



ROOTDIGGER

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Why Spelling is so important in your Ancestry Search

By: Paul Duxbury and Kevin Cook

What's in a name? The answer is, quite a bit actually. If you are beginning a search of your family tree it will help you tremendously to know the history of your family name, or for that matter of the names of other branches of the family. Many times names were changed when people immigrated to this country. If a person's name sounded too "foreign" in a culture that was primarily of English ancestry then that name may very well have been changed. To a lesser extent, if the spelling of the name seemed difficult or again foreign then it could have been changed for that reason as well.

A prime example of simple spelling differences in languages is in the American and British spellings of certain words. The American word theater is spelled theatre in the UK. Defense is spelled defence. Shop in old English is shoppe. The same small changes often happen with names.

When doing genealogy research you will sometimes notice names spelled several different ways in the same document. Many years ago standardized spellings for names didn't really exist. Not everyone could read and write in those days, and often members of the same family would spell names differently. The English name Darby for instance could also be spelled Derby, but still pronounced the same way. Also Smith could be spelled Smithe or Smyth, or Smythe. Maddox can also be spelled Maddux, Madux, or even Maddoc. The Scottish name Munro was more commonly spelled Monroe by the English. Then look at names that are translated from one language to another. The French name Choamote was sometimes Americanized to Shumate, a totally different spelling.



Why do we all have the same name but each spells it differently???

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Special points of interest:

- *Remember those old family traditions*
- *Using Ship Manifests*
- *Locate Relatives in other Countries*



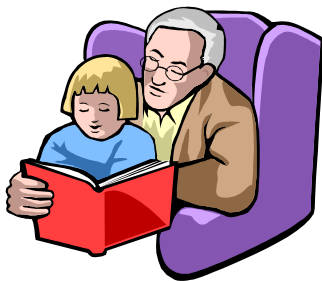
Old Family Traditions And The New Generation

By: Generations Abu



Favorite family recipes are one type of tradition.

Often the new generation uses old family traditions to honor those who have passed before them.



Be sure to pass on family stories as well as traditions.

Carried forward through the years by each new generation, old family traditions are a powerful means of strengthening the bonds that hold families together. Old family traditions often serve to connect the older generation with the new generation, encouraging interaction through shared activities, and can also offer a way for families separated by distance to feel close.

Many of the most meaningful old family traditions revolve around food, with families gathering to eat and celebrate together. Often the foods served at the meal are determined by tradition, with recipes passed down from generation to generation or specific family members preparing their specialties year after year.

That food should serve as a centerpiece for so many of the old family traditions that are passed to the new generation comes as no surprise. Food is essential to survival, and being grateful for the success of its production, whether through agriculture or the hunt, is at the base of not only many old family traditions, but also many of the world's ancient religions.

Celebrating the abundance of the harvest is done throughout the world, with each culture giving rise to a particular set of old family traditions. However, as different as these cultures may be, the foundation of these celebrations is the gathering together of families to feast, to share food, to break bread.

There are many old family traditions designed specifically to celebrate the new generation. Some are as lighthearted and fun as the yearly birthday gathering for cake, ice cream and gifts. Others are built upon meaningful, often symbolic, rituals marking the milestones along the path to maturity. In each, it is the older generation celebrating the progress of the new generation, as one day that generation will do for its own children.

Even when families cannot gather together, which is increasingly common today as families find their members scattered throughout the nation and even the world, old family traditions can help to maintain family ties. Knowing that thousands of miles away, other family members are engaged in the same activities can help keep that feeling of closeness among family members.

Often the new generation uses old family traditions to honor those who have passed before them. Many children learn the history of their families in this way, listening as family members share memories of those who are no longer with them and of their own childhood remembrances. Sometimes it is the old family traditions that hold a family together, the adult siblings con-

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Several Ways to Search Ship Manifests for your Family's History

By: Paul Duxbury and Kevin Cook

Before the days of airplane travel, emigrants typically left their countries of origin on ships and braved long and difficult journeys across the ocean. Finding evidence of an ancestor's journey to a new world through passenger lists and ship manifests can be a thrilling experience for anyone who is interested in their family history. Such valuable documents, kept by most shipping companies across the world, can be incredibly difficult to search, however, leading genealogists to spend countless hours in fruitless inquiry. Many of the lists, for instance, have not been put into indexes and lay moldering in some obscure or unreachable archive. At other times, even when genealogists do find their ancestors on a ship manifest, only their name and country of departure are listed; no other exciting information, such as birth date, country of origin, or occupation, is included. Such warnings aside, however, there are ways genealogists can increase their chance of success in finding their ancestors on passenger lists.

First, remember that your ancestors may have been included on a number of lists, not just the ones made upon arrival in their new country. Lists were made when they first got on the ship and whenever they stopped along the way. Newspapers and organizations that may have paid for their journey, such as aid societies, would also have kept lists. Even passport applications and naturalization papers can provide valuable clues to your ancestor's journey.

After becoming aware of the variety of places in which you can look for your ancestors, try and keep the time period in which they arrived in consideration. Passenger lists made for immigrants arriving in America before 1820, for example, are particularly difficult to search for because they were not standardized or carefully preserved and either do not exist anymore or are extremely difficult to find. The search for immigrants arriving between 1820 and 1891 is slightly less difficult but information is still limited. Finally, in 1891, the Immigration and Naturalization Service came into existence in the United States, and passenger lists were greatly improved, becoming more reliable, informative and well-preserved.

Before you begin searching passenger lists, you need to know your ancestor's complete and original name, the date of his arrival in America, and the port at which he arrived. It is also helpful to know his age; the port from which he departed; his country of origin; his ultimate destination in the United States; and the names of his ship or of any fellow travelers. You can find this information through a piece memorabilia, such as a letter or ticket;

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*Not all ancestors sailed on ships.
Check for other methods.*

Many of the lists, for instance, have not been put into indexes and lay moldering in some obscure or unreachable archive

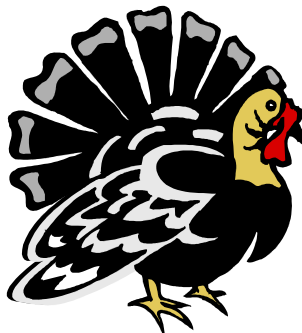


Asking about the old country can open up a discussion on emigration.



Snow fun!

Sometimes the reason for the change in spelling was the accent of the person immigrating



Looks like he missed the thanksgiving Holiday.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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Another reason for name changes is that immigration authorities both made mistakes, including typographical errors, which would stick with an immigrant, and would sometimes arbitrarily change names on their own because they couldn't pronounce a name or didn't like the spelling. For instance, the Swedish name Sjoblom, with a silent j, is pronounced see-bloom. Some members of the Sjoblom family had their names changed, involuntarily, to See-bloom or Seabloom.

As another example of how names were changed is the Italian name Tagliaferro which means iron worker. This name became Tolliver. Another Italian name, Amici which means friend was Americanized into Ameche. Even the families of presidents have not been immune. Roosevelt comes from the Dutch name Van Rosevelt, which means of the rose field. Blum, which means flower, was Americanized into Bloom. The German name Roggenfelder which means rye field could have been directly translated into Rye-field, but instead it commonly became Rockefeller.

American names like the American population itself come from all countries of the world. Remember the old movie Stripes when Bill Murray in Army basic training said "Our ancestors were kicked out of all the best countries in Europe", well most were not kicked out, but instead chose to leave. This included Dutch settlers in New York, French in Louisiana, Spanish in Florida and Texas, Germans in Pennsylvania, English in Virginia, and on and on. The American melting pot and the hope of opportunity in the new country caused most people to want to assimilate, and many did so partly by changing their names. General George Armstrong Custer, so well known for Custer's Last Stand, had a German grandfather, a Hessian soldier whose name was Kuster. Another German name, Schwab which means from Swabia became Swope for many.

Another reason for changes were to simply make the spelling of a name look more American, which was more common English. Double letters such as RR or LL could be replaced by a single letter. Common spellings in other languages, or even in British English, were often subject to change. The common name Grover for instance, can also be Krover, Krober, Grober, or Crower, as well as other spellings. Sometimes the reason for the change in spelling was the accent of the person immigrating. Sometimes immigration officials would hear the accent and misinterpret it, and usually the new name stuck.

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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It is important to know the alternative spellings of your family name to do a complete search of your ancestry. If you don't have that information you could miss vital branches of the family tree.

Article Source: <http://www.familyhistoryarticles.com>

About the Authors Paul Duxbury and Kevin Cook own www.amateur-genealogist.com and www.our-family-trees.co.uk two of the leading Genealogy Websites. In addition Paul owns a wide range of exciting websites which can be viewed at www.our-family-trees.co.uk

Old Family Traditions And The New Generation

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tinuing to gather with their children after their parents have died.

Participating in the old family traditions builds memories that will last a lifetime, and serves to build relationships, not only between the old and new generations, but also amongst those that will be continuing the families as the elder members pass away. Teaching the new generation to honor old family traditions can help to preserve the family through the years, even through the times when its members cannot gather together, fostering a sense of belonging that will be a source of joy for years to come.

Article Source: <http://www.familyhistoryarticles.com>

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FOR LUCK IN THE NEW YEAR

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many cultures. The hog, and thus its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.



Happy Holidays!

Cabbage leaves are considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency.



Ring in the new year with BIG BEN!!



Genealogy: Finding Relatives in other countries

By: Jorge L.



Many Americans have relatives in Europe.

The main problem was the language, since I don't speak Croatian!



Consider the use of a University to do foreign research for you.

Some years ago I found out that my grandfather came from Croatia, former Yugoslavia.

I knew that some of his relatives lived there, but no address, no phone, and no e-mail, just information that Komiza was the place where he was born and lived when he was a young boy.

The main problem was the language, since I don't speak Croatian I began to look for help on the internet, and finally I found a forum with some great ideas to find my relatives.

I left a note in this forum asking for help, expecting for someone to answer. Also, I left some information about my last name and information about my grandfather like date of birth and his parents' names.

In a couple of hours I received an answer from someone living in Sarajev written in formal English, this person gave me a list of people that lived in this tiny island in Croatia with my last name.

Next morning I began to write to all those addresses with the same message, and finally I received a letter from a relative, this lady was the spouse of one cousin that I never met, or heard of.

My letter arrived in a mysterious way to this lady, because there are no direct descendants from my grandfather in Croatia. It was the neighbor that received the letter, he has my Last name but he had no relation to me. My cousin's wife answered my letter, the answer came back in Croatian but my friend from Sarajev kindly translated for me.

It was great, I also had found people ready to help in my research. After some information exchange I found that the only descendants with my last name live in South America and not in Komiza-Croatia.

I found other last names to be added to my genealogy, I sent and received more letters, cards, photographs and also more information to build the family tree.

After this experience I decide to create a website with this purpose. If you need help finding relatives in other countries, go to the Multilanguage forum www.thefamilyfinder.com.

About The Author:

Jorge M Leano <http://www.thefamilyfinder.com>

Visit : www.komiza.com

Article Source: <http://www.familyhistoryarticles.com>

Several Ways to Search Ship Manifests

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through previously researched family history; through census records, which are available on the internet and on purchasable computer programs; through naturalization records, which are actually more informative than passenger lists for immigrants arriving after 1906; and through passport records, if your ancestor applied for one to visit his country of origin.

If you discover that your ancestor arrived before 1820, there is no centralized place to search for passenger lists. Many ships did keep lists, which they left at the ports of arrival, but since the government did not require these lists to be kept or saved, they were lost, destroyed, or scattered in different libraries or private collections. Many of the surviving lists have been published on the web or in books, so these are the best places to search. Newspapers from the time which have been microfilmed are also valuable resources. Finally, the government does have records in the national archives for arrivals in New York from 1789 to 1919, in New Orleans from 1813 to 1819, and in Philadelphia from 1800 to 1819.

If your ancestor arrived after 1820, then your main job will be in consulting the variety of resources available. Customs Passenger Lists, compiled by ship captains from 1820 to around 1891 and indexes for these lists can be found at the National Archives; in libraries, including the comprehensive genealogical archives of the Church of Latter Day Saints; online in images, transcripts, and indexes; on purchasable CD-ROMs; and in books. The archives and other resources contain notable gaps in information and errors, so it is best to search in a variety of indexes.

Beginning around 1891, Immigration Passenger Lists replaced Customs Passenger Lists due to the flood of immigrants to the United States and the establishment of a Superintendent of Immigration. Immigration Passenger Lists are much more detailed and two pages long by 1906. They can be found in the National Archives, in the Latter Day Saints library, on the Ellis Island on-line database, and on other on-line sites. Once again, errors were made in microfilming lists and a variety of resources should be consulted. In the end, genealogy is like a scavenger hunt where you must use the clues provided to you and search in a variety of places before you find what you are looking for.

Article Source: <http://www.familyhistoryarticles.com>

About the Authors Paul Duxbury and Kevin Cook own www.amateur-genealogist.com and www.our-family-trees.co.uk two of the leading Genealogy Websites.



Consider the education of the person maintaining the ships manifest.

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”



Not all ship's manifests are what we expect.



**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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*Ring in the New Year with a fellow
Genealogist!!!!*

FOR LUCK IN THE NEW YEAR

Traditionally, it was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. For that reason, it has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends. Parties often last into the middle of the night after the ringing in of a new year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good luck or bad luck the rest of the year. It was particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall dark-haired man. Traditional New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune.

Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the new year by consuming black-eyed peas. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in

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