



ROOTDIGGER

2nd Quarter: April - June 2013

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Grateful To Be Alive

By Judith Setley Wright TreeWright@gmail.com

Schuyler Worden and Jane Ostrander were my third great-grandparents. Schuyler was born in 1806 either in Herkimer County or Cayuga County, New York. It is widely believed that Schuyler's parents were Richmond Worden, a Revolutionary War patriot who served with Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys, and his wife Orinda Lippett. However, there is also reason to believe that Schuyler was not Richmond's biological son. The issue of his paternity has not yet been resolved.¹ Richmond's ancestor, Peter Worden, came to Yarmouth, Massachusetts, from England about 1637, and other researchers have further traced the family's roots in England back to the 1400s.²

In 1819, Schuyler migrated to nearby Oswego County, New York, possibly with an uncle. He settled on Lot 29 in Minetto in 1826, becoming the first resident of that village. On that land he established a farm, growing fruit, vegetables, and flowers. As a knowledgeable horticulturist, he created many hybrids and varieties, and won many awards. His most well-known varieties are the Worden grape and the Worden seckel pear. Some of his horticultural papers are archived at Cornell University.

He married Jane Ostrander on June 3, 1827, in Minetto. She was the daughter of Abraham Ostrander (a loyalist!) and Rachel DePew. Many Ostrander researchers believe that Abraham's family goes back to Pieter Pieterzen and Tryntje van der Lande of Amsterdam, Holland, who came to America in 1660 on a ship called *De Bonte Koe* (the spotted cow). They soon abandoned the patronymic pattern of surnames, and the family name became Ostrander, meaning "from the east border."³ More recent research suggests that this Pieter Pieterzen may have been someone else and not Abraham's ancestor. This is another question that has not yet been resolved.

Schuyler and Jane were blessed with six children; William "Wallace" (1828), Salinda (1829), Rachel (1830), Robert "Bruce" (1833), George (1836), and Amanda (1840, although her grave says 1843). Their happy family life was shattered between 1847-1853, when four of those children were taken from them. Rachel died first at age 16, then Salinda at 20, Bruce at 18, and George at 17. It is not known what they died from, but it was clearly not from the usual infant and early childhood diseases prevalent in that day. The only children remaining to grow into full adulthood, marry, and have children were the oldest, Wallace, and the youngest, Amanda, my great-great grandmother.

Wallace married Emily Tuckerman on November 22, 1849. They had two

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daughters; Martha (abt. 1851), and Esther (1854). Tragedy struck again when Wallace died of consumption in 1855 at the age of 27, leaving Emily a 25-year-old widow with two small children, and leaving Schuyler no hope of passing on the Worden family name. After Wallace's death, Emily married Peter Ottman. Then family history repeated itself in 1868 when her older daughter, Martha, died at age 17. Martha's death left Esther as Wallace's only child to grow to adulthood.

Emily was apparently well-loved in the Worden family. After she was widowed a second time at the age of 64, she lived for a while with the family of her daughter, Esther, in Hannibal, New York, but eventually came back to the farm in Minetto to live out her days with Wallace's sister, Amanda, and her husband, Walter Perry. She died in their home in 1914 at the age of 83. Emily and Peter Ottman are both buried with Wallace in the Worden Family Cemetery in Minetto.

Less than three years after Wallace's death, Jane passed away, also of consumption, "in the 49th year of her age." Her obituary is almost unbearable to read. "The King of Terrors had taken from her five children, the jewels of her youth, and she sleeps beside them to awake on that last great day, to enter the mansions of her God."

So after 30 years of marriage, Schuyler was a widower with only his 17 year-old daughter, Amanda. A year and a half after Jane's death, Schuyler married Sarah "Maria" Thorp Perry. Maria was the widow of Sylvanus Perry and had a son, Walter Reuben Perry, who was 18 years old at the time of the marriage. Because their children were nearly grown, it is not likely that this was a

marriage of convenience. They were married for 28 years when Maria died in 1887.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Maria's son, Walter Perry, was 20 years old, and enlisted as a private in the 10th New York Volunteer Cavalry. He served the entire length of the war, leaving service with the rank of captain. He fought at the Battle of Gettysburg, and in many other battles, until he was wounded in the leg at the Battle of Sailor's Creek, Virginia, on April 6, 1865. This injury was the only thing that kept him from being present at Appomattox when Robert E. Lee surrendered on April 9. Two months before being wounded, he went home to marry his step-sister, Amanda

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DIED.

At Minetto, Jan. 23rd, of consumption, Mrs JANE wife of SCHUYLER WORDEN, Esqr., in the 49th year of her age

The subject of the above notice died in the glorious hope of a blessed resurrection, without fear or dread of the last great change which she knew was about to take place. The King of Terrors had taken from her five children, the jewels of her youth, and she sleeps beside them to awake on that last great day, to enter the mansions of her God. May the kindness of Him at whose throne her family worshiped, comfort the husband and daughter remaining, and bring them together in that world where sorrow and parting is never known.

Obituary of Jane Ostrander Worden
Clipping from the Worden Family
Bible

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Worden. They had one son, Walter Worden Perry, born in 1867.⁴

Schuyler and his daughter, Amanda, besieged by untimely death throughout their lives, managed to avoid the family curse by a huge margin. Schuyler lived another 13 years after Maria's death. He died in 1901 at the venerable age of 94. Amanda was widowed at 77 and lived to be 96.

The site of Schuyler's farm is now a housing development west of Minetto, New York, but the Worden Family Cemetery has been preserved in a wooded area behind the homes.⁵ Schuyler is buried there with his two wives, Jane and Maria, and all six of his children. Wallace's widow, Emily, her second husband, Peter Ottman, and Wallace's daughter, Martha, are also buried there, along with Amanda and her husband, Walter Reuben Perry. One additional grave is that of Mrs. William (Mary) Briggs, a sister of Schuyler's. The cemetery bears mute tribute to this family, and only a close inspection of the dates on those cold stones hints at the tragedy that lies beneath.



Ordinarily you would expect a family with six children to grow exponentially with descendants, but that didn't happen for Schuyler and Jane. Of their six children, only Wallace and Amanda reached adulthood and married. The two surviving grandchildren were Wallace's daughter, Esther, and Amanda's son, Walter. Esther had three children and Walter had two, for a total of five great-grandchildren. Only after that does the generational increase take on a more normal pattern. Today's descendants of Schuyler and Jane had a statistically significant chance of never being born. We can all be grateful to be alive.

Worden Family Cemetery
Minetto, New York

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¹ For a complete discussion of this issue see Wright, Judith Setley, “Schuyler Worden: Crown Prince or Black Sheep?” *Wordens Past*, Vol. XXXI, No. 2, August 2012, p. 2618, or *Rootdigger*, 4th Quarter 2010, p. 2 (<http://mariongenealogy.tripod.com/rootdigger/2010q4.pdf>).

² See Bahn, Gilbert, *The Worden Surname from Peter Worden of Yarmouth to 1850*, privately published.

³ See Ostrander, Emmett, Vinton P. Ostrander, and Colin Ostrander, ed., *Ostrander : A Genealogical Record 1660-1995*, Ostrander Family Association, 1999.

⁴ See Wright, Judy, “Walter Reuben Perry”, *Rootdigger*, Marion County Genealogical Society, 2nd Quarter 2007, p. 6, (<http://mariongenealogy.tripod.com/rootdigger/2007q2.pdf>).

⁵ The cemetery is located in the woods east of the intersection of County Route 24 (Benson Avenue) and Nestle Drive. There is a path to the cemetery from the Benson Avenue side, but it is overgrown and difficult to find. The entrance to the path is located at approximately 43.39919, -76.49210. Another way to get to it is to ask residents on the south end of Hillcrest Drive for directions or permission to cut through their yard.



Silhouettes of Worden Family
L-R: Amanda, Wallace, Schuyler, Jane, George, and Bruce
Courtesy of Melissa Murphy Madsen

A Simple Way to Read Old Tombstones

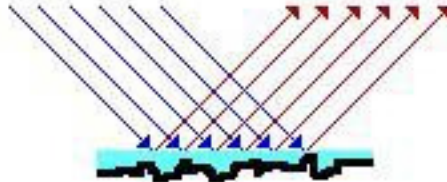
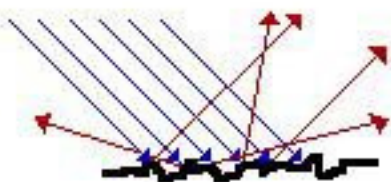
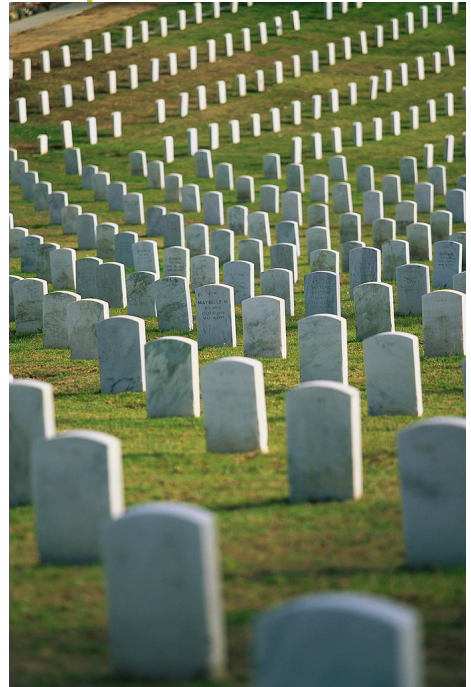
Article Courtesy of *GenealogyInTime Magazine*
www.genealogyintime.com

Old tombstones are often worn and difficult to read. Here is a simple trick to help you overcome this common problem. The next time you go to the cemetery take a bottle of water with you. Pour the water over the face of the tombstone. It won't hurt the tombstone. What it will do, however, is to help make indents on the surface stand out more.

Basically, this simple trick will make it much easier to read the remains of chiseled letters on old tombstones. Give it a try and you will be amazed at how much it can make old letters pop out.

Technically, what is happening is that the surface of a worn and faded tombstone presents what is known as a *diffuse reflection* surface. This means that light reflecting off the tombstone tends to scatter and move in different (diffuse) directions. This makes it difficult for the human eye (or an image taken by a camera) to discern the pattern of faded letters chiseled into the surface.

When water is added to the face of the tombstone, the water will fill in the letter crevices and make the surface more reflective. Scientifically, this is known as a *specular reflection*. In essence, the application of water to the surface of the tombstone helps convert it from a diffuse reflection surface to a specular reflection surface, as shown in the image below. The lining up of the light rays in a specular reflection makes it much easier to discern the pattern of letters on a faded tombstone.



Diffuse reflection is shown on the left. Notice how the light gets scattered. This makes it hard to read the underlying letters on the tombstone. When water fills in the crevices (as shown on the right) a specular reflection is formed. This helps line up the rays of light making it easier to discern the underlying pattern of the chiseled letters.

This technique is particularly useful if you want to get good photographs of old tombstones. It is always a good idea to wet the tombstone first.

Now the next time you meet up with your genealogy friends you can impress them with your scientific knowledge as to why pouring water over an old tombstone can make it so much easier to read.



Marriages 1844-1900

The following is a portion of an indexed list of marriage licenses from the Marion County Marriage Books A, B, and C (1844-1900) and Alachua County Marriage Book 1 (1837-1845). The list is organized alphabetically by the grooms' name. A copy of the original records can be obtained by contacting the Clerk of Court of either Alachua or Marion County.

Groom Name	Bride Name	Date Married	Note	Book & Page
Adams, John	Hodges, Mary Louisa	29 Jan 1871		D-045
Adams, John	Cassady, Eliza A.	16 Oct 1851		B-023
Adams, John	Bowler, Nancy	13 Feb 1897		2-230
Adams, John W.	Conner, Delia	11 Jul 1897		2-265
Adams, K.H.	Godwin, Annie E.	17 Jun 1900		2-542
Adams, Kinchin	Burnside, Lucinda W.	17 Sep 1857		B-104
Adams, Lewis	Howell, Emma	15 Nov 1884		D-792
Adams, Lewis	Cavaris, Julia A.	16 Oct 1890		1-252
Adams, Louis	Vogt, Mariah	23 Dec 1900		2-582
Adams, P.L.	Crivilin, Nancy	15 Nov 1883		D-695
Adams, Paul	Ruth, Charlotte	29 Dec 1887		1-036
Adams, R.H.	Latimore, Annie	01 Mar 1894		1-556
Adams, Raymond	Jenkins, Mary	28 Oct 1895		2-119
Adams, Richard J.	Holland, Emily F.	20 Sep 1869		C-291
Adams, Samuel	Adams, Mary Ann	23 Sep 1866		C-111
Adams, Soloman	Ridgels, Sarah	11 May 1888		1-064
Adams, Solomon	Saddler, Nancy	16 Dec 1870		D-006
Adams, Thomas	Wilson, Chainey	28 Mar 1889		1-132
Adams, Toby	Edd, Kidgiah	14 Dec 1892	(1)	1-438
Adams, W.J.	Brooks, Betty	16 Dec 1900		2-580
Adams, William	Robertson, Mattie	28 Aug 1900		2-559
Adams, Willie	Reese, Ella	18 Dec 1898		2-403
Adamson, Alexander	Simonton, Jane	11 May 1867		C-192
Agnew, A.H.	Anderson, Mabel	07 Oct 1893		1-508
Agnew, E.W.	Phillips, Hattie	18 Jun 1884		D-763
Agnew, Enoch Walter	Harrison, Sarah M.	12 Dec 1871		D-231
Agnew, George L.	Burkett, Lalah I.	15 Jun 1892		1-403
Agnew, Henry	Sturdevant, Mary L.	24 Jun 1855		B-105
Agnew, Homer R.	Christian, Alma	20 Dec 1894		2-044
Agnew, James A.	Cross, Celia S.	29 Sep 1859		B-145

Notes:

(1): The date shown as marriage date is the date the marriage license was issued. No marriage date or minister certification was recorded. It is not known if these people were actually married.

InterLibrary Loan-A Boon For Genealogists

By Gregg Gronlund

Head, Genealogy and Law Departments, Orlando Public Library

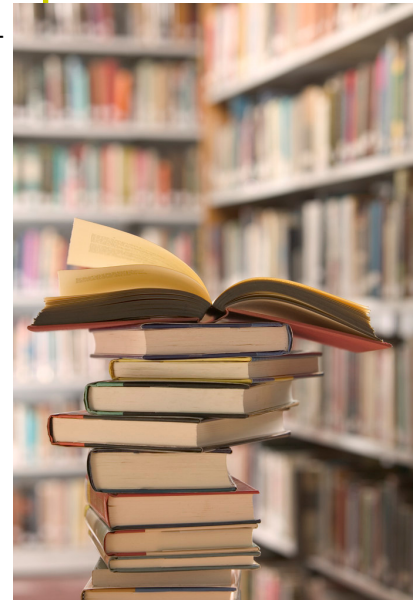
Genealogists should remember to take advantage of a valuable service provided by local libraries: Inter-Library Loan. Most libraries make this service available to their cardholders. Requests may be for books, microfilm, microfiche, or photocopies.

When requesting a particular title, patrons should also include any particular surnames of interest. We will try to obtain the book, if possible; however, most institutions do not lend Genealogy books, but will make photocopies. We also recommend that patrons indicate if microfilm or microfiche will be acceptable; often, genealogy titles are available in these formats.

Also, patrons should note how much they are willing to pay. ILL service is often free; however, frequently the lending institution charges a fee. Currently, we recommend a limit of \$10 per request, which reflects the increased costs many institutions are now beginning to charge. Often, the request will be filled without any cost to the patron. It is to the patron's advantage to inform us of a cost limit; then, if there is a charge within that limit, we will go ahead and process the request. This will enable us to get the material to the patron much more quickly. There is almost always a charge attached with photocopies, but often less than \$10.

With all ILL requests, we advise patrons to expect at least 4 - 6 weeks before receiving a response. Genealogy requests frequently take longer. When the ILL request has been completed, patrons receive a letter informing them of the results. On occasion, the patron is informed that the material requested is not available. Sometimes the material will be sent directly to the patron. Sometimes, the patron is informed that the material is "Library Use Only," that it can be used only in the Main library, and that it is available to be picked up at the Information Desk. Upon request, it is also possible to send "Library Use Only" titles to a branch to be used there. A due date will be noted and the item must be returned to the lending institution at that time. If additional time is needed, requests for renewals may be made by calling the ILL department; however, this request must be made before the due date.

Editor's Note: Not all libraries are able to support InterLibrary Loan services. Contact your local library to determine if services are available. The main library in the Marion County Library system does have InterLibrary Loan services as well as reciprocity agreements with Levy, Alachua, Lake, and Citrus counties. Any residents of those counties can obtain a library card and utilize the services available.





**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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Strangers In The Box

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Come, look with me inside this drawer,
In this box I've often seen,
At the pictures, black and white,
Faces proud, still, serene.
I wish I knew the people,
These strangers in the box,
Their names and all their memories
Are lost among my socks.
I wonder what their lives were like,
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?
I'll never know their ways.
If only someone had taken time
To tell who, what, where, or when,
These faces of my heritage
Would come to life again.
Could this become the fate
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories
Someday to be passed away?
Make time to save your stories,
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,
Or someday you and yours could be
The strangers in the box.