



Founded 1983

First Landing

Newsletter

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Genealogy: That They May Never Die

By Bob Bruce
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At the
December 4,

2021 Commemoration of the Battle at Great Bridge, sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Norfolk Chapter and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Great Bridge Chapter, the speaker, Jon Stull, noted that we all have three deaths. The first is when we stop breathing; the second is when the last person who knew us well dies; and the third is when someone says our name for the last time and there is no other memory.



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I was curious as to the origin of this thought. Several have quoted a variation including Hemingway who said, “Every man [woman] has two deaths, when he [she] is buried in the ground and the last time someone says his [her] name. In some ways men [women] can be immortal.”

Upon consulting that all-knowing resource, Google, I found that this concept or belief goes way back, even to Jewish and Egyptian ruminations.

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National Genealogical Society: Supporting individuals as they progress in their genealogy education/research, and supporting a diverse community of genealogy societies/organizations.
<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>



The Virginia Genealogical Society was organized in 1960.
<https://www.vgs.org/>

Leadership Notes President's Message FEBRUARY 2022

Welcome to the new year! We are still growing strong with very interesting new members. Read about some of them in this newsletter. Our annual banquet is coming up fast. Don't lose your opportunity to buy a ticket; sales end February 17, 2022.



June is also coming up fast; the time of turnover. I am looking for anyone who would like to be on the Nominating Committee, also need a chair person. They would accept nominations for positions on the VBGS Board. We will need two new members at large and a new treasurer. We are looking for a new treasurer right away. This person would start working with our current treasurer to ensure there is a smooth transition. Email president@vbgsva.net if interested.

We also need some help with some of our committees and groups.

- A Writers Group Assistant to help Carol Johnson. You'd make flyers, take care of meeting emails and signups, and host zoom meetings. Email president@vbgsva.net if you are interested.

- A Social Media Ambassador. A new position focused on posting to our members only and public Facebook pages as well as other sites. If you are interested, email publicity@vbgsva.net.

- A video editor. A new position that would clip/make videos to have as our public videos on YouTube. Email publicity@vbgsva.net if you are interested.

You will enjoy working with our wonderful members!

Wendy Bransom

VBGS was founded 1983 for educational purposes.

The objectives of this Society are:

- To help individuals conduct their genealogical research and compile their family histories
- To aid individuals by educational means, including lectures, discussions and workshops
- To create and foster an interest in genealogy
- To gather and preserve genealogical and historical data.

Membership: \$25 Individual and \$35 Family:

<https://vbgsva.net/membership/>

Mail applications, questions and address changes to: VBGS P.O. Box 62901 Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2901. To contact VBGS Board Members, Committee Chairs and Group Leaders visit

<https://vbgsva.net/about-contact/>

President Wendy Bransom

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Librarian Brian Baldwin

Membership Duane Harding

Webmaster Carmen Cross

Banquet Wendy Bransom

Society Administrator
Bobbie Brenton
admin@vbgsva.net

Upcoming Events and Conferences

2022 Meetings

VBGS monthly members meetings are hybrid, at the Virginia Beach Central Library (VBCL) in-person and on Zoom. Times vary.

10 FEB: VBGS Monthly Meeting at VBCL and via Zoom, time 5:30 pm, Topic: "Slover Library Resources," guest speaker: Troy Valos.

15 FEB: VBGS Computer User Group at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "WikiTree" led by Wendy Bransom.

21 FEB: VBGS Writers Group Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "A Love Story," with a mini lesson.

1 MAR: VBGS How-to Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "Begin Your Land Records Journey."

15 MAR: VBGS Computer User Group at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "Digital Preservation Library of Congress."

21 MAR: VBGS Writers Group Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "A War Story," with a mini lesson.

5 APR: VBGS How-to Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: TBD

14 APR: VBGS Monthly Meeting at VBCL and via Zoom, time TBD, Topic: "Meet Marye Bucke From Jamestown," guest speaker: Rebecca Suedieck.

18 APR: VBGS Writers Group Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "A Birth or Naming Story" with a mini lesson.

21 APR: VBGS Computer User Group at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "How to Convert Slides," Hybrid, also at VBCL.

3 MAY: VBGS How-to Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: TBD

12 MAY: VBGS Monthly Meeting at VBCL and via Zoom, time TBD, Topic: "Voting Records:

Genealogy/s Best Kept Secret," guest speaker: Pam Vestal.

19 MAY: VBGS Computer User Group at 7:00 pm, Hybrid, Topic: "How to use an All-In-One Printer," Hybrid, also at VBCL.

23 MAY: VBGS Writers Group Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "A Travel Story," with a mini lesson.

21 JUN: VBGS Computer User Group: TBD

2021-2022 Conferences and Other Events

3-5 MAR: RootsTech 2022, Virtual and Free, to register or learn more, [click here](#).

5 MAR: VBGS Social: Slover Library, Sargeant Memorial Collection Tour from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, led by Troy Valos.

10 MAR: VBGS Banquet, Honey Bee Golf Club, Speaker Kelly McMahon, CG., Topic: "Using Land Holdings to prove Kinship: Deeds, Patents, and Maps - A Valuable Genealogica Source," buy tickets at this [link](#).

12 MAR: Fairfax Genealogical Society Spring Fair, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, to "Celebrate Your Shamrock Roots: Irish and Scots-Irish Research. In-person or by Zoom, to register, [click here](#).

25-26 MAR: 2022 NCGS Virtual Conference to North Carolina family history researchers. Four lectures a day, to register, [click here](#).

9 APR: VBGS Social: Princess Anne County Training Center Tour (pending) at 11:00 am.

30 APR: VBGS Social: Hermitage Museum Tour (pending) at 11:00 am.

21 MAY: VBGS Social: Ferry Plantation Tour at 11:00 am.

Genealogy: That They May Never Die (continued from page 1)

The SAR and DAR certainly exist to honor the men and women by whose sacrifices we have our country and freedoms we cherish today.

The events in which they participated are memorialized that we may never forget, and they may never die.

As I listened to the speaker amidst the pageantry of the occasion, it struck me that genealogy serves this purpose. We keep the memory of our ancestors alive that they may never die!

Jon Stull speaker at Great Bridge 2021



Call for Vendors and Presenters

for a

Genealogy Day at the Beach

The Virginia Beach Genealogy Society is looking for a well-rounded group of presenters and vendors for a day of genealogy fun which will close with the regular VBGS monthly meeting. Note: The library currently closes at 8, if operating hours are extended, additional speakers and vendor time will be added.

date: May 11, 2022

time: 3:30 – 7:30 (or later)

where: Virginia Beach Central Library

4100 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452

cost: free and open to the public!



a little information

Vendors:

- 3 pm set-up
- 1 table per vendor (provided)
- advertise services and/or sell family history related items
- no space fee!

Speakers:

- 30-minute block (less to allow for Q&A)
- intro/beginner type topics preferred due to time constraints
- no speaker fees paid

interested?

contact us at
genealogyday@vbgsva.net
 for more details and an application

Spaces are limited!

Trouble With Jenny

By David Leatherwood

david.g.leatherwood@gmail.com



August Johnson was a cosmopolitan blacksmith. Born on 26 April 1862 in rural Norway, he emigrated to the United States as a young man, married a fellow immigrant, and established a successful business in northwest Connecticut.¹ He maintained contact with Scandinavian family and friends over a period of decades, and aided some in moving to America.

Among August Johnson's extended family, no one was as affected by the World Wars of the twentieth century as his niece Jenny. The second child of August's sister Mathilde, Jenny Alvide Johansen came to America in her late teens.² Arriving shortly before the First World War, she started out life in the United States, like many of the transient immigrant Scandinavians August sponsored, living and working in the Johnson home. This was not an unusual situation for the times; over half of immigrant households kept boarders or lodgers.³

August Johnson's five children welcomed their cousin Jenny as an older sister. She quickly integrated into the family, and, through them, into local society. Within a few years of arriving in America, she met and married a Connecticut man.



Jenny Alvide Johansen

¹ The boundaries of Høland in the Norwegian state of Akershus have changed over time. The area where August Johansen grew up is now known as Søndre Høland (South Høland). A church record of August Johnson's birth can be accessed online at: <https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/60606/images/Kb20061030020672?pId=1701583>.

² Jenny Alvide Johansen, born November 1892 in Norway, was the daughter of August's sister Mathilde Soffie Johan Olaisdatter and her husband Aton (Anbjorn) Johansen. Mathilde had left the farm for Oslo, where she met Aton. He worked there as a leather tanner (per family tradition, related by Liv Heitmann (1931-2021) to David Leatherwood in 1984).

³ Mark Wyman, *Round-trip America, The Immigrants Return to Europe* (Cornell University Press, 1993), p. 61.

Philip Clayton Ryder was five years Jenny's senior; a lumber teamster from the nearby town of Willington, in Tolland County, Connecticut.⁴ Theirs was an ill-fated marriage, which Jenny refused to discuss later in life. Some details can, however, be discerned from the historical record.

It appears from census records that Philip Ryder's father had a series of failed marriages, and that Philip himself grew up in a household where there was often no mother present. The 1900 census reflects Philip at age 13, living with his father Charles H. Ryder and two boarders. The father is listed as a married farmer, but no wife is to be found in the home. Jennie Church, one of the two boarders recorded by census-takers in 1900, also appears in the Ryder household in the 1910 census, listed this time as a 48-year-old servant. Philip is present at age 23, and is, at that point, unmarried. In 1910, both father and son give their professions as teamsters in the lumber business.

(continued on page 6)

Trouble With Jenny (continued from page 5)

The annotation “M” in the 1910 census, to denote “married,” is followed in the case of Charles Ryder by the number “3”; an unconventional entry that presumably reflects the number of times he had been married. His third wife, the former Sarah Louise Morrison, was apparently separated from him at the time (she would marry again following his death).⁵

On 9 July 1910, a local newspaper reported Charles H. Ryder was taken to the hospital for the insane at nearby Norwich, Connecticut. He passed away there four months later, at age 58.⁶ His brief obituaries describe him as well known among local horse dealers.

Philip Ryder and Jenny Johnson were wed within two years of the 1910 census. They had their first child, Charles Anton Ryder, on October 18, 1912. When Charles turned one year old, Jenny made arrangements to take him to meet his grandparents in Norway. Her husband Philip would remain behind in America as Jenny, newly pregnant, traversed the Atlantic with their son.

Jenny’s second child, Phyllis Mathilde Ryder, conceived in America, was born in Norway on July 2, 1914 – three weeks before the Austro-Hungarian invasion of Serbia that ignited World War One. German submarines soon became a well-publicized hazard for transatlantic travel, as evidenced by the sinking of the Lusitania and the Sussex. In light of these dangers, Philip Ryder wrote instructing his wife to remain, for the time being, in Norway.⁷

Three long years later, in April 1917, America declared war on Germany, and all able-bodied American men were required to register for the draft. Philip Ryder did so the following month. He is listed on the registration form as a marine machinist working for the Remington Company in Wilmington, Delaware, married with two children, and as having no prior military experience. He is described, at age 29, as tall and slender, with brown eyes and grey hair.



Philip Ryder from his 1920 Application for Seaman’s Certificate of American Citizenship, number 33022

⁴ Philip Ryder was born July 28, 1887, per his 1912 draft registration card and 1920 application for a Seaman’s Certificate of American Citizenship.

⁵ *The Rock Island Argus* (Rock Island, Illinois), September 30, 1919.

⁶ *The Norwich Bulletin* editions of July 9, September 22, and November 14, 1910.

⁷ Per family tradition, related by Liv Heitmann (1931-2021) to David Leatherwood in 1984.



Charles Anton Ryder, Eugen Hansen, August’s brother Jul, and Erna - near Roligheten. Charles drowned while swimming at age 18, in 1929.

Trouble With Jenny (continued from page 6)

Once he was drafted, Jenny soon lost letter contact with her husband. She believed him to have been associated with the air wing of the Army, but was unsuccessful, from Norway, in trying to locate him through the Red Cross.⁸ In a war that claimed 15 million lives, she eventually presumed him dead.

On June 22, 1918, four years after returning to Norway, Jenny married for a second time. Her new husband, Eugen Hansen, was a Norwegian police detective with a love for training dogs. Theirs was, by all accounts, a perfect match. When the First World War concluded five months after Jenny and Eugen's wedding, Philip Ryder set out for Norway to find his wife.

Philip's unanticipated arrival on the scene in Norway was traumatic for all concerned. Jenny was, however, resolute in deciding on a future with Eugen, and was supported in that decision by her extended family. The last clear evidence of Philip Ryder in the historical record is of him working his way to New York via Southampton, England in June 1920, as a crewmember aboard the aging steamship "Philadelphia."⁹ His biological children would never know him, and their efforts to find him would prove unsuccessful.¹⁰

⁸ The U.S. Air Force was later formed as a separate branch of the military in 1947.

⁹ The ship manifest lists Philip Ryder, born in Connecticut, as a 31-year-old "desk Eng." He is described as 5'11" tall. The crew comprised multiple nationalities, many of whom were struck from the manifest after having "failed to join."

¹⁰ His daughter Phyllis had an address for Philip Clayton Ryder at 1168 E. 7th Street, St. Paul, Minnesota from around 1924, but was unsuccessful in contacting him there. Phyllis wrote August Johnson's daughter Eleanor in 1967: "Mother never told me anything about her time in America, so I don't know very much."

Jenny and Eugen had three daughters: Erna Lucie Hansen, who was born in 1919, Gerd Mabel Hansen born in 1922, and their final child, Liv Carly Hansen, born in 1931 (when Jenny was 40). These children, too, were fated to know separation from their father in a World War. That, however, is a story for another day.

This picture on the right was taken in the summer of 1984 on the steps of the rural farmhouse in Norway where August Johnson was raised. Jenny's youngest daughter Liv is wearing the white blouse. My wife Kathy and I are at the bottom of the steps. Liv's husband Hans Heitmann is immediately behind me. The individual at the top of the stairs was one of Liv's Norwegian cousins.



History from the Islands

By Wendy Bransom
wbranfildes@gmail.com

I recently went on a cruise to learn about our American patriots in the Caribbean Islands. Due to covid, things changed. Instead, I learned out the Islands' patriots which included history on the French, British and many more countries. We were only able to visit four islands. The first stop was Philipsburg, Capital of Dutch St Maarten on January 13, 2022.

Due to restrictions, we were taken on a bus tour around the island. This Island has spent many years in recovery from hurricane Irma. They have removed much of the destruction from the September 2017 storm, but you can still see places where a hotel is gone or see the top of boats that are still sunk. Covid has also stopped much of the construction on the island. We toured both the Dutch and French sides of the Island.

In about 1630 the Dutch and French established small settlements on the island. The Spanish saw this as a threat to their influence in the region. The island was attacked and the Dutch and French were forced out. The Dutch and French joined forces to repel the Spanish, and finally achieved this goal around



1644 when the Spanish finally abandoned their claims to the Eastern Caribbean altogether. Once the Spanish were gone, the Dutch and French signed an accord in 1648 agreeing to divide the island. There is a long history in disputes between the countries on who owns what pieces of land. They finally came to an agreement in 1817.



St. Maarten is now an independent country within the kingdom of the Netherlands. The French side is moving towards closer ties with the European Union. We did stop the bus on the Dutch side and were able to walk around. However, it was around 2:00 pm, most vendors were shutting down. We had a few other stops mostly for scenery.

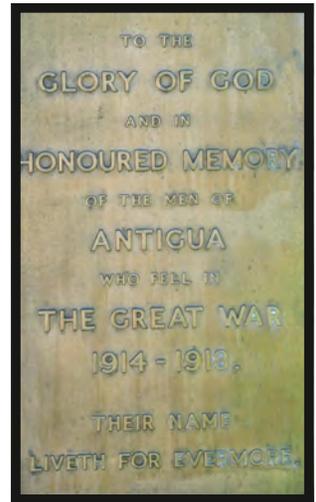
The next day, January 14, we visited St John's, Antigua. We walked through the streets of ST John's with a tour guide. We started at Redcliffe Quay which overlooks the harbor. It dates back to the 17 and 18 centuries. Back then it was used for trading slaves, rum, sugar and coffee. Next, we walked around St. John's Cathedral also known as the St. John the Divine, the Cathedral Church. The current cathedral has two white twin towers you can see around the island.



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History from the Islands (continued from page 8)

The Cenotaph War Memorial was the next stop. We were able to take off our masks while we viewed the memorial. We dropped by the local Fish Market. Our guide showed us the money and flag of this Island. See the 7 point golden sun of Antigua and Barbuda National Flag. Red is the life blood of slave forefathers and the dynamism of the people, Blue is hope, Black is the soil and African heritage and Gold, Blue and White are Antigua's and Barbuda's tourist attractions sun, sea and sand. The V formed by the red borders represent: "Victory at Last." You can't miss the Sir Vere Cornwall Bird, Sr. Monument. It is located at the point of all roads to the public market. Born in 1910 on the island, he is Antigua's biggest national hero. He was the first Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.



As we walked I saw this pillar letterbox, which was used for posting letters on the



roadside. After a little research I learned it was manufactured by Andrew Handyside & Co of the Britannia Foundry and Engineering works, Derby, England as indicated on the base. The cylindrical shape became standard after 1876. This example, however, with the words "Post Office" and Queen Victoria's cypher "VR", standing for "Victoria Regina", was manufactured between 1887 and 1901.

Bridgetown, Barbados was the next visit on January 15. This was a stricter port. No camouflage clothing allowed (only police or military can wear). You had to take a tour, no roaming on your own. My tour was Best of Barbados; we had a wonderful tour guide. On

a bus we visited the Orchid World & Tropical Flower Garden which is six acres bordered by sugarcane. Our tour guide knew the name of every plant.

We also saw St John's Church built in 1831, classic Gothic church. It stands over 800 feet tall, overlooking the eastern side of the Island.



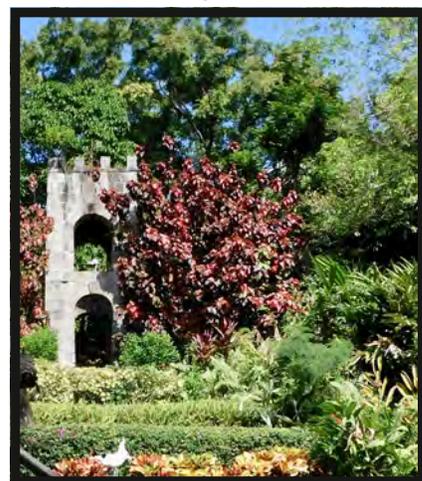
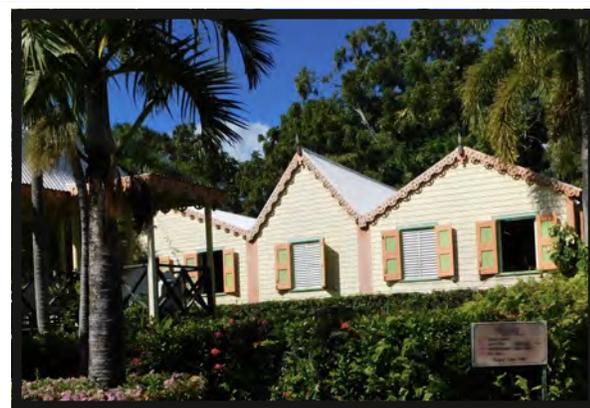
History from the Islands (continued from page 9)

Ferdinand Paleologos (descendant of Constantine) and the Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon David John Thompson, are both buried in the churchyard.

Lastly, we visited Gun Hill Signal Station. It is the largest station and now is defunct. It was one of four stations to warn Barbados of impending invasions. It was also used for time-telling and hurricane warnings. It had stunning views which included the form of a lion carved from one piece of coral stone. In 1868, British captain of the Norfolk Regiment, Captain Henry Wilkinson, with the help of four men, carved the lion. Captain Wilkinson was using the lion as a symbol for the imperial domination of the world by Great Britain, which by the time 1868 was at its peak.



The ship last visited Basseterre, St Kitts. My tour first went to Romney Manor. The historians believe Carib Indian Chief Tegreman's village occupied this site initially. Most noteworthy is the first owner, Samuel Jeaffreson (1607-1685), the 2nd great grandfather of Thomas Jefferson, who purchased it in 1625. The house was first called the "red house" which points towards Jeaffreson's Quaker roots. The Earl of Romney next owned the site. In 1834, he freed his slaves, being the first to do it on the island. In the 1970s, the current owner, Wingfield Estate, began a batik business.



We were able to watch a women make some beautiful batik material. You can check them out at [this link](#). There is also a bell tower. It controlled the daily



lives of the slaves; start and end of day. Most bells were destroyed during emancipation. Because the Earl of Romney treated his slaves very nicely, when he released his slaves first, he was allowed to keep his bell tower. It is the last one on the island. The Bell Tower is in this last picture.

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History from the Islands (continued from page 10)

The last part of this tour was to Brimstone Hill Fortress, a National Park. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site full of historical, cultural and architectural importance. British engineers designed it starting in 1690, but the skill, strength and labor came from African slaves who built it. It is now managed by the government of St Kitts and Nevis.



*Artillery
Officers'
Quarters*



This Citadel is in good condition overall. It's style of fortification is "polygonal system." I climbed all over it, you can learn more about it at <https://brimstonehillfortress.org/>. I have a lot more pictures; let me know if you want a copy. Enjoy the pictures!

Learn About our New Members

Hi! My name is Kristen Ellis, and I'm a volunteer and Board Member of Ferry Plantation House in Virginia Beach. I am currently serving as Director of Research and Development. I am not a native of Virginia Beach. I grew up in Fauquier County, received a BA from the University of Virginia, and now live in Suffolk (where I teach high school Spanish!) I have spent the past two years researching the families from Ferry Plantation, mainly the family of George McIntosh (and son, Commander Charles F. McIntosh) and the Walke family. I have also spent a considerable amount of time researching early Princess Anne history but still have a lot to learn! I am definitely an amateur, so I'm excited to be a part of VBGs to learn new search techniques and resources. My ultimate goal is to one day write a book about the history of Ferry Plantation.



Kristen Ellis

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Paula Kelley Ward

celticprincess333@gmail.com

The genealogy bug bit me when I was in high school, back in 1957 or 1958. My father was always talking about this cousin and that cousin, and I finally asked my mother: "Who are all those people?" I sketched a tree and took a bunch of notes. I wanted to learn more, but at that time, there were no "how-to" books. All the library had were stuffy fat volumes that seemed to be published by people wanting to "prove" they were descended from royalty. I didn't care about that. Fast forward to 1976, after college, marriage, and two children, I had a serendipitous experience. Living in Minot, North Dakota, I found a book on a table at a sidewalk sale: Searching for Your Ancestors, by Gilbert Doane. That book became my "Bible." Then my mother sent a large envelope: my notes from high school, and I hardly recognized my own handwriting. She also sent old letters, photos, obituaries, and wedding and birth announcements that she had saved for years. Pretty soon, the local library was ordering reels of microfilmed census records for me. I spent many hours, days, and weeks, searching bleary-eyed because the census records were not indexed. I also helped to found a genealogical society in Minot. Back then, correspondence and phone calls were necessary. When I was able to make a trip to Virginia, a cousin and I visited cemeteries and courthouses.

In 1979, we moved to San Antonio, Texas, and in 1982, I became the manager of a campus-wide computer system at Trinity University. At home, we had bought an Apple IIe and I learned how to program in DOS. You know what I created, right? A genealogy database! At last count, I have 18 trees on Ancestry.com, and I sync the data with Family Tree Maker. I've also published two books and am currently editing a third with Family Book Creator. I'm planning a trip to Ireland with my daughter and two cousins in September of this year, but we may postpone it until 2023, because of concerns about COVID.

My research and goals now: publish books about my family and my husband's family.

My father's family, KELLEY, has been in Virginia since the late 1600s-early 1700s. I haven't been able to cross the pond with them yet. Other branches include PETERS, PAYNE, INGRAM, TURNER, and many others. All ended up in the 19th century in Franklin and Floyd Counties.

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Learn About our New Members (continued from page 12)

My mother's family: HECKMAN from Germany, emigrated to New York in the 1860s, and MOONEY, WALDRON, and DURKIN, from Ireland to New York in the 1850s.

My husband is 1st-generation American on his paternal side: WARD from County Donegal; and 2nd-generation American on his maternal side: DALY from Cork. They all emigrated to Staten Island, New York.

I'm on FaceBook: Paula Kelley Ward and live in Roanoke, Virginia.

<https://www.facebook.com/paula.k.ward.50/>

"I'M A WRITER BUT THEN NOBODY'S PERFECT" - Billy Wilder's tombstone

Full Circle East: While I began genealogy as my mother's reluctant child research assistant prowling Texas courthouses, I finally became enthusiastic about the practice roughly ten years ago. My son left to pursue degrees and his own life... what was a previously very engaged mother to do? My Grandmother had always said she descended from John Alden and had hired several professionals who had not been able to provide evidence. In well intended, yet flagrantly misguided hubris, I set out rather flippantly to handle that task, lacking the most modest documentation. Oh boy, what I've learned!

While finding the evidence supporting that family lore, I found, more importantly, a consuming pursuit I truly enjoy. I suppose my ancestors know I enjoy a challenge, as they have seldom wanted to make things easy for me. For this I am oddly grateful, as it is forcing me to learn enhanced tactics and develop a wider network of facilities and contacts. I suppose from Massachusetts to Florida, westward to Indiana and down to Texas, and all points in between, there is not a State where I am not actively seeking information.

At present my focus is on the Georgia/Alabama line, and on two quandaries in very early North Carolina, trying to track them back in time, potentially South of the James. I am planning several research trips as allowed by covid and other constraints. I currently serve as President of the Tidewater Genealogical Society in old Warwick County, VA. It is my hope to strengthen the ties between our groups. We still operate our library, and publish our quarterly, which takes up a fair amount of time, but I still hope to make it to some Virginia Beach events going forward. In the meanwhile, I'll see you on Zoom!

Mary Ann Simmons was born and raised in a very small town in Indiana and attended Indiana State University. She attended graduate school in Cincinnati and worked in Cincinnati and Cleveland before accepting a job in Norfolk, where she met her husband. (Billy Simmons - also a new member.) Mary Ann is now a very happily retired DOD civilian. She spent over 32 years working in various public health capacities with the federal government, most recently with the Navy/Marine Corps environmental cleanup program. She enjoys reading, gardening, cooking, yoga, genealogy, her cats and her family. She volunteers with Lasagna Love and her church's holiday outreach program.



Elizabeth Pierce

develop@wider

(continued on page 14)

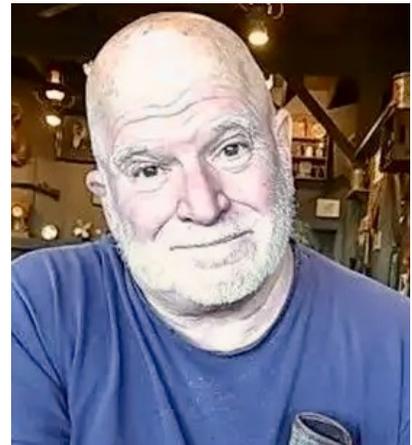
Learn About our New Members (continued from page 13)

Since retiring, she began work on her family tree - truly a work in progress. Mary Ann was inducted in the Princess Anne Chapter of the DAR last November. She has 3 stepchildren, 4 grandchildren and 2 very spoiled cats.

Billy Simmons is a rarity - a born and raised local boy! He worked as a Small Craft Operator with the Norfolk District of the Army Corps of Engineers for 37 years. He is now, also, a very happily retired DOD civilian. After retiring in 2012, he took an extended road trip out west to visit many of our country's beautiful federal parks. He also began working on his family tree. Billy now works at the Cape Henry Lighthouse as a lighthouse interpreter. He is a member of the Caesar Rodney Chapter (Delaware) and the Norfolk Chapter of the SAR and is a member of the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia. He enjoys photography, gardening, reading, history, spoiling the cats and his family. He has 3 children and 4 grandchildren and 2 very spoiled cats. Mary Ann Simmons, bellabellacat@gmail.com

Honoring Gregory M. Dean

Gregory, 75, husband of Daryl R. (Robens) Dean, died December 25, 2021, at Waterbury Hospital, Waterbury, Connecticut. Greg was born December 15, 1946 in Boston, MA a son of the late Henry A. and Helen (Dorin) Dean. Greg lived in Naugatuck most of his life and was a retired Firefighter for the City of Waterbury. Greg also owned and operated Dean Electric, was a former member of the B.P.O. Elks, Lodge 967 in Naugatuck and served proudly in the United States Navy Reserves.



While always proud of and valuing his work, Greg also was an avid card player, engaging in many cribbage and set back leagues at the Elks Club throughout the years, where he enjoyed spending time with his friends. He also had many hobbies, which occupied his time.

Gregory joined the Virginia Beach Genealogical Society (VBGS) in 2016. In 2018, he was the VBGS treasurer. He also spent some time as a VBGS member at large. He helped out at the VBGS meetings, being a greeter with his big smile. He was a tremendous help on a committee to rewrite the Handbook and Bylaws for 2018.

He was obsessed and spent many hours working on Genealogy, which ultimately led him to tracing his paternal roots back to the Mayflower. Additionally, he was very intrigued by history, spending many hours reading about and studying the Civil War. But most of all, he was very proud of his grandchildren and on occasion enjoyed playing some pretty intense and competitive cribbage games with them.

In addition to his wife Daryl, Greg is survived by his sons, Gregory M. Dean, Jr. and his wife Lisa Dean and Thomas J. Dean and his wife Melissa Dean; his grandchildren, Kyle Peck, Patrick Dean, John Dean and Griffin Dean; his 4 great grandchildren; his brother, Henry A. Dean, Jr. and his wife Elaine Dean; his sister, Kathleen Dean Kelleher and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Greg was predeceased by his son, Robert C. Dean.

Google Books and Your Genealogical Research

by Carmen Cross
carmencross@vbgsva.net



Google Books, a free online resource, has greatly benefited me as a genealogical researcher. However, this valuable resource is often overlooked and thus underused perhaps because it does not contain indexed records. This article will provide a sampling of what this invaluable collection has to offer genealogists and family historians.

Google Books (see below) can be found at <https://books.google.com/>.¹ Google Books currently has four access levels: full view, preview, snippet view and no preview.² This article will focus exclusively on the full view since this level includes books in the public domain. Public domain works are not subject to copyright restrictions and thus can usually be downloaded from Google Books free of charge.

How does one find relevant books on Google Books? The main strategy I use seems very simple, but is very effective – simply look in the footnotes/endnotes of an article I am reading. If I happen to see a source published before 1934, I will automatically look for the book in Google



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Books. One of my many favorite things about Google Books is that it offers a lot of information that puts events and people in their historical context. While these include county histories and other biographical sketches, they also include regimental and battle histories. I am currently doing research for an article on Major General William Smallwood's 1st Maryland Regiment and their valiant effort at the Battle of Long Island in

August of 1775. I found a book entitled “The Battle of Long Island” written by Thomas Fields published in 1869. Since it is out of copyright and in the public domain, I checked on Google Books and was able to download a copy. The publisher was the Long Island Historical Society in Brooklyn, New York! Yet another place to go for more information!

For those researching a military officer, Francis B. Heitman’s “Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army from Its Organization September 29, 1789 to March 2, 1903” (Vol. 2, published in 1903) is a wonderful resource. Among its features is a list of the “general officers of the United States Army and of the United States Volunteers from June, 1775, to 1903, arranged according to grade and rank with period of service for each.”

¹ In this article, I will only discuss the types of books Google Books has to offer genealogists and other researchers and how to find them using basic search strategies. I will not discuss the My Library feature within Google Books. Also, many of the books I discuss below are tailored to my own research, but I am sure you will find books for your own research as well!

² Wikipedia (<http://www.wikipedia.org>), “Google Books,” rev. 15:45, 14 January 2022.

(continued on page 15)

Google Books and Your Genealogical Research (continued from page 14)

In addition to its many books on military matters, Google Books has much to offer in the way of other genealogical subjects, especially law in the United States:

- We all know how intricate the pension laws are for the American Revolution. William Henry Glasson's "A History of Military Pension Legislation in the United States (published in 1900) is a great help in disentangling the laws.
- We must not forget that knowing a particular law in a particular location at a particular time is essential in putting the lives of our ancestors in their historical context. Google Books has a lot on state law such as the "Laws of the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania Passed at the Session 1832 - '33 in the Fifty-Seventh Year of Independence" (published in 1833). Especially for genealogical research, knowing where to find state laws is very important because sometimes our ancestors had to appeal to their state for relief and are specifically mentioned in the act. For instance, No. 87 AN ACT "For the relief of sundry soldiers and widows of soldiers during the revolutionary war" mentions my 5th great-grandfather by name (along with other soldiers and their widows). Their request for relief for their services during the Revolutionary War was approved on 6 April 1833.
- The Testamentary Law and the Law of Inheritance and Apprentices in Maryland by Edward Otis Hinkley (published in 1878).
- Twenty Censuses: "Population and Housing Questions 1790-1980." This very timely book contain census templates and enumerators' instructions. Below are the enumerator instructions for the 1950 U.S. census (p.67). These come in very handy when trying to squeeze every little nugget of information out of the censuses.
- "Post Offices in the United States on the First Day of January, 1851," which includes the respective Postmasters, as well as all the post offices in the United States at that time.

Even though the books I have listed are clearly tailored to my own research, Google Books has literally scanned thousands of books in the public domain. You are sure to find something to help you!

No. 87.

AN ACT

For the relief of sundry soldiers and widows of soldiers of the revolutionary war.

SECT. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the State Treasurer be and he is hereby authorized and required to pay to Henry Erb, Christian Specht, Christopher Car and John Reed, of Montgomery county,*

240 gratuities and annuities granted to H. Erb, C. Specht,

LAWS OF PENNSYLVANIA,

commence on the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three.

SAM'L. ANDERSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THO'S. RINGLAND,

Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The sixth day of April, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three.

GEO. WOLF.

OF THE SESSION OF 1832-33.

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Conrad Miller, John Myers and Michael Warner, of York county, Thomas Kautz, Ludwig Harroof and Jacob Lindy, of Lancaster county, John Roos and James Ault, of Chester county, John Ewing, of Huntingdon county, Joshua Peeling, of Lycoming county, David Stitt, of Indiana county, William Drenning, of Bedford county, Lawrence Bathurst and Philip Barnhart, of Centre county, John Slonecker, of Cumberland county, Jacob Bossard and George Bergy, of Northampton county, Isaac Vanhook, of Fayette county, Thomas Hamilton and Frederick Rieker, of Dauphin county, William Bean, of Mercer county, Christian Borckert, of Berks county, and John Hilt, of Philadelphia county, soldiers of the revolution or to their respective orders, forty dollars to each immediately and an annuity of forty dollars, to each during life, payable half yearly, to commence on the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three.

C. Car, J. Reed, C. Miller, J. Myers, M. Warner, T. Kautz, L. Harroof, J. Lindy, J. Ross, J. Ault, J. Ewing, J. Peeling, D. Stitt, W. Drenning, L. Bathurst, P. Barnhart, J. Slonecker, J. Bossard, G. Bergy, I. Vanhook, T. Hamilton, F. Rieker,

Worth Knowing

WikiTree pulled together in 2021 to help the [US Black Heritage Project](#) successfully reach its goals. They can do [even more in 2022](#). Everyone is invited to help. There's a special ["PATH" training program](#) to get you started.

WikiTree sponsors a monthly challenge to add new Black American profiles to WikiTree. The goal is to document families and connect more people to their ancestors. For more information and how to join, see [USBH Connecting Challenge](#).

MyHeritage has just launched a *free* full-length online course: Introduction to Genealogy. The course contains detailed lessons from experts providing a strong foundation in family history research. It's intended for people who are new to genealogy or who started in the past and are looking to pick it up again. You can register for this course and learn more about it at this [link](#).

Virginia Untold provides digital access to records that document some of the lived experiences of enslaved and free Black people in the Library of Virginia's collections. Please help improve the discoverability of these sources by transcribing one of the project's many record types.

In 1793, the Virginia General Assembly passed a law requiring that all free Black people "be registered and numbered in a book to be kept by the town clerk, which shall specify age, name, color, status and by whom, and in what court emancipated." The process was extended to localities in 1803. Registration language and process varied across the localities, thus the information in each register may differ, but generally speaking these registers document both free born and formerly enslaved people throughout Virginia, providing age and physical description, and sometimes names of parents, former enslavers, and/or places of enslavement. ¹

¹ *Virginia Untold: Registers of Free Black People* [Link](#)

How-To Tip



Can't make the connection to an older generation but have a potential ancestor in mind?

Flip your strategy...
try working down from the potential ancestor to their descendants.



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How I Fell in Love with Genealogy and Found My Families

Kathryn Haugan

kathrynhaugan@gmail.com

Forty-five years ago, I was asked to create my family tree as a work assignment. The juvenile probation agency I worked for was providing staff training in family systems dynamics. Knowing our own families was felt to be the first step to knowing others' families.

I was initially surprised at how little I knew about my family history. I started interviewing my mother and her sisters to learn more. I completed my assignment with three generations of my mother's family.

But I was not satisfied. I wanted to know more. I caught the bug.

I received an uncle's Mayflower Society application. It was my starting point. I began searching a wider variety of documentary sources. I attended workshops to learn new ways of researching. In the 1990s, I dove into developing internet sites. I reconnected with a first cousin living in Kansas on a RootsWeb message board. She shared what she had learned about our family (and still does thirty years later). I also met a very distant cousin who helped me find my oldest known surviving family home, c1710, in Sussex County DE.

It was a joy to find out that genealogists love to share what they know and to help each other make progress. I was able to break some others' brick walls as they were able to break some of mine.

I developed a taste for traveling to where my ancestors lived. This led to many cemetery visits and trips to historic sites like Plymouth Plantation that added context to the bare facts I was recording. I loved learning the historical forces shaping my ancestor's lives. I loved trying to walk in their shoes.

Looking back, I was not only finding out about the past. I was building living family relationships long neglected through trying to find those long gone. I was developing a better understanding of who I am and how I got here. I came to understand that my tree would always be a work in progress. There will always be new tools to use. Each discovery will lead to new relationships in the present as well as the past.

My nuclear and extended families are widely distributed geographically and too often not well acquainted. I am still at the ground floor of researching my father's family lines, 1850s and 1880s Norwegian and Luxembourgian immigrants who favored Wisconsin and Iowa. Those lines present different challenges, such as language barriers, than those I've faced researching my mother's English ancestors, scattered from Plymouth MA and Jamestown VA to Edenton NC. I have learned there are always others who will help me finish the stories I've started exploring. I have also learned that genealogy is a process, not a destination.

I'm still in love with genealogy, forty-five years later. I still have the bug.

VBGS Annual Banquet
March 10, 2022

The VBGS Banquet is almost here! Make sure you buy your ticket very soon.

Sales end on February 17, 2022.



This event will be in the evening at the Honey Bee Golf Club: 2500 South Independence BLVD, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456.



Star Spangle Catering is preparing our menu. It includes:

Lemon Dill Salmon
Sesame Ginger Chicken
Mac and Cheese
Roasted Vegetable Medley
Fresh baked yeast rolls w/butter
Tea and Water.



We are excited to have Kelly McMahon, CG as our guest speaker! The topic of her presentation will be “Using Land Holdings to Prove Kinship: Deeds, Patents, and Maps – A Valuable Genealogical Source.”

Tickets:

\$35.00/person for VBGS members, their family, and guests

\$45.00/person for non-VBGS members

Become a member now and get the member price! Purchase tickets (including drawing tickets) at <https://vbgsva.net/2022-banquet/>. Please note that banquet tickets are non-refundable and we are taking Covid precautions.

We have some incredible donations for our drawings. For example, one year membership to Virginia Genealogical Society, one year account with MyHeritage.com (3 drawings) and Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center (four passes). We also have several baskets that our member are making. You can check out the entire list at <https://vbgsva.net/2022-banquet/banquet-donations/>.