



## THE BIRMINGHAM GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded March 15, 1959

[www.bgsal.org](http://www.bgsal.org)

<http://birminghamgenealogy.wordpress.com/>

## THE PIONEER TRAILS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2018

**General Meeting for June:** The Birmingham Genealogical Society will meet at 2:00 p.m. on **Saturday, June 23rd** on the fourth floor of the Birmingham Public Library (in the Computer Lab next to the Arrington Auditorium). The Board of Directors will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the same room.

**Please join us as Donna Cox Baker presents: "How to Use Pre-1850 Census."** Donna Cox Baker is the blogger behind The Golden Egg Genealogist and the co-founder of the Beyond Kin Project. Donna has a PhD in history and is editor-in-chief of *Alabama Heritage* magazine. Her first book, *Views of the Future State: Afterlife Beliefs in the Deep South*, was published in January 2018. The earliest U.S. Census schedules, 1790-1840, furnish only the names of the free heads of family, not of other family members. These schedules totaled the number of other family members, without name, by free or slave status. Free, white individuals were also grouped by age and sex categories from 1790 through 1810 - a categorization that eventually applied to other persons. The age categories also increased each year, from two age groups for free white males only in 1790, to twelve age groups for free whites and six age groups for slaves and free colored persons in 1840. *Please join us!*

### Research & Genealogical Tips

**Compare the Inventory with the Appraisal:** In some locations, estate inventories and appraisals had to be conducted. If the items listed in one cannot be read, compare them to the other. Sometimes the clerk who wrote the inventory and the appraisal were different individuals with significantly different handwriting. There can be occupational and other clues in estate inventories and appraisals. Use one to help you read the other.

**Get Over Spelling:** First and last names of your ancestor will be spelled differently, sometimes different ways in the same document. There is more to "matching" people than the spelling of their first and last name. Make certain you have valid reason to believe people appearing in different records are the same person. And remember—the name is usually considered the "same" if the pronunciations are the same. That missing "e" may irritate you, but it doesn't mean it's an entirely different person.

**Delayed Birth Certificates:** If there "should" be a birth certificate for your ancestor, make certain that there are not delayed birth certificates that have been overlooked. Sometimes these are filed separately from the certificates that were recorded promptly and may have been filed when your relative needed proof of age for employment, social security, etc. Also consider that your ancestor may not have been born in the jurisdiction that you think he was. Also make certain that births were actually recorded at the time your ancestor was born.

© Michael John Neill, "Genealogy Tip of the Day,"

<http://genealogytipoftheday.com/>, TIPDATE

**The past is not dead. It isn't even past. --William Faulkner**

*Scott A. Martin, BGS Newsletter Editor*

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## “How Genealogy Can Affect Your Eyesight”

Prepared by: Ezekias Walter courtesy of *Genealogy Today*

Genealogists start to have two ways of looking at everything. There is the normal way that other people see things, and there is another kind of sight as well. I call it ancestral vision. Here's an example: Spring cleaning time arrives, and the ancestor finder goes up to the attic to look for rubbish, trash, unused items, and other debris that needs to be put out for the trash collector. He begins filling a big green lawn-and-leaf bag. All of a sudden, his ancestral vision kicks in.

What was garbage is now a treasure trove, filled with items that provide clues to family members of the past. No longer looking through a normal person's eyes, the family researcher sees signs of relatives from the past. He now feels compelled to scrutinize every item for tracks to the family's history.

It isn't only genealogists who have this affliction. The general sees things strategically, the painter sees them visually, and the repairman sees them mechanically. Sherlock Holmes saw clues where others saw only the ordinary. Now, back to the attic, where very little is being thrown away. Every time the family historian is inclined to toss an old, unusable item, his ancestral vision reveals that it is actually a priceless keepsake, in genealogical terms. Pretty soon, everything is a keepsake instead of a get-rid-of.

While this can sometimes become a problem, this second vision, known only to genealogy researchers, is normally a tremendous asset in the long run. Many of these items hold leads to your ancestors. Examine any item you are inclined to throw away, give away or sell, for traces of earlier family members.

If, after a careful examination, you decide to part with the item, first make a written notation of any information it contains. This may seem pointless at the time, but it can be invaluable when you run into the proverbial brick wall in your family tree research. A simple note can be the clue that offers a new direction that will enable you to start your research again.

What kind of items are we talking about? One to start with is books-especially those boxes filled with dust-covered, ancient volumes exuding that old-book smell. Wear gloves if you must, but pull out these books and look inside each one. It's been a longstanding tradition to make inscriptions in books, especially just inside the front cover. Sometimes it's a book's owner, and sometimes its giver. The latter may name an occasion for the gift, such as a birthday, which could include the date and age of the recipient.

Other items to look for are bookplates. These were glue-on labels that contained the name, and sometimes the address, of the book's owner. This was prevalent in the past because of the common practice of loaning books to friends. Further examination of the book should include the title page. This can reveal a copyright date or date the book was published, or even printed. Oftentimes, this will help you narrow a range of time.

Best of all are often the Bibles. They were commonly gifts to children on the occasions of their baptism, first communion or acceptance as a church member, and they may be inscribed accordingly.

If the Bible you find is a family Bible, it may contain names, dates of birth, marriages, and deaths of member of the family. These Bibles are considered family heirlooms, meaning they may have been handed down from one generation to the next, giving you information about more than one generation of your ancestors.

Old clothes are truly tempting to throw away or give to a charitable thrift shop. Either no one can wear them or no one will. Before you decide to discard them, examine them with your ancestral eyesight. You are looking for name tags or merchant tags. Hold them up and try to envision the person who wore them. This can come in handy when you come across photos with people you can't identify. Military uniforms are of special value, especially the emblems of rank, units or other insignia, ribbons, or medals. These are the types of clues that can lead to the military records of your ancestor.

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Items that truly require ancestral vision are items of furniture. Sometimes you will find that they appear to have been handmade. Remove every drawer, and look it over, front to back and top to bottom. You may uncover old papers, or the name of the person who made it and the date it was made.

Don't be discouraged if the name you uncover is that of a non-family member. This can provide an alternate source of information about your family, their neighbors, and the community in which they lived. Clocks, lamps and other accessory items may hold possibilities as well. Manufacturers' names and locations may reveal information about your family's place of residence. Engraved items, like watches, rings and other jewelry, can provide names and dates that may come in handy as your research progresses. After all, genealogical research is a never-ending process, and what appears irrelevant now can be crucial later on.

Ancestral vision may be a mere irritant to friends and relatives of the family historian, because they see only the drawbacks. True, it may slow down spring cleaning and contribute to clutter in the attic or basement, but this special eyesight is able to ferret out treasures.

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## “Clues in Census Records, 1790-1840”

Courtesy of Claire Prechtel-Klusgens, *The Record*, Vol. 4, No. 5 (May 1998).

Experienced genealogical researchers use clues found in one record to find **other** records about the same individual. Although the first six federal decennial censuses taken from 1790 through 1840 contain less data than those taken later, they still contain useful clues that should not be overlooked.

- Date of Birth
- Military Service
- Immigration and Naturalization
- Occupation and Economic Data
- Conclusion

### Date of Birth

The 1790-1840 censuses generally **named** only the head of household but reported the **age** of each household member in age categories. For example, the 1810 census reported the number of free white males and females in these age categories:

"Under ten years of age"

"Of ten years, and under sixteen"

"Of sixteen, and under twenty-six"

"Of twenty-six, and under forty-five"

"Of forty-five and upwards"

While the age range provided by age categories does not indicate an exact date of birth, it at least gives a "ballpark" figure useful (1) for tracking the head of household from one census to the next, especially if other people have the same name, and (2) for tentatively estimating the composition of the family, which the researcher must confirm from other records. For example, in 1810, the household of Alexander Tackles of Warsaw, Genesee Co., NY, consisted of two males age 16-26 (sons Alexander Jr. and John B.), one male over age 45 (Alexander), one female under age 10 (daughter Sophronia), one female age 16-26 (daughter Polly), and one female over age 45 (wife Philena Howard). The census provided the age ranges of family members; names and exact dates of birth of Alexander's family members were obtained from other records. The 1840 census reported the name and exact age of Revolutionary War pensioners; examples are given in the next section.

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## Military Service

The 1840 census asked for the names and ages of "Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services, Included in the Foregoing [Household]." Pensioners included both veterans and widows. For example, veteran Alexander Tackels, aged 85, was enumerated in the household of Jonathan Arnold in Middlebury, Genesee (now Wyoming) Co., NY, and the widow Chloe McCullar, aged 81 1/2, was enumerated in the household of W.W. Blake in St. Albans Township, Licking Co., OH. This clue should lead the researcher to Revolutionary War military service and pension records. The pension files, which are especially useful, have been reproduced in NARA microfilm publication **M804, *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files (2,670 rolls)***. Military service records are also available on microfilm; for more information see listings for Record Group 93, War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, in ***Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1996)***, which is available online or for purchase.

Since elderly persons usually resided with kinfolk, the pensioners' presence in these households should be a clue that the pensioner may be related to someone in the household. For example, William W. Blake's wife's maiden name was Nancy McCullar; she was one of Chloe McCullar's children.

## Immigration and Naturalization

The 1820 census reported the number of "Foreigners not naturalized" in each household; the 1830 census reported the number of "ALIENS--Foreigners not naturalized" in each household. For example, the 1820 census for Geauga County, Ohio, reported that these households included aliens:

Name	Number of Aliens	Township
Thomas Ainslee	2	Parkman
Francis Bark	1	Painesville
Francis Billette	3	Painesville
John Graham 2d	1	Perry
Abel Levins	1	Parkman

Although these censuses do not specify which person or persons in the household were aliens, this clue should alert the researcher (1) to search for known household members in immigration records, (2) to be alert to clues in other records that point to the suspected immigrant's possible foreign origins, and (3) to search for possible later naturalization records for the suspected immigrant. Unfortunately, however, there are relatively few ship passenger lists (immigration records) before January 1, 1820, when the Federal Government began requiring such lists to be presented to collectors of customs.

## Occupation and Economic Data

### 1810 Census

In 1810, the U.S. marshals and their assistants who took the census were instructed to obtain information about manufacturing. However, since they were not told what questions to ask, the information collected varied widely. For example, Eli Waste of Wilmington, Windham Co., VT, owned one loom that produced the following yards of cloth: 60 woolen, 50 linen, 10 cotton, and 50 mixed fabrics, while James Weston [*sic*, Westurn] of Orwell, Rutland (now Addison) Co., VT, owned seven sheep, one spinning wheel, and one little spinning wheel that produced 25 yards of woolen cloth and 15 yards of linen cloth. Clues about livestock may lead to personal property tax records, kept by the county treasurer, county auditor, or equivalent official.

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## 1820 Census

The 1820 census reported the number of persons in each household who engaged in agriculture, commerce, and manufacturing. If household members engaged in agriculture (i.e., were farmers), the researcher should check for deeds and mortgages in the county recorder's office or equivalent agency, and for real and personal property tax records kept by the county auditor, county treasurer, or equivalent official. Not all farmers owned land or livestock, of course, but it is always worthwhile to check all extant records for the place where a person is known to have lived. If household members engaged in manufacturing, the researcher should examine NARA microfilm publication **M279, *Records of the 1820 Census of Manufactures (27 rolls)***. According to the instructions given the U.S. marshals and their assistants, persons engaged in manufacturing included both (1) both employees in "manufacturing establishments" and (2) "artificers, handicrafts men, and mechanics whose labor is preeminently of the hand, and not upon the field." The manufacturing census schedules in M279 include information about:

- The type of business;
- Kinds and quantities of raw materials used;
- Number of persons employed;
- Number and type of machinery;
- Expenditures for capital (equipment) and wages;
- Type and quality of goods produced annually; and
- General remarks.

Three cautions are in order, however:

**First**, a person listed as a manufacturer in the population census may not be included in the 1820 manufacturing schedules in M279. For example, M279 contains information about 13 manufacturing establishments in Batavia (now Middlefield), Burton, Chardon, and Parkman Twps., Geauga Co., OH, but the population census lists 60 households in the same townships in which one or more persons were engaged in manufacturing!

**Second**, a household may include only persons "engaged in agriculture" according to the population census, yet have a manufacturing schedule in M279. For example, M279 includes a manufacturing schedule for a pot and pearl ashery owned by "Ives & Doty" of Parkman Twp., Geauga Co., OH, yet the population census reported Jesse Ives and Asa Doty's households only included persons "engaged in agriculture."

**Third**, persons who are not listed as head of household in the population census may have a manufacturing schedule in M279. For example, Daniel Earle, Oliver Gavitt, and R.W. Scott are all listed in M279 as manufacturers in Parkman Township, Geauga Co., OH, but are not named as heads of household in the population census anywhere in the county.

## 1840 Census

The 1840 census reported the number of persons in each household who engaged in mining; agriculture; commerce; manufactures and trades; navigation of the ocean; navigation of canals, lakes, and rivers; and learned professions and engineers. Again, researchers should check land and tax records kept by county officials, especially when the household was engaged in agricultural pursuits.

## Conclusion

Experienced genealogical researchers use clues found in one record to locate other records about the same individual. However, it is always best to thoroughly exhaust all extant records for the place where the person is known to have lived, as shown by the above analysis of the surprises found in the 1820 manufacturing schedules for Geauga Co., OH.



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## **NORTHEAST ALABAMA PUBLIC HISTORY/ARCHAEOLOGY/GENEALOGY CONFERENCE**

DATE: July 12, 2018 – July 14, 2018

TIME: TBD

LOCATION: University of Alabama, Gadsden Center, 121 N. 1st St., Gadsden, AL 35901

WEBSITE: <http://www.alabama200.org/participate/events/events-calendar/>

Join public historians, archaeologists, and genealogists in this three-day event in Gadsden. Thursday, July 12, will be dedicated to public and local history. Friday, July 13, will be dedicated to archaeology. Saturday, July 14, will be dedicated to genealogy. Admission is \$15 per day and \$10 for lunch per day. Open to all interest levels. For more information, contact Skip Campbell at [eccampbell@ccs.ua.edu](mailto:eccampbell@ccs.ua.edu) or 256 546 2886 for more information.



## **ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION HONORING DAVID LINDSAY, REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER AND SHELBY COUNTY PIONEER**

DATE: September 9, 2018

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Liberty Hall, American Village, 3727 Hwy. 119, Montevallo, AL 35115

WEBSITE: <http://www.alabama200.org/participate/events/events-calendar/>

David Lindsay, born in Pennsylvania, was a Revolutionary War Soldier who served in the Washington County, Pennsylvania Militia. David and his wife Mary Casey Lindsay moved to the Alabama Territory in 1818 and settled in Shelby County, Alabama where he is listed on the 1820 census. For the Alabama Bicentennial 2018 year to honor Alabama's people, the David Lindsay Chapter, NSDAR, along with the Cahaba-Coosa Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, and Eagle Candidate Caleb Jones, Boy Scouts of America Troop 532, are renovating and remarking the David Lindsay Historical Cemetery Site on Highway 17 in Alabaster. The DAR and SAR are actively searching of descendants of David and Mary Lindsay and their 12 children to attend the David Lindsay Celebration. Event is free and the public is invited.

## **AGS (ALABAMA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY) FALL WORKSHOP**

DATE: October 13, 2018

TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, AL

WEBSITE: <http://algensoc.org/main/seminars.html>

Speaker Mark Lowe will speak about the following topics: “Alabama Records & Migration— From Waldo Semon to Rosa Parks to Tallulah Brockman Bankhead”; “Selling Spirituous Liquor without a License and Other Wonderful Court Records”; “Finding Uncle John by Talking to Neighbors”; and, “Dower, Dowry, and Detinue— Women and their Men’s Property.” Please see our website for more information.

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### **Officers & Directors**

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