



Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies

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Newsletter

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Good morning all. It will be another beautiful day here. All too soon, we will be putting on our sweaters to keep us warm. Let's enjoy it while we can.

KCGS Board has a confirmation of place and date for our June conference. Wichita Genealogy Society will co host on June 20, 2015. We still need our speaker though. Stay tuned.

The Ancestry Fair will be held again in Topeka October 18th. It is a good time to meet friends and see what's new in our favorite pastime. Bill has our table all ready to set up.

If you have not yet placed your ancestors in our Forgotten Settlers series, please do so. We do not want them to be left out of our archives. Check our website for forms and instructions.

Here is what I have been reading about:

I Don't: A Contrarian History of Marriage

by Susan Squire.

Divorce customs ancient and not-so-ancient: "For nearly a thousand years, an Englishman sick of his wife could slip a halter around her neck, lead her to market -- the cattle market -- and sell her to the highest bidder, often with her willing participation. This informal route to divorce for the lower classes lasted, amazingly, until at least 1887. ... [As reported by non-fiction authors Lawrence Stone in *The Family Sex and Marriage* and Samuel Menefee in *Wives for Sale*] a drunken husband sells his wife in the opening chapter of Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886), much to the astonishment of contemporary critics. Oblivious to the informal unlawful marriage and divorce customs of the less literate brethren ('wife-sale' dates back to c. 1073), they could not imagine such a thing happening on British soil in the nineteenth century, even though popular broadsides depicting the practice (one of which illustrates the cover of Menefee's book) were still being produced and widely circulated during that same century. ...

"[In the Old Testament, the law allowed for divorce because of infertility and] Israelite men could divorce their wives for reasons far more vague than infertility. (Wives couldn't divorce their husbands for any reason.) If, for instance, 'she fails to please him because he finds something obnoxious about her,' there's no need to hire a pricey lawyer. He simply 'writes her a bill of divorcement, hands it to her and sends her away from his house.' He'd better be sure this is what he wants, because he can't have her back again. ...

"The Bible, leaving nothing to chance, provides soldiers with a lesson on the fine art of taking enemy women to wife after the enemy has been vanquished. ... You don't just throw her to the ground and have your way with her then and there. You don't throw her on the ground at all. And you don't have your way with her for an entire month. No, 'you shall bring her into your house, and she shall trim her hair, pare her nails, and discard her captive's garb. She shall spend a month's time in your house, lamenting her father and mother; after that you may come to her and possess her, and she shall be your wife.' The lesson includes instruction on how to get rid of her, too. No bill of divorcement is required, but restrictions do apply: 'Then, should you no longer want her, you must release her outright. You must not sell her for money; since you had your will of her, you must not enslave her.' "

I Don't: A Contrarian History of Marriage

Author: Susan Squire
Publisher: Bloomsbury USA

Irish Emigration Database

Starting in 2001 the JFK Trust began to compile a most comprehensive database of Irish emigration to the United States, in conjunction with the Balch Institute in Philadelphia, the Ellis Island Restoration Commission in New York and the Battery Conservancy in New York.

This database is compiled directly from the original Ship's Passenger Manifests. It records Irish, English, Scottish, and Welsh immigrants arriving at the main US ports.

For the port of New York, the database covers the years between 1846 and 1890. For Boston, Baltimore, New Orleans, and Philadelphia the database covers only the famine years between 1846 and 1851.

Access to the database is free through this website. Printouts are available for a small fee.

<http://www.dunbrody.com/get-involved/irish-emigration-database>

A tip for web searching:

Use another search engine

Even the best Google search won't help you find pages that Google hasn't indexed, or items that are on page 5987 out of 28,001. If Google isn't cutting it, you have alternatives. Competitors, including [Bing](#), [Yahoo](#), [Ask.com](#), and [DuckDuckGo](#), may point you to sites that don't show up in Google. And because each search engine prioritizes search results differently, the page you're looking for may be more prominent in one than in another. If you get stuck, trying the same search in another engine may do the trick.

Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy Early-Bird Registration Ends on October 31, 2014

The following announcement was written by the organizers of the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy:

The Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) will be held January 12-16, 2015. All courses and events will be held at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center Hotel. Labs, if applicable, and research facilities will be available at the Family History Library.

Registration:

<http://www.infouga.org/aem.php?lv=r&eid=12>

Early-bird registration ends on October 31, 2014. If you log in as a member first your information will be populated and you will be automatically charged the reduced rate. If you are a non-UGA member you may purchase a membership, register as a non-member, and be refunded the difference. If you have questions please call the main UGA phone number at (801) 259-4172 or email sligdirector@ugagenealogy.org.

5 Tips For Finding Your Ancestors' Occupations

Michael J. Leclerc's Research Tips

One of the ways we can make our ancestors come to life is by identifying their occupations. There are a number of different ways you can find this information. One of the first sources that come to mind is

directories, which often list occupations as well as addresses. Here are a few sources.

1. Probate Records

Yes, when a person's estate is entered into probate, the record usually records the occupation and place of residence with the name of the deceased. But sometimes it does not. And even if it does, you can still find more details about his occupation by examining the full record. Most especially, look for the inventory of the estate. The inventory will usually list all possessions, including those used for following one's occupation. Examining the list of tools can help you to determine your ancestor's occupation. You might even be able to discover more specifically what trade it was. For example, you might know what an ancestor was a smith, but was he a blacksmith, whitesmith, or goldsmith? Examining the tools may help you determine this.

2. Land Records

Once again, a person's occupation is often listed at the start of the document. But other clues can lurk in land records. For example, look at the property being purchased. Is it farmland? Is it meadow that might be used to feed livestock? Are there buildings on it? What types of buildings? Farms? Tenements? A forge? All of these can provide clues to the occupation of your ancestor.

3. Assessor's Records

Tax records are a huge boon for genealogists, and very underutilized in many areas. Not only can they put an ancestor on the ground in a particular place and time, they can tell you a great deal more about the ancestor's life. By looking at what types of taxes are being paid, you can often get clues to an ancestor's occupation. Taxes for large amounts of livestock, for example, could be a clue that the ancestor was a farmer. Or there might be taxes for different kinds of manufactures.

4. Association/Organization Records

Many social organizations were created by members of professions. Members practiced the same, or similar occupations. Determining what organizations your ancestor belonged to may help you determine what occupation they followed. For example, The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry (commonly called "The Grange") is a fraternal organization promoting "the economic and political well-being of the community and agriculture." An ancestor who was a member of the Grange might have

been a farmer, or any of a number of occupations involved in agriculture.

5. Local Histories

Many local histories mention any number of people involved in particular occupations. The odds are even greater of a mention if your ancestor was the sole practitioner of an occupation in the town where he lived, such as the village blacksmith. They are also a wonderful source for identifying the associations and organizations mentioned above that formed in the area where your ancestor lived.



Bonus Fact: At times, the Earth's axis moves. It takes a big event, like an earthquake though. As NASA reported in 2011 after a major earthquake hit Japan, [the Earth's axis shifted by 6.5 inches \(17 cm\)](#). NASA notes that the change causes the Earth "to wobble a bit differently as it rotates," although none of standing on its surface us would really notice.

Kaninhoppning

There are many strange competitions in this world. There's [extreme ironing](#), [toe wrestling](#), and [the world beard and moustache championships](#), for example. All strange, all very much real.

But none are as cute as the Swedish competition known as Kaninhoppning -- or, in English, rabbit show jumping.

Rabbit show jumping dates back to the late 1970s or early 1980s, and mimics equestrian in many ways -- not just by borrowing its fence design. The rabbits' owners guide them through an obstacle course (not on their back, of course, but rather by command or by leash -- you can see a blue one in the picture above) and the winning rabbit and owner is the one which completes the course with the least number of errors and, secondarily, in the shortest

amount of time. The owners are allowed to redirect their rabbits a predetermined number of times (typically three) without incurring a penalty -- after all, it can be pretty hard to steer a rabbit.

But before you mock Kaninhoppning too much, rest assured that these rabbits really can jump. [According to Wikipedia](#), there are official records for the longest and highest rabbit jumps in the competitions. Those records -- 3,000 mm long (about 9.8 feet) and 995 mm high (about 3.25 feet) -- are both owned by owners (and rabbits) from Denmark.

That makes sense: Kaninhoppning is most popular in Scandinavian nations and [its international federation is based in Sweden](#). [But according to the Wall Street Journal](#), it has caught on in the United Kingdom as well. And that's only the beginning. [According to the Daily Mail](#) (in an article which has lots of pictures of rabbits jumping over stuff), rabbit show jumping competitions can be found throughout Europe, in the U.S. and Canada, and even in Japan. (The website for the U.S. fed-

Twenty thousand words.

That's roughly the equivalent of a thirty to forty page high school term paper. But in this case, the documents in question aren't written by a tenth grader comparing and contrasting "1984" and "Brave New World." They were written by a team of attorneys, and those 20,000 or so words likely need another team of attorneys if one wants to comprehend the documents' meaning. Yet we consumers sign these contracts anyway. They're credit card agreements.

That word count comes [courtesy of the Wall Street Journal](#), which further notes that as recently as 1980, the typical credit card agreement ran a mere 400 words -- a page and a half or so. For most of us, though, it hardly matters whether the agreement is two pages or two hundred; we're going to sign them anyway and we're not going to read it before-hand.

Theda Richards has sent me some notes on her family history. Maybe some of you will share..

Matthias Trace was born in 1757 in LongswampTWP, Berks County, PA.;he married

Elizabeth. They had 5 children: Daniel, Samuel, Mary, and Matthias.

Daniel born in 1790 married Nancy Ross who was born 1795: they had 3 children;James M.in 1823;Mathias R. in 1824 who died 25 Sept 1884 due to heart trouble.and Elizabeth 1829. They were all born in Ohio. Nancy died 26 Aug 1834

Daniel then married Sarah Knox who was born in 1804 in PA. They married 18 Jan 1836: they had one child Anna (ANN ?) in 1837 in Ohio.

According to Zanesville, Ohio Probate Court records" Daniel Trace died April 15 1876 @ 89 years of age. If this is the same, somewhere the age has been changed.

Daniel had a twin, Samuel Trace born 1790 in PA. He married Nancy Dickson 12 Oct 1826; she had been born 1811 In VA. They had 3 children: Rachel in 1833, Mathias in 1835, Daniel in 1837, and John in 1839.

next marriages later

Mary Trace {3rd child of Mathias} married John Hogseed ; Rebecca married Walter Hogseed. However my line goes to James Trace who was born in 1823 in Ohio and then died in 1897 in Augusta, KS. He had been in Company D--160th Regiment - Ohio National Guard Aug 8, 1863 -Discharged May 1866. James married Isabella Little 23 Dec 1851 (she had been born in 1831 in Adams, Gueensey, Ohio USA. She died 11 Oct 1865 in Ohio Presbyterian Church. James & Isabella had 5 children: Nancy Ross Trace 10 Dec 1852 {died 1936 in KS}; Samuel born 7 July 1854 {died 30 Oct 1896}; Margaret born 1857 {died 27 Aug 1941} ; Daniel born 1859 [Married Belle McKinney 10 June 1886 in Kingman Co., Ks. They had ! child Carrie Hazel. with whom Daniel lived until death in 1938 they are buried in Grandview Cemetery in Monte Rose, Colo. ;Carrie married Robert Nuener and are buried in same cemetery with his parents & Daniel.

A Thought for Today

When I despair, I remember that All through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been murderers ad tyrants, and for a time they can seem invincible. But in the end they always fail. Think of it, Always. Mohandas Gandhi (1860-1948)

Til Next time Janeice