

Collectible State Research Guides: Arkansas and Michigan

familytree

familytreemagazine.com
MAY/JUNE 2018

M A G A Z I N E

Discover Your Ancestors' Journey

Ellis Island

PAGE 18

3 Simple Steps
for Your
DNA Results

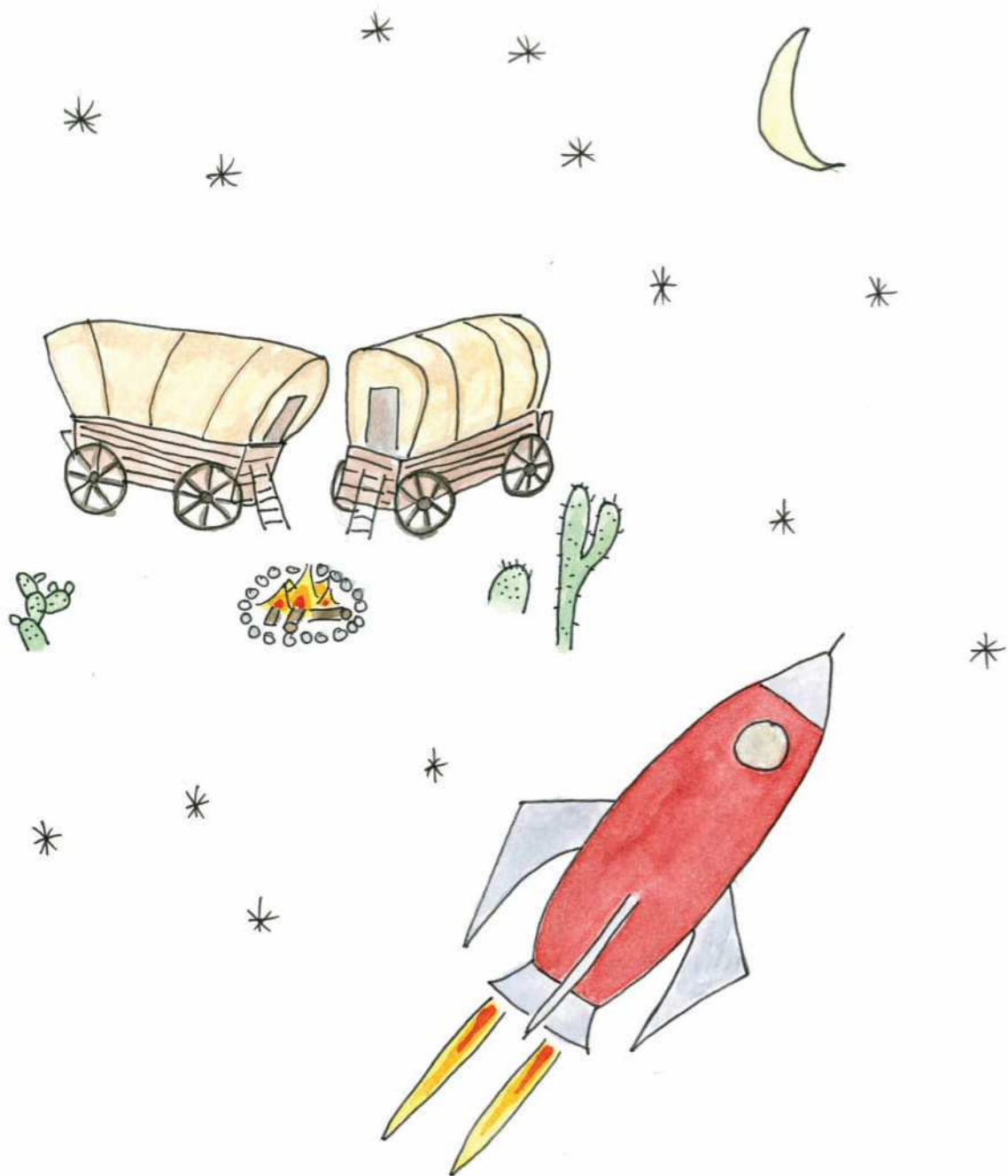
WHAT TO DO with
Mom's & Dad's Stuff

4 TIPS
to Overcome
Vanished Records

6 WEBSITES TO
MEMORIALIZE
ANCESTORS

CHECK OUT
THE NEW
FIND A GRAVE!





Circle your wagons against unfocused research and use GenSmarts to fire your research rocket directly at high priority searches. Quick, reasoned and logical research – that's what GenSmarts does best!





18

➤ **Look for the green arrow throughout this issue for hints to expanded versions, free downloads and related products at familytreemagazine.com!**

ON THE COVER:

- Ellis Island **18**
- Your DNA results **42**
- Mom's & Dad's stuff **26**
- Vanished records **48**
- The new Find A Grave **70**
- Memorialize your ancestors **68**

COVER PHOTO:
ALVIS UPITIS/FOTOTROVE/GETTY IMAGES

branchingout 17

18 Behind the Golden Door
Millions of our ancestors arrived at Ellis Island with everything they owned and their hopes for a better life. Our photo tour lets you follow in their footsteps.
by Diane Haddad

26 Heirloom Handoff
Passing on houseful of family treasures to the next generation isn't always a simple matter. Here's how to work through that transition—and what to do if no one wants the stuff.
by Denise May Levenick

33 State Research Guides
Our series helps you trace your ancestors in US states. In this issue:
ARKANSAS 33
MICHIGAN 37
by Lauren Gamber

42 DNA Direction
Not sure what to do with your DNA test results? We'll outline three "next steps" to make new genealogy discoveries.
by Diahna Southard

48 Holes in History
Major, record-destroying fires have likely impacted your ancestry search. We'll help you raise your family tree from the ashes of these disasters.
by Sunny Jane Morton



everything's relative 7

8 Lisa's Picks

Family history faves from the founder of Genealogy Gems.
by Lisa Louise Cooke

10 Timeline

The history of America's health insurance system.
by David A. Fryxell

12 Family History Home

How to organize and preserve kids' schoolwork.
by Denise May Levenick

14 Stories to Tell

A woman launches a genetic genealogy search for her grandfather—and discovers a nephew, too.
by Diane Haddad

15 Your Turn

Preserve your memories by answering our family history prompt.



treetips 59

60 Now What?

Expert answers to your genealogy questions about WWII POWs, finding burial places and homesteading ancestors.
by David A. Fryxell

63 Photo Detective

Family history clues in a vacation photo.
by Maureen A. Taylor

64 Tech Toolkit

What's New: War of 1812 pensions, DNA privacy and more **64**

How To: Load a microfilm reader **66**

Roundup: Memorial websites **68**

Website: The new Find A Grave **70**

DNA Q&A **71**



IN EVERY ISSUE:

Out on a Limb **4**

Tree Talk **6**

The Rest is History **72**

Do This One Thing To Sleep Better... EVERY NIGHT!

I remember when I use to be able to be able to sleep without a problem. I'd go upstairs read for 15-20 minutes, turn out the light and that would be it. Eight hours later I would wake up refreshed and eager to start my day.

That was a long time ago.

My sleep became much more uneven. Many nights it would take me far longer than 15 or 20 minutes worth of reading to make me want to turn off the light. Then I would wake up 3 or 4 times during the night. Sometimes my brain wouldn't shut off. Instead of being up for a few minutes and then back to sleep I'd be up for an hour or two before I dozed off again. Needless to say I no longer woke up feeling refreshed like I did years ago. I had to find a solution— An all-natural solution.

The result is "Sleep Max". An alternative health product that is both safe and effective for folks struggling to get a good night's rest. For me the affects were immediate. Each bottle contains 60 capsules and you simply take one or two pills about 30 minutes before bed— It's no more complicated than that.

Sleep max helps someone reach a deeper, uninterrupted night's sleep. And how does it do that? 4 key ingredients: Melatonin, Valerian, passionflower and magnesium.

Melatonin is a hormone that your body naturally produces to get you to sleep. Which is why supplementing melatonin can help improve the quality of your sleep and also help normalize your sleep schedule. In some cases,

your body just doesn't produce enough on its own and that's why supplements can help if you've been having trouble sleeping.

There have been multiple studies showing the effectiveness of melatonin when it comes to improving sleep quality and ability to fall asleep in the first place. A recent double blind study done on shift-workers who had sleeping problems showed excellent results in helping the participants fall asleep, and stay asleep through the night.

Valerian root is an herb that has shown promising results with helping people fall asleep and also increasing the quality of their sleep. In fact, in a double blind study, nearly half of the participants reported "perfect" sleep, and virtually every participant reported improved sleep.

How does this plant do all of that? Well, research has shown that valerian can increase the amount of *gamma*-Aminobutyric acid (GABA) in your brain which can have a sedative effect and create a feeling of calmness and relaxation. This is why valerian can help you fall asleep faster, and make sure that you're getting the quality sleep you need. But it works especially well when combined with some of the other ingredients in this supplement, such as passionflower.

Passionflower is a vine that has a variety of benefits, one of them being improving sleep. It works in a way similar to valerian root and increases the amount of GABA in your system, thus helping you relax and feel calmer. As mentioned earli-

er, this works well when combined with valerian root or hops. This is a classic, time proven combination that's been traditionally used. And now research supports these claims as well.

A magnesium deficiency can be another possible reason for sleepless nights. In fact, magnesium is the second most common deficiency in developed countries. That's why it's so important to supplement magnesium and make sure you're getting the right amount each day. Besides being an essential mineral that your body needs, magnesium has been proven to lower blood pressure and increase the sleep quality in those who have poor sleep patterns. It's hard to make sure you're getting enough magnesium from diet alone. But by taking a supplement with magnesium, you won't have to worry about that anymore.

Today you can get a bottle of Sleep Max for only \$29.95 or even better if you get two bottles for \$59.90 you'll get a third bottle FREE! Simply send a check to MWSB Inc., 834 South Union Street, Olean, New York, 14760-3917 or if you wish to pay with a credit or debit card call toll free at 1-855-287-1800. Sleep Max comes with a full 30 day money-back guarantee. If for any reason you're not satisfied, simply return the bottle, even if it's empty for a full refund.

You can also order online at GetSleepMax.com

If you're sick and tired of not getting a good night's sleep, here's your chance for a better night's sleep.

Group Publisher **Allison Dolan**

Editor **Diane Haddad**

Art Director **Julie Barnett**

Editor/Content Producer **Andrew Koch**

Instructional Designer **Vanessa Wieland**

Online Content Director **Ashlee Peck**

Social Media Manager **Rachel Fountain**

Contributing Editors **Lisa A. Alzo, Rick Crume, David A. Fryxell, Nancy Hendrickson, Sunny Jane Morton, Maureen A. Taylor**

F+W, A CONTENT + ECOMMERCE COMPANY

CEO **Greg Osberg**

CO **Jennifer Graham**

SVP, General Manager, F+W Outdoors and Small Business Groups **Ray Chelstowski**

Managing Director, F+W International **James Woollam**

VP, General Counsel **Robert Sporn**

VP, Human Resources **Gigi Healy**

VP, Manufacturing & Logistics **Phil Graham**

Newsstand Sales **Scott Hill**, scott.hill@procirc.com

VP, Advertising Sales **Kevin D. Smith**

Advertising Sales Representative **Jill Ruesch**

Advertising Services Assistant **Connie Kostrzewa**

Family Tree Magazine, published in the United States, is not affiliated with the British *Family Tree Magazine*, with Family Tree Maker software or with Family Tree DNA.

EDITORIAL OFFICES:

10151 Carver Road, Suite 300, Blue Ash, OH 45242,
ftmedit@fwmedia.com.

ADVERTISING:

Jill Ruesch, (800) 726-9966 ext. 13223,
jill.ruesch@fwmedia.com.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

U.S.: 1 (888) 403-9002; international: (386) 246-3364;
familytree@emailcustomerservice.com,
<www.familytreemagazine.com/contact>.

Single copies, back issues and shopfamilytree.com:
<shopfamilytree.com>

NEWSSTAND AND INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION:
Curtis Circulation Co., (201) 634-7400

PRIVACY PROMISE: Occasionally we make portions of our customer list available to other companies so they may contact you about products and services that may be of interest to you. If you prefer we withhold your name, simply send a note with the magazine name to: List Manager, F+W, A Content + eCommerce Company, 10151 Carver Road, Suite 300, Blue Ash, OH 45242.

Copyright © 2018 F+W Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved. *Family Tree Magazine* is a registered trademark of F+W Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved. *Family Tree Magazine* is a registered trademark of F+W Media, Inc.



out on a limb



We all notice, every now and again, that we could use an update. You start to feel like your outward appearance doesn't match what you want people to know about you. That's when you might start to eat more healthfully, clean out your closet, or color your grays (not that I'd know anything about that).

And the same goes for magazines. After taking a good look at our pages, we decided we could do a better job of showing how fascinating genealogy is. How relevant it is to our lives today and to who we are. We wanted to more effectively share our firm belief that knowing about your family's past can inspire your future.

So you might notice that we look a bit different this issue. A little fresher and less cluttered. A little more visual. We've reinvented our content, too, complementing our strong instructional articles and website how-tos with more stories about your fellow genealogists' family discoveries, our ancestors' experiences, and how the past matters today. In this issue, for example, we'll follow in our ancestors' footsteps on a visit to Ellis Island, share what to do now that you've gotten your DNA test results, introduce you to a genealogist who's bringing history into modern political discourse, and more.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on our new look and content! Email ftmedit@fwmedia.com or find us on Facebook <www.facebook.com/familytreemagazine>.

Diane F. Haddad

Diane shares genealogy news along with tips from her family tree research on FamilyTreeMagazine.com at <familytreemagazine.com/author/diane>.

You Choose...

FDA Registered Hearing Aids



LIMITED-TIME
SAVE \$100

TRUSTED SINCE 1979



Doctor designed – Audiologist approved

Our 100% digital FDA Registered hearing aids are packed with advanced American-made electronics that significantly outshine other models in terms of technology and value. You get impressive sound quality, better hearing, and improved understanding.

You get the best digital hearing aid value in the USA!

EarMate-4330
Tiny, Ready-to-Wear,
In-the-Ear

REG \$599
ONLY \$499 PER AID!

Apollo-6310
Discreet, Slim-Tube,
Behind-the-Ear



ADVANCED 100% DIGITAL
TECHNOLOGY
MADE IN THE
USA



- No more embarrassing squeal!
- Understand conversations again!
- Secure and comfortable fit!
- Technology to reduce unwanted noise while increasing soft sounds!

- ▶ **100% Risk-FREE 45-day home trial** – When we say “100% Risk-FREE”, we mean it. Zero charges, zero risk!
- ▶ **FREE support from licensed professionals** – With over 39 years in business and having served over 750,000 customers, no one has more experience helping you improve your hearing over the phone and online.
- ▶ **FREE shipping AND battery starter kit** – Everything you need to get started right away is shipped direct to you!
- ▶ **Flexible payment plans** – We'll gladly work with you and your budget.

"I love it! Really a blessing to me and my family."

B.R. - Tuscola, IL



Our EarMate®-4330 and Apollo-6310 are perfect for those with mild to moderate hearing loss. You buy direct from Hearing Help Express, owned by IntriCon, a Class III medical device company that develops, designs, and manufactures state-of-the-art hearing aids. This allows us to provide you with superior products at manufacturer-direct prices.

© Hearing Help Express®, Inc.

39 YEARS
experience selling
hearing aids by mail
and online

OVER 750,000
SATISFIED
CUSTOMERS
and growing daily



Try our EarMate-4330 or Apollo-6310 hearing aid risk-free for 45 days.

SEND NO MONEY Now!*

If you like it then pay only \$499 per aid!

By phone (Mon-Fri • 8 am - 5 pm Central Time)

Expires: 7/31/18

1-888-847-1189

Promo code:
39-303

Order online

www.HearingHelpExpress.com/39303

*Credit card required – only needed to guarantee your Risk-FREE trial. Your card WILL NOT be charged during 45-day trial.

TREE TALK

Readers' favorite family finds

I HAVE LETTERS my third-great-grandparents wrote each other during the Civil War. My favorite part is the last line of my third-great-grandmother's last letter: She asks if [her husband] keeps his letters and wonders what it will be like to look back on them one day. If she only knew they got passed down and I've read them all.

Erica Desiree / via Facebook

The 1833 Leonid shower really was something special. We have the written account of my fourth- and third-great grandparents.

Natalie Hansen / via email

My great-grandparents were married Feb. 14, 1894, and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary just months before he passed away.

Marlene Bassett Alcorn / via Facebook

I restored old photos that people brought in for a history book about the township where my family lived for six generations. I repaired tears, holes, spots, missing parts, etc., using Adobe Photoshop and Photoshop Essentials.

Alethea Jean / via Facebook

I HAD A COPY of a handwritten family history that said part of the family left South Carolina for Mississippi the "night the stars fell." No dates or further reference. I contacted every Carolina organization I could think of, looking for any reference to what happened. Nothing.

Later, in the mid-1970s, I clicked on the radio and hit a preacher running full blast on his sermon. The radio hadn't been on 20 seconds, and he started talking about the night the stars fell in 1833. I listened to the end of the show and he got a contribution for the text of his sermon, as he had just solved a longtime family mystery.

Patrick Spencer / via email

MY GREAT-GRANDPARENTS James and Dora Jackson were married Dec. 17, 1884, in Nashville. In letters to her family, Dora referred to her husband as "Mr. Jackson" instead of his first name. Her mother also referred to her husband as "Mr. Plummer."

Diana Stankus / via Facebook

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY!

familytree
SHOP

Genealogy books, how-to videos and online classes <familytreemagazine.com/store>

familytree
PODCAST

Genealogy advice from host Lisa Louise Cooke and expert guests **iTunes /** <familytreemagazine.com/podcasts>

familytree
PREMIUM

Our members-only online library of genealogy instruction <familytreemagazine.com/subscribe>

VIP
familytree

The best of everything: a *Family Tree Magazine* print subscription, Premium membership and Family Tree Shop discount <familytreemagazine.com/subscribe>

 <www.facebook.com/familytreemagazine>

 @FamilyTreeMag

 Family Tree Magazine

 @familytreemag

everything's relative



IF YOU HAD TO LEAVE YOUR HOUSE IN A HURRY, what would you grab on your way out? The question inspired Foster Huntington to start a blog with photos of his friends' "burning house" belongings <theburninghouse.com>. The project grew into a book, *The Burning House: What Would You Take* (HarperCollins), with pictures of beloved items from people of all ages and backgrounds. Their choices ranged from the practical (a cell phone, money and peanut butter) to the irreplaceable (old photos, Dad's Bronze Star, a favorite shirt). What would be on your must-save list? ●

Springing into Family History

Lisa Louise Cooke's favorite family history books, tips, tools and hot spots.

Historic Hotspot

Were your ancestors among the 1.6 million to claim western land under the Homestead Act of 1862? Add the Homestead National Monument of America <www.nps.gov/home> in Beatrice, Neb., to your summer must-sees. This prairie site includes some of the first acreage successfully claimed under the law. I love the fun details like a roofline resembling a plow and a parking lot measuring exactly 1 acre.



App Obsession ►

Adobe Photoshop Fix is a powerful, free photo editor. On my computer, I save copies of old photos in need of restoration to my Dropbox folder. When I have a few spare minutes, I pull a pic from Dropbox into Adobe Photoshop Fix on my phone. Tapping the Healing tool repairs even the worst damage sustained over decades. For more helpful apps, see my book *Mobile Genealogy: How to Use Your Tablet and Smartphone for Family History Research*.



Lisa Louise Cooke

is the founder of the *Genealogy Gems* website and podcast <lusalouisecooke.com>, and host of the *Family Tree Podcast* <familytreemagazine.com/podcasts>.

Genealogy Tech Tools

Get an insider's intro to more of Lisa's favorite mobile genealogy apps in her downloadable video class *Essential Apps for Genealogists* <familytreemagazine.com/store/more-resources/favorite-authors/lisa-louise-cooke/essential-apps-for-genealogists-video-class-t1051>.

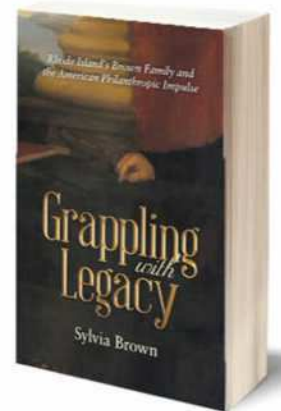


▲ Side Trips

Lucky for this “Fixer Upper” fan who’s sad to see Chip and Joanna Gaines’ hit HGTV series end, the Silos magnolia.market.com/silos was on my way to give a genealogy talk in Texas. The Gaines have added a new chapter to the story of Waco, once known as the “King of Cotton.” In 1910, J.T. Davis started the Brazos Valley Cotton Oil Co. at the corner of Webster and Eighth streets. His 120-foot storage tanks (behind my husband, Bill, and me, above) and other buildings now house the bustling Magnolia Market and bakery, where visitors can share in their love of shiplap.

Recent Reads ▶

Sylvia Brown’s family put the “Brown” in Brown University. She wrote *Grappling with Legacy* (Archway) after a speaker declared of her slaveholding ancestors, “There were no good Browns.” The book dives deep into the topic of presentism—when our ancestors’ lives butt heads with modern values—and the family’s philanthropy spanning 300 years. You’ll be fascinated by the genealogy research and the intimate look at charitable giving, an intrinsic part of American culture.



▲ Family History in View

I think of my great-grandma Lenora Wise Herring every time I catch sight of this quilt she sewed in the late 1930s (as I’ve deduced from the stitching and use of feedsack scraps). I display it with care: It’s away from direct sunlight and out of grandchildren’s reach, and I refold and rehang it periodically to avoid extended stress on any one area.



◀ Podcast

The Family Tree Podcast celebrates its 10th anniversary in June. Join Lisa for a look at our favorite episodes and best genealogy advice. Listen in iTunes or at familytreemagazine.com/podcasts. ●

To Your Health!

TODAY'S DEBATE over the 2010 Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") seems never-ending. Our ancestors, on the other hand, worried little about health insurance. Leeches, goat glands and medicine-show elixirs were affordable care—just not effective medicine. As recently as 1900, the typical American spent only \$5 a year (about \$100 today) on health care. Health care became something worth paying for only when modern medicine made lifesaving leaps such as antibiotics, bypass surgery, organ transplants and chemotherapy.

The evolution of health insurance from a pay-as-you-go system was largely accidental. While other developed nations chose variations of government-insured care, the United States stumbled into a patchwork of mostly employer-sponsored, private health insurance. These events got us where we are today.



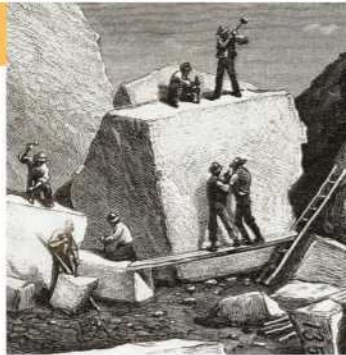
1910

Catalog retailer Montgomery Ward adopts the nation's first employee-wide health-insurance program, underwritten by the London Guarantee and Accident Co. of New York. Primarily focused on disability, the plan pays up to \$28.85 a year to employees who become ill or are injured and unable to work. Wage loss represents a much greater risk than medical expenses at this time. By 1915, 32 states have worker-compensation programs.



1679

In "An Essay Upon Projects," *Robinson Crusoe* author Daniel Defoe advocates for the establishment of "friendly societies"—voluntary mutual-aid organizations whose members pay fees to create insurance pools. This, Defoe argues, could help protect people from "miseries and distresses" such as fire, livestock diseases, medical problems and death.



1877

The Granite Cutters Union establishes the first nationwide sick-benefit program, as workers in the most dangerous jobs begin to get accident insurance and access to "industrial clinics." Some employers in risky fields, such as lumber, steelmaking and railroads, hire company doctors to tend to workers.

1900

1912

The forerunner of today's National Association of Insurance Commissioners develops the Standard Provisions Law, a model state law for health insurance. It reflects a push in several states to enact compulsory health insurance, based on the workers' compensation model. The American Association of Labor Legislation proposes covering medical bills for laborers earning less than \$100 per month, funded by the state, employers and workers. Employers mostly oppose such proposals. Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor says union members should be free to decide how to spend their own money. The American Medical Association flips from support to opposition.

1847

The Massachusetts Health Insurance Co. offers the first commercial insurance for medical expenses. Such "sickness funds," sponsored by employers, labor unions and fraternal organizations, proliferated by the time of the Civil War. Most initially cover only sickness or accidents related to travel. Other funds set up for workers—who contributed a percentage of weekly wages—are more like disability insurance (similar to today's Aflac).

DANIEL DEFOE: DEA PICTURE LIBRARY/DE AGOSTINI PICTURE LIBRARY/GETTY IMAGES; GRANITE CUTTERS: DE AGOSTINI/BIBLIOTECA AMBROSIANA/DE AGOSTINI PICTURE LIBRARY/GETTY IMAGES; MONTGOMERY WARD: NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY; GRAND COULÉE DAM: WITOLD SKRYPCZAK; LONELY PLANET IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

As World War II ended in 1945, President Harry Truman proposed a voluntary national health-insurance plan paid for by a four-percent levy on the first \$3,600 of wages. The AMA and AHA successfully opposed the plan as “socialized medicine.”

1929

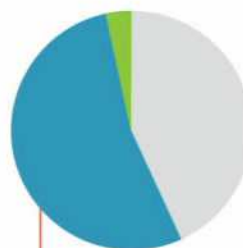
As hospitals struggle financially in the Depression, Baylor University Hospital administrator Justin Ford Kimble devises the Baylor Plan. He convinces 1,250 Dallas public-school teachers to pay 50 cents a month each for hospitalization insurance, covering 21 days of care at Baylor. The plan (the precursor of Blue Cross) expands to other Dallas citizens and other cities.

1932

A Sacramento, Calif., hospital insurance plan covers care at any local hospital. Similar plans covering doctors’ expenses (forerunners of Blue Shield) follow.

1939

The American Hospital Association adopts the Blue Cross name and symbol, devised in 1934 by a Minnesota hospital insurance program executive, for insurance plans meeting its standards. Also in 1939, New York insurance executive Carl Metzger originates the similarly hued Blue Shield logo for a visual link to the hospital plans. (The two national groups merged in 1982 to form the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.)



1953

The share of Americans covered by health insurance skyrockets to 63 percent, from 9 percent in 1940.

1965

Senior citizens, left out of the boom in employer-sponsored insurance, generally pay triple what workers do for health insurance (if they have it at all). Pushed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, Congress passes Medicare as Title XVIII of the Social Security Act 1965, along with Medicaid (Title XIX), covering older Americans and the poor, respectively. ●

1918

A California ballot initiative creating a statewide health-insurance program fails. By 1920, the movement was mostly dead nationwide.



1933

Kaiser Construction Co. workers on the Grand Coulee Dam have voluntary health-insurance premiums deducted from their paychecks. The plan grows to cover the company’s WWII shipyard workers and opens to public enrollment in 1945. Today, Kaiser Permanente insures more than 9 million people.

1942

Concerned about wartime inflation, Congress passes the Stabilization Act to limit wage increases. Companies seeking to retain workers boost benefits such as health coverage, instead of wages. A 1943 IRS ruling (codified and expanded in 1954) lets employers deduct the costs, and exempts the benefit from income taxes and Social Security payroll taxes.



David A. Fryxell

is the founding editor of Family Tree Magazine. He now writes and researches his family tree in Tucson.

Kids' Schoolwork

1 Create a gallery. Pick a wall to host a rotating art show on shelves or picture ledges. Or string up a wire and use photo clips, like the ones at www.urbanoutfitters.com/shop/metal-photo-clips-string-set, for a clothesline-style display.

2 No need to spend a lot. Most schoolwork is on acidic paper that deteriorates quickly. Feel free to use inexpensive, lightweight frames for display. Clip-style plastic frames make it easy to switch out artwork.

3 Take photos. Change the exhibit when new schoolwork comes home. Snap photos of outgoing art, front and back, to capture names, dates and other writing. Save the papers in a large, flat box. At the end of the term, let your child help you choose a few favorites to keep.

4 Preserve display pieces. Want to show off Junior's masterpiece in perpetuity? Mount it on acid-free backing with mat board to leave space between art and glass. Display three-dimensional projects in shadowbox frames.





5 Save the classics. You and your little Picasso may cherish every drawing and worksheet, but few of us can save it all. Choose “keepers” based on what you’d want from your own childhood: a stick-figure family portrait, early attempts at name writing, a spelling test with a hard-won A. Add some that showcase the child’s talents, several seasonal favorites, and a few just for fun.

6 Paper or plastic? Keep most schoolwork in sturdy plastic storage containers with tight lids. Report cards, diplomas and truly special projects can go in pricier archival-quality boxes (available from suppliers such as Gaylord Archival <www.gaylordarchival.com> and Hollinger <www.hollingermetaledge.com>). Separate them with sheets of acid-free paper.

7 Don’t keep food art. Projects with dried pasta, candy and other food tend to attract bugs and spoil. They’re best enjoyed for a short time, photographed and disposed of. If you must save that macaroni sculpture, seal it inside a freezer bag and store, cushioned, in a plastic bin.

8 Share with apps. It’s easy to save and share your child’s latest handiwork with a mobile app like Keepy <keepy.me> for Android and iOS. It lets you shoot photos and video, and invite relatives to view and comment. You can create and order books, prints and other gifts featuring favorite art, and back up and auto-sync Keepy images. Unlimited uploads cost \$5.49 per month or \$29.99 per year. ●



Denise May Levenick
aka The Family Curator
<www.thefamilycurator.com>
is the author of How to Archive Family Keepsakes (Family Tree Books).



Double the Reward



DNA testing led siblings Howard (left) and Kelli (center) Hochhalter to Howard's son, David Roberts (right).

A woman launches a genetic genealogy search for her grandfather—and discovers a nephew, too.

Kelli Hochhalter was proud of her Korean heritage on her mom's side, but knew little about her dad's background. Kent Hochhalter was born to a single mother, Aug. 22, 1929. She never revealed the name of Kent's birth father.

Kelli took a DNA test, hoping to learn about her ethnic ancestry on her father's side. But she also noticed a first cousin match. Could he be related through her mystery grandfather? He never returned Kelli's message.

Curiosity piqued, she hired a researcher from Legacy Tree Genealogists <www.legacytree.com>. Now that the search had begun, Kelli and her brother, Howard, felt the emptiness of this unknown family branch.

Her researcher emailed about the DNA match. It was a close one. Very close: equivalent to a nephew. His profile name and online searching identified him as 28-year-old David Roberts from Nebraska. The surname Stevens also cropped up a lot in matches' trees.

Kelli called her brother. They tossed around relationship scenarios involving their grandfather or father. Then she asked, "Could you have another son?" No, he said. He was happily married with four young children.

"Where were you in 1987 or 88?" she asked.

Howard had been in the Marine Corps, awaiting deployment to Japan. It took a few more moments of adding up details before he said, standing in the cheese aisle at Walmart, "Holy cow, Kelli, I have a 28-year-old son!"

Kelli requested David's contact information from her researcher. Within two and a half weeks, Howard had met his newfound son. The families welcomed each other with open arms.

Three of Kelli's other close matches, including a probable half-first cousin, had family trees that identified the same man as a father or grandfather. He was one of five brothers living on the border of South Dakota and Minnesota, 15 miles from Kent's birthplace. Their last name? Stevens.

The youngest brother was too young to be the father. The oldest two weren't in the right place and time. Kelli's researcher focused on the remaining brothers. One's obituary listed a surviving son with a different surname—which also was the maiden name of Kelli's half-first cousin match. That son was Kelli's half-uncle. Her grandfather was found. ●

Diane Haddad

WRITE THIS

How was your name chosen?
If you're named after someone, who was it?

In each issue, **Your Turn** offers a memory prompt to help you preserve your family's unique stories. Tear out and save your responses in a notebook, or use our downloadable type-and-save PDF <familytreemagazine.com/freebie/your-turn>. We'd love to hear your responses, too! Send them to ftmedit@fwmedia.com with "Your Turn" as a subject, and we might feature them in the magazine or on Facebook to inspire other genealogists.

Wow! A Simple to Use Computer Designed Especially for Seniors!

Easy to read. Easy to see. Easy to use. Just plug it in!



"I love this computer! It is easy to read and to use! I get photo updates from my children and grandchildren all the time."

— Janet F.

Have you ever said to yourself "I'd love to get a computer, if only I could figure out how to use it." Well, you're not alone. Computers were supposed to make our lives simpler, but they've gotten so complicated that they are not worth the trouble. With all of the "pointing and clicking" and "dragging and dropping" you're lucky if you can figure out where you are. Plus, you are constantly worrying about viruses and freeze-ups. If this sounds familiar, we have great news for you. There is finally a computer that's designed for simplicity and ease of use. It's the WOW Computer, and it was designed with you in mind. This computer is easy-to-use, worry-free and literally puts the world at

your fingertips. From the moment you open the box, you'll realize how different the WOW Computer is. The components are all connected; all you do is plug it into an outlet and your high-speed Internet connection. Then you'll see the screen – it's now 22 inches. This is a completely new touch screen system, without the cluttered look of the normal computer screen. The "buttons" on the screen are easy to see and easy to understand. All you do is touch one of them, from the Web, Email, Calendar to Games– you name it... and a new screen opens up. It's so easy to use you won't have to ask your children or grandchildren for help. Until now, the very people who could benefit most from E-mail and the Internet are the ones that have had the hardest time accessing it. Now, thanks to the WOW Computer, countless older Americans are discovering the wonderful world of the Internet every day. Isn't it time

- NEW**
Now comes with...
- Larger 22-inch hi-resolution screen – easier to see
 - 16% more viewing area**
 - Simple navigation – so you never get lost
 - Intel® processor – lightning fast
 - Computer is in the monitor – No bulky tower
 - Speech to Text translation – You talk, It types for you
 - Text to Speech translation – it can even read your emails to you!
 - U.S. Based Customer Service

FREE
Automatic
Software Updates

you took part? Call now, and you'll find out why tens of thousands of satisfied seniors are now enjoying their WOW Computers, emailing their grandchildren, and experiencing everything the Internet has to offer. Call today!

- Send & Receive Emails
- Have video chats with family and friends
- Surf the Internet:
Get current weather and news
- Play games Online:
Hundreds to choose from!

Call now toll free and find out how you can get the new WOW! Computer.

Mention promotional code 109170 for special introductory pricing.

1-888-834-0343



branchingout

“IT WAS DIFFICULT. But when you realize what we left, what we went away from—no matter how difficult it was, no matter how bad it could have been—when we arrived in this country, it couldn’t be one-tenth as bad as what we left. So everybody was really thankful when they saw the Statue of Liberty, when they saw the shores of America, because it was just something brand new for everybody. It was a start.” ●

Michael E. Haspel, born in Romania in 1915, was 5 years old when he arrived at Ellis Island with his mother, five siblings and a brother-in-law. His memories of the family’s immigration are now part of the Ellis Island Oral History Library <libertyellisfoundation.org/oral-history-library>.





Behind the GOLDEN DOOR

Millions of our ancestors arrived at Ellis Island with everything they owned and their hopes for a better life. Our photo tour lets you follow in their footsteps.

by DIANE HADDAD
photos by MEREDITH HEUER



Ellis Island gets its symbolic nickname as America's "Golden Door" from its neighbor in New York Harbor. The pedestal of the Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World bears the words Emma Lazarus penned in 1883: "I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Opened in 1892, Ellis Island was just one of America's 300-some arrival ports. But it was the busiest by far. More than 70 percent of all US immigrants—roughly 12 million people—first set foot in America at Ellis Island's immigrant processing center. Nearly half of Americans today have an ancestor who arrived at Ellis Island.

Fire destroyed the island's original structure in 1897. The brick-and-limestone building that houses today's National Museum of Immigration <www.libertyellisfoundation.org/immigration-museum> opened Dec. 19, 1900. (During the intervening years, immigrants were processed at a barge office in Battery Park.) In 1902, the US Public Health Service began operating a hospital on Ellis Island's south side for passengers too sick to enter the country or be sent home.

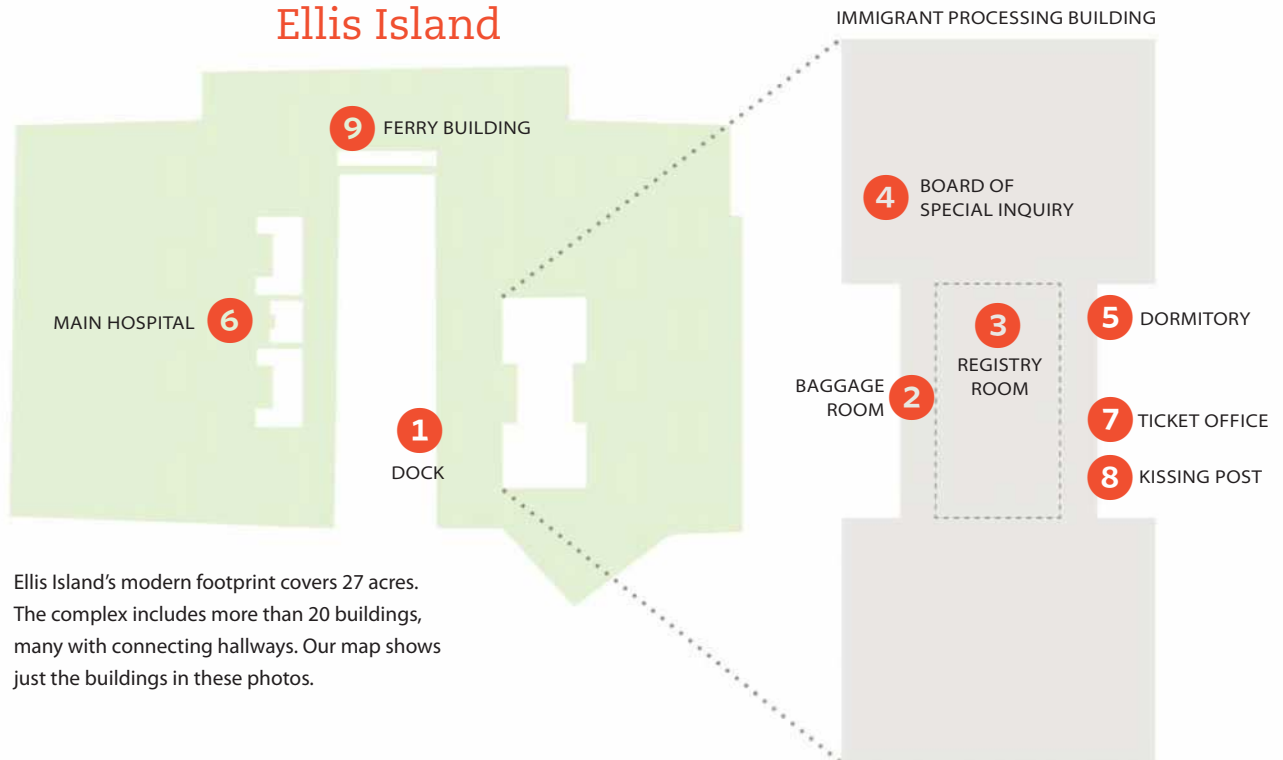
Over time, the three-acre island was expanded to 27 acres to accommodate building space needed for the growing tide of immigration: a waiting room for family meeting the arrivals, a baggage and dormitory building with a rooftop deck, a third floor in the main building, a bakery, carpentry shop, and hospital wards. During peak years, Ellis Island processed about 5,000 arrivals per day. The busiest day, April 17, 1907, saw 11,747 immigrants tread through the doors, the end of their long journey finally in sight. Let our photos take you on a virtual visit to follow in your ancestors' footsteps on Ellis Island.



1 Ships loaded with immigrants docked not at Ellis Island, but in Manhattan. Immigration officials boarded to check for diseases and inspect first- and second-class passengers, (who often included Americans returning from abroad). Though they bypassed Ellis Island, these travelers are still recorded on ship's passenger lists. Third-class passengers waited on board for hours and sometimes days for ferry transport to Ellis Island.



Ellis Island



Ellis Island's modern footprint covers 27 acres. The complex includes more than 20 buildings, many with connecting hallways. Our map shows just the buildings in these photos.

2 Entering the immigrant processing station, passengers left their trunks and bags in Ellis Island's first-floor baggage room.



Find Your Ellis Island Ancestor

Passenger lists documenting Ellis Island arrivals grew increasingly detailed over time as laws required more information of travelers. You can search and view the records online at <www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger> (free account registration required). Visitors can't download images, but you can support the immigration museum by ordering high-quality printed records. The free Family-Search <www.familysearch.org> has a searchable index, which links to digitized records on the Ellis Island website. Ellis Island records also are part of the New York passenger list collections at subscription genealogy sites Ancestry <ancestry.com>, MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com> and Findmypast <www.findmypast.com>.

Because passenger lists were created at ports of departure, immigrants are recorded by their names in the old country—which might differ from the names they used after arriving in America. This, combined with hard-to-read handwriting, spelling variants and transcription errors, can stymie searches for your relative's passenger records. The One-Step Ellis Island Search Forms at <stevemorse.org/ellis2/intro.html> give you enhanced search options that can help you locate hard-to-find immigrants; learn more at <familytreemagazine.com/premium/stepping-up>. Also remember that passengers who arrived through other ports won't appear in Ellis Island records.



DISCOVER RECORDS of your immigrant ancestors on the web with help from our Online Passenger Lists video class <familytreemagazine.com/store/online-passenger-lists>.

Timeline

1890

The federal government assumes control over immigration. Congress appropriates \$75,000 for a processing station at Ellis Island.

1892

Ellis Island's immigrant processing center opens Jan. 1. The first passenger to enter is thought to be 17-year-old Annie Moore, born in County Cork, Ireland.

1897

Fire destroys the buildings at Ellis Island.

1900

A new, fireproof immigration center opens; it receives 2,251 immigrants the first day.

1902

A 120-bed general hospital and a surgeon's house open on the south side of Ellis Island, across the ferry slip from the immigration building.

1907

The administration building is completed.

1909

A new hospital wing doubles the number of wards. The dormitory is completed.

1911

The Contagious Disease Hospital, completed in phases as funding allowed, opens to the south of the main hospital.



3 Steamship lines, which paid to treat ill immigrants and deport those denied entry, screened passengers before departure. Each passenger received an inspection card bearing his line number on the ship's passenger list. Carrying those cards, immigrants climbed Ellis Island's central staircase (since replaced with stairs at one end of the room) to the Registry Room, a vast, noisy space lined with wooden railings and, after 1903, benches.

Ellis Island was notorious for its quick medical inspections of the queued immigrants. Doctors looked for signs of tuberculosis, diphtheria, heart disease, lameness and other conditions. They turned eyelids inside-out in search of trachoma. Female matrons evaluated women for pregnancy. Anyone suspected of medical problems got a chalk letter on his clothing: *H* for heart, *Pg* for pregnancy, *X* for suspected mental illness. Those needing treatment were sent to the Ellis Island hospital or taken out of line for further examination.

Immigrants with minor ailments, perhaps anemia or a missing finger or eye, had their inspection cards noted but remained in line. Each line headed for a desk manned by a registry clerk and an inspector. Contrary to common belief, these officials didn't encourage arrivals to change their names (or do it for them). Rather, the clerk—with an interpreter when needed—took each immigrant's card and asked for his name, age, place of birth, family members' names, occupation, whether a polygamist or anarchist, and other details. Any discrepancies from the ship's passenger list or indications the person was a "likely public charge" would raise a red flag. Evidence of truthfulness wasn't required of the immigrant, other than showing the money in his possession.

**More than
70 percent of all
US immigrants—
roughly 12 million
people—first set foot
in America at Ellis
Island's immigrant
processing center.**

4 Approved passengers received a stamp on their inspection cards. Those judged unable to support themselves, exhibiting signs of a “loathsome” disease, or suspected of being a contract laborer received yellow cards marked *SI*: Special Inquiry. The immigrant (and his family, if present) waited on the island for the chance to plead his case before a three-member board of special inquiry. Relatives already in America might be summoned to testify. Passengers ordered deported—about 2 percent of all arrivals—could appeal the decision to the Commissioner-General of Immigration; otherwise, they were returned to their ships as soon as possible.



5 Up to 20 percent of immigrants were detained at Ellis Island at least briefly. Some awaited legal deportation hearings. Unescorted female passengers had to wait for a male relative to claim them. Those lacking train fare had to telegram friends or family for money. Detainees stayed in the main building at first, and later, in temporary barracks. In 1909, a dormitory building replaced the barracks. It’s now closed to the public, but an exhibit in the immigration museum replicates the sleeping quarters.

1916

Germans sabotage the munitions depot on nearby Black Tom Island. Explosions damage the Statue of Liberty (whose torch never reopens to the public) and prompt the evacuation of Ellis Island.

1920

Workers begin filling in the basin separating the main and infectious disease hospitals, a project completed in the 1930s.

1921

The Immigration Quota Act limits arrivals from each country, ending the era of mass immigration.

1924

The Immigration Act of 1924 further curtails immigration and moves most processing onto ships.

1936

A new Ferry Building is constructed, along with a new immigration building to hold detainees separately. The latter goes largely unused.

1940s

Ellis Island houses prisoners of war, disabled servicemen, war brides, refugees and immigrants needing further documentation. By 1952, 30 detainees remain.

1951

The Ellis Island hospital closes. The Coast Guard uses the island’s recreation facilities.



6 The Marine Hospital Service, forerunner of the Public Health Service, staffed USPHS Hospital No. 43 on Ellis Island. In 1914 alone, it treated more than 10,000 patients from 75 countries, for conditions ranging from scarlet fever to tropical diseases. The state-of-the-art complex eventually comprised four operating rooms (equipped with skylights for illumination), a laundry, a morgue, and wards for women, pediatrics, maternity, contagious diseases and psychiatric patients. More than 3,500 patients died at the hospital during its tenure, and 350 babies were born (including children of resident staff). Save Ellis Island manages the hospital buildings, now stabilized against further deterioration, with the hope of renovating and reopening them as a museum. Hard hat tours, available at www.saveellisland.org/education/tour-ellis-island, support this mission.



Visit Ellis Island

Ready to walk in your immigrant ancestor's footsteps? Admission to the museum on Ellis Island is free, but you'll need to purchase tickets for ferry transportation via Statue Cruises, www.statuecruises.com or 1-877-523-9849. Ferries depart from Battery Park in New York City or Liberty State Park in New Jersey. A round-trip ticket takes you to both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island (about \$18.50 for adults; less for seniors and children 12 and younger; Statue of Liberty interior or crown access costs extra). Select the Hard Hat option for a 90-minute tour through the hospital buildings, Laundry Building, Power House, kitchen, autopsy theater and more (\$53.50; \$49 for seniors; those under 13 not permitted). A portion of your Hard Hat Tour purchase helps restore the Ellis Island Immigrant Hospital.



7 Admitted immigrants could exchange their currency and purchase train tickets in an area behind the baggage room, now the Peopling of America exhibit space. There, they were protected from con artists who might overcharge or send them to unscrupulous boarding houses for a cut of the exorbitant rent. Organizations such as the YMCA, YWCA, Salvation Army, Daughters of the American Revolution, Travelers Aid Society, St. Raphael's Society, National Council of Jewish Women and White Rose Mission had staff at Ellis Island to help immigrants with food, money, employment, lodging and other services.



8 Most immigrants—95 percent, in fact, from 1900 to 1910—followed family and friends who'd already crossed the ocean and established themselves in America. Husbands, in particular, often would travel ahead of their wives to set up house and send money back home. These families reunited in an area Ellis Island workers dubbed the Kissing Post, now marked by a plaque in the immigration museum.



9 A typical immigrant spent three to five hours navigating lines and inspections at Ellis Island. Once cleared, travelers could have a meal and wait in the Ferry Building for a ride to Manhattan. The present Art Deco structure replaced the previous building in 1936. ●

Editor **Diane Haddad's** paternal great-grandparents arrived in New York Nov. 4, 1900, just weeks before Ellis Island reopened to immigrants with a new, fireproof main building.

1954

Ellis Island is abandoned and declared "excess federal property."

1965

Ellis Island becomes part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument, operated by the National Park Service.

1982

Renovations begin on Ellis Island.

1990

The main building reopens as the Ellis Island Immigration Museum.

1998

The US Supreme Court rules that New Jersey owns approximately 80 percent of Ellis Island.

2000

The Ellis Island website launches with searchable ships' passenger lists.

2012

Hurricane Sandy floods Ellis and Liberty islands. Repairs close both sites for a year.

2015

Ellis Island's museum, expanded to cover the entire story of US immigration, is renamed the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration.

2018

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation adds pre-1892 New York passenger records to its website.



Heirloom Handoff

Passing on a houseful of family treasures to the next generation isn't always a simple matter. Here's how to work through that transition—and what to do if no one wants the stuff.

by DENISE MAY LEVENICK







As a young married woman, I had a new home and little cash for furniture. So when my in-laws offered us their sideboard and huge grandfather clock, I was happy to accept. Their furniture filled up the space while connecting us to the past.

But like many people, I wasn't willing to take every family hand-me-down. I preferred antique-looking pieces. My mother decorated in mid-century modern style, a clear rejection of her parents' Depression-era, make-do decor. Predictably, I turned down most of my parents' furniture offerings when they downsized in the early 1980s.

And so the cycle continues. Today, many young adults don't want their parents' "brown" furniture, says Cynthia Abernethy, a veteran estate sales dealer in Southern California. "They don't want anything traditional; they want their house to look like HGTV." After helping families downsize and dispose of estates for 27 years, she's seen heirs reject a lot of furniture, dishes and knickknacks. She says people usually keep family photos—even unidentified ones—and papers, such as letters and diaries. But collectibles and furniture are tough to even give away.

Whether you're planning the distribution of your own treasures or you're dealing with a lifetime's worth of a loved one's stuff, you want to avoid burdening family. But you also want to secure the best future for the gilt-rimmed tea set

and family research files. Generally, you'll consider three possible "dos" for each item: distribute it to heirs, donate it somewhere, or discard it.

There's one important "don't," too: Don't put off thinking about this. Read this article and then consider which of the three following routes to take with your own favorite heirlooms.

1 **DISTRIBUTE TO HEIRS**

As part of an overall estate plan, many people set up irrevocable trusts to distribute inherited money. However, the successor trustees or heirs remain responsible for distributing real estate or personal property, or converting it into cash. You can help your heirs avoid stress and negotiate differences in opinion by discussing your plans for heirlooms now.

When my mother passed away, my sister and I served as trustees for her estate. We had to clear her home of furniture, dishes, clothes and other household goods before it could be sold. Fortunately, Mom had a keen sense of personal and family history. She'd been curating photos and family treasures for several years and had already distributed most items to family members. Tucked inside other items, we found notes identifying previous owners, memories or family stories. "Wedding gift, 1954" read a note kept with a cut glass serving tray. Another label said, "Received this as a gift from our Japanese exchange student in 1969. She came back to visit and brought this tea set."

Mom's advance planning, distribution and instructions were the best gifts she could have given us. It made our job easier in those first grief-filled months. My sister and I knew exactly what heirlooms to look for and which grandchild was to receive a favorite ring or painting.

This is a kindness you can do for your heirs. With your detailed instructions in hand, they'll know they've carried out your wishes as much as possible, instead of guessing what you would've wanted. Discuss these questions with loved ones:

tip

As you go through a dearly departed relative's things, keep your eye out for items of genealogical value: calendars, address books, yearbooks, baby books, letters, journals, paperwork, etc.

Homes now have great rooms instead of formal dining and living rooms, so there's no space for fancy dining sets, crystal and pianos.

- **Who might carry on your research or become the caretaker of your photos and documents?** Use a form like the Genealogical Codicil in *How to Archive Family Keepsakes* (Family Tree Books) to leave instructions for your genealogy work. You can ask your estate attorney to include the codicil in your will, but it doesn't have to be a legal part of your estate plan.

- **Who will want major heirlooms** such as furniture, art, clocks and jewelry? Be honest about their monetary value. Have items appraised if you aren't sure what they're worth. Distribute these items now if you're downsizing. Or if you want to hang on to them longer, ask your attorney about distributing them in your will.

- **What other items have sentimental value to family members?** Consider gifting these items now, as well.

- **What items will you donate, and why?** Perhaps you want to prevent hurt feelings, or maybe no one has the space for them.

- **What stories about the heirlooms should you share** to help your family understand their value to your heritage?

You'll also need to consider these questions as you're sorting through a relative's possessions. If you're faced with a deadline to empty a residence, try to move the items to other storage so you'll have more time to deal with them. Once the most meaningful and valuable items are accounted for, you might give relatives a week or so to visit and choose what they please. Let them know that anything left by a specific date will be sold or donated.

2 DONATE TO AN ARCHIVE

Family historians are often surprised to learn that archives and museums welcome historically significant donations from personal and family collections. You don't have to be rich or famous to have items of interest. While your family may lose personal possession of their treasures by donating them, you'll gain the satisfaction of sharing them with others—and freedom from the responsibility for possibly fragile, one-of-a-kind artifacts.

Sierra Green, archivist at the Detre Library & Archives of the Sen. John Heinz History Center <www.heinzhistorycenter.org> in Pittsburgh, Pa., recently attended the center's appraisal event. The public was invited to bring family treasures for a financial valuation, "Antiques Roadshow" style. "One visitor shared a small collection of posters and artifacts that had belonged to a woman in her husband's family. She was a suffragist and the items documented her role in the early suffrage movement in Pittsburgh."

After learning about the collection's significance to women's history in Pittsburgh, the family decided to donate the items. Today the poster, campaign sash and other artifacts are part of the Heinz museum and archive collections.

Potential donors will need to do some research to find the best home for heirlooms. First, brush up on the history that your family collections represent. Then seek repositories with an interest in those kinds of stories. "The Heinz History Center has a strong geographic focus on Western Pennsylvania," Green notes. "Items that don't fit our focus might be welcomed at another repository."

Donation Dossier

Want to donate family artifacts to an archive? Start by composing a collection description to help you match your items with the best repository.

- 1 **List all items.** Include approximate dates of creation and purchase, construction details (such as the item's size and component materials), and names of relatives associated with the item.
- 2 **Identify historical themes.** Explain how the items tell a story about a particular time period, industry or group of people.
- 3 **Identify geographical areas.** Research the items and the family who owned them to determine the places associated with the collection.
- 4 **Document their stories.** Artifacts without owners or stories attached to them are often less interesting to archives. Consider including a written research report with biographical sketches or a brief family history that clearly connects your family to the collection.

Green suggests studying the archive, library or museum website to learn about its mission, acquisition policy and collection priorities. Some repositories are research facilities. Others focus on public access and exhibitions. Still others aim more for an online presence.

Whenever possible, compile a collection of items to donate that tell a cohesive story, such as your grandma's letters, uniform and medical bag from her time as an Army nurse. Then contact potential repositories. Green encourages potential donors to prepare photos and descriptions

of significant items and even write a biographical sketch of your family to present to repository (see the Donation Dossier box on page 29). Finally, wait patiently for a response. Small facilities, such as local historical societies, may rely on a volunteer acquisitions committee.

Ask potential repositories these questions:

- **What are the terms on a deed of gift** (the document that records your donation without being compensated in return)? Read the Society of American Archivists' pamphlet "A Guide to Deeds of Gift" <www2.archivists.org/publications/brochures/deeds-of-gift> for an overview of transferring ownership and legal rights of private property to a repository.

- **What does the archive request regarding intellectual property rights** to the donated items, digital rights and other issues? Is their request acceptable to you and your family?

- **Does the organization have resources for processing your collection** in a timely way, and making it available to researchers in person or online in digital format?

3 DISPOSE OF THE REST

After dividing the best or most meaningful goods among heirs and donating historically significant items, estates are reduced to things the family doesn't want. If you're the one who's downsizing, it's smart to identify and offload some of these things now.

Joe Baratta, a personal property appraiser and vice president at Abell Auction Co. in Los Angeles <abell.com>, sees scores of such things at his company's weekly auctions. "People don't necessarily have the same size home they did when they grew up," he says. Homes now have great rooms instead of formal dining and living rooms, so there's no space for fancy dining sets, crystal and pianos. Formal dining furniture and accessories are the most difficult kind of heirloom to rehome. Baratta adds that people are living longer. "By the time the next generation inherits an estate, their homes are already furnished and they don't want or need their parents' things." Those heirs may be trying to downsize their own homes.

He also notes that the Millennial generation, now ranging from young adulthood to midlife, seems to prefer experiences to material objects. "When my parents and grandparents went somewhere, it was a big event," Baratta says. "They brought trinkets home to remember the trip.

From Facebook: Heirloom Idea Exchange

I descend from long lines of glorious hoarders on both sides of the family. I don't know if anybody will want these treasures, but in an effort to endear this stuff to my relatives, I include pictures and stories on the family Facebook pages I run. I am working on an album with stories about the items, so that when I'm gone (or if I forget), we'll know why these items are important to our history. **Barb**

My parents just downsized. I'm 38. I didn't want any dining furniture or dish sets or silverware. I took photos, yearbooks, journals, documents and military memorabilia from my grandparents. That's all I want: That's the important "stuff" in my eyes. **Emily**

My creative best friend inherited all the sterling silver from both sides of her family. She had some spoons and forks made into wrist cuff bracelets that show off the monograms. **Nancy**

My mom had been in the first class of WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) in the Navy in 1942. I have a box of training materials she kept that I'm hoping to donate to the Women's Memorial Museum at Arlington or the WWII Museum in New Orleans. My Dad was a county commander of the Jewish War Veterans, and I have a couple of boxes of that memorabilia I'd like to donate. **Joan**

No one wants my great-grandmother's toast rack. To my kids, it's a useless bit of china "junk." I've tried to convince them it makes a nice napkin holder, but no dice. **Lorine**

From what I see in thrift stores, people aren't keeping the china. I don't think many care about having a set of good china to use a couple of times a year. And even if you decided to use them for everyday, how would they fare in the microwave? **Renee**



The 10 Least-Wanted Heirlooms

1 “Brown” furniture

2 China



3 Crystal

4 Silver-plate serveware



5 Table linens

6 Collectible figurines



7 Collectible teapots, teacups and spoons

8 Chafing dishes and large serving ware

9 Pianos

10 Grandfather clocks



Now, Millennials want the experience, but not the things.”

In other words, your grandson may value the memories he’ll create by selling your Wedgwood china service to fund a trip abroad, over the china itself. Try not to take it personally. Your associations with an item—the memories you attach to it—aren’t the same as your grandson’s, and that’s okay. Perhaps your treasured piece has served its purpose just by being special to you.

But it’s worth reiterating the importance of talking with heirs before selling or giving away your stuff. Maybe they’re the exception to the trends. Your mahogany buffet may perfectly fill a space in your niece’s renovated Victorian house (though she may paint it purple). When it’s time to divest yourself of the unwanted possessions, you have several options for selling them:

- Auction houses such as Abell’s work well when you don’t want to open the home for a public sale (for example, following damage from flooding), or when you want to dispose of a limited number of items. These services might pay a flat amount for a houseful of stuff, or sell select items on commission. You also could use online auction services that specialize in estates, such as Everything But The House <www.ebth.com>.

- On-site estate auctions are practical solutions for liquidating everything from personal clothing to furniture and household cleaning supplies. In rural areas or small towns, auction services might hold estate auctions in family homes, much as they’ve done for hundreds of years.

Estate sales, in which items are sold garage sale-style, are common in metropolitan areas and in popular retirement locales like Florida and

Buyers will pick up, inspect and move items. They'll want to negotiate prices. It can be difficult to watch strangers handle and judge your family's possessions.

Arizona. This is a good option if you want to go the DIY route.

Whichever option you take, it's important to have items appraised to determine the market value. That will help you be more realistic about your expectations: Sentimental attachment to an item doesn't always translate into monetary value, not does the amount you may have paid for it. The price you can get depends on what today's market will bear.

Turn to estate attorneys, realtors and senior transition teams for names of reputable estate sales agents in your area. "It's important to find a good agent," notes Abernethy, who suggests visiting sales to see how they're managed. Known as "the queen of LA estate sales," she's run more than 1,000 successful events of all sizes. Her potential customers often line up before dawn for the first crack at the merchandise. She cautions against hiring an estate agent who's also an antiques dealer. "Many times they are looking for goods for their own shop, and not necessarily for your best interest.

You also want an agent who attracts quality buyers. Look for someone with a large customer email list, and get yourself added to the list to see what messages look like. A good agent will be able to price things appropriately and help you sell it all. The most successful sales include something for every budget. Little things, from kitchen towels to castoff rain boots, can add up to sizable sales.

If you decide to DIY a sale, be prepared for some hard work. You'll need to advertise the sale in

newspapers, on local community and garage sale websites, on Facebook <www.facebook.com>, and even on Craigslist <www.craigslist.com>. You'll need to sort, clean and price the items, stage them on tables, and recruit friends and relatives to staff the rooms (this discourages "sticky fingers"). Buyers will pick up, inspect and move items. They'll want to negotiate prices. It can be difficult to watch strangers handle and judge your family's possessions.

You'll inevitably have leftovers—or you might want to skip the sale and get things gone ASAP. Before adding to a landfill, take the opportunity to support a thrift shop whose sales benefit cancer research, animal welfare or another charitable cause. The nicest items might benefit a school or church fundraiser. Some places even do pickups. Be sure to ask for a donation receipt for income tax purposes.

Maybe too little time or too much distance make your task overwhelming. Once family has had a fair chance to choose from a deceased loved one's worldly goods, there's no shame in declaring the rest is too much to deal with. Junk removal services will haul it all away for a fee. Typically, they'll try to sell or donate some things, and trash or recycle everything else. Ask realtors, movers and friends for referrals.

A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

In the end, you often can find happy homes for most of your family's accumulated items, both the cherished and the mundane. Heirs may or may not want it. But archives, antique enthusiasts, bargain-hunters and charities may be looking for the very items you need to give up. Mom's prized "brown furniture" might have a future as a new family's heirloom. Even if it's painted purple. ●

Denise May Levenick is the author of *How to Archive Family Keepsakes* and *How to Archive Family Photos*. Read about her project to downsize and distribute more silver-plate trays and porcelain figurines than she can count at her blog, *The Family Curator* <www.thefamilycurator.com>.



in the shop

Find tips to inventory and preserve your family collections in *How to Archive Family Keepsakes* by Denise May Levenick <familytreemagazine.com/store/ht-archive-family-keepsakes>.

tip

If you're tasked with emptying a relative's former home, try this: Once heirlooms have been distributed, hold a weekend open house for family to visit and choose any other items they want to keep. Tell them that anything left on Monday will be sold or donated.

STATE GUIDE

ARKANSAS

by LAUREN GAMBER

WHEN IT COMES to Arkansas, practically everyone has the same question: How did it end up with such a strange name? Why isn't it pronounced "Ar-KAN-zes"? Or conversely, why isn't its neighbor to the northwest called "kan-SAW"?

In the 1600s, Arkansas' Quapaw Indians were known to other tribes by a term meaning "south wind," which to French explorers sounded something like the modern-day pronunciation of Arkansas. There was no standard spelling or pronunciation for the next 200 years. During early statehood days, even Arkansas' US senators disagreed about the pronunciation: One preferred "AR-kan-SAW;" the other, "Ar-KAN-zes." Finally, in 1881, Arkansas' General Assembly standardized the moniker, declaring it should be spelled *Arkansas* but pronounced "AR-kan-SAW," an Anglicized version of the original French pronunciation. Meanwhile, Kansas chose to adopt an English pronunciation of its name, which has similar roots.

So *Arkansas* reflects the state's American Indian and French heritage. Now that we've cleared that up, you can get on with your research. Let us show the way.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

When the Spanish and French started exploring what became Arkansas in the 16th and 17th centuries, American Indians—primarily Quapaw, Osage and Caddo—lived there. Cherokee, Choctaw, Shawnee and Delaware arrived after 1790, pushed west by European settlers.

In 1686, Frenchman Henri de Tonti founded Arkansas Post, the state's first permanent white settlement. France and Spain took turns occupying Arkansas until 1803, when the United States acquired it in the Louisiana Purchase.

Arkansas remained mostly unsettled until 1818, when the cotton boom drew families of Scottish, Scots-Irish and English descent from Virginia, the Carolinas, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi. The settlers brought black slaves and set up plantations in southern and eastern Arkansas. By 1860, slaves were a quarter of the state's population. Most modern-day Arkansans descend from these Anglo-Saxon and black families who migrated from older Southern states.

As white settlers rushed into Arkansas, American Indians were forced out. By statehood in 1836, Congress had withdrawn land titles from Arkansas' Indian tribes and pushed them west into Oklahoma. If your ancestors were among these tribes, consult Indian censuses and removal rolls on microfilm at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Fort Worth <archives.gov/fort-worth>, with some records on genealogy websites such as subscription-based Ancestry <ancestry.com>.

After the Civil War, Arkansas' fertile farmland attracted European immigrants. Polish families settled in Pulaski County and Italians went to the northwestern part of the state. Immigrants through New Orleans traveled up the Mississippi River to make homes in Arkansas. If you don't find your family's origins in another Southern state, look at passenger lists for the port of New Orleans, which you can search on Ancestry and browse on the free FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>. Some of NARA's <archives.gov> research facilities have these records on microfilm.

After the Civil War, Arkansas' fertile farmland attracted European immigrants. Polish families settled in Pulaski County and Italians went to the northwestern part of the state. Immigrants through New Orleans traveled up the Mississippi River to make homes in Arkansas. If you don't find your family's origins in another Southern state, look at passenger lists for the port of New Orleans, which you can search on Ancestry and browse on the free FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>. Some of NARA's <archives.gov> research facilities have these records on microfilm.

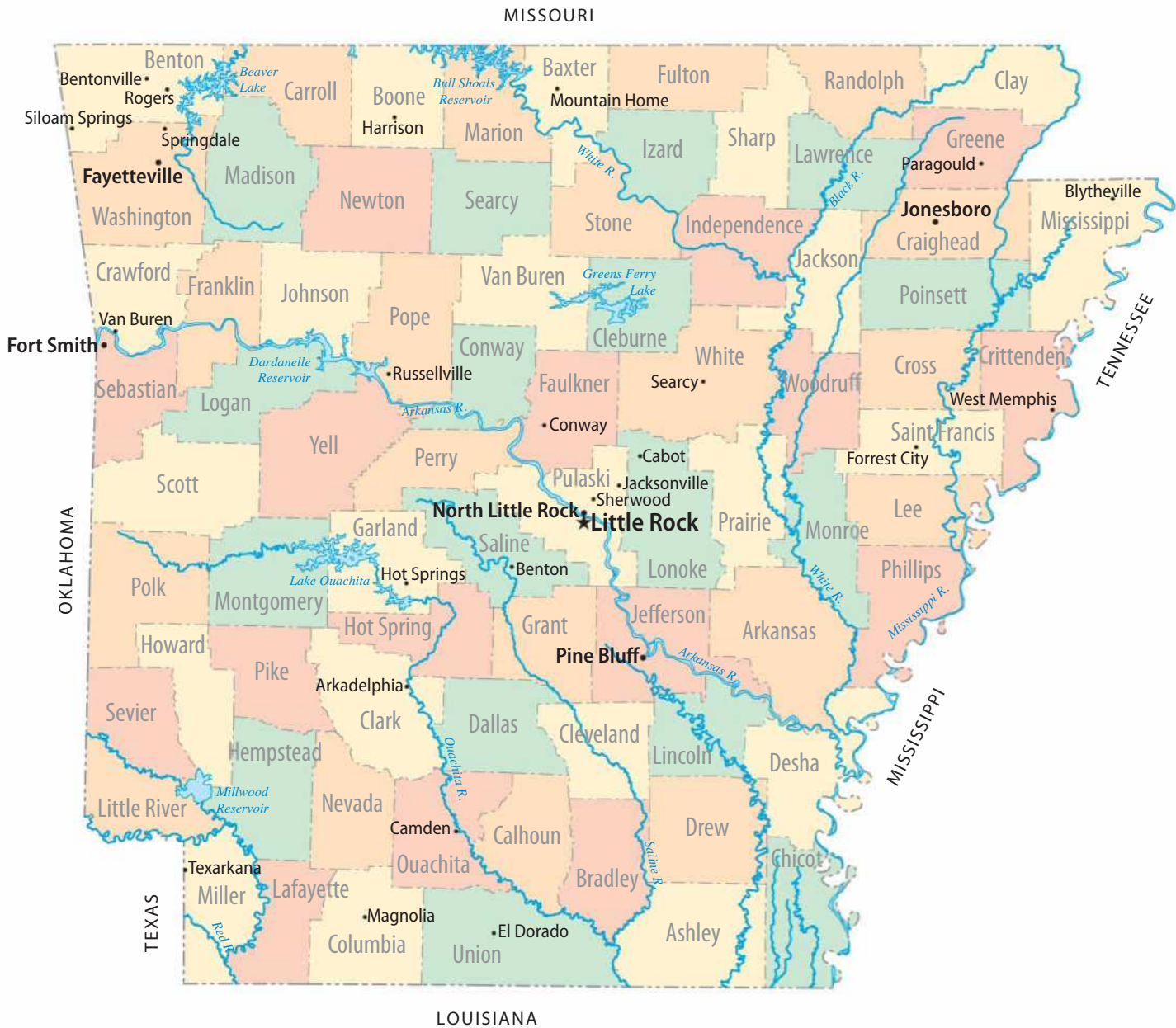
CENSUSES

Census records can help you determine where in the state your ancestors lived.

FAST FACTS

- ★ **Statehood:** 1836
- ★ **First federal census:** 1830, as Arkansas Territory
- ★ **Statewide birth and death records begin:** 1914
- ★ **Statewide marriage records begin:** 1817
- ★ **Public-land state**
- ★ **Counties:** 75
- ★ **Contact for vital records:** Arkansas Department of Health Division of Vital Records, 4815 W. Markham St., Slot 44, Little Rock, AR 72205, (800) 637-9314, <healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/program/certificates-and-records>

ARKANSAS



timeline

1686

Frenchman Henri de Tonti founds Arkansas Post on the lower Arkansas River.

1803

The United States acquires Arkansas as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

1819

William E. Woodruff founds the *Arkansas Gazette*, the oldest newspaper west of the Mississippi.

1821

Little Rock becomes the capital of Arkansas.

1834

Quapaw Indians are forced out of Arkansas.

1861

Arkansas secedes from the Union on May 6.

Immigrants arriving in New Orleans traveled up the Mississippi River to make their homes in Arkansas.

Find 18th-century French and Spanish records in *Arkansas Colonials, 1686-1804* by Morris S. Arnold and Dorothy Jones Core (DeWitt Publishing Co.). An 1830 census of Arkansas Territory is searchable on Ancestry, along with various tax records dating to 1819. US censuses of Arkansas as a state begin in 1840; you'll find those on major genealogy websites including Ancestry, FamilySearch, MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com> and Findmypast <www.findmypast.com>.

VITAL RECORDS

Arkansas began statewide registration of births and deaths in 1914, marriages in 1917, and divorces in 1923. Find several statewide indexes to births, deaths and marriages at FamilySearch and Ancestry. You can request copies from the Arkansas Department of Health. The agency also has some earlier birth and death records for Little Rock and Fort Smith dating from 1881. Check county courthouses for more vital records that predate state registration.

Courthouses also are your stop for marriage and divorce records (the state just has tear-off "returns" from the bottom of the certificates). The FamilySearch Family History Library (FHL) <www.familysearch.org/ask/locations/saltlakecity-library> has microfilmed county marriage records to about the 1920s; you can view these online at FamilySearch.

LAND RECORDS

Federal land offices began distributing Arkansas' public domain acreage about 1840. The Commissioner of State Lands <cosl.org> has records of those initial transfers. You can order copies for a nominal fee, and view digitized images (but not search by name) on the commissioner's website.

Search for federal land patents and warrants in the Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records databases <glorerecords.blm.gov>. Clerks of circuit and county courts recorded all subsequent land transfers. Contact the county court where the transfer took place for deed records, or search the FHL catalog <www.familysearch.org/catalog/search> for microfilm copies.

MILITARY RECORDS

If your relatives were among Arkansas' first white settlers, they may have fought in the War of 1812 and received bounty land from the federal government. The FHL, NARA and the Arkansas History Commission (AHC) <ark-ives.com> have microfilmed bounty-land warrants, which provide the date of the warrant and the soldier's name, rank and unit. Search an index to warrant applications at FamilySearch and Fold3 <fold3.com> (a subscription site, but the bounty land warrant index is free). Use details from the index to determine which microfilm roll you need.

In May 1861, Arkansas seceded from the United States. A few thousand northern Arkansans fought for the Union

What's Hot in Arkansas?

The city of Hot Springs, Ark., is named for 47 thermal springs flowing from the western slope of Hot Springs Mountain, producing roughly a million gallons of water daily, at 143°F on average. American Indians called this area the Valley of the Vapors for the steam rising into the air each morning. President Andrew Jackson set aside the land as a federal reserve for public use in 1832. By 1873, six bathhouses and 24 hotels and boardinghouses had risen up around the springs for visitors taking advantage of the water's supposed healing properties.

In 1913, a fire, believed to have started at the Pine Bluff House as Miss Matlock ironed her clothes, burned half the city. Modern Hot Springs rose from its ashes. Eight bathhouses along Central Avenue now form Bathhouse Row, operated since 1921 by the National Park Service <www.nps.gov/hosp>. You can fill your water bottle at spring-fed fountains, get a traditional bath at the Buckstaff Bathhouse (a survivor of the 1913 fire), or go for a spa-like experience at the renovated Quapaw Baths and Spa. Learn more about visiting Hot Springs at <www.hotspings.org>.

1906

The United States' first diamond deposit is discovered in Pike County.

1921

An oil well near El Dorado produces a "gusher," sparking Arkansas' oil industry.

1927

Mississippi River Valley flooding inundates 2 million acres of Arkansas farmland.

1957

Gov. Orval Faubus deploys the Arkansas National Guard to prevent school integration.

1969

Maya Angelou, who lived in Stamps for 10 years, publishes *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

1993

Native son Bill Clinton becomes the 42nd US president.

TOOLKIT

Websites

Arkansas GenWeb Project <argenweb.net>

Cyndi's List: Arkansas <cyndislist.com/us/ar>

Indian Removal Through Arkansas, 1830-1849
<ualrexhibits.org/trailoftears>

Publications

Arkansas Historical Quarterly (Arkansas Historical Association, included with annual membership)

Colonial Arkansas, 1686-1804: A Social and Cultural History by Morris S. Arnold (University of Arkansas Press)

Confederate Arkansas: The People and Policies of a Frontier State in Wartime by Michael B. Dougan (University of Alabama Press)

Historical Atlas of Arkansas by Gerald T. Hanson and Carl H. Moneyhon (University of Oklahoma Press)

The Old South Frontier: Cotton Plantations and the Formation of Arkansas Society, 1819-1861 by Donald P. McNeilly (University of Arkansas Press)

Archives & Organizations

Arkansas Genealogical Society

Box 26374, Little Rock, AR 72221, <agsgenealogy.org>

Arkansas Historical Association

416 Old Main, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, (479) 575-5884, <arkansashistoricalassociation.org>

Arkansas State Archives

1 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201, (501) 682-6900, <ark-ives.com>

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

401 President Clinton Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201, (501) 320-5700, <butlercenter.org>

Fort Smith Public Library

Genealogy Department, 3201 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72903, (479) 783-0229, <fortsmithlibrary.org/genmain.html>

National Archives at Fort Worth

1400 John Burgess Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76140, (817) 551-2051, <archives.gov/fort-worth>

Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society

405 S. Main St., Bentonville, AR 72712, (479) 271-6820, <rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arnwags>

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives

201 Highway 195 South, Box 134, Washington, AR 71862, (870) 983-2633, <archives.arkansas.gov/sara/sara-about-us.aspx>

in the Civil War, but most of the state sided with the Confederacy. Find digitized service records for soldiers on both sides at Fold3. A free index at FamilySearch links to records in Fold3's subscription collection.

Search an index to petitioners for Union pensions at FamilySearch. The pension records are unmicrofilmed at NARA (except for a handful of widows' pensions at Fold3); order copies using NARA's online ordering system <eservices.archives.gov/orderonline>. You can search an index to Confederate pension records at the AHC website or on FamilySearch, then go to images of the pension applications at Fold3. Remember that Confederate veterans could apply for a pension from any Southern state where they lived at the time of application, not necessarily the state where they served.

In 1911, a special census was taken of Confederate veterans. The AHC has returns for most Arkansas counties. A majority of these are on microfilm at the FHL; search an index at the AHC website.

The AHC has an extensive collection of military records in addition to those pertaining to the Civil War. Look for more microfilmed military records and indexes at the FHL.

REPOSITORIES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

You'll find many genealogical resources online and on microfilm, but eventually you'll want to tap the following repositories' riches (see the Toolkit for contact information):

★ **ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION** <archives.arkansas.gov/ahc.aspx>: In addition to records already mentioned, the AHC (part of the state archives) has an impressive historical newspaper collection, county records, photographs, maps and more. You can search several databases on the website, including county, military, newspaper and other records. The site's Digital Collections include history resource guides, old maps, photos and more.

★ **SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL ARCHIVES**: This facility has hundreds of family histories, genealogies, photos, cemetery records, pre-1917 marriage records and court records for 12 southwestern counties.

★ **BUTLER CENTER FOR ARKANSAS STUDIES**: Find Arkansas history and genealogy tools here, including Sanborn maps, city directories, manuscripts, photos and more.

★ **UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS LIBRARIES**: The David W. Mullins Library in Fayetteville houses more than 900 manuscript collections, including church, school, business and organization records; diaries; letters; scrapbooks; memoirs; maps; and 100,000-plus pictures. Look for the series of regional biographical encyclopedias, too.

Making the most of these repositories may require a trip to your ancestral state. But you won't need much convincing given its natural attractions, like its hot springs and the Ozark and Ouachita national forests. You even can impress the locals with your knowledge of "AR-kan-SAW" history. ●

STATE GUIDE

MICHIGAN

by LAUREN GAMBER

ASK ANY NATIVE Michigander (or Michigianian, as some call themselves) which part of the mitten-shaped peninsula she comes from, and she'll likely point to a spot on her take-anywhere map—the back of her left hand. That is, unless she hails from the Upper Peninsula (UP for short), a leaping-rabbit-shaped outgrowth of Wisconsin that's separated from the tip of the Lower Peninsula by the Straits of Mackinac.

American Indians settled the UP more than 2,000 years ago. During the 1600s, French missionaries and fur traders joined them and founded Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan's first permanent settlement, in 1668. The French settled southern Michigan in 1690 at Fort St. Joseph, near Niles. Then in 1701, French army officer Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac established Fort Pontchartrain, the modern-day Motor City, at the base of the mitten's thumb.

The name *Michigan* derives from the Chippewa word *Michigama*, meaning "large lake." Wherever your Michigan ancestors settled, they had direct access to four of the five Great Lakes—Huron, Michigan, Erie and Superior—plus some 11,000 inland lakes. These bodies of water have proved so important to Michigan's settlement and economy that the Wolverine State (as it came to be known) has an alternate moniker: the Great Lakes State.

SETTLEMENT AND GROWTH

For about 100 years after Cadillac founded Fort Pontchartrain (which became Fort Detroit), the French, British, various Indian peoples and newly independent Americans struggled for control of Michigan's forts. Under the Ordinance of 1787, Michigan became part of the

Northwest Territory. In 1805, President Thomas Jefferson declared Michigan a separate territory, with Detroit as its capital. By 1833, Michigan Territory had more than 60,000 inhabitants, enough to achieve statehood. But a battle with Ohio over the ownership of Toledo delayed statehood until 1837, once Michigan had surrendered Toledo in exchange for the western section of the UP.

Farming replaced fur trading as the state's primary industry. Settlers discovered copper and iron ore in the UP during the 1840s. After the Civil War, the lumber industry flourished, and railroads transported Michigan's timber, livestock and food throughout the United States. Henry Ford can take credit for Michigan's biggest economic and population surge, though, with the founding of the Ford Motor Co.

FAST FACTS

- ★ **Statehood:** 1837
- ★ **First federal census:** 1820
- ★ **Available state censuses:** Various colonial (1710-1796), territorial (1810, 1827, 1834) and state censuses (1837-1969)
- ★ **Statewide birth and death records begin:** 1867
- ★ **Statewide marriage records begin:** 1867
- ★ **Public-land state**
- ★ **Counties:** Except minor adjustments, boundaries set in 1897 at 83 counties
- ★ **Contact for vital records:** Michigan Vital Records Office, 333 S. Grand Ave., 1st Floor, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 335-8666, <michigan.gov/mdch>

IMMIGRATION RECORDS

The state's population skyrocketed in the mid-1800s. New Englanders settled in the southern counties; Dutch farmers in the southwest; Germans in the Saginaw Valley; Irish in the southeast; and Finns and Italians in the UP. In the early to mid-1900s, the booming automobile industry drew hundreds of thousands of Southerners, African-Americans, Canadians, Poles, Italians, Hungarians and Greeks to Detroit and surrounding communities.

Detroit was a major arrival port for immigrants, particularly in the 1900s as they came to work in auto plants. Browse Detroit passenger manifest index cards (1906-1954) at the free FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>, or search and view passenger lists at subscription site Ancestry <ancestry.com>.

MICHIGAN



timeline

1668

Michigan's first permanent European settlement founded at Sault Ste. Marie.

1701

Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac establishes Fort Pontchartrain at present-day Detroit.

1819

The Treaty of Saginaw cedes almost 6 million acres of Indian lands to Michigan settlers.

1835

Michigan and Ohio argue over the Toledo Strip in the nearly bloodless Toledo War.

1847

Lansing becomes the state capital.

1908

The Ford Model T debuts.

Detroit was a major port of entry for immigrants, particularly in the 1900s as they came to work in the auto plants.

Find those who entered from the north between 1895 and 1954 in Ancestry's collection of Canada-to-US border crossing records (FamilySearch has an index to these).

The state archives has some naturalization records, originally recorded by county clerks; you can order copies online. Search online indexes to naturalizations from several counties at <seekingmichigan.org/about/guides/immigration-naturalization-records>. FamilySearch has searchable index cards to naturalizations in eastern Michigan.

CENSUSES

Various colonial (1710-1796), territorial (1810, 1827, 1834) and state censuses (1837-1969) exist for Michigan. You'll find most of them at the Michigan State Archives <www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi>. WorldVitalRecords <worldvitalrecords.com> has an index to the 1884 census; FamilySearch and Ancestry have indexes to the 1894 censuses. The latter site also has indexes to other, smaller territorial and state censuses.

Federal census data are available for Michigan for 1820 to 1940. Search these online at major genealogy websites including FamilySearch, Ancestry, MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com> and Findmypast <www.findmypast.com>.

VITAL RECORDS AND OBITUARIES

Statewide registration of Michigan births, marriages and deaths began in 1867. You can order copies of these certificates (as well as divorce records since 1897) from the Michigan Vital Records Office (see Fast Facts). Digitized death records for 1897-1920 are searchable at Seeking Michigan <seekingmichigan.org>. You'll find birth (1775-1995), marriage (1822-1995) and death (1800-1995) indexes at FamilySearch, along with some record images. Ancestry has mostly smaller, overlapping indexes. About 170,000 Michigan deaths (1867-1897) are indexed on the state Department of Health and Human Services site <www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/gendisx>. The state archives and/or library have indexes to marriage (1867-1921, 1950-1969), divorce (1897-1977) and death (1867-1914) records (see Toolkit for web addresses).

The counties where your ancestors lived may have registered births and deaths before 1867. Check local research guides or contact the appropriate county clerk for resources. Obituaries can stand in for official death records and add details about your ancestors's lives and family members. The Michigan Obituary Project website <usgwarchives.net/obits/mi/obitsmi.htm> offers help finding newspaper obituaries from around the state. Finally, request help with obituary research from the Detroit Public Library at <detroitpubliclibrary.org/services/obituary-search>.

Auto Nation

Michigan's own Henry Ford, born in Greenfield, is credited with inspiring business and societal transformations like mass production, franchising, and the rise of the American suburb.

While working as an engineer for the Edison Illuminating Co. in 1896, he built a self-propelled vehicle he called the Ford Quadricycle. He started the Detroit Automobile Co. in 1902, and following a dispute with financial backers, established the Ford Motor Co. the next year.

In 1908, Ford debuted the Model T: affordable at \$825, easy to drive and cheap to repair. The moving assembly belts he introduced in 1913 (following a suggestion by his employees) further drove down prices, to about \$360 in 1916. Ford also took the unconventional step of limiting employees' work week to 40 hours and raising wages to \$5 per day, ensuring his workers could afford the cars they produced.

Ford opened a museum and restored historical village in 1929 to display his collection of antiques and share stories of American ingenuity. Today, The Henry Ford in Dearborn includes the Museum of American Innovation, Greenfield Village, Ford Rouge Factory Tour and the Henry Ford Academy high school. Learn more and view digital exhibits at <www.thehenryford.org>.

1930

The mile-long Detroit-Windsor Tunnel opens to cars.

1935

The United Automobile Workers of America organizes in Detroit.

1941

Michigan's auto plants are converted to produce war materials.

1957

The Mackinac Bridge links the Upper and Lower peninsulas.

1967

Racial tensions cause riots in Detroit.

2011

General Motors rebounds after 2009 bankruptcy.

TOOLKIT

Websites

Cyndi's List: Michigan <cyndislist.com/us/mi>

Michigan Family History Network
<mifamilyhistory.org>

Michigan GenWeb Project <migenweb.net>

Seeking Michigan <seekingmichigan.org>

Publications

The Detroit Almanac: 300 Years of Life in the Motor City edited by Peter Gavrilovich and Bill McGraw (Detroit Free Press)

Michigan: A History of the Wolverine State, 3rd revised edition, by Willis F. Dunbar and George S. May (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.)

Michigan Genealogy: Sources and Resources, 2nd edition, by Carol McGinnis (Genealogical Publishing Co.)

Michigan Place Names by Walter Romig (Wayne State University Press)

Sourcebook of Michigan Census, County Histories, and Vital Records edited by Carole Callard (Library of Michigan)

Archives & Organizations

Archives of Michigan

702 W. Kalamazoo St., Box 30740, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 373-1408, <www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi>

Bentley Historical Library

University of Michigan, 1150 Beal Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48109, (734) 764-3482, <bentley.umich.edu>

Detroit Public Library

5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202, (313) 481-1300, <detroitpubliclibrary.org>

French Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan

Box 1900, Royal Oak, MI 48068, <habitantheritage.org>

Historical Society of Michigan

5815 Executive Dr., Lansing, MI 48911, (517) 324-1828, <hsmichigan.org>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan

Box 251693, West Bloomfield, MI 48235, <jgsmi.org>

Library of Michigan

702 W. Kalamazoo St., Box 30007, Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 373-1580, <michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan>

Michigan Genealogical Council

Box 80953, Lansing, MI 48908, <www.mimgc.org>

National Archives at Chicago

7358 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60629, (773) 948-9001, <archives.gov/chicago>

MILITARY RECORDS

More than 90,000 Michigan men—23 percent of the state's male population in 1860—joined Union forces during the Civil War. The state archives has a broad collection of Civil War records. Descriptive rolls provide information such as name, rank, date and place of enlistment, and a physical description of the soldier. Seeking Michigan has several Civil War-era datasets and digitized images. Service record indexes and/or images are on subscription site Fold3 <www.fold3.org>. An 1883 pensioner's census is transcribed at <mifamilyhistory.org/civilwar/1883Pension>. An 1888 census of Civil War veterans and the state's 1890 list of Union Civil War veterans (from the otherwise mostly destroyed 1890 federal census) are at the state archives.

The state archives also houses documents pertaining to the Spanish-American War, the World Wars, and the Korean War. The Family History Library <www.familysearch.org/ask/locations/saltlakecity-library> has an impressive selection of microfilmed military resources, many of which are being digitized at FamilySearch. Check regularly for new additions to the online collection.

LAND RECORDS

Your ancestors' land claims could provide birth, marriage, citizenship and migration details. After the United States acquired Michigan, unclaimed land was distributed through local land offices. The first one opened in Detroit in 1818. Find land office records at the National Archives and Records Administration <archives.gov>; search for federal land patents at <gloreords.blm.gov>. The state archives has plat and tract books, land-ownership maps and tax rolls; plat maps are also available online at Seeking Michigan. Deeds showing land exchanges between private parties are recorded at county courthouses.

If you seek maps, the state archives and the Detroit Public Library's Burton Historical Collection <detroitpubliclibrary.org/research/burton-historical-collection> have a lot to offer. You'll find Sanborn fire-insurance maps for Detroit and other Michigan cities, thematic and national atlases, and topographic maps. See also a digitized map collections at Seeking Michigan and in the David Rumsey Historical Map Collection website.

PROBATE FILES

Probate records are often the final government records on an individual. In Michigan, county probate courts handle these records. But you can browse digitized probate records from across the state (dating as early as 1797) at FamilySearch.

Whether your relatives hailed from the tip of the thumb or the ear of the rabbit, you're bound to find them in Michigan's outstanding libraries and archives. And when you visit, be sure to take in those lovely Great Lakes. ●

Drug Companies Fear Release of the New AloeCure

Big Pharma stands to lose billions as doctors' recommend drug-free "health cocktail" that adjusts and corrects your body's health conditions.

by David Waxman
Seattle Washington:

Drug company execs are nervous. That's because the greatest health advance in decades has hit the streets. And analysts expect it to put a huge crimp in "Big Pharma" profits.

So what's all the fuss about? It's about a new ingredient that's changing the lives of people who use it. Some call it "the greatest discovery since penicillin"!

The name of the product is the AloeCure. It's not a drug. It's something completely different. And the product is available to anyone who wants it, at a reasonable price. But demands may force future prices to rise.

TOP DOC WARNS: DIGESTION DRUGS CAN CRIPPLE YOU!

Company spokesperson, Dr. Liza Leal; a leading integrative health specialist recommends AloeCure before she decides to prescribe any digestion drug. Especially after the FDA's stern warning about long-term use of drugs classified as proton pump inhibitors like **Prilosec**®, **Nexium**®, and **Prevacid**®. In a nutshell, the FDA statement warned people should avoid taking these digestion drugs for longer than three 14-day treatment periods because there is an increased risk of bone fractures. Many people take them daily and for decades.

Dr. Leal should know. Many patients come to her with bone and joint complaints and she does everything she can to help them. One way for digestion sufferers to help avoid possible risk of tragic joint and bone problems caused by overuse of digestion drugs is to take the AloeCure.

Analysts expect the AloeCure to put a huge crimp in "Big Pharma" profits.

The secret to AloeCure's "health adjusting" formula is scientifically tested Acemannan, a polysaccharide extracted from Aloe Vera. But not the same aloe vera that mom used to apply to your cuts, scrapes and burns. This is a perfect strain of aloe that is organically grown under very strict conditions. AloeCure is so powerful it begins to benefit your health the instant you take it. It soothes intestinal discomfort and you can avoid the possibility of bone and health damage caused by overuse of digestion drugs. We all know how well aloe works externally on cuts, scrapes and burns. But did you know Acemannan has many of other health benefits?...

HELPS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM TO CALM INFLAMMATION

According to a leading aloe research, when correctly processed for digesting, the Aloe plant has a powerful component for regulating your immune system called Acemannan. So whether it's damage that is physical, bacterial, chemical or autoimmune; the natural plant helps the body stay healthy.

RAPID ACID AND HEARTBURN NEUTRALIZER

Aloe has proved to have an astonishing effect on users who suffer with digestion problems like bouts of acid reflux, heartburn, cramping, gas and constipation because it acts as a natural acid buffer and soothes the digestive system. But new studies prove it does a whole lot more.

SIDE-STEP HEART CONCERNS

So you've been taking proton pump inhibitors (PPI's) for years and you feel just fine. In June of 2015 a major study shows that chronic PPI use increases the risk of heart attack in general population.

UNLEASH YOUR MEMORY

Studies show that your brain needs the healthy bacteria from your gut in order function at its best. Both low and high dosages of digestion drugs are proven to destroy that healthy bacteria and get in the way of brain function. So you're left with a sluggish, slow-to-react brain without a lot of room to store information. The acemannan used in AloeCure actually makes your gut healthier, so healthy bacteria flows freely to your brain so you think better, faster and with a larger capacity for memory.

Doctors call it "The greatest health discovery in decades!"

SLEEP LIKE A BABY

A night without sleep really damages your body. And continued lost sleep can lead to all sorts of health problems. But what you may not realize is the reason why you're not sleeping. Some call it "Ghost Reflux". A low-intensity form of acid reflux discomfort that quietly keeps you awake in the background. AloeCure helps digestion so you may find yourself sleeping through the night.

CELEBRITY HAIR, SKIN & NAILS

Certain antacids may greatly reduce your



body's ability to break down and absorb calcium. Aloe delivers calcium as it aids in balancing your stomach acidity. The result? Thicker, healthier looking hair...more youthful looking skin... And nails so strong they may never break again.

SAVE YOUR KIDNEY

National and local news outlets are reporting Kidney Failure linked to PPI's. Your Kidney extracts waste from blood, balance body fluids, form urine, and aid in other important functions of the body. Without it your body would be overrun by deadly toxins. Aloe helps your kidney function properly. Studies suggest, if you started taking aloe today; you'd see a big difference in the way you feel.

GUARANTEED RESULTS OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK

Due to the incredible results people are reporting, AloeCure is being sold with an equally incredible guarantee.

"We can only offer this incredible guarantee because we are 100% certain this product will work for those who use it," Says Dr. Leal.

Here's how it works: Take the pill exactly as directed. You must see and feel remarkable improvements in your digestive health, your mental health, in your physical appearance, the amount inflammation you have throughout your body – even in your ability to fall asleep at night!

Otherwise, simply return the empty bottles with a short note about how you took the pills and followed the simple instructions and the company will send you...Double your money back!

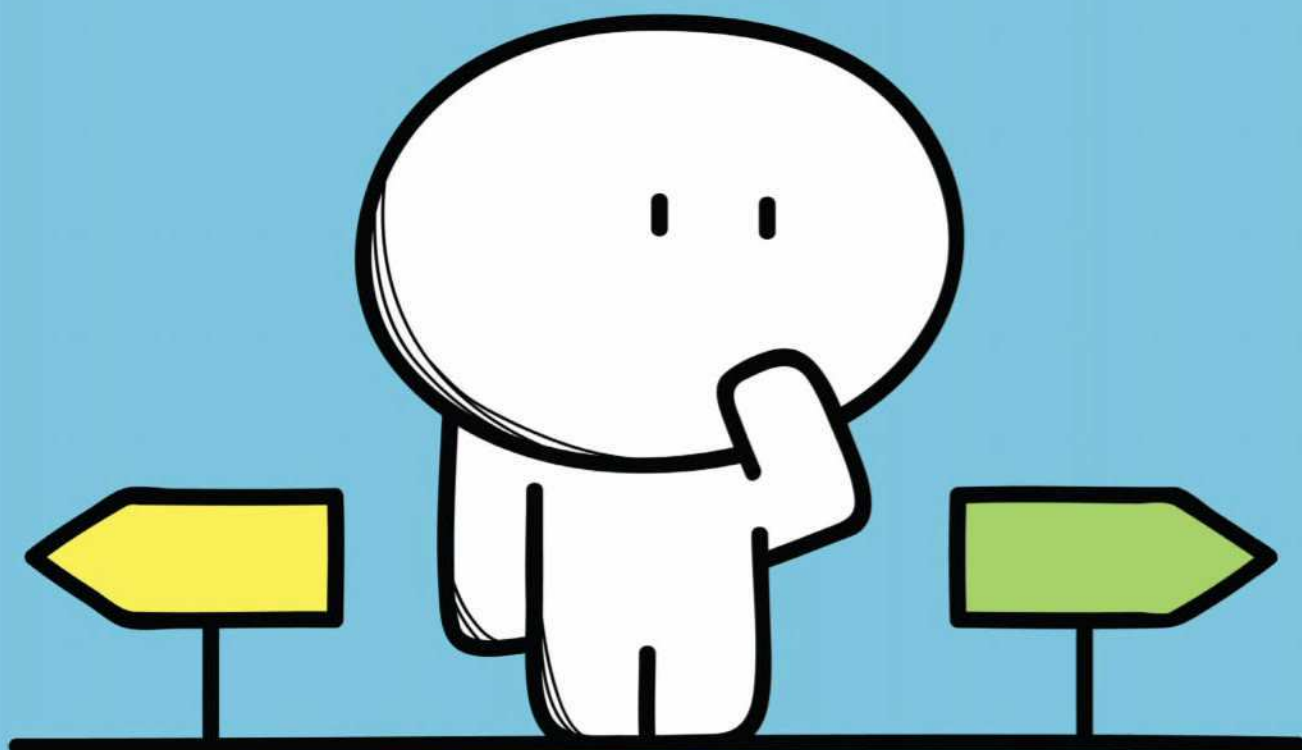
HOW TO GET ALOECURE

This is the official nationwide release of the new AloeCure pill in the United States. And so, the company is offering our readers up to 3 FREE bottles with their order.

This special give-away is available for readers of this publication only. All you have to do is call TOLL-FREE 1-800-746-2951 and provide the operator with the Free Bottle Approval Code: JC025. The company will do the rest.

Important: Due to AloeCure's recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.

DNA DIRECTION



Not sure what to do now that you have your DNA test results?
We'll outline three "next steps" to help you
use your results to make new genealogy discoveries.

by DIAHAN SOUTHARD

I'm constantly amazed at how many genealogists have fully embraced using autosomal DNA testing for family history research. A lot of you not only have spit into a tube or swabbed your own cheeks, you've administered DNA tests for family members, too—in some cases, 20 or more.

A natural consequence of such autosomal abundance is that many of you are suffering from information overload. You have DNA results for yourselves, siblings, cousins and even your in-laws. But what are you supposed to do with all that data?

First thing's first: Stop and remind yourself exactly what you have and why. Your autosomal DNA is a mashup of about half of your mom's DNA and half of your dad's. But of course, since they got half from their parents, who got half from their parents, and so on, each person ends up with a unique mix of genes, pulled from a random assortment of ancestors. This biological reality reveals two important genetic genealogy concepts:

- First, a person's DNA doesn't represent the DNA of all his or her ancestors. You'll need to test siblings and cousins to capture the fullest possible range of as many ancestors as possible.
- Second, those who share your DNA also share an ancestor with you—presenting the possibility that researching your relationships to matches may lead to more connections for you.

But not all DNA matches are made in genealogy heaven. As more folks test, your matches may be multiplying faster than you can analyze them. So as your family's self-appointed DNA matchmaker, you need to determine which matches are worth focusing on. Here are three ways to identify your most-helpful matches and use them in your family history research—and a real-life example to show you how these strategies can point your DNA research in the right direction.

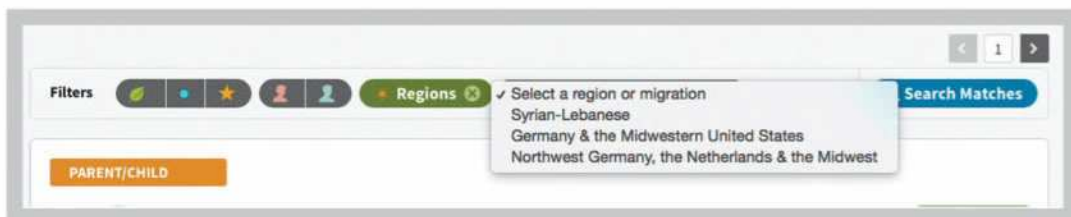
1 USE THOSE ADMIXTURE RESULTS
The first thing most people look at when they get their test results back is their admixture: the pretty pie chart that reports your percentages of DNA connected to various world regions. For the most part, these results won't directly impact your family history research. The geographic categories are just too broad and too vague. But there are still ways you can use them to home in on your most-helpful genetic matches.

First of all, maybe you're looking for ancestors of a specific heritage group, such as Jewish, American Indian or African. If those places appear in your admixture results, you can take it as encouragement to watch for supporting genealogical records and connections. However, a lack of that particular distinction in your admixture results doesn't mean you have no ancestors from that population. It just means that you didn't inherit that particular identifying piece of DNA. If you think your family tree *does* contain ancestors of that ethnicity, consider testing cousins from the relevant family line. Start with the cousins in the oldest generation first.

Next, if your paternal and maternal ethnic heritage are very distinct (for example, your mom has all UK ancestry and your dad's family is Italian and Greek), noting the origins of a match might help you more confidently place that match on one side of the family. While each testing company provides a limited view into the ethnic origins of your matches, MyHeritage DNA <www.myheritage.com/dna> does a particularly good job of displaying that information in a helpful way (see the box on page 45 for more on this).

If you have less-certain ancestral origins, or your maternal and paternal heritages are less distinct (such as German and Central European on both sides), you'll have a more difficult time utilizing admixture results for genealogy. But a tool from AncestryDNA <ancestry.com/dna> might come in handy. If you've tested there and been assigned to a Migrations group, you can use those results to help you find a particular kind of helpful match within your match list.

AncestryDNA's Migrations are meant to show you where some of your ancestors were between 1750 and 1850. Assignment to these groups isn't based on admixture results, but on the genetic



You can view your Ancestry DNA matches by the region(s) or migration group(s) to which they've been assigned, giving you clues to the ancestors you might share with a particular match. Find this option at the top of your match list.

interconnectivity of people in the database. To view only matches who share your Migrations, choose that filter at the top of your match page.

Theoretically, others in your Migration share ancestry with you via their ancestor who connects them to this community. So you may be able to identify your common ancestors if you both have only one line coming out of, say, Illinois. Multiple lines from the same place will be difficult to distinguish. Or the shared Migration group might be coincidental, with your genetic link lying in a different line.

As technology improves, however, Migrations will become more precise. For example, AncestryDNA might currently be able to place you in three different Migrations across the Midwest. That's already pretty remarkable. Eventually, Migrations may further distinguish among those lines, revealing the Northern German, Southern German, and Germans from Saxony in your family history. See my article all about Migrations in the January/February 2018 *Family Tree Magazine* <familytreemagazine.com/store/family-tree-magazine-january-february-2018-print-edition>.

START TOOLING AWAY

2 Testing companies offer analysis tools to help you determine how you're related to your matches. For some tools to work, you first must add family tree information to your DNA profile. Each site has a different way to do this. On AncestryDNA and MyHeritage, create a family tree on the site (you can upload a GEDCOM), then go to your DNA page and link your DNA results to your tree. If you manage other relatives' tests, you can link each one to a separate tree or to yours. At Family Tree DNA <www.familytreedna.com>, upload a GEDCOM and/or add family information under your account profile (choose Manage Personal Information, then Genealogy, then Surnames). At 23andMe <www.23andme.com>, you add details on ancestors' birth dates and places. Then look in your DNA results pages for tools like these:

tip

It's possible that you share a lot of DNA with someone because you're distantly related in multiple ways, rather than having a close genetic relationship.

As your family's self-appointed DNA matchmaker, you need to determine which matches are worth focusing on.

- **Tree hints:** If you tested at AncestryDNA or MyHeritage, use the tools that compare your tree with the trees of your matches and suggest possible common ancestors. On AncestryDNA, click the leaf icon when it appears alongside names on your match list. At MyHeritage, use the Smart Matches tool. You should always verify the connections suggested by hinting tools, but they're a great head start for identifying your best matches.

- **Surnames:** After exhausting your hints, start comparing the surnames on your family tree with the surnames on the trees of your DNA matches. First, make a list of your ancestral surnames, beginning with the most recent generation. For your grandparents' generation, you should have four surnames. For your great-grandparents, you should have eight, and so on. Then turn to the trees of your matches, beginning with your closest.

If you're looking at a match estimated to be a fourth cousin, compare your list of surnames within the past four generations to that cousin's. (Kudos if you know all 32 of those surnames.) If you're lacking any surnames, you may still be able to make limited comparisons. For example, I know only 13 of those 32 third-great-grandparent surnames on my dad's tree. I can use those (and whatever surnames my matches have) to look for shared ancestors—or at least see which lines *don't* connect us.

AncestryDNA, MyHeritage and Family Tree DNA all try to help you find shared surnames in various ways—as long as you and your match both have provided public trees along with your DNA sample:

- › AncestryDNA shows shared surnames on your match's profile page, which you access by clicking on the green View Match button.

- › MyHeritage also shows shared surnames on your Match's Profile page, which you access by clicking on the orange Review Match button.

- › Family Tree DNA lists surnames on the left of the main match page. These are names your

FREE DOWNLOAD! Get our relationship chart with average shared cM from <familytreemagazine.com/freebie/relationshipchart>.

matches entered, or that the site has “scraped” from the person’s linked GEDCOM. If you’ve also provided surname information from your family, and any of them are similar enough to those of your match, those surnames will appear in bold type. Family Tree DNA is fairly generous in deciding whether surnames are similar.

You also can search your match list for surnames appearing in family trees or information your matches have provided.

- **Locations:** With the measly number of surnames I have on my dad’s side, I’m going to have trouble connecting with many fourth cousins on the basis of surname alone. So I can repeat the matching process for locations. To do this, make a list of all of the locations that appear in your pedigree chart at each generation. Then look for those locations in your match’s pedigree.

Currently, AncestryDNA offers the best location-specific tool. From your match’s profile page, click on the Map and Locations tab to see the places where you and your match both have ancestors. You also can search your match list for places in your matches’ family tree.

At MyHeritage DNA, you can search your matches by country of residence and check for places of birth in linked family trees.

Again, location is helpful only if you and your match have some geographic variation in your pedigrees. I talked with a lady recently whose every ancestor five generations back was born within the same 30-mile radius in North Carolina. So it may be easy to determine which line of yours she connects with (the only one from North Carolina), but identifying the connected folks in her tree will take a bit more sleuthing.

- **Genetics:** Even if your match hasn’t posted genealogical information, you may pick up some clues about your relationship from your genetics. All testing companies provide your total amount of shared DNA with each match. Shared DNA is measured in centimorgans (cM). A cM isn’t as simple a measurement as an inch or a centimeter, but it may help to think of it that way.

The more DNA you share, the more likely it is that you share a single, recent ancestral couple. Did you catch that? Single, recent couple. There are two reasons you can share DNA with someone. The first is that you actually share a recent

ancestor. The second is that you both inherited a lot of DNA associated with your common ancestral region—but not necessarily from the same people. People from Ireland often have this problem, as do French Canadians and those with Jewish heritage.

At Family Tree DNA, MyHeritage and 23andMe, look for the total amount of shared DNA on the main match page. At AncestryDNA, go to your match’s profile page and click on the circled “i” icon (next to the confidence interval) to see the total amount of shared DNA.

Match Makers

MyHeritage DNA has a helpful way of showing how the ethnic admixture of my grandmother Erma Claudia Elmendorf compares to her matches. Erma’s father was from Wales; her mother, from Italy. Erma’s match is Mary. Clicking on Mary’s DNA profile brings up this comparison of admixture results for Mary and my grandmother. About 23 percent of Mary’s DNA is from Southern Europe, but from Greece and Iberia, not Italy. But Mary does have a strong showing in the Irish, Scottish and Welsh category. So I can tentatively flag Mary as a paternal match to my grandma, even if Mary hasn’t posted additional genealogical information. When I contact Mary, I can start the conversation by sharing my grandma’s paternal surnames and locations.

	Erma Claudia Elmendorf (born Reese)	Mary
Europe	100%	100%
• North and West Europe	50.9%	63.8%
Irish, Scottish, an...	42.8%	61.3%
Finnish	4.5%	0%
Scandinavian	3.6%	2.5%
• South Europe	49.1%	23.1%
Italian	32.4%	2.1%
Iberian	16.7%	10.7%
Greek	0%	10.3%
• East Europe	0%	13.1%
Baltic	0%	11.4%
Balkan	0%	1.7%

In general, those who share at least 30 cMs are likely to have a single recent common ancestor. Narrow down how you might be related to matches (and thus, which generation might contain your shared ancestor) by comparing your total shared cM with the ranges reported by documented relatives in the Shared cM Project. Learn more about this project and see a table of possible shared cM for each relationship at <www.yourdnaguide.com/scp>. Which genealogical relationships best fit your shared genetics?

3 REVIEW SHARED MATCHES
The Shared Matches tool on your DNA test website will revolutionize the way you do genealogy research. Seriously. Available in some form from all testing companies, this tool acts like a customized filter for your match list. It shows you only matches who share DNA with you and with one other match. There are two ways to use this tool:

- **With a known-relationship match:** Find others who are likely related to you in a similar way. For example, if your paternal first cousin Peter is tested, then you know all the DNA you share with him came from your dad's parents, Hilda and Martin. Run the Shared Matches tool between you and Peter. Anyone who shows up should have some connection to either Hilda or Martin.
- **With an unknown-relationship match:** Let's say you have a new match. You might see she

matches Peter, too, and therefore likely is related to Hilda or Martin. If she doesn't match any of your known relatives, review your list of Shared Matches and look for a common connection between them. If you can figure out how any of those people are related to each other, then you can form the hypothesis that you may all be related through that discovered line. Then use traditional genealogical research to find your connection.

A final word of caution: You and a more-distant cousin—say, fourth or fifth—may not share any DNA. (The Shared cM Project even shows that some known third-cousin relationships have no shared DNA.) That's because you didn't all inherit the same pieces of DNA from your ancestors. These cousins are still your cousins, but you wouldn't know it from your DNA alone.

APPLYING THESE STRATEGIES

I'll show you what I mean by applying these three steps to a research question from my own family tree. Who is Otto Murhard, born around 1825 to 1830-ish in either Germany or South Carolina (census records disagree)? I know about him only from his presence in records about his daughter Josephine, who is my ancestor. Here's how I used genetic genealogy to investigate:

- **First, I applied ethnicity results.** The ethnicity results I used are my father's, to eliminate unrelated results I'd have from my mom's side. On my dad's tree are lots of folks from Virginia, the northeastern and midwestern United States, some England, one Denmark and one Sweden. If the Murhards are from Germany, they'll be the first Germans I've identified on my dad's side.

Each of the DNA testing sites defines German ethnicity differently, both geographically and genetically. Why? Because their genetic data depends on the company's particular reference populations, the group of people used to determine the genetic signature of an area. The company compares your DNA to its reference populations to determine your ethnic percentages.

23andMe, which lists German in its own ethnic category, says my dad is 9.3 percent French and German. AncestryDNA says he's 42 percent Europe West. At Family Tree DNA, he's 40 percent West and Central Europe. At MyHeritage DNA, he's 88 percent North and West European. AncestryDNA assigns my dad to three Migrations, none specific to Germans. One of the Migrations, though, is specific to the southern United States.

Resources

23andMe <www.23andme.com>

AncestryDNA <ancestry.com/dna>

Family Tree DNA <www.familytreedna.com>

The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy by Blaine Bettinger (Family Tree Books) <familytreemagazine.com/store/guide-to-dna-testing-and-genetic-genealogy>

International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki <isogg.org/wiki>

Living DNA <www.livingdna.com>

MyHeritage DNA <www.myheritage.com/dna>

Shared cM Project <www.yourdnaguide.com/scp>

What's the take-home message here? Don't rely on ethnicity results to direct your genealogy—just use them as a clue when you can. In the case of Otto, they're not helpful.

• **Second, I looked at more-concrete genealogical information for my matches:** surnames, locations and genetics. Otto is my dad's great-great-grandfather, meaning that fellow descendants of Otto would be my dad's third cousins. Matches who are descendants of Otto or his wife, Johanna's, parents would be my dad's fourth cousins. I search my match pages at each testing company by surname first, looking for any other Murhards. I found no matches for that surname at Family Tree DNA, MyHeritage DNA or 23andMe.

But at AncestryDNA, I found a fourth-cousin match who has a Murhard in her family tree. Let's call this match Anne. From's Anne's tree, I can see she's my dad's second cousin, twice removed (abbreviated as 2C2R). That means they're both descended from Otto, but there's a two-generation difference between them. This brings up an important point about the difference between your genetic and your genealogical relationship. Their genetic relationship is fourth cousins: that is, they share approximately the same amount of DNA that typical fourth cousins share. But their genealogical relationship is 2C2R.

Once I found Anne and her Murhards, I explored her tree in detail. Sure enough, Anne lists Josephine, Otto's daughter, as her ancestor. Then I needed to double-check that my genetic and genealogical relationships with Anne made sense. I clicked on the little "i" to see that she shared 61 cM of DNA with my dad. According to the aforementioned Shared cM Project chart, 2C2R share an average of 86 cM, with a range of 0-201 cM. So this match was in the right range. I definitely wanted to double-check the genealogical research that has led both Anne and me back to this ancestor.

Unfortunately, Anne's tree didn't have any more information about Otto and Johanna than I already have (less, actually). But now that I had a confirmed match back to Otto, it was time to employ the Shared Matches tool to find others who might share ancestry with both me and Anne.

Remember, Anne's matches could be related to Josephine (and therefore Johanna and Otto) or to Josephine's husband, who was a Butterfield.

The Shared Matches tool brought up 11 people, including two second cousins with small or non-existent pedigrees, and five third cousins. Trees showed that several of the matches were descendants of my Josephine, but they didn't come up in my surname searches because they spelled Murhard with a *t*: *Murhardt*. Note to self: the surname search in AncestryDNA isn't nearly as forgiving as Ancestry's record search is.

A fourth cousin, P.H., didn't have a family tree posted. However, when I clicked on his name, I found he did have a tree associated with his Ancestry account—it just wasn't linked to his DNA test. That tree contained an Otto Murhard. It appeared that Otto was P.H.'s great-great-grandfather through a daughter named Caroline. If this was same Otto as mine, P.H. and my dad should be third cousins. But they only shared 39 cM of DNA, an amount that's much lower than (but not completely out of range for) the 79 cM that average third cousins share.

A check of locations indicated that P.H.'s Murhard relatives were all in Oregon, where my Josephine was born. So now I had a name connection, a place connection, and a genetic connection—albeit one not as strong as I might like.

So what should my next step be? More genealogy research. I need to look for genealogical records that would connect my Josephine to P.H.'s Caroline. Were they sisters? I also could look for more genetic connections by exploring my Shared Matches with P.H. Unfortunately, most of those don't have pedigrees. So I need to reach out to them and ask about their ancestors or encourage them to post trees online. The truth is, in genetic genealogy, you often spend time doing other people's genealogy. And that's okay.

As you can see, DNA testing hasn't solved the mystery of Otto Murhard. But more—even better—matches may materialize on any one of my DNA dashboards any day. And meanwhile, thanks to these DNA matches and tools, I have more clues and confidence regarding my connection to Otto than when I started. ●

Diahan Southard helps clients with their genetic genealogy research through her business, Your DNA Guide <www.yourdnaguide.com>.



in the shop
Watch our All About AncestryDNA web seminar download, available at <familytreemagazine.com/store/all-about-ancestrydna-on-demand-webinar>.

FIND IT ONLINE Get more help using your autosomal DNA test results at <familytreemagazine.com/premium/autosomal-dna-genealogy>.



HOLES in HISTORY

Major, record-destroying fires have likely impacted your ancestry search. We'll help you raise your family tree from the ashes of these disasters.

by SUNNY JANE MORTON

Pieces of the 1790 to 1820 and 1860 censuses are missing, too: It's likely some districts or states never turned in their schedules, and the British burned most of the 1790 census for Virginia during the War of 1812.

“I lost her in the 1890 census!” If you've ever had cause to say this, you're not alone. Thousands of family history researchers curse the loss of almost the entire 1890 US census. After learning of its destruction due to a fire nearly a century ago, they quickly begin to “skip that year” in their record searches, turning instead to city directories, tax records and other substitutes that might name an ancestor during those key years between 1880 and 1900.

Unfortunately, the 1890 census isn't the only major US record set that's gone up in smoke. Other conflagrations have burned gaping holes in the collective historical record. Most notably: military service records for more than 16 million Americans and passenger records for a half-century of arrivals to New York City. Entire courthouse collections have been consumed, too, including vital records, probate files, deeds, court cases and more.

Behind these disappointing, frustrating genealogical disasters are alert watchmen, brave first responders, bewildered immigrant detainees and government officials of varying competence. We can at least be glad that three of the major fires reported here involve no loss of life—just loss of history.

But the proverbial smoke clouds produced by these record losses aren't without silver linings for researchers. Not every loss was complete. And not every loss was final—some records have actually been recreated. Though the following fires ruined millions of documents, they don't have to ruin your family history research.

1890 CENSUS FIRE

The missing 1890 census isn't as simple as "it was lost in a fire." Actually, different parts of the census burned in not one, but two fires. After the second and more devastating fire, the surviving waterlogged records were left neglected, then quietly destroyed years later by government administrators.

The ill-fated 1890 census was taken at a critical time in US history. The population had topped 50 million in 1880 and climbed by another 25 percent in the following decade. Foreign-born residency jumped a third during those years. Inside the country, a restless population moved westward and into urban centers. The 1890 census captured a nation in motion.

It also collected individual information of unprecedented genealogical value. For the first time, each family got an entire census form to itself. Race was reported in more detail. Questions appeared about home and farm ownership, English-language proficiency, immigration and naturalization. Civil War veterans and their spouses were noted. Questions about a woman's childbearing history first appeared. Additional schedules captured even more about people in special categories, such as paupers, criminals and the recently deceased.

By 1896, the Census Bureau had prepared statistical reports. Then a disaster occurred—one almost nobody remembers now because future events would overshadow it. A fire that March badly damaged many of the special schedules. It was a loss, but probably wasn't considered tragic. After all, statistics had been gathered and the population schedules were still intact.

Over the next 25 years, many Americans lobbied for the construction of a secure facility for federal records. But there was still no National Archives. The 1890 census was stacked neatly on pine shelves just outside an archival vault in the basement of the Commerce Building in Washington, D.C.

Late in the afternoon of Jan. 19, 1921, Commerce Building watchmen reported smoke emerging from pipes. They traced the source to the basement. When the fire department arrived a half hour later, they first evacuated employees from the top floors. By that time, intensifying smoke blocked access to the basement. Thousands of bystanders watched fire crews punch holes in the concrete floors and pour streams of water into



1890 Census Fire

- **Records lost:** 1890 US census population schedule (62.6 million names) and most special schedules
- **What survived:** about 6,300 names from 10 states and Washington, D.C.; as well as Civil War veterans schedules for half of Kentucky, states alphabetically following Kentucky, Oklahoma Territory, Indian Territory, and Washington, D.C.
- **Where to look:** Find surviving schedules at major genealogy websites, including Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findmypast and MyHeritage.
- **Substitute records:** city directories, tax lists, state censuses and other records created between 1880 and 1900; see the 1890 Census Substitute database at Ancestry <search.ancestry.com/search/group/1890census>
- **Pro tip:** Use the 1900 and 1910 census columns for "children born" to a woman and her "children still living" to help determine whether you've missed any children born after the 1880 census who died or left home before 1900.

the basement. Firemen continued the deluge for 45 minutes after the fire had gone out. Then they opened the windows to diffuse the smoke and went home.

Anxious census officials had to wait several days for insurance inspectors to do their jobs before they could access the scene of the fire. Meanwhile, census books that hadn't burned sat in sooty puddles on charred shelves. When officials finally tallied the damage, they found about a quarter of the volumes had burned. Another half were scorched, sodden and smoke-damaged, with ink running and pages sticking together.

The Census Bureau estimated it would take two to three years to copy and save the damaged records, but it never got the chance. The moldering books were moved to temporary storage. Eventually they came back to the census office, but the

subject of restoring them didn't come up again. Twelve years after the fire and without fanfare, the Chief Clerk of the Census Bureau recommended destroying the surviving volumes. Congress OKed this final move the day before the cornerstone was laid for the new National Archives building.

Of the nearly 63 million people enumerated on the 1890 census population schedule, only about 6,300 entries (0.0001 percent) survive. Worse yet, a backup protocol followed for previous censuses had just been dropped: The 1890 census was the

first for which the government didn't require copies to be filed in local government offices.

As sad as this story is, it could've been worse. Those concrete floors prevented the 1921 fire from spreading to the upper floors, which housed the 1790 to 1820 and 1850 to 1870 censuses. Inside the basement vault were the 1830, 1840, 1880, 1900 and 1910 censuses, but only about 10 percent of the records were damaged to the point of needing restoration. About half of the 1890 veterans schedule survived. The 1920 census was in another building entirely. So while the losses are significant, consider this: Can you imagine trying to trace your US ancestors without any federal censuses between 1790 and 1910?



National Personnel Records Center Fire

- **Records lost:** up to 18 million Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) for the Army (80 percent of files for discharges from Nov. 1, 1912 to Jan. 1, 1960) and Air Force (75 percent of discharges from Sept. 25, 1947 to Jan. 1, 1964)
- **What survived:** about 6.5 million files, now marked "B" ("burned")
- **Where to look:** Request records from the NPRC, following instructions at archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records.
- **Substitute records:** reconstructed ("R") NPRC files; discharge forms for some returning servicemen filed with county courthouses
- **Pro tip:** Surviving OMPFs and DD 214s (discharge papers), and reconstructed service details from burned records, are available at no charge to most veterans or their next-of-kin. For information, see the FAQs at archives.gov/veterans/faq.html.

DISASTER AT THE NPRC

The federal government learned a thing or two about protecting archival records in the half year following the Census Bureau fire. That's why a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri wasn't a total loss. Although millions of 20th-century US military service files were destroyed, quick-acting officials, dedicated workers and advancing technology led to a much more hopeful ending for genealogists.

It was just after midnight July 12, 1973, when a fire was reported at the NPRC. Firefighters arrived in less than five minutes and headed up toward the sixth floor. Within three hours, they had to retreat from the searing hot flames. Pumper trucks outside shot water up several floors into broken windows.

The fire burned out of control for nearly 24 hours, and wasn't declared officially dead for four days. The thick smoke forced local residents to stay indoors. The 40-plus fire crews battling the blaze had difficulty maintaining water pressure. One pumper truck broke down after running 40 hours straight.

Document disasters in history

1618-1648

German church records in the Thirty Years War

1688-1697

More German records in the Nine Years' War

1755

Royal Library of Portugal collections in the Great Lisbon earthquake

1922

Irish censuses, wills and parish registers at the Four Courts bombing in Dublin

1923

Collections of several Japanese libraries in an earthquake and subsequent fires

1940s

WWI British service records and many others in bombings across Europe and China



Ellis Island Fire

Recovery efforts began even before the fire was out. Other agencies received orders to preserve any records that might be helpful in reconstructing the affected Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs). Workers removed key records from floors they could safely reach, including more than 100,000 reels of Army and Air Force records. They sprayed the waterlogged ruins of the building's top with a mold prevention agent.

Less than a week after the fire died, employees began hauling thousands of plastic crates filled with smoky, sodden records to the nearby McDonnell Douglas aircraft facility. They stacked 2,000 crates at a time in an enormous vacuum-drying chamber that had been used to simulate conditions in space. The chamber squeezed nearly eight tons of water from each group of crates. Officials used other drying chambers at McDonnell Douglas, too, and sent some records to an aerospace facility in Ohio.

The efforts paid off. Workers saved more than 25 percent of the OMPFs, or approximately 6.5 million records. (Compare that to about 6,000 lines of text from the entire 1890 census.) From related records, the NPRC began reconstructing basic service details lost from 16 to 18 million Army and Air Force service records. This effort continues today. The NPRC maintains the partly damaged “burned” files, monitoring them for further deterioration.

WHEN ELLIS ISLAND BURNED

The immigration station at Ellis Island was only five years old when it burned to the ground on a summer night in 1897. Remarkably for a facility designed to accommodate up to 10,000 visitors per day—and some overnight—no one was killed. But millions of records were lost.

The story of the “first” Ellis Island is also a story about the federal government assuming

- **Records lost:** passenger arrival records at Castle Garden (1855-1890), the Barge Office (1890-1891) and Ellis Island (1892-1897)
- **What survived:** none of the records held at Ellis Island up to the date of the fire
- **Where to look:** Search for free at CastleGarden.org <www.castlegarden.org> (indexes only), Ellis Island website <www.libertyellisfoundation.org> and FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>; also at subscription site Ancestry <ancestry.com>.
- **Substitute records:** Customs Office passenger lists (National Archives microfilm publication M237, Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, 1820-1897)
- **Pro tip:** Stephen P. Morse’s third-party search of the Ellis Island website’s passenger records <stevemorse.org/ellis/passengers.php> offers flexible search options that may help you home in on your hard-to-find immigrant.

control of immigrant processing, which was previously left to individual states. Castle Garden, on the tip of Lower Manhattan, had opened in 1855 as New York’s official immigrant station. But by 1890, it was clear the facility (and its operators) weren’t properly managing the increasing immigrant traffic.

In April of 1890, the federal government began processing New York arrivals; it would soon do so nationwide. The Barge Office, also in Lower Manhattan, served as a temporary immigration

1976

Most collections of the National Library of Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge

1989

Collections of University of Bucharest library and archive in the Romanian Revolution

2003

Iraq National Library and Archives and other Iraqi repositories burned and looted

2004

Sweeping losses across South Asia after Indian Ocean earthquake

2014

Historical documents spanning centuries in fire at National Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The passenger arrival lists lost in the 1897 Ellis Island fire didn't include arrivals at ports outside New York.

station while contractors enlarged the land mass of nearby Ellis Island.

The new half-million dollar facility opened on Ellis Island Jan. 1, 1892. The enormous main building was 400 feet long with distinctive square towers. Its wooden walls and open-ceiling plan gave the place a light, airy atmosphere. Inside, immigrants stored their baggage on the first floor and climbed to the second for questioning and inspection. Successful arrivals could exchange currency and purchase rail tickets to their final destinations. Those who were detained for further inspection stayed in dormitories. Other structures on the island supported a revolving community of detainees: a hospital with staff quarters, a bathhouse, restaurant, laundry, boiler house and electric light plant.

This magnificent building caught fire around midnight on June 15, 1897. A watchman called an alarm after spotting flames dancing out of a second-floor window. Newspapers reported that employees calmly evacuated more than 200 overnight detainees—including 55 hospital patients—to a ferry boat. Fire boats arrived promptly. But the fast-moving blaze gutted the wood-framed building within an hour, then burned the nearby buildings and docks, too.

Ellis Island remained closed and immigrant processing returned to the Barge Office until Dec. 17, 1900. The new fireproof red brick facility cost three times as much to build as its predecessor. Millions more immigrants passed through its doors. Before it closed in 1954, it also sheltered

wounded WWII servicemen, Coast Guard trainees, enemy aliens and deportees.

What records were lost in the fire? Now that you've heard the story, the answer will make more sense. Ellis Island passenger arrival lists (1892-1897) went up in flames. So did records created during the federal startup period at the Barge Office. Unfortunately, federal officials also had claimed the State of New York's Castle Garden passenger arrival lists created between 1855 and 1890. So those are gone, too.

Then what's in those huge New York passenger databases you can search online? Are they missing early arrivals to Ellis Island and all who passed through Castle Garden? Happily, no. The US Customs Office also collected passenger lists from ship's captains. These records have been microfilmed and indexed, and now fill the holes burned by the 1897 fire.

COURTHOUSE CATASTROPHES

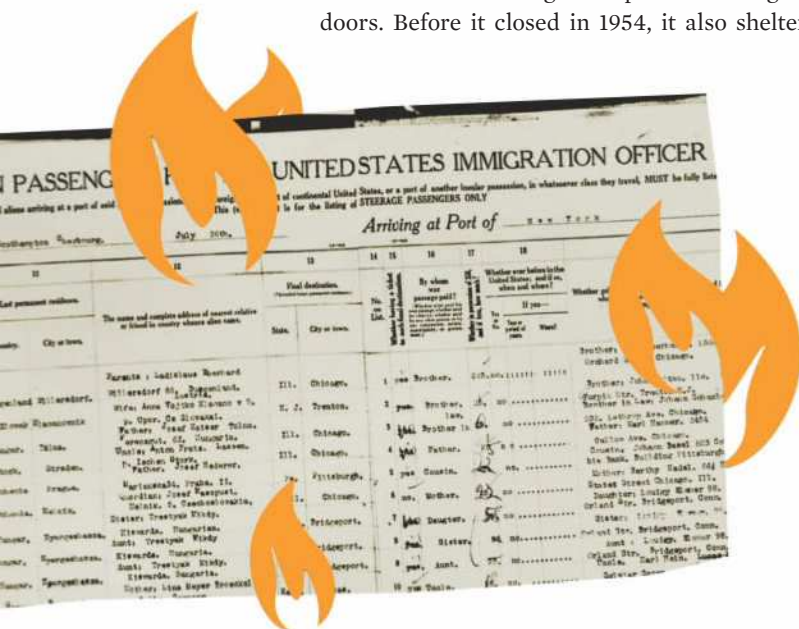
Those tracing US ancestors inevitably will come across the discouraging term “burned county.” It refers to places that have experienced courthouse disasters, whether fire, flood or weather. Records in county courthouses have fallen victim to destructive acts over the years.

One of the unluckiest counties for courthouse disasters has to be Hamilton County, Ohio, home of the “Queen of the West” city, Cincinnati. Fed by Ohio River traffic, German immigration and an early 1800s meat-processing industry, Cincinnati grew into one of the first major cities of the inland United States.

The county's first courthouse was a log cabin near a swamp. Locals must have been relieved when a two-story limestone brick building replaced it around 1802. But it only survived a decade. Soldiers billeted at the courthouse during the War of 1812 accidentally burned it to the ground.

The third Hamilton County courthouse was built on the outskirts of town. But that didn't keep it safe. In the summer of 1849, sparks from a nearby pork-processing house landed on the courthouse's exposed wooden rafters. A devastating fire ensued.

The county hired a nationally renowned architect to design a massive fourth courthouse building. By 1844, it housed one of the country's leading law libraries. For the next 40 years, it seemed that the fire gods were finally smiling on the courthouse.



But nobody was smiling on March 29, 1884, after a jury returned a manslaughter verdict in the trial of a German immigrant. Seven witnesses testified that he'd described how he planned and carried out the murder of his boss. Locals thought the man should've been found guilty of murder, a more-serious charge. Police and Ohio National Guardsmen battled rioters storming the jail. The next day, a growing mob torched the courthouse and prevented firefighters' efforts to put it out. It took 2,500 more guardsmen and another two days to quell the violence. The riots left more than 40 dead and 100 wounded, and another Hamilton County courthouse in ruins.

Another courthouse fire was part of a much larger conflagration: the Great Chicago Fire. When the Cook County, Ill., courthouse burned in the early morning hours of Oct. 9, 1871, no one was thinking about saving records. People were running for their lives. Well, everyone except for the unfortunate souls trapped in the basement of the courthouse—but we'll come back to them.

The fire began about 9 p.m. in a poor urban neighborhood, in the barn belonging to Irish immigrants named O'Leary. Postfire rumors blamed Mrs. O'Leary's cow for kicking over a lantern during milking. Historians have refuted this, with most instead pointing to young men playing dice. Chicago's city council officially absolved Mrs. O'Leary in 1997.

Whatever the cause, wind quickly whipped the flames into a wall 100 feet high. Someone began tolling the courthouse bell as the blaze spread over downtown Chicago. Sparks landed on the wooden cupola of the courthouse sometime after 1 a.m., igniting the building. Panicked prisoners trapped in their basement cells cried out and pounded on the walls. Bystanders tried to free them, but were restrained until the mayor could send a hurried message allowing their release. With a few of the most dangerous criminals left under guard, the rest disappeared into the glowing night.

About 2:30 a.m., the heavy bronze bell that had been ringing for more than five hours crashed to the ground. When the last flickers of the Great Chicago Fire died 24 hours later, more than 2,000 acres of downtown Chicago had burned. Three hundred were dead and a third of the city's population was homeless. The limestone courthouse was gone, along with all the records inside: vital records, court records, deeds and more. Record-keeping began again the next year.



Courthouse Disasters

- **Records lost:** court records such as deeds, probate files, marriage licenses, vital event registers and trial documents
- **What survived:** varies
- **Where to look:** consult local research guides, county officials, and local historical and genealogical societies
- **Substitute records:** re-recorded deeds and other documents; delayed birth certificates; and local records not kept at courthouses, including church records, newspapers, town or township records
- **Pro tip:** Research plans are helpful when working in a burned county. Note the specific record needed, then (once you've verified it was destroyed) list all the records that might provide the same information.

Courthouses and other county repositories across the United States have suffered fires, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes and even cleaning frenzies by well-meaning officials. The Civil War in particular took a toll on Southern states. Union troops burned 12 courthouses to the ground in Georgia, for example, and 25 Virginia counties have Civil War-related losses of records.

Because fires may have spared some records in a "burned county," always double-check whether the ones you need survived. Even if they didn't, all may not be lost for your research. Court records have legal implications, so local officials would go to great lengths to restore the information. This includes asking residents to re-record their marriage licenses, wills and deeds. Genealogists might reconstruct lists of births and deaths from newspapers, cemetery records and other sources. Local government offices and genealogical or historical societies can help you learn about any surviving records and substitutes. ●

The WWII service records for both grandfathers of contributing editor **Sunny Jane Morton** were destroyed in the 1973 NPRC fire.



LINKS *in a* CHAIN

Meet the journalist who's bringing genealogy
out of the past and into current events.

BY ASHLEE PECK

COURTESY OF JENNIFER MENDELSON

She started noticing parallels between her own family history and the growing rhetoric about immigration.

From border walls to Dreamers, immigration is a hot topic in today's America. Although common ground is scarce when it comes to modern immigration policy, Americans can all be certain about one thing: The vast majority of us are descended from immigrants.

We're used to thinking of genealogy as something that happened a long time ago. Jennifer Mendelsohn, a journalist by day and avid family historian in her spare time, has made it a mission to remind immigration policymakers of their roots in the poor, oppressive and war-torn countries of Europe, Asia and elsewhere. In the process, she's showing how America's immigrant heritage is central to one of today's most-pressing political issues—one tweet at a time.

The sleuthing skills that serve Mendelsohn's career in journalism led her to pursue genealogy about five years ago. She now serves on the board of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Maryland <www.jewishgen.org/jgs-maryland> and volunteers as a "search angel" for adoptees seeking their birth families. "Sharing fun things I found in my genealogy research has been a part of my Twitter presence for years," Mendelsohn says. Then she started noticing parallels between her own family history and the growing rhetoric about immigration. Mendelsohn descends from Eastern European Jews. Her people were always on the move, trying to avoid religious violence.

"I started thinking that the weird, historical 'pocket' I disappear into when I do genealogy is not a historical pocket," she says. "It's actually very relevant." She shared her own family story by tying it to current issues. In January 2017, when

the President signed executive order 13769, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States," Mendelsohn tweeted WWII-era letters from her great-uncle, who was attempting to get out of Poland. He never made it: He was murdered in the Holocaust, along with his wife and four daughters.

Mendelsohn's approach became more direct in August, when she spotted potential irony in White House Senior Policy Adviser Stephen Miller's comments at a press conference about a bill that would favor immigrants who already speak English proficiently. She did a little research and tweeted, "Stephen Miller favors immigrants who speak English. But the 1910 census shows his own



In March, Jennifer Mendelsohn tweeted her response to Iowa Rep. Steve King's tweet that America "can't restore our civilization with somebody else's babies."

CHAIN MIGRATION

Genealogists have long used the term “chain migration” to describe the pattern by which our immigrant ancestors followed their family and friends across the ocean, settling together in the United States. Passenger lists from the early 1900s make it easy to spot this common pattern. They name the traveler’s closest relative still in his place of origin, the person who paid his passage (in an effort to prevent contract labor), and the person he was going to meet in the United States. Immigration officials also would often note when a male relative claimed an unaccompanied female passenger at the port of arrival.

March 28, 1904 Victor and Camilla arrive in New York.

17	Scavino	Vittoria	28	Imm. Com.																	
18	"	Camilla	23	Business																	
<p>(with her husband)</p>																					

March 19, 1905 Hector arrives to join Victor.

18	Scabino	Hector		Imm. Com.																	
<p>never met brother Vittoria</p>																					

Sept. 4, 1913 Victor returns to the United States with Gildo.

24	Scavino	Gildo		Imm. Com.																	
<p>Brother Scavino Paris</p>																					

Nov. 30, 1913 Esther (recorded as “Eleanora”) is discharged at Ellis Island to Hector and Gildo.

28	Scavino	Eleanora		Imm. Com.																	
29	Scavino	Hector		Imm. Com.																	
<p>discharged to Gildo Scavino</p>																					

Dec. 16, 1916 Clothilde, Mario and Giuseppe join Esther.

	Scavino	Clothilde		Imm. Com.																	
	Scavino	Mario		Imm. Com.																	
	Scavino	Giuseppe		Imm. Com.																	
<p>sister Scavino later</p>																					

Genealogy became a central theme in news and social media. People were reading about censuses, passenger lists and historical immigration patterns.

great-grandmother couldn't. #oops." She added an image of the census showing that Sarah Miller, a resident alien who'd immigrated in 1906, spoke only Yiddish.

The #ResistanceGenealogy hashtag was born soon after that, but it really took off in January, when Dan Scavino, White House director of social media and assistant to the President, tweeted Jan. 9, "It's time to end #ChainMigration!"

Mendelsohn answered two days later, "Let's say Victor Scavino arrives from Canelli, Italy in 1904, then bro Hector in 1905, bro Gildo in 1912, sis Esther in 1913, & sis Clotilde and their father Giuseppe in 1916 ... Do you think that would count as chain migration?"

As she explains in an article on Politico.com <www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/01/18/donald-trump-immigration-chain-migration-dan-scavino-tomi-lahren-216332>, Mendelsohn traced Scavino's family to Canelli, Italy, where birth records show his great-grandfather Davide "Gildo" Ermenegildo Scavino was born in 1884.

Passenger lists in 1904 record Gildo's brother Vittorio (Victor) and wife Camilla traveling to New York City on business. They stayed on at least long enough for Victor, named as a day

laborer in the 1905 New York state census, to sponsor the passage of his brother Ettore (Hector) that year. In 1913, Victor brought along Gildo when he returned to the United States from Paris. The brothers fetched their sister, Esther, from Ellis Island two months later. She, in turn, was the "going to join" relative named on the 1916 passenger list for her sister Clothilde, nephew Maurice, and 68-year-old father, Giuseppe.

With that, genealogy became a central theme in news and social media. People were reading about censuses and passenger lists, and talking about historical immigration patterns and the Statue of Liberty. #ResistanceGenealogy began trending as one of the day's most-used hashtags. More than 22,000 people shared Mendelsohn's Scavino tweet. Her Twitter following surpassed 33,000. CNN and MSNBC interviewed her, and she even appeared on a Norwegian news broadcast. "To say I never expected [this following] would be an understatement," says Mendelsohn, who has since exposed the family histories of Iowa congressman Steve King and Fox News commentators Tucker Carlson and Tomi Lahren. "A couple of people have paid me what I feel is the highest compliment about this work: That what I'm doing is quintessentially patriotic."

Three of Mendelsohn's four grandparents were immigrants. "The fact that they were allowed into this country with limited skills, and allowed to set up their families here, allowing me and my siblings and parents to flourish here—I just feel like that's so fundamental to the DNA of America." ●

Ashlee Peck is the online content director for *Family Tree Magazine*.



Visit <familytreemagazine.com/premium/immigrant-research-becoming-american> for help researching your immigrant ancestors' experiences as new arrivals in the United States. You can view a limited number of Premium online articles per month, or join Premium for full access <familytreemagazine.com/subscribe>.

Read Your Way to Research Success

SAVE 10%! Enter code **NewspapersFTM at checkout. Expires April 30, 2018.**

THE FAMILY TREE HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS GUIDE

HOW TO FIND YOUR ANCESTORS IN ARCHIVED NEWSPAPERS

JAMES M. BEIDLER

THIS HELPFUL HOW-TO GUIDE CONTAINS:

- tips for finding rich detail about your ancestors in old newspapers
- steps for searching online papers at websites such as Newspapers.com, GenealogyBank and the free Chronicling America
- real-life success stories from historical newspaper researchers like you

Paperback • 240 pages • \$25.99

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

bit.ly/historical-newspapers-guide

To order by phone, call (855) 278-0408

shopfamilytree.com



SAD NEWS FOR FANS OF THE FREE ROOTSWEB <rootsweb.ancestry.com>. The 25-year-old genealogy website temporarily went offline last year, after parent company Ancestry learned that 300,000 RootsWeb usernames and passwords were compromised. Though no financial information was released, 7,000 of the logins matched credentials for active Ancestry accounts. RootsWeb features such as mailing lists and family trees (called WorldConnect) are returning slowly, as Ancestry secures the site. ●

Q My German ancestor went missing on the WWII Eastern Front, never to be seen again. How can I find out what happened to him?

A The Soviet Union captured about 3 million German prisoners of war during World War II, mostly in the war's last year. The POWs were used as forced labor even after the war ended. Russian records of these prisoners are scant, but some 10,000 records of Germans convicted in Soviet war tribunals are online <www.thelocal.de/20091117/23331>. Learn more about Germans held in Russia and get Russian archives' contact info at <www.dpcamps.org/russianpow.html>.

The German Red Cross Tracing Service <www.drk-suchdienst.de/en/initiate-tracing-requests/online-tracing-request-second-world-war> has access to some Soviet records on POWs, as well as *Vermisstenbildlisten*, German lists of those missing in action postwar. View 900,000 photos of missing civilians and Wehrmacht soldiers by clicking Photo Collections at <www.drk-suchdienst.de/en/services/second-world-war>. You can't search these by name, only by camp number, field address or last known place.

Surviving German military records may help. If your ancestor served in the *Wehrmacht*, contact the Deutsche Dienststelle <www.dd-wast.de/de/startseite.html>; you'll need to fill out a form and pay a fee. For officers, try the personnel files in the Bundesarchiv at Freiburg <www.bundesarchiv.de/EN/Navigation/Home/home.html>. Search cemetery records for German soldiers in both world wars at

The *Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society* presents the

NORTHWEST GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

August 15–18, 2018

“Beyond Your Family Tree”

4 Days of Genealogy

Many nationally known speakers!

Featured Keynote Speakers:



Beth Foulk



CeCe Moore



Peggy Lauritzen

Amie Bowser Tennant



Space is limited | Register today at www.NwGC.org | nwgc@stillygen.org

360-435-4838 | PO Box 34, Arlington, WA 98223 | www.StillyGen.org



Made possible in part with funding from the City of Arlington.

<www.volksbund.de/en/presse/volksbund.html>. The US National Archives' Record Group 242, Collection of Foreign Records Seized <archives.gov/research/captured-german-records/foreign-records-seized.html>, includes captured German records.

Q My Grandpa and his friend went from Chicago to homestead near Sugar City, Colo., between 1900 to 1910. They didn't stay because the friend couldn't cope with desert life. Grandpa would've been under 18. Where should I start?

A Start with the free General Land Office site from the US Bureau of Land Management <gloreCORDS.blm.gov>. Click on Search Documents near the top of the page, and fill in what you can under "Search Documents by Type." Land patents, the default record type, are most likely to contain the information you're after. Select Colorado and Crowley County, where Sugar City is located. In the Miscellaneous section, enter a date range of 1900 to 1910. Try filling in your grandfather under Names, but remove the name if you don't get any hits. You'll have 15 screens of results to click through, but maybe one of the names—or some other detail—will ring a bell.

Q My husband's grandmother died in 1943 after being hit by a car in Chattanooga. Her body was sent home to Decatur, Ala., for burial, but I can't find any record there. What else can I do?

A From other details you provided, it's apparent you've already found her Tennessee death record at FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>. Keep checking burial databases like Find A Grave <www.findagrave.com> and BillionGraves <www.billiongraves.com>, as new graves are always being added. You also can search tombstone transcriptions at <www.usgwarchives.net/al/morgan/cemetery.htm>.

Not all cemeteries are indexed online. Find a list of Alabama cemeteries at <alabamamaps.ua.edu/cemetery/text/Morgan.pdf>, and of small and incompletely transcribed Morgan County cemeteries at <www.genealogyshoppe.com/almorgan/cem.htm>.

It's possible that her husband, named on the death record, was buried near his wife even years after his death. We found a match for him in Sterrs Cemetery, a historically black section of the Decatur, Ala., city cemetery <www.decaturparks.com>. You could also inquire at the city library <decatur.lib.al.us> for information on funeral homes in business in the 1940s that served the black community, as well as churches. Searching for obituaries of other burials in Sterrs Cemetery will also turn up possibilities to contact. ●



David A. Fryxell
is the founding editor of Family Tree Magazine. He now writes and researches his family tree in Tucson.

Discover
your DNA
story today.

FamilyTreeDNA.com

Get Your Research in Order

SAVE 10%! Enter code ORGANIZEFTM
at checkout. Expires Dec. 31, 2018.

WITH THIS GUIDE, LEARN HOW TO:

- develop habits and routines that set you up for research success
- sort your paper and electronic files so you can always find what you need
- create a productive home workspace that's perfect for you
- manage your genealogy projects from start to finish

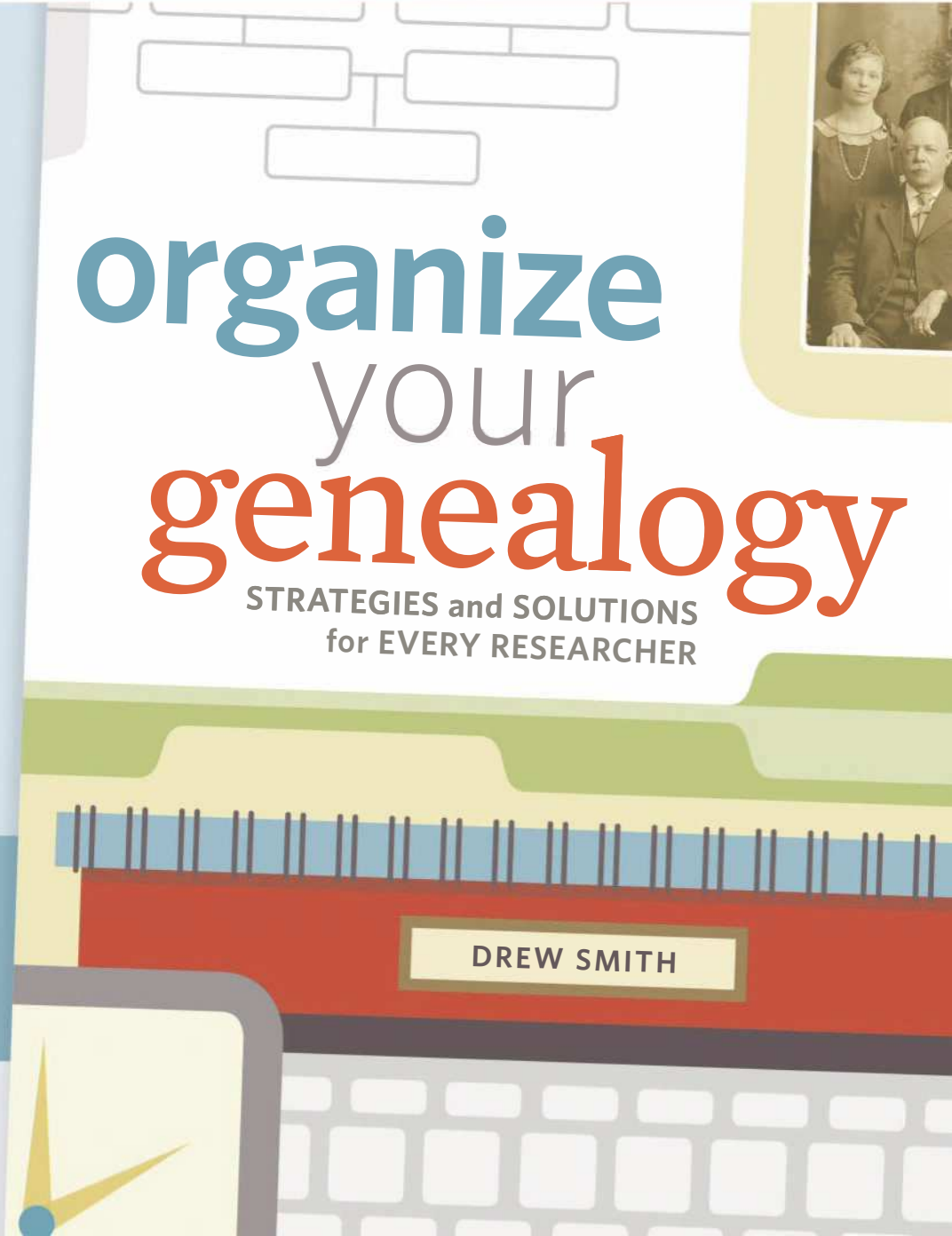
Paperback • 240 pages • \$25.99

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

[<bit.ly/organize-your-genealogy>](http://bit.ly/organize-your-genealogy)

To order by phone,
call (855) 278-0408

shop**familytree**.com



organize your genealogy

STRATEGIES and SOLUTIONS
for EVERY RESEARCHER

DREW SMITH

Gathering Together

Can clues in this group portrait help identify the people shown?



1 Turn over photos for clues. A photographer's imprint on the back of this one states it was taken by the studio Sprague and Hathaway, on July 4, 1890.

2 Bessie Mabel Hodgdon Hoogerzeil, born in 1877, is the original owner of this picture. Is she in it? Only these two girls could be 13. The rest of the children are younger. Comparing these girls to known pictures of Bessie could ID her.

3 The brown cardstock was common for photos during the 1880s and very early 1890s. Brown was a change from the bright-colored cardstock of the 1860s. Cream and gray stock quickly replaced the brown in the 1890s.

4 Our ancestors wore sporty clothes, like this boldly striped dress and the boy's cap, for casual outings.

5 This older gentleman is formal in a suit, while the other men wear shirtsleeves. His position in the center marks him as the head of this family. Seating arrangements in big group portraits offer clues to relationships and nuclear family clusters of mothers, fathers and children.

6 Someone in the picture could own this house, or it may be rented for a vacation. Studying land records of identified individuals may yield clues as to why the family gathered here for a Fourth of July celebration. ●



Maureen A. Taylor is Family Tree Magazine's Photo Detective blogger <familytreemagazine.com/articles/news-blogs/photo_detective> and author of Family Photo Detective (Family Tree Books) <familytreemagazine.com/store/family-photo-detective-u9824>.

WHAT'S NEW

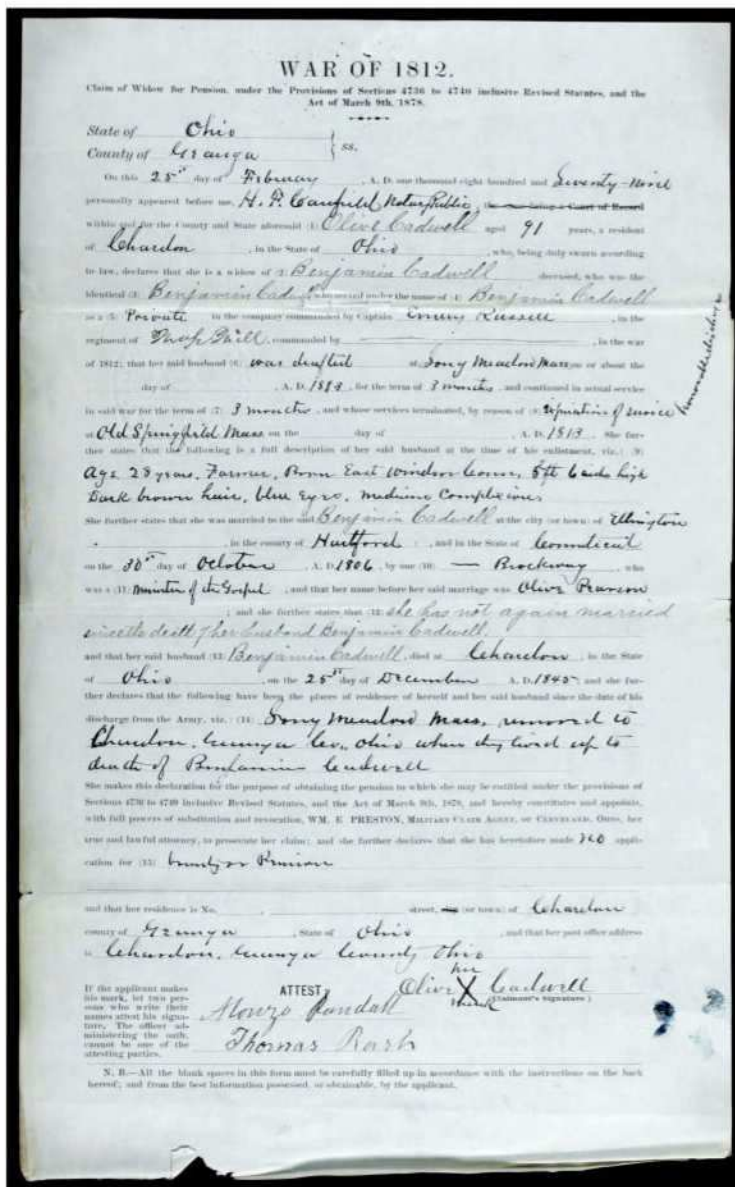
Pensions Plus!

DO A GENEALOGY HAPPY DANCE if your War of 1812 ancestor applied for a pension. Fold3's project to digitize War of 1812 pension records is two-thirds complete, with files searchable for free at go.fold3.com/1812pensions.

The collection holds about 180,000 pension and bounty land warrant application files for claims based on military service between 1812 and 1815. Your ancestor's application might include supporting documents such as marriage records (in a widow's claim) and statements from witnesses.

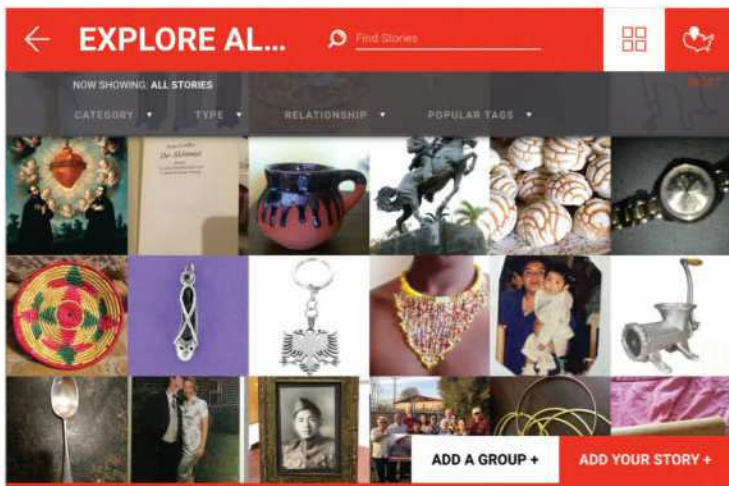
The project is funded by the Federation of Genealogical Societies' Preserve the Pensions campaign, launched with the war's bicentennial in 2012 and completed in September 2016. More than 4,000 people, 115 genealogical and lineage societies, and industry leaders such as FamilySearch and Ancestry contributed.

The 1879 pension file of Olive Cadwell, age 91, describes her husband's War of 1812 service. It also includes a court-certified note of the couple's 1806 marriage date, recorded in the family Bible.



FIND 1930s UK EMIGRANTS

UK genealogy subscription website The Genealogist has released more than 2.7 million "BT27" (the designation for the British National Archives record series) outbound passenger lists from 1930 to 1939. You can search by name, year, country of departure, country of arrival, and ports of embarkation and arrival. The search even recognizes family members together on the same voyage www.thegenealogist.co.uk.



YOUR STORY, OUR STORY

A conch shell reminds a young American of the hardships his grandfather, a Guyanese fisherman, faced. A 60-year-old cast-iron frying pan is still the only pan that produces blinis like the ones a Russian immigrant remembers from her childhood.

Objects have the power to connect you to your family heritage and culture. New York City's Lower East Side Tenement Museum is gathering and sharing object stories on its Your Story, Our Story website <yourstory.tenement.org>. You can explore others' stories by object, tag and more, and submit your photo of a meaningful object and a written or audio narrative about it.

Is Your DNA at Risk?

LATE LAST YEAR, Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York called for the Federal Trade Commission to scrutinize DNA testing companies, claiming they could sell your DNA, provide it to law enforcement for criminal investigations, and use it in other ways you're not aware of.

Testing companies beg to differ. "We feel the only person that should have your DNA is you," says Bennett Greenspan, president of Family Tree DNA <www.familytreedna.com>, in a press release. "We don't believe it should be sold, traded or bartered."

Both AncestryDNA <ancestry.com/dna> and 23andMe <www.23andme.com> sell anonymous DNA data to medical researchers if customers agree to participate. Catherine Ball, chief scientific officer at AncestryDNA, said in July, "We do not own or assert any ownership over your genetics." Rather, customers grant AncestryDNA a license to use their DNA to provide the service they're purchasing. She added that the company uses DNA only in ways customers have consented to.

"We do not sell individual customer information," 23andMe corporate counsel Kate Black told NBC News, "nor do we include any customer data in our research program without an individual's voluntary and informed consent."

Though companies may release information on members in response to search warrants, law enforcement collects its own DNA samples to establish a chain of custody (legal proof that a sample came from a specific person). In 2016, Ancestry provided information in response to eight of nine valid search warrants—but none were related to genetic information. 23andMe has received five requests from law enforcement to date, but has released no information.

No company that stores information about you, however, can guarantee its security. The bottom line: Any person considering a test should read privacy policies and terms of service, and weigh any risks against the potential genealogical gain.



New York Sen. Chuck Schumer asked for more oversight of consumer DNA testing companies.

tip

Before taking a genetic genealogy test, read the testing company's terms of service and any consent to participate (usually, anonymously) in scientific research.

HOW TO Load a Microfilm Reader

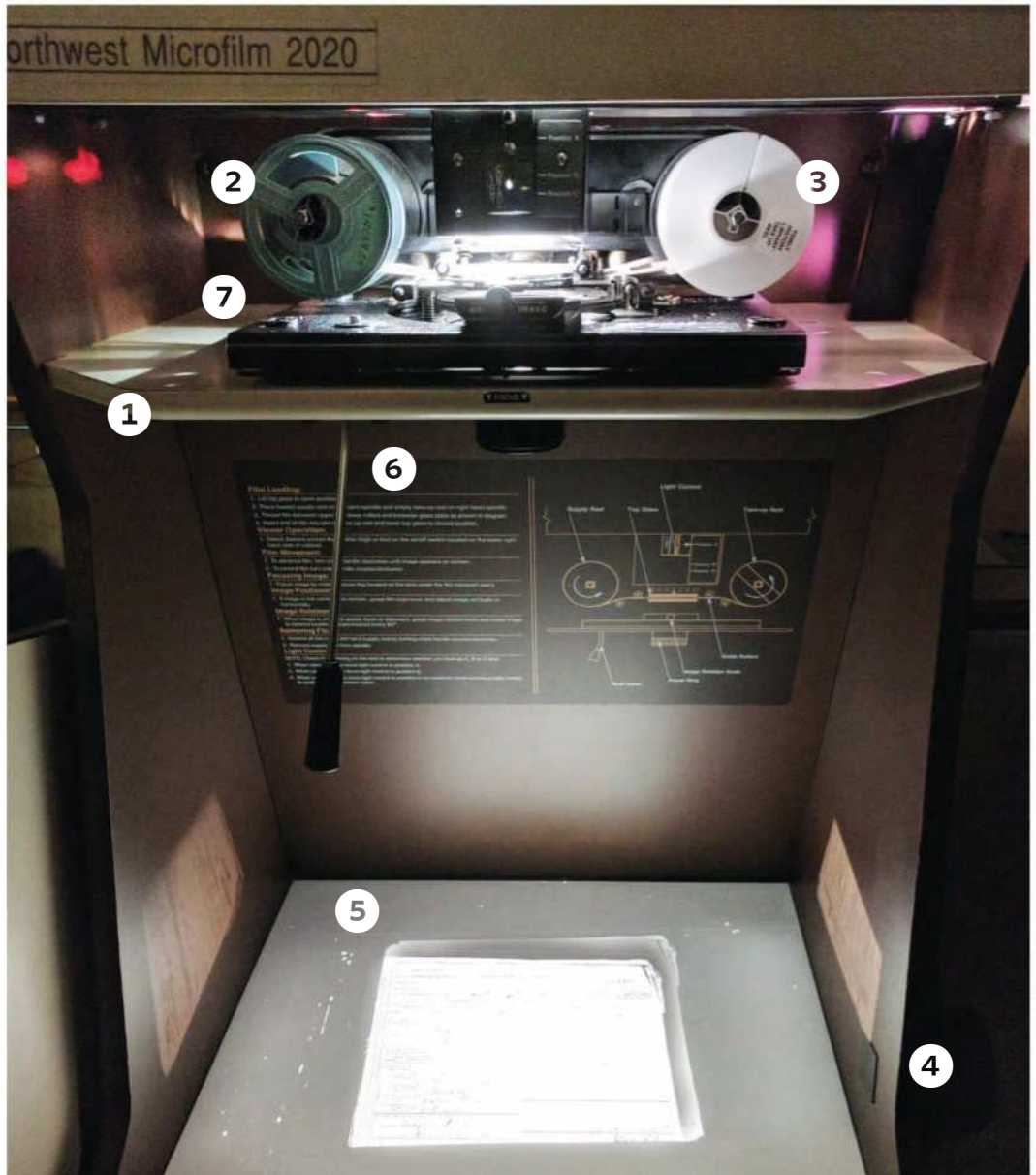
1 Microfilm readers vary, but usually look something like this. You may need to gently pull the carriage assembly toward you until the little glass plates pop open.

2 Place your microfilm reel on the left-hand spindle.

3 Feed the tail of the microfilm through the rollers and between the glass plates, then around the core of the uptake reel. Insert the end of the microfilm into the slot in the core of the uptake reel.

4 Give the reel a turn or two to make sure it's taking up the film. Look on the side or front of the reader for a hand crank or knob to scroll the film.

5 Gently push the carriage assembly back away from you until it locks into place, if needed. This model casts the image onto a platform. Others have screens resembling a computer monitor.



6 Scroll away! Use the lever to adjust the position of the image, and turn the ring around the lens to focus. Don't be afraid to ask a librarian for help.

7 When you're through, you'll need to rewind the microfilm back onto the reel.

➤ **Some researchers get motion sickness as the microfilm whirls by. Look away if you can, and consider using medication such as Dramamine.**

Find Your Roots

Reconnect to your birth family with this guide, featuring:

- strategies for adoptees, donor-conceived people, and anyone with unknown parentage to find biological relatives using DNA testing
- help understanding the major DNA tests and testing companies
- tips for identifying and contacting DNA matches



The
Adoptee's Guide
to DNA Testing

How to Use
Genetic Genealogy
to Discover Your
Long-Lost Family

Tamar Weinberg

SAVE 10%!

ENTER CODE
AdoptionFTM
AT CHECKOUT.
Expires Dec. 31, 2018

Paperback • 240 pages • \$29.99

PRE-ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!
<bit.ly/adoptee-guide-DNA>

To order by phone, call (855) 278-0408

ROUNDUP 6 Websites for Memorializing Loved Ones



1 Facebook

<www.facebook.com>

Archive your loved one's Facebook account following the instructions at <www.facebook.com/help/408583372511972>. This adds "Remembering" to the person's profile name, removes the page from public search, and lets connected Facebook members post to the person's timeline (depending on the privacy settings).

2 Find A Grave

<www.findagrave.com>

Registered members of this burial database and companion app can search for a deceased relative's name and add photos, virtual flowers or a note to the listing. If the relative isn't in Find A Grave, click Add a Memorial to enter his or her information.

3 Fold3

<www.fold3.com>

Here, you can add photos and stories to an existing memorial or to a new one you create. Click the Memorials tab to search for memorial pages to those who died on the *USS Arizona* or while serving in the Vietnam War, or to other veterans (US Honor Wall). To start a new page, select Create a Memorial and follow the prompts.



4 Legacy.com Memorial Websites

<memorialwebsites.legacy.com>

Here, create a free public or invite-only memorial site with words, photos, video, music, a guest book and more. It'll stay viewable for two weeks, after which you can purchase a renewable annual sponsorship to reactivate it for a year.



5 We Remember

<weremember.com>

This free site and app by Ancestry lets you create an attractive memorial and share it so others can add their photos and memories (they'll need to register with the site). If you have an Ancestry account, the same login works here, and vice versa.

6 WeRelate

<www.werelate.org>

With its goal to connect pages for individuals into a single, collaborative family tree, this wiki will appeal to avid genealogy researchers. Register for free to create a Person Page for a relative or add information and images to an existing page.

Take your research to the next level!

VIP

family
tree

Join the
Family Tree VIP
program today for
the advice, tools and
resources to enhance
your genealogy
research.

- **Family Tree Magazine one-year subscription (7 issues):**
Get the tips you need to trace your roots from America's #1 family history magazine.

- **Family Tree Premium one-year subscription:**
Get members-only access to thousands of how-to articles on FamilyTreeMagazine.com.

- **Members-only savings:**
Log in before you shop to save even more on every order from the Family Tree Shop with your automatic 10% discount! Plus, enjoy free shipping on every order.

- **Family Tree University discount:**
VIPs save an extra 10% off registration in live online courses and workshops.

- **Family Tree Toolkit:**
This VIP-exclusive PDF includes the 101 Best Websites for genealogy, project forms and decorative family tree charts.

ONLY
\$59.99
(\$112 VALUE)

BECOME A VIP TODAY!

familytreemagazine.com/store/ftm-xsub-vip-print-bundle

Visit the **Family Tree Shop** for more great savings on books, magazines, webinars and research guides for genealogists!



WEBSITE The New Find A Grave

Find A Grave <www.findagrave.com>, the free burial database now owned by Ancestry <ancestry.com>, officially switched over to its new look at the end of last year, to the dismay of some longtime users. The updated code allows Ancestry to make the site mobile friendly and available in other languages. Here's a quick look at searching the new Find A Grave.

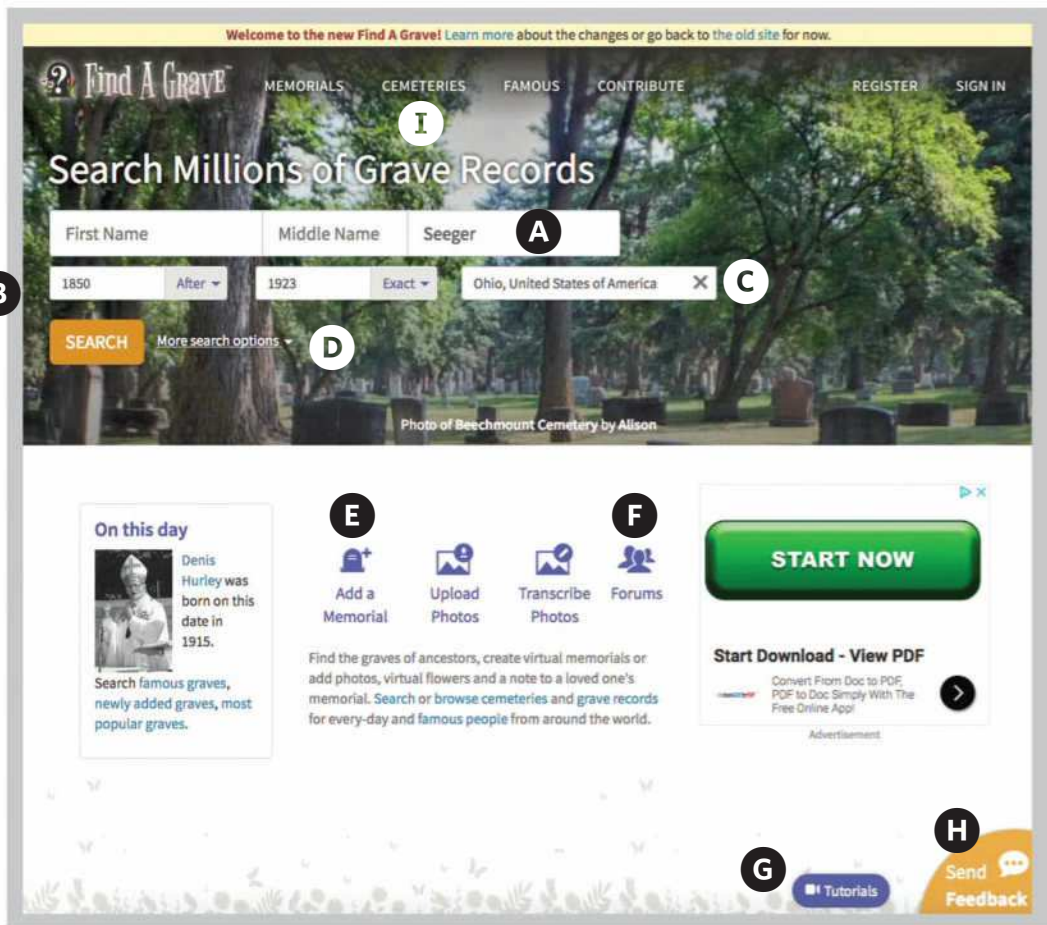
Diane Haddad

A A surname is required, but you can leave off the first and middle names.

B You can't search for a year range, but you can narrow results by entering the year before the earliest possible birth year, then selecting After from the dropdown menu. (Or enter the year after the latest possible birth year and choose Before.)

C Enter a country, city, county or state, and select the right place from the type-ahead menu that appears.

D Click for options to search on a partial last name, include nicknames or maiden names, look for burials added in the past one, seven, 30 or 90 days, and more.



E These options let you contribute burial information or cemetery photos to a memorial. You'll need to register and/or log in.

F Browse forums about using Find A Grave, researching in cemeteries, finding famous graves and more.

G Watch tutorial videos on 30 topics, including searching for burials, contributing to the site and managing your account.

H Send comments and critiques to Find A Grave site managers.

I See if your family cemetery has any memorials by clicking here and typing in the cemetery name or searching by place.

➤ **On your search results page, you can sort matches by name, birth or death date, or cemetery (handy for finding relatives buried in the same place).**

DNA Q&A

Related Multiple Ways



Q My grandparents were second cousins, and Grandma's sister married Grandpa's brother. So my mother had double first cousins (about 25 percent shared DNA) who were also third cousins (.781 percent shared DNA). How would I calculate the amount of shared DNA between Mom and these cousins?

A Your testing company uses the total amount of shared DNA, measured in centimorgans (cM), to estimate your relationship with a match. If you're related to the person in multiple ways, as you are with these cousins on your mom's side, that estimated relationship can be misleading.

The Shared cM Project is a study of how much DNA various types of relatives share. You'll find more information and a table of average shared cM at <www.yourdnaguide.com/scp>. For multiple cousins, you can try the additive approach: List the ways you're related to a person, then total the average amounts of shared DNA for each relationship.

But multiple connections plus tiny amounts of shared cMs can get difficult. An easier approach is to take the shared DNA for the closest relationship (in this case, double first cousins) and add a little.

You also can look at the size of the longest segment of shared DNA (all testing companies except for AncestryDNA provide this measurement). Closely related people tend to share longer segments; those with multiple distant relationships share more, smaller ones. The table at <thegeneticgenealogist.com/2015/06/01/the-shared-cm-project-longest-shared-segment> shows average sizes of the longest DNA segment for various relationships in both typical populations and endogamous ones (in which individuals tended to marry within the group). ●

Diahan Southard

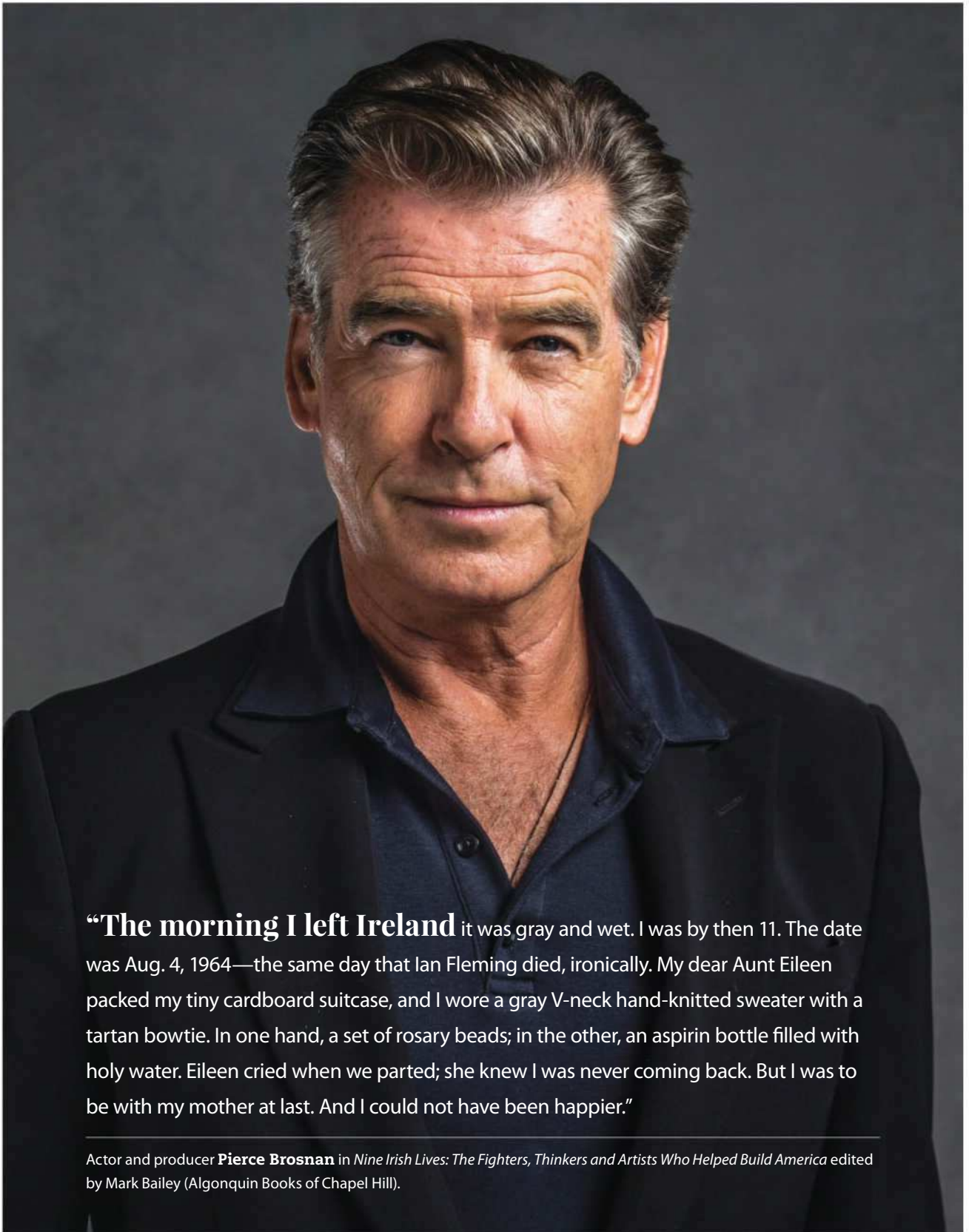
An advertisement for 48 Hour Books. At the top, a book cover is shown with the title "Wrote a Book About your Family?" in a decorative, vintage font. Below the book cover, the text reads: "We'll print it before another branch is added." Underneath that is the 48 Hour Books logo, which consists of a black square with the number "48" in large white font, "HOUR BOOKS" in smaller white font, and ".com" in even smaller white font. Below the logo, the text says: "Get live customer support in seconds, your price in minutes and your books printed in 48 hours. Go to 48hourbooks.com ... we print books unnaturally fast." The background of the ad is a light green color.

Get genealogy advice from the experts in the **free FamilyTree Podcast**, hosted by Lisa Louise Cooke



Listen in iTunes or at <familytreemagazine.com/podcasts>

the rest is **history**



“The morning I left Ireland it was gray and wet. I was by then 11. The date was Aug. 4, 1964—the same day that Ian Fleming died, ironically. My dear Aunt Eileen packed my tiny cardboard suitcase, and I wore a gray V-neck hand-knitted sweater with a tartan bowtie. In one hand, a set of rosary beads; in the other, an aspirin bottle filled with holy water. Eileen cried when we parted; she knew I was never coming back. But I was to be with my mother at last. And I could not have been happier.”

Actor and producer **Pierce Brosnan** in *Nine Irish Lives: The Fighters, Thinkers and Artists Who Helped Build America* edited by Mark Bailey (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill).

YOUR SECRET TO ANCESTRY.COM SUCCESS

WITH THIS
UPDATED USER
GUIDE, LEARN
HOW TO:

- effectively search the website's billions of records
- quickly find the records you need
- create and manage your online family tree
- use DNA matches to expand your family tree

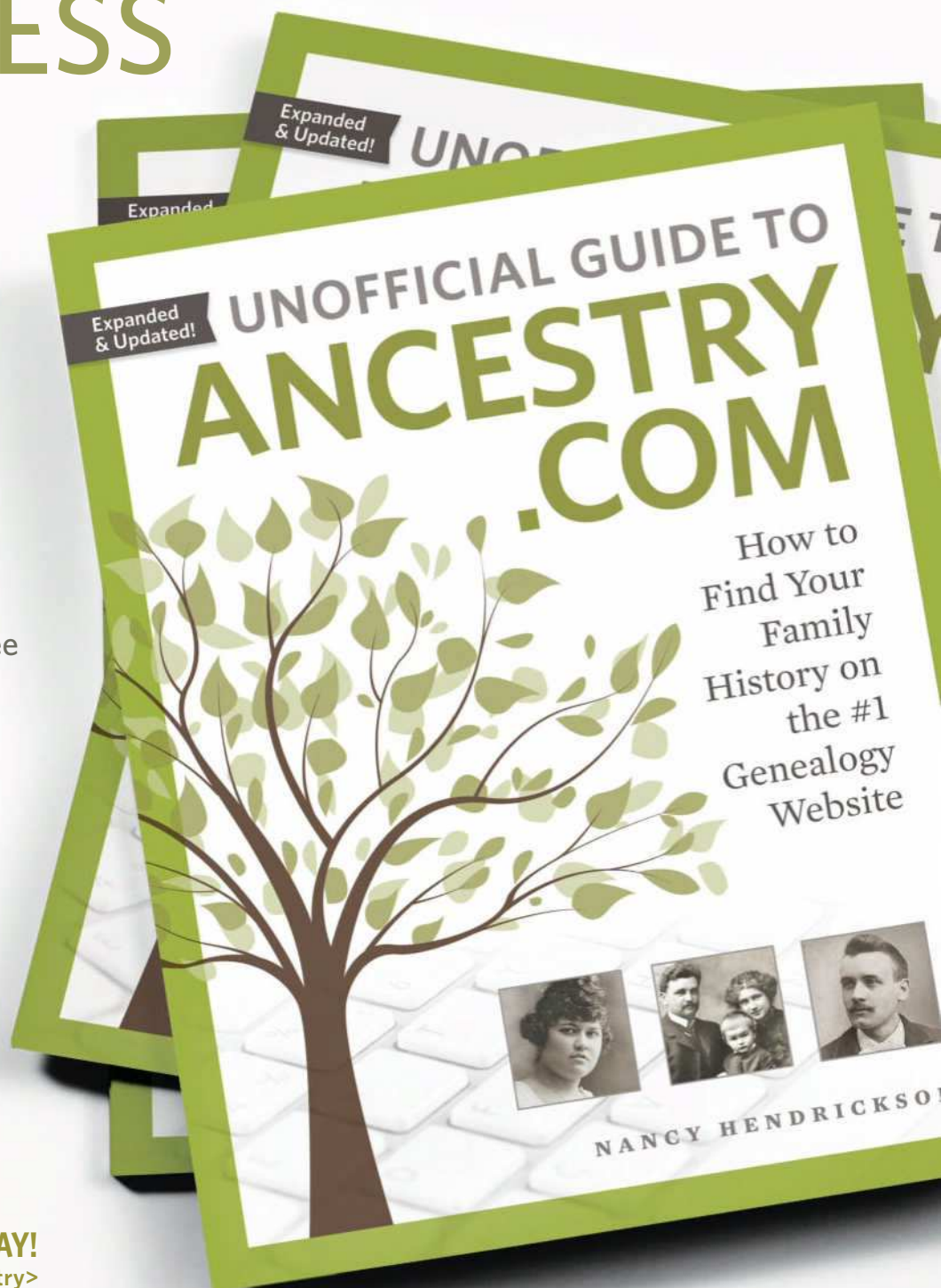
SAVE 10%!

ENTER CODE
ANCESTRYFT
AT CHECKOUT.
Expires Dec. 31, 2018

Paperback • 272 pages • \$26.99

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!
<bit.ly/unofficial-guide-ancestry>

To order by phone, call (855) 278-0408



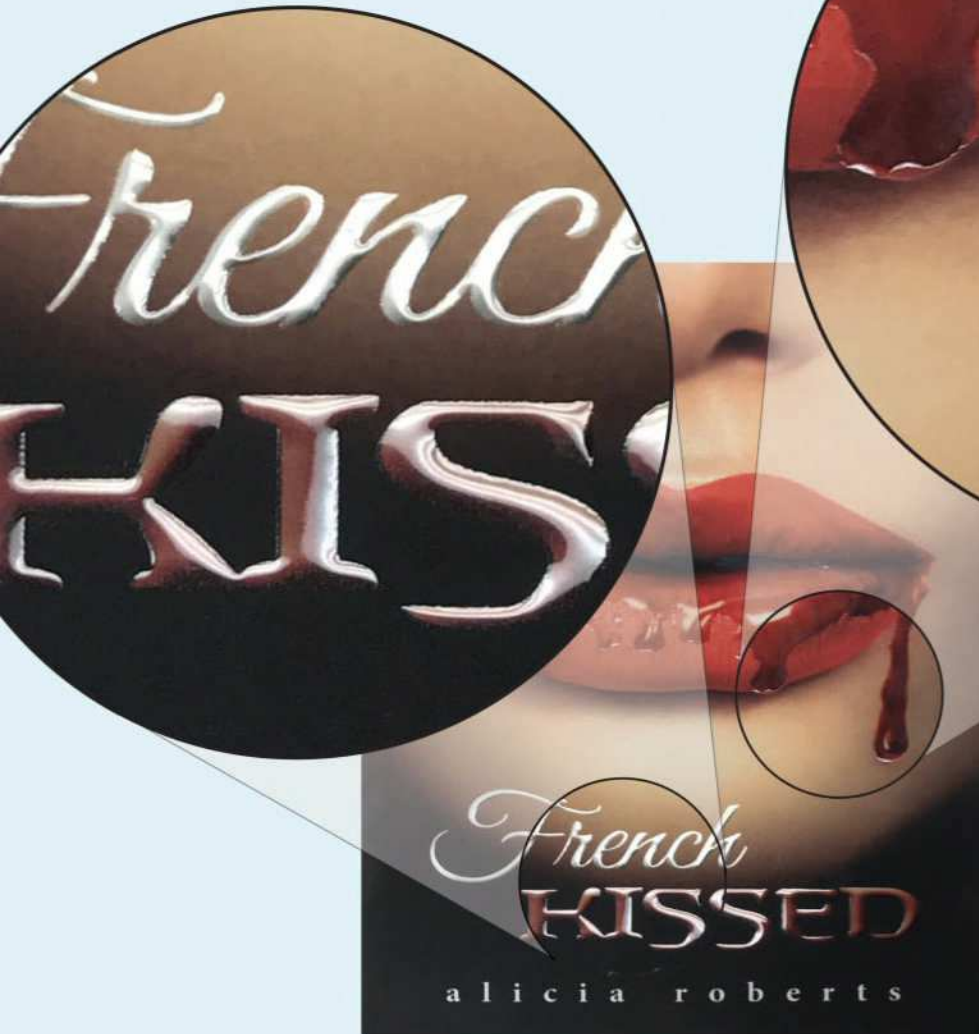
People DO judge a book by its cover ...

Elevate your cover design with **Diamond 3D Covers**

Another exclusive from 48 Hr Books, **Diamond 3D Covers** are an inexpensive way to really stand out from the crowd. Highlight a couple of elements on your cover: choose your book title, and maybe an important design element. We'll make them stand out ... literally!

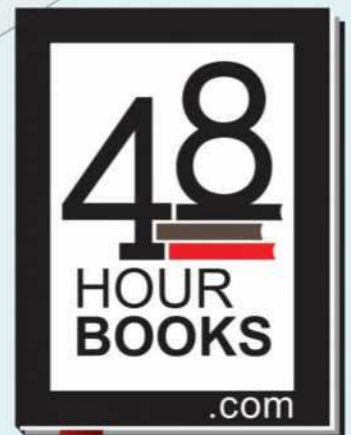
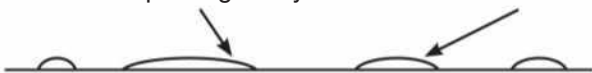
Your book cover may be the most important aspect of marketing your book. Make sure YOUR cover attracts the attention it deserves.

These photos just don't do it justice. This is not just a 3D effect ... it's actual 3D printing that you can see and feel! See video of it on our website, 48HrBooks.com.



Side view of a Diamond 3D Cover:

It's not just a 3D effect, it's actually 3D printing that you can see ... and FEEL!



800-231-0521

info@48HrBooks.com

2249 14th St. SW • Akron, Ohio 44314