



Volume 19, Issue 1

Jan, Feb, Mar 2009

## Save the Bibles, and other Documents

### Don't allow them to be thrown away

By Charles Woolsey

Save the bibles, is something that is extremely important to Genealogists. For a good part of our history that was the only place many birth, death and other records were kept. Births especially were something that the Counties, Cities and States did not seem to be interested in. Even the early census considered them so unimportant that they only referred to them in several year increments' and by sex. So until 1850 we have little to go on as far as births. The info was sketchy and very frustrating to genealogists. The family bible became the place for those official records and are even accepted today in certain instances where nothing else is available.

I have found two bibles at yard sales this last year and returned them to the owners. This has been a very rewarding experience. Of course it takes some work on your part, sometimes a lot of work. But the way I addressed it was like I would address any other genealogical research. I went to the census and began to look for the family. One of the difficulties you have is that you know nothing but what is in the bible and when you find similar or several same names it becomes a bit more touchy. You have to make

many more cross checks to be sure you have the right family. Then when you have identified the family in the census, the trick becomes how do I find this family know? There are several things you can do at this point. Look for a family tree on Ancestry.com, look at family forums, where persons post messages of people they are looking for. There are several sites on the net where you can post info on bibles you have found and are looking for the family. When you post information, always put basic information, such as the parents names and ask for names and birthdays of the children. Or if all you have is a list of children, indicate the decade they were born in and ask for specific dates. You can also inquire to local historical societies of the area of the census, that is how I found the family of the second bible. The family of the first bible contacted me from Baxter, Kansas and furnished the correct info I returned it to them, they had no clue as how it got to Sacramento CA. As far as they knew they had no family here, but were extremely happy to receive the bible. I was interviewed in a small paper locally about the 2nd bible and include the story later in this newsletter.

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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

Thrusday, Feb 19, 4 P. M.

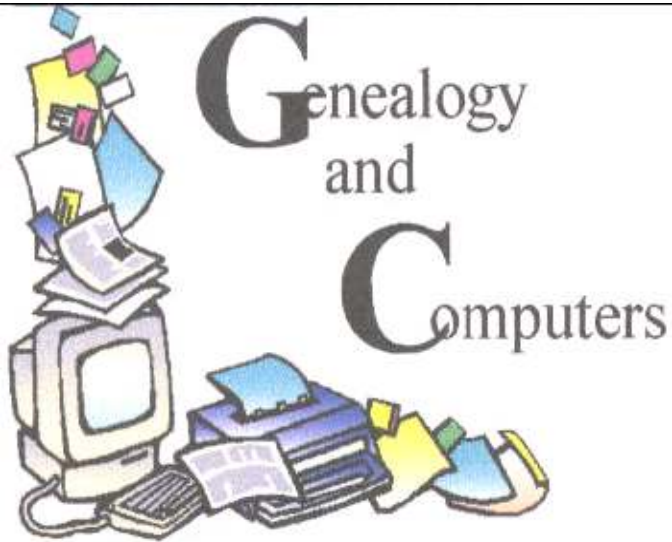
Tour of Family History Center

Thursday Mar 19

Creating Storybooks of

Family History

Linda Mendoza



## 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 Apr 16

Preserving your family history

Pat Johnson

Thursday May 21

Naturalization Rules & Records

Barbara Leak

## DUES ARE DUE

## Nineteenth Century City Life

Linda Rush, Boston Mass.

Have you ever wondered what life was really like for your ancestors? If they were working class people in an American city in the nineteenth century, the book *Challenging Chicago*, by Perry Duis (University of Chicago Press, 1992) will reveal how hard the business of everyday life was for them. For example, we all know that the horse provided transportation for people and goods. The movies give us romantic images of horse-drawn carriages clip-clopping cheerfully along the street. But Duis describes what that meant in real life— streets covered with a semi-frozen slush of manure and snow in winter, muddy manure oozing between the pavestones in spring, and stingy, smelly brown dust covering everything in summer. But people could no more do without horses than we can without the internal combustion engine. A nationwide equine flu epidemic in 1872 killed half the horses, bringing factories to a halt, leaving produce rotting in rail cars, and ushering in an economic panic that lasted two years.

As its title suggests, the book is about Chicago, but in many ways, it paints a portrait of any large city at that time. It covers topics such as housing, work, transportation and food. It describes the shipping options for an urban housewife and the enterprising people who created the “curbstone economy,” buying goods wholesale and selling them to individuals on street corners or door-to-door.

Duis is more historian than popular writer, but his prose is clear and engaging, and he peppers the pages with quotes from writers of the time. I recommend this book to anyone who is curious about urban life in the “good old days..”

## BookFinder.com

Charles Woolsey

BookFinder.com is a one-stop e-commerce search engine that searches over 150 million books for sale— new, used, rare, out-of-print, and textbooks. It saves you time and money by searching every major catalog online, and letting you know which booksellers are offering the best prices and selection. When you find a book you like, you can buy it directly from the original seller; they never charge a markup.

This is by far the best site I have found for finding books for purchase at a good price.

## Family Bible restored to Elverta family

By Charlea Moore

Headline of December 2008 "North County News"

(The following article appeared in this small newspaper and I hope it inspires others to do the same to help preserve our heritage, Charles H. Woolsey)

In a stroke of holiday magic and good fortune a very old family bible was recently restored to the descendants of a historic Elverta family.

The story began with a typical yard sale near Country Club in the Arden-Arcade area in late October. Charles Woolsey had retired from the California State Dept. of flood control and took up genealogy as a hobby. Woolsey enjoys browsing yard sales with an eye out for items of possible historic and genealogical value. He has found that bibles in particular often have extensive dates, births, marriages and deaths listed and so Woolsey felt he had hit a bonanza when opened a shabby bible mixed in with a pile of books and saw a list of names, complete with birth dates. The bible was in German and dated 1857. The folks at the yard sale said it had come from a nearby neighbor's home where someone had passed away. Many times family heirlooms aren't recognized when property must be disposed of and that seems to be the case with the Wolfe family bible. The bible was included in the yard sale where Charles Woolsey had the good luck to not only find it, but to recognize that there might be a chance of finding the family or descendants. The bible itself wasn't in good condition and not valuable as a book but to the Wolfe family it was a priceless heirloom and record of their family's history. The yard sale price of the 1857 German bible was \$1.00.

Woolsey decided to see if he could reunite the bible with the family. Using techniques and methods he had learned in pursuit of his own family history, his search led to an online 1880 census where he found the name of a German immigrant Frederick Wolfe.

The names listed in the bible turned out to be the children of Mary and Joseph Wolfe. Mary's mother, Elizabeth Webber was born in Germany in 1825 and immigrated to the Elverta area in the 1850's. Woolsey made inquiries to local historical organizations and soon was looking through a local history titled Images of America, Rio Linda and Elverta. The book by Joyce Buckland, had many mentions of the Webber, Strauch and Wolfe families.

The search led Woolsey to the Rio Linda/Elverta Historical Society and he contacted the Society President, Bob Bastian. Bastian was very familiar with the Wolfe family history as well as the Strauch and Webber families and as luck would have it, Bernice Strauch Lux is a current member of the Rio Linda/Elverta Historical Society and her name was also listed in the bible.

Bastian passed the information to Bernice Strauch Lux and Mrs. Lux contacted her daughter Marie Lux Reale. Charles Woolsey invited the mother and daughter over to look at the bible. When she saw the bible, Bernice Strauch Lux immediately recognized the handwriting as her mother's - Lena Wolfe Strauch. Lena Wolfe Strauch was the daughter of Mary and Joseph Wolfe and granddaughter of Elizabeth Webber according to the family history and records in the Wolfe family bible.

Bernice Lux and Marie Reale were more than willing to pay Woolsey for his time and trouble in locating them but Woolsey said that the "look on that lady's face" was all the payment he needed. He wouldn't hear of it, especially since he "paid the princely sum of \$1" for the bible at the yard sale. Woolsey has a great deal of satisfaction in the knowledge that the bible and family history has been restored to the proper owners.

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## Miracles Do Happen Today

By Elizabeth (Kohler) Kohler

Merriam –Webster Dictionary defines a miracle as: 1. an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs; 2. an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment; or 3. a divinely natural phenomenon experienced humanly as the fulfillment of spiritual law. However, one wishes to define the two situations that occurred to me in 2008. I, personally, classify both as miracles.

### Miracle #1

The first miracle began in May 2008, when I published my Kohler KornerStone Family History Book. My 1st cousin one time removed, Karen, purchased a copy of the book and e-mailed me to say how much she appreciated my efforts. Karen's next e-mail stated that the book reminded her that she had eight wooden molding planes belonging to her paternal great grandfather (my paternal grandfather), Johannes Kohler, in her basement and would be willing to give me one.

A bit of family history is inserted here to give the reader a better perspective of this miracle. Johannes Kohler was born in Switzerland in 1858 and came to Illinois in 1883. He and my paternal grandmother, Elizabeth, had 13 children. He was a well-known carpenter, and taught his sons the art of carpentry. He died in 1919, and when grandmother died in 1944, her home and all personal belongings were given to one of her daughters, my paternal Aunt Emma. When Aunt Emma died in 1981, all her personal belongings, plus those of my paternal grandfather and grandmother, became the property of her granddaughter, Karen, my 1st cousin one time removed.

From 1982, when I first began my genealogical endeavors, to the present time. I had inquired of Karen, if by chance, she might have anything of genealogical significance belonging to my paternal grandparents. Always her responses were in the negative. The Kohler KornerStone Family History book triggered her memory regarding the wooden molding planes, plus some military papers belonging to Johannes Kohler. Enough family history, now back to Miracle #1.

Now the question was, how to get the wooden molding plane from Illinois to California. Fortuitously, my son and daughter-in-law, Robin and Glenda, were planning a 4-month odyssey traveling the United States in their Toy-Hauler, commencing June 6, 2008. Upon hearing the news regarding the wooden molding plane, they proposed to include a trip to Illinois in their travel plans to visit Karen and family, and bring the wooden molding plane to me, which they did. This particular wooden molding plane is estimated to be at least 100 years old. No trademarks are on the wooden molding plane, so perhaps Johannes made the plane himself. A brief history of Wooden molding planes can be found at the following website:  
<http://www.leevalley.com/newsletters/Woodworking/2/1/newsletter.htm>.

### Miracle #2

My second miracle began on the first Sunday in June 2008. A telephone message from my brother's step-son, Ron, was left on my answering machine. When I returned the call, Ron told me that he had my fathers' shotgun, and would like to return it to my family. I was unaware that my father, Harry Kohler, ever had a shotgun, let alone that it was in the possession of Ron. Ron explained that my brother, Harry 'Bud' Kohler, had given it to him a number of years previously for his collection.

Now the question was, how to return a weapon from southern California to Northern California. Ron was a former Police Chief and was aware of the laws prohibiting the transferring of weapons from one area to another. When shipping via air, FedEx, and UPS proved unavailable methods, Ron enlisted a friend who lived in Palm Springs, California, 6-months of the year and Orangevale, California, the other 6-months, to deliver it to me when he returned to Orangevale in the late June, 2008

Late June 2008 came and went — no shotgun, July 2008 came and went — no shotgun, October 2008 came and went — no shotgun. November 2008 came and went — no shotgun.

At last, on Thursday, December 4, 2008, I received a telephone call from Ron's friend, stating that he was in Orangevale and had the shotgun. We arranged to meet that evening and I took possession of the box in which the shotgun resided.

When my son and daughter-in-law, Robin and Glenda, came over that evening. Robin opened the box and found a letter from Ron, explaining how the shot gun came into his possession. Ron's letter is as follows:

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June 5, 2008

Harry "BUD" Kohler gave me the shotgun in 1965 while both of us Lived in Ventura, California. I do not know how long Bud owned the gun, however, he said it belonged to his Dad.

While restoring the gun, I removed the "butt plate" to get to the bolt

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## THE YEAR WAS 1839

The year was 1839 and on 7 January, Louis Daguerre presented his new invention to the French Academie des Sciences. The daguerreotype was the result of the first practical process by which an image was permanently stored on a metal surface. The field of photography was born and family historians everywhere rejoiced.

The Treaty of London was signed in 1839 splitting Belgium off from the United Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Grand Duchy of Luxemburg also split, with part forming another piece of Belgium. The treaty also stipulated that Belgium remain neutral and the signatory powers of United Kingdom, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia, and the Netherlands signed on to help uphold that neutrality. This stipulation helped fan the fires of World War I. When Germany invaded Belgium in August of 1914, as a signatory power, Britain declared war on Germany.

In the 1830's working-class men still didn't have the right to vote in Britain. In 1838, William Lovett drafted the People's charter, which would give all men the right to vote, would establish annual elections with a secret ballot, and call for payment for Members of Parliament (MPS). In July of 1839, the People's Charter was rejected but those in favor of the Charter were undeterred. In Newport, Monmouthshire, a group of several thousand Chartists marched on the town seeking control. Troops fired into the crowd killing twenty-two people and leaders of the movement were arrested. This brought attention and support to the Chartists movement, but it wasn't until 1884 that the majority of men, twenty-one and older would earn the right to vote.

"the Great Fire of 1839" was actually four large fires in Mobile, Alabama, between 29 September and 9 October. The Republican Compiler of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, reported that:

"A very destructive fire occurred at Mobile on the night of the 7th inst. Which destroyed about 500 houses, amounting in value, to about half a million of dollars, — We are also informed that on the night of the 8th inst. Another fire occurred at the same place, which destroyed. . . A number of other valuable buildings."

Slaves from Sierra Leone revolted on board the ship Amistad in 1839, led by sengbe Pieh, also known as Joseph Cinque. The mutineers killed the captain and ordered the vessel to be sailed towards Africa. The ship was blown into U. S. waters and the Amistad was taken off the coast of Long Island, New York, where the mutineers were arrested. Abolitionists stepped in to aid the prisoners and after several trials a Supreme Court ruling freed them in 1841. From there they toured New England as abolitionists raised funds to ship them home to Sierra Leonne.

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## CLASSES

When you attempt an unfamiliar task, it can be made easier if you can find classes on the subject. I will attempt to list some I am aware of, some free, some not.

### Writing Your Family History Group

2nd Wednesday of each month  
5'30 p. m. to 6:60 p. m.  
Family History Center  
2745 Eastern Avenue  
916-487-2090

Register for this at the history center, it is free. Bring along several copies of stories you have written or attempted to write. You are given suggestions on how to improve what you have written. Or if you are wondering how to start, you will get lots of suggestions and guidance. Many of us have felt we would like to put the facts we have about our ancestors in to a form that is readable and interesting. We would like suggestions about putting info in place that relates our ancestors to the events that were happening in their area at the time they lived there. Give it a try, sign up!

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## QUICK TIPS FOR THE CENSUS

### Charles Woolsey

Many times when we go to the census, no matter how we search using all the tricks we know about indexing, we still get no results. After you have used all the alternate spellings, everyone's name in the family, etc, you might try the following: Look at your ancestors neighbors in the census where you do find them. Maybe go to neighbors that are 8 or 10 houses on each side of them and look up the neighbors. When you find them in the new census, you look at who their neighbors are. You may find that they are there although they will not come up in the index. Also who do the children marry when they get old enough? They marry their neighbors and especially in rural areas and in small towns. I know both of my grandmothers married neighbors. One was the next homestead and the other was in the same small town, both were less than 2 miles from where they lived. Also look in school records. If you find the kids the parents have to be in a nearby neighborhood.

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## Burned Counties

By Michael John Neill

The courthouse burned. What do I do? Research in "burned counties" that have suffered a record loss may be possible, but it requires persistence and a willingness to turn over as many stones as possible. This week we take a look at some techniques that may be helpful.

### Get Beyond the Destruction

Determine exactly what records were destroyed. Was it the entire courthouse? Was it a certain office in the courthouse? Were some records housed offsite and not destroyed? Do not assume that all county records were burned just because someone told you so, or because you read it on a message board or website.

Were any records re-recorded after the incident? Deeds and other records of property ownership may have been recorded again after the fire. (Remember landowners generally kept the original deed; the courthouse has a copy.) For records that were created in the normal course of business after the destruction, keep an open mind. Pay particular attention to deeds and other documents where ownership of property might have been an issue, especially ownership before the fire. These documents may specifically mention former owners or imply who those owners were.

Settlements of estate or some court records may mention events and relationships as they were before the records' destruction. Search carefully for estate settlements of any family members who died without descendants - - - even if the death was fifty or more years after the records were destroyed. These records could be located a significant distance from the burned county. The records of the disbursements from their estate may mention heirs and or relationships dating back a hundred years.

### Get Beyond the Immediate Family

Researching the complete family becomes even more important during the time period of the fire as well. Some family members might have eventually lived in areas where records were not destroyed or might have left behind records with more detail. These documents may refer to individuals who lived in the "burned county." Since our search must necessarily broaden, it is imperative that a research log be kept so that records on a specific relative are not overlooked.

Search the Family History Library Card Catalog for information on records in the county. The Family History Library has an extensive collection of microfilm and while they do not film every piece of paper in the courthouse, there may be other materials. Look for printed or published materials in their collection and then go beyond that to original records wherever possible.

### Get Beyond Relatives

It is not just the extended family who should be researched. Pay special attention to neighbors, associates,

fellow church members, and others with whom your ancestor might have been affiliated during his time in the county. Information on where they were from may help you locate where your ancestor was from as well.

### Get Beyond the County

Search state and federal level records as completely as possible. Are there any wars that involved family members? Are there pension records from those wars and have they been accessed? They might mention your relative or provide clues as to his or her existence.

### Get Help Beyond Yourself

Have local historical societies and genealogical societies been contacted for potential information in their collection? They may also be aware of "hidden" sources that were not destroyed, additional sources that have been located recently, or unique approaches for the area. A posting to the to the appropriate county message board or a listserve is an excellent idea.

Have you searched any regional or nearby university archives? They may have unpublished manuscripts or other written material that may be helpful in your search. Try searching WorldCat for the county of interest to see what materials appear in the catalog. Bear in mind though that often-times a manuscript collection may be incompletely cataloged in WorldCat or not cataloged at all.

Are there any published county histories or scholarly studies of the county that may shed light on certain families, migration patterns, etc.? Search WorldCat and see if local libraries have such materials.

Also read genealogical journals that contain scholarly research articles. Sometimes these articles discuss families in burned records counties or provide background on methodology that is also effective in areas that have suffered a record loss.

Have all church records been exhausted? In burned record counties, church and other private records become increasingly important and should not be overlooked. Church records should be accessed even if your ancestor was a member of a denomination that typically did not keep excellent records. If contacting the local church is unproductive or impossible, contact the regional or national archive of the denomination.

If the time period is a little bit earlier, consider searching Revolutionary and War of 1812 pension records for others who settled in your ancestral area. Even if these records do not mention your ancestor specifically, they may provide general information on migration in and out of the area.

### In Conclusion

Do not assume that what you have been told was destroyed was actually destroyed.

- \* Research the entire family and ancestral associates
- \* Look for records created after the record destruction
- \* Learn the county history

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(continued from page 4)

## Family Bible returned to Elverta Family

According to Marie Lux Reale, great, great granddaughter of Mary Webber Wolfe, the “e” was apparently dropped from the Wolfe name sometime in the early 1900’s. Reale said she isn’t certain how the bible turned up in the yard sale. She believes it was passed from Mary Webber Wolfe to Lena Wolf Strauch and then to Bernice Strauch Lux and is now at home again in her care thanks to Mr. Charles Woolsey and some very fortunate circumstances.

The descendants of all the families, Webber, Strauch and Wolfe continue to reside in the Rio Linda, Elverta and Sacramento area including the seventh generation of the Elizabeth Webber family.

There is a Straugh Rd. in Elverta which is a misspelling of the family name but is near the original homestead of the Strauch family. The Strauch family’s name is on many documents and records that can be seen at the Rio Linda/Elverta Historical Society’s Museum, 6852 Dry Creek Rd. in Rio Linda.

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## Read the back of the Tombstone

From George G. Morgan

When conducting on-site cemetery research, be sure to read the entire tombstone. Not everything on a tombstone is carved on the front. It is not unusual to find inscriptions on both the front and back of the stone and even on the edges. You may find the name and vital date on the face, an epitaph or poem on the back, the names of spouse, parents, children and other information carved elsewhere. Look for initials, names, and/or the company name of the stonemason on the stone. Often the carver chiseled his initials or mark into a stone as a form of advertisement. His family may have been engaged in the stonecutting industry for generations and may have retained many or all of the family’s work or account files. You may be able to research the carver and therefore locate other records concerning the person who ordered and paid for the tombstone, its date of installation, and other data. What have you found on the back of a tombstone? Share your story!

(continued from page 5)

## Miracles do Happen Today

**Holding on the wood stock.** I found inside a 1917 hunting license belong to Harry Kohler. It was not unusual for hunters to put the license in the stock so if they were stopped they would have it with them. I put the license back inside and now forty years later, it may be hard to take out. I would use narrow long tweezers to pull it out. I wanted Harry’s family to keep the gun.  
Ron Johnson

Next, robin carefully removed the shotgun from its bubblewrap. The bolt frame of the shotgun revealed that the gun was a ‘Model 1897 Winchester.’ the barrel of the gun measured 29 1/2 inches. Then, robin unscrewed the ‘butt plate,’ and discovered a piece of newspaper within the plate, which he gently extracted with long narrow forceps. The newspaper was dated 1921, and wrapped inside the newspaper was a hunting license issued in 1933 to my father, Harry Kohler, who was 31 at the time.

Information regarding the Winchester Model 1897, 12 gauge pump shotgun can be found at the following website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winchester\\_Model\\_1897](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winchester_Model_1897).

Yes miracles do happen today, and , two of them happened to me in the year 2008. Perhaps your miracles await you in 2009 — watch for them.

(continued from page 7)

- \* Network with others working in the same area
- \* Contact local organizations and repositories for more information.

Research in burned counties is more difficult than in others— no doubt of that. But with an exhaustive search plan, it can sometimes be done. Get beyond the destruction to think of what other records and materials might have been created and learn how to use and access those records.

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## Finding Immigrants origins In the Old Country—A Dozen Possibilities

From Loretto D. Szucs

1. Death certificates of immigrants will often include the name of the town in which they were born in the “Old World,” and depending on the time and place, some marriage and birth records will give you the exact birthplaces of their parents.
2. Records pertaining to your ancestor’s relatives and even close friends may point to their mutual hometown or birthplace. Family members and friends who emigrated from the same place usually settled close to one another in their new homeland.
3. Gravestone inscriptions sometimes include the birthplace of an immigrant. If your ancestor’s grave did not include that clue, be sure to look at graves of relatives or close friends who may have come from the same place.
4. Obituaries frequently provide the exact town in which the subject was born or lived in their home country.
5. World War I Draft Records include birthplaces of adult males who were living in the U. S. —even if they were foreign born.
6. Naturalization records, particularly those filed after 1906, include birthplaces, and often also include birthplaces of spouses and children. Although naturalization records filed prior to 1906 generally do not include specific birthplaces, there are many exceptions, depending on where and when an alien filed for citizenship. In cases where an ancestor was not naturalized prior to WWII, alien registration papers (available through CSIS) also provide precise birthplace information.
7. Ethnic collections including published histories of specific nationalities and fraternal organizations, neighborhood collections in libraries, and foreign language newspapers may include hard-to-find biographical sketches. Special collections like the Emigrant Savings Bank records found at Ancestry.com also include the exact birthplaces of individuals who had accounts in that bank. Irish, German, Polish, and other ethnic genealogical societies have collected and indexed unique collections of biographical materials.
8. Church Records often include the birthplaces of parents and those godparents and witnesses of marriages. Often entire congregations emigrated together from Europe and founded churches in their new homeland so by understanding the history of a particular church, it may be possible to determine the origins of the entire group.
9. Old letters, photographs, journals and diaries as well as old world souvenirs often contain clues to our ancestors’ past. If you are not fortunate enough to have inherited any of these items, it may be worth asking older

.relatives or cousins who may be willing to share information or copies of documents or photographs

10 Old Newspapers have a lot more to offer than obituaries, consider wedding and engagement announcements as well as other events that may have earned immigrants a place in the social pages. Wedding Anniversaries, business accomplishments, visiting relatives, travel abroad, social gatherings, club news, awards and accident reports are also places to look for immigrant origins.

11. Probate and other records generated in the courts sometimes include the birthplaces and former homes of immigrants. Many unmarried immigrants bequeathed their belongings to relatives in the old country, thereby making it possible to determine home towns.

12. Online sources such as published local and families histories, family trees, and message boards are also worth searching for leads that will help you determine an immigrant’s homeland..

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## Expand Newspaper Searches

Sue Ridgley

Decatur, Illinois

Don’t ignore newspaper fits in unexpected locations when looking through the Ancestry Historical Newspaper Collection. In the past I typically would disregard those newspapers that I didn’t think were the “right location.” Imagine my surprise when I opened a newspaper from another state and found not only an obituary, but also a picture of the deceased and an article from the United Press as well. That made me go back and search the other hits that had come up. Several other states had more information on the death— possible foul play, a lawsuit by the relatives, etc. It filled in a lot of holes in my research. From these various articles, I learned that the deceased, while living in Illinois, died in Hot Springs, Arkansas, had interests in a hotel in Florida, and was buried back in Illinois.

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## Record GPS Coordinates

Sherman N. Shell

Springfield, Missouri

Regarding locations of cemeteries, previous homes, etc. the best way, in my opinion is to use a GPS and get the exact coordinates. With that information anyone today or in future generations will be able to locate and go directly to those places. GPS coordinates will save many people many hours of searching. Even when looking at maps online a researcher can get very close to the coordinates of an object.

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My neighbor showed me an antique photo of a regal-looking man. “That’s my great-great-great-grandfather,” he said. “We call him Pop-pop-pop-pop-pop.”

# DUES ARE DUE

**Do Not Forget**

**Feb 19th Meeting**

**Is at 4PM instead of 1pm**

**At the History Center on**

**Eastern Avenue**

# DUES ARE DUE

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