



Minnesota
Genealogical
Society

Minnesota Genealogist

Volume 44, No. 4 – Winter 2013



Minnesota Genealogist

Quarterly journal of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

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Minnesota Genealogist

1185 Concord St. N.,
Suite 218,
South St. Paul, MN 55075

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Minnesota Genealogist is published four times a year. Postal delivery of *Minnesota Genealogist* is a benefit of membership in the Minnesota Genealogical Society. The subscription price for non-members is \$20 per year.

The Managing Editor invites readers to submit articles, including genealogy research articles, genealogical source guides, family history research experience stories, family history heritage travel stories, book reviews, and genealogy software and technology reviews. Research articles and family history research or travel stories should have some connection to Minnesota or the Upper Midwest. Preference is given to MGS members, but non-member submissions are welcome. Submit articles digitally in file formats readable in Microsoft Word. Complete guidelines for writers are available at www.mngs.org.

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Table of Contents

Volume 44, no. 4

Winter 2013

- 5 *From the Editor's Desk*
- 7 *Great Grandfather, Where are You?*
by Leo J. Harris
- 11 *The Day Great-Grandmother Caught the Thief in Church*
by William Holmquist
- 14 *Writing Family History for Children*
by Gayle Geber
- 18 *Church Records in the Midwest*
by Valerie Eichler Lair
- 21 *Creating a Personal Genealogy Education Plan*
by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph. D.
- 23 *Minnesota Civil War Soldiers Who were Members of the Grand Army of
the Republic, Department of Oregon*
by David C. Bailey, Sr.
- 30 *A Tale of Three Records: One Leads to Another*
by J. H. Fonkert, CG
- 32 *About Our Authors*
- 34 *What Next?*
- 35 *MGS Horizons*

Cover photo: Norwegian Morstad Sisters, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, courtesy of J. H. Fonkert.

MGS Library and Research Center

The Minnesota Genealogical Society Library and Research Center is your Genealogy Help Place, providing a friendly environment for family history research and genealogy learning. The library features free access to Ancestry.com, Irish Origins and EmiWeb (Swedish records).

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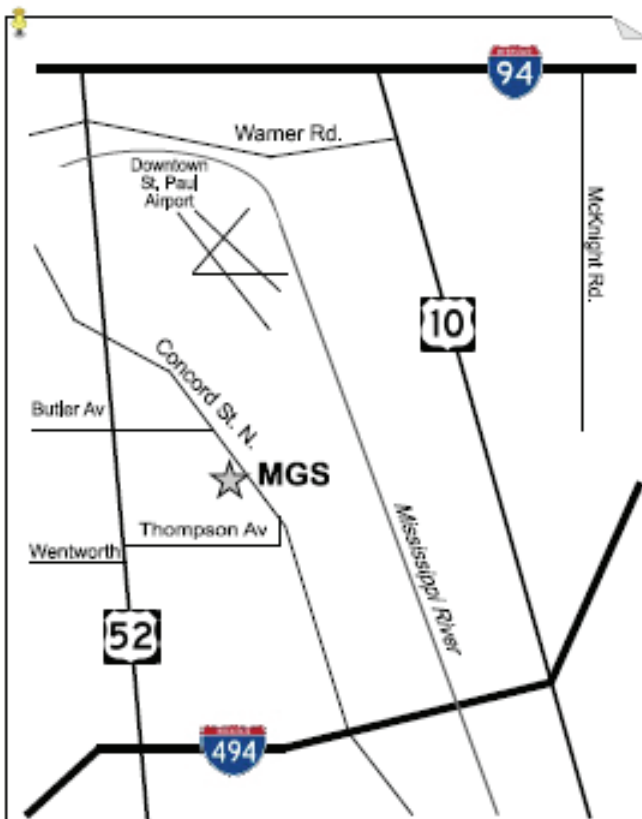
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From the Editor's Desk

From the Editor's Desk

A picture may be worth 1,000 words, but the stories behind the picture travel forward through time on the backs of words. Spoken words can be powerfully evocative, but can suffer from telephone-tag syndrome or be easily forgotten. Although they, too, can be lost, stories carried by written words are less easily altered and more likely to survive.

This is one reason we encourage genealogists and family historians to write memoirs, articles or books. The Minnesota Genealogical Society does its part by offering classes and giving authors an opportunity to publish their work in *Minnesota Genealogist*. MGS also, in cooperation with the Yankee Genealogical Society, sponsors the Michael Clark Writing Competition. Watch the MGS website and e-newsletters for information about the 2014 competition.

In this issue, we share the work of our two 2013 winners. William C. Holmquist was the winner in the family story/memoir category. The winner in the problem-solving category was Leo J. Harris. Read their articles and learn about the authors in "About Our Authors" on page 28.

We invite entries in two categories because we recognize the value of different kinds of writing. Many family historians want to capture and preserve family stories. They care about getting the facts right, but they care even more about writing the stories in an engaging style that their families can enjoy and remember. Because genealogy is non-fiction, and because one of the biggest challenges in family history research is discovering the facts, we also encourage entries in the problem-solving category. In this category, the judges pay particular attention to how the writer gathered evidence and drew a convincing conclusion.

William Holmquist's article muses about his Swedish ancestors' experience settling on the Minnesota prairie and captures an entertaining story about how his great-grandmother laid a plan to catch a thief in church. Don't we all wish we had such rich family stories? Leo Harris shows resolve in debunking family lore that said his great-grandfather, Lazar, had stayed only briefly in the United States before returning to Poland. Through a certain amount of serendipity and persistent digging, Harris discovered the story of Lazar's life.

Another new contributor to *Minnesota Genealogist*, Valerie Eichler Lair, reminds us of the value of church records and gives us a primer on how to find them. A return author, Gayle Geber, offers tips from her experience writing family history for children. Our regular columnist, Lois Abromitis Mackin, helps us think through our genealogy education plan. Finally, David C. Bailey continues his series of articles identifying Minnesota Civil War soldiers who belonged to local units of the Grand Army of the Republic in western states, this time in Oregon.

Although we are sometimes a bit late in delivery, we enjoy bringing *Minnesota Genealogist* to you four times each year. *Minnesota Genealogist* is an important way that MGS delivers on its commitment to genealogy education. We hope that, by reading each issue, you will be better prepared for your own genealogy adventure. And, of course, we want you to write.

J. H. Fonkert, CGSM
Managing Editor

Spring MGS Classes

**African-American
Genealogy Conference
April 4-5, 2014**

featuring Tony Burroughs

co-sponsored by
**Minnesota Genealogical Society
and Hennepin County Libraries
Minneapolis Central Library**

**Genealogy TechTreck
Conference**

April 24-26

featuring Thomas MacEntee
**Hennepin Technical College,
Brooklyn Park, MN**

MHS Topics on Family on Family History, Minnesota History Center, St. Paul

April 12, 10–12:30 ***Scrapbooking Your Family History;***
Instructor: Sara Markoe Hanson
MGS and MHS members: \$28; non-members: \$32.

May 17, 10–12:30 ***On Granddad's Trail: Getting the Most Out of Your Research Trip;***
Instructor: Tom Rice, CGSM
MGS and MHS members: \$28; non-members: \$32.

MGS Webinar Series — NEW — *live on your computer at home!*

April 2, 7 p.m. ***Linda Coffin, Writing and Publishing Your Family History***

OTHER EVENTS

April 19, 9:30–12:30 **Members Morning — FREE!**
• Beginners Group
• Research Study Group
No registration required.

April 19, 1:30–2:30 ***Pioneer Doctress*** — Come meet Dr. Abigail Bisbee, prairie doctress, as Shirleen Hoffman, in costume, shares her true-life story.
Cost: Free! *No registration required.*

Great Grandfather, Where are You?

by Leo J. Harris



Family portrait of children of Louis Harris. Referred to in this article are Barnett Harris (back row, far right), Abraham Harris (back row, second from left), and Marks Harris (far left). Seated in the front row (far left) is the stand-in figure, with the picture of Louis Harris tipped in.

An old sepia-colored family photograph shows my grandfather and his five brothers and four sisters.¹ Standing stiffly in two rows, they look out at us sternly, obviously uncomfortably dressed in their holiday-best. Pasted in on the left side of the first row is a head and shoulders photograph of an older man, whom family lore has identified as “Lazar Harris.” In the old country, the family name was apparently Vergransky, and Lazar might also have been known as Label. It was customary for many Central European immigrants to change their difficult-to-pronounce names upon arrival in the United States.

The ten Harris brothers and sisters came to the United States from Policza, Poland; the first of the siblings arrived in the 1860s. They first settled in Ohio and then in Chicago. Some came to Minneapolis after a short stay in Dubuque, Iowa. My grandfather, Abraham Harris, was the youngest sibling, and came to the United States in the mid-1870s as a teenager. He lived in Minneapolis by the early 1880s.

Family lore would have had us believe that Lazar Harris, my great-grandfather, came only once to the United States for a brief visit, and then returned to Poland.

Only chance allowed me to stumble upon a 1905 obituary for an individual named Louis Harris in a Minneapolis newspaper.² That obituary was titled “A Father in Israel. Louis Harris, Prominent Jewish

Resident, Dies at His Home.” Curious, I read on. The obituary said that this individual came to Minneapolis 25 years earlier, was prominently involved with numerous religious and benevolent societies, and that “The latter years of his life were spent almost entirely bettering the condition of his people here.” The funeral took place at the family residence and interment was at the “O. B. A. Cemetery.” The obituary went on to note that Louis Harris was survived by six children and fifty-three grandchildren.

What really caught my attention was that the list of survivors exclusively listed my family members. Surviving sons included Marks, Abraham and Isaac Harris. Surviving daughters were Mrs. Abe Goldman, Mrs. I. Simon, and Mrs. A. R. Harris. Among 53 grand- and great-grandchildren, the obituary named one: “Sig Harris of football fame.” Could this be my great-grandfather, the individual I knew by the name of Lazar (Vergransky) Harris?

With a date of death in hand, I was quickly able to locate a second obituary.³ This obituary listed the same survivors and gave the family residence as 25 Seventh Avenue North. It indicated that Louis Harris had resided in Minneapolis for 43 years. It seemed quite odd that Louis Harris had been in Minneapolis since 1862 when, in fact, some or all of his children had not immigrated to the United States until after that date.

PG. 4

Louis Harris Dead.

Louis Harris died Tuesday morning, Jan. 10, at the age of 92 years. He resided at 25 Seventh avenue north and had lived in Minneapolis forty-three years.

LOUIS HARRIS,



A pioneer resident who died Monday

Three sons survive him, A. Harris of the Manufacturers' Supply company, M. Harris of M. Harris & Sons, I. Harris of the Chicago Home Wrecking company. There are also three daughters, Mrs. A. Goldman, Mrs. I. A. Harris, Minneapolis, and Mrs. Simons, Chicago. There were ten children in the family. There are fifty-five grandchildren and ten great-grand-children. The funeral took place yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Obituary of Louis Harris, *Minneapolis Tribune*, 12 January, 1905, page 4. Note the similarity between this line drawing and the photograph of Louis Harris in the family portrait.

To my amazement, however, this obituary included a line-drawing sketch of the decedent, clearly the same individual as the paste-on photograph in the family picture referred to above! A third obituary, much shorter, gave a different family residence address as 625 Seventh Avenue North.⁴

I found it strange that I had never heard my father or members of his close, extended family, mention that his grandfather, Lazar Harris, had ever resided in Minneapolis. My father would have been 18 years old at the date of the funeral. The various family trees I have examined, some of which are quite detailed, were prepared while informants of that era were still alive. They provide only the name of Lazar for my great-grandfather, but no mention is even made of his wife, nor are place of residence or place of death noted.

Having the obituary information in hand, I then sought to find out more about this decedent, whose name was given as Louis Harris.

First, was there a death certificate on record which might tell us more? A frustrating computer search disclosed no death certificate for Louis Harris. But the index indicated that a Louise Harris had died on the same day. Further search disclosed that the computerized index was incorrect, that Louise was actually Louis, and that a Louis Harris had indeed died in Hennepin County on that date.⁵ Actual Hennepin County death certificates from this era were destroyed long ago, and only index cards exist, which offer only scant information.

Next, what did the initials "O. B. A." stand for in the cemetery's name, as given in the first obituary? Inquiry disclosed that the initials stood for "Order B'nai Abraham," a Jewish fraternal organization that had operated cemeteries in the Minneapolis area. Apparently there were two such cemeteries, since Orthodox Jews from Russia did not wish to be buried with Jews from Rumania (now Romania). The first real clue to its location was contained in an 1893 history of Minneapolis by Isaac Atwater.

"...out Lyndale Avenue, which was platted in 1890. The enclosure consists of two acres and will be improved and beautified in many ways. At present about 35 burials have been made..."⁶

Eventually the search led to the Minneapolis Jewish Cemetery, located at 70 1/2 Penn Avenue South, which apparently took over that O. B. A. cemetery in 1921. The manager of the successor cemetery, Michael Morris, was very helpful. He could not locate any paper records for this particular burial in the cemetery

archives, but he did furnish a hand-drawn map which listed the burial lots by name. Lot 42-5 contained an unmarked burial for “Harris?” Every other cemetery lot on that map listed a first name for the decedent. What a pity, I thought, that Louis Harris could not be on a first name basis with his neighbors! Mr. Morris was sympathetic and indicated that, when the frost was out of the ground, they would check to see whether an actual grave marker might be buried as much as a foot underground.

No headstone or grave marker? Was there really no family money to purchase a headstone for Louis Harris, who was “survived by six children and fifty-three grandchildren,” and who was active “in numerous religious and benevolent societies”? Money or the lack of it seemed, however, to be a continuing issue for members of the Harris family. Allow me to cite a few examples.

In early 1888 my great uncle, Barnett Harris, decided by reason of poor health to withdraw from a scrap iron business he had been running with his brothers, including my grandfather. He was given \$19,788.32 for his share of the business. Thinking that sum was not adequate, he brought suit in Federal Court, claiming that his brothers “told him to take what was offered, or nothing.” If he had disagreed with the arrangement, his brothers asked, then why did he accept that sum? Barnett Harris’s rejoinder was that to take nothing was not characteristic of his people, and he therefore decided to take what was offered. The newspaper account of the suit does not indicate the results of the litigation.⁷

The next, larger business venture of the Harris brothers occurred between 1891 and 1893: the establishment of a rolling mill in New Brighton, Minnesota, which turned scrap metal into iron ingots. At its heyday, the mill employed more than 200 people, a large enterprise for those years. Twice the mill burned to the ground, and after the second fire, it was abandoned because it was uninsured.⁸

Perhaps because of the fires, and possibly other business lessons not adequately learned, my grandfather, Abraham Harris, entered bankruptcy in 1903, having unpaid liabilities in excess of

\$215,000.⁹ That was a huge sum of money in those days. As a result of this bankruptcy, my father left high school and went to work at age 16.

Stymied for the moment, I then turned to other possible ways to verify the identity of Louis Harris. He was not listed in any of the city directories for Minneapolis, nor was he listed in any federal or state censuses. He also was a complete stranger to the computerized records at Ancestry.com. I also checked out the Seventh Avenue North “family home” addresses. No relatives known to me had such an address, and a check in the *The Dual City Blue Book*, a reverse directory of Minneapolis streets, did not disclose any residences at all on Seventh Avenue North during the relevant time period.¹⁰

Since the obituaries indicated that Louis Harris was involved with Jewish religious and benevolent societies for many years, I also tried to follow this lead. No Jewish newspapers, which might have been useful to narrow the search, existed in Minneapolis until 1915. I also visited the Nathan and Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish Archives in the Special Collections Archives of the Elmer L. Andersen Library at the University of Minnesota. No useful information was found. We were also unable to verify synagogue attendance for Louis Harris, since no membership information was known to family members. Finally, I also inquired at the Hodroff-Epstein mortuary in Minneapolis. This funeral home, catering principally to Jewish families in the Twin Cities for nearly a hundred years, had no records going back as far as 1905.

I was not successful in locating any other relevant historical information about Louis Harris.

I also sought information from other descendants of Louis Harris. In reply, I received an email from my 100 year-old aunt, Marilee Asher, who was his great-granddaughter. Referring to an oil-painting done by her mother in the collection of the Phillips Art Museum in Washington, D.C., entitled *My Mother’s Parlor*,¹¹ Marilee spoke of a portrait hung on the parlor’s side wall within the painting.

The portrait on the wall is Louis or Label, our lost Great Grandfather. Here he is in oil paint! “A terrible



Bonnie Harris (1870-1962), *Memory of My Mother's Parlor*, Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

thing... When your mother and I were cleaning out the third floor of 5000 Ellis Avenue... [the old family home] we dumped it.”

Having no other leads, I decided to wait a few more weeks until I heard from Mr. Morris of the Minneapolis Jewish Cemetery, about the possible existence of a headstone. In late May came his devastating reply:

“After further checking, I’m going to conclude that we do not have a Louis Harris (died 1905) at the

Minneapolis Jewish Cemetery. I dug down at the ‘unmarked’ gravesite I suspected may have been his, but did not find anything. I also checked the oldest records we have, and also did not find anything under that name.”

A certain location for my great-grandfather’s resting place still eludes me. I hold-out hope that another researcher may know something I don’t, helping me find where Louis Harris was buried.

- 1 A violet emblem on the reverse side of the photograph reads “Rigg Photographs, 116 South 6th Street, Minneapolis.” We would tentatively date this photograph to be circa 1890.
- 2 *The Minneapolis Journal*, January 11, 1905.
- 3 *Minneapolis Tribune*, January 12, 1905, page 4.
- 4 *St. Paul Daily Globe*, January 12, 1905, page 10.
- 5 Death Certificate (microfilm) No. 1905-43-1446.
- 6 Isaac Atwater. *History of the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota*. New York: Munsell & Company (1893), 8.
- 7 *St. Paul Daily Globe*, October 8, 1889.
- 8 Leo J. Harris, “Tubal Cain in New Brighton. The Harris Forge and Rolling Mill Company,” *Ramsey County History* 36: 4 (Winter 2002), 19-23.
- 9 *The Minneapolis Journal*, June 29, 1903.
- 10 *The Dual City Blue Book*. St. Paul: R. L. Polk & Co., 1885-1923.
- 11 The painting held by the Phillips Museum was done in casein, which is a water-soluble milk protein. It was painted on paper, not canvas, in the primitive style. The original portrait was likely done in oil paint.

The Day Great-Grandmother Caught the Thief in Church

by William Holmquist

If there could be one person from our family's past that I could bring back for an afternoon it would be my great-grandmother, Ellen Carlson Holmquist. She could tell us everything.

She could tell us what it was like, at age 7, to leave Sweden with her parents and three brothers in May of 1872. She could tell us about sailing out of Malmo harbor on a ship bound for America accompanied by her aunt and uncle and cousins. About seeing the village of Klemby in Skane province and the nearby church at Branstad for the last time. And about saying good-bye to her grandparents and never seeing them again.

She would surely remember crossing England by train from Hull to Liverpool, crossing the Atlantic with a ship full of Scandinavian immigrants, sailing up the St. Lawrence River and then crossing from Quebec into the United States.

The family traveled by train to Grove City, Minnesota. After a short stop, the train continued west onto the prairie. It would be fascinating to hear Ellen tell how it felt when they arrived in Grove City, and what went through their minds when the family first saw the land where they would spend the rest of their lives. My grandfather (Ellen's son) said she told him that, when they got off the train, they all stood in amazement. They didn't move at first. This was now their home, and they knew virtually nothing about it. They could not speak English.

Swede Grove Township of Meeker County, where Grove City is located, wasn't named without good reason. It was a major destination for Swedish immigrants in west-central Minnesota. Speaking only Swedish in Swede Grove in the 1870s may not have been much of an impediment. There was no shortage of Swedish speakers there.



Ellen and Carl Holmquist with their first two children, 1898.

Ellen's father, Lars Carlson, and his brother Nils, two tall and muscular Swedish farm workers in their 30s, wasted no time in getting on. Lars and Ellen's mother, Anna, rented a farm a few miles north of Grove City on the shores of Peterson Lake. They rented the Wilcox farm, named for the owner, Mr. Wilcox, for the next 17 years. Their first home was a sod hut built into the side of a hill.

To Lars and Anna were eventually born two daughters and seven sons. The second daughter, named Christine, died in 1874 at the age of 2. It was



The Holmquist family 1938. Seated:

Carl (with flute), author's father, John Holmquist (with accordion). Standing: Ellen Carlson Holmquist. On warm summer evenings, Carl and John would sit on the front lawn and play Swedish folk tunes until dark.

said that the Christine's death affected Ellen greatly. When she had a family of her own, she named her first child Christine.

Ellen was of medium height with dark brown hair. She had a firm and distinct jaw, high cheek bones, and blue eyes. Photos of her from the 1880s show a beautiful young woman wearing lovely and ornate black dresses, with her hair arranged neatly on the top of her head in the popular fashion.

In Ellen's early 20s, she fell in love and was engaged to the son of neighboring Swedish immigrants. But, the marriage was not to be. Even though the young couple had set a wedding date, Ellen's potential in-laws perceived insurmountable problems based on differences in wealth and status. While Ellen's fiance came from a family of prominent and wealthy Swedish Baptist land-owners, Ellen's parents were poor Swedish Lutheran tenants who owned no land at all. One can only imagine how Ellen felt.

About this time, in 1889, Lars Carlson bought a farm of his own — 200 acres in Cosmos Township of Meeker County, about 10 miles south of Grove City. We have always thought that the land purchase was prompted by the snubbing of his daughter by her fiance's family.

There was no Swedish Lutheran church in the area. Swedish families met for services at a local home until a church could be built. Eventually land was donated and a pastor was found. Lumber for the church was hauled to the building site by a Swedish immigrant named Carl Holmquist. Carl had grown up in the forests of Smaland and was working for two years on a farm a few miles north of the church in order to pay off his passage to America.

He was tall, strong, and quiet, and like Lars and Ellen's brothers, he knew how to do farm work. Lars and Anna and their children joined what became the First Lutheran Church of Cosmos, as did Carl

and the other Swedish families in the township. On New Year's Eve of 1895, Carl and Ellen were married. They lived on the farm with Lars and Anna and had three children of their own. Christine was born in September of 1895, Willie in August of 1897, and Elmer in October of 1899.

When William (as he preferred to be called in later years) and Elmer were old men, they liked to talk about the "old days" and their parents. One story dated from events of about 1902 or 1903, they thought. One day, Ellen dressed all three children in their best clothes and loaded them into the wagon. She climbed in, grabbed the reins and commanded the horse to get going. They headed for the countryside north of Grove City, traveling on gravel roads, and eventually pulled into the driveway of her former fiance's parents, and not hesitating, stopped right in front of the farm house. Her former fiance's parents must have wondered what she could possibly be doing there.

In short order, Ellen told them she had come to show them her three lovely children, their fine clothes and the good horse and wagon. She wanted to show them, in no uncertain terms, how well she had done.

She then gave the horse a jolt of the reins and left her almost-in-laws in a cloud of dust.

Carl and Ellen stayed on the Cosmos Township farm for 42 years. They raised their children and saw them married and have families of their own. They remained faithful members of First Lutheran Church, or as it was called locally, “the Swedish Church.”

My father (Ellen’s grandson) remembers hot summer Sunday services in the 1930s, when parishioners fanned themselves to remain cool, secretly hoping the minister’s sermon would be short. One stifling Sunday in particular, my father said, he would never forget. It seemed the pastor’s sermon would never end. Then, as usual, the ushers passed and collected the offering baskets. The organist roused herself enough for one last hymn and the service was over. People left their pews and headed down the main aisle to the entry way of the church before heading outside into the heat. Then, the excitement began.

Ellen, who always sat in the very back of the church, had reached the entry way first. My young father found his way through the aisle full of adults and joined his mother. Moments later, he knew something unusual was happening. Ellen was standing before a prosperous member of the congregation who had been an usher for many years. The usher was pulling the church bell rope when Ellen asked him to show her the money she’d placed in the collection basket.

The man gave her a strange look. Again, Ellen demanded that he show her the money. This time she added a little more detail. She told the man that she had placed a \$5 bill in the basket, but had clearly marked the bill so that it could be identified later.

At this point, my father recalls, the man stopped pulling the rope. There was a moment of terrible silence and tension. Ellen and the man glared at one another. Then, the man broke down in a torrent of tears and remorse, and admitted that he had been stealing from the church for years. He then reached deep into his pants pocket and handed Ellen the marked \$5 bill.

No charges were pressed. It was a forgiving parish, but neither the man nor his family ever entered the church again.

Ellen explained how she caught the thief. She always sat in the last pew, and the collection basket was full by the time it reached her. She could see how much money was in the basket. Each week, the amount of donations collected the previous Sunday was printed in the church bulletin. Ellen could see when there was a discrepancy. Without saying a word to anyone, she watched for many months. Eventually, she decided to lay a trap.

In 1937, when Carl and Ellen were in their 70s, they sold the farm and moved into Cosmos. They built a white frame house on the edge of town, along with a couple of small out-buildings painted Swedish red with white trim. There they raised chickens, a hog for butchering, and a large garden full of potatoes and raspberries, with dill planted strategically in the corners.

Ten years later, in 1947, my parents were engaged to be married, and my father brought his fiancee to meet Carl and Ellen for the first time. My mother was 18 years-old and nervous about meeting his family. A German Catholic from northern Minnesota, she had never been in Swedish Lutheran territory before. They walked up the front steps and knocked on the door. Ellen opened the door and, with a blast of heat and light and cooking smells (including fresh coffee), she threw her arms wide, hugged my mother and, in her Swedish accent, said, “Welcome to the family.” She then led my mother into her home and introduced her to everyone. The dining room table was set in anticipation, and Ellen treated my mother as a guest of honor.

Ellen Carlson Holmquist died in March 1955 at age 89, and was buried in the cemetery of First Lutheran Church of Cosmos. She rests next to Lars, Anna and Carl, and other members of her family. My father said she had selected the dress to wear at her funeral, as well as the hymns and Bible passages to be read.

My mother said the church was packed. You couldn’t have gotten another person in the door.

Writing Family History for Children

by Gayle Geber

One can't help but notice that people typically wait until later in life to start researching or writing their family histories. Why would young people be eager to get involved with genealogy, given all the other demands on their time, if they haven't been taught its value as children? There are many ways to involve children and adolescents in genealogy; using your favorite search engine for a few minutes will produce some helpful ideas. One example is "Genealogy for Children" at a website called Genwriters (www.genwriters.com/children.html). You can also find tips on writing for children in the "Writing Your Family History" category at Cyndi's List. (<http://www.cyndislist.com/writing/>).

One enjoyable method is to write family histories for children to read so they can learn about their ancestors in an age-appropriate manner. If you, like me, are not hoping to write the great American novel, but only want to pass on family history to future generations – and not publish these stories professionally – I'd like to offer some suggestions of how you can think about writing for children. Public libraries have many excellent books on the mechanics of writing for children. One example is *It's a Bunny-Eat-Bunny World*, by Olga Litowinsky.¹

This article will apply an ancestry framework to what you can learn from books on the mechanics of writing.

Define your goals

First, ask yourself why you are writing. What do you hope to achieve? Imagine yourself somewhere between several pairs of opposite poles. For example, do you want to:

- Teach about historical facts of ancestors' lives ... or teach about their personal qualities and characteristics?
- Describe objective facts about ancestors ... or encourage children to hold their ancestors in their hearts?
- Lecture children about family history ... or involve them in family history?
- Educate ... or fascinate?

Answers to these questions will give you a sense of what kind of writing you might want to do.

Select the genre

There is value in writing to achieve any of these goals, but it is important to choose the kind of writing that best fits your purpose. Family history generally is non-fiction, but there are still many choices of story-telling methods. Because your goals can range anywhere from basic instruction to evocative inspiration, you will need to select the genre that best fits your goal. Some genres focus exclusively on historical facts, while others use the facts as a foundation for a narrative that tell the story with varying degrees of ingenuity. Varieties of narratives include:

- **Basic genealogy.** If all you know about some parts of your family history is names, locations, and dates, a simple reporting of these events is best told with attention to children's reading levels and attention spans.
- **Memoir.** Your childhood might already be ancient history to your grandchildren. It certainly will be for future generations.
- **Essay.** Essays typically focus on a particular theme or subject – for example, how hard-working your ancestors were.
- **Biography.** Delving deeply into one person or family gives a biographical account that can be remembered for generations to come.
- **Creative nonfiction.** In this genre, "the emphasis... is on the use of inventive and dramatic techniques when writing about the actual world rather than a fictional one."² Keep in mind that "creativity" does not allow you to invent events that are not known to have occurred.
- **Historical fiction.** This genre tells a story from the past, containing many elements of fact, but with some fabricated elements (e.g., dialogue and characters).

If your objectives lean more toward inspiring children and helping them experience what their ancestors' lives were like, telling a compelling story is important. Telling stories can be part of

most genres, with the exception of basic genealogy. Even when writing for children, we need to craft a beginning that captivates the young reader and presents a conflict to ponder, a middle that keeps the action going and develops the characters, and an ending that resolves the conflict.

The genealogical and historical data available to you will largely drive your selection. If all you have are bare-bones data, you might not be able to weave much of a story around that, particularly for pre-adolescents.

Your personal comfort level is another important consideration in your selection of genre. For example, some people will not feel comfortable straying into creative nonfiction or historical fiction because these might not accurately convey family history facts, while other writers may be comfortable with such styles.

Write to your audience

Keeping in mind the specific children you are writing for is perhaps the most important decision of all.

Are you writing for children you know personally, children of distant relatives, or children in future generations? If you know about the special interests of the children you are writing for, consider yourself fortunate. Children like to read about subjects they care about. For example, if your target reader loves cars or airplanes, you could build a story around cars or airplanes – like when great-grandma's first and only driving lesson on country roads ended with a crash into the tool-shed door. If that type of story isn't in your family history, you could at least emphasize period-accurate cars and trucks as part of the historical context of your story. If you have a niece who aspires to be a physician but there are none among your ancestors, you could write about childbirth when physician-attended births happened at home or when your mother had surgery before antibiotics were on the scene. Similarly, if your reader is facing a special challenge in life, such as seeing a parent go off to war, you could write about an ancestor who had

similar experiences, how they impacted his life, and the decisions he made.

If you don't know your readers' interests and experiences, you will need to default to typical childhood interests and challenges. However, childhood interests and challenges vary by age, developmental level, and family context. Emotion-laden issues appropriate for discussion with older children – for example, marital infidelity or bankruptcy – are inappropriate for preschoolers. The amount of detail you can weave into your narrative will be greater for older children than younger ones. The cognitive complexity and ethical nuances we can address with adolescents – such as deciding to become a World War I conscientious objector – would be beyond what a child could handle. Nonetheless, most children, regardless of age, are interested in questions such as: Am I normal? Do people like me? What am I good at doing? Writing that touches on these themes can engage children in family history.

Gender is another issue to consider. One of the easiest ways to engage children in stories is by writing about children – and if there are pets or other animals in the story, so much the better. A children's librarian told me that girls like to read books with girls or boys as central characters, but boys prefer books about boys. When selecting ancestors to write about, keep this in mind.

Write from your interests

It is important to write with the readers' interests in mind, but it is also important to write about what you value. Regardless of our goals or preferred genre, most of us will want to teach our young readers something we believe is important in life. Examples of issues you might focus on include:

- **Life skills.** Which skills are important to you? Can you identify an ancestor who was good (or bad) with managing money? Was there a fantastic apple pie baker in your family tree? You can construct a story for children on how your ancestors learned and valued these skills in their lives.

- **Life lessons.** Do any of your ancestors exemplify hard-won lessons such as “live and learn” or “forgive and forget”? What adversities did they face that taught those lessons? Children can learn much from how conflicts were resolved.
- **Personal qualities and behaviors.** Did your ancestors persevere against near-insurmountable odds, or was great-uncle Edward buried in an unmarked grave on the poor farm because his alcoholism got the better of him? Children could consider some of your ancestors as something of a role model – for better or worse.
- **Cultural traditions and religious beliefs.** Have your ancestors’ traditions and beliefs been passed on to your generation? If not, writing about them for children can help recreate them in their minds. If these traditions are already part of their lives, children can appreciate knowing where they came from.

Depending on the age of your readers, you could select one or more of these issues to describe in each story you write.

Use available resources

You are not totally on your own. You can pick up tips for engaging children in family history from several sources.

Make children’s librarians your new best friends. They have a wealth of information on children’s literature, and are usually willing to share it with you.

At your community library, select and read children’s books. They will give you a good sense of what children of varying ages are interested in and what their reading levels are. Many magazines target either girls or boys, so they give a good understanding of what each gender finds interesting. There are several series of historical novels that will be helpful in writing family histories.³

Preschoolers need visual images to accompany a story being read to them, especially if it describes people, objects, or events they are not familiar with. Without photos or drawings, it is difficult to convey a historically-accurate account of ancestors to preschoolers. For young children, pictures take the place of words; for older children, they enhance the text. Pictures will help early readers understand the story. If you don’t have photos, older children and adolescents still will be able to understand the story if the words give the necessary historical detail.

If you have any artifacts from your ancestors, you could build a story around them. Whether it’s a baking dish used by a great-great-grandmother, doilies made by a favorite aunt’s needle tatting, or Grandpa Charlie’s handwritten recipe for beet wine, being able to touch the objects described makes the story more real for children.

If there’s a child in your family, joint authorship could be a wonderful venture. If you supply the research data, the two of you could write the family history as a story, poem, mystery, or script for a play with children as actors. You could also incorporate children’s art into the family history you write.

Learnings

Some lessons we learn as parents and teachers also apply to writing for children. Children do not enjoy lectures – particularly moralistic ones – and they don’t like to read them, either. Children do not respond well to a flood of advice, but a few choice tidbits here and there, perhaps disguised as a character’s words in your story, can go a long way in conveying your message. Be thorough, but don’t obsess. When writing for children, brevity is a plus.

One of the most difficult things when writing family history for children is to avoid writing the complete multi-generational story that we so enjoyed researching. If you are not a professional writer, it might be better to write a short story, or a

series of short stories, each with its own narrative arc. Multi-generational sagas are better left for adults and some adolescent readers.

In my own case, I aimed to write in a creative nonfiction style, but ended up writing a kind of historical fiction. I was not skilled enough to create engaging scenes without dialog, but I was not privy to dialog that occurred before I was born. My mother and aunt told me enough stories of their mother, and I still remember my grandfather's favorite phrases and verbal cadence, so I felt comfortable writing dialog in their voices, based on what I had been told about events.

I also wrote about, when during the depression, my grandfather picked up scraps of cloth at a tailor's shop for my grandmother to make quilts. Because I did not know which tailor shop my grandfather frequented, I used city directories to locate shops he might have visited. I identified three tailors within walking distance of his house, but I did not feel comfortable using the proprietors' names in my story. These kinds of contrivances made my stories partly fictional.

Other writers might not feel comfortable with this approach. In this case, I knew the factual stories from my aunt and mother well enough that I felt I could convey them with integrity. In an afterword, I told the reader that the dialogue was a creation of my imagination. This allowed me to write a more engaging story; the fictionalized approach worked for me.

I don't aspire to be a Laura Ingalls Wilder or a J. K. Rowling. I do aspire to write engaging stories

for my grandchildren. I'm not creative enough to avoid being trite, but I think I have been able to avoid being maudlin, and that was success for me. One of the advantages of setting your own standards for your family history writing is that you get to break your own rules.

A good storyline is paramount for children. The characters (your ancestors) and conflict (dilemmas in their lives) make the story real. Children, especially boys, like action.

Be aware that you might need to select which historical facts you want to share in your story in order to create a good storyline. I began writing for pre-adolescents about the time my grandfather was shot in the line of duty, sparing them the traumatic details. However, I discovered that I could not make the story compelling enough for that age-group without the traumatic details. So, I decided instead to write about sibling rivalry between my grandfather's daughters – something many siblings would relate to. Talking about the shooting simply became a vehicle for portraying my grandparents talking to their daughters about the importance of family.

Conclusion

If your written family histories engage children in their heritage, they are more likely to develop a deep respect for those who have gone before them. Armed with this understanding, as they grow to adulthood, they might be the ones to assure that there won't be a last time that anyone's name is spoken.

1. Olga Litowinsky, *It's a Bunny-Eat Bunny World* (New York: Walker and Company, 2001). Other resources include Alice Pope, ed., *The 2009 Children's Writer's and Illustrators's Market* (Cincinnati: Writer's Digest Books, 2008) and Harold D. Underdown, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Publishing Children's Books*, Third Edition (New York: Penguin Books, 2008).
2. "FAQ," Creative Nonfiction Collective Society (<http://www.creativenonfictioncollective.com/faq>); accessed 14 November 2013.
3. One series is called "My America" and the other "Dear America," both published by Scholastic, Inc., New York.

Church Records in the Midwest

by Valerie Eichler Lair

*Church records rank among the most promising of genealogical records available.”
(The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy, rev.ed. 1997, page 149).*

Church records are valuable for genealogy research because they may be the only source available in lieu of missing or destroyed vital records. Church baptism, marriage, and burial records can supply the dates, places, and parents' names usually found in vital records.

Records usually begin when the church was formed. The content of records will vary from church-to-church and across denominations. You need to know the religion of your ancestors and be familiar with the kinds of records kept. Record books are usually in the form of “registers,” but the records might also have been kept among the church's business records or the minister's personal papers.

Common kinds of church records include:

- Baptisms and christenings,
- Marriages,
- Burials,
- Confirmation lists,
- Membership lists,
- Administration records, including meeting minutes,
- Financial records, and
- Weekly church bulletins.

Baptisms usually occurred from a few days to up to six months after birth. However, adult baptisms were common in some religions. Baptists, Quakers, and Mennonites did not baptize.

Marriage records also differ among religions. Usually, the minister was required to report the event to civil authorities, thus creating a civil marriage record. All denominations, except Puritans and Congregationalists, recorded marriages.

Burial records are just that — records of burials, not deaths — but they may also record date and place of death. In the case of my ancestors' Lutheran church, some burial records included the cause of death and names of survivors.

Finding church records

First, you must determine your ancestor's religion, keeping in mind that it might be different than the one that the family is associated with today. Consider this list of ten places to find clues to an ancestor's religion:

- a family's present affiliation (tradition),
- foreign origin or ethnicity of the family,
- history of churches in area at time of settlement,
- obituaries,
- wills or probate records,
- deeds,
- wedding announcements,
- funeral cards,
- death certificates, and
- county or town histories.

A church's records may or may not be in the custody of the present-day church, but check there first. The records may have been transcribed and published, or transferred to a denominational archive or other depository. Look for published records in holdings of libraries or historical societies. Ask the local genealogical or historical society about the area's churches. Check the catalog of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City to see if the library has published or microfilmed copies of a church's records. Consult city directories to learn what churches were active when your ancestors lived there. Ask local funeral and/or mortuary directors if they know about the location of records. Don't overlook

online telephone directories; I frequently use www.switchboard.com to locate the present-day churches in an area. In the “Find a Business” category box type “churches,” and in the city-state-zip code box, type that information for the area you’re searching. I then compare the current day list of churches with a list of those named in the church section of a county history book.

It is also important to know something about the history of a religion. For example, the Lutheran Church has experienced dozens of splits and mergers over the years. The same is true of the Church of England. Knowledge of these reorganizations can help you identify the kinds of records kept at different times, as well as the denominational archives you need to search.

Some sources to help you locate Church Denomination Archives include:

E. Kay Kirkham, *Survey of American Church Records* (Logan, Utah: Everton, 1971).

This book is found at most libraries in two volumes. They will give you an idea of denominations, where their records might be kept, and the types of records that might be found. This is a good book with which to begin, but certainly not comprehensive or entirely current.

Richard W. Doughery, “Research in Church Records,” Chapter 6 in Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, eds., *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy* 3rd edition (Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2006).

The chapter’s writer and the editors have done a wonderful job listing denomination archives’ addresses; however, it might be outdated.

Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches (New York and Nashville: Abingdon Press).

This book is published annually and has a complete list of names and addresses of current

officers for all churches/denominations. Check for a current edition at a local library or a local church.

Elizabeth Petty Bentley, *The Genealogist’s Address Book*, 6th edition (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2009). This book has the most comprehensive list of all denominations and their archives and addresses.

(I keep an updated list of eighteen denominational archives. If you would like a copy of this list, email me at: valsroots@yahoo.com; put “church denomination archives” in the subject line.)

Several things will determine the kinds of records you find:

- time period of records desired,
- denomination(s) your ancestors embraced and why they changed,
- ethnic background of your ancestors,
- state or locality of your ancestor’s residence, and the denominations common there,
- religious migration patterns, and
- location where the records have been moved to or are collected.

You also will want to learn about the rules, or “laws,” of your ancestors’ religion. Knowing something about them might help you determine what other types of records to look for.

Answers to several questions will help. What type of records did the denomination keep? Are they maintained at the local, district, or national level? What genealogical information did the denomination deem important (i.e. births, deaths, marriages, or none of these)? Was church a highly important part of your ancestors’ lives in a particular time period or not?

Terminology differs among the denominations and can be confusing. For example, most denominations have some kind of record of

people arriving in or leaving a congregation. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints calls such records “certificates of membership.” Baptists call them “letters of admission” and the Society of Friends (Quakers) call them “certificates of removal.”

Keep in mind that the records may be in an immigrant language. Many German Lutheran churches kept records in German. You likely will need to know some basic Latin terms to read Catholic church records.

Remember that church records are private records; they are not public records as are civil vital records. The church (or denomination) has no obligation to make its records available to you. I have not had problems viewing church records – at least not in Freeborn County, Minnesota. It is recommended that you ask for permission prior to visiting the church. Remember that the church’s name may have changed over time.

I have found booklets from local genealogical societies helpful in locating churches and their records. An example is *DuPage County, Illinois, Churches and Their Records*, published by the Lombard Suburban Genealogical Society. Contact the local genealogical societies in the areas where your ancestors lived. They may have a similar guide.

Some libraries – especially in large urban areas – have published genealogical research guides that often include sections on church research. Examples from Chicago and Detroit include:

- Loretto Dennis Szucs, *Chicago and Cook County: A Guide to Research* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1996).
- Peggy Tuck Sinko, *Guide to Local and Family History at the Newberry Library* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1987).
- Joseph F. Oldenburg, *A Genealogical Guide to the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1988).

Don’t overlook church anniversary booklets – 75th, 100th, 125th. These may list the names of church elders or confirmands.

And last, but certainly not least, remember to include published church records in your research plan and search for them in online library catalogs. In addition to Google books, check out the Hathi Trust Digital Library (<http://www.hathitrust.org>) and WorldCat (www.worldcat.org).

The Midwest is rich in history and in genealogy resources, especially when it comes to church records. Have fun!

Creating a Personal Genealogy Education Plan

By Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.

How do you become a better genealogist? One answer is: learn about information about resources, methods, and technologies that will help you create whatever you're trying to create, and then practice!

Before you develop an education plan, you need to consider answers to several questions. What would you like to do in family history? What would you like to know? What would you like to do with whatever it is once you know it? This answer is different for each of us, and it probably changes over time.

For example, I started out rather late, after my father and all four grandparents had passed away. I wanted to put together the scraps of paper that my parents and grandparents and a couple of great aunts had created, and see what story they told. When I put the scraps together, I saw that there were a lot of holes and not much story.

I already had pretty good historical research and writing skills acquired through my previous education and work experience, but I needed to learn how genealogists research. I didn't have to look at many online family trees to realize that there was pretty bad work on the Internet, along with good work. I noticed that some genealogists posted family trees with source information, and that some trees had more complete source information than others. The better-sourced trees usually made more sense and felt more reliable than trees without sources. With more complete facts and fewer glaring errors, the sourced trees came much closer to telling the real story.

Once I discovered that good genealogists use sources, I started trying to learn about the sources available for the times and places I was researching. I bought copies of *Ancestry's Red Book*¹ and *The Source*², and I subscribed to online newsletters and mailing lists. I discovered genealogical societies and began to attend local classes, programs, and conferences, but I didn't have an education plan. I was grabbing opportunities as they passed before me. Were there disappointing classes and conference sessions? Yes, but there were good ones, too. I learned how to decipher the language used to describe classes and conference sessions, making me better able to select the offerings most suited to my needs and interests. I developed a relatively formal education plan and have been working on it and revising it ever since.

Your Personal Education Plan

If you want to develop your genealogical skills in an orderly way, think about doing some structured planning. Education planning starts with identifying what you want to learn, quantifying the amount of time and money you have to spend, thinking about how you learn best, and assessing how well various kinds of educational opportunities meet your needs.

In my opinion, three major kinds of skills and knowledge prepare genealogists' to produce quality genealogical research and writing: resources, methods, and technologies.

- Resources include the accessible genealogical resources and both the online and bricks-and-mortar repositories (libraries, archives, courthouses, etc.) that house them.
- Methods refers to the ways in which genealogists document, organize, analyze, correlate, evaluate, and synthesize information to produce accurate genealogical conclusions.
- Technology includes the tools — from pads and pencils to computers and mobile devices — that make research, analyzing and writing easier, faster, or more accurate.

Assess your knowledge and skill levels in each of these areas. Are you especially strong or weak in any of them? Is your lack of skill or knowledge in one of these areas holding you back? If so, that might be the area where you want to target your education plan.

Today's genealogy world offers innumerable ways to learn whatever you want to learn. Regardless of your budget, available time, learning style, and preferences, you can find options that will work. But before you invest your time and money, think about your needs and preferences.

- **Schedules.** Can you commit to traveling to classes or courses in or outside your area? When do you have time—weekdays, weeknights, weekends? Do you need learning options that are available when you are, at odd or irregular hours?
- **Time availability.** Can you commit to a multi-month online program? Can you spend several days or an entire week at a genealogy conference or institute?
- **Delivery systems and methods.** Do you actually read reference and how-to books, or just

buy and pile them? Do you need visual stimulation for learning, or do you learn better by listening? Do you need structure? How much structure is enough? How much flexibility do you want? Do you prefer listening to a lecture or learning through exercises or group work with others? Are you comfortable with computer-based learning, or do you prefer face-to-face contact?

- **Cost.** How much money are you able or willing to spend?

Options run the gamut from low- to high-tech, low- to high-cost, and low- to high-interaction. Some of the educational opportunities you might want to consider include:

- **Classes, conferences, and institutes**—MGS offers a wide variety of classes, as well as two conferences each year. Neighboring societies in Wisconsin, Iowa, and western Minnesota also hold conferences. National conferences are offered by the National Genealogical Society (2014, Richmond, Virginia), the Federation of Genealogical Societies (2014, San Antonio, Texas), and RootsTech (2015, Salt Lake City, Utah). The four major genealogical institutes are the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), held at Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama; the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), held at LaRoche College, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Orchard Lake Schools, Orchard Lake, Michigan; the National Institute of Genealogical Research, held at the National Archives, Washington, D.C.; and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, held in Salt Lake City.
- **Books**—In addition to the printed books available to buy or borrow, there are large numbers of e-books available. Beginners might enjoy *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy*³ or *Who Do You Think You Are?: the Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History*.⁴ More advanced researchers would benefit from *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*,⁵ *Mastering Genealogical Proof*,⁶ or *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques*.⁷
- **Online materials**—The Internet is a great place to bone up on sources and repositories. *Ancestry.com* offers a Learning Center, and *FamilySearch.org* has

a Wiki, Getting Started Guide, and Learning Center Video Courses. (Find the Wiki through the Search tab and the other learning materials by clicking “Get Help.”) Many repository and society websites offer outstanding learning resources. Check the websites of the U.S. National Archives and Boston's New England Historic Genealogical Society. You will find podcasts, videos, and webinars as well as written materials. Also search iTunes, YouTube, and Vimeo for podcasts and videos.

- **Online courses.** The National Institute for Genealogical Studies offers numerous courses and certificate programs, and Boston University's Online Genealogical Research Certificate Program and Genealogical Essentials are popular and highly regarded. In addition to these fee-based programs, the Internet is home to a number of free online study groups, ranging from the eighteen-month ProGen Study Groups for those interested in exploring professional genealogy to weekly groups studying *Mastering Genealogical Proof* and monthly groups discussing articles from the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

There is always something new to learn in genealogy, so take some time to assess your needs and preferences, and then find the educational materials or programs that best fit you.

1. Alice Eichholz, ed., *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*, 3rd ed. (Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2004). The *Red Book* is now available in the *Ancestry.com* Learning Center as part of the Family History Wiki (<http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/>).
2. Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, eds., *The Source: a Guidebook to American Genealogy*, 3rd ed (Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2006). *The Source* is also available in *Ancestry's* Family History Wiki.
3. Christine Rose and Kay Germain Ingalls, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy*, 3rd ed. (Indianapolis: Alpha Books, 2012), also available as an e-book.
4. Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, *Who Do You Think You Are?: the Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History* (New York: Viking, 2010), also available as an e-book.
5. Val D. Greenwood, *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, 3rd ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2000).
6. Thomas W. Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Proof* (Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2013). Also available as an e-book.
7. George G. Morgan and Drew Smith, *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques* (New York: McGraw Hill Education, 2014).

Lois welcomes questions or suggestions for future column topics! Contact her at LoisMackin@aol.com.

Minnesota Civil War Soldiers Who were Members of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Oregon

by David C. Bailey, Sr.

This is the third in a series of articles that use records of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) to track the post-war movements of Minnesota's Civil War veterans. The first dealt with those Minnesota soldiers who were members of the GAR in Colorado and Wyoming; the second dealt with those veterans who were members of the Department of California.¹

The GAR was the largest veterans' organization to appear after the war. During its active years, the GAR had a significant influence on politics, law, and social programs in the United States. Memorial Day was established as a national holiday because of its members' efforts. Five GAR members were elected President of the United States, as were many of the governors in the northern states. The GAR promoted the establishment of soldiers' homes and veterans' relief programs and the award of ever more valuable pensions to Union veterans. In many cases, it was impossible for someone to be elected to public office if he were not a veteran of the Civil War and did not have the support of the GAR. National Encampments were yearly meetings that attracted more than 25,000 veterans in the 1890's. By 1890 when the GAR was reaching its peak, membership reached almost 500,000.²

The GAR in Oregon was organized 28 September 1882. At one time or another, there were 77 posts within the Department. Virtually any town of appreciable size had a functioning post. Larger cities, such as Portland (with at least seven), had multiple posts.^{3,4}

Unfortunately, many original records from local posts have been lost, and only a few post and departmental records were published. Those that were are difficult to locate. This article is based on a relatively scarce roster of the then existing 61 posts in the Department of Oregon, published in 1919.⁵

The following information of interest to genealogists is provided for each soldier (if available):

- Birth – Date and location,
- Service – A brief summary of the soldier's service record; service in multiple units is included. Other service highlights such as instances of wounding or capture are also noted,
- Widow – Name of surviving spouse from pension application,
- Death – Date and location,
- Burial – Cemetery and either city or county, and
- Miscellaneous – Membership in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS, a veteran's organization for officers) and admissions to National Soldiers' Homes.

It is also important to note what this list is not. It is not a complete list of Minnesota Civil War veterans who resided at one time or another in the area covered by the Department of Oregon. While the GAR was the largest Civil War veterans' organization, not all veterans belonged to it. Whether due to political reasons, absence of a conveniently located post, or other reasons, some veterans eschewed membership. This is also not a complete list of Minnesota veterans who were members of the GAR in the Department of Oregon over the entire period of the organization's existence. This list is based on a roster that is essentially a snapshot of the membership at a distinct point in time. Other veterans may have been members, but moved or relocated prior to the dates of the underlying rosters. Others may have migrated to Oregon and joined the local GAR at other times.

George Wright Post # 1, Portland, Oregon

Henry O. Canfield – born about 1847 in WI;^{6,7} entered service 4 Feb 1865 as Private, Company E, 1st MN Heavy Artillery; mustered out 27 Sep 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 504,950 from Dakota Territory on 29 Jan 1884;^{8,9} died 13 Nov 1925 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Columbia Masonic Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Josephine Canfield) pension application # 1,239,463 from OR on 2 Dec 1925.^{8,9}

Cullen Ewing Cline – born 16 Jan 1844 in IL;¹⁵ enlisted 16 Apr 1861; mustered in 25 Apr 1861 as Private, Company D, 7th IL Infantry; mustered out 25 Jul 1861; re-enlisted 28 Mar 1862; mustered in 1 Apr 1862 as Private, Company E, 1st IL Cavalry; mustered out 14 Jul 1862; re-entered service 8 Mar 1865 as 2nd Lieutenant, Company B, 1st MN Heavy Artillery; mustered out 17 Jun 1865;^{6,7,10,11} veteran's pension application # 716,596 from OR on 16 Jul 1889;^{8,9} member OR Commandery MOLLUS (Insignia # 09713);¹³ died 11 Jul 1921 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Annie E. Cline) pension application # 1,177,493 from OR on 3 Aug 1921.^{8,9}

James Fall – born about 1843;^{6,7} entered service 28 Oct 1861 as Private, 1st Independent Battery, MN Light Artillery; promoted 2nd Lieutenant 19 Jul 1864; mustered out 30 Jun 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 482,230 from WI on 3 May 1883;^{8,9} died 9 Oct 1921 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Lincoln Memorial Park, Portland, Multnomah County, OR.¹⁵

Robert Sturgeon – born about 1845 in Canada;^{6,7} entered service 9 Apr 1864 as Private, Company A, Brackett's Battalion, MN Cavalry; discharged 29 Apr 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 643,948 from Dakota Territory on 6 Mar 1888;^{8,9} died 19 Feb 1927 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Riverview Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, OR;¹⁷ widow's (Sarah J. Sturgeon) pension application # 1,575,520 from OR on 29 Mar 1927.^{8,9}

George G. Meade Post # 2, Oregon City, Oregon

Michael Huard – born about 1845 in Canada;^{6,7} entered service 11 Sep 1863 as Wagoner, Company C, Hatch's Battalion, MN Cavalry; mustered out 22 Jun 1866;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 820,397 from IA on 16 Jul 1890;^{8,9} patient US Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Sawtelle, CA;¹⁸ died 11 Jul 1932 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Saint John the Apostle Catholic Cemetery, Oregon City, Clackamas County, OR.¹⁵

Josiah Martin – born about 1841 in PA;^{6,7} entered service 15 Aug 1862 as Private, Company I, 9th MN Infantry; mustered out 24 Aug 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 748,981 from OR on 13 Jan 1890;^{8,9} died 10 Nov 1926 at Oregon City, OR;⁸ buried Mountain View Cemetery, Oregon City, Clackamas County, OR.¹⁵

Frank Moore – born about 1843 in PA;^{6,7} entered service 14 Aug 1862 as Private, Company K, 8th MN Infantry; medical discharge due to disability 9 Dec 1862;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 1,340,314 from MN on 16 Sep 1905;^{8,9} died 31 Dec 1929 at Oregon City, OR;⁸ buried Mountain View Cemetery, Oregon City, Clackamas County, OR.¹⁵

Lincoln – Garfield Post # 3, Portland, Oregon

George A. Carsley – born about 1840 in ME;^{6,7} entered service 15 Aug 1862 as Corporal, Company D, 7th MN Infantry; promoted Sergeant; mustered out 16 Aug 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 931,695 from CA on 19 Aug 1890;^{8,9} patient US Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Sawtelle, CA;¹⁸ died 24 Sep 1929 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Lincoln Memorial Park, Portland, Multnomah County, OR.¹⁵

William Link – born about 1842 in MI;^{6,7} entered service 23 Sep 1864 as Private, Company B, 1st MN Heavy Artillery; mustered out 17 Jun 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 654,921 from MN on 11 May 1888;^{8,9} died 17 Jan 1921 at Sidney, MT;⁸ widow's (Mary E. Link) pension application # 1,171,267 from MT on 15 Mar 1921.^{8,9}

William T. Sherman Post # 4, Moro, Oregon

Simon Elcock – born about 1847;^{6,7} entered service 21 Jan 1865 as Private, Company E, 1st MN Heavy Artillery; mustered out 27 Sep 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 1,351,734 from OR on 22 Aug 1906;^{8,9} died 6 Apr 1929 at Roseville, CA;⁸ buried Sylvan Cemetery, Citrus Heights, Sacramento County, CA;¹⁵ widow's (Emma Jane Elcock) pension application # 1,631,253 from CA on 30 Apr, 1929.^{8,9}

J. B. Matthews Post # 6, Forest Grove, Oregon

Hiram Baker – born about 1847 in MI;^{6,7} entered service 18 Feb 1865 as Private, Company M, 1st MN Heavy Artillery; discharged 5 Aug 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 1,1090,098 from WA on 2 May 1892;^{8,9} died 30 or 31 Jan 1923 at Rainier, OR;^{8,15} buried Union Point Cemetery, Banks, Washington County, OR.¹⁵

Samuel Clapshaw – born 1839;¹⁵ entered service 12 Aug 1862 as Private, Company I, 6th MN Infantry; discharged 10 May 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 454,670 from OR on 13 Jul 1882;^{8,9} died 9 Jan 1929 at Banks, OR;⁸ buried Hillside Cemetery, Forest Grove, Washington County, OR.¹⁵

Henry Clay Helm – born 6 Apr 1844 at Logansport, IN;¹⁵ entered service 14 Aug 1862 as Private, Company E, 8th MN Infantry; promoted Sergeant; discharged 20 Jun 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 1,135,271 from MN on 17 Oct 1892;^{8,9} died 1 Feb 1920 at Forest Grove, OR;⁸ buried Forest View Cemetery, Forest Grove, Washington County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Emma R. Helm) pension application # 1,152,746 from OR on 16 Feb 1920.^{8,9}

John W. Geary Post # 7, Eugene, Oregon

John Q. Beardsley – born about 1841 in NY;^{6,7} entered service 13 Aug 1862 as Private, Company A, 7th MN Infantry; mustered out 16 Aug 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 940,629 on 27 Sep 1890;^{8,9} died 5 Dec 1928 at Eugene, OR;⁸ buried Union Cemetery, Medford, Steele County, MN;¹⁵ widow's (Gertrude M. Beardsley) pension application # 1,630,195 from OR on 17 Dec 1928.^{8,9}

Theodrick H. (Theodore) Drum – born 1846;¹⁵ entered service 25 Feb 1864 as Private, Company C, Hatch's Battalion, MN Cavalry; mustered out 22 Jun 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 554,121 on 16 Nov 1885;^{8,9} died 5 Dec 1924 at Eugene, OR;⁸ buried West Lawn Memorial Park, Eugene, Lane County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Martha Drum) pension application # 1,226,948 from OR on 22 Dec 1924.^{8,9}

Charles M. Eichler – born about 1846;^{6,7} entered service 3 Nov 1864 as Private, Company D, 1st MN Heavy Artillery; promoted Musician 18 Nov 1864; mustered out 27 Sep 1865;⁷ veteran's pension application # 1,321,658 from CA on 29 Jul 1904;^{8,9} died 7 Oct 1936;¹⁵ buried Eugene Pioneer Cemetery, Eugene, Lane County, OR.¹⁵

John E. Kuni (Kani) – born 17 Dec 1838 in Switzerland;^{6,7,15} entered service 14 Nov 1863 as Corporal, Company I, 2nd MN Cavalry; mustered out 22 Nov 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 486,996 from MN on 15 Jun 1883;^{8,9} died 16 Jan 1922 at Eugene, OR;⁸ buried Rest-Haven Memorial Park, Eugene, Lane County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Ida M. Kuni) pension application # 1,185,240 from OR on 20 Feb 1922.^{8,9}

Delos M. McCrady – born about 1843 in IL;^{6,7} entered service 23 Feb 1864 as Private, Company D, 7th MN Infantry; mustered out 19 Aug 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 932,542 from OR on 6 Sep 1890;^{8,9} died 2 Feb 1926 at Eugene, OR;⁸ buried Eugene Pioneer Cemetery, Eugene, Lane County, OR.¹⁵

Baker Post # 8, North Bend, Oregon

Francis W. Shaw – born about 1836 in NH;^{6,7} entered service 6 Oct 1861 as Private, Company C, 4th MN Infantry; mustered out 11 Oct 1864;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 257,890 on 29 Jun 1878;^{8,9} patient National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Sawtelle, CA;¹⁸ died 2 Nov 1929 at National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Sawtelle, CA;^{8,18} buried Los Angeles National Cemetery, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, CA.¹⁵

George A. Custer Post # 9, McMinnville, Oregon

Robert Butchers – born about 1843 in England;^{6,7} entered service 24 Feb 1864 as Private, Company C, Brackett's Battalion, MN Cavalry; mustered out 24 May 1866;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 1,194,147 on 9 Jul 1897;^{8,9} died 31 Dec 1919 at McMinnville, OR;⁸ widow's (Electa Butchers) pension application # 1,151,075 on 10 Jan 1920.^{8,9}

David Powell – born about 1845 in IN;^{6,7} entered service 12 Oct 1864 as Private, Company D, 1st MN Heavy Artillery; discharged 19 Sep 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 753,695 from MN on 6 Feb 1890;^{8,9} died 6 Nov 1929 at McMinnville, OR;⁸ buried Masonic Cemetery, McMinnville, Yamhill County, OR.¹⁷

Oliver O. Rhude – born about 1839 in Sweden;^{6,7} entered service 26 Sep 1861 as Private, Company A, 4th MN Infantry; promoted Corporal; discharged 11 Oct 1864;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 993,191 from OR on 6 Feb 1891;^{8,9} died 3 May 1922 at Yamhill, OR;⁸ buried Yamhill-Carlton Cemetery, Yamhill, Yamhill County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Caroline Rhude) pension application # 1,189,847 from OR on 29 May 1922.^{8,9} (Note: Pension records indicate he served under the alias Ole O. Ruid.^{8,9})

John Sedgwick Post # 10, Salem, Oregon

Henry Pascoe – born about 1841;^{6,7} entered service 15 Jan 1862 as Private, Company A, 10th MN Infantry; mustered out 19 Aug 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 717,866 from MN on 19 Jul 1889;^{8,9} died 31 Jan 1923 at Salem, OR;⁸ buried Lee Mission Cemetery, Salem, Marion County, OR.¹⁵

Franklin A. Thompson – born 15 Apr 1841 in Sherman, MI;¹⁵ entered service 6 Sep 1862 as Corporal, Company A, 10th MN Infantry; promoted Sergeant; mustered out 19 Aug 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application #

452,532 from MN on 15 Jun 1882;^{8,9} died 13 Nov 1923 at Salem, OR;⁸ buried City View Cemetery, Salem, Marion County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Maria C. Thompson) pension application # 1,212,447 from OR on 23 Nov 1923.^{8,9}

John Franklin Walter – born 23 Jul 1841 in PA;¹⁵ entered service 8 Nov 1862 as Private, Company I, 1st MN Cavalry; mustered out 1 Dec 1863;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 608,184 from Dakota Territory on 8 Apr 1887;^{8,9} died 1 Jan 1928 at Halsey, OR;⁸ buried City View Cemetery, Salem, Marion County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Carrie M. Walter) pension application # 1,632,051 from OR on 10 Jan 1929.^{8,9}

Edwin V. Sumner Post # 12, Portland, Oregon

Linda Culberson – born about 1834 in PA;^{6,7} entered service 14 Oct 1861 as Private, Company B, 3rd MN Infantry; re-enlisted 2 Feb 1864 as a Veteran Volunteer; mustered out 2 Sep 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 279,678 on 15 Apr 1879;^{8,9} died 31 Jul 1922 at St. Paul, MN;⁸ widow's (Marceline Culberson) pension application # 1,193,724 from MN on 11 Sep 1922.^{8,9} (See also Post # 69.)

Charles F. Hausdorf – born about 1841;^{6,7} entered service 29 Apr 1861 as Corporal, Company A, 1st MN Infantry; promoted Sergeant; promoted 1st Sergeant; promoted 1st Lieutenant; wounded 2 Jul 1863 at Gettysburg, PA; transferred 12 May 1864 as Captain to Company B, 1st Independent Battalion, MN Infantry; discharged 13 Oct 1864; re-entered service 2 May 1865 as Major, 1st Independent Battalion MN Infantry; promoted Lieutenant Colonel, but not mustered; mustered out 14 Jul 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 141,663 on 25 Mar 1869;^{8,9} member MN Commandery MOLLUS (Insignia # 05856);¹³ died 2 Sep 1919 at Portland, OR.⁸ (Note: Pension records indicate he also used the alias Frank Houston.^{8,9})

Edwin R. Horton – born about 1843 in NY;^{6,7} entered service 8 Feb 1862 as Private, Company F, 5th MN Infantry; discharged 23 Mar 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 225,201 on 12 Sep 1876;^{8,9} died 12 Oct 1929 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Rose City Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Lucy Horton) pension application # 1,652,766 from OR on 23 Oct 1929.^{8,9}

Robert C. McDaniels – born about 1842 in Canada;^{6,7} entered service 3 Nov 1863 as Private, Company K, 2nd MN Cavalry; mustered out 4 May 1866;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 929,742 from MN on 26 Aug 1890;^{8,9} died 24 Jun 1919 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Rose City Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Katie E. McDaniels) pension application # 1,145,352 from OR on 18 Aug 1919.^{8,9}

George W. Thomas – born about 1843 in IN;^{6,7} entered service 27 Nov 1861 as Private, Company E, 4th MN Infantry; re-enlisted 1 Jan 1864 as a Veteran Volunteer; promoted Corporal; promoted Sergeant; mustered out 19 Jul 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 247,658 on 24 Jan 1878;^{8,9} died 12 May 1919 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Rose City Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Emily Thomas) Pension application # 1,142,332 from OR on 9 Jun 1919.^{8,9}

Edward Canby Post # 16, Hood River, Oregon

Albert Connor Buck – born about 1841 in NH;^{6,7} entered service 15 Aug 1862 as Private, Company D, 7th MN Infantry; mustered out 16 Aug 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 839,009 from KS on 21 Jul 1890;^{8,9} died 30 Nov 1919 at Hood River, OR;⁸ buried Idlewilde Cemetery, Hood River, Hood River County, OR.¹⁵

Milo F. Jacobs – born 20 Nov 1836 in OH;^{6,7,15} entered service 18 Aug 1862 as Private, Company B, 8th MN Infantry; mustered out 11 Jul 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 976,873 from MN on 22 Dec 1890;^{8,9} died 8 Dec 1923 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Idlewilde Cemetery, Hood River, Hood River County, OR.¹⁵

James S. King – born 6 Oct 1833 in England;^{6,7,15} entered service 10 Aug 1864 as Private, Company D, 11th MN Infantry; mustered out 26 Jun 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 223,206 on 31 Jul 1876;^{8,9} died 31 Aug 1926 at Hillsboro, ND;⁸ buried Hillsboro Cemetery #1, Hillsboro, Traill County, ND.¹⁵

Ulysses S. Grant Post # 17, Dallas, Oregon

Franklin H. Wells – born about 1847 in NY;^{6,7} entered service 28 Feb 1865 as Private, Company B, 2nd MN Cavalry; mustered out 1 Dec 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 737,968 from MN on 13 Nov 1889;^{8,9} died 15 May 1923 at Tacoma, WA;⁸ widow's (Cora Wells) pension application # 1,206,583 from WI on 11 Jun 1923.^{8,9}

Winfield Scott Hancock Post # 21, Rainier, Oregon

William Wagner – born about 1842 in NY;^{6,7} residence Aztalan, WI; entered service 27 May 1861 as Corporal, Company E, 4th WI Cavalry; mustered out 29 Jul 1864; re-entered service 24 Mar 1865 as Private, Company C, 3rd MN Infantry; mustered out 2 Sep 1865;^{6,7,14} veteran's pension application # 810,989 from WA on 22 Jul 1890;^{8,9} died 26 Apr 1929 at Roseburg, OR.⁸

Coquille Post # 27, Coquille, Oregon

John H. Aker – born about 1832 in PA;^{6,7} entered service 13 Feb 1864 as Private, Company A, 2nd MN Cavalry; mustered out 13 Feb 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 714,247 from WA on 1 Jul 1889;^{8,9} patient US Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Sawtelle, CA;¹⁸ died 22 May 1919 at Coquille, OR;⁸ buried Masonic Cemetery, Coquille, Coos County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Roxa V. Aker) pension application # 1,141,881 from OR on 4 Jun 1919.^{8,9}

David P. Strang – born about 1835 in MA;^{6,7} entered service 13 Aug 1862 as Private, Company A, 7th MN Infantry; transferred to Company K, 23rd Veteran Reserve Corps; promoted Sergeant; discharge details not specified;^{6,7,12} veteran's pension application # 223,278 on 1 Aug 1876;^{8,9} died 14 Dec 1923 at Coquille, OR;⁸ buried IOOF Cemetery, Coquille, Coos County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Viola J. Strang) pension application # 1,214,903 from OR on 29 Jan 1924.^{8,9}

Jesse L. Reno Post # 29, Roseburg, Oregon

Isaac J. Hayden – born about 1847 in ME;^{6,7} entered service 25 Jan 1865 as Private, Company E, 1st MN Heavy Artillery; mustered out 27 Sep 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 1,082,062 from British Columbia;^{8,9} died 30 Jun 1921 at Roseburg, OR;⁸ buried Roseburg National Cemetery, Roseburg, Douglas County, OR;¹⁵ minor's (L. K. Gillis, Guardian) pension application # 1,182,263 from WA on 5 Dec 1921.^{8,9}

F. J. Babcock Post # 30, Beaverton, Oregon

Mellen Shepherd Barnes – born 14 Apr 1847 in ME;^{6,7,15} entered service 31 Mar 1864 as Private, Company A, 6th MN Infantry; mustered out 19 Aug 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 812,159 from OR on 15 Jul 1890;^{8,9} died 17 Aug 1928 at Beaverton, OR;⁸ buried Union Cemetery, Portland, Washington County, OR.¹⁵

Rawlins Post # 31, Heppner, Oregon

Charles White – born about 1838 in NY;^{6,7} entered service 11 Oct 1861 as Private, Company F, 4th MN Infantry; mustered out 22 Dec 1864;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 390,087 on 22 Jun 1880;^{8,9} died 4 Mar 1922 at Willows, OR;⁸ widow's (Mary L. White) pension application # 1,187,549 from OR on 8 Apr 1922.^{8,9}

Appomattox Post # 34, Cottage Grove, Oregon

Francis A. Clow – born about 1843 in Canada;^{6,7} entered service 14 Dec 1863 as Private, Company H, 2nd MN Cavalry; mustered out 28 Apr 1866;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 944,495 from MN on 28 Aug 1890;^{8,9} died 10 Jun 1927 at Cottage Grove, OR;⁸ buried IOOF Cemetery, Cottage Grove, Lane County, OR;¹⁷ widow's (Caroline M. Clow) pension application # 1,586,123 from OR on 11 Jul 1927.^{8,9}

Leroy Benedict Woodruff – born about 1841 in NY;^{6,7} entered service 3 Nov 1862 as Private, Company H, 1st MN Cavalry; mustered out 24 Nov 1863;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 424,705 on 13 May 1881;^{8,9} died 30 Apr 1920 at Grove, OR;⁸ buried Hopewell Cemetery, Dayton, Yamhill County, OR.¹⁵

James L. Yeoman (Youmans) – born about 1838 in NY;^{6,7} entered service 13 Aug 1862 as Private, Company F, 8th MN Infantry; mustered out 11 Jul 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 1,106,763 from OR on 19 Apr 1892;^{8,9} died 30 Nov 1921 at Roseburg, OR.⁸

S. A. Hunter Post # 37, Stayton, Oregon

John W. Smith – born about 1844 in IA;^{6,7} entered service 5 Feb 1864 as Private, Company B, 2nd MN Infantry; mustered out 11 Jul 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 1,156,142 from OR on 12 Feb 1894;^{8,9} died 1922 at Slayton, OR.⁸

General Logan Post # 39, Grants Pass, Oregon

Alfred Bartlett – born about 1840 in ME;^{6,7} entered service 17 Aug 1862 as Private, Company B, 7th MN Infantry; promoted Corporal 16 Jun 1863; promoted Sergeant 1 Aug 1864; discharge details not specified;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 921,430 from OR on 6 Aug 1890;^{8,9} died 5 Dec 1925 at Grants Pass, OR.⁸

Gordon Granger Post # 43, Portland, Oregon

John G. Barber – born about 1843;^{6,7} entered service 19 Feb 1864 as Private, Company B, 10th MN Infantry; mustered out 19 Aug 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 1,165,885 from OR on 11 Apr 1895.^{8,9}

McKinley Post # 45, Portland, Oregon

Charles E. Kennedy – born about 1845 in WI;^{6,7} entered service 5 Dec 1863 as Musician, Company H, 2nd MN Cavalry; promoted Private; mustered out 28 Apr 1866;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 473,286 from MN on 23 Feb 1883;^{8,9} died 9 Sep 1922 at Oakland, CA;⁸ widow's (Marila Kennedy) pension application # 1,194,217 from CA on 21 Sep 1922.^{8,9}

W. G. Veazey Post # 49, Brownsville, Oregon

Samuel Chilson – born about 1841 in PA;^{6,7} entered service 19 Aug 1862 as Private, Company F, 9th MN Infantry; discharged 6 Jun 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 667,614 from IA on 8 Aug 1888;^{8,9} died 5 Apr 1924 at Salem, OR;⁸ buried Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Marion County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Flora G. Chilson) pension application # 1,218,915 from OR on 5 May 1924.^{8,9}

Isaac I. Stevens Post # 51, Woodburn, Oregon

Lauren M. Maxfield – born about 1841 in NH;^{6,7} entered service 15 Aug 1862 as Private, Company I, 9th MN Infantry; medical discharge due to disability 28 Mar 1863; re-entered service 17 Aug 1864 as Corporal, Company D, 11th MN Infantry; mustered out 26 Jun 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 532,365 on 13 Feb 1885;^{8,9} patient US Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Sawtelle, CA;¹⁸ died 13 Feb 1924 at Ocean Park, CA.⁸

Benjamin F. Butler Post # 57, Portland, Oregon

Joseph R. Chamberlin (Chamberlain) – born about 1846 in LA;^{6,7} entered service 16 Feb 1865 as Private, Company K, 1st MN Heavy Artillery; mustered out 27 Sep 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 627,854 from MN on 3 Nov 1887;^{8,9} died 20 Jan 1932 at Portland, OR;⁸ widow's (Martha E. Chamberlin) pension application # 1,712,235 from OR on 15 Feb 1932.^{8,9}

Jonathan Masher (Mosher) – born about 1835;^{6,7} entered service 18 Nov 1863 as Corporal, Company I, 2nd MN Cavalry; mustered out 22 Nov 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 638,819 from MN on 4 Feb 1888;^{8,9} died 3 Mar 1923 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, OR.¹⁵

Alfred Nichols – born about 1832 in MI;^{6,7} entered service 21 Aug 1862 as Private, Company B, 10th MN Infantry; discharged 31 May 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 624,637 from OR on 3 Oct 1887;^{8,9} died 19 Sep 1923 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Greenwood Hills Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, OR.¹⁵

Arthur W. Ogilvie – born about 1836 in Nova Scotia;^{6,7} entered service 8 Mar 1865 as Private, Company K, 2nd MN Infantry; mustered out 11 Jul 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 560,814 on 1 Feb 1886;^{8,9} died 27 Jan 1920 at Crawford, WA;⁸ buried Rose City Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Ella Ogilvie) pension application # 1,153,847 from OR on 10 Mar 1920.^{8,9}

Henry C. Rigby – born about 1845;^{6,7} entered service 19 Feb 1864 as Private, Company G, 8th MN Infantry; mustered out 11 Jul 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 1,355,707 from OR on 14 Jan 1907;^{8,9} died 14 May 1930 at Portland, OR;⁸ buried Multnomah Park Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Mary J. Rigby) pension application # 1,668,802 from OR on 26 May 1930.^{8,9}

Josiah Rogers (Rodgers) – born about 1834 in MI;^{6,7} entered service 11 Oct 1862 as Private, Company B, 1st MN Cavalry; mustered out 9 Nov 1863; re-entered service 15 Feb 1865 as Private, Company K, 1st MN Heavy Artillery; mustered out 27 Sep 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 682,189 from MN on 18 Dec 1888;^{8,9} patient US Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Sawtelle, CA;¹⁸ died 18 Mar 1923 at Park Place, OR;⁸ buried Multnomah Park Cemetery, Portland, Multnomah County, OR;¹⁵

Stones River Post # 60, Milton, Oregon

Luman S. Wood – born about 1838 in NY;^{6,7} entered service 23 May 1861 as Private, Company G, 1st MN Infantry; mustered out 5 May 1864; re-entered service 8 May 1865 as Corporal, Company L, 1st MN Heavy Artillery; promoted 1st Sergeant 25 Feb 1865; mustered out 27 Sep 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 671,989 from OR on 10 Sep 1888;^{8,9} patient US Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Sawtelle, CA;¹⁸ died 10

May 1921 at Weston, OR;⁸ buried Weston Cemetery, Weston, Umatilla County, OR;¹⁵ widow's (Frances C. Wood) pension application # 1,174,900 from OR on 31 May 1921.^{8,9}

General Ransom Post # 69, Hillsboro, Oregon

Linda Culberson – born about 1834 in PA;^{6,7} entered service 14 Oct 1861 as Private, Company B, 3rd MN Infantry; re-enlisted 2 Feb 1864 as a Veteran Volunteer; mustered out 2 Sep 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 279,678 on 15 Apr 1879;^{8,9} died 31 Jul 1922 at St. Paul, MN;⁸ widow's (Marceline Culberson) pension application # 1,193,724 from MN on 11 Sep 1922.^{8,9} (See also Post # 12.)

Watson S. Tilton – born about 1846 in NY;^{6,7} entered service 22 Aug 1864 as Private, Company D, 11th MN Infantry; mustered out 26 Jun 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 1,185,274 from OR on 2 Jan 1897;^{8,9} died 8 Aug 1931 at Hillsboro, OR;⁸ buried Hillsboro Pioneer Cemetery, Hillsboro, Washington County, OR; widow's (Addie E. Tilton) pension application # 1,701,728 from OR on 8 Sep 1931.^{8,9}

Shiloh Post # 77, Newberg, Oregon

Abraham Cooke (Cook) – born about 1845 in NJ;^{6,7} entered service 3 Sep 1864 as Private, Company I, 3rd MN Infantry; mustered out 28 Jul 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 717,016 from MN on 18 Jul 1889;^{8,9} died 7 Mar 1928 at Newberg, OR;⁸ buried Dundee Cemetery, Dundee, Yamhill County, OR.¹⁵

Benjamin H. Langworthy – born about 1840 in IL;^{6,7} entered service 11 Oct 1861 as Private, Company K, 3rd MN Infantry; mustered out 14 Nov 1864;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 467,205 from MN on 16 Dec 1882;^{8,9} died 27 Feb 1929 at Newberg, OR; ⁸ buried GAR Cemetery, Newberg, Yamhill County, OR.¹⁵

John B. Northrup – born about 1837 in NY;^{6,7} entered service 18 Aug 1862 as Private, Company F, 10th MN Infantry; mustered out 19 Aug 1865;^{6,7} veteran's pension application # 294,349 on 25 Jun 1879;^{8,9} died 3 Mar 1933 at Newberg, OR;⁸ buried GAR Cemetery, Newberg, Yamhill County, OR.¹⁵

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A Tale of Three Records: One Leads to Another

by J. H. Fonkert, CG

Modern death records are especially rich because they often include information about when and where a person was born, as well as names of their parents — and sometimes, their birth places. Every record is a spring-board to another record, and that sometimes to yet another. This is a tale of three such records.

Death Certificate: Hjalmar Peterson

Hjalmar Petersen died 1 November 1964 in Los Angeles, California. His death certificate states that he was born 1 November 1894 in Wisconsin, but gives no locale. It gives the barest information about his parents. His father was “Petersen,” born in Norway; his mother was unknown. The informant was his daughter, Mary Janssen.¹

Hjalmar’s death certificate also recorded his social security number: 553-14-6601. If you know the deceased’s social security number, you can order a copy of his or her social security number application, the SS-5 form. The SS-5 usually gives information about name, residence, age and birth date, birth place, and parents names. Sometimes the form asked for full name at birth or maiden name of females. The information carried by the SS-5 is usually reliable because it was usually completed by the applicant. In some cases, an employer might have completed the form with information provided by the employee.

The SS-5 can be ordered via email or post from the Social Security Administration. Proof of death is required for persons who would today be less than 120 years old. In most instance, the subject’s appearance in the Social Security Death Index suffices for proof of death. The 120-year rule also applies to parents of the subject—their names will be redacted unless their deaths are documented. If you

need to document a death, you must submit form SSA-771 via post (<http://www.ssa.gov/online/ssa-771.pdf>); otherwise, you can make an online request (<https://secure.ssa.gov/apps9/eFOIA-FEWeb/internet/main.jsp>).

Social Security Number Application: Earl Alden Moore

When the SS-5 for 553-14-6601 arrived, it presented a surprise. The applicant was not Hjalmar Petersen, but Earl Alden Moore of Los Angeles.

Earl Alden Moore was born 1 November 1894 in Superior, Wisconsin. Off by exactly one year, this information was otherwise consistent with the death certificate. Not only was Earl Alden Moore not a particularly good match for Hjalmar Petersen, Earl gave his father’s name as Ole Moore, not “Petersen.” The SS-5 said his mother was “Clara Moore Franklin” — “Moore Franklin” is double lined-out on the form received from the Social Security Administration.²

Seemingly, Hjalmar’s social security number was incorrect. Yet, Hjalmar and Earl both lived in Los Angeles, both were born November 1, and both were born in Wisconsin.

Birth Registration: Hjalmar Peder Oldin Peterson

The social security number application pointed to a specific Wisconsin location: Superior. The search could now be narrowed to Douglas County,

Wisconsin, where birth registrations recorded the birth of Hjalmar Peder Oldin Peterson to saloon-keeper Ole Petersen and Carrie Nelson 1 November 1894.³

Case closed: Hjalmar's parents were Ole and Carrie. In Douglas County, 7 July 1892, Ole Peterson, son of Peter and Sarah Olson, married Carrie Nelson, daughter of John Nelson and Kriste Christianson.⁴ Right?

Mostly, but not entirely.

In 1902, Carrie won a divorce from Ole Petersen.⁵ Ole remarried to Sarah Bell Craft in 1905. This marriage record confirms that his father was Peter Olson, but gives his mother's name as Sigrid.⁶ Two years later, Ole died in the city jail after a drunken spree.⁷ The death certificate did not name his mother, but did name his father as Peter Soknes.⁸

Reconciling the Differences

Look back at Earl Alden Moore's SS-5. In cursive, below the lined-out "Moore Franklin," is written "Suchness" — likely a corruption of Soknes. Ole Petersen's obituary states that "he came to this city from Eau Claire about eighteen years ago" — about 1889.⁹

Look once more at Earl Alden Moore's SS-5. It states that Earl's father was Ole Moore. How can Ole "Moore" be reconciled with Ole Peterson? A draft registration record for a man born 1 November 1894

in Superior, Wisconsin, adds another wrinkle. The draft registrant was Earl Moore Franklin.¹⁰ Do all these records pertain to the same man?

Yes. The name Franklin came from his mother's second husband, Perl Franklin.¹¹ But, where did "Moore" come from?

Moore was an anglicized version of Hjalmar's mother's Norwegian family name. Carrie Nelson was born Karen, daughter of Johannes Nilsen of Gran, Hadeland, Norway.¹² In the late 19th century, most members of the family took the surname Morstad from the farm where they lived. When Karen married Ole in Wisconsin, she called herself Carrie Nelson. After the divorce, she apparently opted to use a shortened version of Morstad; the 1910 census enumerated her as Clara V. Moore.¹³

Lesson Learned

Never stop with one record. Follow clues to the next obvious record. Don't discard a record just because it disagrees with what you've previously found. Keep going. Look at all the records you can find and work through the conflicting evidence. Only then can you be confident you've found the whole story. The Hjalmar Petersen who died in 1964 in Los Angeles was indeed the Hjalmar Petersen born in Wisconsin in 1894. His parents were Ole Peterson and Karen Johannesdatter, aka Carrie Nelson, aka Clara V. Moore.

1 County of Los Angeles, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Certificate of Death, local registration district 7053, certificate number 22486, Hjalmar O. Petersen, 1 November 1964, filed 4 December 1964; informational copy issued 25 October 2012.

2 U.S. Social Security Administration, Application for Account Number, Earl Alden Moore (553-14-6601), application date blacked-out.

3 Douglas County, Wisc., Register of Deeds (births), A:320, no. 1,908, 1894, Hjalmar Peder Oldin Peterson.

4 Douglas County, Wisc., Register of Deeds (marriages), 7 July 1892, Peterson-Nelson; Superior, Wisc.

5 A copy of the decree was filed in Douglas County, Wisconsin, in conjunction with a suit of Carrie Peterson against Ole Peterson for child support in 1906. Carrie Peterson vs. Ole Peterson, Superior Court, Douglas County, Superior, Wisconsin, document 4503.

6 Douglas County Register of Deeds (marriages), 3:131, Peterson-Craft, Superior, Wisc. Both the 1892 and 1905 marriage records name Ole's parents: Peter Olson and Sigrid Olson.

7 "Ole Peterson dies in Jail," *Superior Telegram*, Superior, Wisc., 15 May 1907, p. 15.

8 Douglas County Certificate of Death, 1907, Ole Peterson, filed 31 May 1907.

9 "Ole Peterson dies in Jail," *Superior Telegram*, Superior, Wisc., 15 May 1907, p. 15.

10 World War I Draft Registration Card, Earl Moore Franklin; digital image, Ancestry.com. *U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918* [database on-line] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005).

11 "Iowa, County Marriages, 1838-1934," index, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/KC4C-5X6> : accessed 01 Mar 2014), Perl J. Franklin and Clara Vivian Morstad Moore, 1910.

12 Gran, Hadeland, Norway, Ministerialbok, 1856-74, p. 490, no. 68, Karen Johannesdatter birth; Family History Library microfilm 307,302.

13 1910 U.S. Census, Hennepin County, Minnesota, Enumeration District 82, Minneapolis Ward 4, sheet 7B, dwelling 68, family 87, Clara V. Moore; Family History Library microfilm 1,374,715, digital image, www.ancestry.com, accessed 1 March 2014. Clara and her two daughters were enumerated twice in the same household, but with different names and ages. See J. H. Fonkert, "Clara V. Moore and Carrie Peterson: Proving a Double Enumeration in the 1910 Census," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 96 (March 2008), 5-12.

About Our Authors

David C. Bailey, Sr. Recently retired as a Commercial Manager with an international oil company, David devotes his time to his interests in genealogy and U. S. military history. David has served as President of the Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution and as Illinois Department Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He is currently researching Illinois' Civil War veteran burials and the GAR in the western United States.

Valerie Eichler Lair is a professional genealogist with 25 years of experience research throughout the Midwest, U.S., England, and Germany. She is a Director of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) and President of APG-Heartland Chapter. Valerie conducts consultations, teaches, and is a volunteer for MN GenWeb. She has authored four family history books about her families from Minnesota and Germany, as well as articles for several genealogy publications.

J. H. Fonkert, CG, is a Twin Cities-based researcher, writer, and lecturer. His favorite research targets are his Dutch ancestors and his wife's Kentucky and England ancestors. A past president of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, he is a Director of the Association of Professional Genealogists and a trustee of the BCG Education Fund.

Gayle Geber, a Minnesota author, has written nonfiction and creative nonfiction family narratives. She hopes her grandchildren will like the stories she has written for them as soon as they learn to read. She enjoys researching and writing about her ancestors from Bavaria, Hanover, Alsace, and Luxembourg.

Leo J. Harris's career spanned service in the U. S. Department of State and partnership in a large Minnesota law firm. Until eight years ago, he and his wife Molly were the co-publishers of Pogo Press, a small regional press that published books on the arts, history and popular culture. In retirement, he has written articles for *Journal of the West*, *Hennepin History*, *Ramsey County History*, the *Postal History Journal*, and other publications.

William "Bill" Holmquist is an account manager for Best Buy's Business-to-Business division. His job has afforded him opportunity to call on museums, researchers and historical societies, and get paid for it. He is known at work as the guy who sits and reads obituaries while he eats lunch! Bill is past president of the National Danish American Genealogical Society and is the editor of its newsletter, "The Beech Tree". He has also served on the boards of the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa, and the Danish American Center in Minneapolis. He has a B.A. in History and an M.A. in Journalism from the University of Minnesota, and has been a reporter and writer for newspapers, magazines and radio.

Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph. D., researches Polish, Lithuanian, Cornish, German, Irish, and Scots ancestors in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. Lois holds a doctorate in history from Brown University, chairs the MGS Education Committee, and is a vice-president of MGS. She lives in Plymouth, Minnesota.

MGS Branches, Affiliates and Special Interest Groups

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Norwegian-American Genealogical Association

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Romanian Genealogical Society of Minnesota

www.romaniangenealogy.com

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Research Study Group

Contact: Jay Fonkert (jfonkert@aol.com) or Tom Rice (tomkrice@comcast.net)

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Contact: Lois Mackin (loismackin@aol.com)

Scottish Genealogy Group

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Low Countries Group

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England and Wales Group

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African-American Genealogy Group

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What Next?

presented by MGS Education Committee

List *21*

THIS SHEET IS FOR STEERAGE PASSENGERS.

STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

to the United States Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

Arriving at Port of *Quebec*, *Sept 28*, 1908

13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		26	27		28	29		
												Feet	Inches		Hair	Eyes		Country	City or Town	
No	on	By whom	Whether in possession of \$50 or more and if less, how much?	Whether ever before in the United States; and if so, when and where?	Whether going to join a relative or friend; and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address.	Whether an Anarchist.	Whether a Polygamist.	Whether ever in prison, almshouse, or institution for the insane.	Whether ever before in the United States - If so, when and where.	Condition of Health, Mental and Physical.	Deformed or Crippled, Nature, length of time, and cause.	Height.	Complexion.	Color of Hair.	Eyes.	Marks of Identification.	Place of Birth.	Country.	City or Town.	
1	By ticket	Uncle	Yes	No	Brother, Sven Svensson 197 S. W. St. Montreal	No	No	No	No	Good	No	5	9	Reddish brown	Lost left eye	Swedish	Sweden	Hyssna	Sweden	
2	By money	Uncle	Yes	No	do	No	No	No	No	Good	No	4	11	Dark Grey	Lost left eye	Swedish	Sweden	Hyssna	Sweden	
3	By money	Uncle	Yes	No	do	No	No	No	No	Good	No	5	9	Dark Grey	Lost left eye	Swedish	Sweden	Hyssna	Sweden	
4	By money	Uncle	Yes	No	do	No	No	No	No	Good	No	5	9	Dark Grey	Lost left eye	Swedish	Sweden	Hyssna	Sweden	
5	By money	Uncle	Yes	No	do	No	No	No	No	Good	No	5	9	Dark Grey	Lost left eye	Swedish	Sweden	Hyssna	Sweden	
6	By money	Uncle	Yes	No	do	No	No	No	No	Good	No	5	9	Dark Grey	Lost left eye	Swedish	Sweden	Hyssna	Sweden	

In our last issue, we assessed information from the left-hand page of the passenger manifest recording the 1908 arrival of Johan Mansson at Quebec on the S.S. Kensington. We learned that he was single, 19 years-old, and destined for Mt. Ayr, Iowa. His last place of residence was Hyssna, Sweden, and his nearest relative there was his sister, Anna Rosenquist. He appeared to be traveling with Andrew Swanson, a U.S. citizen also going to Mt. Ayr. What can we learn from the second page of the manifest?

Col 14 — Yes, he had a ticket to Chicago. Apparently, he had purchased a transportation package that included both trans-Atlantic passage and (probably) rail travel to Chicago. He likely traveled by train from Chicago to Mr. Ayr, another 300 miles west.

Col. 15 — He had paid for his own ticket. Of course, we have no way of knowing how he raised the funds.

Col. 16 — Whether in possession of \$50, and if less, how much — Johan said he had \$20.

Col. 17 — Whether ever before in the United States - If so, when and where — The form is blank; likely, at age 19, this was his first time in America. Andrew Swanson was the only one of 30 passengers who had been in the U.S. before.

Col. 18 — Whether going to join a relative or friend - and if so, what relative or friend - and his name and complete address — Johan said he was traveling with his “friend,” Andrew Swanson of Mt. Ayr, Iowa.

Col. 19 — Whether ever in prison, almshouse, or institution for the insane — No.

Col. 20 — Whether a polygamist — No (You wonder if anyone said “yes”).

Col. 21 — Whether and anarchist — No. (Would you admit to being one?).

Col. 22 — Whether coming by reason of any offer, solicitation, promise or agreement to work in the United States — No. (Although, it is likely Johan was recruited to work on Andrew Swanson’s farm).

Col. 23 — Condition of Health, Mental and Physical— Good. (see column 24).

Col. 24 — Deformed or crippled — Johan had “lost left eye through accident.”

Col. 25 — Height — Johan was 5’9”.

Col. 26 — Complexion — “fresh”

Col. 27 — Color of Hair and Eyes — Johan had reddish hair and grey eyes.

Col. 28 — Marks of Identification — “lost left eye through accident.”

Col. 29 — Place of Birth — Sweden/Locko, Hyssna.

The two pages of the manifest tell us where Johan was born, where he was going, who he was related to and who he was traveling with, and describe his physical appearance. What other record tells as much?

Image: S.S. Kensington passenger manifest, Quebec, 28 September 1908

MGS Horizons - Upcoming Events

Watch for your MGS Minnesota Families newsletter and the MGS Events Blog (www.mnngs.org/blog) for event details or check the MGS Calendar at www.mnngs.org. Check Branch and Affiliate websites to verify dates, times and location of their events. Unless otherwise noted, all events are at MGS Library and Research Center. For MGS Education classes, see schedule elsewhere in this issue.

- April 11-12** Germanic Genealogy Society Spring Conference, Fine Arts Building, Inver Grove Community College
MGS Writing Group, 10 a.m.
Irish Genealogical Society class, 10:30 a.m.
- April 19** MGS Members' Morning (free)
Afternoon seminar, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Shirleen Hoffman, *Prairie Doctress*
- April 25-26** MGS ff Technology Conference,
Hennepin County Technical College, Brooklyn Park
- April 30** Norwegian-American Genealogy Association, 7 p.m.
- May 3** Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, 10 a.m.
Pommern Regional Group, 1 p.m.
Yankee Genealogical Society, 1 p.m.
- May 10** Irish Genealogical Society International class, 10:30 a.m.
MGS Writing Group, 1 p.m.
- May 17** Legacy Users Group, 9 a.m.
Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, 12-noon
Romanian Genealogical Society, 1 p.m.
- May 24** England-Wales Interest Group, 10 a.m.

Announcing The Sixth Annual Michael Clark Family History Writing Competition

Entries welcomed in two categories

- Problem-solving articles demonstrating research and source documentation, or
- Family Story articles engaging the reader in persons, place, and time.

Entries due 15 July 2014

See MGS website (www.mnngs.org) for more rules and entry information.

Winners will be announced in Fall 2014. Winning articles may be published in *Minnesota Genealogist*.



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