



Volume #23 Issue # 3

May-June 2013

Officers

President – Teresa Parnell-Jordan

(360) 978-4299

jordanjunction@gmail.com

Vice President – Patty Olsen

(360) 219-6912 mctwert@aol.com

Secretary – Joann Hulse

(360) 748-4244 wjhulse@localaccess.com

Treasurer – Leslie Parnell

(360) 978-4267 lparnell@tds.net

Genealogist - Margie Lloyd

(360) 748-3069

Newsletter Co-Editors-Leslie Parnell

lparnell@tds.net &

Teresa Parnell-Jordan

jordanjunction@gmail.com

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.



LCGS MEETINGS

May 21, 2013 Guest speaker, Jim Johnson, Director of Heritage Quest Library titled his program "Genealogical Research in the Ozarks".

Will show us how to find and use the records that were created by our ancestors who lived in a small region of our country in parts of Missouri and Arkansas known as the Ozark Mountains. If you do not have an ancestor who came from this area, never fear, these same methods can be used to find records in any geographic region of the country. Everyone should benefit from this presentation.

Jim will also be bringing the HQRL "Books on the Road" featuring the latest in genealogical books and supplies. Meeting begins at 7pm at the PUD Auditorium conference room at 345 SW Pacific Ave, Chehalis, WA.

Jun 18, 2013 Guest speaker Jeri McCoy, finding a witch in her own family prompted her to do more research on them, and resulted in her presentation for today called "The Salem Witch Trials." Meeting will start at 7pm at the PUD Auditorium conference room at 345 SW Pacific Ave, Chehalis, WA.

STATE CONFERENCE AT YAKIMA

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.

HERITAGE QUEST RESEARCH

LIBRARY-Autumn Quest 2013, "A Tour of Futuristic Tools to Help Uncover the Past".

Speakers are Cyndi Howells, Mary Kathryn Kozy and Jim Johnson. Register by Oct 5 at \$30. More info at www.hqrl.com.

GETTING TO KNOW – Gayle Stevens
 My dad's family first came to Oregon in 1852 on the wagon train from Independence, Missouri. My mother's grandfather from England in about 1861 to Ohio and fought in the Civil War. He was married in Oregon and moved to Toledo in 1885. I was born in Chehalis to Alvin and Bertha Moon. I had five brothers and no sisters. I started school at West Side then Cascade then R.E. Bennett and graduated from W.F. West. In 1960, I got married and then moved to California in 1962 where my four children were born. I graduated from Beauty School in Yuba City, California in 1976 and moved back to Washington in 1979.

Dick & I were married in 1983 and moved to Mississippi for about six years, moving home to Chehalis December 1989. I lost my father in 1981, my mother in 2001 and brothers in 1996 and 2003; my son in May 2011 and my daughter in November 2011. I have been researching my family for about 12 years and I have found a lot but have so much more to find. Dick & I really enjoy the research and traveling to all the different places our families lived. Would love to spend a few weeks in England as both our families migrated from there—maybe someday.
Gayle Stevens

Organize the Inconclusive with Discrepancy Charts

by Michael John Neill (continued from last newsletter)

Sample Discrepancy Charts

The two samples below show how discrepancy charts can help organize any conflicting information that you may have.

Seeking Birth Information, Case 1

In the process of searching for my great-grandmother's (Ida SARGENT TRAUTVETTER MILLER) place of birth, I found several different birth localities. One locale did not appear on any of the other records and even Ida had listed different places of birth on each of her marriage applications. Some places had been listed more than once and I soon could not remember what document had provided what location. After a while, my confusion hindered my research efforts. While the localities were in close proximity to each other, there was no "preponderance" of evidence that allowed me to conclude which place was most likely.

There was no way that I could list the different places Ida was "born" on a pedigree chart or an ancestral chart (try listing five different locations for a birthplace!). So, in order to help me possibly discover the correct place, or to at least keep track of what each document said, I decided to make a list of all the different localities I had and indicate what sources had given those localities (and, if known, the informant on each of these records). In further research, I am using all of these localities (at least the ones that are specific) with the thought that maybe some of the places were residences of the family at some point in time. For Ida, the birth date of 1 April 1874 seems to be correct, since the majority of records either gave that date or do not significantly contradict it.

As you can see below, I used several columns for each record. Not all the sources provided all these pieces of information and in some cases I estimated her birth date from her age at the time the record was created. When I did this, I indicated that the birth date is estimated. You can see that some records provide both an age and a birth date. For the purposes of this article, some records have been omitted from the chart, citation information is not complete (although it is important), and the exact date of the event/record has not been included.

Record	Birth Date	Birthplace	Age	Informant	Source Type
John TRAUTVETTER death certificate, 1937	Not given	Alexandria, Missouri	Not given		Secondary
Ida MILLER death certificate, 1939.	1 April 1874	Adams County, Illinois	65 years, 2 months, and 22 days	Hospital Records	Secondary
Ida's Obituary, 1939	1 April 1874	Warsaw, Hancock, Illinois	65 years		Secondary
Marriage to George TRAUTVETTER, 1898, Hancock County, Illinois	Ca. 1874/1875 (estimated from age)	Iowa	23 years	Probably Ida	Secondary
Marriage to William MILLER, 1936, Hancock County, Illinois	Ca. 1873/1874	Lima, Adams, Illinois	63 years	Probably Ida	Secondary
1880 Census, Hancock County, Illinois	Ca. 1873/1874 (estimated)	Iowa	6 years		Secondary
1900 Census, Hancock County, Illinois	April 1874	America	26 years		Secondary

Seeking Birth Information: Case 2

The second discrepancy chart is for Ida's father, Ira William SARGENT. In this case, the birthplace, while not overly specific, is at least consistent. Based upon the records used in the chart, a reasonable birth date estimate would be between 1840 and 1845.

Record	Birth Date	Birthplace	Age	Informant	Source Type
Death Certificate, 1916 Peoria County, Illinois	Ca. 1840/1841 (estimated from age-birth date not stated on record)	Unknown	75 years	Hospital records	Secondary
1880 Census, Hancock County, Illinois	Ca. 1844/1845 (estimated from age)	Canada	35 years		Secondary
1900 Census, Hancock County, Illinois	March 1843	Canada F.	57 years		Secondary
1910 Census, Peoria County, Illinois	Ca. 1841/1842	Not listed	68 years	Probably Hospital records	Secondary
1883 Marriage to Martha PHELPS, Adams County, Illinois	Ca. 1842/1843	Not listed	40 years		Secondary
Adams County, Illinois Poor House Records, August 1907	Ca. 1844	Canada	"about 63 years"		Secondary
Insanity Case, Adams County, Illinois, September 1907	Ca. 1843/1844	Not listed	63 years		Secondary
Insanity Case, Adams County, Illinois, September 1905	Ca. 1838/1839	Canada	66 years		Secondary

The Role of Primary and Secondary Sources

While analyzing conflicting pieces of information, genealogists need to be aware of the differences between primary and secondary sources. A source is considered to be primary if it was an original record recorded close to the time when the event actually took place and the informant had a logical reason to know the information and was likely present at the event. A source that is not primary is considered secondary. Classifying a source as primary or secondary does not comment about its accuracy. Secondary sources can be correct and primary sources can be wrong. However, more credence is placed in primary sources for an event, especially when there are two or more primary sources that corroborate each other.

In some cases, you may not be able to determine who provided the information and therefore not know for certain if it is a primary or secondary record. Some records have a place for informant, but many do not. Speculation about the informant may be necessary, but if you are speculating, you should indicate this by use of "probable," "possible," or some other similar word.

In the case of Ida SARGENT TRAUTVETTER MILLER, the sources all listed are secondary sources for her birth date and birthplace. This does not mean that they are wrong; however, in this case since they all provide different birthplaces, some of them are obviously incorrect. It should be remembered that in some cases, Ida might not have provided the information herself, or that the informant might have misunderstood the question.

Sources will not all agree, and one source can easily be incorrect. For this reason, genealogists need to access more than one record or source where possible and focus on primary sources where available. Unfortunately, there are times when primary sources are not available and genealogists are left using a number of secondary sources. There is no birth certificate for Ida, no baptismal record for Ida, and no Bible record that lists her date and place of birth (I'd love to hear about it if there is!). As one researches in the era before vital records, including secondary sources becomes necessary. For this reason, in this era, analyzing all possible records is even more important.

The discrepancy charts here have focused on dates and locations, but maiden names, and

names of parents also disagree. Similar charts could easily be compiled for these facts as well. Again, classifying each source as primary or secondary is an integral part of the chart.

One Last Important Note

You should never change a source to correct it. If you are fortunate enough to determine the cause of the discrepancy, or at least be able to explain it, indicate that in your notes. My grandmother believed she was born in Tioga, Hancock, Illinois. Her marriage record, application for a social security number, death certificate, and obituary all list this birthplace. However, she was not born in Tioga. She was born several miles east of Tioga in a town called Elderville. Her birth certificate and baptismal record indicate she was born in Elderville. Additionally, her parents are listed with an Elderville address in the 1910 Census, a few months before her birth in September of 1910. The sources where Grandma listed her birthplace are secondary sources. Her birth certificate and baptismal record are primary sources. The census record doesn't prove her birthplace, but lends credence to it being in the Elderville area. Grandma always insisted to me she was born in Tioga. Grandma's belief regarding her birthplace should be recorded in with my notes, either on her family group chart or in her record in my genealogy software program. There are programs that allow you to enter multiple places and dates for an event. Take advantage of this capability. Tracking these different sources and their differing pieces of data is an important part of the research process.

Infant Does Not Mean Baby

If you encounter the word "infant" in a legal document, remember that usually in the legal sense of the word it means someone under the age of legal majority. That age can vary from one state to another and over time.

But never assume that someone listed as an "infant heir" of their parent in 1817 was a young child too young to have married in 1818. They could easily have been "almost of age" in 1817 when they were referred to as an "infant," only to become of age the next year.

QUICK TIPS FOR GENEALOGISTS

Edited by Juliana S. Smith

Contributed by Patty Olsen

Remember Family with Photo Calendars

For Christmas, make a calendar for each of your kids and older grandkids. Everyone's birthday and wedding anniversaries are noted on the calendar. The birthdays have a balloon bouquet, and the anniversaries have a heart. On the page above, put a picture of each of the birthday people for that month, taken when they wear a baby or very young. Each picture is numbered and matches a sheet that describes each number. *Darlene Pinegar*

Software Helps Decipher Poor Copies

If you have a badly faded copy of a negative print of a birth certificate, which you are unable to make readable photocopies from, scan it into your Adobe Photoshop program. You will be able to adjust the contrast and lightness/darkness so that it is readable on the computer screen. When printed, the white on black shows up well so it is readable. This also works with difficult-to-read, pencil-written letters that have faded through the years. *Ruth Tucker, Cedar Falls, Iowa*

Protect Oversize Documents

To protect oversize documents that are too large for regular acid-free plastic pages, use oven-cooking bags. These cooking bags come in two or three different sizes and are also acid-free. *Joyce Oelke*

Photo Pocket Pages

If you have several tiny old photos, funeral home cards, old post cards with writing on the back or other odd-sized items that have writing on both sides, try pages designed to hold baseball cards. These come in several sizes and

are made with the same archival standards that we look for. *Karen Williams*

Keeping Track of Genealogy Contacts

In adding a New Contact to your e-mail Address Book, use "genealogy" as the category and the family name in place of the company name. This makes it easier to send the new information to those interested in either your mother's line or your father's line. *El Dena Ferrell*

Is the Boarder a Family Member?

In census records, many households will have individuals enumerated as "boarders." Don't dismiss these people as strangers. Often they are family members and the surname may give a clue about a married woman's maiden name or another branch of the family. *Kathy Dixon*

Our Sympathy and thoughts go out to the families of.....



Teresa Parnell-Jordan and her family on the passing of her step-daughter, Amber Dawn.

Jarlie McCormick on her mother's passing.

The passing of longtime member Jean Taylor.

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 July newsletter are due to the editors by July 5, 2013

Lewis County Genealogical Society

PO BOX 782

Chehalis WA 98532-0782

