



MISSION OAKS GENEALOGY CLUB NEWSLETTER

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July, Aug., Sept 2008

How do we preserve our work?

Saving countless hours of research

By Charles Woolsey

When most of us started this enterprise we gave little thought as how we would ultimately save what we found for posterity. We simply started a small project to find out a little bit about our family. For most of us over the years it gradually expanded to extended family as aunts, uncles and cousins ask us to investigate some for them. Then one day many years later we look around and cannot believe how it has grown. We have traveled took pictures of ancestral homes, gathered information on the famous and infamous. We have accumulated many stories, some funny, some informative, some tragic. Many times these stories came from relatives now long gone. This hobby, (obsession) also colors all we do. My mother a few years ago asked what I wanted for my birthday. She said I can't see anything you need and I don't have much money to spend. My reaction was immediate, I said buy me a spiral note book and fill it with your life story. Be careful to describe how and where you lived, The fact that you had an outhouse, How you kept your food fresh or preserved. Tell me about canning fruit, vegetables and meat Tell me about the clothes you wore, Where you slept

and with who. What were your chores and how many sibling did you have and what were they expected to do. How much education did you have and what did you ultimately do. How did you meet your spouse, what did a license cost in those days. How did your family feel about your spouse and were they happy about the marriage, or did you run away and how many years did you stay married and did you divorce, have children, grandchildren, etc. We suddenly find that if we do not preserve these stories they will be lost forever and that indeed would be a tragedy. So what do we do, what is an effective way to preserve our work for future generations. I was lucky my mother kept a diary for most of her life and reading it told me more about her and I was very happy to inherit it when she passed on. One way you might consider is to Publish your family history. Rick Hanson gave a very good program on this a couple of meetings ago. For you that were unable to attend I am reproducing his handout in this publication. Rick is a very accomplished Genealogist and a good writer. He had a couple of books he had published at the meeting and they were very professional.

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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, July 17

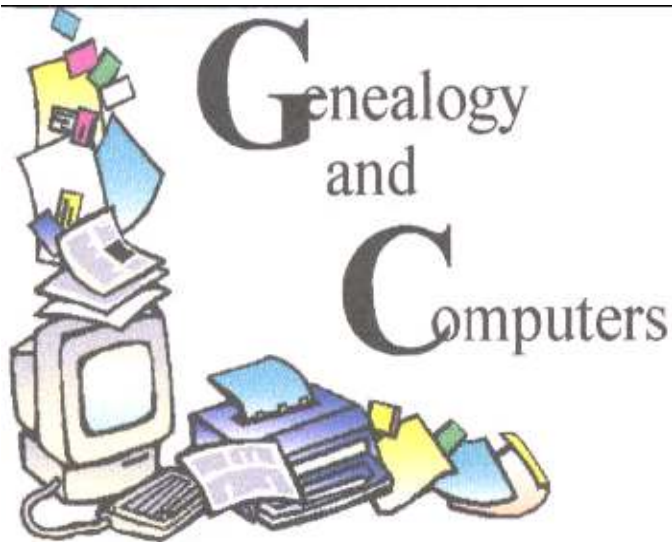
Susan Jackman

Using County Histories

Thursday, Aug 21

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 Sept 18	To be determined
	Pending
Thursday Oct 16	Anniversary party
Thursday Nov 20	To be determined
Thursday Dec 18	Christmas Party

HELP

For Hard -to-Read Images

By Juliana Smith

So you've found what you think might be your ancestor in the census. The problem is, when you view the image, what you find sends your heart plummeting. The image is a) too dark, b) too light, or c) looks like a chimpanzee with writer's cramp wrote it. So what's a twenty-first-century family historian to do? Let's explore some options.

Image Editing

Many of the records we use today were microfilmed when that technology was in its infancy. So it's no wonder we run across faded images or dark, hard-to-read records. Photo-editing tools are great for optimizing record images that are in digital format. I use Photoshop elements, but many of the photo-editing programs out there have the same or similar options. Here are a few ideas for sprucing up those difficult to decipher images:

Darken highlights.

I had a really faint 1910 census entry for my great-great-grandmother. Using the "Darken Highlights" function that is available in the Quick Fix mode, I was able to make the image much more readable.

Invert

Another option for lighter images is to invert the colors (i. e., the background would change to black with white writing on it).

Lighten Shadows

Another census image: for my Dyer family, had the family enumerated on the bottom of the page. The corner was very dark and writing from the other side of the page bled through. I used the Lighten shadows tool and it helped remove some of the darkness. You can also play around with exposure tools to help clear out a little more of the "clutter"

Crop

This won't enhance readability, but by cropping black edges off of digitized images, you can save a ton of ink when you print a copy for your files.

(continued on page 27)

Publishing Your Family History With Lulu.com (www.lulu.com)

By Rick Hanson

PREPARING YOUR DOCUMENT

Create two files:

- 1) book file (PDF file)
- 2) Optional—hardcover file for casewrap hardcovers (PDF file)
- 3) Optional—preview file (Lulu automatically - generated preview will contain several pages of your book, custom previews must have a page count divisible by four).

Templates (empty document files) can be downloaded.

Set your document's page size to match the book's page size (e.g., 8.25 x 10.75 for hard cover).

Remember that each page will lose about 0.1 to 0.2 inches on the inside margin due to binding. So, shift your margins accordingly.

No multiple-page spreads (fold-outs). But you can have fill bleeds.

Use 300 dpi for photos and illustrations. Maximum dpi is 600, and in Lulu.com's opinion, the improved image quality is not noticeable (and the file is four times bigger).

Accept PDF file specifics: version 1.3 through 1.5, embed all fonts, Acrobat 4 compatibility, etc.

UPLOADING TO LULU.COM

Log into your Lulu account and follow the prompts for "Start a New Project" and follow the presented instructions.

1. Project name screen - enter a new project name and confirm author name.
2. Binding type screen - select binding type, black & white or color printing.
3. Files upload screen - select file and upload (10 min for 28 MB on DSL). If you have a file larger than 300 Mb, then you must upload using FTP. *

Then press the Make Print-Ready File button (took a few seconds for a PDF file).

4. PDF review screen - press the Save & continue button (also have a Download & Review).
5. Cover design screen - select text color text font, text size, cover color, prints both on front and on spine. On the front you can have a multiple line title, subtitle and author name. You can also select one of your templates. Or you can upload your own custom cover file.

When done, press the Make Print-Ready, then Save & Continue.

6. Review Your Project screen _ displays the production cost (\$20.72). Press Save & Finish.
7. Congratulations screen.

* You can upload a word processor file plus photo files instead of a PDF. In that situation, they will generate the PDF file when you press the "make Print-Ready File" button. Then on the PDF review screen, you can download and review their generated PDF file.

Status:

Draft	A work in progress (more files to upload)
Published	Complete and ready for printing. But you opted for "Private Access" which means that only you can see it and order copies.
Available	Save as Published except that the public can see and order copies. They call this "Direct Access" but there are restrictions that you can put in place to limit access. Also, Lulu will not allow documents to be Direct Access whose cover, title, description or preview contain any of the following: * excessive or gratuitous profanity * Suggestive or gratuitous nudity or sexually explicit posing.
Retired	No longer available for purchasing by anyone. It has never been sold, then it is instead deleted (i.e., all files deleted).

(publishing your family history, cont)

BINDING OPTIONS AND EXTRA SERVICES

Binding types and cost for a 300-page black & White book, page size 8.5x11 inches:

Perfect Bound, \$10.43; Saddle Stitch, \$10.43; Plasticcoil, \$10.43; Casewrap Hardcover \$23.00; Dust jacket Hardcover, \$27.00*

*Hardback with dust cover only available in page sizes of 6x9 inches.

Hardcover can have 24 to 800 pages.

Extra Services for an Extra Cost: Design and layout, language translation, marketing,

- ◆ Design and layout
- ◆ Translation
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Obtaining an ISBN, copyright, etc.
- ◆ Distribution channel options (e.g., sell it on Amazon.com and other commercial web sites, \$100).

POD (PRINT ON DEMAND)

Your customers, relatives and yourself can order books through the Lulu web site. They offer a variety of shipping options, but no insurance. No phone orders.

- ◆ Ratings and Reviews—solicited from purchasers (can be turned off).
- ◆ Thank-you Note—Optional. You can allow them to see your name, e-mail address, etc.
- ◆ Lulu considers the personal information of purchasers to be confidential. You are not allowed to know who purchased your publications.

COST DETAILS

CD: \$5.50 each. DVD: \$7.50 each (quantity discount begins at 6 copies).

Lulu profit (their commission on each sale): larger of 25% of your profit or \$0.19 per item sold.

Cost example: 300 page b&w casewrap hardcover book

Page printing (2 cents/page)	6.00
Binding	<u>17.00</u>
Production cost:	23.00
Your profit	2.00
Lulu commission (20% of profit)	<u>0.50</u>
Total price	\$25.50 per book

Lulu technical support said that color printing produces much better images than black & White.

So the above cost for color-printed book would be \$64.50 (15 cents per page instead of 2 cents).

I ordered one book, paid by credit card. Cost was \$20.72 + shipping.

Various shipping options ranging from \$3.98 to \$55.01.

Est delivery time: 10—15 days plus shipping time. Expedited printing which can cost up to \$55.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- ◆ Support forums
- ◆ Live-chat with Lulu.com support personnel
- ◆ E-mail with Lulu .com support personnel.
- ◆ Defects in your books: take a picture of the problem and e-mail the JPEG photo along with a description to tech support and they will reprint and ship your order for free.

THE YEAR WAS 1864

Ancestry.com

The year was 1864. the American Civil War was in its third year, and the fighting was intense. As the newly appointed General Grant advanced on Richmond, Virginia, some of the bloodiest battles of the war were fought at: the Wilderness (17,666 dead), Spotsylvania (10,920 dead), Drewry's Bluff (4,160 dead), Cold Harbor (12,000 dead), and Petersburg (16,569 dead),. These five battles alone cost 61,315 lives.

In the South, General William Tecumseh Sherman led a force of 110,000 from Chattanooga, Tennessee, into Georgia to begin the Atlanta Campaign, which would last until the city was surrendered on 2 September 1864.

After ordering the evacuation of Atlanta, Sherman burned most of the city and from there he began his infamous "March to the Sea" as he set his sites on Savannah. Cutting a wide path through Georgia, his troops took food and other supplies, and left a devastating trail of burned plantations and crops. On 22 December 1864, he reached Savannah, where he would remain until January 1865 when he continued his "scorched earth" campaign north into the Carolinas.

In the Midwest the year opened with severe cold and snow. The high temperature for January 1st in Chicago, Illinois, was sixteen degrees below zero and Minneapolis, Minnesota, was even colder with a high of twenty-five below.

In England, the Dale Dyke Dam burst, causing the Great Sheffield Flood (or the "Great Inundation" as it is also known). The failure of the dam sent tons of water through central Sheffield washing away bridges, destroying 800 houses, and killing 270 people.

The American Civil War was having a devastating impact on the textile mills of Lancashire, England. Union blockades of Confederate ports halted the exportation of cotton that was needed in the Lancashire mills, resulting in a "cotton famine."

Prussia and Denmark were involved in the Second Schleswig War, fighting for control of the duchy of Schleswig. This matter wouldn't be entirely settled until after World War I.

Did you have ancestors that served in the Civil War or had an interesting experience in 1864? Share your family stories of 1864 with us.

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GUIDELINES TO Bring Dates to Life

By Marion Kile

1. Research

Write down all of the data you have about family members, relationships and dates.

Find all of the dates and data that you can from census.

Find all of the census information you can Consider doing a matrix to see where you are missing census data. Or get one ONLINE:

CENSUSTOOLS.COM/CENSUS/DOWNLOAD.HTML

Do special searches on census to fill in the gaps.

Check all other resources for dates and data.

These are covered in other classes and are too numerous to mention .

2. Write Your Story

Compare the data from the different dates. Who is still alive, who has gotten married, who has moved to another location, what are the different occupations, and what ever else you can glean from the information. Start at the beginning (the first data you have) and set the stage for your story. Introduce the major characters. You might want to list the children by name and age or just how many there are with a range of ages. You don't want it to read like a report with a lot of details. For each new date of information, do at least one new paragraph. If it is a new location, tell how far away they have moved. If there more or less people in the household explain who has come and went. Are they still working in the same occupations?

Watch the detail of different census records,, some of the census list how many children were born compared to how many are alive.

3. Add Background for More Interest

- ◆ Do you have any pictures of people in the story?
 - ◆ Can you find a map of the town, county, state?
 - ◆ Can you find any pictures of the town or county?
 - ◆ Can you find any history of the town or county?
-

HELP

(continued from page 23)

Save a Copy of the Original

Whenever I'm editing a record image, I make a copy of it first. I always save a file with the original image and then save it with the same title, adding "_edit" at the end. Sometimes the edits will help one portion of the record, but make another portion harder to read so it's good to have that original to refer to.

When it's the Handwriting

When we're dealing with "chimpanzee writing," there are low-tech options that can help us decipher letters and numbers. The easiest is to compare the character in question— whether it's a number or a letter— to others on the page that are more readable.

At Ancestry on each of the main census search pages, you'll find a box on the right with a link to a pop-up "Handwriting Help" box. It contains several handwriting samples for every letter in the alphabet and by leaving it up in the background, you can compare samples for every letter in the alphabet and by leaving it up in the background, you can compare the samples to the records as you are searching.

Also look for marks that are carried down from the line above or up from the line below. If the bottom of a fancy J spills down and overlaps the name you are trying to interpret, you may be misled. So with hard to decipher names or words, look at the lines above and below too.

Another technique is to trace the letter. Sometimes retracing the path of the enumerator's pen may give you that "Aha!" moment.

Some commonly misinterpreted letters include:

- ◆ T and F
- ◆ J, G and Y
- ◆ I and J
- ◆ K and R
- ◆ O and Q
- ◆ P and R
- ◆ U and W

From the Source: A Guide book of American Genealogy.

Inhabitants Lists Before the Census

By Sherry Irvine, CG, FSA Scot

In England and Wales, modern census records used by genealogists start with the enumeration of 1841. There were earlier official counts of the population in 1831, 1821, 1811 and 1801, but very few lists of names survive.

Before 1800 there were no government census returns but there were records that can be regarded as genealogically useful lists of inhabitants. You will find that early lists had a special purpose such as recording taxpayers, people of a particular religious persuasion, or people who swore an oath of loyalty. None systematically recorded all members of each family or household but some recorded the majority of heads of households in a parish. To make the most of early lists it is important to determine for each type its purpose, date range, and contents. In this article I will summarize two records.

Two Lists

Land Tax: Land tax records, which began in 1692, show the names of owners of land subject to taxation, along with information about the land and the tax amount. The most useful period is from 1780 to 1832 when the style is uniform and the names of occupiers also appear. For one year, 1798, a notional list was prepared of all those paying the tax (not tenants) because it became possible at that time to make a lump sum payment and be excused ("exonerated") from making the payment ever again.

Protestation Returns: On the eve of the Civil War, Charles I and Parliament were at odds. After ruling for eleven years without Parliament, Charles needed its approval of additional taxes to fund his war with Scotland. When Parliament was recalled in 1641, all members voted to support the true Protestant religion, rights of subjects and the privileges of Parliament. Several months later Parliament voted to send the oath around to every parish so all adult men (eighteen and over) could sign it. Some returns survive for about one third of all parishes.

Finding the Lists:

Land tax records are usually in county record offices in England and Wales but the 1798 list is in The National Archives. Many have been filmed by the Family History Library. Laborers do not usually appear in land tax records. Most of the original Protestation Returns are held in the House of Lords Record Office.

(continued on page 28)

Inhabitants Lists Before the Census

(continued from page 27)

These have been filmed by the Family History Library, and many have been published.

Begin your search with methodology books (see further reading) where you will find descriptions of the various tax and loyalty records as well as advice on use and access. Other records from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that fall into this category include hearth tax returns, poll taxes, window tax lists. Association Oath Rolls for those with Catholic ancestors, and records of recusants. (A recusant was anyone who did not attend Sunday services of the local parish church - Church of England.)

Find any lists that coincide with or overlap the dates of your research, read about them, and then find out how

To access them. Begin online, use Gibson Guides (see Further Reading), and the Family History Library Catalog. Here are some suggestions.

Put a search term into your favorite search engine, such as a combination of place name and record type: Wolverhampton window tax or Willenhall hearth tax. Check for information guides at the website of the National Archives and the appropriate county record office (e.g., the National Archives has a helpful leaflet about the hearth tax and a finding aid to the places found among the surviving records). Search the Family History Library Catalog for county level tax records or a keyword search for the list (such as protestation Returns Wiltshire).

Check the county page at the Genealogy UK and Ireland website (GENUKI) as many offer useful information about published records, where to find what survives, etc.

You may find more information among my articles within the Ancestry Library:

What are subsidies? (2003)

Note that it refers to the Public Record Office, now called The National Archives.

More about Taxes in the 1600's (2005)

This article tells you more about the finding aids at The National Archive.

Genealogical Value

Records like these only occasionally provide relationship information; for example, when an owner or tenant dies and is succeeded by a spouse or child. Name, date and place are the facts you learn and perhaps other identifiers such as occupation and religion. The value of this information will vary depending on the

Nature of your problem. There is no doubt that it is always best to gather these facts and build the fullest picture possible.

Early lists are nowhere near as useful as census returns, but they should not be disregarded. Learning about the records adds to your knowledge of history and finding the records will either reinforce what you already know or guide you to new ideas.

Further Reading

Heber, Mark, *Ancestral Trails* Genealogical Publishing Co., 2nd ed, 2006

Irvine, Sherry, *Your English Ancestry*, (Ancestry, 1998)

Gibson, J.S.W., *The Hearth Tax, Other Later Stuart Tax Lists and the Assoc oath Rolls*. (Bury, LAN: Federation of Family History Societies, 1996.

Gibson, J.S.W. and Alan Dell, *The Protestation Returns 1641-42 and Other Contemporary Listings*. (Bury, LAN Federation of Family History Societies, 2004.)

Gibson, J.S.W., M. Medlycott and D. Mills. *Land and Window Tax Assessments*. (Bury, LAN: Federation of Family History Societies, 1998.)

Tips from The Pros:

DAR PATRIOT LOOKUP SERVICE

BY George G. Morgan

If you are considering joining the Daughters of the American Revolution or the Sons of the American Revolution, you may want to determine if your ancestor has already been documented in the DAR Patriot Index. The DAR provides a Patriot Lookup Service at its website. If you are interested in knowing if your ancestor is recognized by the Dar as a Revolutionary Patriot, you can click on a link at their website, complete an online form and one of the DAR volunteers will check for you at no charge.

Finding Your Irish Ancestors:

A Beginners Guide

By Dave Ouimette

Finding Your Irish Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide is the ultimate resource to help you learn if the luck of the Irish is in your blood or not. This easy-to-use guide will teach you to make use of the many Irish family history records that have become available in recent years.

Explore the best family history sources in Ireland, including birth, marriage, and death records; church records; census records; and much more. *Finding Your Irish Ancestors* will help you discover websites for searching Irish heritage and prepare for a successful family history trip to Ireland

The book is available on Amazon.com for \$14.95 or ancestry .com for \$11.96

Unknown Soldiers

By Maureen A Taylor

I owe a big thank-you to readers who sent pictures of the military men in their family. My in box has quite a few images of men in mystery uniforms, so I thought focusing on military pictures was warranted.

Pay attention to details of the uniforms to help identify when it was worn.

* during the Civil War, belt buckles often bore state abbreviations or CSA for the Confederate States of America

* Hats are key. The shape and design of the hat can specify a time frame while insignia can help you identify the unit in which the soldier served.

* Cloth chevrons on the sleeves and soldiers of a uniform and insignia on the collar or head gear signified rank.

* Not all uniforms are military in origin. Fraternal groups costumes and occupational attire is often confused with military uniforms.

Unfortunately, there's no single source that shows all the uniforms worn by soldiers or sailors. In the 19th century, there was quite a diversity of uniforms, with each unit having its own. Colorful attire such as the Turkish pants worn by the Zouaves were just one recognizable variation.

If you don't know who's depicted in photograph of a soldier or a sailor, try finding evidence of military service in documents—pension records, enlistment papers and other genealogical materials.

Keep in mind that not all military photos in your photo collection depict relatives - they could be friends of the family. One of the e-mails I received was from Connie L. Huntling. Her grandmother worked at a Veterans Administration hospital in Plattsburg, NY, during World War I. In her papers were many photographs of men who were patients at the hospital. So be careful to make a listing of all the details of the uniforms you can then access sites on Military Uniforms and seek to identify. For World War I and II the uniforms are pretty standard. When you get to Civil War it gets to be anyone's guess. I have collected several books on civil war uniforms and I am sure I don't have copies of them all.

Retirement Alternative

There will be no nursing home in my future.....

When I get old and feeble; I am going to get on a Princess Cruise Ship. The average cost for a nursing home is \$200 per day. I have checked on reservations at Princess and I can get a long-term discount and senior discount price of \$135 per day. This leaves \$65 a day for:

1. Gratuities which will only be \$10 per day.
2. I will have as many as 10 meals a day if I can waddle to the restaurant, or I can have room service (which means I can have breakfast in bed every day of the week).
3. Princess has as many as three swimming pools, a workout room, free washers and dryers, and shows every night.
4. They have free toothpaste and razors, and free soap and shampoo.
5. They will even treat you like a customer, not a patient. An extra \$5 worth of tips will have the entire staff scrambling to help you.
6. I will get to meet new people every 7 to 14 days.
7. TV broken? Light bulb need changing? Need to have the mattress replaced? No problem! They will fix everything and apologize for your inconvenience.
8. Clean sheets and towels every day, and you don't even have to ask for them.
9. If you fall in the nursing home and break a hip you are on Medicare. If you fall and break a hip on the Princess ship they will upgrade you to a suite for the rest of your life.

Now hold on for the best! Do you want to see South America, the Panama Canal, Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, or name where you want to go. So don't look for me in a nursing home, just shore to ship.

P. S And don't forget, when you die, they just dump you over the side at no cost.

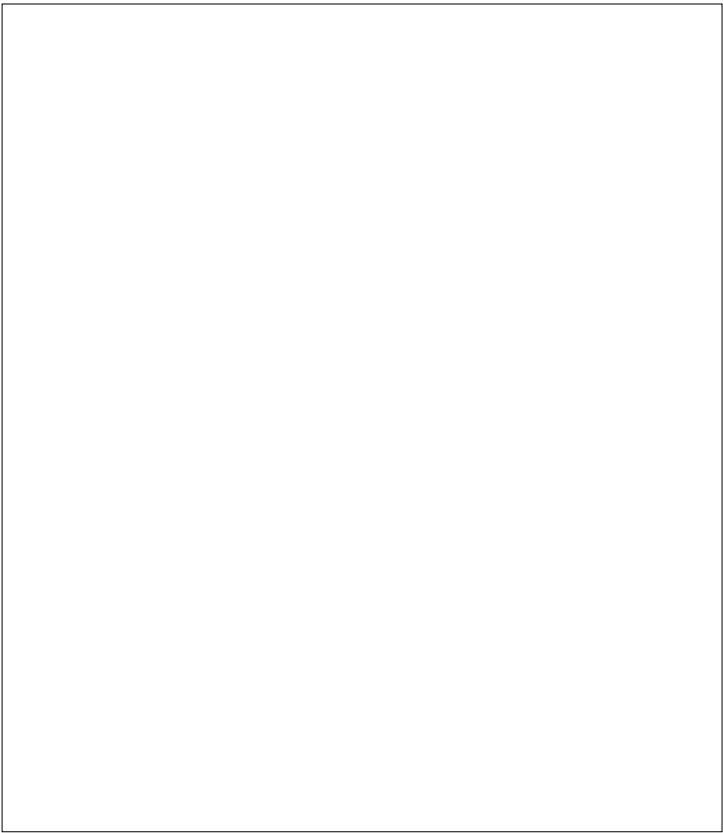
So have a happy retirement!!!!!!

. QUERIES

Do you have all the answers to you 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 Robert E. Lee as does Patsy Joslin.

.



AVAILABLE
Back issues of
Newsletter
\$1 each plus postage

Phone (916)721-7471



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