



MISSION OAKS GENEALOGY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 18, Issue 2

April, May June 2008

What fuels such a Lofty enterprise

Wanderlust and Lots of work

By Charles Woolsey

When you started doing your genealogical research, your goals were modest, I am sure. Get my four or five generations together so I will know where my people came from. Submit them to the temple if I am Mormon and then move on with my life. But once you get started it is not that easy. I started that way and ran into a couple of brick walls, so I changed and started another line of the family. This time I found some very interesting persons, Civil War ancestors, Sooners in Oklahoma, persons who went to the gold rush in California. At each turn it made me curious to know more. Thus my travels started, to the civil war battlefields where my ancestors fought. To the area of the old homesteads to see as much as I could how they lived. And to try and guess why they moved on when it appeared they had farms and fine homes where they were. Was it wanderlust as to what was over the next horizon or maybe the opportunity to make more money somewhere else. Although my first Woolsey ancestor left England to escape religious persecution, there seemed to be more to it than that. When he arrived in Holland the Woolsey family went into business and apparently made a nice

living. Why did they leave for America? Same wanderlust, I believe, and opportunity. Once in the new world he raised a family and grew prosperous and died in New York (then New Amsterdam). But some of his children had the wanderlust and moved on to Virginia, and Kentucky. Some of them were preachers, very well known, on the frontier. One Thomas Woolsey has a monument built to him in Kentucky and another, Elijah, was a circuit riding preacher for 60 years. I guess some of the stories they told inspired their children to continue to move on. First into Tennessee, Illinois and Missouri. What seemed to keep them in one place for long was circumstances. The ones in Missouri fought for the south and were left with nothing at the end of the war and they barely survived the next year. Today that same part of the family boasts at least one millionaire. My grandfather moved to Colorado for his health. But sadly left a widow and 6 small children in about a year. But my father grew up, lost everything farming in Colorado and moved on to California. The family had it much better there and raised families and prospered. Maybe those dreams fuel us all.

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AN INVITATION

The Mission Oaks Genealogy Club is a nonprofit organization. It was founded in 1984 to provide education and training for its members and the general public on the techniques, methods, resources and facilities used in the pursuit of genealogical research; to promote the collection and preservation of genealogical historical materials; and to cultivate public awareness of the educational and historical value of genealogical research.

We invite your attendance and membership. Where else can inspiration, knowledge, fellowship and entertainment be found twelve times a year, plus a quarterly newsletter, for only \$12.00? These five big "Ws" have been enlisted to provide you with our vital statistics:

Why do we meet? For learning, sharing, fun and fellowship.

What do we do? ... Hold a variety of monthly meetings to keep our interest and whet our appetites for "fruit" to be garnered from our very own tree of genealogical delights.

When do we meet? ... Every third Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 P. M.

Where do we meet? ... Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, California.

Who may attend? ...Anyone, visitors and new members are always welcome.

We freely admit we have been bitten by the gene-bug and are looking for new people to infect to come in contact with us may be the end of life as we know it. There is no known cure once infection has occurred

HOW TO JOIN

You may join the Mission Oaks Genealogy Club by attending a meeting and paying your dues in person or by sending your Name, address, telephone number and a Check for \$12.00 payable to: Mission Oaks Genealogy Club

MISSION OAKS GENEALOGY CLUB NEWSLETTER

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CLUB MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS

-SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Thursday, March 20

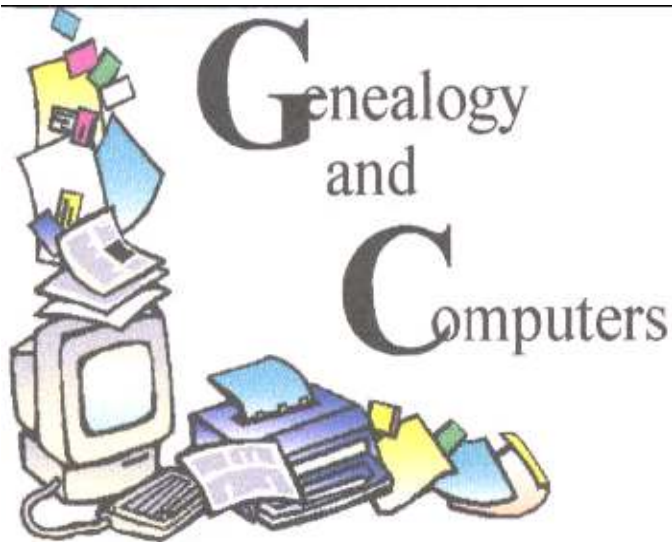
Dr. M. L. Quinn

The Northern Great Plains

Thursday, April 17

Don Redlingshafer

Doing our own Data Archiving



Genealogy and Computers

MOLUB PC Meetings

The Mission Oaks Legacy Users Group (MOLUG) can be another way for you to become more familiar with using a PC computer as an adjunct to your genealogy efforts. Legacy is a computer program that can help you record your genealogical information and manage the results of your genealogical research.

The group meets the first Thursday of each month, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, in the club room of Mission Oaks Senior Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, California. They have step-by-step planned presentations on the use of this commendable software, Come join us. For more information, call Elizabeth Kohler at 916-482-8531

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CLUB MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS	
Thursday May 15	Kay Gayler What you know & Don't know when doing research
Thursday June 18	To Be Determined
Thursday July 17	Susan Jackman Using County Histories

Stories as Survivors

By D. G. Fulford

When I lived in Nevada, there was a flood that washed away entire lives. Whole houses and households were destroyed. Everyday life was drowned.

I spoke to a woman, an engineering professor at a university, who lost most of her possessions. All of her professional files containing years of research, data, knowledge, were gone. So were her clothing, her dishes, her pictures— everything.

Her biggest heartbreak, however was the loss of her family history. Her late mother had collected anecdotes over the years; she wrote some, while family members added others. The stories grew to 250 pages, and this engineer, with her logical bent, kept her sentimental possessions in a drawer in her nightstand so it would be beside her while she slept.

Her mother had died a few years before the flood; all the aunts and uncles had passed on also. Their stories were in the nightstand, though, still a family. Ancestry on paper, ever present like a light on in the hall.

The flood took the nightstand with the rest of the possessions. The rest of the possessions the engineer could live without. “The river could have my clothes,” she said.

The loss of her mother’s stories was too much to bear. She prayed. She asked for her mother’s handwriting back.

“And the river gave it back,” she said.

More than a month after the flood a rancher found the nightstand drawer stuck in his barbwire fence six miles downstream. And in the drawer were the stories that her mother wrote. Her mother’s handwriting, soaked and sodden, but still there.

At times we feel frustrated, trying to write family history. At times we wonder why we’ve even working on the project. At those times, remember this.

Our stories can survive us. Our stories can survive anything. Our families live forever in our stories. **Write them down, write them down.**

PORPOSED BYLAWS CHANGE

It is hoped that this is the desire of the club

The board met after the last meeting and hashed over some ideas to perhaps make the club better and more responsive to the membership. One of the ideas passed around was that we make the term of office two years instead of one. With the amount of membership we have at this point most of the Board members serve for several years. And this would lessen the burden of electing officers each year.

It appears at this point that we will bring this up at the March meeting and it will probably be voted on at the April meeting

Following is the part of the Bylaws that will need to be changed. The words lined out are ones needed to be dropped to facilitate the change and the ones in **Bold** print and words that need to be added.

ARTICLE EIGHT—ELECTIONS

A ELECTION COMMITTEE

Elections take place on odd-numbered years. The **On an election year, the** Executive Boars shall appoint at the MARCH General Meeting an Election committee consisting of five (5) members, and shall designate one (1) member to serve as Election Chairperson. No more than two (2) members of the Election Committee may be selected from the Executive Board.

1. The duties of the Election committee are to review candidates, make and present nominations for the offices of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Publicity officer(s).
2. All matters pertaining to the election of Officers shall be in the hands of the Election Committee by the APRIL General Meeting.
3. Members may submit in writing to the Election Committee Chairperson names of individuals for the Committee's consideration.
4. When an individual is selected for nomination to an office, it is the responsibility of the chairperson of the Election Committee to obtain the acceptance of the nomination from the one selected and his/her agreement to serve if elected.
5. Meetings of the Election committee shall begin no later than the month of MAY each **election** year.
6. Names of the nominees shall be submitted to the Executive Board prior to the JULY Executive Board Meeting.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

7. The Chairperson of the Election committee shall present a slate of nominees each **election** year at the AUGUST General Meeting.

B ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The Election and Installation of the Officers shall take place annually **each election year** at the SEPTEMBER meeting. Nominations for all offices may be made from the floor, providing prior agreement of each candidate(s) has been obtained.
2. Each Officer shall be a member whose dues are current in the Genealogy Club, who is in good standing, and who is willing to serve for ONE year **Two Years**.
3. Terms of Office
 A. All officers of the Genealogy Club shall be elected annually **on each election year** for a term of ONE year **TWO years**.
 B. A year **The term** of office shall begin on the first day of October and end with the last day of September of the following year **following election year**.

Legal Terms in Land Records

By Charles Woolsey

I want you to know at the outset that I am not a lawyer, but have worked with land records for over ten years and have collected a number of terms that appear in deeds, legal proceedings, and probate documents. I have done my best to decode their meanings.

Legal and Other Terms

- *Accession—Adding on, In civil law, the right to all that one's property produces, not just the property itself.
- *Administrator (m)/administratrix (f) - A person appointed by the court to settle the estate of someone who died intestate.
- *Admit—see Copyhold.
- *Ad quod damnum—A writ causing a evaluation of damages that might result from someone's actions. Example: you wish to dam a creek on your land to power a mill. The pond may damage another's land.
- *Adverse Possession—Gaining title to another's land by exercising the rights of ownership of that land unchallenged for a period of time, typically on the order of five to seven years, and doing all that an owner would do, such as paying taxes. See sezin.
- *Alien—to transfer (lands , title) to another.
- *Alienation—A transfer of title or property to another.
- * Allodial—see allodium
- *Alodium—Land owned independently, without rent or other obligation to another. See Freehold Estate. The alodial (also 'sllodial') system is opposed to the feudal system.
- *Appurtenances—Easements, rights of way, or agreements attached to land.
- *Assignee—See assigns. Often seen in conjunction with land warrants which were assigned (sold) to speculators.
- * Assigns—Anyone action on behalf of or in place of the nominal owner. The owner may have transferred or sold his rights to someone else or appointed an attorney to act on his behalf.
- *At will—Terminable by the lord of the manor at any time.
- *Bargain—Mutual agreement among two or more people to exchange or purchase goods.
- *Bargain and Sale Deed—A type of deed in which title is transferred but in which there is usually no guarantee as to the validity of title.

(continued on page 9)

THE YEAR WAS 1922

Ancestry.com

The year was 1922 and the world had entered the radio era. While the first radio broadcast was in 1906, it had taken a while to go mainstream. In the early 1900's radio was for the most part in the hands of curious amateurs. However, with the arrival of WWI, the government shut down amateur radio and operations were largely restricted to military activity. Following the war though, the industry blossomed and in 1922 President Warren G. Harding became the first U. S. president to deliver a message via the new medium. Across the pond in England, six radio manufacturers received a license to form the first radio station in the UD— the British Broadcasting Corporation, or BBC as most people know it.

In Ireland, 1922 marked the beginning of the Irish Civil War. Trouble had long been brewing over the issues of Home Rule, and of course, the division between Protestants and Catholics. After the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 6 December 1921, which established the Irish Free State, pro- and anti-treaty forces erupted in violence in June 1922 and the bloody war would last into May of 1923.

A more positive war was being fought against diabetes when Leonard Thompson became the first person to receive an insulin injection. Prior to this advance, the only method of controlling the disease was through diet, and that usually only worked for about a year.

In Russia, hunger was the enemy. A famine that had begun in the summer of 1921 in the Volga region had reached tragic proportions over the winter. In March, the Washington Post reported the following:

Tangled heaps of frozen corpses, some attacked by starved dogs, sickness, dirt, and cold in the Volga valley are described to Secretary Hoover in a nightmare picture of the famine districts of soviet Russia drawn by Dr. Thomas H. Dickinson, of the American relief administration, in a special report on conditions there

Loses from famine in soviet Russia, ' he said, 'come under the heads of emigration, disease, and death. Emigration from the villages

Now rises to about 30 per cent. Houses are deserted, not a dog, cat, or pig left, with snow bread-ing through the roofs and windows. Smoke comes from the chimneys of not more than half the houses. Traveling on the roads, one comes across pathetic caravans, father, mother, grandparents and samovar. When camel or horse falls sick they leave him to die on the open plain. Sick persons sit on top of the sledges and are taken to town to die.

On sidings everywhere, from Poland to the Urals, are freight cars crowded with refugees. The government had not the locomotives to carry them, so they are waiting.

Disease is general. Swollen bellies of children are so common as to no longer excite remark.....

Diseases are well distributed between summer and winter. Last summer, cholera; this winter, typhus. Russia lost 6,000,000 dead of typhus in 1919, One city of 200,000 lost 45,000, This year will be as bad.

"KNOCKER-UPPERS"

Ancestry Magazine, vol 26/ no. 2

Would you like to have this as your job title, and do you wonder what you would be doing. This is where you find the English language is different over their (UK) than it is here.

Ever wonder how your ancestors made it to an early , early, early morning shift? In the UK, they may have relied on a "knocker-upper" or a "Knocker-up — a person whose job it was to wake up pre-dawn workers. He or she would knock on the doors or windows of workers to roust them out of bed before their shifts began. No word on who would wake the knocker-upper.

PRESERVE YOUR RECORDS

Remember that you have many hours and many dollars in your research. You do not want to lose this information. So make copies and put in a safe deposit box. If you have it on a computer make several backup copies and distribute them to family members or friends whom you know will take care of them. The best bet for survival of you work is make many copies. Surely some will survive.

OBITUARY

Charles Vernon Knuthson

By Robert D. Davila—Sacbee

Charles “Chuck” Knuthson, a retired Roseville police captain and a widely recognized genealogical expert, died Wednesday, He was 61.

He died after a 2 1/2-year battle with colon cancer, said his wife, Paula Knuthson.

Mr. Knuthson joined the Roseville police force in 1973 and was a captain for 20 years. He was project manager for the new headquarters building, oversaw investigations and helped start the youth services division, traffic unit and crime analysis unit. He served briefly as interim police chief in 1991 and retired in 2002.

The Placer county Law enforcement Association awarded him a bronze medal of valor for his actions when a mentally impaired man pulled a gun in the police station lobby in 1995. Unarmed, Mr. Knuthson confronted the gunman and performed CPR on Officer Mark A. White, who was fatally shot by an officer amid confusion as police rushed to the scene.

Mr. Knuthson was respected as a “no-nonsense, take-care-of-business” police officer, chief Mike Blair said, He also was very supportive of colleagues, offering advice on promotions and pitching in on street patrols.

“He would from time to time get in a car and back them up on stops,” Blair said. “He was always willing to roll up his sleeves and get his hands wet.”

As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints, Mr. Knuthson was interested in family roots and became a genealogical expert. He ran a business, California Ancestry Research, tracing family origins and assisting amateur genealogists.

He taught genealogical research at Sierra college and American River College and spoke at genealogy conferences nationwide. He was president of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society for seven years, vice president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

“He liked the investigation work of genealogy,” Paula Knuthson said. “It was like being a detective.”

Charles Vernon Knuthson was born in Chico and grew up in Paradise.

He graduated from high school in 1964 and spent four years in the Army as a Morse code specialist, including 13 months in Vietnam. He joined an ambulance service in Chico before transferring in 1969 to Roseville, where he was a hospital orderly and reserve police officer before becoming a full-time officer.

He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at California State University. He completed the California Peace Officers Standards and Training Command college and graduated from the FBI Academy.

Mr. Knuthson married Merle Thompson in 1969 and had five children. After a divorce, he married Paula Linsley in 1996.

He enjoyed fishing and camping with his family, riding with the Blue Knights motorcycle club of law enforcement officials. He also volunteered weekly at the LDS Family History Center in Sacramento and was a longtime umpire for District 54 Little League in Roseville.

“He was a teacher as a college instructor, an umpire, a police officer, “ Paula Knuthson said. “He was always a leader.”

The National Archives, Which National Archives

By Paula Stuart Warren, CG

I recently saw two different titles that were not clear until I read the introduction to the books. Simply titling something “Research in the National Archives” no longer works. It it the National Archives of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa? Or maybe it is the National Archives of India, Scotland, Cambodia, Japan, Ireland, Kenya, or Norway. Your sister who moved from Pennsylvania to London, England, five years ago has caught the genealogy bug. She tells you she is going to the National Archives. Wow! Is she coming to Washington, D. C. to work on the family? She may mean the UK.

When you talk about a national archives be clear about which one you are referencing. When you cite the source of a document or database, be clear about which national archives it is from— even in the case of a microfilmed report. Don't be the one to send your future great-grandniece to Scotland instead of Hungary, France, or Nigeria after she reads through your old papers. Genealogical writers, researchers, lecturers, bloggers, historians, and cataloguers alike need to pay close attention so we don't cause additional confusion.

THE HOMESTEAD ACT OF 1862

BY Richard Pence

Background

The passage of the Homestead Act by Congress in 1862 was the culmination of more than 70 years of controversy over the disposition of public lands. From the inception of the United States there was a clamor for ever-increasing liberalism in the disposition of these lands. From 1830 onward, groups called for free distribution of such lands. This became a demand of the Free-Soil party, which saw such distribution as a means of stopping the spread of slavery into the territories, and it was subsequently adopted by the Republican party in its 1860 platform. The Southern states had been the most vociferous opponents of the policy, and their secession cleared the way for its adoption.

The Act, which became law on Jan. 1, 1863, allowed anyone to file for a quarter-section of free land (160 acres). The land was yours at the end of five years if you had built a house on it, dug a well, broken (plowed) 10 acres, fenced a specified amount, and actually lived there. Additionally, one could claim a quarter-section of land by "timber culture" (commonly called a "tree claim"). This required that you plant and successfully cultivate 10 acres of timber.

The Homesteaders

New arrivals to the U. S. and landless citizens were obvious candidates for the homestead lands; however, rather than the established farmer, the homesteaders were more likely to be his children seeking a place of their own. My great-grandfather, who was orphaned at an early age, left Maine as a youth and went to Kansas where he proved up one homestead and then returned to Maine, married and went to South Dakota and proved up on a homestead in the 1890's. His ancestors had been in New England since 1630; descendants still live on the homestead.

My paternal grandfather had three second cousins who were born into a large family in Iowa. The three, one a woman, went to North Dakota together and proved up on adjoining homesteads. As well as being a homesteader, she was the school teacher in the township.

As a youth in South Dakota I knew families whose patriarchs came from Norway, Germany and Finland to homestead there. And in this far northern south Dakota Area there was a Black man, said to be the son of a slave, who proved up a homestead which he later sold and then moved to a job in town. (He is buried in the local cemetery in a grave marked by a large monument paid for by fund raisers of the ladies; aid society!) Some, like the third husband of my paternal grandmother's mother, in effect worked for land speculators. He took out a homestead (in a arid

.godforsaken area near the Missouri River) in the 1890's, fairly shortly thereafter mortgaged it with an Iowa insurance company (which apparently loaned him a little more each year) - and as soon as he 'proved up' and received his final certificate, he turned it over to the company and moved on. Such companies often acquired large tracts in this fashion. Meanwhile those on the homesteads lived off the mortgage and what little they could eke from the land.

By the way, there appears to have been 'fudging' on the five-year requirement. In the case of both my great-grandfather Stanley and my great-grandmother's husband, the time from the filing of the initial pre-emption to the date of the final certificate was less than five years, more like four.

Although it remained in effect, with numerous modifications, until repealed in 1977, the Homestead Act was not an unqualified success. The better lands soon came under the control of the railroads and speculators, forcing settlers to buy from them rather than accept the poorer government lands. Even so, by 1900 about 600,000 farmers had received clear title under the act to lands covering about 80 million acres.

Locating Homestead Records

At the time I did my research for homestead records, one needed to know the legal description of the land before the records could be located. That is, section number, township number and range number as they were recorded in that fashion. If you knew the county you could cut down considerably on how much you had to search. If you knew the township, even less searching was required. However, there has been quite a bit of indexing of the land office records since that time and record indexes for most of public land states east of the Mississippi are now available on CD-ROM. In addition to the particulars of each claim, the CD-ROMs contain the necessary reference numbers that you can use to get copies of the actual records. For further information, contact

Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
Attn: Public Services Section
7450 Boston Boulevard
Springfield VA, 22153

(Note that there is generally little information of a genealogical nature in federal land records; however, the record for my great grandfather, Daniel Adelbert Stanley, contained a list of his children with their ages.)

Further Reading

Hibbard, Benjamin, A history of the Public Land Policies, 1965

(continued from page 5)

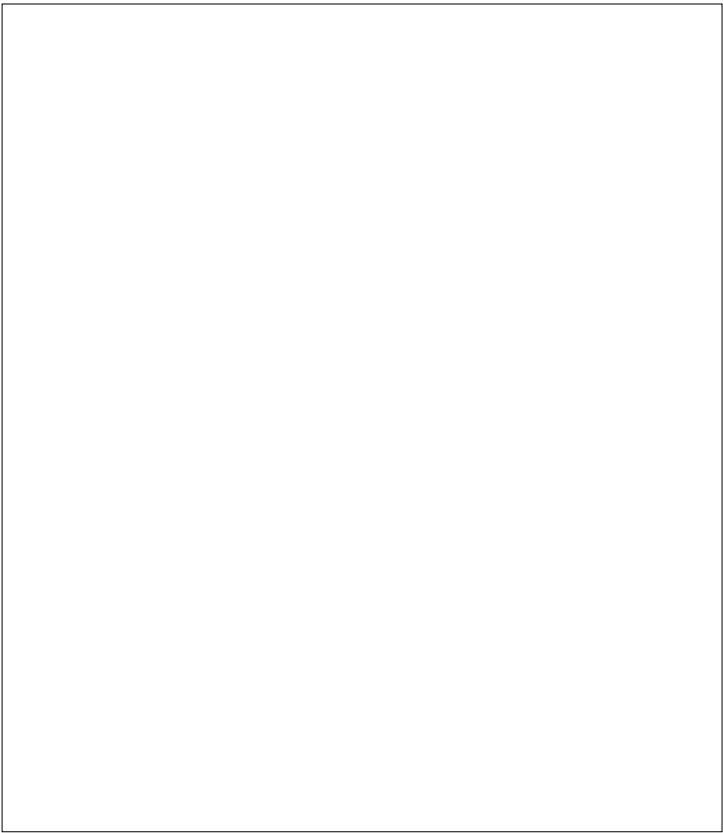
- * Bequest—A gift of personal property made in a will. See also devise.
- * Bond for Deed/Title—A promise to convey land when paid at some point in the future.
- * Burgage— A tenure in which burgesses or townsfolk held hands or tenements of the lord, usually for a fixed rent. In Scotland the term related to tenure in property in the royal burghs.
- * Cadastral Map—land ownership map. Generally used for tax purposes.
- * Caution—In the U. K. , Canada, and elsewhere, a restriction on disposition of property by the registered owner, placed by a person who claims a right on the property in question.
- * Cesser—Failure of a tenant who holds land in return for services to perform those services.
- * Chattel—A tangible, movable article of personal property, as opposed to real property.
- * Claim—See Entry.
- * Collateral—Property put up by someone getting a loan. If they fail to repay the loan, the collateral goes to the person granting the loan.
- * Color of Title—A deed appearing to convey title but in fact not conveying title, either because the grantor did not have title to convey or because the conveyance was flawed in some way.
- * Condemn—the taking of privately owned land for public use by eminent domain. In the U. S. just compensation must be provided for any lands thus taken.
- * consideration—the money (or other property) used to purchase land.
- * Convey—To transfer property or the title to property from one person to another.
- * Copyhold—A tenancy at will that was recorded in a manorial court ownership roll. The lord of the manor maintained the list. Copyholds were not, strictly speaking, inheritable, but were customarily so. The land reverted to the landowner who would then “admit” the heir to the lands of the decedent.
- * Covenant—A stipulation. A promise to do or not do something.
- * Customary Estate—see Copyhold.
- * Decedent—one who has died.
- * Deed—A document giving the holder the title to property. More generally, any document sealing an agreement, contract, etc. The most common types of deeds Bargain and Sale, Quitclaim, and Warranty.

- * Deed of trust—A transfer of property to someone to be held in trust for another. See trust. More specifically, however, deeds of trust are used in a number of states instead of a mortgage to secure a loan. The deed of trust names the trustees in whom title is placed as security against failure to meet the terms of the loan.
- * Deed poll—A deed not indented, that is, a deed made by one party only. See indenture.
- * Deforce—To forcibly withhold property from its rightful owner.
- * Demesne—1) Possession of land as one’s own.
2) The part of an estate worked for the owner.
3) Land adjoining the manor house.
- * Demise—Generally a synonym for ‘lease’, both noun and verb.
- * Devise—A gift of real property made in a will. See also bequest.
- * Dower—A wife’s interest in her husband’s property, inheritable at his death. English probate law set this at 1/3 “Her thirds” was a phrase used for this. In the U. S. it was common for a woman to formally relinquish her dower claim on land sold by the husband. Thus further guaranteed that the property was clear of all obligations. In some areas the lack of a dower relinquishment at the time of sale was proof that the man was single or widowed. See also jointure.
- * Easement—Use of a portion of property for some stated purpose without remuneration. Easements are not estates in that they do not convey ownership, but rather the use of the property in so far as needed for the stated purpose. An example is the easement a city may have to dig up part of your land to repair the water main. Contrast with servitude.

QUERIES

Do you have all the answers to your question about your ancestors? If you haven't and are hitting some brick walls, maybe an answer to a Query posted in this publication might help. You have nothing to lose and it only takes a few minutes to write info on a 3 x 5 card and give it to your editor Charles Woolsey to get it published next quarter. What have you got to lose, give it a try

This is a resource that is many times overlooked. Although we tend to think that our fellow genealogists are not in any way related that is not always true. I have a cousin related to



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