



ROOTDIGGER

4th Quarter: October — December 2010

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

Cousins Join First Families of Fayette County, Ohio

By Elaine Gillam

Elaine Marie Rankin Gillam is a member of both the Marion County Genealogy Society of Florida and Fayette County Genealogy Society of Ohio. On May 17, 2010, she, her husband: Marvin, and first cousins: Lynnea Sue Gibson St John and Francis Duane Gibson were invited to attend the annual meeting and dinner of the Fayette County Genealogy Society which was held at the Grace United Methodist Church in Washington Court House, Ohio.

This is the bi-centennial year for Fayette County. At this dinner meeting Kurt Coil, First Families of Fayette County (FFFC) Chairperson, presented numbered certificates and FFFC pins to Elaine (#67), Lynnea (#68) and Duane (#69). who proved they descended from an ancestor who lived in Fayette County prior to 1820. Their ancestor was Thomas Rankin who married Barbara Fultz in 1813. This marriage produced eleven children, who were all born in Fayette County Ohio between 1815 and 1835. Thomas' father, Smith Rankin, came to Fayette County in 1807. Thomas Rankin was their 3rd great-grandfather.



Duane Gibson, Lynnea St John, Elaine and Marvin Gillam

Each of the new members were asked to tell the Society members in attendance something about themselves. Elaine shared what she knew of members of her family based on research she had done using Fayette



Elaine Rankin Gillam and Kurt Coil



Lynnea Gibson St John and Kurt Coil

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Schuyler Worden: Crown Prince or Black Sheep?

By Judith Setley Wright TreeWright@gmail.com

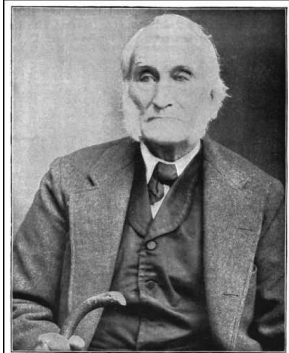
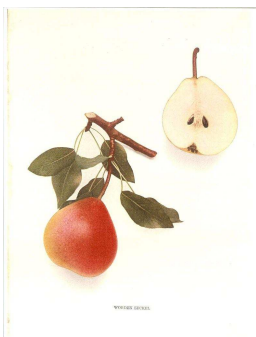


Fig. 31.
Schuyler Worden
at 84 years.

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Do these files constitute a “preponderance of evidence” as we used to say, or has the same research been passed from one submitter to the next without verification?



Worden seckel pear

My closest Worden ancestor is my third great-grandfather, Schuyler Worden (1806–1901), son of Patriot Richmond Worden and Orinda Lippett. Schuyler was born either in Cayuga County, NY or in Schuyler, Herkimer County, NY. Before the age of 20 he purchased Lot 29 in Oswego Town, NY (now known as Minetto) for 50 cents an acre, and became the first settler of that hamlet.

Schuyler became well known as a horticulturist; specifically a fruit grower. His fruit, vegetables, and flowers regularly won prizes in agricultural fairs, and he gave his name to the Worden grape and the Worden seckel pear, varieties which he developed. Some of his horticultural papers are archived at Cornell University.

He married Jane Ostrander (1809–1858) in 1827. Their life was hard. Only two of their six children, William Wallace Worden (1828–1855) and my great great grandmother, Amanda Worden, (1840– 1936) lived to adulthood, and William only to the age of 27. Ironically, Amanda lived to be 96. Jane was reunited with her lost children in 1858, in “the 49th year of her age.” The following year Schuyler married Sarah “Maria” Thorp(e) Perry, widow of Sylvanus Perry. To assure that the family tree would become a wreath, Maria’s son, Walter Reuben Perry (1841–1917), married Schuyler’s daughter, Amanda, in 1865. Walter was a captain in Company A of the 10th New York Volunteer Cavalry. He served all four years of the Civil War, and was wounded at Sailor’s Creek, VA. But for that injury he would have been at Appomattox where, just four days later, General Robert E. Lee surrendered (see Wright 2007). Schuyler, his two wives, all their children, plus a few others, are buried in the Worden Family Cemetery on the site of Schuyler’s farm in Minetto.

The mystery of Schuyler Worden is about whether he is actually the son of Richmond, as is widely believed. Richmond is believed to have served with Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys. His application for a Revolutionary War pension does not mention any family members, but the following is some of the circumstantial evidence to suggest that Schuyler Worden is his son.

- Numerous ancestral files at FamilySearch.org show him to be Richmond’s son. Do these files constitute a “preponderance of evidence” as we used to say, or has the same research been passed from one submitter to the next without verification?
- Richmond was living in Schuyler, Herkimer County at the time of

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Crown Prince or Black Sheep?

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Schuyler's birth in 1806 (Bahn, 157).

- A boy of the appropriate age is enumerated with Richmond in the 1810 and 1820 censuses (Bahn, 158).
- In the 1830 census Schuyler is the head of household, and Richmond appears to be the elderly man residing with him (Bahn, 159).

So, why would there be any reason to doubt the paternity of Schuyler Worden?

- Family lore suggests that Schuyler Worden was the illegitimate son of his mother and a Spanish sailor. This story was told to me by an elderly cousin who was born about ten years after Schuyler died. There is no indication in the story whether the mother in question was Orinda Lippett Worden or someone else. Orinda and Richmond were nearly 50 years old at the time of Schuyler's birth (Bahn, 159), so it is quite possible that neither of them were his parents.
- Richmond's son, Lyman Worden, presumably Schuyler's brother, died in 1882. His obituary states, "He was the last of his father's family of ten children" Schuyler died in 1901, and so was still alive at Lyman's passing, and living in the same town. If Schuyler and Lyman were brothers, this claim could not have been made.
- A newspaper clipping from 1930 (source unknown) includes a biography of Schuyler Worden written by M. J. Daley, a resident of Minetto who was acquainted with Schuyler. Daley says that Schuyler was an orphan when he came to Minetto, and that his grandfather (unnamed in the article) had served with Ethan Allen at Ticonderoga. This suggests that Richmond was Schuyler's grandfather, not his father. Daley's facts were gathered from Schuyler's daughter, Amanda Worden Perry. She would have been in a position to know the facts, but she was 90 years old when this story was published. There are factual errors elsewhere in the article and it's possible she was confused about this as well.



Worden grape

Family lore suggests that Schuyler Worden was the illegitimate son of his mother and a Spanish sailor



Stamp cancel commissioned by Town of Minetto

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GREAT GIDDING

By Margaret F. Jones

It was a cold wintry April Sunday when we traveled to Great Gidding in northwest England to research my mother's family, the Fletchers. We had no idea what we would find but as curious genealogists we were hoping to find some more information.

Our first stop that day was the local pub, always a good place to start. They were not open but they invited us in to have tea and a sandwich. The proprietor said they would be having a Palm Sunday service the following weekend which included a donkey and he invited us to attend. Also the authors of a new book, just published, "A Millennium History of Great Gidding" would have the books available. We were going to Ireland for a few days but would try to come back for the service. We made reservations at the B & B there at the pub for the following weekend.

Early that Sunday morning in Great Gidding we heard a commotion out in the stable yard so of course we had to check it out. It seems they were getting ready to bring the donkey out and decorate him with ribbons and balloons. When we were told there would be a donkey, we thought it would be for transportation but instead it was to signify Christ's ride to Jerusalem. When the vicar arrived, in the black robe, we gathered in the stable yard, about 15 of us, for the walk down the hill to St. Michael's Church. It was such a thrill to be sitting in the same church that my ancestors attended. The donkey was allowed to stay for the service and was very well behaved. Someone was probably feeding him carrots.

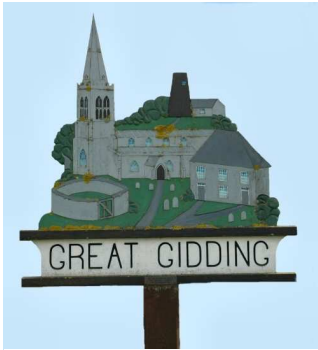
After the service, we found a book in the foyer with the names of all birth, marriages and deaths listed. As I tried to copy all the Fletchers, I came across a Sampson Fletcher, occupation, Gypsy Tinker.

My mom had been telling us for years there was a gypsy in the family somewhere. What a wonderful day, full of surprises!!

Cousins Join

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County histories; stories told by her parents, grandparents, and great-grandmother; census related items, and her life. Elaine attended grade school in Jeffersonville from 1949 to 1951. Duane graduated from Jeffersonville High School in 1961. Both of their parents, Howard Paine Rankin and Ida Pauline Rankin Gibson Ellet, attended school in Jeffersonville; Pauline graduated from there. They met some relatives and friends of their family, and they were able to learn about some past acquaintances made during their school years. Lynnea is very active in planning for the 2011 Windham, Ohio, bi-centennial celebration for which she is chairperson and shared what they have done so far with Windham Historical Society.



Great Gidding Village Sign

*Our first stop that day was
the local pub,.....*



Duane Gibson and Kurt Coil

Crown Prince or Black Sheep?

(Continued from page 3)

- The 1835 will of Salinda Claflin declares that she is the daughter of Richmond Worden. She names her brothers, “Welcome Worden, Lyman Worden, Lippitt Worden, John Worden, etc. etc.,” as her heirs. Schuyler Worden is not named as one of her brothers.
- An 1891 obituary for Mrs. Mary A. Briggs indicates that she is a sister of Schuyler. She is buried with his family in the Worden Cemetery, but she is not one of the known children of Richmond. Mary was born in 1811, making her five years younger than Schuyler. If Richmond and Orinda were her natural parents, they would have been well into their 50s at her birth. Perhaps the meaning of ‘sister’ is not literal in this case. Perhaps Mary and Schuyler are brother and sister to each other, but not to Richmond’s natural children.

It’s obvious that Schuyler was raised by Richmond and Orinda. But was he their natural son; the illegitimate son of Orinda and an unknown father; the son of one of Richmond’s children who died when Schuyler was young or was otherwise unable to care for him; or an unrelated child whom they took in as their own?

If Schuyler is not the natural son of Richmond, this would answer Mark F. Worden’s question about why Schuyler was not involved in a land transfer involving the other children of Richmond (Worden, 2010). His “sister” Mary is also not included. However, it is interesting to note that the land in Mark Worden’s article is described as Lot 28, and Schuyler Worden is known to have resided on Lot 29.

Unfortunately, Schuyler Worden’s line daughtered out with the death of his son William Wallace Worden in 1855, so DNA testing is not an option for resolving this mystery. Without proof of this link, my descendency from Peter of Yarmouth is in question, and my eligibility for the DAR hangs in the balance.

I will probably never know if Schuyler Worden is the black sheep of the family, but he is definitely the crown prince of Minetto. In 2006, the bi-centennial year of his birth, the town honored its first citizen with a stamp cancel.



I will probably never know if Schuyler Worden is the black sheep of the family



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The Genealogist as Talk Show Host; How Genealogy Reconnected a Mother and Son

By Colleen Callahan Wells



According to the report, his birth mother's name was listed as Olive Darling; the father's name was listed as unknown



When I'm asked where the excitement in genealogical research is, implying that time spent on it is arduous at best, I can't help but think the point is entirely missed. Imagine stumbling across a distant relative during a research dive, one who is alive and well. And take this image further and try to comprehend that you reunited this new-found cousin with his long lost parent. Genealogy can be as puzzling and thrilling as an episode of "CSI" if most simply took time to appreciate its many facets, rather than assuming it's an attic hobby. Allow me to demonstrate.

My story begins two years ago. I, like many family historians, use the internet as the dominant source for genealogical research. As part of my investigations, I frequently post family or individual queries on such sites as Rootsweb or Ancestry.com. I normally place these queries in some wild hope that my lucky genealogical guardian angel will swoop down and smash through my menacing brick wall. In this particular case, I posted an inquiry regarding John Darling and his wife, Elizabeth Mackay. I had recently come to an abrupt halt with their lives and needed some new ideas to reinvigorate progress. Months passed when I finally received an email from Donald Kirby, a writer who identified himself as a distant cousin who was also researching the Darling family. He said he had stumbled across my post and felt that we could work together on our mutual ancestors. He didn't have anything more to add to my research, but thought two heads were better than one. As we began to correspond we found out more about each other. Donald was the illegitimate son of my third cousin, Olive Darling Dunn. I had never met Olive or knew much about her family. My great grandmother was Olive's father's sister. This would make Olive's age to be somewhere in her late eighties.

As Donald and I corresponded he explained that he had found out recently from an Ontario adoption agency who his birth mother was. By searching the Ontario government's website, www.accesson.ca, individuals who have been previously adopted can find pertinent information regarding their biological parents by filling out a "post-adoption birth information" form. This form applies only to post-adopted Ontario residents. Donald did the required paperwork and after a few months his wait was rewarded with some exciting news. According to the report, his birth mother's name was listed as Olive Darling; the father's name was listed as unknown. The report revealed that the infant, Michael John Darling, son of Olive Darling was born and adopted in 1946. Donald now knew his biological mother's name and also the

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The Genealogist as Talk Show Host

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name she gave him. With this information he wanted greatly to find out what had become of his mother. He realized that she would be elderly (if even still living) but was determined to follow his quest.

According to government rules, a request must be made to the birth parent asking permission if they wish any contact from their biological child. The Ontario "Access to Adoption Records Act" has strict rules governing the adopted person and birth parents. If either parties disobey the laws severe punishment could be applied. With the Ontario government's assistance, Olive was contacted about Donald's existence and his wish to meet his natural mother. Olive answered their plea with a resounding, "No!" Donald was naturally devastated with the news. He had been waiting for sixty-four years to finally meet his mother and now was turned away.

I felt incredibly bad for Don and his predicament. His adopted parents were both long deceased and he was an only child. After learning his biological mother's name he spent countless hours researching her family history. He learned that Olive's parents separated when she was quite young. Apparently during World War I, her father contracted a venereal disease which was transmitted to his young wife. Because penicillin was not available until the late 1930's, both parents were infected carriers. Olive's mother never forgave her husband for exposing her to syphilis, nor to her chronic ill health due to the disease. Her mother passed away at fifty-seven years of age, due to complications from the sexually transmitted disease.

After corresponding with Don for some time, I felt that I was ready to try and contact Olive on my own. Without knowing her address, I used the website, canada411.ca, to search for her. This proved quite fruitful with learning both her address and telephone number. I decided to write Olive first, clarifying who I was and my relationship with her. I was delighted when I received a letter back from her. She was so excited that I had written. She had thought that there was no one left from the Darling family, so hearing from me was quite a shock. I explained that I was working on our family's genealogy and would love to hear any stories she would like to share. She told me of her military career, her disastrous marriage, and her struggles bringing up her two sons alone. My cousin's past was tragic; her unhappy childhood living with an abusive mother, giving birth as an unwed mother, putting her child up for adoption, her marriage to an alcoholic gambler, and raising two children as a divorcee. Olive was an incredible person. She had struggled with her hard life and had overcome many obstacles. I decided after getting to know her better that the time was right to bring up the subject of the son she had given up for adoption.

Explaining to Olive that I was in contact with her illegitimate son was

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According to government rules, a request must be made to the birth parent asking permission





The Genealogist as Talk Show Host

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not an easy task. At first she seemed resentful, which was understandable. She felt that the past was finished and there was no point in going backward. She had no interest in meeting him at this time, but claimed she would consider it at a later date. After a long period of waiting she still put off meeting her son. I decided at this point to go and meet Olive in person. I called her and set up a meeting along with my sister, brother, and uncle. My feeling being that by taking a small crew with me might help to break her resistance down. Olive was excited to meet us all. We had a delightful time passing around old photos and telling family tales. As our visit came to an end, my uncle (her second cousin) persuaded her to finally meet Donald who we kept hostage in the car outside of her house.

The meeting of Donald and his mother was one of the most touching things I have ever encountered in my life. Never would I imagine the reaction Olive had when seeing her son after sixty-four years. As Donald entered Olive's small apartment the look on her face was one of true joy and happiness. Tears streamed down her face as she clutched her son to herself. Watching mother and son find each other after all these years brought an indescribable joy to us all.

It has now been over a year. Mother and son have found a life together. They now are making up for lost time enjoying each other's company.

In many people's minds, genealogy is limited to reconnecting with long-dead ancestors; when in reality it is so much more. We are fortunate to be living in a generation where new technology has allowed us the opportunity to not only find deceased family members, but help us connect with the living.

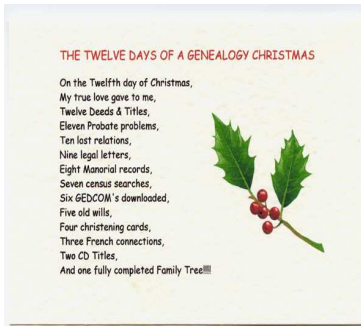
Primary Records are NOT always Accurate

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death registration is incorrect. Her parents' names are wrong. Since I already knew who her parents were (Isaac Vollick & Lydia Jamieson) from other genealogy sources, I was completely bewildered at first by seeing her parents given as Stephen Vollick and Mary.

Then it dawned on me - Stephen was my great grandmother's husband's first name (Stephen Peer). Mary was my great grandmother's own name. (Mary Vollick)

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The meeting of Donald and his mother was one of the most touching things I have ever encountered in my life



Primary Records are NOT always Accurate

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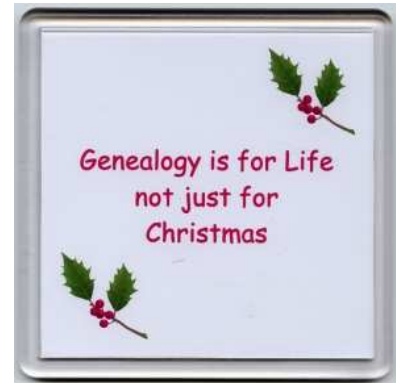
So I looked at the informant's name. AHA! The informant was Mary's 17 year old son. Her husband having died long before Mary, and her older children married and gone, the task of answering the official questions fell to her 17 year old son who had cared for her in her final days.

It is easy to see how the young boy, when asked by a government clerk "Father's name?" (meaning father of the deceased), would have replied "Stephen", for in fact Stephen WAS his own father's name.

The question "Mother's name?" referring to the mother of the deceased, would be answered by the boy "Mary" which was HIS mother's name.

And thus the official death registration for parents of Mary (Peer) Vollick daughter of Isaac and Lydia Vollick, is forever rendered as Stephen and Mary Vollick.

So be cautious when you encounter a primary source that simply doesn't match other reliable sources. Investigate! Think! Don't just accept the new "facts" without further legwork to prove or disprove them.



So be cautious when you encounter a primary source that simply doesn't match other reliable sources. Investigate!

Crown Prince or Black Sheep?

(Continued from page 5)

Author's note: This is a revised version of an article previously published in Wordens Past, Worden Family Association, Vol. XXXI, No. 2, August 2010, p. 2618.

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**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.

4th Quarter: October—
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**The Rootdigger
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Merry Genealogy Christmas
Remembering all your ancestors
from the past



This New Year
how many new ones
will you find?

Primary Records are NOT always Accurate

By Lorine McGinnis Schulze

We all want our genealogy to be accurate.

We search and search for that primary record, the one that we've been told is "THE" record to find -- a death certificate, a church baptismal record, marriage record....

But - beware! Not all primary records are accurate. As good genealogists we must consider that there can be errors. The informant (person giving the information) may not know the answers and may thus provide incorrect details. The clerk recording the information may not hear the response correctly and may enter it incorrectly. The person giving the information may lie, especially about their age.

In my own family tree, my great-grandmother's official government

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