click on "copy citation" to copy the citation to paste into your genealogical software or print. For example:

"Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.3.1/TH-1961-31285-16027-70?cc=1992421> : accessed 24 March 2016), Ross > General index 1801-1887 vol 1-2 > image 1 of 400; county courthouses, Ohio.

Data can be copied, printed, shared, saved to your computer and attached to family on FamilySearch Family Tree. Original documents can be downloaded or printed. The citation is almost always at the bottom right of the page (or on the "information" tab, so it is easy to copy that and paste it into your records.

Remember, the FamilySearch records are from all over the world - and the digitized records are exactly as found in the original records (and in the original language and writing). So grab your dictionary, favorite translator or whatever it takes, but be prepared to find lots of good data.

It's certainly easier, cheaper and more convenient than ordering a microfilm for \$7.50, waiting 2-3 weeks for it to arrive, going to the Family History Center to use it - and possibly paying for print outs. Now you can find great grandma while sitting home at your computer - at 4 a.m, if you'd like.

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Current Resident or

To Whom It May Concern!

I went searching for an ancestor, I cannot find him still.
He moved around from place to place, and didn't leave a will.
He married where a courthouse burned, he mended all his fences.
He avoided any man who came to take the U. S. Census.

He always kept his luggage packed, this man who had no fame.
And every 20 years or so, this rascal changed his name.
His parents came from Europe, they should be on some list.
Of passengers to the USA, but somehow they got missed.

And no one else in this world is searching for this man.
So I'm playing "Gene-Solitaire," to find him if I can.
I'm told he's buried in a plot, with tombstone he was blessed.
But the weather took the engraving, and vandals took the rest.

He died before the county clerks decided to keep records.
No family Bible has emerged, in spite of all my efforts.
To top it off, this ancestor, who's caused me so many groans.
Just to give me one more pain, betrothed a girl named JONES.

By Merrell Kenworthy

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