PPGS to Co-sponsor Free Family History Fair, Nov. 5

On Saturday, Nov. 5, the Pikes Peak Family History Fair will take over Library 21c with top genealogy speakers, vendors, high-tech services, children’s activities, live music, and food. Designed to show the community and local genealogists ways to discover one’s ancestors, the fair is sponsored by PPGS, PPLD, and the North Family Discovery Center.

Speakers include Kathy Sturdevant, Deena Coutant on DNA, J Richards on military records, Andy Likins, Kirk Woosley-Patton on wills and estates, as well as former Utah Genealogical Society president Janet Hovorka, creator of “Zap the Grandma Gap” books. Rowan Reynold will speak on British research. A full speaker and vendor list will be e-mailed later.

Vendors include DigiDeena with DNA kits, Cheyenne Mountain DAR chapter, Colorado Mayflower Society, Jamestowne Society, Palatines to America, FamilySearch, local museums, CASA’s Life Long Links, and more.

High-tech activities:
- Booths for recording one’s own story with guided questions for four age groups. The video will then be e-mailed home.
- Video camera for recording free-form stories, especially with family groups. Please bring an SD card (at least 2GB) to record your story.
- Discovery Experience to identify famous relatives. Works best if already in FamilySearch Family Tree.
- High-speed scanner for photos, documents, slides, negatives. Please bring photos and a USB drive.
- Green screen for adding yourself to old family photos. Bring paper copies of old family photos.
- Hands-on genealogy instruction in the computer lab.

Kids: Accompanied by an adult, children can do crafts and activities their ancestors may have done as children. Coloring and family history essay contest prizes will be awarded, including AncestryDNA kits and 6-month Ancestry subscriptions.

Eats: The library’s café will be open and food trucks in the parking lot will offer attendees food options.

When: The Pikes Peak Family History Fair will run 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 5, at Library 21c, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr., Colorado Springs, northwest corner of Chapel Hills Dr. and Jamboree Dr.. The fair is part of the 2016 All Pikes Peak Reads PPLD community initiative, themed “Stories.”

Steve Philpy will be coordinating the PPGS booth. Please contact him if you’re willing to help at the table for a while while you enjoy the fair: sphilpy@aol.com.

Morris Named Special Collections Manager

After a nationwide search, Tim Morris has been selected to fill the position vacated in July by Dennis Daily, Special Collections division head Tim Blevins announced in mid-September.

Morris, who holds a degree in library science from Denver University, began as Special Collections manager on Monday, Sept. 26. He previously was a librarian at PPLD’s East Library.

Morris will serve as Library Liaison to the Pikes Peak Genealogical Society board.

Blevins noted that he had previously hired Dennis Daily three times before he came to Special Collections and he has also had a hand in hiring Tim Morris three times.

Welcome, New Members!

Seven more people have joined PPGS. If you notice their name tags at an upcoming meeting, say hi and make them feel welcome.

We hope you find our society provides more information, training, services, friendship, and fun than you ever dreamed!

Lisa Hale, thetwohales@yahoo.com
Tim & Lisa Heckel, for2003@comcast.net
Elaine Lennon, elaine@cue2cue.net
Ken & Judith McKay, maegen@earthlink.net
Danielle Pieper, danielle_digiacomo@yahoo.com
President’s Message

That Pesky 1890 Federal Census

I’ve met many genealogists who have told me that they sure could use the 1890 Federal Census to clue them in on how to proceed in their hunt for their ancestors. It seems as though the 1890 Federal Census is a key component to migration and where and who were contained in it. So, in this article, I am going to suggest 1890 census substitutes that you might want to try in your ancestor hunt.

The first thing I should point out is that not all of the 1890 Federal Census was destroyed in the 1921 fire at the Commerce Department. A few portions of the census did survive.

The surviving fragments consist of 1,233 pages, including enumerations for Alabama, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, and Texas. The fragments offer information on only 6,160 of the 62,979,766 people enumerated:

- Alabama—Perry Co.
- District of Columbia—Q, S, 13th, 14th, RQ, Corcoran, 15th, SE, and Roggs streets, and Johnson Ave.
- Georgia—Muscogee Co. (Columbus)
- Illinois—McDonough Co.: Mound Twp.
- Minnesota—Wright Co.: Rockford
- New Jersey—Hudson Co.: Jersey City
- New York—Westchester Co.: Eastchester; Suffolk Co.: Brookhaven Twp.
- North Carolina—Gaston Co.: South Point Twp., Ricer Bend Twp.; Cleveland Co.: Twp. No. 2
- Ohio—Hamilton Co. (Cincinnati); Clinton Co.: Wayne Twp.
- South Dakota—Union Co.: Jefferson Twp.
- Texas—Ellis Co.: S.P. no. 6, Mountain Peak, Ovila Precinct; Hood Co.: Precinct no. 5; Rusk Co.: Precinct no. 6 and J.P. no. 7; Trinity Co.: Trinity Town and Precinct no. 2; Kaufman Co.: Kaufman.

If you are lucky enough that your ancestors lived in one of the 1,233 pages that survived, you are in business! For most of us, however, we are not so fortunate. In our case, we will have to look for...
census substitutes to find the information we need. The following documents may help us in our search:

**1890 Veterans Schedule.** Don’t forget that although most of the 1890 census was lost, the 1890 Veterans Schedule did survive. This is a valuable document that provides information on living veterans who may have served in any war. Here I did learn that one of my relatives was shot through the left shoulder and that he suffered other wounds during the Civil War. I also learned the year that they immigrated to South Dakota.

Then there are **State Censuses.** Many states took censuses at five-year intervals from the U.S. Federal Census. The frequency of censuses varied by state. They were usually taken in years ending in 5 (1885, 1895, 1905, etc.), but may also be in 1913, 1917, or 1921. The Iowa state census sometimes asked for parents’ names, including mother’s maiden name, which, for older people, can be invaluable.

Some territories took censuses before they became states. These are known as **Territorial Censuses.** My ancestors moved to what is now South Dakota when it was still part of Dakota Territory. The two Dakotas were separated from each other and became states in 1889. I was fortunate because the 1885 Dakota Territory Census showed me that my relatives moved to South Dakota in 1883. And it’s an every-name census!

Another substitute are **City Directories.** City directories can give you not only the physical addresses where your family lived, but they may indicate occupation and where they may have worked. They can also show family relationships since many times families move and stay together.

**County Directories** can provide much of the same information but on a much broader basis. This information may be of great value when trying to determine where your ancestors lived and why they may have gotten married in the adjacent county. Along this same avenue, **Farmers Directories** also exist and can contain such information as to the size of the farm, what the farm specialized in (i.e. dairy, eggs, or grains). So try searching for county publications and/or documents when looking for your ancestors.

Another area you can explore is **Voter Registrations (Enumerations of Voters).** Although many of these before 1910 contained only male voters, it can be a great place to search for where your ancestor may have lived or what political party they were a member of.

Don’t forget about **Church Directories.** Directories exist for many U.S. churches. Church directories sometimes give an every-name listing for everyone in the household, sometimes not. Church directories sometimes list when a family moved into or away from an area.

Other documents to check out are **Property Tax Digests and Records,** as well as **Property Tax Lists.** Where money was concerned, local governments tried to obtain and maintain good records. Property tax lists are a great source to see when or if your relative may have been living in a certain area. These may also include clues as to how wealthy your relatives may have been depending on how much money they were paying in taxes.

Some communities published **Elite Citizens Directories.** These publications normally revolved around the “blue bloods” in society and they can provide clues as to when and where your ancestors may have been living.

City or county **Gazetteers** were also locally published and may contain information on the happenings of local citizens within the area. A gazetteer is a geographical dictionary or directory used with a map or atlas. They typically contain information concerning the geographical makeup, social statistics, and physical features of a country, region, or continent. Content of a gazetteer can include a subject’s location, dimensions of peaks and waterways, population, and literacy rate. Thus a gazetteer can provide information on where or when your ancestor may have traveled or moved.

And finally, another document that may help in your ancestor hunt is an **Alumni Directory.** Many educational institutions listed their alumni and staff in a periodic alumni directory. These may provide you clues as to when, where, or why a relative may have elected to go to a particular educational institution and where they were living later.

As you can see, many other document types can help you skirt the hole left by the absent 1890 census. Hopefully, you will find these to be of great help. Happy hunting!

Your President, Terry Sunderlin

**Road Trip: Upcoming Genealogical Events**

- **15 Oct., Conference for a Cause,** Larimer County Genealogical Society, Loveland, CO; speaker: Curt Witcher, head of Special Collections at Allen County Public Library, the largest U.S. public genealogy collection; see [http://goo.gl/o3MffZ](http://goo.gl/o3MffZ).
- **22 Oct., Colorado Palatines to America Fall Seminar,** Denver Public Library; speaker: Marianne Wokeck; see [http://tinyurl.com/cp77w5d](http://tinyurl.com/cp77w5d).
- **1 Nov., 6:30 p.m., “Stories in My Genes: The Value of Discovering Family Health History,”** Penrose Cancer Center, 2222 N. Nevada; Linda Vixie will co-present for PPGS. Free, registration required; see PPGS online calendar.
- **5 Nov., Pikes Peak Family History Fair,** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Library21c, Colorado Springs. Cosponsored by PPLD, PPGS, and LDS North Stake. Free.
- **8-11 Feb. 2017, RootsTech,** Salt Lake City
- **10-13 May 2017, NGS Conference,** Raleigh, NC
- **30 Aug. – 2 Sept. 2017, FGS Conference,** Pittsburgh
New Books at PPLD Special Collections

What’s new at the genealogy library in the past quarter? Lots of county histories! If you don’t find a title on the new book shelves at Penrose Library’s Special Collections, it probably has already been shelved with the regular genealogy books, so check there. This list is sorted by catalog number, and state names are abbreviated.

See the Book Committee page on the PPGS website for committee members. They’re always looking for ideas of new genealogy books to buy for the library. The committee, which will next meet Oct. 31, has an opening for one or more volunteers to select books from various southern states.

G = GENBOOK (downstairs)
SCH = SCHBOOK (upstairs)

Genealogy Books (New Books, downstairs)
Lexington Co., CS, 1850 Census with Genealogical Data on Many Families  G 317.3 S726L
Trace Your German Roots Online: A Complete Guide to German Genealogy Websites  G 929.107204 B422
Genealogy of Some East TN Families of the Early 19th Century  G 929.2 R598
American-French Genealogical Society’s Five-Generation Charts, 2003  G 929.2 A512
The Roberts (Tudor) – Landis Family of NW IA, PA, and NY  G 929.20973 M753
The Landrum Family of Fayette, GA  G 929.20973 S541
German Census Records 1816-1916  G 929.343 M664
Selected Vital Records from the Jamaican Daily Gleaner: 1916-1939  G 929.37292 M681 V.2
Index of Death Notices Appearing in Der Christliche Apogete, a National German Methodist Newspaper, 1839-99  G 929.373 H536

The Salem Messenger and Public Advertiser of Salem, NJ: Marriages and Deaths: 1819-32  G 929.374991 B238
GA, AL, and SC Papers, Vol. 1v of the Draper Manuscript Collection  G 929.375 H437
DE Runaways, 1720-83  G 929.3751 B792

Worcester Co., MD, Land Records, Liber O, 1791-93  G 929.375221 K258
Talbot Co., MD, Land Records, 1662-75, 1676-91  G 929.375232 L581T BK.1-2
Inhabitants of Cecil Co., MD, 1774-1800*  G 929.375238 P371 V.2
Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Baltimore, MD: Baptisms 1854-70  G 929.37526 T831
Northumberland Co., VA, Registers of Free Blacks  G 929.375521 S967
Husbands and Wives Associated with Early Alexandria, VA  G 929.375529 P665
Fairfax Co., VA, Birth Register, 1853-79, 1880-96  G 929.375529 D911 V.1-2
Rockingham Co., NC, Marriage Abstracts, 1785-1868*  G 929.375663 V886
Abstracts of Some Greenville Co., SC, Records Concerning Black People Free and Slave, 1791-1865*  G 929.375727 M133
GA Free Persons of Color, Vols. 3-4  G 929.3758 P853 V.3-4
The Georgian Database: Genealogical Notes  G 929.3758 A935
Elbert Co., GA, Inferior Court Minutes, 1791-1801  G 929.375816 P853
Marriages, Deaths, Accidents, Duels and Runaways Compiled from The Weekly GA Telegraph, Macon, GA. 1854-57  G 929.375855 W667W V.3
“Census” Department of the South, November 1864 for Jacksonville, Fernandina, and St. Augustine, FL  G 929.375912 F636
People and Things from the Blount Co., AL, News and News-Dispatch, 1879-89*  G 929.376172 S838
Natchez, MS, Postscripts, 1781-98  G 929.376226 W453

DE Runaways, 1720-83  G 929.3751 B792

Marriage Records of Lauderdale Co., MS, 1839-64*  G 929.376267 H521
Marriages and Deaths from The Caucasian, Shreveport, LA, 1903-13  G 929.376399 D578
TX and OK Births, Deaths, and Marriages from the Fort Worth
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<td>Brazos Co., TX, Marriage Records</td>
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<td>Rains Co., TX, Leader</td>
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<td>Wills &amp; Inventories of Bexar Co., TX</td>
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<td>Las Villas Del Norte: The 1757 Censuses of Laredo, Dolores, Revilla, Mier, Camargo, and Raynosa [TX]*</td>
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<td>Vanderford Funeral Home Records, South Fulton, TN</td>
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<td>Inicoi Co., TN, Death Record Abstracts</td>
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<td>Birth, Marriage, Divorce, Bigamy, and Death Notices from the Alcona Co. [MI] Review</td>
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<td>Death Notices from Bolivar, Polk Co., MO</td>
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<td>Genealogical Data from Southwest MO Newspapers</td>
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<td>Paxson Funeral Home Records, Springfield, MO</td>
<td>1871-1900, 1900-26</td>
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<td>Springfield, Greene Co., MO, Newspaper Abstracts</td>
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<td>A.S. Wallace Funeral Home Records</td>
<td>1926-45, Billings, Christian Co., MO</td>
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<td>Colleges of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy, Kansas City, MO, 1871-1905: Names of 3,400 Graduates, 1871-1905*</td>
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<td>An Alphabetical Listing to the Declaration of Intention for Naturalization, 1864-1906, Yuma Co., AZ</td>
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<td>Whitman Co., WA, Marriage Records</td>
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<td>Whitman Co., WA, Marriage Records, 1892-97, and Marriage and Divorce Records Extracted from the Pullman Herald Newspaper, 1888-1929†</td>
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<td>Whitman Co., WA, Marriage Records</td>
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<td>East Greenwich, RI, Historical Cemetery Inscriptions*</td>
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<td>The Cemeteries of Northern Richland Co., SC</td>
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<td>Cemeteries of Caroline Co., VA, Vol. 3</td>
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<td>G 929.509755 C712 V.3</td>
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<td>Blount Co., AL, Cemeteries, Vols. 1-3*</td>
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<td>Tuscarawas Co., OH, Cemeteries, Vol. 1</td>
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<td>G 929.509771 T964 V.1</td>
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<td>Buried Beneath Cleveland: Lost Cemeteries of Cuyahoga Co. [OH]</td>
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<td>German/American Cemeteries of Washington Co., OH</td>
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<td>Cedar Co., MO, Death Notices, 1888-1900 and Cemetery Inscriptions</td>
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<td>In Tar, Paint, and Stone: The Inscriptions at Independence Rock and Devil’s Gate [WY]</td>
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<td>A Tempest in a Small Town: The Myth and Reality of</td>
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Country Life, Granby, CT, 1680-1940*
G 929.974.62 W721

Gleanings from the Christian Advocate and Journal and Zion’s Herald, 1827-1831 G 929373 H185
Index to Deaths Found in The New Yorker Volks-Zeitung, 1878-1920 G 92937471 R363

Pulaski Twp., Williams Co., OH, Cemetery Records*
G 929509771 W721

Original Surveyor’s Record Book, 1836-87, Coffee Co., TN G 929929.376864 P866

The TX Connection with the American Revolution G 973.346 T486


The Palatines of NY State G 974.7 P154

Death in the Mines: Disasters and Rescues in the Anthracite Coal Fields of PA G 974.8 R514


Northampton Heritage [PA] G 974.822 A361

Owning NJ: Historic Tales of War, Property Disputes and the Pursuit of Happiness G 974.9 G727

History of Allentown Presbyterian Church, Allentown, NJ, 1720-1970 G 974.946 S885

The Province of West Jersey, 1609-1702 G 974.96 P786

Camden Co., NJ, 1616-76 G 974.987 D721

More Forgotten Towns of Southern NJ G 974.99 B393M

South Jersey Towns: History and Legend G 974.99 M478

Forgotten Towns of Southern NJ G 974.99 B393

The VA Papers, Vol. 1-5, Draper Manuscript Collections G 975.502 V817 Vv.1-5

Dinwiddie Co., VA, Heritage, 1752-2006 G 975.5582 D587

Lenoir Co., NC, Heritage G 975.6385 L571

The Heritage of Vance Co., NC, Vol. 1 G 975.6532 B628

The Heritage of Watauga Co., NC, Vol. 2 G 975.6843 S635

Martin Co., FL, Our Heritage G 975.931 Z668

Leon Co., FL, Heritage Book G 975.988 L579

The History of Daleville, MS G 976.2676 B6325

Plantation Diary, 1859 [Lauderdale, MS] G 976.2676 D261


The First Women in Marion Co., AR, History G 976.7193 R643

Conway Co., AR, Heritage: Then and Now G 976.731 C767

Early History of Pike Co., AR G 976.7485 P635

The Overmountain Men: Early TN History, 1760-95 G 976.8 A361

The Heritage of Giles Co., TN, 1809-2005 G 976.861 G472

Portage Heritage: History of an OH County, 1807-1957 G 977.137 H747

Randolph Co., IN, 1818-1990 G 977.266 R192

History of Wabash Co., IL G 977.378 W112

Sherburne Co. [MN] Heritage G 977.666 S551

Scott Co. [IA] Heritage G 977.769 B647

Shrewsbury [MO] of All Places G 977.865 M167

Lost Spring, Marion Co., KS: A Historical Perspective G 978.157 S349

Roseland, NE, 1887-1987* G 978.2397 H568 V.1

Dundy Co. [NE] Heritage G 978.286 D915

Pioneer Paths [NE Panhandle] G 978.29 F965

Centre Co. [PA] Heritage, 1976-85 G 978.53 M169


Murder, Mayhem, and Mystery: Coroner Inquests in Fremont Co., WY, 1885-1900* G 978.763 S899

Roosevelt Co. [NM] History and Heritage G 978.932 B972

South from San Francisco: San Mateo Co.: Its History and Heritage G 979.469 S897

Crescenta Valley [CA] Pioneers and Their Legacies G 979.493 S1261

A History of the North Olympic Peninsula [WA]** G 979.76 C187


Local History Books (New Books, upstairs)

The Yellowlegs: The Story of the United States Cavalry SCH 367.10973 W928 1966
Digital (On Special Collections Computers, downstairs)  
Whitman Co., WA, Families: An Every Name Index to the  
Newspaper and Resource Collection  
G 979.739 M434  
*donated by PPGS Book Fund  
**donated by Marta Norton  
†donated by Pikes Peak Computer Genealogists

Local Genealogist Remembered by Family
In August, PPGS received a letter and donation of $75 from a Colorado Springs family in memory of a family member “who spent much time and effort in developing our family genealogical histories as well as assisting others.”

According to his obituary, Norman G. Osborn was born Dec. 10, 1938, in Plainview, TX, moved to Manitou Springs as a young child, and passed away July 3, 2016. He is buried in Fairview Cemetery, Colorado Springs.

The memorial was provided by his aunt Ann Osburn, sister Willa Sue Gallegos, and cousins Charles & Katherine Osburn, Kenneth Osburn, and Anne Cosbey.

Although Norman appears not to have been a PPGS member, the society is grateful for the generous donation in his memory. It will be used by the Book Selection Committee to purchase genealogy books for PPLD Special Collections.

FGS to Index U.S.-Mexican War Records
In August, the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) announced a joint project with the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park (Brownsville, TX) of the National Park Service to index the service records of the U.S.-Mexican War (1846–48).

The project will create a searchable database of 130,000 soldiers and unit histories. Also included will be Mexican soldiers where names are known and access to digitized documents relating to the war.

If you would like to help, contact projects@fgs.org.

For this conflict, Ancestry.com offers the database “Compiled Military Service Records for American Volunteer Soldiers, Mexican War, 1845-1848.”

1812 Preserve the Pensions Funding Complete
At the opening session of the FGS conference in September, project chair Curt Witcher announced that an anonymous donation of $500,000 and the matching funds from Ancestry completed the project to raise $3.7 million to digitize the War of 1812 pension files at the National Archives.

Since the project began in 2010, more than 4,000 individuals and 115 genealogical and lineage societies, including PPGS, contributed money to the effort to digitize the 180,00 files and 7.2 million pages.

“We are humbled and grateful for the generosity of the genealogical community and those outside of our community who are dedicated to the preservation of records. Thank you!” said D. Joshua Taylor, FGS president.

“This historic gift, in tandem with the thousands of contributions from individual genealogists and societies, illustrates the incredible power of the genealogical community; together we can make a difference.”

The pension file images are available for free at www.Fold3.com. To date, about 65% of the files have been placed online.

Special Collections Director Dennis Daily received a plaque of appreciation for serving as PPGS library liaison from PPGS President Terry Sunderlin at the July meeting.

Daily noted that in his nine years with PPLD, he missed only one PPGS monthly meeting. He is now head of Archives and Special Collections at the New Mexico State University Library in Las Cruces.

Daily began video recording and live streaming the PPGS programs with his own equipment, which he took with him when he moved. If you have a video recorder you’d let PPGS use, please talk with Terry Sunderlin.
Deserters—what shall be done with 'em?

Decoding the Civil War

BY MARJORIE RAPP

By the beginning of the Civil War private telegraph companies had strung lines to cities all across the country. The War Department and President Lincoln quickly realized how telegraphy could greatly facilitate communication between the commanders in the field and the War Department in Washington; and so in late 1861 began a joint civilian-government operation formally organized as the United States Military Telegraph Corps.

The goal was to get telegraphic capability to every commander in the field—first to all the small towns along the railroad lines, then temporary lines using a coil of wire on wagons or mules from the start of an action forward as the troops advanced. By the end of the war the Telegraph Corps had strung 15,384 miles of telegraph wire.

Thomas T. Eckert, a telegrapher with Western Union in Cincinnati was brought to Washington in 1862 to organize and operate the Telegraph Corps. After the war ended the lines strung by the military were sold to private telegraph companies, the operators discharged, and the offices closed. It was known that Eckert had voluminous records of transmissions, but their whereabouts after 1890 was unknown and it was assumed they were lost.

Several years ago, the war telegrams were discovered at the home of one of Eckert’s descendants and were purchased in 2012 by the Huntington Library, California, with the intention that they be made available to historians and the general public. There are 37 folios containing 15,971 handwritten telegrams and 36 books of word substitution ciphers (a system so complicated that the Confederates never cracked it). Realizing that with the magnitude of the task and the limited resources of the library it would be years before the telegrams were transcribed, a proposal was made to Zooniverse, the largest organization “crowdsourcing” volunteers. Zooniverse accepted the proposal and on 26 June 2016 the call went out for volunteers.

The telegrams are handwritten on folio pages that have been photographed and uploaded to the Zooniverse site. When a volunteer clicks “Classify,” a page image appears along with a box into which to transcribe the text line-by-line. The telegrams were sent and received by many different operators, so many different handwritings are seen. The reading is further complicated by the differences in 19th-century handwriting from that of today: the fancy capital that can be either I, J, or T; the similarity of S and L; and W and M; the double-s that looks like a ‘p’ and so on.

Once one gets used to these differences, however, the transcription moves right along. The telegrams cover a wide variety of situations. Some are quite prosaic—reports of troop movements and supply needs. Others are revealing, disturbing, and entertaining.

“General Abortion [word substitution] is derelict in his duty and should be relieved of command.”

“The Enemy is on the heights with four thousand cavalry. I have only four hundred. I cannot defend my position. I will withdraw, destroying railroads and bridges as I go.”

“Sentries have been bribed and the cell bars sawed through. Eight men are awaiting an opportunity to escape. You must attend to this at once.”

From a Virginia lieutenant colonel to Eckert, who was responsible for 15,000+ miles of lines and poles: “Your telegraph pole defaces my garden. Please move it with utmost dispatch.”

“Three thousand troops will be arriving tomorrow. Close all the taverns immediately.”

But at another time and place: “I can get economy whiskey for 4 dollars and superior 8-year-old rye for 5. Which and how much do you want?”

From these examples you can understand why historians are so eager to have ready access to these messages. Many of us family historians have had experience reading 19th-century handwriting. We can be of great help in transcribing them—and have fun doing it at our own computer and on our own schedule. Please consider volunteering at http://tinyurl.com/zldh9to.

PPGS charter member Marjorie Rapp served as president in 1996-97 and earlier as education chair. She has been enjoying transcribing Civil War telegrams through this online project and has been doing about 10 pages a day.
Telescopes in the Attic

BY JOHN PUTNAM

Sixty years ago, my parents and our family moved from suburbia (Feeding Hills, MA) to a farm in the neighboring town (Southwick, MA). It was a time of great change for us:

- Moving from an 8-year-old house to a 150-year-old farmhouse.
- My father leaving a salaried job for starting his entrepreneurial adventure into poultry farming.
- Moving to a more rural town.
- Retrofitting the barns to house the chickens; and many more.

As with any new adventure, it was a time to explore our new surroundings. Within a couple months of our move, we were visiting the town library and were surprised to see an old picture of our farmhouse on display. The picture was then more than 50 years old.

When we asked for more information, the librarian said that our new home was the alleged site of the manufacture of the first telescope made in the United States, by one Amasa Holcomb. A Holcomb telescope was said to be in the Smithsonian. This started my 60-year quest to verify this information.

Through conversations with local people who were his descendants, it was fairly easy to verify that Amasa Holcomb lived in our house. It was also possible to find information on his role in manufacturing telescopes. By far, the biggest challenge was verifying the location of the Smithsonian telescope.

Many family members and I have visited the Smithsonian Museum over the years and have looked for and asked about the telescope’s whereabouts, but no one, to my knowledge, had been able to determine if this scientific instrument was actually in the Smithsonian.

As with many discoveries, I finally had a breakthrough more by accident than research design in July. In one of my genealogical newsletters, I found a reference to the Digital Public Library of America website (https://dp.la/), so I decided to try it out. After doing other searches, I decided to search for Amasa Holcomb to see what I would get.
Amasa was certainly a very energetic man who dabbled with many careers. As was common in his day, he was a farmer first, but he supplemented his income as a surveyor, Methodist minister, state legislator, town selectman, and justice of the peace.

He preached at a Methodist church within a quarter mile of his farmhouse. He also used the church to test his telescopes by looking at a copy of the 23rd Psalm he had attached to the church exterior. This may corroborate the story that he made the telescopes in the farmhouse attic. His descendants were very involved with this Methodist church until at least the 1960s, when I left my hometown for Colorado Springs.

Why did this manufacturing happen in Southwick when there were other more probable manufacturing sites in the general area? From 1829 to 1846, the Farmington Canal passed through Southwick about a mile from Amasa’s farmhouse. It connected Northampton, MA, with New Haven, CT. While this canal struggled to compete with the railroads, perhaps it did offer the opportunity for people like Amasa to gain the raw materials necessary to manufacture and to market their products. Since one of his first telescopes went to New Haven, it is likely that he used this method of transportation to deliver his sensitive equipment rather than risking a bumpy wagon ride. Even though the canal eventually failed, it was replaced with a railroad line that largely paralleled the old canal.

Like most research, I solved one question, but raised many more. Certainly, it was helpful to verify that the story of the telescope built in my house was true. Besides establishing the whereabouts of the telescope, my genealogy research shows that Amasa is my fifth cousin four times removed, not close but still related. In addition, my brother attended Yale where Amasa sold his first university telescope, my two sons attended Williams College where Amasa also supplied a telescope and eventually received an honorary degree, and the connections just keep coming.

It’s always fun to have your research come together to verify stories and to see how we are all more interconnected than we think. If anyone is interested in the research documents used to prepare this brief article, let me know (jputnam@aol.com) and I will send my electronic copies. A former PPGS president, John Putnam has semiretired from the insurance industry.

**Colorado Joins Chronicling America Project**

In August, the Colorado Historical Society was added as a partner to the National Digital Newspaper Program, which will allow selected newspapers in its archive to be digitized and added to Chronicling America, the open access database of historic American newspapers maintained by the Library of Congress.

The project is aiming to add early papers from all states and now has about 43. See [http://goo.gl/SxT0TL](http://goo.gl/SxT0TL).

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**Classes on Writing Genealogy Using Social History Begin in Oct.**

Kathy Sturdevant, history professor at Pikes Peak Community College, will be offering two related classes focusing on writing your family’s stories and genealogy, beginning Oct. 11 during daytime hours.

Kathy is nationally recognized as an innovative expert who introduced writing family history in a social history context to the field of genealogy. She’s penned two books on the subject: *Bringing Your Family History to Life through Social History* and *Organizing and Preserving Your Heirloom Documents*.

Kathy has taught genealogy courses at the collegiate level for more than 25 years. Additionally, she has presented at many PPLD Regional History symposiums.

Kathy is known to local genealogists as a compelling speaker, inspiring teacher, and a lover of history. Many PPGS members have learned from and enjoyed her previous classes. If you have questions, contact her at katherine.sturdevant@ppcc.edu.

**Genealogy: Writing Your Family History, Part I**

Learn to write your family’s historical narrative in manageable projects. Go beyond the names and dates of traditional genealogy. The social history approach helps you research the sources and learn the techniques to shape your narrative in an engaging, nonfiction, historical account worth reading and publishing.

**Time:** 3-5 p.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 11 – Nov. 1, four sessions

**Place:** Rampart Range Campus

**Cost:** $59 ($110 if Parts I and II are taken together)

**Genealogy: Writing Your Family History, Part II**

Build upon what you learned in Part I by going deeper into the construction of your family narrative projects.

**Time:** 3-5 p.m., Tuesdays, Nov. 8, 29, Dec. 6, three sessions

**Place:** Rampart Range Campus

**Cost:** $59 ($110 if Parts I and II are taken together)
**DNA News**

**Survey: 7 in 10 Genealogists Test DNA**
The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) publishes a free weekly e-newsletter. In addition to other news, each issue takes a short survey and reports the previous week’s survey results.

Of the thousands that participate, most are NEHGS members and serious genealogists. It’s worth getting the newsletter just for the survey (http://tinyurl.com/gn9nsbt).

The Sept. 7 survey asked about experiences with genealogical DNA testing; 4,579 people answered the survey. More than one answer could be selected. The results are:
- 69%, Yes, I have had my DNA tested.
- 7%, The results of my DNA test had a major impact on my life.
- 27%, The results of my DNA test changed the way I thought about my family history.
- 19%, I thought my DNA results were neither interesting nor surprising.
- 18%, No, I have not had my DNA tested but I plan to do so.
- 11%, No, I have not had my DNA tested and do not ever plan to have it tested.

**FTDNA and 23andMe Drop Price on atDNA Kits**
FamilyTreeDNA, one of the three companies that offers autosomal DNA kits that examine the entire genome, has dropped its standard price on the Family Finder test to $79 per kit, plus shipping. Y-DNA and mitochondrial tests are also available. See www.ftdna.org. Its database is reportedly over 750,000, but that probably includes all tests, not just autosomal.

FTDNA can’t currently accept transfers from Ancestry (the least expensive way to get into both pools), but it is working to be able to accept Ancestry’s new file format.

AncestryDNA price’s is still $99, plus shipping, but significant sales are usually offered following Thanksgiving. It reports a database of more than 2.2 million testers. It offers only autosomal tests.

23andMe recently announced a $99 autosomal DNA kit that does not include health analysis. Offering only autosomal tests, 23andMe has a reported database of 1 million.

**The Stranger in My Genes**
Pikes Peak Library District has added the new book *The Stranger in My Genes* to its circulating collection.

TV journalist and longtime genealogy buff Bill Griffeth takes a DNA test that has an unexpected outcome: “If the results were correct, it meant that the family tree I had spent years documenting was not my own.” Bill undertakes a quest to solve the mystery of his origins, which shakes his sense of identity.

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**Website Wanderings**

Websites were recognized in one of 16 categories. How many have you used?

Orphan Train info: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orphan_Train
1979 Orphan Train movie, based on fact: http://tinyurl.com/j2x95zm

OK death certs to be public after 50 years and a free public index to birth and death certs to be created by 1 July 2017: http://tinyurl.com/jj9xs5r. Birth data will be added to the index 20 years after birth and death data five years after death.

The Irish Genealogical Research Society seeks submissions to an online database of biographies of Irish ancestors. Deadline is December 2016. See www.irishancestors.ie/?page_id=7271

Free Irish records from GRO (births over 100 years, marriages 75 years, deaths 50 years): http://tinyurl.com/gnmkaqm

Deciphering Occupation Codes of the 1940 Census in One Step: www.stevemorse.org/census/ocodes1940.htm

Genealogy symbols and how to make them on your computer: www.tamurajones.net/GenealogySymbols.xhtml

Louisiana and East Texas Methodist records online: http://tinyurl.com/gua8jm2 and http://tinyurl.com/jojwwqj

World Names Profiler: www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames. Enter surnames and see locations and frequencies in 26 countries, including U.S., Canada, U.K., Japan, India, Argentina, and many European nations. Drill down to county level in many cases.
PPGS Monthly Meeting Schedule

Second Wednesday, 7 to 9 p.m., Carnegie Reading Room, Penrose Public Library, 20 N. Cascade, Colorado Springs. (Live streaming of programs is currently not available.)

October 12  “If I Could Just Talk with _____________,” by PPGS members
November 9  “Using Charts to Connect the Dots: Timelines, Land In-and-Out, and Fan Charts,” by Carol Darrow
December 14 Holiday Party—please bring a plate of goodies or a dish to share (or just yourself—there will be lots!) while we relax and celebrate together. Beverage provided.
January 11  Annual Business Meeting and Silent Auction. You can bring genealogy books and magazines to donate to Special Collections any time it’s open.

Thanks to all who help hospitality chair Teri Spitzer with the refreshments table. Consider signing up for a month.

PPGS Learning Groups: Free, open to all
Meeting places and times may change, so please verify next meeting at PPGS calendar or with the facilitator.

- DNA Study Group: Meets 7 p.m., third Thursdays, Aspen Room, Penrose Library. See online calendar for topics. Facilitated by Nicole Wing, ntwing@comcast.net. Come as early as 5 p.m. for personal help.
- Legacy Family Tree Software Users Group: Meets 6:30 p.m., Oct. 6, East Library, Room E-1. Facilitated by Dale Watts, dale.watts@comcast.net.
- Family Tree Maker Users Group: Meeting time and place to be announced. Facilitated by Linda and Warren Pearce, lpearce@gmail.com.
- Irish Study Group: Next meeting info TBA; facilitated by Bob Golden, Golden_Robert@comcast.net.
- Genealogy Sharing: Oct. meeting TBA; facilitated by Joey Bippus, PPGSJoey@aol.com. Hands-on genealogical research exploration on a directed topic. Feel free to bring a laptop.

Free PPGS Genealogy Workshops
Preregister for these classes, taught by J Richards and Andy Likins, by calling 531-6333, ext. 2253. The classes are always being updated, so consider taking one or more again to see what’s new.

Level I: Sunday, Jan. 29, 1–5 p.m., Aspen Room, Penrose Library; getting started, standards and terminology, census and vital records.
Level II: Saturday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., East Library; covers church records, newspapers/periodicals, immigration/naturalization records. Level I or instructor’s permission required.
Level III: Saturday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., East Library; covers military records, court and land records. Level I or instructor’s permission required.