



Volume #23 Issue # 2

Mar-Apr 2013

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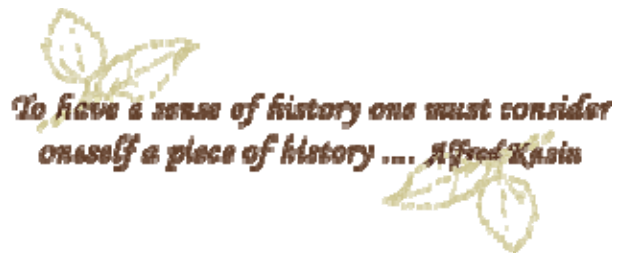


#### **Important Note:**

The **web sites** listed in this newsletter are direct links – just click your mouse (while online). The above **emails** are only direct links if you use Outlook on your computer for email service.

**Or open your email provider web site** (hotmail, gmail, etc) and then copy & paste the email to your new outgoing message.

**Apr 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting** –Guest speaker Eileen Dodge, Olympia Genealogical Society member, will present a “Brick Walls” program after the business meeting. Eileen is Membership Chair and also volunteers her research time with OCGS. Her topics will include disowned children; bigamy; name changes; duplicate names; naming customs, informal adoptions and illegitimacy. We begin at 7pm at the PUD Auditorium at 345 Pacific Avenue, Chehalis.



### **LCGS MEETINGS**

**Mar 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting** - Margaret Iverson, member of LCGS & Regent of DAR (Daughters of American Revolution, will explain the application process along with what it means to be a DAR member and the current projects of DAR. A question & answer period will follow. The meeting will begin at 7:pm at the PUD Auditorium at 345 Pacific Avenue, Chehalis.

**WELCOME TO NEW AND  
RETURNING MEMBERS.  
THANKS FOR BEING  
PROMPT AT PAYING YOUR  
DUES.**

**EVENT SCHEDULE**

**April 6, 2013** Spring Seminar 2013 for Olympia Genealogical Society is titled **“Tools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”** by Thomas MacEntee, Founder, High Definition Genealogy. His topics include 10 Ways to Jumpstart Your Genealogy; Building a Research Toolbox; They’re Alive, Searching for Living Relatives; Creating a Family History Workspace. Avoid late registration after April 1<sup>st</sup>. Ann Olson, Registrar, 360-943-5209 or <http://www.rootsweb.com/~waogs/>

**April 6, 2013** Clark County GS 2013 Spring Seminar will feature Miriam J. Robbins. Her topics will include How to Create a Genealogy Blog for Yourself or Your Society; Using Facebook for Genealogy; Using Pinterest for Genealogy; and Exploring Online Resources for Tracing Northwest Roots. Registration form at LCGS meeting.

**April 26-27, 2013** Bend Oregon Genealogical Society 2013 Spring Seminar. Featured speaker is Christine Rose, Certified Genealogist and Lecturer. Topics include Genealogical Proof Standard: Building A Solid Case; Avoid the Crooked Path! Genealogical Problem-Solving: Leaping to Erroneous Conclusions: What Did the Record REALLY Say? and Solving the Problem Onsite in 25 Hours or Less. Call 541-317-9553 or see at [www.orgenweb.org/deschutes/bend-gs](http://www.orgenweb.org/deschutes/bend-gs).

**April 27, 2013** Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society will hold their Spring Seminar featuring Leland Meitzler & William Dollarhide. Location is at the La Quinta Inn and Suites, 1425 East 27th St., Tacoma, WA. Go here for more information: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~watpcgs/seminar.htm>

**April 27, 2013** Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island presents Karen Krugman at their Spring Seminar. Time is 8am-4:30pm and Topics include Chasing Your Elusive Ancestor On the Internet; So Your Female Ancestor Has No Surname?; STUMBLE – My favorite way to find ancestors; and Researching There When You Are Here. Registration form and more info at [www.gsswi.org/seminar.shtml](http://www.gsswi.org/seminar.shtml)

**May 8-11, 2013** National Genealogical Society 2013 Family History Conference, titled **“Building New Bridges”** is in Las Vegas, Nevada. See info at meeting or email at [conference@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:conference@ngsgenealogy.org).

**June 28-29, 2013** Washington State Genealogical Society 2013 Conference, titled **“Researching Rare Apples on Your Family Tree”** is co-hosted by Yakima Valley Genealogical Society. Featured speaker is Bret Peterson. Highlights are Using Newspapers in Research: You sNEWS you Lose; Are You My Mother?-Finding the Maiden Name in Your Tree; . Register at <http://yvgs.net> or call 509-952-3322.

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**FREE KINDLE** eBook version---***Beyond the Sand Creek Bridge***. Author, Scott Wyatt is offering FREE for two days only, March 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>. It is a historical novel that

follows the experiences of Chinese immigrants building the Northern Pacific Railroad through Washington and the Idaho Territory in 1882. Although fiction, it is a compelling look back at the social and political (racially charged) conditions of the period. Scott is from Sammamish, Washington.

## Policy Change for Patrons Requesting Photocopies From the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah

February 4, 2013 By Merrill White

Please note the following change in the policy for patrons who are requesting copies from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

All requests for information copied from films, book pages, CDs, marriage, death or birth certificates, wills and/or deeds, etc. will be copied in digital format and emailed to patrons in a zipped PDF or JPG file format. There is no charge for this service if we are able to email the information to patrons.

If a patron does not have an email address, we can mail the information to the patron using the US Postal Service. However, as much as possible, we will rely on emailing all requests for information through the internet. If patrons do not own a computer or do not have an email address, they can request to have the information emailed to their local Family History Center, where they can print the information at the center.

Patrons should request copies by emailing their request to [Photoduplication@familysearch.org](mailto:Photoduplication@familysearch.org). All requests MUST include the following information:

- Film or Fiche number
- Item number
- Name of Individual(s) referred to in the record
- Title of the record
- Name of parents, spouse, grantor, grantee, etc.
- Event type (Birth, Death or Marriage)
- Complete event date and place
- Event place (county, parish, township, etc.)
- Volume or page number
- Registration or Certificate Number
- Any other information that will help us locate your record.

## Organize the Inconclusive with Discrepancy Charts

by Michael John Neill

### Discrepancy Charts Help You Evaluate Facts

Discrepancy charts help you summarize the conflicts between different record sources and organize your sources. Learn how to organize conflicting information and evaluate your primary and secondary sources.

If the data genealogists collected always agreed and was always consistent, many professional genealogists would be out of business. So would a few authors. Discrepancies and inconsistencies are a matter of course in genealogical research, as is dealing with those inconsistencies.

In terms of consistency, genealogical data can fall into one of three categories:

1. Entirely consistent, every document providing the same date and place for each event, with no conflict between sources (the ideal);
2. Conflicting, but consistent enough to allow different researchers to reach the same conclusion;
3. Entirely inconsistent and inconclusive.

In your research you may run into discrepancies such as ages listed in the census that do not correspond with ages obtained from other sources, birth dates in the family Bible that do not agree with the birth certificate, death dates on the tombstone that do not match the death certificate, and so on. There are many reasons for discrepancies. Sometimes you can determine the reason and explain the difference. Such is the case with birth or marriage dates "changed" in some records so that the first child did not come "too early." Different surnames for an individual may be due to a remarriage by a parent and not the result of dishonesty on the part of our ancestors or ineptitude on the part of clerks.

But often you will be unable to explain the difference and may never be able to say with a degree of certainty which date or location for an event is correct. There are cases where almost

every document or record gives a different age or place of birth and determining which one is correct can be nearly impossible. The purpose of *discrepancy charts* is to summarize the conflicts between different record sources and to indicate the source for each conflicting piece of data. Using discrepancy charts will more easily allow you to weigh the evidence. (Samples of 2 cases will be continued in next newsletter).

## Name and Word Spellings

As you read through older records, you'll often find words and names spelled in a variety of ways, even in the same document. Even in more recent records, you may come across typos and other inadvertent spelling errors. While misspellings of words may only be slightly bothersome, spelling problems related to names can make deciphering records and tracing families difficult for today's genealogists.

For example, Roland Shumate, a Family Tree Maker user from Baltimore, Maryland, knows about name spelling changes firsthand. Roland's surname was thought to be German or Dutch, but it turned out to be French: Choamote. The name had been changed when his ancestors immigrated in 1700. Roland's great, great grandfather's name was Jean Dela Choamote. With the correct surname in hand, finding records pertaining to Mr. Shumate's ancestors is much easier.

## Why Do Spelling Inconsistencies Exist?

First, name spellings weren't standardized several generations ago, so many people spelled even their own name in a variety of ways. In addition, many people couldn't write, and those who wrote for them when the need arose sometimes had minimal spelling skills and just spelled phonetically, writing down what they heard.

More drastic name changes often took place when a family immigrated to the United States. The family may have Americanized its name by dropping syllables or difficult letter combinations, translating their name to English, or changing it completely. In addition, immigration officers often made mistakes or had to guess at more difficult name spellings, doing their best to spell out what

they heard. You can find similar problems in census records when the enumerator interviewed newly-arrived immigrants. Finally, spelling mistakes exist simply due to human error. Record-keepers and transcribers aren't any more perfect than the rest of us!

## Problems with Pronunciation

All kinds of records were prone to spelling mishaps, including vital records, church records, and of course the immigration and census records mentioned above. Throughout all of these documents, the following letters were often confused due to verbal miscommunication: B and P, D and T, F and P, F and V, G and K, J and Y, S and Z, V and B, V and W, and W and R, depending on the accent of the person who was saying the name and the person who was writing it. In addition, C and S could become CH and SH. Also, double letters, such as RR or LL, could turn into a single R or L, and vice-versa.

Vowels were prone to change as well. I, IE, EY, and Y were often interchanged and the same happened with O and OE, A and AY, and other similar vowel combinations. E could be added to or dropped off of the end at will (and the same goes for S). Vowels could also be dropped out of the middle of a name, leaving several consonants in a row. These are all letter changes to keep in mind when you are looking for a family name in a record set. Let's take a look at an example.

**Current spelling:** Grover

**Alternate spellings:** Grovr, Grober, Groeber, Grower, Krover, Krober, Kroeber, Krower, Crover, Crober, Croeber, Crower.

Try saying all of these different spellings out loud. They all sound fairly similar, and with the right accent they could sound virtually identical. You might want to try the same exercise with some of your family names. The idea is to find new spellings of a surname that sound similar to the current spelling.

## Errors Caused by Handwriting

Other types of ancestor-hiding "mistakes" to watch out for have to do with handwriting. Older styles

can be difficult for us to read today, and there are some styles that were not even taught in schools, but by notaries or others to their helpers. The secretary hand, the court hand, the italic hand -- each had distinct letter forms and abbreviations.

In some older handwriting styles, capital L and capital S often were written so similarly that it was difficult to tell the difference between the two. The same is true for capital I and capital J. In addition, rounded lower case letters such as A, O, and U could also appear identical, especially when the A or O was left slightly open at the top or the U was almost closed at the top. One final handwriting problem is the SS. This letter combination was often written as SF, and even a single S was occasionally written as F.

Remember, you can run into these types of errors not only when looking at handwritten documents, but also when you are looking at records that have been transcribed from older original documents. When reviewing a record with an unfamiliar handwriting style, it is important to record all the letters of the alphabet on a sheet of paper and list the variations that you come across. This self-training takes very little time and saves a lot of errors and forgetting.

### Just Plain Typos

Here are a few of the more common ones to watch for:

- Letter transpositions — "Grover" becomes "Rgover" or "Smith" becomes "Simth"
- Adjacent letters on the keyboard — "Grover" becomes "Grober" or "Smith" becomes "Wmith"
- Dropping a letter — "Grover" becomes "Grver" or "Smith" becomes "Smit"

Word spellings most often are just an inconvenience, but changes in name spellings are much more significant. It is important to keep different possible name spellings in mind when you are researching, so that you don't overlook records that might refer to your family.

### Getting to Know You

I was born in Chehalis to Art and Carrie Vatne and for the next five years we moved around Lewis County, as my dad worked in a sawmill. In 1943 my parents bought a farm in Newaukum Valley, where we are now living. I graduated from Chehalis High School and Linfield College, where I met my husband, Bill. For the next two years I worked as a County Extension Agent in 4-H club work in Umatilla County, Oregon before marrying Bill in 1962.

Bill was in the Navy so we moved around the states. Our first home was in Hawaii, then Aurora, CO, Fairfax, VA, Coronado, CA, San Jose, CA, Doylestown Township, PA then finally Whidbey Island, where he retired. We have two sons, Jeff and family live in Spokane and Scott lives in Fallon, NV.

It was while living in San Jose, that I saw an article in the paper on Kris Kristofferson, the singer. It mentioned his father, Louis Kristofferson, which I found interesting, as my grandfather's brother was a Louis Kristofferson. In checking with my mom, it was his brother, so I am related to Kris, although I've never met him. This started my interest in genealogy. Since we moved around, I thought we might meet some relatives, which we did. While living in PA, I found some relatives of Bill's dad's in New Jersey and New York, whom we met. When Bill's parents came to visit, his dad met relatives he never knew he had. Since Bill's dad's ancestors were from New York and his mom from Alabama, his family has been more interesting to research.

My dad's parents were from Norway and my mom came over from Sweden with her family in 1910. Bill & I visited both countries in 1996 and met more relatives, which was fun.

Joann Hulse

**Membership Dues** Lewis County Genealogical Society membership runs January through December. Cost for one person is \$12 and for a couple in the same household is \$15. Membership includes a bimonthly newsletter. We meet January-June, September-November at the Lewis County PUD meeting room, 345 Pacific Avenue, Chehalis WA, on the third Tuesday evening of the months listed. Research trips are planned periodically. Please return the membership form to: LEWIS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, PO BOX 782 CHEHALIS WA 98532-0782.

My/Our membership should read:

Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preference to have newsletter by **email** \_\_\_\_\_ (attachment), or **standard postal mail**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check for \$12 enclosed for 2013 membership

\_\_\_\_\_ Check for \$15 enclosed for 2013 membership

Permission to print member information in the newsletter? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

Please list surnames and states being researched: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a self addressed stamped envelope if you would like a membership card & or receipt.

**News items for the May newsletter are due to the editors by April 30th.**

*Lewis County Genealogical Society*  
*PO BOX 782*  
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