



ROOTDIGGER

1st Quarter: January – March 2010

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Origins and Meaning of Names

By Mayrand Family Association

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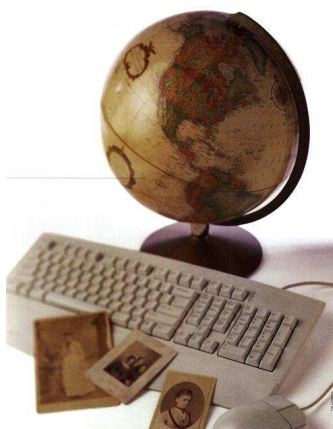
Have you ever had the experience where your name was misspelled - perhaps on an account or in a letter? What are the typical misspellings or pronunciation errors associated with your name? It strikes one very personally because name is your possession and identification, and it tells the world who you are.

Historically, names have served as a fingerprint of life, perhaps a basic clue to one's personality. Knowledge of naming practices in our ancestral country of origin can help us trace our respective families back to a village or a place, tell us their occupation, or it can give us an idea about what our ancestors looked like. The intriguing story of surnames dates back thousands of years. How and where they began, what their original meanings were, and their various spellings, is called the study of *onomastics*.

The first known people to acquire surnames were the Chinese. Legends suggest that the Emperor Fushi decreed the use of surnames, or family names, about 2852 BC. The Chinese customarily have three names. The surname is placed first and comes from one of the 438 words in the sacred Chinese poem *Po-Chia-Hsing*. The family name is followed by a generation name, taken from a poem of 30 characters adopted by each family. The given name is then placed last.

In early times, the Romans had only one name. However, they later changed to using three names. The given name stood first and was called a "praenomen." This was followed by the "nomen" which designates the gens, or clan. The last name designates the family and is known as the "cognomen." Some Romans added a fourth name, the "agnomen," to commemorate an illustrious action, or remarkable event. As the Roman Empire began to decline, family names became confused and single names once again became customary.

During the early Middle Ages, people were referred to by a single given name. But gradually the custom of adding another name as a way to distinguish individuals gained popularity. Certain distinct traits became commonly used as a part



Genealogy and the World!

1st Quarter 2010

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- Getting ready for the 1940 census

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of this practice. For instance, the place of birth: St. Francis of Assisi; a descriptive characteristic: Lambert Le Tort, an Old French poet whose name means "Lambert the Nisted;" the person's occupation: Piers, Plowman; or the use of the father's name: Leif Ericsson.

By the 12th century, the use of a second name had become so widespread that, in some places, it was considered vulgar not to have one. However, even though this custom was the source of all surnames used today, the second names used in the early Middle Ages did not apply to families, nor were they hereditary.

Whether these second names evolved into fixed, hereditary surnames is difficult to pinpoint with any accuracy since the practice advanced slowly over a period of several hundreds of years. Many fixed surnames existed alongside the more temporary bynames and descriptive terms used by the people as second names.

The modern hereditary use of surnames is a practice that originated among the Venetian aristocracy in Italy about the 10th or 11th centuries. Crusaders returning from the Holy Land took note of this custom and soon spread its use throughout Europe. France, the British isles, and then Germany and Spain began applying the practice as the need to distinguish individuals became more important. By the 1370's the word "Surname" was found in documents, and had come to acquire some emotive and dynastic significance. Men sometimes sought to keep their surname alive by encouraging a collateral to adopt it when they had no direct descendants of their own in the male line. Although we can see that the handing on of a surname has become a matter of pride, we can only guess as to the reasons for adopting hereditary surnames in the first place.

Government became more and more a matter of written record. As the activities of government, particularly in the levying of taxation and the exaction of military service, touched an ever widening range of the population, perhaps it became necessary to identify individuals accurately. In some of the larger urban communities especially, personal names were no longer sufficient to distinguish people for social as well as administrative purposes. In the countryside, manorial administration, with its stress on hereditary succession to land, needed some means of keeping track of families and not just of individuals. We can be certain that by about 1450 at the latest, most people of whatever social rank had a fixed, hereditary surname. This surname identified the family, provided a link with the family's past, and would preserve its identity in the future. It is not surprising that the preservation of surnames became a matter of family pride. It was a cause for much regret if a man had no male descendants to whom he could pass on the surname he himself had inherited and had home with pride.

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An early plowman.

*about 1450 at the latest,
most people of whatever
social rank had a fixed,
hereditary surname*



A street in the old country.

Origins and Meaning of Names

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Beginning in the 15th and 16th centuries, family names gained in popularity in Poland and Russia. The Scandinavian countries, bound by their custom of using the father's name as a second name, didn't begin using family surnames until the 19th century, Turkey waited until 1933, when the government forced the practice on its people.

In nearly every case, surnames were first used by the nobility and wealthy landowners, and the practice then trickled down to the merchants and commoners. The first permanent names were those of barons and landowners who derived their names from the manors and fiefs. These names became fixed through the hereditary nature of their lands. For the members of the working and middle classes seeking status, the practices of the nobility were imitated, leading to the widespread use of surnames.

It would be a difficult task to work out a simple classification of family names due to spelling and pronunciation changes over the years. Many old words had different meanings, or are now obsolete. Many family names were dependent on the competency and discretion of the writer. The same name can sometimes be spelled in different ways even in the same document.

Family names have come down to us in various ways. They may have grown out of a person's surroundings or job, or the name of an ancestor. Most surnames evolved from **four general sources**:

Occupation

The local house builder, food preparer, grain grinder and suit maker, would be named: John Carpenter, John Cook, John Miller and John Taylor. The person who made barrels was called cooper. The blacksmith was called Smith. Every village had its share of Smiths, Carpenters and Millers. The millers in one town weren't necessarily related to the Millers in the next town.

Location

The John who lived over the hill became known as John Overhill; the one who dwelled near a stream might be dubbed John Brook. Many locational surnames originated as place names. You can tell that a surname is a locational place name if it ends with one of the regular place name elements, such as -hill, -ford, -wood, -brook, -well, and so on. Less easily recognized locational surnames end with -ton, -ham, -wick, -stead meaning a farm, or small settlement. Other common locational endings are -don, (a hill), -bury (a fortification) or -leigh, or -ley (a clearing).

Patronymic (father's name)

Many of these surnames can be recognized by the ten-nation son, such as Williamson, Jackson, etc. Some endings used by other countries to indicate "son" are: Armenians - ian; Danes and Norwegians - sen; Finns -

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Polish Nobility Association Foundation

The first permanent names were those of barons and landowners



Surname Cliff???



Finding the Story: Picture Clues and Family Facts

By Maureen A. Taylor. Used with permission from Family Tree Magazine, copyright 2009 F+W Media, Inc. See Family Tree Magazine's Photo Detective Blog <blog.familytreemagazine.com/photodetectiveblog> for more of Taylor's strategies to solve family-photo mysteries.>



Fred Klingbeil, his wife and their son????

*For this to be a photo of
Fred and Marie with a son,
it would have to be taken
after 1910*



Fred Klingbeil Graduation photo.

There's nothing like a photo riddle when the picture and the facts don't add up. In my experience solving that particular problem relies on more than the pictorial evidence. You have to dive into family history in detail.

Let's take Joan Lee's photo of a young couple and their child as an example. It's a symbol of a long complicated family story that has so many twists and turns it's like a maze. A good way to gain freedom from the intricacies of this tangled web is to sort out the facts and list a series of questions.

This photo was given to Joan by a descendant of her husband's great grandfather's brother. He's identified as Fred Klingbeil, his wife and their son. It came with a sad story: The little boy supposedly drowned in Three Mile Lake in Ontario. If this is true, Joan can't find the proof. There's no death record, no cemetery record and no headstone where the family lived in Ontario.

But Joan has an even bigger problem. Does this photo even depict Fred Klingbeil? A timeline of his life compared to the photographic details conflict. He was a man on the move. (If anyone wants the exact citations for this article, please send me an email to mtaylor@taylorandstrong.com. Joan will be happy to supply them.)

Here are the facts of his life:

1882: Fred is born in Detroit, Mich., to Julius and Amelia Klingbeil, recent immigrants from Germany. According to family letters, Amelia was pregnant with Fred during their passage to America.

1891: Fred appears on the Canadian census for Windermere, Ont.

1902/03: A newspaper in Enderlin, ND, mentions that he's in town to build an addition onto his widowed mother's house.

1910: According to the U.S. Federal Census, Fred lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota working as a wallpaper hanger.

In October of 1910 he marries for the first time in Idaho. His bride, Marie Evans, states on the marriage record she's from Aberdeen, Wash.

Here's where it gets tricky. For this to be a photo of Fred and Marie with a son, it would have to be taken after 1910. But this woman's dress, with the belted waist and tight-fitting bodice, dates from about 1900.

Her hairstyle confirms the date. In my new book, *Fashionable Folks: Hairstyles*, I examine photos and discuss men's and women's hairstyles. The topknot on the crown of her head was common from the late 1890s to the turn of the century. By 1910, women wear their hair full around the face with a

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nen; Greeks - poulou; Spaniards - ez; and Poles - wiecz, Prefixes denoting "son" are the Welsh - Ap, the Scots and Irish - Mac, and the Normans - Fitz. So, John the son of Randolph became John fitz-Randolph because "fitz" means son of." In Wales, David the son of John tacked ap" in front of his father's name, and David ap John was soon being called David Upjohn. in Scotland, Gilleain's descendants were known as MacGilleain and later shortened to Madeab, McClean, McLane, and all the other versions.

Characteristic

An unusually small person might be labeled Small, Short, Little or Lyfle, A large man might be named Longfellow, Large, Lang or Long. Many persons having characteristics of a certain animal would be given the animal's name. Examples: a sly person might be named Fox; a good swimmer, Fish; a quiet man, Dove; etc.

Many historians believe that surnames derived from places (locational) were the first to become hereditary. Surnames evolving from nicknames or descriptive traits (characteristic) are also of early origin. Surnames taken from occupations came later, and those of patronymic origin were the last to become hereditary. Even though patronymic names have been in use a long time, they would change with every generation: William's son John would be known as John Williamson, while his son William would be William Johnson. Surnames that are the most fun, the most surprising and sometimes even embarrassing, are the characteristic names. one word of caution, though: do not be distressed if your name originally meant something you consider uncomplimentary.

Remember that definition may have applied to someone who lived centuries ago. There are obvious characteristic surnames, including Longfellow, Redd (one with red hair), and White (white complexion or hair), and their Italian and German counterparts, Bianco and Weiss. You cannot always take at face value what names seem to mean, because changes in word meanings over the centuries. Hence the English name Stout, which brings to mind a rather fat fellow, is actually indicative of an early ancestor who was easily irritated, a noisy fellow. There are some names that leave us with an immediate picture of a person with a most distinctive physical characteristic: Stradling, an English name meaning one with bowed legs; the French Beaudry, - one with good bearing, beautiful; and the Irish Balfe - one who stammered and stuttered. Many surnames have more than one origin. For instance, the English surname "Bell" may designate one who lived or worked at the sign of the bell, or it may refer to a bell-ringer, or bellmaker. It may from the Old French word "bell" or pet form of Isabel.

(ed note: Future issues of the Rootdigger will continue with Spelling Variations and the Origins of Surnames from around the World.)



Early family register.

Stradling, an English name meaning one with bowed legs



What would their surname be?



Ancestors of Modern Scandinavians Immigrated to Region

A new DNA study from ancient remains has thrown into question the origin of modern Scandinavians. The study just published in the journal *Current Biology* suggests that modern Scandinavians do not come from ancient hunter-gatherers who inhabited the region more than 4,000 years ago. Until now, it had always been believed that modern Scandinavians were the direct descendants of people who had always lived in the region. Instead, it appears that people living in Scandinavia today are more closely related to stone-age immigrants who moved into the region with the advent of agriculture some 4,000 years ago.

According to co-author Anders Götherström, an evolutionary biologist at Sweden's Uppsala University, "the hunter-gatherers who inhabited Scandinavia more than 4,000 years ago had a different gene pool than ours".

Most of Europe is thought to have moved from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to an agricultural lifestyle more than 6,700 years ago. However, Scandinavia at the northern edge of Europe did not convert to an agricultural lifestyle until some 4,000 years ago. The conversion seems to have occurred roughly at the same time that the agricultural immigrants moved into the region. However, the relationship between the original hunter-gatherers and the agricultural immigrants who became modern Scandinavians is not well understood at all. According to the study, the DNA of the original hunter-gatherers has more in common with modern populations of the eastern Baltic region of Latvia and Lithuania.

*modern Scandinavians do
not come from ancient
hunter-gatherers*



Scandinavia

Finding the Story: Picture clues and Family Facts

Continued

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bun on the top. It's a different look from what's seen here. The father's up-turned collar, suit style and silk tie are consistent with c. 1900 as well.

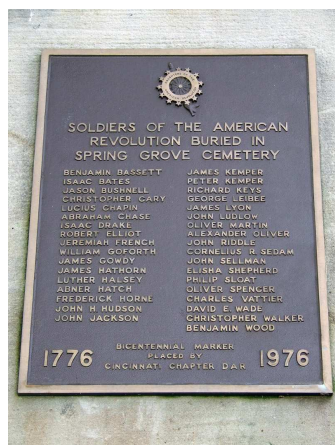
So is it a different Fred, or does it depict a different family?

You won't believe where this family history mystery goes! I'll be back next week with part 2. Stay tuned.

(editors note to continue the story, copy and paste the following links in your browser)

<http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/photodetectiveblog/2009/12/07/FindingTheStoryPartTwo.aspx>

<http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/photodetectiveblog/2009/12/14/FindingTheStoryPartThree.aspx>



Revolutionary War Veterans Buried in Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio

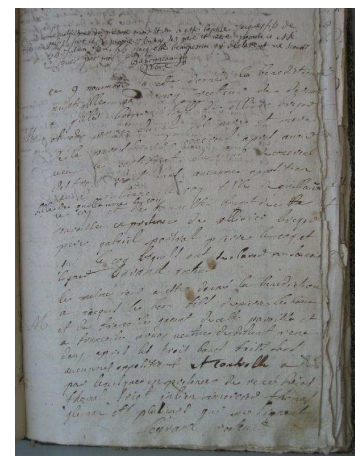
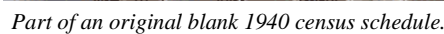
by Diana Davis Deppe

Older censuses are available, from the first one in 1790 through 1930, except for 1890, most of which was destroyed in a fire and lost forever.

April 2, 2012 census release date.

Welcome 2009 New Members!!!

Andrea Jenkins
Natalie Fuller
Michael Clinasmith
Mary M. Roffler
Rita Lastein
Elaine M. Gillam
Mavis Hazen
James Waddell



1700 Genealogy record



**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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*Now if only you can get the Birth
Certificate.*

HOW TO FIGURE A BIRTH DATE

REMEMBER THIS NUMBER 8870

This is not an error It is the number to remember when you want to find the birth date of someone when you only have the date of death and age.

How do you figure the birth date? Suppose the person died May 6, 1889, at the age of 71 years, 7 months, 9 days.

1. Write the year, month, day as 18890506
2. Subtract the age at death 710709
3. This gives the figure 18179797
4. Now subtract 8870
5. The result is 18170927

Year 1817, 9th month (Sept), 27th day or 27 Sept, 1817

Source Platte Co, MO Historical/Genealogical Society