History 439-001  
Professional Family History Research/Fall 2010  
385 CB; Thurs., 1:35-3:50pm  
Instructor Gerald Haslam, 2107 JFSB; email: haslam1@aol.com  
Consultations by appointment  

The object of History 439 is to help students become polished, professional genealogists and expert writers of professional reports to clients for research completed; and to focus on research methodologies, note-keeping, source citation, arrangement of research files, professional business practices and accounting; and strategies for keeping current in the field of family history.

Join the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) for $35/year; email editor@apgen.org.

Join the Utah Genealogical Assoc. (UGA) which publishes CROSSROADS; www.infouga.org.

REQUIRED PACKET:

Gerald M. Haslam, comp., “Research Report”

RECOMMENDED BOOK (you will have to special order it):


PROJECTS:

You’ll work through four assignments, in two- and/or three-week increments, where the bulk of the research must be done at the FHL in Salt Lake. All projects require a report roughly 10-12 pp., double-spaced; pedigree; documented family group on PAF 5.2 or similar program; research logs/and timecard; and extracts tied to the log.

PLEASE Do NOT use staples, clips, tabs, loose-leaf binders, page covers or folders; do not punch holes in your papers; but simply prepare a “small packet” of materials in the order outlined above and put that in an extra large, unsealed manila envelope, and submit to me. Write as if you were the only researcher, even though you will work as a member of a team. Photocopies from books always include title pp., preface, introduction; and sometimes index or pertinent parts of it.

Each assignment will be given a letter grade. Please take advantage of the freeing up of intervening weeks, spending about 8 hours a week or roughly 24-25 hours per assignment depending on how many weeks are allowed. In grading, I’ll look for logical
conceptualization of the research problem and understandable, well-reasoned analysis; neatness; inference from sources; thoroughness; and knowledge of methodologies.

In doing the assignments,

1) use online sources to scope out general contours of the problem, and get addresses of archives from which you may have to request materials either by email attachment or by post;

2) evaluate census and tax lists;

3) always use deeds and mortgages to establish residence and a time frame for such;

4) move horizontally through sources to gather clusters of family and flush out collaterals in probates and court recs./published materials;

5) treat church records as a BIG DEAL;

6) always determine if possible parentage of spouses and siblings of same, even though non-ancestral, important in naming patterns where heirs are named after both sides of the family;

7) pay LOTS of attention to military recs., esp. pensions;

8) always pinpoint cemeteries and find online or other lists of tombstone inscriptions;

9) pay attention to biographies in state and county histories, esp. late 1800s;

10) browse shelves in the FHL, esp. journals for the state and county of interest;

11) if you get on a roll with one particular family, stick with them until you’ve reamed out what’s easily available;

12) you cannot assume automatically that a person marrying somebody is one and the same as a person by that/those names in birth/chr. recs., as you’ll again have to “horizontalize” out from the marriage to see if land recs., witnesses at marriages, deeds, probates, whatever, tie the married person(s) to siblings and/or parents.

GRADES:

Obviously attendance is extremely important, as class is where you’ll be taught key methodologies and writing techniques. In addition to the projects, there will be a final exam (scheduled below) of the essay variety based on lectures and readings which will receive a letter grade, and count equally with one of the assignments. The four projects
and sole final exam (five total components) will be averaged to determine the student’s final grade for the course.

CALENDAR:

9/2 Intro; assignment #1 issued

9/9 No class; researching assignment 1

9/16 No class; researching 1

9/23 Assignment 1 due; report writing types/genealogical reports, incl. foundational/comparative; foundational in-depth; analytical; crossing pond; assignment #2 issued

9/30 No class; researching 2; instructor in Illinois

10/7 No class; researching 2

10/14 Assignment 2 due; source citation and documentation reviewed; linkages; assignment 3 issued;

10/21 No class; researching 3

10/28 No class; researching 3

11/4 Assignment 3 due; logs and notes review; for Scandinavia, Germany and Continental Europe generally, a log except for radial/probate searches not necessary due to “person specificity” of recs., although we arrange notes by life-course cycle followed by other notes in alpha order by rec. type; Britain, compile logs by surname and thereafter, extracts as above; for US, surname logs serves as index/calendar to numbered extracts attached; assignment 4 issued

11/11 No class; researching 4

11/18 No class; researching 4

11/25 No class; Thanksgiving Holiday

12/2 **Assignment 4 due; writing family histories (Dyer/Hills example)

11/16 ***FINAL EXAM, 285 CB, Thurs., 2:30-5:30pm; please bring a small BYU Bluebook and dark-ink pen; finals will be available for pickup in the History Dept. Office, 2130 JFSB, the following Monday after 1pm.
## Workshop Schedule

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<th>Time</th>
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Lab will be closed September 6, October 2, November 24-27, and December 10.

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<td>Sept. 13-18</td>
<td>Workshop 1</td>
<td>New FamilySearch</td>
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<td>Sept. 20-25</td>
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<td>Workshop 3</td>
<td>Indexing/ Wiki/Forums/Family History Library Catalog</td>
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<td>Oct. 18-23</td>
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Family History Lab Website:  
http://familyhistorylab.byu.edu
Dear fellow genealogist,

We are growing and are looking for a second Project Manager. If you're interested, please let us know! Your responsibilities would be to communicate with prospective and existing clients, set up new projects (create a digital genealogy file, write out research objectives, etc.), and assign each project to one of the researchers on our team. You'll be able to work from home (in a noise-free environment) and will spend 15-35 hours per week (this is somewhat flexible). You will need to make a brief trip to downtown Salt Lake once a week. The pay is a combination of hourly wages and commissions and should come to $13-$20/hr.

We prefer persons with experience in genealogy and good interpersonal skills. You will also need to be skilled in Microsoft Word, Personal Ancestral File, and other computer and internet programs.

If you are interested, please contact Sue Griffith at sgriffith@legacy-tree.com. We will want to see a resume and at least one sample genealogy research report.

Best regards,
Jessica Taylor
Manager

Legacy Tree Genealogy
http://www.legacy-tree.com
801-783-1277
P.O. Box 4042
Salt Lake City, UT 84110
As you’re aware, RootsMagic Essentials genealogy software is available for our BYU students, and others, or no cost. It does not, however, have all of the features of the full version.

RootsMagic is offering our BYU family history students the ability to download the full version of RootsMagic version 4 for $10.00.

Students should go to

http://rootsmagic.com/student

and then enter the Group Code BYU2010

(RootsMagic Academic Pricing).

Or, students can order the RootsMagic CD for $10, plus $5.00 shipping.

Or, students can order the RootsMagic CD and the guidebook for $20.00, plus $5.00 shipping.

Please make sure your students know this is a special academic discount only for our BYU family history students. They should not share this information with others, family members, ward members, etc. These discounts are not available to the general public.

See [www.rootsmagic.com](http://www.rootsmagic.com) for more details regarding RootsMagic.

Thank you,

Kip Sperry

sperry@byu.edu
“Becoming an Excellent Genealogist”

Family History Conference
October 22-23, 2010

Downtown Radisson Hotel
215 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah

Registration includes a printed syllabus, two full days of conference classes, and vendor booth access. In addition, the registration price includes an elegant, plated luncheon both days, and time for networking.

For additional information and to register, go to:
www.icapgen.org

Presented by the
International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists
Cosponsored by FamilySearch
FOREIGN BABIES IN BEIJING

BEHIND THE SCENES OF A NEW CHINA

Rachel DeWoskin. Granta (pap) Import

"[Rachel] DeWoskin's memoir takes its title from a popular Chinese soap opera in which she starred in the mid-nineties ... cast as Jixie, a sexually liberated American girl who embodies China's simultaneous excitement at and nervousness about the spread of Western influence (she seduces a married Chinese man). DeWoskin's deeply layered account thus charts parallel culture clashes, one that she experiences as a Western woman in modern China, and the other, a TV-ready version of the first, tailored to Chinese expectations. The daughter of a Sinologist, DeWoskin has considerable cultural and linguistic resources." —The New Yorker (332/2007)

NEW ENGLAND: INSIGHT POCKET GUIDE

Insight (pap) 13.95

The New England edition of Insight Pocket Guides provides cultural notes and recommendations by the locals, answering questions you'd ask a friend who lives there. Which places are really worth seeing? What restaurants shouldn't be missed? Where are the great out-of-the-way places the tourists haven't yet discovered? The guide is abundantly illustrated with color photographs and route maps, and provides a large pullout map of the area, an overview of its history, and plenty of essential information for local services and regulations. This Insight Pocket Guide presents the best of New England in a series of 11 tours covering Boston, Cape Cod, Rhode Island, the Connecticut Coast, the Berkshire Hills, Vermont, New Hampshire, and the Maine Coast.

BY THE IONIAN SEA: NOTES OF A RAMBLE IN SOUTHERN ITALY

George Gissing. Interlink (pap) 15.00

In 1897 Victorian novelist George Gissing undertook a brief but eventful journey in southern Italy. His itinerary took him from Naples to Reggio di Calabria through the area once known as Magna Graecia. Gissing visited tombs, temples, museums, and cathedrals in search of the imprint of antiquity and "that old world which was the imaginative delight of my boyhood." His 1901 masterpiece of travel writing alternates between lyrical and melancholy, life and death, Paganism and Christianity, celebrating Calabria's rich cultural past and beautiful landscapes while candidly viewing the hardship and poverty in southern Italy. (159/2004)

COMING DOWN THE SEINE

Robert Gibbings. Interlink (pap) 15.00 4.98

One of the Europe's most celebrated rivers, the Seine stretches from the fertile plains of Burgundy to the English Channel at Le Havre. In this 1933 account writer and Irish engraver and river traveler Robert Gibbings follows the Seine's 400-mile course from a tranquil stream at its source near Dijon as it develops into the mighty waterway that links Rouen to the sea. Throughout a leisurely summer voyage—on foot, in a tiny boat "hardly more than a cradle," on a barge, and on a boat used for transporting books—Gibbings records his impressions in words and pictures and recounts the river's vital role in French history. (184/2003)
### Research Log

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Michaela Roser Survived a Near-Death Experience

By Katherine Tweed

Michaela Roser recalls the wind blowing in her face as she was strapped to the gurney on the side of the road. She was being wheeled to a helicopter that would airlift her to the hospital. The 17-year-old was sleeping when her family’s car was hit from behind. The next thing she remembers is being engulfed by a white light, around the same time she briefly flat lined during the airlift.

She shares her vivid near-death experience, and following two weeks in a coma, with Discovery Health’s “I Was Dead.” Aol Health recently spoke to Roser, now a thriving 32-year-old behavior therapist, about her experience with death, and how it helps her live a more fulfilling life.

Aol Health: What do you remember directly after the car accident?

MR: I was going into the hospital. I thought I was dreaming and I went back asleep. The next memory is being engulfed, almost hugged, by a white light. I was surrounded by this fuzzy white light and everything was very peaceful and there was no mind chatter. It was the best feeling I’ve ever felt. I realized that I didn’t have to think of the question, it was already answered. I was there, it was obvious that I was in the moment, it wasn’t a dream. I was really in a physical form, I couldn’t look down and see my hand, but there was an obvious sense of, this is happening right now.

Aol Health: Did your life flash before your eyes?

MR: It wasn’t really what I would have expected. There were flashes, like different snapshots of different places and people. It wasn’t just past, present and future. It was from dancing when I was a little girl, to what had actually just happened. And what was happening at the time family and friends sitting around worrying about me. One of my most vivid memories is one with my grandchildren. And I don’t even have children.

Aol Health: Did you want to give in to the light?

MR: I realized that if I wanted to let go into that place, I would be okay, but I would never be in the same form again. I wouldn’t be Michaela Roser here on Earth. I had an overwhelming feeling I wanted to live more.
Aol Health: What happened after you decided you wanted to live?

MR: The whiteness turned to all these different colors. And I even felt tears, but I wasn’t in a physical form. Then it felt like I got sucked through space -- not through a tunnel but through what felt like a chute. Then I was looking at my body in the hospital bed. It was all very natural. It was happening, and I wasn’t afraid.

Aol Health: What was it like seeing yourself in the hospital bed?

MR: At first I just watched it. It was like watching yourself in the movie. I could go in and out of my body. When I was in my body, it would be that I’d have to come out. I could just say ‘I want to go the nurses’ station’ and then I’d be there. I went to the cafeteria. I overheard my mom having a very detailed conversation with my grandmother.

Aol Health: Why didn’t you travel to the beach, for instance, instead of just the nurses’ station?

MR: I felt very strongly the feeling between my spirit and my body. It was like I was waiting around to get back into my body. I already had a head injury with brain sheen eyebrow was where my hairline should have been. I had long and short-term memory loss. My attention span was like a two-year-old's. I'd go about doing something, and then forget about what I wanted to do. I had recreational, behavioral and physical therapy -- there was testing all my brain functioning. I had to retest to go back to school with my class, which I did.

Aol Health: What sort of rehab did you have to undergo after coming out of the coma?

MR: Once I woke up, they only kept me for four or five days. My left bicep was cut in half, so I had a scar. I had a head injury with brain sheen eyebrow was where my hairline should have been. I had long and short-term memory loss. My attention span was like a two-year-old's. I'd go about doing something, and then forget about what I wanted to do. I had recreational, behavioral and physical therapy -- there was testing all my brain functioning. I had to retest to go back to school with my class, which I did.

Aol Health: What about people who doubt your experience?

MR: I'm not trying to convince anyone of anything. I'm just telling the story of what happened to me. I know it happened, and I've had enough along the way of telling my stories. One of my friends is a physicist, and we go round and round about it. He'll say, "I definitely think there's something beyond it," and I'll say, "There's definitely something. How can I explain remembering a conversation word-for-word when I was upstairs in a hospital?"

Aol Health: How did your near-death experience change how you have lived your life?

MR: It has pushed me to experience new things. I'm from a small town of 1,800 people in Pennsylvania. One red light, white bread Pennsylvania being in L.A. is a big leap. I would have maybe never left that place.
I'm not afraid to die, so it's made me not afraid to try things. I'm a behaviorist; I work with the developmentally challenged to help them to start living life on their own. I want to understand everyone and all kinds of people, and it doesn't matter what other people think.

I'm going to [graduate] school to be a psychologist. This experience definitely made me want to be a helper; I think it increased my patience and gave me a high tolerance for when things don't go right. If something happens, I just try to be happy and think of the positive things.
Professor Haslam,

Once again, we are sending out reminders to encourage professors to recommend the FHSS Writing Lab to their students this semester. Our lab specifically targets students within the Family, Home, and Social Sciences, and our advisors all specialize in one of the departments within the college and train to provide the best feedback for your students. We helped over 700 students in over 75 classes last fall semester, and we hope to help even more students this semester.

During a writing session, our advisors focus on a variety of writing aspects such as organization, development, thesis construction, transition statements, grammar, and documentation styles (APA, Chicago, MLA, Turabian). We are open from 9-5, Monday through Friday, in 1051 JFSB. For more information, please visit our website http://fhsswriting.byu.edu/. If you are interested, our advisors are also available to hand out fliers and make a brief announcement about the Lab to your class. We have also prepared a “blurb” (see below) that can be inserted in your syllabi, on blackboard, and/or simply read in class to inform students of our hours.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance in any other way. We look forward to serving your students.

Sincerely,

The FHSS Writing Lab
1051 JFSB
801-422-4454

FHSS Writing Lab: To get help with your paper’s organization, structure, focus, tone, and documentation style, you can go to the FHSS Writing Lab in 1051 JFSB to meet one-on-one with a peer advisor. All advisors are students from our college and are trained in APA, Turabian, and some AMA and MLA.

To prepare for a tutorial, take
- a copy of the assignment
- a hard copy of your draft, whatever stage it may be in
- a list of questions and concerns you have about your paper

Drop in or make an appointment: Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, closed Tuesday from 11:00 am-12:00 pm (for devotional) and Thursday from 3:00 pm- 5:00 pm (for staff meeting).

For more information, go to http://fhsswriting.byu.edu or email:
Genealogy Pointers (08-31-10) — Sale on KY CD/Census Records/August Publications

From: Genealogical.com <tips@genealogical.com>
To: haslam1@aol.com
Subject: Genealogy Pointers (08-31-10): Sale on KY CD/Census Records/August Publications
Date: Mon, Aug 30, 2010 10:16 pm

Genealogy Pointers (08-31-10)

in this issue
-- 48-Hour Sale on CD Containing Kentucky Classics
-- Census Records and County Boundary Changes, by William Dollarhide
-- Speaking of Censuses & Boundaries
-- Prices Reduced on Local, as Opposed to Federal, Census Record Books
-- August Publications from Genealogical.com
-- Blog: Quicksheets Can Help Your Research

48-Hour Sale on CD Containing Kentucky Classics

G. Glenn Clift served for many years as editor of the Kentucky Historical Society's quarterly publication, the Register. A frequent contributor to the magazine as well, Mr. Clift produced separate serialized articles consisting of early Kentucky marriages and obituaries, both extracted from old newspapers. These articles were so popular that the compiler eventually published each series in book form, sparing Kentucky researchers the arduous task of combing through the old papers themselves.

Kentucky Marriages, 1797-1865 and Kentucky Obituaries, 1787-1854 are two of the core collections of source records imaged on our CD publication Early Kentucky Settlers, 1700s-1800s. Consisting of twelve Kentucky reference works—including another work by Clift on Kentuckians in the War of 1812 and a separate collection of Kentucky marriage records compiled from official state sources—Early Kentucky Settlers is a virtual bookshelf of essential Kentucky genealogy. Please scroll down for more information about this CD, which we have reduced in price by a full 50% until 11:59 p.m. EDT tomorrow, September 1, 2010.
Early Kentucky Settlers, 1700s-1800s
This CD contains the records of approximately 225,000 individuals who settled in or passed through Kentucky during this period. This unique collection originally appeared in a dozen Kentucky reference books, including Abstracts of Early Kentucky Wills and Inventories, Revolutionary Soldiers in Kentucky, Kentucky in the War of 1812, Kentucky Soldiers of the War of 1812, Remember the Raisin!, Kentucky Pension Roll for 1835, and A Complete Index to the Names of Persons, Places and Subjects Mentioned in Littell's Laws of Kentucky. Was $39.99 Now $19.99

Census Records and County Boundary Changes, by William Dollarhide
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All censuses taken since 1790 are tabulated and organized by the counties within each state or territory. By federal precedence, the county is the basic unit of jurisdiction for census demographics. Alaska is the only state without counties; therefore, judicial districts are used as jurisdictions for the censuses taken there. In Louisiana, the term "parish" is used in the same way as "county" in other states. Even in the New England states—where a town may have more importance than a county as a genealogical resource—censuses are organized by county.

Interestingly, Connecticut abolished county government in 1960. All county functions were taken over by the towns or by the state, except that the county boundaries were retained expressly for the purpose of taking a census and certain other statistical studies based on a county, rather than town boundaries.

Between 1790 and 2000, 138 counties reported in the censuses have been renamed or abolished and subsequently absorbed into other counties. Through 1920, 44 cities in Virginia were independent of any county.

Genealogists learn early the importance of the county as a jurisdiction when using the U.S. federal censuses because one needs to know the county before one can find a resident in a certain locale. Finding the right county is a big step in genealogical research, not only because of census records but also because of the many other records specific to a certain county or
locality.

**County Boundary Changes:**

When using census records for genealogical research, researchers need to understand how county boundaries have changed over the years. Understanding the genealogy of counties is part of locating the place where an ancestor lived.

For example, if a genealogist knows that an ancestor lived in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, in 1790, that county's courthouse is a resource for old deeds, marriages, and other court records. By 1800, nine new counties had been created from old Allegheny County, covering the same area: Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Mercer, and parts of Armstrong, Venango, and Warren counties.

Another example of county boundary changes occurred in Oregon. In 1850, marriages in the little town of Linkville in Linn County were recorded in Albany, the county seat. By 1860, due to the formation of new counties, marriages performed in Linkville, now in Wasco County, were recorded in The Dalles; in 1870, marriages performed in Linkville were recorded in Jacksonville, the county seat of Jackson County (but later the county seat was moved to Medford); in 1880, marriages performed in Linkville were recorded in Lakeview, the county seat of Lake County; and in 1890, marriages performed in Linkville were recorded there because Linkville had become the county seat of Klamath County—but then the name Linkville was changed to Klamath Falls. The boundaries of Klamath County have not changed since 1890.

Of course, the town of Linkville never moved. As the settlement of Oregon took place, new counties were created, and earlier county boundaries were changed, placing the town of Linkville-Klamath Falls in five different counties from 1850 through 1890. Therefore, all county records such as deeds, probates, marriages, etc., for a family that lived in Linkville, Oregon, are spread across the state and stored today in five different county courthouses.

These examples can be repeated in virtually every state. The list below shows that the number of counties in the U.S. increased from 292 in 1790 to 3,076 by 1920. Genealogists attempting to identify the places their ancestors lived must first face the reality of changing county boundaries over the years.
Counties in the U.S. Censuses, 1790-1990:

1790 - population 3,929,214 - 14 states - 292 counties - includes Southwest Territory

1800 - population 5,308,483 - 16 states - 419 counties - includes Northwest, IN, & MI territories

1810 - population 7,239,881 - 17 states - 574 counties - includes IL, IN, MI, MS, LA (MO), & Orleans territories

1820 - population 9,638,453 - 22 states - 759 counties - includes AR, MI, & MO territories

1830 - population 12,860,702 - 24 states - 988 counties - includes AR, FL, & MI territories

1840 - population 17,063,353 - 26 states - 1,279 counties - includes IA, FL, & WI territories

1850 - population 23,191,876 - 30 states - 1,623 counties - includes MN, NM, OR, & UT territories/1851

1860 - population 31,443,321 - 33 states - 2,080 counties - includes KS, NM, NE, UT, WA, Indian territories, & Unorganized Dakota Territory

1870 - population 38,558,371 - 37 states - 2,295 counties - includes AZ, CO, ID, NM, MT, UT, WA, WY, Dakota, & Indiana territories

1880 - population 50,189,209 - 38 states - 2,570 counties - includes AK, AZ, ID, NM, MT, UT, WA, WY, Dakota, & Indiana territories

1890 - population 62,979,766 - 44 states - 2,813 counties - includes AK, AZ, NM, OK, UT, & Indiana territories

1900 - population 76,212,168 - 45 states - 2,862 counties - includes AK, AZ, HI, NM, OK, & Indiana territories

1910 - population 92,228,496 - 46 states - 2,962 counties - includes AK, AZ, NM, HI, & Puerto Rico
1920* - population 106,021,537 - 48 states - 3,076 counties
1930* - population 123,202,624 - 48 states - 3,110 counties
1940* - population 132,164,569 - 48 states - 3,108 counties
1950* - population 151,325,798 - 48 states - 3,111 counties
1960** - population 179,323,175 - 50 states - 3,133 counties
1970** - population 203,211,926 - 50 states - 3,142 counties
1980** - population 226,545,805 - 50 states - 3,137 counties
1990** - population 248,709,873 - 50 states - 3,141 counties
2000*** - population 274,952,000 - 50 states - 3,139 counties (estimates)

*Includes AK, HI, Guam, Midway, Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Virgin Islands, & Wake Island.

**Includes Guam, Midway, Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Virgin Islands, & Wake Island.

***2000 population based on monthly estimates published by the Census Bureau as of 26 May, 2000. Since 1990, there have been county boundary changes in four states (Alaska Judicial Districts, Maryland, Montana, and Virginia). Most of the changes were due to annexations of areas by cities, reducing areas dependent of a county or district.

A source that can be used to visualize the county boundaries for every county in the U.S. and for each census year is the book by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920 (Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987). This book has 393 maps showing each applicable census year and all county boundary changes from 1790 to 1920. Each map shows both the old boundaries and the modern boundaries for each state and census year, so a comparison can be made. A fuller description of this book appears in
the article below.

**Speaking of Censuses & Boundaries**

As the foregoing article illustrates, Mr. Dollarhide knows a thing or two about county boundaries and census records. He is co-author with William Thorndale of *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920*, one of the most respected books in all of American genealogy. More recently, Mr. Dollarhide has compiled a directory of censuses and census substitute lists for New York. This recent book, *New York State Censuses & Substitutes*, identifies every census or similar population list compiled by New York or its various counties from the colonial period on.

Below are brief descriptions of both of these books, plus other tips for discovering hidden state and colonial censuses.

**Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920**

The author of "Genealogy Pointers" once studied the population of Baltimore from the vantage point of the 1850, 1860, and 1870 federal censuses. Throughout the period, Baltimore was divided into 20 wards (political subdivisions); however, as his research revealed, the ward boundaries changed with each census. Had he failed to consider these boundary changes, his conclusions concerning the ethnic and racial makeup of Baltimore's 19th-century neighborhoods would have been incorrect.

Whether because of political gerrymandering, annexation, or some other reason, county boundaries—like ward boundaries—were subject to frequent change. For example, the boundaries of both Somerset and Worcester counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore changed between 1860 and 1870 to make room for the new county of Wicomico. Between 1850 and 1860, the eastern part of Yalobusha County, Mississippi, became part of Calhoun County. Ten years later, the southern part of Yalobusha could be found in Grenada County.

The fact is that throughout U.S. history county boundaries changed from one decennial census to the next, especially before 1900. The best way to know if you're looking in the right county as you crank or scroll through the census is to consult the *Map Guide* by William...
Thorndale and William Dollarhide. State by state, this highly acclaimed reference work maps out county boundaries for every census from 1790 through 1920 and superimposes modern county boundaries overtop of them. Don't be lost in the census without it! For more information, visit the following URL:

New York State Censuses & Substitutes
Census records and name lists for New York are found mostly at the county level, which is why this new work shows precisely which census records or census substitutes exist for each of New York's 62 counties and where they can be found. In addition to the numerous statewide official censuses taken by New York, this work contains references to census substitutes and name lists for time periods in which the state did not take an official census. It also shows the location of copies of federal census records and provides county boundary maps and numerous state census facsimiles and extraction forms. For more information, visit the following URL:

Prices Reduced on Local, as Opposed to Federal, Census Record Books

As suggested by Mr. Dollarhide's book on New York State censuses and their substitutes, state census records, unlike federal censuses, are among the most under-used (yet extremely valuable) of all genealogical records. When genealogists think of census records, what usually comes to mind are the federal censuses that have been conducted by the U.S. government every ten years since the formation of the country. It's a fact, however, that state governments have also carried out censuses randomly throughout their history to satisfy a variety of purposes. Michigan, for example, took a special Civil War veterans census in 1888. There are also surviving territorial censuses that were taken to demonstrate readiness for statehood.

These state censuses are invaluable to genealogists because they fill in gaps left by missing federal censuses. For example, twelve states conducted censuses between 1885 and 1895, any one of which can substitute for that state's missing 1890 federal census. State censuses
tend to be opened to the public faster than federal ones; some state censuses taken as recently as 1945 are already available. Many state censuses contain information not found in federal censuses because the census takers asked different questions. For all of these reasons, state censuses can give you a more complete picture of your ancestors and solve genealogical problems. To find out what state censuses exist, what kinds of information they contain, and where they can be found, read State Census Records, by Ann Lainhart, the definitive guide to this major, though vastly under-used, genealogical resource. Even better, we've dropped the price on Ann's book until 11:59 p.m. EDT tomorrow night. For more information about this book, go to http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=3275.

Was $18.95  Now $13.50

In addition, we've dropped the prices of a number of other state or local census references (also until 11:59 p.m. EDT tomorrow night). Read on for details.

American Population Before the Federal Census of 1790

Few books published more than 70 years ago are just as useful to the genealogist today as they were then. Evarts B. Greene and Virginia D. Harrington's American Population Before the Federal Census of 1790 is one such book. The recipients of a social science research grant, Columbia University scholars Greene and Harrington set about to compile a list of every 17th- and 18th-century list (or statistical reference thereto) concerning the American population before the first U.S. census of 1790. Consulting both primary and secondary sources, the end result of their labors was a comprehensive survey, arranged by colony, state, or territory--and chronologically thereunder--of population lists for all units of American government in existence as of 1790. The lists themselves range from poll lists, tax lists, taxables, militia lists, and censuses; the book's geographical coverage extends to Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, the Illinois Territory, and the Northern and Southern Departments of the Western Indians. In all, American Population Before the Federal Census of 1790 refers to about 4,000 separate population lists or estimates. The authors provide the sources for all entries, which are keyed to the extensive bibliography at the beginning of the book. While researchers will find no lists of persons in this volume, they will discover what exists and where to find it in this crucial record category of early American records. Little wonder that amateurs and professional researchers today prize this book as much as it was in 1932!
Was $28.50  Now $19.95

Following are some examples of state census records that we have published in book form:

1770-1790 Census of the Cumberland Settlements [Tennessee] (Low in stock)
This work is an attempt to reconstruct a census of the Cumberland River settlements in Davidson, Sumner, and Tennessee counties, which today comprise all or part of 40 Tennessee counties. To this end, Mr. Fulcher has abstracted from the public records all references to those living in the jurisdictions between 1770 and 1790. From wills, deeds, court minutes, marriage records, military records, and many related items, the author has put together a carefully documented list of inhabitants—virtually the "first" census of Tennessee.
Was $27.50  Now $18.95

State Census of North Carolina, 1784-1787
This census is of more than the usual importance because during and after the Revolution there was a considerable population shift, and some individuals identified here are found in the 1790 federal census of other states. Based on original records in the N.C. Dept. of Archives and History, this book lists about 14,000 household heads with an enumeration of persons in each household by age, sex, and race.
Was $25.00  Now $16.95

New York: State Census of Albany County Towns in 1790
Although a good portion of the Albany County census of 1790 was burned in a 1911 fire, about half of the names for Albany County (just under 4,000) did survive. This compilation is a transcription of the rescued portion of the Albany County census. It gives, first, the name of the head of household as it appears in the state census and, immediately after it, in brackets, the reading in the federal census—an arrangement of uncommon advantage to the genealogist.
Was $11.50  Now $7.95

August Publications from Genealogical.com
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Federal Land Series
This is a paperback reprint edition of one of the most celebrated genealogical publications of the last generation: the five-part *Federal
Providing Other Services. Genealogists also provide a range of other services that include—

- Consulting and counseling with you about how to solve a research problem.
- Deciphering handwriting on old records.
- Translating foreign records.
- Instructing and lecturing on genealogical topics.
- Computerizing genealogical information.
- Abstracting and publishing records.

Professional Methods

Regardless of the type of research they perform, most professional genealogists follow a similar research process. Understanding this process will help you know what to expect from the genealogist you hire.

Define the Research Problem. Good genealogists first review the information you already have. They discuss your research problem with you and make sure they clearly understand what you want them to accomplish.

Develop a Research Plan. Genealogists next develop a research plan that outlines what they will do to find the information you want. Most plans consist of a prioritized list of the records the genealogist will search. Research plans can be written or verbal. Your genealogist may share the plan with you.

Conduct the Research. As they follow their research plans, genealogists go to libraries, courthouses, archives, cemeteries, and other places to search for the information. As they search, they may photocopy pertinent records or acquire official copies.

Analyze the Findings. Genealogists regularly review their research and make conclusions about what they found. They also compare their findings with other documents to confirm or disprove conclusions.

Report the Findings. Periodically, genealogists prepare reports about their research activities. The report should include photocopies or abstracts of important information. It may also include suggestions for continued research.

Prepare Forms. At your request, a genealogist can prepare forms such as pedigree charts, family group sheets, and applications to lineage societies. They may also enter information into a genealogical computer program for you.

Share Results. Genealogists can help you share the results of your research. A genealogist can contribute
the findings to genealogical data banks such as Ancestral File™, prepare articles or books, or submit names of ancestors to LDS temples.

**Bill for Services.** Genealogists bill for their services at agreed-upon intervals. Bills should clearly identify the time spent and expenses incurred on the project to date. Bills are often included with reports.

**Genealogical Credentials**

Genealogists are not required by law to be licensed or certified. However, they can receive credentials from several organizations. Each organization sets its own criteria for granting credentials. The reference section at the end of this guide includes two major organizations that grant credentials and offer arbitration when problems arise.

You should also consider other criteria as you make your hiring decision. Most genealogists are self-taught, and many competent genealogists do not seek credentials. Years of education, research experience, and satisfactory service to clients may be just as important as credentials.

**Genealogists’ Rates**

Three concepts determine a genealogist’s rates. First, rates charged by genealogists vary widely. Genealogists who charge higher rates do not necessarily do better research. However, some genealogists who charge lower rates may be less educated, inexperienced, and their work may be less than satisfactory. Many genealogists charge more to afford the ongoing training needed to provide better service.

Second, the nature of the work may affect rates. For example, record searching is less demanding than researching a lineage. Consequently, a record searcher generally charges less than a genealogist.

Third, reputable genealogists cannot guarantee to find the specific information you need. For example, if the census taker missed your great-grandfather’s house, even the best genealogist will not be able to find his name in the census.

**Fee Structure.** Although rates vary between genealogists, most genealogists charge an hourly rate plus expenses.

**Hourly Rates.** Most genealogists base their hourly rate on their education, training, skill, experience, and credentials and what the market will bear. Rates range from $10.00 per hour to as high as $75.00 per hour. The average rate charged by most competent genealogists ranges from $15.00 to $35.00 per hour. Record searchers usually charge between $7.00 and $20.00.

Since rates vary, it is sometimes hard to know what warrants a higher rate. In general, genealogists may justifiably charge higher rates if they—

- Are experienced researchers in great demand.
- Have some unique research specialty, such as a knowledge of records in a foreign country or expertise concerning a particular set of records.
- Have credentials that reflect advanced skills.
- Have years of education and professional development.
- Live in a large city with a high cost of living.
- Have access to facilities with many records.

Although the majority of genealogists work independently, you may find genealogical firms in areas where large repositories of records exist. Firms usually offer a wider variety of services and expertise.

**Expenses.** In addition to an hourly rate, most genealogists bill for the expenses they incur. Common expenses include—

- Costs of copies of records, certificates, and other documents.
- Fees paid to other researchers to search records in distant cities.
- Field travel (auto, meals, lodging).
- Admission fees paid to courthouses, repositories, and other record facilities.
- Administrative costs for items such as postage, supplies, and secretarial services.

**Payment.** Methods of payment vary. Many genealogists ask their clients to pay a certain amount of money (a retainer) before work begins. The genealogist then works and bills against the retainer until it is spent. Then, another retainer is paid and work continues.

Some genealogists simply bill as they work. Others charge a daily rate or charge a flat fee per project. These payment methods are less common than the retainer system.

You can do the following to help control costs:

- Gather together as much information about your family as you reasonably can.
- Break a large project into smaller tasks and pay periodically.
- Request frequent reports and detailed billings to keep you informed.
- Clearly specify whether the genealogist can bill for additional services (cost overruns) and under what conditions it is appropriate to do so.
- Have other family members help pay costs.
Research Scope
Generally, genealogists use the first few hours of a research project to define their clients' goals, analyze the problem, and develop a research plan. This can vary considerably depending on the amount of previous research.

Be sure to give your genealogist enough start-up time on your project. Genealogists usually need at least eight to ten hours to be productive on most research projects. Simple tasks, such as performing a record search or evaluating a lineage, should take much less time.

PART II: THE HIRING PROCESS

The six steps in this section are designed to help you locate several professional genealogists, and then choose the one that best meets your needs.

Six Steps for Hiring a Genealogist
1. Determine your research needs.
2. Obtain a list of genealogists.
3. Contact appropriate candidates.
4. Determine which candidate is best for you.
5. Make an agreement before work begins.
6. Provide information and fees to begin work.

Step 1: Determine Your Research Needs
Before hiring a professional genealogist, clarify your research problem and determine what you want the genealogist to do. If you define your research goals clearly, you are more likely to be satisfied with the results. In addition, you can often save money by gathering information that already exists.

However, if you do not have the time or interest to gather the information needed to define a research goal, you may want to skip step one. Once you have hired a genealogist, you can let the professional decide where to begin.

Do not start with a general or vague goal (example: I want to know more about my ancestors on my mother's side). Begin to clarify the problem by finding and reviewing as much existing information as possible. You may want to check—
- Pedigree charts and family group sheets.
- Family histories and traditions.
- Birth, death, and marriage certificates; obituaries; funeral programs; and so forth.
- Diaries, journals, old letters, and photocopies of family information from Bibles.
- Military records, naturalization certificates, photographs, and so forth.

After deciding what you want to learn, summarize your research problem and state how the genealogist can help you.

At this point, determine if you really need to hire someone. Maybe you can get help from friends or a genealogical society.

Step 2: Obtain a List of Genealogists
If you need to employ someone, try to determine what expertise the genealogist needs to have.

Next, obtain a list of potential genealogists. The reference section identifies lists of genealogists. You can also contact libraries, archives, or genealogical societies in your area.

Step 3: Contact Candidates
Contact several genealogists whose skills and credentials seem appropriate. If you telephone candidates, you can find out immediately if the genealogist is available and interested in working on your project. And you may also be able to gain a sense of the genealogist's competence. However, be considerate of the researcher's time. Do not expect too many ideas before the genealogist has seen your records.

Writing letters is a slower process, but many genealogists prefer written correspondence because they have time to think about the project before responding. Be sure to include your return address, phone number, and a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE).

Discuss the following in your phone call or letter:
- Your research problem, materials, and goals.
- The genealogist's availability and interest in your project.
- The research strategies the genealogist might use.
- The genealogist's access to records required for your project.
- The reporting procedure. (You may even want to see a sample report.)
- The genealogist's areas of specialty and credentials (including language skills if needed).
- Rates and billing procedures.

Step 4: Determine Whom to Hire
After contacting several genealogists, decide which one will best meet your needs. Consider:
- Do you feel the genealogist has a good understanding of your research problem and knows how to solve it?
Do you sense that the genealogist is really interested in your project?

Do you feel that the genealogist has the required background and skills?

Do the genealogist's fees seem appropriate?

Does the genealogist have familiarity with and access to the records that are most likely to solve your research problem?

Step 5: Make an Agreement

Before the genealogist begins working on your project, be sure to make a verbal or written agreement. Verbal agreements are possible, especially when the project is small. A written agreement can be as simple as a letter stating your expectations and authorizing the genealogist to proceed, or it can be a formal written contract. Either you or the genealogist can prepare the agreement. In lieu of a formal contract, some genealogists have a list of their research methods and policies that is modified for each project and signed by the client.

Any agreement, verbal or written, should include at least the following:

- The research goal and scope of the project.
- Frequency of reports and bills.
- Content of the reports.
- What constitutes fees and expenses.
- Payment and limitations of fees.
- How cost overruns should be handled.
- What happens if one or both parties do not or cannot fulfill their part of the agreement.
- Publication rights to the research findings.
- What forms the genealogist will prepare.

Step 6: Provide Information and Fees to Start

After selecting a researcher, share the information you collected in step 1. You will avoid needless duplication by informing your genealogist of the records you found and the research that has already been done. Send good photocopies of your materials. Never give original documents or other materials for which you have no other copy.

Send whatever retainer or fees are required for the genealogist to begin working.

Stay in Contact

As you work with your genealogist, be sure to communicate often. Most problems can be avoided through good communication. However, if problems do arise, get in touch with the organization that recommended the genealogist. Many organizations will mediate or arbitrate disagreements between the genealogists they recommend and their clients.

PART III: REFERENCE SECTION

Accredited Genealogists
The Family History Library
35 North West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150
List provided at no charge.
The library accredits researchers for the records of most major countries.

Certified Researchers
The Board for Certification of Genealogists
P.O. Box 19165
Washington, D.C. 20036-0165
Cost: $3.50
The board tests and certifies researchers in the U.S. in various categories of services. All certified persons must agree to a "code of ethics."

Directory of Professional Genealogists and Related Services
The Association of Professional Genealogists
3421 M Street, N.W., Suite 236
Washington, D.C. 20007
Cost: $15
Available at your local library or from the Association of Professional Genealogists.
Researchers listed in the directory must agree to a code of professionalism.

Directory of Professional Genealogical Researchers
Evenon's Genealogical Helper,
September-October issue
P.O. Box 368
Logan, Utah 84321

Many libraries, archives, and courthouses maintain lists of researchers who use their facilities. Lists are usually provided as a courtesy to patrons, and no attempt is made to assess credentials.

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First Edition, Jan 1993. Filed under 34548
Genealogy Pointers (12-08-09)

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The Census Day by William Dollarhide
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If you are a genealogist, you are an avid user of the federal censuses, 1790 to 1930. But even experienced census users may not know about some of the obscure aspects of the censuses. Here’s one of them. It’s called the "census day."

Beginning with the 1790 federal census—and continuing with every census thereafter—each enabling law authorized by Congress specified a "census day" for gathering the census information from every household in America. From 1790 to 1820 the census day was the first Monday in August.

The census day was NOT the day the enumerator arrived at a household; it was the day for which all the statistics of the census were collected. The instructions given to all the U.S. Marshals just prior to the 1820 census explain:

All the questions refer to the day when the enumeration is to commence, the first Monday in August next. Your assistants will thereby understand that they are to insert in their returns all the persons belonging to the family on the first Monday in August, even those who may be deceased at the time when they take the account; and, on the other hand, that they will not include in it infants born after
that day.

Similar instructions have been given for every census since 1790, but with different census days. The table below shows the census day for each census, 1790 to 1930, and the time allowed to take the census:

**Census Year / Census Day / Time Allowed**

1790 / 2 August / 9 months  
1800 / 4 August / 9 months  
1810 / 6 August / 10 months  
1820 / 7 August / 13 months  
1830 / 1 June / 12 months  
1840 / 1 June / 18 months  
1850 / 1 June / 5 months  
1860 / 1 June / 5 months  
1870 / 1 June / 5 months  
1880 / 1 June / 1 month  
1890 / 1 June / 1 month  
1900 / 1 June / 1 month  
1910 / 15 April / 1 month  
1920 / 1 January / 1 month  
1930 / 1 April / 1 month

**1820 & 1830 Census Day Differences:**

On the above table, note that the census day changed in 1830 from the first Monday in August to the first day of June. If one is researching families appearing in the 1820 and 1830 censuses, looking at these families again may be important. Since the census days for 1820 and 1830 are not exactly ten years apart, the two-month difference may reveal some surprising results.

For example, if a person was born between 1 June 1820 and 7 August 1820, that child would appear in the 1820 census in the "under 10" age category. But in 1830, that same person would appear in the "of 5 and under 10" rather than the "of 10 and under 15" age category, since the person had not yet turned 10.

The age category for anyone born between 1 June and 7 August in any year would be affected by this reporting change between 1820 and 1830. Comparing the 1820 age
categories for a person appearing 10 years later and not in the "correct" age category may actually give a clue to a person's date of birth within a two-month period.

**Time Allowed to Take a Census:**
On the table above, note the time allowed to take each census. All of the states complied with this provision, except South Carolina in 1790. South Carolina could not complete its 1790 enumeration in nine months. The U.S. Marshal complained that he was having great difficulty finding people to take the job because of resistance to the census being taken. A Charleston jury met to decide the fate of six persons who had "refused to render an account of persons in their households as required by the census act." A South Carolina census taker was brought on trial for neglect of duty because he did not complete the census in his district. These and other problems led to South Carolina being granted an extension, and the census returns were dated 5 February 1792, a full 18 months after the census day.

**Differing Census Days:**
In a couple of cases, there have been census days assigned to certain states that were different from the rest of the U.S. for that year. When Vermont entered the Union as the 14th state in 1791, the 1790 census was already underway. Vermont's 1790 census was taken with a census day of the first Monday in April 1791, with five months allowed to take the census there. Utah, which became a territory in September 1851, had its 1850 census taken with a census day of 1 April 1851. But the dates on the Utah census pages are mostly in October 1851. Thus, the 1851 census enumerators probably asked Utahans questions like, "Six months ago, back on April 1st, who was the head of this household?"

**Census Day Versus Enumeration Date:**
Genealogists should record two dates when copying information from the censuses: the census day and the enumeration date. No matter how many months it took for an enumerator to reach a house, he was supposed to gather the information as if time had stopped on the census day. Every person whose regular abode was in a particular household on the census day was to be enumerated, even if a person was away at the time of the enumeration.

Understanding the impact of the census day versus the enumeration date may explain why certain people appear in a census listing, even though you have other evidence to show the person died before the household was enumerated. If a person was alive on the census day, that person was to be included—even if it took some time for the enumerator to get around to that house to take the census. The person could have been dead for several months.
Or, you may wonder why that youngest child in a family was not listed in a census. If a child was born after the census day, that child was not to be included—even if the census taker had visited the house and was aware of a playful little toddler crawling around in front of him.

Now, some of you will want to go back to all of those census lists you have copied down and confirm the date of enumeration AND the census day. Any missing people? Any extra people?

Good census hunting!

A Trio of Terrific Census Reference Books

The Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920, mentioned above, is one of three census finding aids that are easily the most valuable books on their subjects. These esteemed publications show you how to navigate the U.S. census, discover hidden state censuses, and uncover colonial censuses that precede the state and federal enumerations. Read on for details.

Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920

The writer of this newsletter once studied the population of Baltimore from the vantage point of the 1850, 1860, and 1870 federal censuses. Throughout the period, Baltimore was divided into 20 wards (political subdivisions); however, as his research revealed, the ward boundaries changed with each census. Had he failed to consider these boundary changes, his conclusions concerning the ethnic and racial makeup of Baltimore's 19th-century neighborhoods would have been incorrect.

Whether because of political gerrymandering, annexation, or some other reason, county boundaries—like ward boundaries—were subject to frequent change. For example, the boundaries of both Somerset and Worcester counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore changed between 1860 and 1870 to make room for the new county of Wicomico. Between 1850 and 1860, the eastern part of Yalobusha County, Mississippi, became part of Calhoun County. Ten years later, the southern part of Yalobusha could be found in Grenada County.
As the previous article by William Dollarhide demonstrates, throughout the history of the U.S. county boundaries changed from one decennial census to the next, especially before 1900. The best way to know if you're looking in the right county as you crank or scroll through the census is to consult the Map Guide by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide. State by state, this highly acclaimed reference work maps out county boundaries for every census from 1790 through 1920 and superimposes modern county boundaries overtop of them. Don't be lost in the census without it! For more information, access the following URL:

American Population Before the Federal Census of 1790
Few books published over 70 years ago are just as useful to the genealogist today as they were in 1932. Evarts B. Greene and Virginia D. Harrington's publication is one such book. The recipients of a social science research grant, Columbia University scholars Greene and Harrington set about to compile a list of every 17th- and 18th-century list (or statistical reference thereto) concerning the American population before the U.S. census of 1790. Consulting both primary and secondary sources, the end result of their labors was a comprehensive survey, arranged by colony, state, or territory—and chronologically thereunder—of population lists for all units of American government in existence as of 1790.

The lists themselves range from poll lists, tax lists, taxables, militia lists, and censuses; the book's geographical coverage extends to Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, the Illinois Territory, and the Northern and Southern Departments of the Western Indians.

In all, American Population refers to about 4,000 separate population lists or estimates. The authors provide the sources for all entries, which are keyed to the extensive bibliography at the beginning of the book. While researchers will find no lists of persons in this volume, they will discover what exists and where to find it in this crucial record category of early American records. Little wonder that amateurs and professional researchers today prize this book as much as it was in 1932! For more information, access the following URL:
State Census Records
State census records, unlike federal censuses, are among the most under-used (yet extremely valuable) of all genealogical records. When genealogists think of census records, what usually comes to mind are the federal censuses that have been conducted by the U.S. government every 10 years since the formation of the country. It's a fact, however, that state governments have also carried out censuses randomly throughout their history to satisfy a variety of purposes. Michigan, for example, took a special Civil War veterans census in 1888. There are also surviving territorial censuses that were taken to demonstrate readiness for statehood.

These state censuses are invaluable to genealogists because they fill in gaps left by missing federal censuses. For example, 12 states conducted censuses between 1885 and 1895, any one of which can substitute for that state's missing 1890 federal census. State censuses tend to be opened to the public faster than federal ones; some state censuses taken as recently as 1945 are already available. Many state censuses contain information not found in federal censuses because the census takers asked different questions. For all of these reasons, state censuses can give you a more complete picture of your ancestors and solve genealogical problems. To find out what state censuses exist, what kinds of information they contain, and where they can be found, read State Census Records, by Ann Lainhart, the definitive guide to this major, though vastly under-used, genealogical resource. For more information, access the following URL:

Voyage of a 19th-Century Emigrant
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If your ancestor sailed from the United Kingdom or Ireland during the 19th century, his/her experience likely conformed to the following description penned by Stephen de Vere, a landowner and philanthropist from County Limerick who, despite his station in life, sailed for America as a steerage passenger in 1847:

"Before the emigrant has been a week at sea he is an altered man. How can it be otherwise? Hundreds of poor people, men, women and children, of all ages, from the driveling idiot of ninety to the babe just born, huddled together without light, without air, wallowing in filth and breathing the fetid atmosphere, sick in body, dispirited in heart, the fevered patients lying between the sound, in sleeping places so narrow as almost to deny them the power of indulging, by a change of position, the natural restlessness of the disease; by their agonized
By: Carolyn L. Barkley

The U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules are another of the non-population enumerations that are often not used by genealogists. Like the agricultural enumerations discussed in an earlier article, mortality data can prove very useful in your research.

Mortality schedules are extant for 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880. Unfortunately, the 1890 schedules were destroyed by fire. The 1900 schedules were destroyed by an act of Congress following the compilation of statistical reports.

Enumerators were asked to record information about individuals who died in the year previous to the census. The 1850 schedule, for example, includes information about individuals who died between 1 June 1849 and 31 May 1850. In 1850 and 1860, entries included the name of the deceased, their age at death, sex, color, status (free or slave), marital status (married or widowed), place of birth (state, territory or county), the month of death, occupation, disease or cause of death, and the number of days the individual was ill. In 1870, a new question asked if the father and/or mother were of foreign birth, but no longer included how many days the individual was ill. The 1880 census added categories for the place of birth of the deceased’s mother and father, how long the deceased had been a resident of the county, where the disease was contracted if not at the place of death, and the name of the attending physician. In both 1870 and 1880, a family number is included which ties the entry back to a specific entry in the population enumeration (and vice versa). It is important to remember that the information is available only for the year immediately preceding the census, and even then, the information was probably under-reported. One estimate, frequently repeated, is that 20 to 40 percent of deaths were not included.

Why are these schedules important to your research?

- You may be interested in an individual that you know died in the year before the census, but for whom you do not have a month of death or cause of death.
- You may be researching an individual for whom you do not have a death date, but who you have located in the 1850 census, but not in the 1860 enumeration. A quick check of the 1860 mortality schedule might locate him or her if death occurred in the twelve months prior to the 1860 census.
- The mortality schedules may predate official death records in the state in which you are researching. North Carolina, for example, did not require death records until 1913. In this case, if you are able to locate an individual in a mortality schedule, that may be the only record that documents a death date and any supporting information.
- The burial records you are after may not exist or existing headstones may not be legible.
- Information may be available, particularly in the 1850 and 1860 census, for individuals not listed in the 1840 census because they were not heads of households.
- Interest in researching a family’s health history has risen in recent years. Information in mortality schedules may provide documentation of a genetic disease, document death due to specific epidemics in the community at the time, or include causes of death that suggest derive from specific occupations.
- Cause of death information may suggest other avenues of research in additional records. A murder might well be documented in newspaper articles, as might accidents, or other unusual events. When I was indexing many of the Massachusetts death records for
the familysearch.org indexing project and was struck by the number of often fatal railroad track accidents (no pun intended) and the deaths that resulted from gas lighting in homes. Such events, if discovered through a mortality schedule entry, might have been documented further in newspapers, police blotters, or coroner’s reports.

Unlike the agricultural censuses, the mortality schedules are readily available from several sources.

- **Ancestry.com** released its first online mortality schedules in April 2005 and continues to add to its collection. Ancestry has posted (in some cases, may be about to post) Arkansas (1850-1880), Colorado (1870-1880), District of Columbia (1850-1880), Georgia (1850-1880), Illinois (1850-1880), Iowa (1850-1880), Kansas (1860-1880), Kentucky (1850-1870), Louisiana (1850-1880), Massachusetts (1850-1880), Michigan (1850-1880), Minnesota (1860-1880), Montana (1870-1880), Nebraska (1860-1880), New Hampshire (1850-1870), New Jersey (1850-1880), North Carolina (1850-1880), North Dakota (1860, 1880), Ohio (1850-1860, 1880, selected counties), South Carolina (1850-1880), Tennessee (1850-1860, 1880), Texas (1850-1880), Utah (1870), Vermont (1870-1880), Virginia (1850-1870), and Washington (1860-1880), West Virginia (1850-1860, as part of Virginia), and Wisconsin (1850-1870). If you do not have a personal subscription that includes the U. S. census collection, you will want to use Ancestry online database at your local library.

I decided to look for Mary Isabella Barkley, who I knew died in 1859 in Nash County, North Carolina. My search for her was hampered by the fact that she had been indexed as Van Isabella Barkley. (I submitted a correction to the transcribed name and you now can find her by searching for Mary Isabella, although the initial records page still shows “Van.” Remember to be creative in your searches and send in corrections if you are sure about the error.) The 1860 mortality schedule for Nash County, North Carolina, reported that Mary had died of pneumonia in November 1859, aged about 17 (therefore born about 1843).

As I browsed for other Barkley entries, I noted that if I searched the database entitled “U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1880” for all individuals with the surname of Barkley, the search yielded 956 results, only about 146 of which were Barkley or variant spelling (Barclay, etc.). It is in that database that Mary Isabella was indexed as Van Isabella. If, however, I conducted the same search in the database entitled “U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules Index,” my search resulted in 404 entries, only about 93 of which were Barkley or a variant spelling. In this database Mary was indexed correctly as Mary Isabella. In both cases, the remaining entries were names with the same Soundex code, but unrelated to my Barkley (or variant) search. Given this disparity (146 versus 93 entries), you will want to search both databases.

- The **National Archives** has microfilm schedules for twenty-two states and territories (but not necessarily for all years) including Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington (state).

- **Familysearch.org.** The FamilySearch Record Site’s **Pilot Site** provides a free Internet index and images for the 1850 mortality schedules.
• **Other sources:** You will also want to search the catalogs of the Family History Library, the DAR Library, the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, as well as in state libraries/archives and other major libraries in your locations of interest. You will also want to search publisher’s websites or catalogs for specific abstracted schedules such as Linda L. Green’s *Delaware Mortality Schedules, 1850-1880, Delaware Insanity Schedule, 1880 Only* (Heritage Books, 2006) or Katharine Kerr Kendall and Mary Frances Kerr Donaldson’s *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books, 1777-1814: 1784 Tax List; and Guardian’s Accounts 1794-1819*... (Clearfield, reprinted 2005) which includes abstracts from census mortality schedules.

Mortality schedules are another of those often seldom-used resources that you will find very helpful in documenting the vital records of your family as well as providing anecdotal information about their lives and experiences.

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**Continuing Education for Genealogists**

Filed under: Genealogy Tips on Thursday, November 19th, 2009 by Erica | 1 Comment

By Carolyn L. Barkley

*This article was originally published in March 2009 and was listed as a “Suggested Link from the Blogosphere” in the California Genealogical Society’s *E-Magazine* in May 2009. It is being repeated here in an updated format so that you can begin planning your genealogical activities for next year. If you are putting your holiday gift list together to share with friends or family members, remember that the gift of registration for a genealogical conference or institute is a gift that keeps on giving!*

According to Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The education of the general mind never stops…” For me, a logical extension of this statement is that the education of the genealogical mind never ceases. The evolving art of genealogical research engenders in each of us an abiding thirst for knowledge about methodology, resources, and technologies.

Many opportunities enable us to pursue life-long genealogical learning. The most accessible opportunities are the conferences, seminars and workshops sponsored by local, state and national genealogical societies, libraries and archival institutions. These single- or multiple-day events feature both speakers who are experts in their fields and genealogical vendors offering all types of related resources and materials. Such activities also provide time for you to network informally with colleagues. These programs are some of the best educational values for your money. In particular, you will want to consider the National Genealogical Society’s annual Conference in the States scheduled for Salt Lake City, Utah, 28 April-1 May, 2010), the Federation of Genealogical Society’s annual conference (scheduled for Knoxville, Tennessee, 18-21 August 2010), and the annual Brigham Young University sponsored Conference on Family History and Genealogy (2010 dates to be announced).

More formal genealogical learning opportunities invite you to become immersed in a specific geographic location, historic time-period, or methodology. These sessions include institutes, academic degree programs, and home study courses. Here are some of the most popular programs:
Report 20 July 1998

Dear Bro. Johnson,

Many thanks for your letter of 5 April 1998 and your kind comments regarding my report of 23 March. In your letter you ask for verification on several points:

1. In Esther Cooper's Will, that Peggy = Margaret, please see enclosure 1, THE BOOK OF GIRLS' NAMES by Sleigh and Johnson;

2. Isles Cooper was not the executor of Esther Cooper’s Estate, ergo it was a mistake on my part claiming that he was; in fact no executor is named;

3. The granddaughter mentioned in Esther Cooper's will, Mosely/Moseley, appears to be a child of Thomas Mosely who evidently married Esther's daughter (name not yet discovered); per enclosure 2-3, we have noted that Thomas Mosely's estate was probated in 1819 (Record book C:179, Montgomery Co., TN) and this will be further checked next period to search for clues as to the name of his wife;

4. re: your observations on France (much appreciated), my gut feeling is that John France in the 1820 census is the husband of the Polly (Cooper) France enumerated in 1850; she was probably his second or even third wife: A REMINISCENT HISTORY OF THE OZARK REGION (report 23 March 1998, 3) claims that she lived near Paduca, KY, and thus records of that place will be searched next period for, hopefully, further details concerning her.

You will remember that Esther Cooper's will, 1 April 1820, mentions a son William P. Roberts, and my conjecture that he was possibly a son of Peter P. Roberts who witnessed said will. In this connection, I note (encl. 2) estate papers for Peter P. Robert [sic] in 1833, and for Peter P. Roberts in 1833 and 1834, all of which must be checked next period in records of Montgomery County, TN.

As noted last report, proceedings (TN Fifth Judicial Circuit Court), January 1817, Edward Leach and heirs vs. Ester [sic] Cooper, show that Esther was the only child of Robert Fletcher, and that she married John Cooper, then of Halifax Co., NC, 29 January 1796. Further in my report 23 March, 3-4, I surmised that John Cooper was the son of John Cooper, Sr., who made his will in 1794 at Halifax Co., NC, naming among others a son Isles. I had also (report 23 March, 4) checked tax records of 1755, Currituck Co., NC, which show a John, Isles and Joseph Cooper living there at that time. I am therefore happy to report that
all of these conjectures can now be reported as proved beyond reasonable doubt.

As per the pile of enclosures, you will see that there were evidently two men named John Cooper resident, though not concurrently, in Halifax Co. The earlier John, not ancestral, may equate with John Cooper of Edgecombe Co., planter, who on 25 March 1752 took up 384 acres on the north side of Swift creek, Halifax Co. (encl. 3). This earlier John Cooper evidently married the daughter of William Ray/Rea, before 1750, according to Deed book 4:23 (encl. 7-16); and there is little additional information concerning him other than a deed 13 December 1760, Halifax Co., where he grants 125 acres "joining Rocky Swamp, Spring Branch, Smith's Branch. . . ." to Robt. Chapman (encl. 8-6). His brother may have been the Nathaniel Cooper who witnessed a deed made by Rachel Whitehead to son Tobias Whitehead (and others) 19 December 1764 (encl. 8-14; also 8-21 showing that Nathaniel Cooper acquired land on 25 June 1743 on the south side of Jumping Run, Halifax Co.). John and Nathaniel Cooper basically disappear from the Halifax Co. records by the mid 1760s and probably died around that time.

Thereafter (see extractions under 8), deeds of Halifax Co., NC, are devoid of Coopers until 16 February 1785 when an Ellis [Isles??] Cooper of Bedford Co., VA, sells 20 acres of land in Halifax Co. to Lademon Shelton, said land being part of the inheritance of Sarah Monk, dau. of Margret Monk, willed to Margaret by William Dugless [sic], Sr. (enclosure 8-25). It is this same Ellis Cooper who is named as husband of Sarah, daughter of Margaret Monk, in reconstructed marriage records of Halifax Co. (enclosure 7-9; see also in this connection the extract of William Dugless's [sic] will proved June Court 1761, Halifax Co., listing, among others, devisee Margaret Munk [sic], encl. 10-5). I mention all of this about Ellis Cooper in passing as I do not see that he is related to your Coopers, although I am certainly intrigued.

The first definite connection to your Cooper ancestry appears to be a deed 6 September 1786 where Peter Daniel and wife Winneford of Halifax Co. grant to John Cooper of "Currituck" Co., NC, for 550 silver dollars, 160 acres "joining Jacket Swamp, Turkey Branch," witnessed by Thomas Cooper among others (encl. 8-31). Note that this deed specifically denotes John Cooper as "of Currituck Co." which accords nicely with assumptions last report based on tax records of Currituck showing Isles and John Cooper et al. there in 1755 and later. The location of the property, "Jacket Swamp, Turkey Branch," Halifax Co., is likewise significant (see below). Then on 31 October 1787 we note an Isles Cooper witnessing a deed in Halifax Co. between John and Nancy Chappel and Thomas Perkins (encl. 8-32); thereafter a Thomas Cooper, on 29 May 1788, witnesses an agreement between Nelson Kelly and John Pope (encl. 8-35); and Thomas Cooper on 26
January 1789 is granted 139 acres "on south side of Beaverdam Swamp, joining Watry Branch," Halifax Co., by Thomas Perkins, Jr. (encl. 8-36); and earlier (1 November 1788), Arthur Shuffield of Halifax Co. grants 100 acres "on north side of Sachyba (?) Swamp" in said county to Isles Cooper of the same place (also encl. 8-36).

Significantly, further, George Washington "of Mount Vernon Virginia" (first President of the U.S.!) through his attorneys, granted 1093 1/2 acres in Gates Co., NC (Gates Co. is approximately equidistant from Currituck and Halifax Co.s, NC, i.e., between them) to John Cooper, Sr. (without much doubt this is the ancestral John Cooper, Sr., of Halifax Co., NC) on 27 October 1791 (encl. 8-40) -- I must check Gates Co. land records next period to determine what eventually happened to this land.

On 5 December 1791, James Baker and wife Ruth of Halifax Co. deeded to Thomas Cooper, ibid., 150 acres "joining Jackett Swamp" (encl. 8-42); and about February 1792, William P. Scoles deeded to John Cooper 50 acres "on north side of Great Turkey [Branch]" (encl. 8-43). On 5 January 1790, Thomas Cooper of Halifax Co. deeded 135 acres to William Willie, land purchased earlier by Cooper from Thomas Perkins "joining Beaver Dam Swamp, Watry Branch" (encl. 8-45). Then, again significantly, we note Isles Cooper "as executor of Thomas Cooper dec'd of Halifax Co." deeding 150 acres of land "on south side of Jackett Swamp" to William Muncrief of Currituck Co., 28 February 1794 (encl. 8-51); note above the deed 6 September 1786 to John Cooper of 160 acres of land "joining Jacket Swamp, Turkey Branch" in Halifax Co., i.e., land of John Cooper, Sr., and Thomas Cooper adjoined the same swamp, general area, Halifax Co.). Further, on 24 October 1797, John Parker, James Cooper and John Cooper posted bond, the obligation tied to John Parker's receipt of 115 pounds 10 pence "of Iles [sic] Cooper who is guardian to his [Parker's] wife Rachel & executor to the will of Thos. Cooper dec'd" (encl. 8-58); and a further bond 29 May 1798 involving Wm. Edwards, Archd. Daniel and Robt. Jones, said Edwards having received from "Iles Cooper, guardian to his [Edwards's] wife Nancy and executor of the will of Thomas Cooper dec'd, 114 pounds 10 pence & 1 negro woman Peggy. . . ." (encl. 8-59).

On 26 April 1799, John Cooper (the ancestral John, Jr., who subsequently moved to Montgomery Co., TN) of Halifax Co. deeded 65 acres "joining Turkey Branch, Main Turkey Branch" to Iles [sic] Cooper, ibid., witnesses including Zaccheus Cooper (encl. 8-64); whereupon Iles Cooper turned around and sold said property 28 April 1800 to Nathaniel Carlisle, one of the witnesses being Nancy Cooper (wife of Isles Cooper??) (encl. 8-65). Further, on 10 March 1800, John Cooper of Halifax Co. (your ancestor who married Esther Fletcher) deeded 100 acres "joining Jacket Swamp, Turkey Branch" to Thomas Willey, ibid., witnesses being Iles and James Cooper (encl. 8-67). On 18 October 1802, James Cooper and
wife Katey of Halifax Co. deeded to Britton Daniel 50 acres "on north side of Jacket Swamp, joining Culpeppers Road" (encl. 8-72). Thereafter, John Cooper, Jr. and James Cooper fall out of the picture (we know your John moved to TN; whereas James evidently moved too??), the only Cooper who continues to appear in Halifax Co. deeds being Isles who in tandem with Joseph Gee on 1 May 1811 was deeded 100 acres by John Campbell "on the south side of Jacket Swamp, joining Wm & James Douglas," wits. Eliza Cooper et al. (encl. 8-85). On 4 February 1813, Isles Cooper, Halifax Co., deeded clear title to said 100 acres to Campbell -- "Lortons Place, on the southside of Jacket Swamp" (encl. 8-86); having earlier, 20 August 1812, deeded 114 acres acquired from Arthur Sheffield through deed 1 November 1788 (see also a state grant for 14 acres 12 December 1798). Thereafter, through 1817 at least, Isles Cooper falls out of the picture in Halifax Co. and it appears he died enroute to SC as per Ancestral File family group "John Cooper, Sr. = Martha Isles" submitted by Sylvester Cooper, 271 N 300 W, Rexburg ID 83440 (encl. 15), i.e., I must write Sylvester Cooper.

In connection with the above deeds combining to show your Coopers migrating into Halifax Co. from Currituck Co. about 1786, please note that Halifax Co. tax lists, 1784 and 1785, show no Coopers; whereas Halifax tax lists, 1786 and 1787, show John Cooper in dist. 10, 1787 (encl. 5-13), no other Coopers being listed that year (nil for 1786). Halifax Co. tax lists, 1788, show John Cooper, 160 acres, dist. 10 (encl. 5-21); those of 1790 show Thos. Cooper, dist. 7 (encl. 5-22), John Cooper, Sr., 160 acres, and Isles Cooper, in dist. 10 (encl. 5-25); and on the 1800 lists, John Cooper (evidently John, Jr., who married Esther Fletcher), James Cooper, 50 acres, and Isles Cooper, 114 acres, all dist. 10 (encl. 5-26); similarly, James Cooper, 50 acres, John Cooper, and Isles Cooper, 114 acres, taxed in dist. 10 in 1802 (encl. 5-27).

(Halifax Co. court minutes, 1784-7 -- see also 1796-7 for entries regarding jury service by your John Cooper, Jr. -- do refer to Willis Alston vs. Wills Cooper, November 1795, mentioning a bond assigned to John Cooper and others, although this does not appear to refer to your John Cooper nor indeed to a Halifax Co. resident [encl. 9-3]); but the first reference to any other John Cooper is in May Court 1787 recording the deed of Peter Daniell and wife to John Cooper [encl. 9-11]).

Pertinent wills of Halifax Co. (1758-1824), encl. 10, are:

(1) Thomas Cooper, 23 January 1794 (proved February 1794), devising land and negroes to daughters Rachel and Nancy Cooper, both under age 21; guardianship of these daus. to "my brother Isles Cooper requesting him to be as father to my children" (encl. 10-10);

(2) John Cooper, 4 October 1794 (proved November 1794), naming sons Samuel, Thomas and Isles Cooper, and dau. Dolly Gray, each
of whom receive a shilling; grandson Zaches Cooper; dau. Mary Ward, 96 acres "lying between Richard Cambell and Humphry Piner"; daus. Sarah Glascoe, Elizabeth Heath, Sophia Cooper and Frankey Cooper, 1 negro each; son John, the "plantation whereon I now live containing 160 acres"; son James Cooper, "50 acres known as Scol's place"; residue of estate to wife, not named; executors sons John and James (encl. 10-11).

In summary re: Halifax Co. records and my search of same, we can safely say the evidence overwhelmingly shows that your John Cooper, Jr. who married Esther Fletcher and moved to TN from Halifax Co., NC, was a son of John Cooper, Sr. who made his will in 1794. Furthermore, your John, Jr. inherited his father's 160-acre plantation, selling 65 [sic] acres of same to his brother Isles Cooper in 1799 and the remaining 100 acres to Thos. Willey in 1800 (see above), said land "joining Jacket Swamp, Turkey in 1794 and the remaining 100 acres to Thos. Willey Isles Cooper in 1799 and the remaining 100 acres to Thos. Willey in 1800 (see above), said land "joining Jacket Swamp, Turkey Branch" in Halifax Co. deeded by Peter Daniel and wife 6 September 1786 to John Cooper of Currituck Co. who equates with John Cooper, Sr. who made his will at Halifax Co. in 1794, bequeathing his home plantation of 160 acres to son John (see above). There is also, significantly, the name linkage inherent in your John Cooper, Jr. = Esther Fletcher naming a son Isles (after the child's paternal uncle).

As concerns Thomas Cooper who made his will 23 January 1794 (proved February 1794) naming minor children Rachel and Nancy who were put under tutelage of their paternal uncle, Isles Cooper, said Rachel subsequently marrying William Edwards by 29 May 1798, whereas Nancy married John Parker by 24 October 1797 (see deeds, above) -- I can only contend that the evidence strongly supports his being the son of John Cooper, Sr. The only fly in the ointment is that John Cooper, Sr. in his will 4 October 1794 names a son Thomas even though the willmaker Thomas had died the previous January/February! (did John, Sr., draw up his will earlier, finally making it official in October 1794 or what??). I do not know the answer, but the fact that Thomas Cooper assigned tutelage of his two daughters to "my brother" Isles pretty well means that Thomas Cooper is John Cooper, Sr.'s son! (I'm still chewing on this.)

Ancestral John Cooper, Sr. names (married) daughters Dolly Gray, Mary Ward, Sarah Glascoe/Glasgow and Elizabeth Heath in his will, October 1794. I find no record of these daughters in deeds, etc., of Halifax Co., it appearing from preliminary searches in records of Currituck Co. that they married there and remained there. In this regard, I believe daughter Elizabeth equates with the wife Elizabeth named in the will of Robert Heath, 25 January 1795, Currituck Co., esp. since he willed to her a "note of 50 pounds due from Isles Cooper" (encl. 13-26); daughter Mary, furthermore, is possibly the wife and executor named by Jonathan Ward in his will of 20 May 1791, Currituck Co. (encl. 13-27);
daughter Dolly evidently equates with "Dolly Cochran" whose will, 7 November 1819, Currituck Co., names, among several other children, a son "John Gray," i.e., it appears she married first Mr. Gray and later Mr. Cochran (encl. 13-31); and daughter Sarah is evidently the wife named by William Glasgow in his will 14 August 1805, Currituck County, whose children included "John C. [Cooper??]" Glasgow (encl. 13-32).

A further very exciting document (based on preliminary searches in Currituck Co. records) is the will of Isles Cooper, 13 July 1762 (proved July 1763), planter by occupation, who names a son John (his only son?) and daughter Elizabeth, wife of William Ferebee. Isles also mentions his wife Sarah and a legatee William Brock Wilson (encl. 13-22). I believe at this preliminary stage that Isles Cooper (d. 1762/3) is the father of your John Cooper, Sr., ergo the question -- just who is the William Brock Wilson named in his will?? Was William Brock Wilson his wife's child by an earlier marriage? That appears to be the case as per the will of Caleb Wilson, 1754, Currituck Co., who names, among others, a son William and wife and executrix Sarah (one and the same as Sarah wife of Isles Cooper in 1762/3??) And was her maiden name Brock?? Of course there is a lot of plowing to do in Currituck Co. records before I can firm this all up.

This concludes my report. It is a pleasure to serve you in establishing your ancestral Cooper lineage which is emerging nicely despite the fact that marriages of Currituck and Halifax Cos. are largely missing, and that other seminal records appear to have burned. It is my hunch the Coopers came into the Carolinas from VA -- very strong indications based on migratory patterns studied this period. So we undoubtedly have many further exciting "finds" ahead!

Sincerely,

Gerald M. Haslam
Assoc. prof. of history

ENCLOSURES.
INTERIM REFLECTIONS ON CHARLES ZANCO, THE LONE DANE AT THE ALAMO

by Gerald M. Haslam, PhD, AG, FUGA

In 1993 while visiting the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, I noticed “Charles Zanco of Denmark” on the list of those who had perished there in the famous battle of 1836. Zanco was the only Dane to die at the Alamo, and subsequent cursory research revealed that he wasn’t entirely forgotten. He had supposedly designed the flag which flew over the Alamo and was pulled down, finally, after the walls of the old structure had been breached, by Lt. José Maria Torres “who . . . scaled the Alamo flagpole during the battle and replaced the Texas flag with the Mexican flag.” Torres was killed a few moments later, and in my mind’s eye I envisioned Zanco himself firing the fatal shot which felled the renegade who was desecrating his flag, before being himself trampled under an avalanche of 5000 charging Mexicans dressed in blue uniforms edged with red.

Other bits of trivia suggested themselves in highly romanticized versions of the battle. One of these was by Lenoir Hunt, writing from the vantage point of 1938, 202 years after the fact. She pictured private William Irvine Lewis from Wales begging “the big Dane, Lieutenant Charles Zanco, for a chew,” and whispering [sic], “It’s tough to fight Mexicans without your coffee and tobacco, too!” against the horrific background of Mexican bombardments and the “answering roar of Texan cannon.”¹ After Santa Anna’s minions butchered Zanco and 189 other veterans of the thirteen-day siege, their “bodies were stripped and thrown into a heap” before being tossed onto carts and wheeled outside the walls. There the corpses were dumped onto piles of wood and branches, and more wood and branches heaped up and saturated with oil. Somebody moved in with a flaming grease torch and lit the pile. By sunset, only ashes remained, and as “the fires rose over the funeral pyres, consuming the bodies of the defenders, to at least one Alamo hero,” namely Zanco, “the similarities to a ‘Viking Funeral’ would have been unmistakable.”²

Zanco’s Role at the Alamo

Numerous accounts state that Zanco was born at Randers, Denmark, in 1808, and that after the death of his mother about 1834, he and his father came to Texas and settled in Harris County. According to several web postings, the Zancos were farmers, but young Charles was also a painter who in the fall of 1835 joined with other

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volunteers at Lynchburg for service in the Texas Revolution. He helped design the company flag “which featured a painted star and the controversial legend, ‘Independence’” against a solid field of blue, becoming “the first person ever to paint a Lone Star on a Texan flag.” This flag, aka Capt. Scott’s Flag, “was carried at the battle of Conception and the siege of Béxar.”

Because of Zanco, the Danish flag joins those of several other nations in a corner of the Alamo chapel near a stone tablet which lists his name, always the last on any alphabetical listing. In 1980, the resident cat at the Alamo, a foundling dubbed Ruby Le Gato (Ruby the Cat) by Daughters of the Republic of Texas, gave birth to several kittens (fathered by Rue “Pepe” La Gato) “weighing approximately six ounces each” and named Susanna Angelina, Barret Butler, Gerrudres Juanita, Zanco McGregor, Bowie Crockett and Micajah Galba. Zanco is further commemorated by shooting enthusiasts on the Island of Falster, Denmark, who gather each spring for the “Charles Zanco memorial pistol and rifle frolic” while, somewhat concurrently, members of the Newton, Iowa, Buck Crik [sic] Muzzleloaders hold forth with resounding volleys, each group shooting in the general direction of fellow clubbers halfway across the world. Two members of the Danish team both named John Jensen are differentiated as John “Doc” Jensen and “Big John” Jensen. The group with the most points in several rifle and pistol competitions wins the coveted trophy which has crisscrossed the Atlantic several times.

In actuality, Zanco fought in two Alamo battles in and around what is now San Antonio. The first was the “Siege and Battle of Béxar” referring to the city’s Spanish name of San Antonio de Béxar or simply Béxar. It is also called in some histories the Siege and Battle of San Antonio in contradistinction to the Battle of the Alamo, and was waged “between about 300-500 Texas Volunteers and about 1,400 Mexican soldiers, and resulted in the surrender of the Mexicans” in October 1835. Leading up to the conflict, Mexican dictator General Antonio Lopez

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9 John Christensen posting, n.d., Ancestry.com (printed 1/21/04); <www.vikingfest.com/winningessays-2002.html> (printed 1/21/04); <www.texancultures.ursa.edu/publications/texansonde.dall danmark.html> (printed 1/21/04). One of Zanco’s most ardent fans in Denmark was Kai Andersen who as a young man in his twenties portrayed Zanco in 1980 at an historical reenactment beneath the Alamo walls. A description of that event in the August 1985 *American Dane Magazine*, official publication of The Danish Brotherhood in America headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, maintained that Charles Zanco’s first twenty-six years “were spent uneventfully among the farmers and small land holders of his family” and that in 1835, the year after he emigrated from Denmark, young Charles settled in Harris County, Texas, near Lynchburg, “a tiny settlement and ferry crossing where Buffalo Bayou enters the San Jacinto River in present Harris County.” It was there that Zanco joined a militia unit of thirty men under Captian William Scott. Scott, a former Kentuckian and by then a member of Austin’s Colony, had “offered to equip anyone willing to fight for the cause of Texas against Mexico [with] a good horse with saddle and bridle, a gun and a suit of clothes.” Scott subsequently approached his second lieutenant James McGahy with “four yards of blue silk” which McGahy took to Fanny Lynch, wife of Nathaniel Lynch who ran the local ferry and after whom the settlement received its name, asking her to reinforce it “with a piece of cotton domestic.” It was McGahy who asked Zanco to paint a design on the flag, the five-pointed star, “after which Zanco stepped back, supposedly saying, ‘That looks naked. Let me paint something under it.’” McGahy suggested the word “Independence” and Texas soon had a revolutionary flag. McGahy himself in a slightly different account written in 1876 recounted that “at my suggestion, Charles Lanco [sic], an Italian, painted thereon a lone star, and beneath the star the word INDEPENDENCE.” The flag flew over the Battle of Conception, afterwhich McGahy gave it to Thomas Bell, “a member of Fannin’s command, the bravest of the brave, who assured me it should never be disgraced. He was a planter, living on the los Brazos or San Bernard. I have never seen him since.” The flag ignited a controversy between Texans who argued that they should fight for their rights as citizens of Mexico, and equally vociferous patriots clamoring for outright independence. When volunteers from nearby Harrisburg heard about the Independence Flag, they “threatened to shoot any man who would raise such” a banner, but the following day “when the new flag was unfurled over the banks of the San Jacinto River,” the Harrisburgers “could not help but cheer along with the Lynchburg men as one of Texas’ first ‘Lone Star’ flags was raised.” Ibid.

4 <www.falsterside.dk/zanco.htm> (printed 1/21/04); <www.storyhouse.org/lucille1.html> (printed 1/21/04). Ruby the cat died in 1986 and was buried on the Alamo grounds under a stone on which was carved a Texas flag.
de Santa Anna had dispatched his brother-in-law General Martín Perfecto de Cos to San Antonio the summer of 1835 “with orders to expel American settlers and arrest those rebels who were stirring up rebellion in Texas.”

William R. Carey, first Texas commander at the Alamo who arrived in Texas that eventful summer of 1835, wrote his family back in Virginia on 12 January 1836 describing San Antonio de Béxar as “an ancient Mexican fort & Town divided by a small river which emanates from Springs. The town has two Squares, ... one a military and the other a government square. The Alamo or the fort as we call it, is a very old building, built for the purpose of protecting the citizens from hostile Indians.” Carey recounted events of the Battle of Béxar — two thirds of the Texas volunteers decided that fortifications at the Alamo erected by Cos’s troops were too formidable to be breached, but about “150 of us declared to take the place or die in the attempt, while a large number of them [the naysayers] endeavored to discourage us and said we would all be butchered.” Zanco was among those who marched on the Alamo “under the heavy fires of their [Mexican] cannon & musketry” and secured some old stone houses outside one of the squares. “The street battle continued on a house to house basis for two days” as “slowly but surely the ragtag army proceeded to gain ground.” Unaccustomed to street warfare, the Mexicans retreated into the fortified Alamo but not before 200 of their number deserted. The volunteers then bombarded the Alamo walls with cannon fire until Cos, having lost an additional 150 or more of his men, raised a white flag of truce on 9 December.

Early next morning, Colonel Burleson negotiated terms of the Mexican surrender underwhich Cos relinquished “all public property, money, arms and ammunition, and supplies in San Antonio” and agreed to never again fight against Texans. After Cos and his troops retreated south of the Rio Grande, most of the Americans disbanded and returned to their homes and farms. Zanco and a few others however wintered at the Alamo, preparing it for the inevitable assault which broke out on 23 February and lasted thirteen days through 5 March 1836. Zanco and company would no doubt have agreed with Carey that Texas troops were fighting a government which wished “to establish Centralism or rather military despotism, a government that is repugnant to the principals of free born Americans.” As an artilleryman at the Battle of Béxar and having “discharged his duty ... in a faithful manner” according to Lt. Col. James Clinton Neill, Zanco was promoted to lieutenant and named assistant chief of ordnance.

5 Santa Anna focused on San Antonio and the Alamo situated aside one of “two main roads” leading into Texas from the Mexican interior. The first or Aracosoito Road, led from Matamoros on the Rio Grande northward through San Patricio, Goliad, Victoria, and finally into the heart of Austin’s colony. The second road or Old San Antonio camino real, wound across the Rio Grande at Paso de Francia (San Antonio Crossing), thence northeastward through San Antonio de Béxar, Bastrop, Nacogdoches, San Augustine, and across the Sabine into Louisiana. “Two forts blocked these approaches into Texas: Presidio La Bahia ... at Goliad and the Alamo at San Antonio. Each installation functioned as a frontier picket guard, ready to alert the Texas settlements of an enemy advance.” Thorn Hatch, *Encyclopedia of the Alamo and the Texas Revolution* (Jefferson, North Carolina, and London, England: McFarland and Co., 1999), 141-3; “Alamo, Battle of The” Handbook of Texas Online, <www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/A/Alsea2.html> (printed 9/30/05).


7 The number of soldiers, Zanco included, at the Alamo garrison would eventually reach thirty-one, not including Neill who days before the battle was compelled to return home to Bastrop to his family, all of whom had been stricken with fever. “There was great regret at his departure by all the men,” reported Green Jameston, “though he promised to be with us in 20 days at the furthest.” The fall of Béxar had brought recognition to Neill, but would prove a hollow victory. Even with the windfall of twenty unmounted cavalary artillery pieces which would comprise the bulk of the Alamo arsenal, he and his troops had been placed “in an almost impossible position” by General Frank Johnson’s appeasement of newly arrived volunteers from the United States clamoring “for high adventure and quick wealth” who, “having found little of either around Béxar, ... fell easy prey to extravagant tales of plentiful pesos and brown-eyed beauties in Matamoros” deeper in the interior. Johnson appointed himself commander of “an expedition against Matamoros of Five hundred and thirty men” and in a letter of 3 Jan. 1836, explained that he had left behind only a hundred men under Lt. Col. Neill to hold San Antonio and the Alamo. In so doing, Johnson had signed their death warrants: “What Cost had been unable to achieve with 1,200 men, Johnson now expected them [Neill] to accomplish with 100. The two Texian commanders were aware that such a meagre compliment would not maintain both the fort and the town and that “Cos’s attempt to hold both in large measure been his undoing.” Daughters of the Republic of Texas, comps., *The Alamo Long Barracks Museum; Convento, Portrait, Museum* (Dallas, Tex.: Taylor Publishing Co., 1986), 27; Stephen L. Hardin, “J. C. Neill: the forgotten Alamo commander,” <www.ospreypublishing.com/content2.php?cid=67x> (printed 9/30/05); Stacy Anderson, *University of North Texas*, to Karen Bek, Randers, Denmark, 24 Oct. 2000, Sandsad@library.unt.edu; see also Certificate of 15 Oct. 1855 by J. C. Neill, Commander in Chief of Artillery, and Edward Burleson, Commander in Chief of the Army: “This is to certify that Charles Zanco has served as an Artilleryman in the Volunteer Army of Texas since 1st October and that he has discharged his duty as such in a faithful Manner under my command”; also certification by Ben F. Hill, Adjutant General, Adjutant General’s Office, Austin, 9 Apr. 1851: “I certify that the name of Charles Zanco appears on the list of names of those who fell in the Alamo at San Antonio de Béxar on the 6th day of March 1836. Date of enlistment not given”; Daughters of the Republic of Texas, comps., *Muster Rolls*
"The Alamo contained a large and valuable collection of cannon, and the lack of means to carry them away was one of the factors that led to the decision to defend, rather than destroy and evacuate, the fortress." That cache of ordnance was also the main reason the defenders were eventually able to hold out for thirteen days against Santa Anna's overwhelmingly superior force. "Santa Anna's decision to [finally] storm the Alamo before the arrival of his heavy siege guns" also contributed to a lopsidedly heavy number of Mexican casualties, since had he patiently waited a few more days, he "could have used the siege guns to pound the Alamo into submission, rather than take it by storm." The most famous field gun manned by the defenders was the eighteen-pounder "mounted in the southwest bastion" which had been left in Brazoria in 1832 "by a ship that needed to lighten its load in order to cross a sandbar" and was hauled to the Alamo from San Felipe de Austin via Dimmitt's Landing, arriving a few days after Cos surrendered.

Another piece of ordnance which Zanco helped maneuver was the nine-inch "Pedrero gun" with its "light, thin-walled barrel, designed to fire stones rather than iron shot." The defenders also commanded a Spanish sixteen-pounder, "and an iron twelve-pounder that Lindley calls a 'gunade', in addition to two iron 8-pounders, six 6-pounders, three iron 4-pounders, one other 4-pounder, two 3-pounders, two smaller brass guns, and one iron gun of unknown size." Most were on field carriages although "the three at the rear of the chapel are believed to have been on garrison carriages." The cannon "were fired much like a musket. First, the charge of black powder was rammed down the barrel. The powder was generally premeasured and sealed in a bag of flannel, serge, or sometimes, paper. . . . To anchor the powder, a wad of hay, straw, or oakum was rammed down on top of it. The projectile was rammed down last. This could be solid shot with a sabot attached, an exploding shell, or an antipersonnel round such as grapeshot, cannister, or case shot." Once loaded, the piece was primed "by filling the touch hold with fine, loose powder" whereupon the gun was fired "by touching a piece of smoldering wick" or slowmatch "which burned like a flare, to the priming charge." After firing, the barrel "had to be carefully cleaned out and damp sponged to be sure that no sparks or other debris remained in the barrel. Failure to do so could have disastrous consequences."8

And was the flag which supposedly flew over the Alamo during the nearly two weeks of combat, really the one painted by Zanco? The truth is that the Americans raised several flags aloft during the battle, and no reliable account proves that Zanco's was one of them. Santa Anna subsequently sent home the 45x34" flag of the First Company of New Orleans Greys, of silk with metallic gold fringes depicting the American eagle astride a banner proclaiming "God and Liberty." That may have been the flag Lt. José María Torres of the Zapadores Battalion was attempting to take down when he was killed although "modern photos of the flag show that it is clean, with no signs of battle damage." The ensign most commonly associated with the Alamo is the red, white and green tricolor upon which the Mexican Eagle is replaced by the date "1824" signifying loyalty to the Mexican Constitution of that year, first mentioned as having flown over the Alamo by Reuben Potter in the January 1878 Magazine of American History. Other flags which may have been unfurled over the Alamo were the "Sequin Flag" associated with Tejano members of the Alamo garrison—a Mexican tricolor with two gold stars in the white center "in place of the Mexican Eagle" representing the Mexican states of Coahuila and Texas; and a white flag with the words

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Texas documents leading to father and St. Louis documents on father

Several years after Zanco died, the State of Texas granted thousands of acres of land in the counties of Delta, Hopkins, Harris, Lamar and St. Augustine, to his heirs. But there was only a single surviving inheritor by 1852, the year all of the paperwork was finally completed, namely Frederick Zanco, Charles's ailing father—probably in his seventies or eighties, a resident of St. Louis, Missouri. The certificate reads: "Be it known that... before the undersigned a Commissioner of Deeds for the State of Texas, dwelling in the State and City first aforesaid [St. Louis], in proper person came Frederick Toedter, and Constantine Fritsch, residents of the City aforesaid who are well known to me and who are persons of respectability and credibility and who after having been sworn say on oath as follows to wit That they well know Frederick Zanco, at present a resident of the City of Saint Louis and have known him at intervals for more than twenty years and that he is the father of Charles Zanco, now deceased who lost his life in the Texan Army in the year A.D. 1836, during the Texan war of Independence as the informants have for the last sixteen years ever heard and fully believed. Deponents further state that the said Charles Zanco, deceased, was a native of the Kingdom of Denmark in Europe, and that the said Charles who was for some time prior to and till the year 1835 personally Known to deponents was never married and that there are now living no brothers or Sisters of the said Charles nor are there living any descendants of deceased brothers or sisters of the said Charles deceased, and that the said Frederick Zanco is the sole surviving heir at law of his said son, the said Charles Zanco, deceased, and further that the mother of the said Charles Zanco died in Europe more than eighteen years since And further the deponents say not. Signed Constantine Fritsch, F Toedter. Sworn to and subscribed before me in the City of Saint Louis as witness my hand and official seal, this twenty ninth day of November A.D. 1852. [SIGNED] S. J. Levi, Commissioner of Deeds for Texas, in St. Louis, Missouri."
What are we to make of this document? All of the secondary accounts in various histories both printed and online claim that the elder Zanco and his son, Charles, immigrated to the U.S. after the wife and mother died in Denmark in 1834. But the St. Louis affidavit of heirship claims Fritsch and Toedter had known the older Zanco "at intervals for more than twenty years," meaning at least since 1832. Secondary accounts also claim that prior to enlisting in the cause of the Texas War of Independence, Zanco and father resided in Harris County, Texas. But the heirship document states that Fritsch and Toedter had known the younger Zanco for some time prior to and until 1835, strong indication the Zancos, father and son, first came to St. Louis about 1832 and that from there, in 1835, Charles headed out for Texas alone.11

German context in St. Louis

Within a year of vouching for Frederick Zanco, both Fritsch and Toedter were dead: Fritsch died 10 March 1853 at age 27 of phthisis (TB); Toedter exactly five months later on 10 August 1853, age 42, of bilious fever (liver ailment). Both were buried in St. Louis’s Holy Ghost cemetery which served members of Die Unabhängige Deutsche Evangelische Protestantische Gemeinde der Kirche zum Heiligen Geist or Independent German Evangelical Protestant Congregation of the Church of the Holy Ghost on "Gravois Road three miles west of the courthouse and just east of Grand." Land for this cemetery had been purchased in November 1846 and was commonly called "Picker’s Cemetery" after one of the German ministers. (The last burial there was in 1902, after which all remains were transferred a few hundred meters down the street to Gatewood Memorial.) The Church of the Holy Ghost was not what one would describe as Lutheran—although salvation through grace was a major tenet of its adherents’ theology, it was more of a fundamentalist body which clung to the German language throughout most of the Nineteenth century long after other German congregations had switched to English.12

Fritsch must have suffered horribly as witness the estate inventory which lists a mattress and various bedcovers "ruined" during his last illness. The fact that he was such a young man calls into question the accuracy of the bonafides that he and Toedter had known Zanco, Sr., at intervals over a twenty-year period, although Fritsch could have come to America as a child. His will written in German bequeathed his estate to siblings who, with the exception of a brother Rudolph who was a merchant in St. Louis, resided in Silesia (currently part of Poland). Fritsch, by occupation a skin-dresser or tanner, a stench-filled, messy occupation treating often partly decaying animal hides, had a personal worth in today’s equivalency of about $12,000.

Toedter on the other hand was heavily in debt without substantial assets; and the probate clearly indicates he was a carpenter whose shop was piled high with kegs of nails, 3000 pine shingles, 264 board feet of white pine planks, latches, deadlocks, screws, sandpaper, window framing materials, glass, and a wood saw. Toedter’s home place consisted of "a two story brickhouse, containing three rooms and garret, a brick building used as kitchen, one story high, sixteen by fourteen feet, and stable built with boards one and a half story high, twelve by

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September Term 1851, sold on 2 Dec. 1851 according to law "a certificate for one third of a league of land being the headright certificate granted to decedent [Zanco] by the Adjutant General and the Commissioner of the General Land Office of the State of Texas No. 37 dated April 8th 1851, also the land upon the same may be located as well as all grants of land to be made by virtue thereof by the Government of Texas to the said Chas. Zanco." Castanie had posted notice on 8 Oct. 1851 and twice thereafter, that he proposed selling Zanco’s property at auction to the highest bidder. On 4 Nov. 1851, the high bid by William R. Baker who offered thirty-three dollars for the land, was duly recorded. That same day, Castanie sold to Baker "a donation land certificate for 640 acres No. 267 Dated March 15, 1851 also the land upon which the same may be located"; Delta Co., Tex., Deeds, bk A, 604. This means is that more than a year before the elder Zanco sold his son’s bounty lands in Texas to Benjamin P. Brown of Virginia, the charlatan Castanie had already sold two significant chunks of the same property to William R. Baker. Baker’s title to the lands was eventually nullified, but only after it had gone through several unsuspecting owners.

11 The mother died in Europe which means the two Zanco came to America without her, perhaps disembarking at New Orleans which in those days served as the gateway to St. Louis further up the Mississippi. (No Zanco or variant surname appears on New Orleans custom lists, but there are known gaps in the collection.)

12 St. Louis Co., Missouri, Death Records (9 Nov. 1846-30 Jan. 1859), no. 3597, FHL 1433234, item 2, for Fritsch’s demise; Ibid, no. 3862, for Toedter’s St. Louis City Death Records, 1850-1908, vol. B, 224, FHL 2308257, item 3, for Fritsch’s nativity, Germany, and age, also online at Ancestry.com; and vol. C, 54, FHL 2308256, item 1, also online, for Fritz Toedter’s age, cause of death, and nativity, Germany.
fourteen feet, erected and builded by Frederick Toeder deceased with the consent of Frederick Garsie on [a] lot of ground situate and lying in the City of St. Louis leased by said Toeder on the 10th August 1847 from Anthony Robinson by indenture of lease bearing even date . . . which said lease was sold, assigned and set over, by said Toeder and wife to Garsie by deed.” Jacob Rothenbúcher and Heinrich Grossenhepper appraised the estate; creditors included Heinrich Derker, Charles F. Blattau, and Christopher Tegtmeyer, the last-named having loaned, on 5 February 1851, $200 in the presence of Christian Laumann and Bernard Timmelmann, to Toeder who at the time lived “on 7th street between Park Avenue & Rutger’s street” which places him in the Soulard neighborhood on land sloping gradually east towards the Mississippi. Indeed the Soulard neighborhood “attracted large numbers of German-Americans” in the 1830s who built several breweries, including Eberhard Anheuser’s Bavarian Brewery and Adam Lemp’s Western Brewery “which later became the City’s leading brewers.” German immigrants in this part of St. Louis “resided in row houses or ‘half’ houses built on both streets and alleys”; half houses on the narrow lots “were built with steep roofs pitched in one direction for quick drainage of rainwater,” mostly of brick, two stories high, abutting right up to the sidewalk since “the land owners were trying to get the maximum number of houses on the land, resulting in an abnormally high density of population among the laboring classes.” The design was simple Greek Revival. Crowded directly on the Mississippi shoreline, Soulard looked across the river to two large sand bars which had evolved into “Duncan’s and Quarantine Islands” near the opposite Illinois shore such that by 1845, Duncan’s Island “threatened to block off the St. Louis levee from the river channel.” Standing on the riverbank at night, one could hear the haunting screams emitted through the escapements of scores of paddle steamers “while others had a heavy, deep sound or growl.”13

Exhaustive searches over the past several years have failed to turn up further mention of Frederick Zanco after the 1852 affidavit. Whether he died in St. Louis is open to question. He does not appear in the 1855-1908 register of deaths, but compliance with registration in those years was only about sixty percent and the elder Zanco, alone without family connections, may have slipped through the cracks. The fact he does not appear in St. Louis directories during the years 1836-52 again probably indicates he was past his working prime and had no need of being listed amongst those plying a trade. With the sale of his son’s bonyard lands in 1852, he was well-situated for life financially. A “Ferderick Sancor” on the 1840 Missouri census of Washington County, within a day’s journey of St. Louis at the time, is probably not our Frederick as Washington County enumerations show persons

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13 Fittch’s personal items of clothing included several undershirts and vests, a blue linen shirt, 2 pair linen pants, linen jacket, 2 pair cloth pants, hat and cloak, silver watch, rocking chair and trunk. Gerhard O. Kalb was executor. Wife Caroline was Toeder’s sole heir. Their tiny apartment housed a table and table cover, black walnut sofa, sewing stand with small bureau, clock, kitchen cupboard of black walnut, queen anne, bottles, glasses, three pictures worth ten cents each, six chairs, candle stick and two lamps, bedstead including feather coverlet, pillows and curtains, curtains on the windows, ten flower pots, several wash tubs and a barrel, 2 smoothing irons, large copper kettle, small bedstead and bedding next to a large chest and wall stove under two lengths of stovepipe. Inhabitants of Soulard would have had front-row seats to the ill-fated White Cloud disaster of 1849 when a steamer docked at the foot of Cherry Street "near the northern boundary of the business portion of the city" caught fire, escaped its moorings and "bore slowly south, down with the current, setting fire to twenty-two other steamers lying moored to the shore below her.” The conflagration spread ashore to a commission house, flames leaping hundreds of feet in the air “from building to building sweeping everything on the levee for four blocks.” By the time dynamiters stopped the blaze in its tracks by blowing up a row of houses in its path, it had raged nearly twelve hours, claimed three lives and “450 houses, twenty-three steamers, nine flatboats and barges, the Republican, Revelle and Evening Gazette printing offices, the post-office, three banking houses and property amounting to $2,750,000” or close to sixty million dollars at today’s prices; St. Louis Genealogical Society, St. Louis and St. Louis County, Missouri, Probate Records, vol. II, 1849-1867 (St. Louis, Missouri: St. Louis Genealogical Soc., 1990), 18 (will bk. E) for Fittch; 20 (will bk. E), for Toeder; also probate packet 3944, “Fittch, Constantine,” online, Missouri State Archives; packet 4023, Toeder, Ibid.; Norbury L. Wayman, “History of St. Louis Neighborhoods,” <http://stlouis.missouri.gov/neighborhoods/history> (printed 10/4/05); “St. Louis Street Index,” <http://www.spl.lib.mo.us/locstudy/stlouis/stlouistoad.htm> (printed 10/2/05); “Steamboating on the Mississippi: St. Louis’ Riverboat Heritage”; <www.usgenweb.org/usa/mo/stcountystlouis/steamboat.htm> (printed 10/2/05). “The average life of a [steam]boat was about five years. After that they were either torn up to build a more modern boat, or had sunk or blown up.” Need I tell you,” said one old-timer, “that in one bend in the river there lie the wrecks of one hundred and three steamboats between St. Louis and Cairo”! Between 1810 and 1820, “the population of St. Louis increased 228 percent” and doubled again between 1835 and 1840, “and again by 1845” — “in ten years St. Louis went from half to twice the size of Pittsburgh.” The first wave of German immigrants arrived in the 1830s — whereas in 1833 only eighteen German families lived in St. Louis, some four years later it had about 6000 German inhabitants. German guidebooks described the St. Louis area as “the American Rhinelan” such that “by 1850, 43 percent of all St. Louisans were born in either Ireland or Germany,” and by the eve of the Civil War, St. Louis would lead the United States “in percentage of its foreign-born population.”
surnamed "San Lancier" and "Sancier" at only a two-page remove. (See also the "Frederick Sankey" household referenced that year in St. John, Franklin, Missouri.) Searches in Latter-day Saint databases, specifically Denmark and German Vital Records and the International Genealogical Index, show no likely references to Charles's/Carl's birth/christening, although the German context would tend to obviate patronymics.

Discussion of traditional Danish origins

John Richardson of the Alamo Education Department in an undated response to a query (ca. September 2005) expresses "confusion over the name of Charles Zanco" since "Charles is not commonly found in Denmark" and "Karl or Carl would be much more likely," along with Zanco not being a Danish surname. "Mikal Nicolajsen," Richardson continues, "has done some research in the area in which Zanco was supposedly born (near Randers) and concluded he "was born in a village called Albaek and christened Carl Frederik Sancho." Richardson terms this "an educated guess" but is clearly unable to state just how Nicolajsen arrived at his information "because he [Nicolajsen] mentions... he was unable to locate either name in the local church books."

Possible German origins

Although the surname "Zacho" appears in a few cases in Randers County, in the opinion of this accredited genealogist (Danish) and associate professor of family history with Danish emphasis since 1981, Nicolajsen's conjectures are ludicrous and without basis, including the theory of small landholding or agricultural origins which I believe are strongly contraindicated by small town artisanal ones. The surname more probably derives from the German "Sankow" in the vicinity of Hamburg (ancestors in Buxtehude) alluded to in the highly reliable Deutsches Geschlechterbuch (vol. 11 and 12) with its extensive geographical coverage, and the fact that in 1808, purported year of the younger Zanco's birth, Schleswig-Holstein (see maps on pages 150 and 151) was under Danish dominion (until 1864); although foreshortening of the Polish "Zankowski" (son of Zankow) or corruption of the variant "San(g)kuhl" (sand pit) cannot be discounted. At the very least the saga of the lone Dane at the Alamo is a continuing one which increasingly points toward his being a GERMAN defender at the baptism by fire of just under two hundred souls into the realm of Spirits that Sabbath-day morning of 6 March 1836.14

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