



ROOTDIGGER

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The Magic of Internet Message Boards

by Paul Duxbury and Kevin Cook

The increasing popularity of the internet has offered many new chances for people to exchange information from all over the world. Message boards are one way this information is exchanged in everything from sports to medicine. However, it can also be a way you can increase your genealogy research. They allow you to communicate freely with people from all over in a public forum so that you can have the maximum number of people possible looking at the information you are requesting. This is a great way for you to be able to make contact with others that are interested in genealogy like you.

First of all, if you are going to post on a message board for any reason you should understand the consequences of what you post. Remember that information on a message board, no matter what kind, is essentially public. What you print there can be read by anyone and can be quoted then to anyone. So make sure that everything you write in any message you are going to post only has information in it that you are comfortable having anyone read or share with anyone else. In addition, keep in mind that with most message boards, the post is permanent once you hit the submit button. So you want to make sure you have no embarrassing typos or information you think you might regret. It is always going and worth your while to add that extra few minutes so you can review the message before you hit submit.

So once you know you want to post to a genealogy message board for information exchange, you need to make sure your posts are effective. It is important not to make your posts long and bogged down with a ton of information. When it comes to a message board post, more is less and less is more. Make sure what your post is detailed and concise rather than rambling and general. With a more specific and concise message you are more likely to get specific and helpful responses from others. If you are general with your post you will either get no responses or a ton of responses that may or may not have anything to do with the

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Genealogical Message Boards can be an excellent resource for tying it all together.

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- *Verify your information!*
- *Understanding why certain names were used*
- *A letter to a Niece*
- *A poem expressing emotion*



Norwegian Naming Traditions



if one child dies young, the next child of same sex will get the same name



Children in traditional Norwegian costumes.

Previously it was very common to “name call” children after family members. If the tendency is as visible today it is hard to tell, due to the fact that statistics are not that well documented in this department. However, the tendency shows that there has been a substantial decrease in this tradition over the past centennial. Before 1900 up to 60 % of the boys and 50 % of the girls were named after their grandparents and 20-30% named after their great grandparents. Today the numbers are down to 10-15 % of all newborn are named after their grandparents and less are named after their great grandparents. On the other hand, the naming after uncles and aunts has increased a little. In the old tradition mom and dad’s siblings’ names shouldn’t be used, unless if they had the same name as the child’s grandparents or great grandparents.

This goes for naming the exact name. “Name calling” with names that are similar or just start with the same letter are more common today than 100-150 years ago, at least regarding naming after its parents, something that was unthinkable in the 19th century.

At that time they had strict rules that were common in most places in the country.

1st son should be named after the paternal grandfather and the 2nd son after the maternal grandfather and the 3rd after one of the great grandparents and eventually the 4th, 5th, 6th after the other g. grandparents. The 1st girl should be named after her paternal grandmother and the 2nd girl after her maternal grandmother and then the next girls will be named after their g. grandparents. However, there is one special variation that might occur, the girl that the parents meant should be the last child they have was named after her mother. Superstition would have it that if they named the child after the mother they would have no more children.

Reason for “name calling”

One has to go a long way back in time to find the superstition that was the background for these traditions. For centuries the belief was that the ancestors qualities were transferred to the child if it was give their name. That only goes for the **good** qualities, those qualities that “stayed behind” after one was deceased. Still further back in time there was a perception that the deceased would be offended if no one was named after them and they would harm the baby. At that time there was an illness fatal to newborns called “love”, which according to old Norwegian folk lore was due to angry ancestors not being “name called”. Later on the “name calling” was seen as one way of honoring the deceased ancestors, or if they were still alive, a thank you for what they meant and had given to the next generations (and maybe to ensure that the grandparents would contribute more to the grandchild’s future) Today these are probably the main reasons for “name calling” the children after grandparents and g. grandparents.

Another phenomenon from the early the 19th and early 20th century is that if one child dies young, the next child of same sex will get the same name. Sometimes a newborn would be named after a newly decease family member who had died at the time the baby was born. Only then was the naming after un-

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Genealogy Without Sources is Mythology!

© Lorine McGinnis Schulze

How can you tell if the information posted by individuals on Internet genealogy sites is valid? Some sites have sources, others don't. How do you know what, and when, to believe what you read online??

A good rule of thumb is....

Don't trust anything you find on the 'net (or elsewhere) if it doesn't have sources. Without sources you can't verify it, and you don't know whether the information came from a reliable source or whether it came from Great Aunt Martha who may have some of it right, but may have mixed up a lot too.

Maybe the info came from a book written by someone 100 years ago who didn't have access to sources we have now, or who just plain got it wrong.

Perhaps the information was transcribed for a webpage from a book source. That book source was transcribed from a microfilm record which was itself transcribed from the original. The chance of human error is greatly increased with each succeeding transcription.

Even if the information has a source, you should double-check it personally, either from the original source or from an independent source.

VERIFY, VERIFY, VERIFY!!!

You also want to think about the source itself. Is the source a good one? After all, if Great Aunt Martha gives me information on the birth or baptism of my 3rd great-grandpa and I put it on the 'net, and source it as "Remembrances of Great Aunt Martha", that's not necessarily a reliable or accurate source. After all, Great Aunt Martha did have that fall from a horse when she was a child and she IS 97 years old.....

However if I source the birth or baptismal dates with full details on the church where I saw the original record, or the published transcript of those church records, that's much more reliable.

When in doubt, remember.... .

"Genealogy without sources is mythology"

© Lorine McGinnis Schulze of The Olive Tree Genealogy at <http://olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml>
Article may be copied as long as identifying information and link to website is left intact

Norwegian Naming Traditions

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cles and aunts acceptable. Another funny tradition is if a widower got a new wife, the first daughter would be named after his previous wife. The same if a widow got married, the first son would be named after her previous husband.

It was only in the early 20th century that boys could be "name called" after their grandmothers or great grandmothers. For instance Karl was named after Klara and Andor after Anne. Girls on the other hand got male names and the ending -ine or -a like: Hansine, Jensine, Olava. This was usually for younger daughters who were named after grandfathers and great grandfathers if it looked like they would not get any sons.

(article furnished by Jim Hedlund)



Greek mythology: Atlas supporting the heavens.

Don't trust anything you find on the 'net Verify!



What did you find up your family tree?



Virginia Douglas' Letter ¹

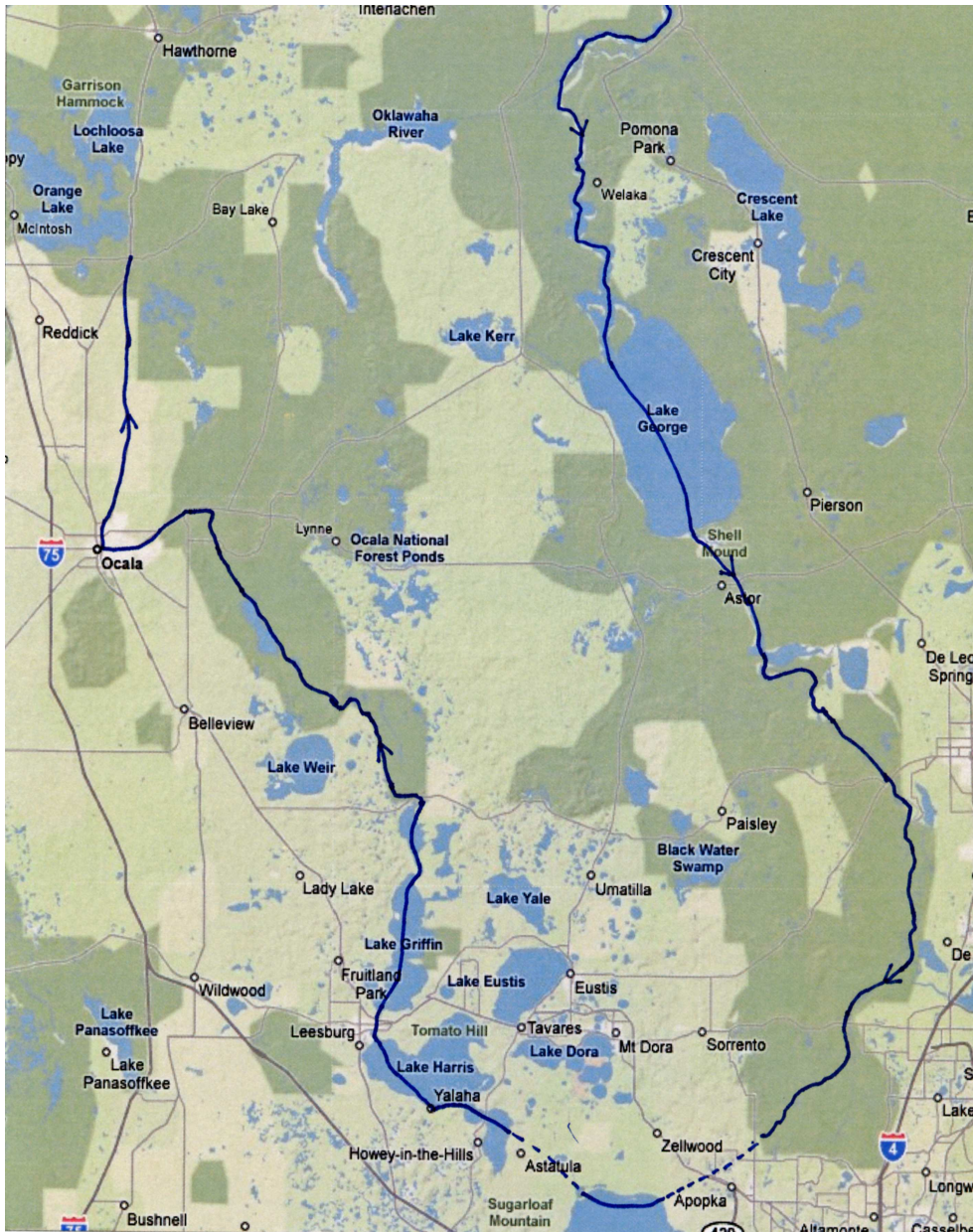
Citron -Orange Lake, Fla June 16, 1880

My Dear Little Laura²:-

Where shall I begin- I've so much to tell- You have gotten my horrid photo by this time- I have been quite thin all Spring- & when I had that taken I was much fatigued- Well -South Ky College³ had a bang up commencement. The last night was Thursday -and Miss Chase and myself had planned to start at 7 o'clock on Friday morning but she was worn out from the worry of the week and unable to be up at that early hour- so we started at 3 that evening -At Cave City we parted- & I came by Montgomery, Nashville, Albany, Live Oak & etc. reached Jacksonville on Wednesday, June 10- & on Thursday evening I took the "Rosa" & sailed up the St. Johns- It is such a lovely stream broad -clean & beautiful -I sat on deck nearly all the while - Sometimes an alligator (the negroes call them "gators") would come to the surface and some of the negroes in the lower part of the boat would fire at them- The river passes through a lake- and at that point is fifteen miles wide- think of that vast sheet of water with the southern sunlight glimmering upon it -striking here & there the tops of the waves. Sometimes I could see only the low line of foliage on the shores so far off were they -but as I ascended the stream grew narrower and the bordering live oaks -beautiful palms & etc.- with the gray moss hanging like a veil from the branches added much to the beauty- From the St. Johns I crossed to the lakes by sail -then took a small steamer -the "Mayflower" to cross the lakes. She runs very well and crossing those immense bodies of water by moonlight gave me something more beautiful and entirely different than anything I ever saw. Being very tired I landed at Yalaha, a beautiful place -at about eleven o'clock- stayed there till morning and then took the Okahumkee -the largest boat on the Oclawaha River- This river is very narrow and winds after this fashion -(turn round) [she drew a swiggly curve across the page] It is wild and beautiful- many birds of fine plumage are seen among the lilies & tall grasses -now & then- a stork and a crane is seen just by the water's edge. Yesterday morning I landed at Silver Spring- was invited to go over that lovely mirror of water in a row boat and accepted of course- It is wonderful -the water is forty feet deep and so clear that you can see the bottom everywhere perfectly & I watched a pin fall to the bottom- From there I went to Ocala, a distance of six miles- Mr. James Harris brought me out to the lake -Orange Lake is six miles wide & eighteen long- We reached here last night some time after nine and Dick⁴ & Mary just retiring. They extinguished their light just as we approached- Mr. Harris went a little ahead of me and called at the verandah -I heard Mary say in a low tone "Mr. Douglas some body called"- & Dick asked what was wanted. Mr. Harris replied that he would like to stay all night. Dick -said I'll be out presently and began to dress -It took him some time -Mr. Harris stepped up to me and said "He is putting on his Sunday clothes"- whereupon I began to giggle- They heard me and Mary dressed quickly and they both came to the door- Mr. Harris said Mr. D- my cousin, John Harris has more than he can accommodate- will you be kind enough to take this lady- Dick was then sure it was I & said -"Yes I guess I know her." They expected me to come up the Oclawaha on the Okahumkee, but I was too late for her and had to take a long, long route- so they were not looking for me last night- Florida is beautiful -the orange groves are very fine-the fruit is all green now -it ripens about November. The wild oranges however are still hanging on the trees and the golden fruit peeping from among the glossy foliage is lovely-

Thank you for sending Mr. Eagleton's letter. I find that his brother Mr. William E. and family live eight miles from Ocala -I hope to meet them sometime -Ocala is a very pretty little place- The houses are very nice -most of them white with green blinds -pleasant verandahs & etc. -beautiful live oaks with plenty of moss- wide streets -it is so cool and sweet looking -Lee has been over to see me and I find him good-looking -well behaved & a sweet child -He is telling me about his little palmetto boat. Mary sends love to

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Okahumkee On The Ocklawaha, 1890s photo

What a long round about way to get to Citra. Remember this was done in 1880!!

Virginia Douglas' letter

continued

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all- & so do I. Please write very soon.

Lovingly

V. Douglas

¹Virginia Douglas married Marcus Rice and moved to Florida years after this letter was written. She was raised by the Stickley family at Cedar Creek Virginia after her parents died. She is 26 when this was written. She died July 8, 1908 and is buried in Citra Florida.

² The letter is written to Laura Kate Stickley (age 19), her cousin, at Cedar Creek.

³ Virginia (or Gennie as she was called) graduated from South Kentucky College, Hopkinsville KY, and then took this trip to visit family in Florida.

⁴Dick is Richard C. Douglas — this may be her cousin.

(Virginia's letter furnished by Phyllis Sennewald)



That Unknown Girl of Mine

By E. B. Swenson



Beartooth Mountains in South Central Montana

Like many girls did during WWII and earlier in WWI when letters were posted to unknown members of the military in far off lands, my mother, in the winter of 1921-1922 at the age of 18 wrote a letter to a lumberjack in the Beartooth mountains of Montana near Red Lodge. His reply to her was in the form of a poem hand written in a small note book. Apparently he asked for the book back, as each successive poem was added into the note book. A total of seven poems by the "Beartooth Poet" were included in the book which was not found by my dad until some 56 years later and after my mother had passed away. Therefore the above scenario is all conjecture, but we do know that he must have made a lasting impression on my mother for her to keep the small note book with her most treasured possessions. (Maybe the name similarity is why my mother later met my dad).

I have selected the poem below as I feel it best represents the quality and emotions of the author's writing.

Joel R Swanson

To MY Unknown Girl

The moon is at its fullest
The evening bells toll nine.
While I think about her
That unknown girl of mine,

II

I draw mental pictures
Of her, as I dream
But what's the use, she's so unreal
That girl I've never seen.

III

At times I picture her timid
a girl that does not smile,
Only staring, staring,
No smile to beguile.

IV

Then the Vision disappears
But another takes it's place.
My heart goes patter patter
She's got a smiling face.

V

But alas! that vision leaves me
I'm sad, lonely & blue.
But will she send her picture?
That girl I never knew.

VI

I gaze out through the window
the moon is sinking low,
It's last bright rays are leaving
upon the sparkling snow.

VI

Then shadows come a creeping
The moon's last rays have died,
I draw my chair across the room
To my cherry fire-side.

VIII

I gaze into the embers,
I hear the north wind blow.
A vision comes before me,
More bright the embers glow.

IX

It's her, I softly whisper
As I gaze into the light
It's a perfect vision,
At last I've pictured her right.

X

I hear the embers crackle,
The vision is no more,
And once again an emptiness
Has circled round my door.

XI

Then the world grows dreary
I cannot declare a truce
That dark clouds have enshrouded me
Oh hell, but what's the use,

XII

For the moon will be shadow,
There'll be no more sunshine,
Until she sends her picture
That unknown girl of mine.
E B Swenson

(Ed Note: she sent a picture)

*I gaze into the embers,
I hear the north wind blow.
A vision comes before me,
More bright the embers
glow.*



The Unknown Girl, Mildred (Millie) Schrandt

The Magic of Internet Message Boards

by Paul Duxbury and Kevin Cook
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information you are after. If you are looking for a specific family member in your post, make sure you put in full names, birth dates, marriage dates, and death dates. Put down specific locations that you may have and even the names of parents or children. The more of this you have, the more likely you are to get actual meaningful information.

It may seem either obvious or silly, but good grammar and spelling are going to be important. People are much more likely to respond to a post that seems to have been put up by someone who is serious. In addition, if you use good grammar and punctuation, you are less likely to be misunderstood. You always want information to be precise and that is just one way to make sure that your information is indeed clear. Also, check for typos before you hit submit. Again, a typo, a misplaced comma, or just bad spelling can cause a real problem with your post if you are not careful. So just take a little extra time to make sure you are saying what you want to say.

Lastly, make sure you always write how you would want to be written to, which is sort of the golden rule of message boards no matter what the topic is. Make sure you always check your post regularly for replies. If someone does reply to you, acknowledge them in a timely fashion. If you don't have time to write back in detail right away at least drop them an email "thank you" to acknowledge receipt of their information. Courtesy is generally appreciated very much in any message board environment.

If you enjoy genealogy, then you probably already know that the internet is an invaluable resource. However, you can also use the internet to get in touch with people who may be sources for you as well. A good genealogy message board is a great way to get in touch with people that may be able to help you find information you are missing or to simply form a support system. Just make sure you are courteous and concise with your information and polite to your fellow message board members so that you will have a positive experience with genealogical message boards.

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.paulduxbury.com



Posting to a message board may identify these three children.

make sure you put in full names, birth dates, marriage dates, and death dates



Computers have replaced the handwritten family tree.



**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
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**We're on the web:
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Health.					
Is the person [on the day of the Enumerator's visit] sick or temporarily disabled, so as to be unable to attend to ordinary business or duties? If so, what is the sickness or disability?	Blind, /	Deaf and Dumb, /	Idiotic, /	Insane, /	Maimed, Crippled, Bedridden, or otherwise disabled, /
	15	16	17	18	19 20

Excerpt from the 1880 census

Investigating the DDD Census!

If your ancestor's 1880 US census listing has a mark in columns 15 through 20 (indicating whether he was sick or temporarily disabled; blind; deaf and dumb; idiotic; insane; or maimed, crippled, bedridden or otherwise disabled), look for his name in the 1880 supplemental schedules of "Defective, Dependent and Delinquent classes."

These "DDD" schedules, taken for only the 1880 census, give more information on individuals with physical handicaps or mental illness; prisoners; and those who lived in institutions for the homeless.

You won't always find these special schedules with regular, or "population," census schedules. Several states' DDD schedules are on National Archives or Family History Library microfilm; others are in state archives or large genealogical libraries. Locations to find the DDD records are listed at: <http://familytreemagazine.com/upload/images/PDF/DDDschedules.pdf> (Thank Family Tree Magazine for doing the research and making the list available)