



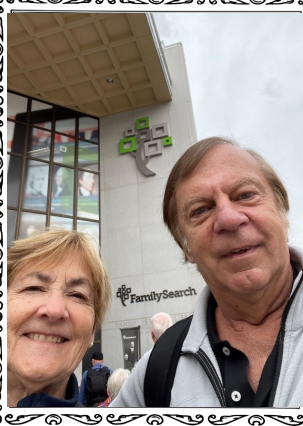
First Landing

the VBGS Newsletter

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Finding My Roots

by Tom Daley

When I retired 18 months ago, I wondered what I would do with my newly found spare time. I had certainly planned to travel – and have done so – but I also wanted to do something meaningful.

My wife had similar feelings. Her initial thought was to resolve the long-standing question of whether her family was German or Swiss.

This question arose from those who married into the family and found there was no specific information to support either. The usual result was to 'decide' that they were probably German who had determined to identify as Swiss around the time of World War I.

For those who do not know, when the U.S. declared war on Germany in 1917, then President Wilson went all out with an anti-German campaign to whip up support for the war, including the rounding up of U.S. citizens of German origin for detention or observation. The thought was the family tried to avoid being part of this by declaring themselves Swiss. And, due to a lack of information held by the U.S. Government, they could declare this without fear of being caught in a lie. But that only fed the sense that her family was really German, not Swiss. So, to find out, she enrolled us in an Ancestor Seekers class held next door to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City to learn about genealogy.

At that time, I had certainly been interested in Louis Gates, Jr's show entitled "Finding My Roots" but the findings on

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A Different Perspective on the Emancipation Proclamation

by Heather Wright

You may remember the name Thomas Harlan Baird from my November 2021 newsletter article. He is my 5th great-grandfather and, though I have researched him a lot, I keep finding more – and it is quite interesting.



In my previous article, I share finding a trove of correspondence between him, daughter Ellinor, and her husband Robert Reed (my 4th great-grandparents). The letters begin with him writing a teenage Ellinor while traveling for work, to her and Robert getting married and having and losing children, and eventually to a judge writing his doctor son-in-law, both sharing the struggles of their professions.

While that find brought the family to life in a way I never expected, my newest find places Thomas more firmly in American history. But first, a little background...

Thomas is born on 15 Nov 1787 in Washington, Washington Co., Pennsylvania^{1,2} to Dr. Absalom Baird, a surgeon in the Revolution, and his Quaker wife, Susanna Harlan Brown.³ He spends the majority of his in the county working as a lawyer and judge,^{2,4} but he also loves farming^{5,6} and trying his hand at business ventures (some more successful than others).^{6,7,8} Though he and wife Nancy McCullough live in Monongahela, Washington Co. at the time, he becomes ill and dies on 22 Nov 1866 in Allegheny City, Allegheny (now

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Every man is a quotation from all his ancestors.

--- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Newsletter Submissions

As a VBGS member, this is your newsletter and relies on you for content.

Whether it's short, long, a personal find, or information to share, send submissions to newsletter@vbgsva.net.



Click here to find us online



Use the email links or contact the administrator, Mary Ann Simmons, at admin@vbgsva.net

For more information, visit vbgsva.net/about--contact

About VBGS

Founding

The Virginia Beach Genealogical Society was founded in 1983. While some members are interested in local genealogy, like the city itself, most are not originally from the area. As a result, the group has far-reaching areas of interest.

Objectives

1. To help individuals conduct genealogical research and compile their family histories.
2. To educate, including lectures, discussions, and workshops.
3. To create and foster an interest in genealogy.
4. To gather and preserve genealogical and historical data.

VBGS Leadership

Board Members

President: Heather Wright

Vice President: Bob Bruce

Secretary: Linn Baiker

Treasurer: Craig Fenton

Past President: Wendy Bransom

Members at Large:

Debby Christian, Carmen Cross,

Diana Quinn, Raymond Smith

Committee & Group Chairs

Computer User Group:

April Owens and Craig Fenton
Digital Archivist: **could be you!**

Education: Diana Quinn

How-to Group: Diana Quinn

Librarian: Brian Baldwin

Membership: Lori Sherwood

Newsletter: Heather Wright

Program: Heather Wright (acting)

Publicity: Barbara Murray

Social: Debbie Christian

Social Media Ambassador:

Laura Lavene

Webmaster: Carmen Cross

Writers Group: Carol Johnson

Membership

The membership year is Sep-Aug,

\$25/individual

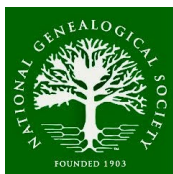
\$35/household of 2

For more information and to

become a member, visit

vbgsva.net/membership

current members: 140



The National Genealogical Society
ngsgenealogy.org

VBGS is a proud member of

The Virginia Genealogical Society
vgs.org





President's Message

I hope you are enjoying the fall so far. I'm thankful for the cooler weather!

I'm also thankful that VBGS is back at full speed. We've had some interesting classes so far and the trip to the DAR Library and National Archives in DC was great. (Make sure to check out the article and see what treasures people came home with!) Other than the train being delayed in route home, everything went smoothly thanks to Debby Christian and the Social Committee's planning. If you

missed this one, hopefully you can join us in the future. And, if you are an out-of-town member, it's the perfect excuse for a research trip. One of the group was from Idaho!

As always, your VBGS leadership is hard at work. The date is set for Genealogy Day at the Beach and planning for the event has begun. The first open-format workshop hosted by the Education Committee is set for November. Barbara Murray is leading the organization of a lecture series at Westminster-Canterbury retirement community. And, VBGS is saying "Thank You" to the Virginia Beach Central Library by purchasing books to add to their collection. (More about this on page 11.)

heather wright

Happy fall



Remembering Jo Ann Given

It was recently learned that VBGS member Jo Ann Given passed away on June 18, following her battle with cancer. Her absence at VBGS has been noticeable and she will be missed.

Jo joined the society in 2012 and became involved in a variety of ways. She served as Vice

President from 2017 to June 2021, helped with the Program Committee and Genealogy Day at the Beach, led a revision of Society regulations, and so much more.

When Wendy Bransom stepped down as President this past June, she nominated Jo for the Distinguished Service Award, saying:

During the first two years as VBGS President, I would not have been successful without Jo Given. She worked with me almost every day for two months to help me prepare to be the VBGS President, and she was always available to answer any questions or provide advice.

When I was the Newsletter Editor, she read every edition I made. She helped me move from my military writing experience to a better writer.

Without her, I can't imagine going through my first two years as the VBGS President. If I feel this way, I bet the other three Presidents she supported would feel the same.

Most, if not all of us, knew Jo only as a fellow genealogy enthusiast but she had a long professional career as well. The following was posted to an American Academy of Forensic Sciences board by Carla Miller Noziglia:

Jo was employed by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) from 1981 until 2006 and was the director of the NCIS Regional Forensic Laboratory in Norfolk from its opening until it closed.

Jo was the second woman president of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) in 1989, and one of the original old guard.

Read the full post at <https://www.aafs.org/article/remembering-jo-ann-given-ms>.



Jo Ann (at right) at Genealogy Bootcamp, Slover Library, Norfolk VA.

CALENDAR

Monthly Meetings are open to all and hybrid if possible, at the VB Central Library and on Zoom. Small group meetings are open to current VBGS members and may be in person, on Zoom, or hybrid. See the website for more info. vbgsva.net/meetings--events

November

- 4 **Social Event, Cape Henry Lighthouse Tour**
A half-mile walking tour and tower climb, \$10 cash. Lunch at Dockside afterward.
Check your email for more information or write social@vbgsva.net
- 9 **Monthly Meeting**, 6pm, hybrid, VB Central Library and Zoom
Collections and Services at the Outer Banks History Center, presented by Tammy M. Woodward
- 11 **Help Session**, 2:30-4:30pm, VB Central Library
Hosted by the Education Committee.
Come to this open format discussion and help session and hopefully get help with your questions!
- 14 **How-to Group**, 7pm on Zoom
Essential Genealogical Practices – Part 2: Make a Plan, presented by Carmen Cross and Diana Quinn
Participants will create research plans to assist in answering research questions.
- 20 **Writers Group**, 7pm on Zoom
Preserving Holiday Memories, presented by Carol Johnson
- 30 **Computer User Group**, 5:30pm, on Zoom only
Organize Your DNA by Diahan Southard

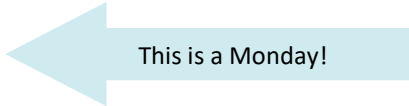
December

(No Computer User Group or Writers Group this month)

- 5 **How-to Class**, 7pm on Zoom
Leaving a Legacy, presented by Sheryl Reed Rascher
- 8 **Monthly Meeting**, 6pm, hybrid, VB Central Library and Zoom
Show and Tell. Contact the Program Committee at program@vbgsva.net if you would like to share something.
- 8 **Winter Social**, Imperial Palace
Join us for dinner following the meeting, 4878 Princess Anne Rd, Virginia Beach.

January

- 8 **Monthly Meeting**, 6pm, hybrid, VB Central Library and Zoom
WWI Research, presented by Chris Garcia
- 16 **How-to Class**, 7pm on Zoom
Organization and Research Tips from VBGS Members
- 22 **Writers Group**, 7pm on Zoom
Creating Indexes in Word, presented by Heather Wright
- 24 **Computer User Group**, 5:30pm, hybrid, VB Central Library and Zoom
Ancestry.com, presented by April Owens



This is a Monday!

Looking Ahead

25 May 2024 - Genealogy Day at the Beach 2024 at the Virginia Beach Central Library.

A Different Perspective (Continued from page 1)

part of Pittsburgh) while visiting their youngest and her family.^{1,2}

Made more evident through the letters, Thomas is a complicated man. Some compare him to his father, among the first to help while taking no credit.² He is involved in community affairs, including serving 21 years as a trustee of Washington Academy¹³ and working to link Washington Co. to Pittsburgh by railroad.^{2,4} Others see him in a less favorable light. In 1834, there is a call for an investigation into his behavior and impeachment. It is brought before a Grand Jury in 1835, where he presents a lengthy address and is unanimously acquitted.¹² In 1838, his cousin's husband and fellow judge, Alexander Wilson Acheson, referred to him as *a man with a hollow heart*.⁹ In a July 1880 article, he is posthumously described as honest but ill-tempered.¹⁰

All of this is to say, while what I came across was unexpected, it was not a complete surprise.

The find is: *Memorial of Hon. Thomas H. Baird, Praying for the Enactment of Measures to Preserve the Constitution and Union of the States*.¹⁴

I often save items to go through later and this was one of them. I downloaded the file in July 2020 and only read through it in September 2023. Meaning, I had this before I found, photographed, transcribed, and annotated the letters referenced in the prior article. It will be interesting to add this to the timeline for more context. First thing first, though, this document.

As you likely know, President Lincoln issues the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation on 22 Sep 1862, with it becoming official on 1 Jan 1863.¹¹ I imagine Thomas is able to read it within weeks and his law-based thoughts are churning. His writing is also dated 1 Jan 1863 (likely intentional) and is presented to Congress through the Hon. Mr. Lazear on 7 Feb 1863.¹⁴

To summarize, Thomas states the proclamation would not hold up in court, gives reasons why, and suggests a plan to end slavery in a legal manner.

I have never heard of this idea before and wondered if others have. Below are some points that caught my attention. If you would like to dig into the 22-page document yourself, find it

at Internet Archive:

archive.org/details/memorialofhonthh00bair.

The memorial is heard and then sent to the Committee on the Judiciary with no action taken. Their position being Baird must have been *misapprehended*.

Thomas asks Congress to end the war and notes that *we are fighting to maintain our Constitution and our Union*. He cautions, *Even words are weapons, when uttered in a legislative hall*.



Hon. Thomas Harlan Baird

He does not suggest concessions to the rebels. *Many of our citizens have renounced their allegiance, and are "levying war" against their government; others are "giving them aid and comfort." All of both classes are guilty of treason, and have incurred the penalty of the law. This must be inflicted upon them by the regular prescribed judicial process.*

The President has no dominion, political or military, but what he derives from the Constitution, or what is vested in him by law. As the "executive," he may enforce the "rules and articles" enacted for the government of "officers and soldiers;" but he cannot add to them.

Thomas says the *Constitution and laws furnish no warrant for them; and such extreme executive acts generally do more harm than good.*

In a nation convulsed by civil strife, they tend to strengthen rebellion into revolution.

He questions if the conflict is understood by the President and his subordinates. Thomas says *a portion of our people are in revolt; but all the residents of the disturbed region who are free from any traitorous participation are still citizens, and are entitled to all the protection that the constitution guarantees to their personal rights.*

We must then fight them according to the recognized laws of war, and we must make peace by treaty. [...] We must not negotiate with traitors. They must be brought back, and punished,—or pardoned, as maybe thought right. No terms, however, can be offered.

The Emancipation Proclamation of the President involves, in my opinion, more mischief than the burning of the Temple of Ephesus, which immortalized the incendiary. I come before

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A Different Perspective (Continued from page 5)

your honorable bodies to pray that by timely legislation this unwarranted executive act may be "superseded," and the threatened evils prevented.

One of his biggest points seems to be the Proclamation will no doubt, at a future time, if our Union is preserved, come before that tribunal; for men will not be stripped of their property without seeking redress.

[...] it has no legislative basis, and is therefore unconstitutional. The President cannot make a law; nor can Congress, retroactively, give the "force of law" to a proclamation that does not rest upon a previous enactment.

It is equally baseless as a military order. [...] The duty of militia is to arrest rebels, and bring them to justice. [...] They are not employed to destroy or seize property, but to capture persons who are charged with crime.

Thomas notes a Confiscation Law that could potentially be enacted but it may not produce the desired effect. *We are endeavoring to bring back our revolted fellow-citizens to their allegiance; but, in our discipline for this purpose, we ought not to let resentment be fomented into rancor, nor allow vengeance to overstep the bounds of Christian humanity.* He goes on to say use of the Confiscation Law would be unconstitutional.

He references an act passed (198-6) on 11 Dec 1838 by, *that this government is a government of limited powers; and that by the Constitution of the United States Congress has no jurisdiction whatever over the institution of slavery in the several States of the confederacy.*

I claim, then, that if the property of rebels may be confiscated, yet slaves cannot be set free. If Government take them from their masters, it must assume all the obligations that the relation of slavery, by law and usage, has fixed upon the owners,—in case of old age, decrepitude, disease and helplessness.

After further talking about the history of slavery and how it cannot be ended by proclamation or similar measures, he lays out a plan:

1. Survey and valued the unsold public domain land.
2. When a slaveholder agrees to manumit someone and that person agrees to resettle in Liberia (through the colonization society), the enslaved person is valued.
3. The slaveholder receives a land script of equal value for use on the surveyed lands, *leaving every alternate tract to the government, for sale at any subsequent period, in the usual manner.*
4. The colonization society secures 160 acres in Liberia for

each manumitted adult male, the U.S. government provides transportation.

5. The government provides one year's subsistence and furnishes *suitable agricultural implements, &c.*

6. The colonization society and Liberian government are to give aid and ensure the resettlement is successful.

He also makes the following suggestions:

1. *That each slave state pass a law providing that, as soon as the other states and the United States adopt corresponding measures then the rule of the civil law—that the children of slaves follow the condition of the mother—shall be abolished, and that slavery by birth shall no longer exist.*

2. *Every legislative body [...] recognize the Colonization Society, and give it such countenance and aid as will enable it to carry out to full success its noble scheme of philanthropy.*



A certificate of membership to the Colonization Society for Rev. S. R. Ely, signed by Henry Clay.

Sources:

1. "The Late Judge Baird of Washington County Pa," (*Wheeling*) *The Wheeling Intelligencer* (1906-1961), 29 Nov 1866, p. 1, col. 5, obituary.
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5. 1860 U.S. census, population schedule, Carroll Township, Washington Co., Pennsylvania, dwelling 293, family 293, Thos H Baird; digital images; citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M653.

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A Different Perspective (Continued from page 6)

6. The Reed Family, "Papers of the Reed Family," 1824-1931; MSS#135; Detre Library & Archives, Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co., PA.

7. J. Sutton Wall, *Report on the Coal Mines of the Monongahela River Region, from the West-Virginia State Line to Pittsburgh, Including the Mines of the Lower Youghiogheny River. Part 1. Description of the Mines* (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: The Board of Commissioners for the Second Geological Survey, 1884), p60-61.

8. Boyd Crumrine, *History of Washington County Pennsylvania with Biographical Sketches...* (Philadelphia, PA: L. H. Everts & Co., 1882), p.466. Courthouse and jail repairs and additions.

9. Jane M. Fulcher, editor, *Family Letters In A Civil War Century: Achesons, Wilsons, Brownsons, Wisharts, and others of Washington, Pa.* (Aveila, Pa: n.p., 1986), p.237.

10. "How Courts Have Invited the Criticism of the Press," (*Lancaster*) *The Lancaster Intelligencer*, 20 Jul 1880, p. 1, col. 5.

11. "Emancipation Proclamation (1863)." Archives <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/emancipation-proclamation>. Accessed 17 Sep. 2023.

12. An Address Delivered to the Grand Jury of Washington County, Pa at the January Term of the Court, 1835; digital images.

13. *Biographical and Historical Catalogue of Washington and Jefferson College* (Philadelphia, PA: George H. Buchanan and Company, 1902), p279-281. Trustees of Washington Academy.

14. Hon. Thomas H. Baird, *Memorial of Hon. Thomas H. Baird, Praying for the Enactment of Measures to Preserve the Constitution and Union of the States. Presented to the House of Representatives, Februaruy 7, 1863, and Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary* (Pittsburgh, PA: A. A. Anderson & Sons, 1864).

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE... FOR GENEALOGY???

BY CRAIG FENTON

On Thursday, September 6, 2023, the National Genealogical Society conducted a one-hour presentation entitled "Empowering Genealogists with Artificial Intelligence", by Steve Little. This was an excellent presentation on the basics of AI. If you want to more about this emerging technology and how it applies to genealogy watch the recording here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npQaRJbzE1s>



VBGS members, share one of your genealogy treasures with at the December Monthly Meeting. Space is limited, contact the Program Committee to sign up today!

program@vbgsva.net.



Do you have an organizing tip to share? This could be how you organize your files, a form you have created, your research process, or anything else you might do to make research a little easier. Members' organizing tips will be shared at the January 16th, 2024, How-to Group meeting.

Please contact Diana Quinn (dianaquinn@vbgsva.net) to share your tips and ideas.

Archive Research Tip!

by Heather Wright

If you are like me and take photos to reference later instead of notes while at a library or archive, I have two words for you... selfie stick. I know what you are thinking but hear me out.

It can be difficult to hold the phone and book in place while still being able to reach the button. While trying to figure out a solution before traveling to D.C., I had a thought. The selfie stick I'd purchased for vacation in May had a little Bluetooth shutter button control!

I took it with me and it worked great. I was able to hold the phone over the book with one hand and keep the book open and click the button with the other. Flip, click, flip, click... I came home with 1600+ photos!



Finding My Roots (Continued from page 1)

that show seemed to be the result of serious scholarly effort by genealogy specialists. I did not believe that a weeklong course could enable me to find my roots – or to help resolve the question of whether my wife's family was German or Swiss. -- I was wrong.

Of course, the first day of this class seemed to offer little hope of success since it was an introduction to the basics of genealogy research. I did learn that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormon Church) has collected the world's largest set of genealogical records. And the course allowed us access to not only those records but a number of Mormon 'missionaries' assigned to assist those who, like me and my wife, were using the research center.

I took advantage of such assistance.

My focus was to find out about the origins of my four grandparents. I had prepared a bit prior to arriving at the research center by collecting as much information as I could about them and their ancestors – which was not a lot.

I knew my paternal grandfather was from County Cork, Ireland, and nothing about my paternal grandmother other than the names of her parents (my great-grandparents).

As to my maternal grandparents, I knew nothing other than their names but did have some idea of where my maternal grandmother lived.

The suggested starting point for researching my **maternal grandmother Mary Frances Kane** was census records. And I assumed that if I found her, I would find my maternal grandfather. I was also able to call on my sole living first cousin, the daughter of my mother's older sister, to help with information relating to our maternal grandmother. Of course, we both had the problem of 'knowing' certain facts we learned from our mothers turned out to be false – in other words our maternal grandmother had lied about some of her own history. That was lesson 1.

Over the course of the week, I managed to find records of my maternal grandmother's family that led back several generations in Ireland. I plan to visit Ireland to explore more in the future. (NOTE: I found that to determine who her family was, I had to explore several gen-

erations back to ensure I had the right family, discarding ones that did not correspond to the information I otherwise had.) Eventually, with the help of the Mormon missionaries and my cousin, I was able to determine not only who my maternal grandmother's family was and where they were from, but also who my maternal grandfather was and what had happened to him.

My maternal grandfather was William Henry Everbeck, but sadly, I never knew him or his family, apparently because my family did not want to tell us. My cousin had known and associated with his sister and her family, not knowing that she was his only sister. He lived until 1984, so I would have had the chance to meet him if only someone told us. Lesson 2 – families have secrets.

I found his family had numerous offshoots in various countries, including an ancestor from the American Blackfeet tribe – which confirmed my mother's claim of American Indian ancestry that I was never sure to be true.

Lesson 3 was very satisfying to learn, even if not that interesting. Most of our families led relatively routine lives that did not provide any interesting stories or involve participation in historical events.

My paternal grandfather Daniel Maurice Daley's parents emigrated from Ireland and I was able to trace back several generations around County Cork. When his father John, my great-grandfather, was widowed, he returned to find a new bride (so the story went) but never made it back. Unfortunately, he

was killed in a carriage accident while there, leaving my grandfather an orphan at age 6.

Initially, my grandfather Daniel lived with one of his aunts but was eventually placed in the care of La Salette priests and educated to become one. Towards the end of his time studying, the La Salettes decided he was not suited for priesthood and paid for him to finish a college degree at Boston College to become a teacher. He was



Daniel Maurice Daley

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Finding My Roots (Continued from page 8)

capable of speaking and teaching in multiple languages and found employment at what is today the Boston Latin School. He married and spent his entire career there. I had already known or suspected this, but it was the results for my paternal grandmother that truly surprised me.

I knew my **paternal grandmother Hazel Belle Butler** had grown up in Hingham, MA and attended Salem Teacher's College, graduating in 1915. This was unusual for a woman at that time but I suspect it was the influence of her great-aunt Sarah, who taught at the Derby School in Hingham.

When Hazel found a teaching job following graduation, it came with a variety of restrictions, namely that she had to remain single and live in a designated rooming house with limitations on who was allowed in her apartment. She worked in Maine and later at the Boston Latin School where she met my grandfather. (She once referred to Maine as Up-

per Massachusetts since it was created from Massachusetts as part of the Missouri Compromise of 1820.) She was an independent woman in that era but when the First World War ended, I gather she felt the pressure of yielding her job to returning veterans. World War I veterans started to return in the middle of 1919; she mar-



Daniel Maurice Daley with Aunt Nellie, c1900

ried that December and thereafter only taught on a part-time basis. I was surprised by what I found of her ancestry – including a much wider family than anticipated.

I learned that her mother, **my paternal great-grandmother Sarah Mailman**, was from Annapolis County, Nova Scotia (NS), Canada. Her family (Mehlman/Mailman) had emigrated from the Holy Roman Empire (HRE) (now Germany) in 1752 and ended up being placed by the British in Lunenburg, NS.

Sarah emigrated to the U.S. in 1887 at age 18, arriving in Hingham, MA to live with her Aunt Sarah (her mother's

younger sister Sarah Robinson, mentioned previously). Both Sarah Mailman and her aunt Sarah were employed as teachers at the Derby School, one of the oldest private schools in the U.S. The younger Sarah was one of 13 children, including six from her parents (she was the 5th) and another seven from her father's second marriage. I suspect that she left home to gain some level of independence as she was likely called upon to assist in raising the younger step-siblings. So it seems the invitation to live with her mother's younger sister was the spur in her decision to emigrate. She returned to Canada in 1890 to attend the wedding of her 1½-years-younger sister and serve as the maid of honor. Though most of her siblings and step-siblings remained in Canada, she later



Sarah Robinson, aunt of Sarah Mailman

assisted one of her step-siblings in emigrating to the U.S. So, I have a wealth of new family to discover.

From this information, I judge my paternal grandmother Hazel's sense of independence and interest in being a teacher came from her mother and her mother's aunt who taught at the Derby School.

The most surprising results came when I investigated the ancestry of my Butler and Mailman families, finding they were involved in some of Nova Scotia's (and Canada's) earliest and very controversial history.

My great-grandfather William Chester Butler's family arrived in Prince Edward's Island (PEI) from Ireland in the late 1840's (he was born in 1850) and apparently received a grant of land from Britain. (The Butler family was previously from England. The story is that the family was aligned with Anne Boleyn and fled to Ireland when she was executed.) The land on PEI was previously owned by Acadians who had fled due to the British removals of Acadians from Nova Scotia to PEI. Unfortunately, the British again cleared out the Acadians from PEI few years later. (NOTE: The displacement of the Canadian Acadians is told in the Story of Evangeline poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.)

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Finding My Roots (Continued from page 9)

As to my **Mailman/Mehlman line**, I learned that my **5th great-grandparents Johann Carl Mehlman and Dorothea Hertle** arrived in Halifax, NS in 1752. They arrived on a ship hired by British agents to transport some German (then part of the Holy Roman Empire) people to Canada. The goal being to populate Canada with protestants in place of the Acadian Catholics and local Mi'kmaq Indians who were being evicted by the British after they took control of Nova Scotia under the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht. An initial effort to send Londoners to populate Nova Scotia failed when the Londoners claimed that it was too cold and left. So, the British resorted to offering Germans grants of land in exchange for their emigrating to Nova Scotia.

When they arrived in 1752, they were expecting the promised grant of land but the local governor had nothing for them, so they stayed in Halifax for a year. Later, the governor moved them to an uncleared tract that eventually became Lunenburg, making my family one of the 250 first families of Lunenburg.

The irony of this emigration was that they likely opted to accept the offer of emigration to Nova Scotia to get away from the constant warfare between the Protestant HRE and Catholic France. In Nova Scotia they now had to defend the new grant of lands from Catholic Acadians and Mi'kmaq Indians who had owned the land. (The area where they came from had been invaded as recently as 1690, when the French burned the town of Steyer and did not allow the residents to return for ten years. My 5th great-grandfather was born nearby in 1721, in now Oberkassel Bonn, Germany.)

The most interesting part of my ancestry that I learned from my week in Salt Lake City was that my 3rd great-grandfather had a brother, Frederick Mailman (also a resident of Lunenburg). Frederick's son Peter was convicted of murdering his wife in a jealous rage in 1873. (If you go on the Ghost Tour of Lunenburg, they will tell you about this.) During his trial he professed his innocence but the jury found him guilty, largely based on the testimony of his oldest daughter Angeline Rosalie Mailman, who was 18. He was subsequently hanged in the town square and is buried near the cemetery but in unconsecrated ground. She was

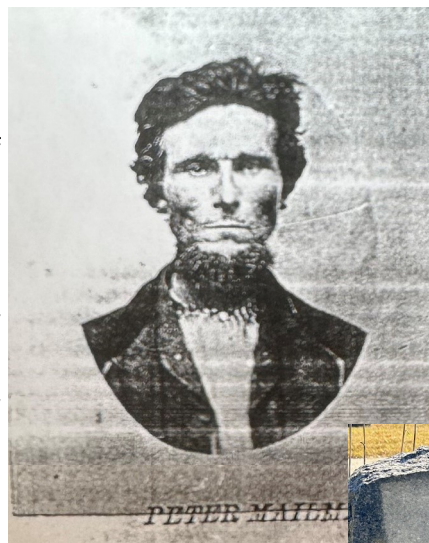
likely in attendance at the hanging.

Despite the trauma of losing a mother to her father and seeing her father hanged, she managed to not only survive but thrive. About six years later, after raising her two younger siblings, she marries and has two daughters, one of whom emigrated to Marlborough, MA.

At age 65, after the passing of her husband, Angeline accepted the invitation of her daughter Mary to emigrate to Marlborough and live with her family. Angeline became a leading member of a local Methodist Church, lived to be 100, and is buried in the Maplewood Cemetery in Marlborough. Because the records of her burial had been lost to a fire in 1960, I used a map of the cemetery to locate her grave. She is buried under a tombstone for her daughter's family. Her obituary states was survived by 2 daughters, 26 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, and 22 great-great-grandchildren.

In short, the weeklong class on genealogy was not only interesting but led me to learning about my heritage. And I am now traveling to the places where my newly discovered ancestors lived and died. I have learned that while most led routine lives, some found themselves involved in some of the history that occurred during their lifetime.

And I now have interesting stories about my family to share!



Peter Mailman



Angeline Mailman (at bottom), buried with her daughter Mary and her family

Did You Know? by Diana Quinn

Genealogical Writing Tips



1. Verb Tense

When writing about living people and records or resources that are still existing, use the present tense. To refer to deceased people, past events, and sources that no longer exist, use the past tense.

My grandmother, Myrtie Hairston, died in 1927. Her grave is in the IOOF Cemetery.

The ship record shows that Susan Murray arrived in New York on 15 September 1920 when she was 22 years old.

2. Referring to Your Ancestors in Genealogical Stories

When writing about an ancestor, use the ancestor's full name when he or she is first introduced. Refer to them by their first name throughout the remainder of your narrative.

Mitchell Giddens was a shoemaker in Duplin County in 1850. He died in 1852, leaving a wife and eight children. No record shows how and where Mitchell died.

3. Referring to Authors in Genealogical Stories

When writing about information found in a publication, use the author's full name when she or he is first introduced. Refer to them by their last name throughout the remainder of your narrative.

Vera Wimberly's book tells us that Reddick Bryan purchased land in Bienville Parish in the 1830s. Wimberly's book includes transcriptions of deeds and letters from Reddick's family.

Resources

Devon Noel Lee, "Stop Repeating Your Ancestor's Names in Family Histories," Family Fanatics History (<https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/newspaper-naming-technique> : accessed 27 September 2023).

Lea Popielinski, "How to Properly Refer to the Authors of Your Sources by Name" blog entry, 23 November 2015, Your Words Pop (<http://www.yourwordspop.com/blog/-how-to-properly-refer-to-the-authors-of-your-sources-by-name>: accessed 27 September 2023).

Thomas W. Jones, Mastering Genealogical Proof, (Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2013), p.90.



A Moment in VBGS History

1999

VBGS Gives Back

Earlier this summer, your editor was researching in the Virginia Beach Central Library and came across a book donated by VBGS. Looking into this, not only did VBGS once donate books but we also donated a computer.

The gift of a computer and CD library was announced in the August 1999 newsletter. The Central Library held a tea party to unveil and demonstrate the new resource. The CD record set included information from the U.S. and across the world. Accessing the information was a process though. These were the instructions given in the newsletter:

One must read and follow the directions to know which keys to tap. The "F" keys are used for some things. The mouse is not used. (He sits watching quietly while the "up and down" keys, the "page up and down" keys and good old "enter" do

all the work.) One of the important lessons is to keep one's hands off the CDs as you do a very expensive record. The CD should not be left on the table or anywhere else where fingerprints or, heaven forbid, scratches can mar the surface. Once a scratch occurs, the computer will tell you the CD is damaged and will not run. So PLEASE!!!! Treat these CDs like the platinum treasures they are.

Thankfully, we don't have to worry about scratching CDs anymore!

When I came across the donated book, I thought it was a nice gesture and one to be repeated. VBGS is not charged for use of the facility, so what better way to say thank you! The idea was brought before the Board and approved. Two of the books purchased from the library's wish list include:

- ♦ *Desegregation in Northern Virginia Libraries* by Chris Barbuschak and Suzanne S. LaPierre
- ♦ *The Land Was Ours: How Black Beaches Became White Wealth in the Coastal South* by Andrew W. Kahrl

Use Care (and Lots of Water) When Cleaning Grave Markers

by Diana Quinn

Every time a gravestone is brushed or rubbed, deterioration to the surface may occur. The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution's brochure, [Guidelines to Properly Clean a Gravestone](#), suggests that if the inscription is readable, it should not be cleaned.

If cleaning is necessary, evaluate the condition of the stone. If it is cracked, flaking, broken, leaning, or loose, it should only be cleaned once stabilized.

Do not clean a grave marker when temperatures are below 40 degrees. And always get permission from the property owner before cleaning.

As most of us are not experts in this area, the safest procedure would be to use only water, soft cloths, and soft bristle brushes. Keep the stone wet with clean water during the entire cleaning process.

Information on the [National Park Service](#) website states that cleaning should be done with the gentlest means possible and should not be done to make a grave marker look new. Never use wire brushes, power washers, or harsh cleaners.

Do your research prior to cleaning.

What is the composition of the grave marker?

What are you trying to remove from the marker?

What is the best cleaning method for accomplishing the task?

Use the [Michigan Historic Cemeteries Preservation Guide](#) to identify gravestone materials and learn how to properly clean each type of material.

When a marker displays biological growth such as algae, mildew, moss, and lichens, water and a product formulated for cleaning these growths may be required. The [National Cemetery Association](#) named these examples of such products: Prosoco ReVive, Cathedral Stone Bio-Cleaner, Wet and Forget, and D/2 Biological Solution. However, all stones are not alike and may react differently to chemicals and detergents. Test any product in a small area before using it and follow the manufacturer's directions.

The National Park Service's motto regarding grave markers is "Do no harm," so if you have doubts or questions about cleaning a grave marker, it is best to do nothing.



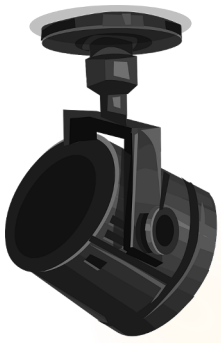
Sources

"Cleaning Government-Furnished Headstones and Markers," *National Cemetery Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs* (<https://www.cem.va.gov/hmm/cleaning.asp> : accessed 13 September 2023).

"Cleaning Grave Markers," National Park Service (<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/cemetery-preservation-course-cleaning-grave-markers.htm> : accessed 13 September 2023).

Daughters of the American Revolution. Historic Preservation Committee, *DAR.org* (<https://www.dar.org/members/committees/service-committees/historic-preservation/historic-preservation-committee-forms> : accessed 12 September 2023).

"Michigan Historic Cemeteries Preservation Guide," *miplace.org* (<https://www.miplace.org/4a77dd/globalassets/documents/shpo/research-resources/publications/michigan-historic-cemeteries-preservation-guide.pdf>: accessed 13 September 2023).



Member Spotlight



Joan Schlegelmilch

I was born in Boston, Massachusetts, but only lived there while my father was earning his Masters Degree at MIT. I grew up in Rome, New York; Chevy Chase, Maryland; Endwell, New York; and La Crosse, Wisconsin. My parents then moved to northern Virginia, and I went to college in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. After graduating from college, I moved to Virginia Beach and began a career in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools.

I taught in elementary school for a time before working on a Masters Degree in Computer Science at ODU. I was offered a job as a computer programmer/analyst at a firm doing Navy contract work. I took the job but only lasted a year – I discovered that I loved computer science as a hobby, but not necessarily as a full-time job. I was offered a teaching position back at the same school I had left and returned to education – with a dream of somehow combining technology and elementary education.

worked to facilitate the integration of instructional technology into K-12 instruction.

My mother and my aunt were genealogy enthusiasts – but their research was long and tedious. They compiled their records by going through census records, page by page, without the assistance of a computer. My mother collected enough to qualify her to enter the DAR. I inherited a lot of disorganized notes and handwritten family tree charts. As more and more information began to be available via technology, I began to dabble in genealogy myself.

One of the stories that had been passed down through generations of my family stated that there was a 1620 Pilgrim in our lineage. This surprised me since most of my family didn't arrive from Germany until the mid-1800s. I decided to try to find out "for sure."

It took some doing, but I was finally able to produce proof to link my family back to George Soule, an indentured servant, who traveled across the Atlantic on the Mayflower in 1620.

I was fortunate during the summer of 2022, I was able to participate in a reunion of the George Soule Kindred in Plymouth, Massachusetts. At the conclusion of the reunion, my sister and I joined a Mayflower Society-sponsored tour that focused on the exploits of the Pilgrims in the New World. One of the highlights was at Plimoth Patuxet Museums, where we

were able to explore the reconstructed village of Plimoth.

(Continued on page 14)

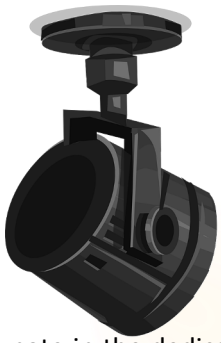


Above, the reconstructed village of Plimoth. At right, the group with George and Mary Soule at their former home with, now the Children's Discovery House.



It didn't take long for that dream to come to fruition. I finished my Masters (though I never again sought a computer science job) and started on a path that led to an ever-changing administrative position in which I





Member Spotlight

(Continued from page 13)

While there, we were able to “meet” George and Mary Soule, and also participate in the dedication of the new Children’s Discovery House in the former George Soule House.

It was fun boarding and exploring the replica of the Mayflower in the harbor at Plymouth. I can’t imagine making the voyage across the Atlantic in such tight and uncomfortable quarters.

We drove over to Duxbury, Massachusetts, where George Soule ended up settling (with some of the other Pilgrims) and living out his life. While in Duxbury, we visited his property and the graveyard where George, our ninth great-grandfather was buried.

We completed our “Pilgrim journey” with a very special experience. Special arrangements had been made for our group of Pilgrim descendants to visit the Massachusetts State Library to view the ORIGINAL journal written by William Bradford! His diary is the written record that we have of the Pilgrim’s voyage to the New World and their early days in the Plymouth colony. Bradford’s journal originally had been kept by

his family and later stored in the Old South Meetinghouse in Boston. During the Revolution, English soldiers looted the Old South and used the building as a horse stable. This manuscript was considered lost until the middle of the 19th century when it was discovered in England and returned to Massachusetts.

Bradford's journal had not been viewed by the public in over five years. The staff of the library made special arrangements with the Mayflower Society to let our group view the document! What a thrill it was to view the original diary and see our ninth great-grandfather’s name listed among the passengers on the Mayflower in William Bradford’s handwriting!



Joan (at right) and her sister at the grave of their 9th great-grandfather, George Soule.



Mayflower replica



VBGS Goes to Washington

On the morning of September 28, 2023, more than twenty VBGS members boarded the train in Norfolk - including a guest from Idaho! The destination - the DAR Library and NARA archives in Washington D.C. In addition to those who rode the rail, a few met the group there. It was the first research trip for the society in many years. Here are a few photos and comments about the experience. All-in-all, a great experience, even with the 3+ hour on-track delay in Ivor on the way home. If you didn't make this trip, hopefully you can next year!



The group during a tour of the DAR Library.



Linda Brown and Joan Schlegelmilch



Suzanne Camden and Wendy Bransom



I found some information at the DAR in the county and family record books-what a fun and useful trip!

--- Joan Fowler

Debby Christian
and Joan Folwer

I collected War of 1812 proof for Seth Gard and the Civil War service and pension records for William James Wiggs (including his wife's records too) at the National Archives (took about 300 pictures of papers). At the DAR Library, I collected new information from Hardin Kentucky for William Jourdan and Sarah Pearpoint. I found Court Order Books, Deeds, Marriage Records, and Wills in published books. This leads me to two new lines of ancestors. --- Wendy Bransom

VBGS Goes to Washington

It was my first time researching in DC and I'm glad I experienced it with such a great group of people. Now to sift through my findings before next year's trip!

--- Heather Wright



Heather Wright
and Diana Quinn

A big thank you to the social committee. I looked at over 100 books in the DAR library. I liked the ease of accessing these books and really enjoyed getting to know other members. --- Diana Quinn

I was able to find more details on my newly discovered Frey/Frye line in a skinny book called Records of Old Otterbein Church, Baltimore, Maryland, 1785-1881.

I was awakened on the train after a very long wait by two young ladies happily skipping down the aisle yelling "We're moving, we're moving".

--- Linn Baiker



At the DAR library



Linn Baiker and Lori Sherwood



Bob Bruce

Although I'm not sure if I found anything that will help me with that final link to completing my DAR application, I was amazed and happy for all the information that others found. Looking forward to doing this again. --- Lori Sherwood

VBGS Goes to Washington



Enlightening trip .
--- Kim Pugh



Kim Pugh



Renee and Eric Haynes

The beauty of the DAR ceiling. It not only looks beautiful but is practical, it lets air in ... especially needed before the days of air conditioning. ---
Renee Haynes



Beverly & Chris Tickell with niece Tammy Lang (at left)



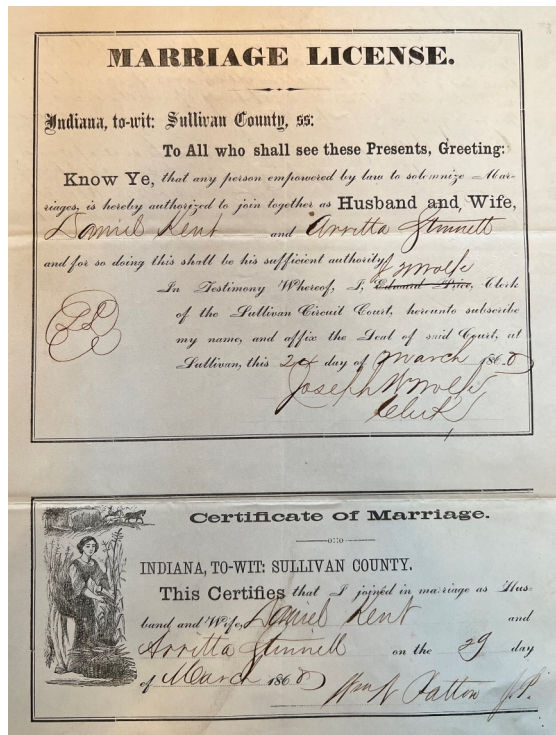
Stained glass of Washington crossing the Delaware.
DAR Library

VBGS Goes to Washington



Brian Baldwin and Barbara Murray

Union Station



The marriage license and certificate of Mary Ann's great-grandparents, Daniel Kent and Arritta Stinnett.

The VBGS trip to the Archives and DAR Library was fantastic. While I didn't make any major discoveries about my ancestors, I did find a copy of my gg grandparents' marriage certificate (pictured on pg.1) and that meant a lot to me. --- Mary Ann Simmons



Mary Ann and Billy Simmons

A Second Ferry Plantation Tour for VBGS by Debby Christian



On August 26, thirteen members took a tour of the Ferry Plantation led by Kristen Ellis, one of our own. This was our second tour of the historic house in 16 months but for those of us who attended both times, Kristen gave us a different, more archaeological perspective of the house's inhabitants, artifacts, and history of old Virginia Beach families. We learned that many of the phrases we use today came from this time period i.e.:

- A "threshold" in a doorway was used to catch debris from ladies' skirts.
- The term "wake" for the gathering before the burial of a loved one originated because diseases may cause a person to appear dead, so family members watched over a "deceased" person in case they awoken.
- "Nightmare" came from a woman claiming that Grace Sherwood, the witch of Pungo, rode a mare around the ceiling of her bedroom at night.



Ferry Plantation House, courtesy of Rlevse



Kristin Ellis giving VBGS members a tour of the Ferry Plantation House in Virginia Beach

It reminds me of NPR's
"A Way with Words" show on Saturday mornings.

Kristen introduced us to Henry, an enslaved person who lived on the third floor of the Old Kitchen. His ghost still lives

there along with ten others, giving the Ferry Plantation the title of one of the most haunted sites in Virginia. Paranormal investigations are common occurrences at the house and are open to the public - if you dare.

Spirits of the persons who were hanged must be keeping the Hanging Tree alive. This is a beautiful, live tree on the property that dates back about two hundred-plus years. The mystery is... how is this beautiful tree alive? It is hollow inside! I put my cell phone in the hollowed-out base and took a picture looking up. You can see the light of day coming in from the top of the tree!

(Continued on page 20)

There is also a beautiful Magnolia tree planted during the Civil War by Sally Rebecca Walke in memory of her fiancé who was killed in the war. Sally never married.

The tour ended with a historical account of Grace Sherwood and her life, not as a witch but as a young widow raising three boys and someone with the knowledge of herbal healing, gardening, animal husbandry, and midwifery. Due to jealousy, mistrust, and fear because she didn't fit the common mold of how a female should act or dress, Grace was blamed for causing neighbors' livestock to die and crops to fail, and led to her being tried as a witch by ducking in the water. She knew how to swim, so she didn't drown when thrown into the river with a Bible tied around her neck. It's unknown how long or if ever, Grace was imprisoned but she did live out her life in Pungo and never remarried. Her burial site is a well-kept secret.

The tour lasted longer than the anticipated one and a half hours but we all agreed that we could have listened to Kristen's historical account of the Ferry Plantation all day. Afterwards, eight of us enjoyed lunch at the Village Inn on Independence and Virginia Beach Blvd.



The Hanging Tree (above) and the view up through the trunk (at left).

Dewey Daniel Collier and the Sinking of the USS Westover (WW I)

by Lorraine F. Fereday



During Mother's Day weekend, Newspaper.com was free to access and I spent almost the entire weekend researching my

family. On late afternoon Sunday, I asked my husband if there was anything he would like me to research regarding his family. That is when he casually mentioned that his grandfather, who he was named after, had been on a ship that was torpedoed and sank by a German U-boat. When I started researching the incident, it was so fascinating to me that the story just seemed to write itself.

My husband's paternal grandfather, Dewey Daniel Collier (1894-1963) was born and raised in Wetumpka, AL. It is a very small rural town located on the banks of the Coosa River, approximately 5 miles from the junction where the Coosa River

meets the Tallapoosa River, forming the Alabama River. In 1900, the population was approximately 562.¹

In April of 1917, the United States entered World War I (WWI) largely because Kaiser Wilhelm II declared the decision to target neutral shipping in a designated war zone. Like so many young men in our country, Dewey enlisted in the military.

In December of 1917, approximately two weeks before Christmas, he left Wetumpka to begin Navy basic training. The Weekly Herald (the local newspaper) announced his departure and wished success to all the patriotic young men from the area who had answered the call of duty.² Following basic training, Dewey went to cook school where he received instruction and training in food preparation.

(Continued on page 21)

Dewey Daniel Collier (Continued from page 20)

For his first assignment, Dewey was stationed onboard the USS Westover. The vessel was originally being built as a cargo ship named the War Sun at a small shipyard in Seattle, WA. It was a steel-hulled, single-screw 5,700 gross tonnage freighter. Prior to completion though, the War Sun was taken over by the U.S. Navy for use by the Naval Overseas Transportation Service and renamed USS Westover.

After completion on 18 April 1918, she transited to the east coast and was transferred to the U.S. Navy. The ship was commissioned as the USS Westover at Newport News, VA, on 22 May 1918.³

Following the commissioning, the Westover sailed to New York to pick up general Army supplies that included 1,000 tons of steel, 2,000 tons of flour, 10 locomotives, 14 trucks, a deck load of 400 wooden piles, and 250 tons of second-class mail.⁴

Once loaded, the Westover, with a crew of 92 sailors, departed New York on 28 June 1918 as part of the HB5 convoy heading to France. During the second day at sea, the ship began having engine problems. Instead of turning back, the Westover dropped out of the convoy due to reduced speed and continued towards France unescorted. As the ship progressed, it maintained a constant lookout for enemy submarines, as well as a review of the wireless reports received daily regarding submarine activities along their route.⁵ Successful repair work on the engine allowed the Westover to increase her speed to catch up with the convoy. Unfortunately, in her haste to catch the convoy, she was not zigzagging as ships were ordered to do in clear weather.

On 11 July 1918, as the ship approached the Bay of Biscay off the coast of France at approximately 7 am, a torpedo struck amidship (midway between the bow and stern) on the starboard side. "Communication between the bridge and engine-room was instantly cut, the steering gear was out of commission and the ship was on fire in a dozen places. Burning oil from the settling tanks, where the torpedo had exploded, was the chief cause of the flames which quickly spread to the inflammable cargo. The gun crews stood by their guns and a careful search was made for the telltale periscope, but to no avail."

Sadly, the efforts to stop the fire proved hopeless, and on the

deck, the bare feet of crew members not wearing shoes were badly burned from the "sizzling-hot hot buckling plates." Meanwhile, in the engine room, the junior engineers tried to remain at their posts as the bulkheads became red hot and the water rushing in quickly became knee-deep.⁵

Shortly after the explosion, commanding officer Lt. Commander Alexander F. Ogilvie gave the command to abandon ship, and the crew began to lower the lifeboats. A second explosion occurred a few seconds later at the number three hatch, just forward of the boat deck, which briefly disrupted the execution of the abandon ship order. Next, during the lowering of lifeboat 4, disaster struck. The forward line on the lifeboat, which contained approximately 15 officers and enlisted men, plunged bow first into the water, capsizing and throwing all the sailors into the sea. A few managed to cling to the capsized boat while others were forced below the surface. Three officers in the lifeboat and several of the enlisted died in the accident. Meanwhile, onboard the Westover, several other crew members lost their lives, killed either by the explosions or drowned in the engine room.⁵

A final torpedo struck astern and blew up the ammunition magazine. This explosion destroyed the 5-inch stern gun and its platform, hurling it high into the air. In addition, the second-class mail bags were blasted into the air and fell burning across the booms. The compass was crushed against the roof of the pilot house. The deck load lashings broke and huge



U.S. Navy w:Naval History and Heritage Command photo,
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

(Continued on page 22)

Dewey Daniel Collier (Continued from page 21)

logs eighty feet long, which were part of the cargo of dock piles, broke free and were thrown into the water. Under enormous pressure from the ocean, the logs shot back out of the water at full length, falling around the lifeboats.⁶

Some of the crew remained onboard, including the captain and the wireless operator who was called back by the captain to resend the ship's corrected position. When the final explosion occurred, the captain and remaining men were thrown into the water. They had launched the remaining lifeboats and one that was on fire floated clear when the ship sank. The captain and a few men climbed into the burning boat, extinguished the fire, and immediately began picking up survivors in the water. The ship's canine mascot, "Westy" was safely rescued too. The ship sank in approximately 40 minutes, taking the men trapped onboard to their watery grave.

Shortly thereafter, the German submarine SMS U-92 surfaced and made its way to the lifeboats. Kapitänleutnant Günther Ehrlich and his men approached the survivors believed to be in search of officers. Fortunately, the captain was unrecognizable, half-dressed, soaking wet, and covered in oil. As the men were being questioned, they carefully concealed the identity of the officers. One of the enlisted sailors, Yeoman Harry Jay Finck/Fink, spoke German and was taken aboard the U-boat and questioned. The German commander concluded that the ship carried general cargo and that the captain, last seen on the bridge amid the flames, was probably dead. Following the interrogation, Yeoman Finck was released to return to his lifeboat.

While climbing down into the lifeboat from the submarine, Yeoman Fink's hand was badly crushed between the two vessels. The Germans showed unexpected kindness and provided a roll of bandages to wrap his injury. Finally, the German submarine set off while the survivors divided up equally among the five remaining lifeboats.

In sending out the S.O.S. signal, the radio operator, who had not been properly informed of the ship's position, gave the wrong coordinates. Due to this misinformation, the lifeboats were not sighted by the USS Warrington which arrived on the scene within a few hours of the sinking, searching the vicinity for thirty-six hours with no luck.⁷

Between the fires and the explosions, nearly every survivor was injured. Many with broken legs and arms, fractured ribs, and burned feet, in addition to other painful injuries. Most of the lifeboats had sustained damage from the explosions and fires prior to being lowered. In some cases, equipment was lost or damaged, some were badly burned or had their metal sides smashed in, and lots of the oars were charred and useless. One lifeboat was so badly damaged it had to be towed by another. Each of the four that could, hoisted their sails and steered for the French coast approximately 400 miles away. The boats started out together but became separated that night after a storm caused high seas. A southwest wind brought a steady rain and winds that drove the damaged lifeboats toward the shore of France.

The ship's survivors and mascot were adrift for almost five days. The men shared cramped quarters and were exposed to severe weather conditions, including chilly rains. They were also short on rations of hardtack (a dense biscuit or cracker made from flour, water, and sometimes salt) and had little drinking water, some having none the last day or two. All five lifeboats made land. The one being towed eventually broke free but was picked up 150 miles from the shore by a destroyer. Several others were rescued by French fishing boats outside of Brest.

Arriving at the dock, the wounded sailors were taken to U.S. Navy Base Hospital #5 for treatment and were reunited with their shipmates. Among the 81 survivors was Dewey Daniel Collier, the grandfather and namesake of my husband, Dewey Russell Collier (1948). It was a somber reunion as a total of 11 men lost their lives on 11 July 1918.

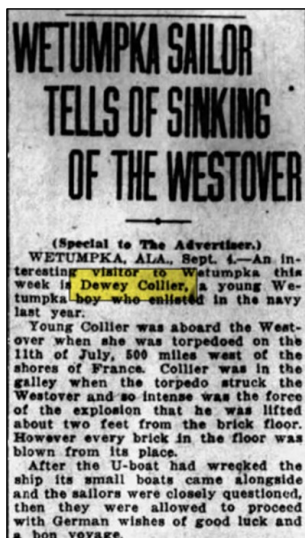
When the survivors were released from the hospital in France, most were able to return home briefly to finish their recuperation. When Dewey returned to Wetumpka to spend time with his parents and nine siblings, he shared his story with the local newspaper that ran it on 6 September 1918. Below is the newspaper article that tells his story.⁸

Following the sinking of the USS Westover, on 25 July 1918 a formal Navy inquiry into the loss was conducted. The results are listed below:

25 July – The Court of Inquiry into the loss of the U.S.S. WESTOVER has completed its labors and come to a decision after sessions lasting seven days, 17 July – 23 July 1918. . .

(Continued on page 23)

Dewey Daniel Collier *(Continued from page 22)*



The decision, which is a lengthy one, contains in summarized form the following items of special interest:

That the WESTOVER was sunk by the explosion of two torpedoes fired by an enemy submarine; that the eleven officers and men who died as the result of the accident lost their lives while in line of their duty and not as a result of their own misconduct; that Lieutenant Commander A. F. Ogilvie, U.S.N.R.F., Commanding the WESTOVER, failed to carry out his instructions to zigzag in clear weath-

er, failed to keep the radio operators informed of the ship's position at stated periods, as laid down in his instructions; that from the radio operator being in ignorance of the ship's correct position effective rescue was prevented, resulting in the surviving members of the crew suffering injuries incident to five days exposure in open boats; that no officer or man is responsible for the loss of the ship nor for the consequent loss of life, etc., except the injuries incident to exposure in open boats, for which Lieutenant Commander Ogilvie is indirectly responsible in that he failed to keep the ship's position posted in the radio room, resulting in an incorrect position being broadcasted and effective rescue prevented.

The court is of the opinion that Lieutenant Commander Ogilvie, U.S.N.R.F., committed a serious error in judgment in not zigzagging on the day that the WESTOVER was torpedoed, and in failing to keep the radio operators informed of the ship's position, for which the court recommends that he be reprimanded.

The general court martial appointed to try Lieutenant Commander Alexander F. Ogilvie, U.S.N.R.F. for "Drunkenness" has finished its sessions 25 July 1918; and has sentenced him on his plea of "guilty" to be dismissed from the United States Naval Reserve Force. The court recommended clemency, but the convening authority approves the sentence.⁹

After Dewey Daniel Collier completed his enlistment, he returned to Wetumpka where he resided the rest of his life. He married Mae Perkins (1902-1996) and had two children. He is buried along with his wife in the Wetumpka City Cemetery.

My husband, Dewey Russell Collier followed in his grandfather's footsteps and in 1971 was commissioned into the U.S. Navy after graduating from Auburn University as part of the NROTC program. He served for 21 years as a Surface Warfare Officer. His son, Dylan Michael Collier, who is also a graduate of Auburn University via the NROTC program is currently serving in the U.S. Navy as a helicopter pilot.

Ironically U-boat U-92 was built in Danzig, Prussia, a city where at least 4 generations of my family were born and lived, including my mother. The company was Kaiserliche Werft Danzig which was a German shipbuilding company founded in 1852 as Königliche Werft Danzig and renamed Kaiserliche Werft after the proclamation of the German Empire in 1871.



Above right, Dewey Russell Collier, 1971 commissioning.
At left, Lorrie with step-son Dylan and husband Dewey, at 2012 commissioning.



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(Continued on page 24)

Dewey Daniel Collier *(Continued from page 23)*

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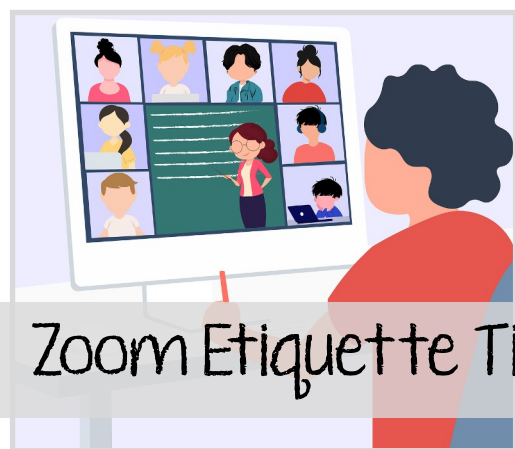
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Are you ever distracted by other attendees during a Zoom meeting?

Before online meeting platforms, generally only the presenter would have noticed people involved in other activities. Now we can all see each other's activities - eating, cleaning, filing our nails, or the like.

TIP: To avoid distracting other participants, please don't hesitate mute yourself and turn off your cameras.

Learning Corner

from your Education Committee

Grammar Lessons

Were you taught any these grammar rules as a child? At the September Writers Group, Carol Johnson asked us to reevaluate what we were taught by looking at published works such as books and articles to see what is acceptable today.

"Rules" evolve with language and what would have received a failing grade years ago, may be perfectly acceptable now.

1. Don't end a sentence with a preposition.
2. Don't split an infinitive.
3. Don't use contractions.
4. Don't begin a sentence with *and*, *but*, *so*, or *because*.
5. Don't use the passive voice.
6. Don't use */* in your writing.
7. Don't use *you* in your writing.
8. Always spell out numbers instead of using numerals.
9. Always put the other person's name first and use *I*, not *me*.
10. Always put the apostrophe after the *s* in plural possessive form.

Join the Education Committee at monthly How-to Class meetings on ZOOM. If you have a topic to suggest for the classes or this column, please send suggestions to dianaquinn@vbgsva.net

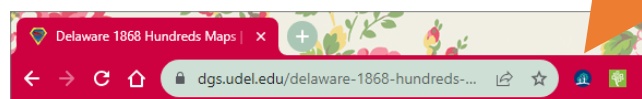
Easily Source a Webpage

By Heather Wright

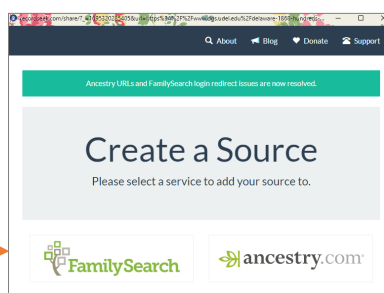
Do you ever wish you could source a webpage to FamilySearch or Ancestry? If so, check out RecordSeek, a browser extension that makes the task quick and easy.

The extension is available for Chrome, FireFox, Opera, Safari, and, soon, Edge. Here's how it works:

1. Add the extension from recordseek.com.
2. Visit a webpage and click on the extension.



3. Choose FamilySearch or Ancestry in the pop-up window. (FamilySearch is used for this example)



4. Adjust the autogenerated title, add notes, and/or change the source format if desired.

5. Click *Save Now, Attach Later* to do exactly that, or *Next* to find and attach it immediately.

6. Enter search terms or their ID number, click *Next*.

7. If you person appears in the search list, great! Click *Select* to attach the record to them. If not, you can choose *Save Now, Attach Later* to save the record to your account and attached it when you locate the desired profile.

Recipe Corner



This recipe for Granny Wade's Molasses Cookies

*has been shared by
Bobbie Yarborough Brenton*



Ingredients

3/4 c	shortening
1 c	sugar
1	egg
1/4 c	molasses
2 c	all-purpose flour
2 tsp	baking soda
1 tsp	ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp	salt
1/2 tsp	ground ginger
1/2 tsp	ground cloves
	sugar

Directions

1. Cream the shortening with a mixer.
2. Gradually add 1 cup sugar, beating until light and fluffy.
3. Mix in the egg and molasses.
4. Separately, combine the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, ginger, and cloves.
5. Add 1/4 c dry mixture at a time to the creamed, mixing until smooth after each addition.
6. Chill for 1 hour.
7. Roll the dough into 1 inch balls and roll in sugar.
8. Place the balls 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet.
9. Bake for 10 minutes at 375° F.



The above recipe will be included in the Social Committee's recipe book once there are enough submissions.

If you would like to contribute a family recipe, contact Debby Christian social@vbgsva.net



Save the Date for this Very Special Members Only Event

Digging' Our Roots in Special Collections: What Three Great Repositories Have to Offer

Another wonderful presentation from Renate
Yarborough Sanders!

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 7:00 with the
How-to Group on Zoom**

The Swem Library at William and Mary, the Joyner Library at East Carolina University, and the Library of Virginia are outstanding research facilities, filled with exceptionally useful materials and records for genealogical and historical research! Each of these amazing repositories has made much of their collection available online, allowing access to researchers from the comfort of home. Renate will talk about the vast resources each of these repositories has to offer, and how to prepare to visit them, from home or in person.

On February 29, 2024, at 5:30, the Computer User Group
will follow up with hands-on searching at these and similar repositories.

Members Only Resources

During our never-ending research, it can be easy to forget what is right at our fingertips, so here is a little reminder. Start on the Member Only Resources page and have your password handy!

vbgsva.net/members-only



If you are just beginning with your DNA journey or need a refresher, check out Heather Wright's *DNA Basics for Genealogy* from July 2020.



Before you visit an archive, not only is it important to know what you want to look for but you need to know about the repository itself. Keep yourself organized with the *Research Repository Worksheet*, found under Checklists and Logs in the Handouts section.



See what surnames other VBGS members are researching and contact them using the *Surname List*. And, if you haven't done so already, submit your surnames so others can find you too!

Leaving a Legacy

WHAT do you wish to survive you?

WHO will appreciate it?

WHERE do you start?

WHEN can you start sharing?

HOW will you share it?

Whether your family history research embodies days or decades of your personal effort, you probably wouldn't want it to end up in the recycle bin. Advance consideration can ensure your work outlives you. Join the How-to Group on December 5 at 7:00 PM on Zoom to hear Leaving a Legacy by special guest speaker Sheryl Reed Rascher.



Help is here, VBGS Mentors

VBGS members can get help from fellow member mentors for free?

Visit the [Mentors](#) page at vbgsva.net for more info and to contact people.



Mark your calendars to join VBGS &
the Virginia Beach Central Library for

Genealogy Day at the Beach 2024

Saturday, May 25th
at the Virginia Beach Central Library

Speakers and exhibitors wanted related to:

Local and regional history ♦ Lineage associations ♦ Archive research
Family history ♦ Preservation

This event is free and open to the public. No speaker fees are paid, and no exhibitor fees are collected. Sales are allowed. Help us spread awareness and interest in genealogy and the related local and regional offerings!



If you would like to participate as a speaker and/or exhibitor, send a message to genealogyday@vbgsva.net. An application will be sent when details are finalized.