



ROOTDIGGER

4th Quarter: October — December 2006

The Rootdigger is a publication of the Marion County Genealogical Society, a division of the non-profit Historic Marion County/ Ocala Preservation Society. Annual membership fee is \$15.00.

Keeping Up With the In-Laws

by Philip A. Naff

In tracing the family tree of family members of collateral lines, (i.e., the descendants of your aunts and uncles of various degrees), usually one can run through the standard list of indexes, books, records, and databases for a person's name to find the usual birth, marriage, and death information one needs, but if you are researching a relation who is suspected or known to have been married and the couple moves away from their home county or out-of-state, you may lose all trace of your research subjects using local records, with perhaps one exception, the in-laws, who may have remained "at home."

While not a part of every person's family tree research, it does prove useful to keep track of the parents of every person who marries into a family tree. Look for the same set of records for them, at least vital records such as birth certificates, marriage records, death certificates, funeral home records, and obituaries, as you would for any other member of the family.

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The End of PAF?

by Dick Eastman

October 29, 2006

Personal Ancestral File (often called PAF) is one of the most popular genealogy programs available. It is produced by the LDS Church (the Mormons) and is made available to everyone at no charge. Millions of genealogists around the world use Personal Ancestral File.

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Special points of interest:

- *What software should I purchase?*
- *What was it like when the first census was taken?*



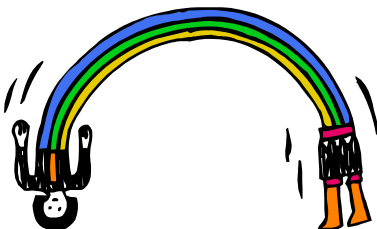
Where o where have my relatives gone?





*Seasons Greetings from the
Rootdigger staff!*

*We hope someone will be
able to assist in these
research projects as we have
had assistance in our own
research*



*You may have to bend over backwards
to find that lost branch of your family
tree.*

Subject: Website Query

From Mary Jean Henson

Surname: Collins

Location: Orange Springs

James Higginbotham Collins was a boat captain on the Ocklawaha and evidently his home property was on the road a short distance from the Orange Springs Landing (which doesn't exist anymore). I have tried to find out information regarding this - shipping or steam boats in that area but have not been able to, would you have any ideas where to look?

Email: MHe2980577@aol.com

Mary Jean Turner Henson

Albany, Georgia

Subject: Website Query

From Rocky Nelson

Surname: Babcock

Collateral:

Location: Lake Weir area

Dates: 1930 - 1960

Frank Babcock moved to Marion Co. after 1925 and lived in the Lake Weir area. His wife was Myra Nelson Babcock who died 1949-1952. Frank died 1955-1960. I visited them 2-3 times when I was young but do not have info on them now. I thank anyone for their time and help. Rocky

Rocky Nelson

email: golferrocky@verizon.net

13 Concord Dr

Milford, DE 19983 Phone: 302.542.0133

Subject: Website Query

From John England

Surname: Theios

Collateral:

Location: Dunnellon area

Dates: about 1900

"Seeking information on Nicholas John Theios and Kalliopi Theios (great-grandparents) from the Dunnellon Florida area around the 1900's. Seeking a copy of their "Declaration of Intention" papers as well as any other information. Had a daughter Helen and a son, John.

John England

10522 Lake City Way NE #CB

Seattle WA 98125

The End of PAF?

Concluded

(Continued from page 1)

There is one problem: the program hasn't had a significant update in years. In fact, it is a rather old-fashioned genealogy program by today's standards. Other free programs now offer more features than what is found in PAF. Even more features can be found in programs selling for rather low prices.

Remember when PAF used to sell for \$35.00? Those days are long gone.

Now a senior representative from the LDS Church has confirmed the rumors that have floated around for years: the LDS Church will not expend any more funds to develop a modern version of Personal Ancestral File.

LDS Church Historian, Elder Marlin K. Jensen, gave the keynote address at the October 6-7, 2006, Northern Utah Family History Conference and Symposium. He told how Personal Ancestral File was a major force in genealogy in past years. However, when the LDS Church senior executives look today at all the things that the Church could do to promote interest in genealogy and to provide resources to genealogists, it is obvious that commercial organizations are already providing excellent free and low-cost genealogy software. Any efforts by the LDS Church to "compete" with the commercial organizations will not help meet the Church's goals to promote interest in genealogy and to provide appropriate resources to aid genealogists.

Instead, Jensen reports that the LDS Church's executives feel that the Church would be better served by concentrating its expenditures on the items that the Church can do best: digitizing microfilm and improving in-home access to original records, primarily via the www.FamilySearch.org web site.

Comment by Dick Eastman: This strikes me as a good idea. We already have a number of excellent genealogy programs, including one besides PAF that is available free of charge. Having the LDS Church spend money to support and improve "one more free genealogy program" is not the wisest use of the Church's funds earmarked for genealogy.

I'd much rather see the LDS Church spend that money on items that are difficult for other organizations to provide: convenient, in-home access to millions of genealogy-related records, improving its web-based genealogy software and promoting interest in family heritage throughout the world.

To be sure, this will be disappointing to present users of Personal Ancestral File who will sooner-or-later need to switch to a newer program. (There is no need to rush, however.) However, I suspect those same users will also welcome the access to more records and the other benefits created by the re-allocation of these funds.

Do you agree or disagree?

(The preceding article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.)



Is this the future of PAF???

the program hasn't had a significant update in years.



Don't overindulge this Holiday Season!



Genealogy Software Evaluation

From Louis Kessler's Genealogy Software Links at

<http://www.lkessler.com/gplinks.shtml>

Last update: Wednesday October 25 2006



Plant the seeds of research to grow your family tree.

1. If you are an average genealogist who wants a good program you might want to try these first

2. These programs are good programs that are deserving of your consideration



Plug in to the world of Genealogy

1. The 3 Best Liked and Top Rated Programs

Family Tree Legends

by Pearl Street Software (Cliff Shaw & Chris Cooper)

A very capable and easy-to-use program with very nice looking forms. It is tightly integrated with the online GenCircles genealogy program.

<http://www.familytreelegends.com>

Reunion

by Leister Productions, Inc. (Frank Leister)

Reunion is one of the easiest-to-use programs with superb charting capabilities and many features. Only available for the Macintosh.

<http://www.leisterpro.com/>

RootsMagic

by RootsMagic, Inc. (Bruce Buzbee)

A program from the developer of the very popular and well-liked Family Origins. This program is even better. Complete and easy to use with extensive reports.

<http://www.rootsmagic.com/>

2. The 5 Most Popular Genealogy Programs

Brother's Keeper

by John Steed

The most respected and successful shareware genealogical program. Has been around a long time and has many dedicated users. Both Windows and DOS versions available.

<http://www.bkwin.org/>

Family Tree Maker

by MyFamily.com

A quality product available on more store shelves than any other program. Produces a wide variety of reports and charts. Every version of this program has been getting better, and it now has most of the features you would expect in a top program.

<http://www.familytreemaker.com/>

GenoPro

by Daniel Morin

The only program that displays genograms. Many unique features including the ability to write macros in VBScript and JavaScript to perform complex computations and transformations on your family tree. It used to be freeware but is now shareware. Has had millions of downloads from shareware sites.

<http://www.genopro.com/>

Legacy

by Millennia Corp (Dave Berdan and Ken McGinnis)

A comprehensive Windows shareware program with many features, nicely described on their web site. It has a standard version that is free, and is one of the best free genealogy programs available.

<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/>

Personal Ancestral File (PAF) *(Possibly discontinued. See previous article)*

by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

PAF is a very popular genealogy program that has been available for many years. It has been updated and has many fine features. PAF is now free. It is also available for the Macintosh.

<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/paf/>

The Early Census Takers

Excerpts from *The Census Book* by William Dollarhide

Since the first census of 1790, the states have not been involved in taking a national census except to review and act on the reports generated. The national census has always been a federal responsibility. Congress did not get around to creating a “Census Office” until just before the 1850 census. If it were not a responsibility of a state, who was the agency responsible for taking the censuses?

The first nine censuses (1790-1870) were conducted by assistant federal marshals of the United States Federal Court system. One U.S. marshal was assigned to each federal court district, and it was his job to hire and manage the assistant marshals to take the census in his district. In each territory, the territorial governor was responsible for the census enumeration.

The federal court districts did not always match up with state boundaries. For example, at the time of the 1790 census, there were 16 federal court districts, but only 14 states. Vermont entered the Union as the 14th state in early 1791. Soon after, Congress passed a special law to include Vermont in the first census, with a census day designated as the first Monday in April, 1791, and with five months allowed to take the census there. In 1790, Virginia had two federal court districts, each with their own United States Court House. One Virginia district had the same boundaries as what was to become the state of Kentucky in 1792. Massachusetts also had two federal court districts, one of which had the same boundaries as the future state of Maine. The rest of the states had federal court district boundaries that were the same as their state boundaries in 1790. In subsequent censuses, several states had more than one federal court district. Today, some larger states have as many as four or five federal court districts.

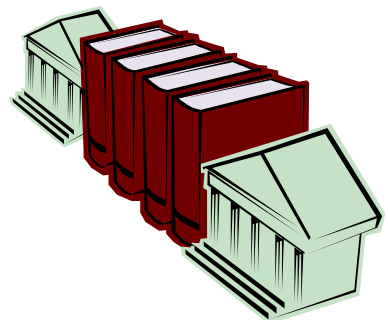
The 1790 census was taken for determining seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Since people living in territories did not have representation in Congress, no perceived need existed for a census to be taken in the old Northwest Territory or the Southwest Territory. Soon after the law providing for the 1790 census was enacted, Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, perhaps as an afterthought, wrote a letter to the governor of the Southwest Territory (the territory that became the state of Tennessee in 1796). Jefferson asked Governor Blount if he wouldn't mind taking a census, even though it was not required under the law; and he had neither money allocated, nor a federal marshal to do it. But, since he knew that Blount had “sheriffs who will be traversing their Districts for other purposes,” Jefferson wondered if the Governor could ask them to take a census “arranged under the same classes prescribed . . . for the general census.” Blount complied, in a way, by provid-

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Enumerating the United States

Congress did not get around to creating a “Census Office” until just before the 1850 census



Our representative form of Government required an accurate census.



Just in case you can't remember what season this is!

He enumerated an average of more than one thousand persons per day. As his compensation was \$1.00 for every 300 persons, his earnings amounted to about \$3.30 per day



Many of our ancestors arrived on a Barque like this!

The Early Census Takers

continued

(Continued from page 5)

ing the secretary with a count of the territory's inhabitants but without listing their names. His report was dated 19 September 1791. Presumably, Jefferson would have asked the same for Governor St. Clair of the Northwest Territory in 1790, but St. Clair was up to his neck fighting off Indian attacks and not available for much else that year. No enumeration of the Northwest Territory was taken until 1800, which in that year had been reduced in size with the creation of Indiana Territory.

Before the 1790 census, there was much debate in Congress about the various aspects of the first census, including the compensation for an assistant marshal. Several members of Congress were worried that the amount was not high enough to attract people to the job. One member of Congress reminded his colleagues of the Bible story about King David, who was blamed for a terrible plague in Israel immediately after a census was taken. The representative from New York remembered that back in the 1770s most of the residents of a New York town had fallen sick right after they had been visited by a British census taker. The representatives wondered if taking a census would ever be possible, given the prevailing superstitions about censuses overall. Nevertheless, in the end, a sum of about \$44,000 was spent in taking the 1790 census which was reported to the President in a pamphlet of fifty-six pages.

In comparison, the 1990 census was reported in over 1,200 volumes. Compensation paid to the assistant marshals who were taking the 1790 census was set by law to be \$1.00 for every 300 persons in cities and towns containing more than 5,000 people, and \$1.00 for every 150 persons in rural areas. However, the law allowed the U.S. marshal to pay \$1.00 for every 50 persons in areas determined to be sparsely populated or difficult to reach, subject to a ruling by the federal judge in his district. Each assistant marshal was given a sample copy of the 1790 census form; and he was expected to make all his own copies, ruling the lines of the forms himself. He was also required to pay for his pens, ink, paper, and all other expenses incurred in taking the census. Samuel Bradford, the assistant marshal for the city of Boston, began his work door-to-door on 2 August 1790, and by 21 August had completed his enumeration. His notebook shows that the work required seventeen working days. He enumerated an average of more than one thousand persons per day. As his compensation was \$1.00 for every 300 persons, his earnings amounted to about \$3.30 per day, a figure much higher than his rural counterparts and not a bad wage for 1790. Mr. Bradford could have learned how to increase his

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The Early Census Takers

concluded

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pay even more by the example of Clement Biddle, the U.S. marshal for the state of Pennsylvania. Biddle was in charge of the 1790 census taken in that state. Coincidentally, in 1791, Biddle published a directory of the city of Philadelphia, which, apparently, was a profitable success. Comparing the names in the 1791 directory with the 1790 census returns for Philadelphia reveals that Mr. Biddle added very little to his directory. Publishing the city directory may have been a plan of Mr. Biddle's all along—the Philadelphia census list included occupations for heads of household, which, of course, was information repeated in the Biddle directory.

Still, most census takers were not having much job satisfaction. For example, after taking the Morgan County, North Carolina, census in 1790, the assistant marshal there wrote a few words of complaint at the end of his list of names:

I have been Closely Employd Since the 25 of December Last. One Other man has been closely Employd Since the 6th of January; one other has been Employd Since the 12 of January; a third one Since the 1st of March and Two others A Week Each and all had Since to fall behind. After riding horses almost to Death. This is a True State of Facts. No one Man Can Number the People in the District of Morgan Going from House to House in 18 Months I Aver, and if there is no Provision to Collect the people in the Next Law, no man that understands will have anything to do with it.

At the end of the 1820 Hall County, Georgia, schedules, the assistant marshal wrote the following:

The difficulties were very considerable that attended taking the census, in the first place, the inhabitants are very dispersed, in the second place the country being but lately settled, there are but few roads, in the third place great part of the Country are very Mountainous, and in the fourth place it was, except in the oldest settled parts, difficult to get nourishment for either myself or horse, and often when got, had to pay very high, in the 5th place had often to travel a considerable distance through fields to get to the dwelling cabins, often, and generally, drenchd in dew, particularly in August and September; and often had to walk many miles where it was so steep that I could not ride, or even set on my horse.

Source: The Census Book by William Dollarhide, Copyright © 1999-2006 ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights reserved.



Our constitution established the checks and balances in our government

I often had to walk many miles where it was so steep that I could not ride, or even set on my horse.

Seasons
Greetings



**Marion County
Genealogical Society**

Mission Statement

The Marion County Genealogical Society is dedicated to creating and promoting an interest in genealogy, focusing on research in Marion County, Florida and in supporting members in their research.

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**The Rootdigger
MCGS**

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Mariongenealogy.tripod.com**



Happy Holidays!

Keeping Up With the In-Laws

conclusion

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Oftentimes, the death certificates will give the name and address of the informant, usually a relative, and maybe the one you lost track of and are looking for. Funeral home records and obituaries usually list all the survivors of an individual, where they lived, etc., and so, in this way you may be able to follow the movements of younger generations by locating the death records and obituaries of older generations.

And, so, in keeping up with the in-laws, you may be able to discover just where your aunts, uncles, and cousins disappeared to.

Philip A. Naff
Indianapolis, Indiana

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