

First Landing

Newsletter

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WikiTree – A Brief Overview

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<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Sands-1865>



The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect those of WikiTree. Every attempt has been made to conform to the policies and guidance of WikiTree; mistakes are inevitable, with the understanding that they are unintentional

WikiTree is a free collaborative single worldwide tree. Tools and content are pledged to be free forever, with integrated backups and contingency plans to ensure the content will always remain available. The single-family tree is shared by everyone for the entire human family, and we work together to build and maintain this tree.

Within this context, it makes sense to use WikiTree to “publish” the genealogy of your ancestors, with the added benefit of coordinating with others who are also researching those same ancestors. This is particularly relevant if you have no immediate relatives who are interested in capturing all of your genealogical research.

On the other hand, if you are capturing information for close relatives (e.g., spouse, parents, cousins, etc.) who may still be living, it might not make sense to publish these on the Internet.

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The “new NGS” mission: 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 2021

As we move into 2021, Covid-19 is still with us! As of now, genealogy events through the end of May will stay virtual. VGS just made that decision recently for the 2021 spring conference. See the events page for upcoming opportunities online. Remember if you want to attend any VBGS meetings, you must send an email to meetings@vbgsva.net. State in the subject line the meeting you want to attend.



We have some opportunities to earn some money for VBGS and have fun while doing it. The Social Committee is working on a cookbook for the society that we could publish and have for sale this summer. It would make a nice Holiday present. If you want to submit a recipe, contact the Social Chair. The Society has agreed to look into having a virtual Fall Conference in 2021, see page 3. We will need a lot of help to accomplish this. Perhaps you might have a skill you could offer to assist with this event.

Our Publicity Committee is hard at work making our website more helpful. You can now submit your membership application and payment online! (The mail-in option remains if you prefer to mail in your application and a check.) [Go here](#) for application and payment information, \$15/\$25 from Jan-Aug 2021.

Lastly, some of you may have had hard times since Covid started. VBGS has established a Scholarship Committee. There are a limited number of Membership Scholarships available for those in need. [Click here](#) for more information. Please stay safe, everyone!

Wendy Bransom

VBGS was founded 1983 for educational purposes.

The objectives of this Society are:

- a. To help individuals conduct their genealogical research and compile their family histories
- b. To aid individuals by educational means, including lectures, discussions and workshops
- c. To create and foster an interest in genealogy
- d. 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/>

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VBGS First Virtual Conference

Sometime in the Fall of 2021, VBGS would like to have our first virtual conference. Recently Jo Given, Wendy Bransom, Bobbie Brenton, Carmen Cross, Diana Quinn, and Laura Ostrander met to discuss what was needed to accomplish this. As a starting point, we need to identify who will be on the Conference Team and some of the skills that are needed. See below for some of the ideas we came up with:

- First, we need a **Project Manager**, the person in overall charge of the planning and execution of this event.
- **Theme**, an overall theme for the event
- What will be the **platform**? Do we use Zoom or another company for the event?
- **Film Editor**, the person who helps collect recorded speaker meetings and edits them if need be.
- **Equipment Advisor**, the person who works with others involved in planning the event and speakers, ensuring they have the proper equipment for the event (lighting, hardware, etc.)
- **Topics/Speakers**: The persons who develop topics to meet the theme of the event. The persons who help identify speakers that meet the topics/theme of the event. The persons who coordinate one on one with each speaker, take care of them, working with the Equipment Advisor and running test sessions to ensure they are comfortable speaking virtually.
- **Sponsors**, the persons who help identify sponsors for this event. Some sponsors may be willing to speak about specific software as well as giving a donation.
- Several persons needed the day of the event, to handle email, chat and other areas.
- **Drawings**, persons to contact various companies to ask for donations for drawings, we need everyone's help with this. We need digital certificates for items such as one year free to Fold3.
- We need other various persons to meet with the Conference team to brainstorm on ideas.

If you would like to help with the conference or have the skills to fill one of the positions needed, please email admin@vbgsva.net explaining what you can assist with. We really need a Project Manager for this event. You will have a lot of help if you take on this position. There must be several of you out there that have experience being a project manager. Contact president@vbgsva.net if you need more information on what any of the jobs might entail. If we all work together, we can make a wonderful event and maybe make some money for the Society.

Program Committee for Monthly Meetings: The Program Committee is working to bring you speakers on topics that are of interest to you. The 2021 schedule is confirmed through May, and the list shows possible programs in remaining months. June is our annual business meeting and may not allow for as much time as usual. We can plan for a 30-minute talk by a member (any volunteers?), or invite others such as Tammy Woodward to teach us how an archivist can assist our genealogical organization. Topics for the second half of 2021 may be changed at this point, and we still have December open, plus 2022. --> Please email the Program Committee chairman at program@vbgsva.net your topics of interest and any recommendations for speakers.

Upcoming Events and Conferences

2021 Meetings

Send an email to meetings@vbgsva.net to attend VBGS Zoom meetings. Respond to each meeting that you want to attend in a separate email, and state in subject line name of event. The waiting room opens 15-30 minutes before each event.

11 FEB: VBGS Monthly Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 pm, Topic: "Footsteps in the Sands of Time; Tracking Barcos in Virginia Beach," Speaker: David Leatherwood

16 FEB: VBGS Computer Users Group via Zoom 7:00 pm, Topic: "Google Lens," with Lisa Louise Cooke, Presenter: April Owens

22 FEB: VBGS Writers Group via Zoom, at 7:00 pm Topic: Discussion TBD.

2 MAR: VBGS How-to-Group class, 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: Family Search - Tree and Searching, Presenter: Heather Wright

11 MAR: VBGS Monthly Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 pm, Topic: "African American Family History/Tips, Strategies, and Resources," Speaker: Tim Pinnick

16 MAR: VBGS Computer User Group via Zoom 7:00 pm, "WikiTree," Presenter: Kay Knight

22 MAR: VBGS Writers Group via Zoom, at 7:00 pm Topic: Discussion TBD.

6 APR: VBGS How-to-Group class, 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "City Directories," Presenter: Heather Wright

8 APR: VBGS Monthly Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 pm, Topic: "Library of Virginia Resources," Speaker: Ashley Ramey

20 APR: VBGS Computer User Group via Zoom, 7:00 pm, "The Best Way to Find Free Old Maps, with Lisa Louise Cooke," Presenter: Kimberly Millering

26 APR: VBGS Writers Group via Zoom, at 7:00 pm Topic: Discussion TBD.

4 MAY: VBGS How-to-Group class, 7:00 pm via Zoom, Topic: "Find A Grave and Billion Graves," Presenter: Heather Wright

6 MAY: VBGS Social Event via Zoom at 7:00 pm, Topic: "VBGS Recipe Book Discussion," Presenter: Debby Christian

13 MAY: VBGS Monthly Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 pm, Topic: TBD, Speaker: Dan Earl

18 MAY: VBGS Computer User Group via Zoom, 7:00 pm, Topic: TBD

24 MAY: VBGS Writers Group via Zoom, at 7:00 pm Topic: Discussion TBD.

1 JUN: VBGS How-to-Group class, Topic: "Chronicling America" (newspapers) (may change), Presenter: Heather Wright

10 JUN: VBGS Monthly Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 pm, Topic: TBD

2021 Conferences

25-27 FEB: RootsTech 2021 will be virtual and free. Take advantage of all the offerings, [register here!](#)

19-20 MAR: North Carolina Genealogical Society (NCGS) 2021 Virtual Conference from March 19 at 10:55 am to March 20, 2021 at 4:15 pm EDT, \$69 members / \$79 non-members, Registration includes eight live lectures, a syllabus, which includes handouts for all lectures; and recordings of all lectures from the Conference on the NCGS website for a 90-day period. Registration closes at midnight on March 15. [Click here](#) for more information.

19-20 MAY: The NGS 2021 Family History Conference cannot be held in Richmond, Virginia in May 2021 due to Virginia state COVID restrictions. A virtual conference will offer NGS LIVE! and an expansive On-Demand series of more than 85 lectures. Visit the NGS conference website (conference.ngsgenealogy.org) to see the full program.

Things You May Not Know About

DNAeXplained – Genetic Genealogy is a professional blog website ran by Roberta Estes. She is a professional scientist and business owner for over 25 years. In 2005, she formed DNAeXplain, a company providing individual analysis of DNA results and genealogical assistance. On her website, all her blogs are free to read. She also has detailed information on Mitochondrial DNA and Y DNA Resources, free to read. Check out her site: <https://dna-explained.com/>

German Life is a current bi-monthly magazine written for all people interested in the diversity of German, Austrian, and Swiss culture in the various ways that North America has been shaped by its German heritage element. Their December/January 2021 edition had an article written by James M. Beidler, "Ohio's Hamilton Group (HCGS) Helpful to German Descendants." James is a freelance writer and lecturer specializing in German genealogy. For HCGS's website click here <https://hcgsohio.org/index.php>. You can reach German Life Magazine at this link <https://germanlife.com/>.

FamilyTreeDNA and their parent company, Gene by Gene, have merged with myDNA, a leading genomics company that is revolutionizing the field of pharmacogenomics. What does this mean for you? Day to day, it's business as usual, but FamilyTreeDNA will now have new resources and capabilities to continue driving value for everyone. In addition, FamilyTreeDNA will retain the existing privacy policy and Terms of Service.

Archive Williamsburg, a searchable catalog of 1,281 pages of typed Virginia Gazette articles and five linear feet of handwritten index cards, is now online and available to the public. It was made

possible by local historian Rebecca Suerdieck and her friend Julia Oxrieder. This [link](#) has an article published by the Daily Press.

British Newspaper Archive is a partnership between the British Library and Findmypast to digitize the British Library's vast collection of newspapers. They are scanning millions of pages of historical newspapers and making them available online for the first time ever. You can now search hundreds of millions of articles by keyword, name, location, date or title and watch your results appear in an instant. They began this project in 2011 with a plan to digitize over 40 million pages in 10 years. They are very close to completion. Check out their [blog](#) for weekly updates on their scanning.

Family Search Show Me has 34 videos on their YouTube Channel, in the Show Me Playlist. These cover Goals for the Projects in FamilySearch, Ancestry, and MyHeritage. Each video shows screen movements that are necessary for tasks, as well as walking through the steps in The Family History Guide. Check out the videos at <https://www.youtube.com/user/FamilySearch>

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture is offering a wide range of digital programs for all ages this month. The museum's Black History Month celebration also features the digital return of one of its signature programs, "A Seat at the Table," an interactive program for participants to consider challenging questions about race, identity and economic justice over a meal. The February session will cover race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States. [Click here](#) to learn more about their events.

Finding Ben

By Heather Wright
heatherwright@vbgsva.net



Benjamin Trumpey, or Ben, is my 3rd great-grandfather, and he was a bit of problem child for quite a while. He is the eldest of Fridolin (Frederick/Fred) Trümpy and Katharina (Katharine) Veble's ten children; he also has an elder half-brother John George Trumpe from his mother. The surname is seen as historically Trümpi in Switzerland before moving to Trümpy. In America the family is seen with Trumpey, Trumpe, Trumpey, Trumpie, and Trumpi. It's almost like each family member creates their own version!



**Benjamin Trumpey,
1876-1952**

Problem: his birthdate. Ben's documented birthdates are a bit scattered. There's August 1 or 2, 1873 (death certificate and WWI draft registration), ~1875 (a daughter's birth certificate), and ~1878 (his marriage license). Through this process I settle on February 2, 1876 as the most likely birthdate. It's listed as such in the Swiss record, he's said to be four in 1880, and it makes the most sense with his parents' March 1875 marriage. (While I feel 1876 is correct, I do wonder if he is actually born in August instead of February.)

Problem: his name. For quite a while I don't know about brother John George and think Ben is John Benjamin. In the 1880 U. S. Census there is no "Benjamin;" there is a John born ~1873 and a Bernard born ~1876. Not knowing of the potential 1876 birth date, it seems Ben must be John and he has a brother Bernard.

I finally figure out John George is a child, but I still don't know he is not Fred's. The family is a bit of a mess. John's birthdate is also around 1872/1873, making it hard to separate him and Ben. They are obviously Ben. They are obviously two people but don't seem to be twins. There's another John sibling too, so three? John George John Benjamin, and John Frederick. The latter two go by their middle names, so I guess I'm good, I've seen weirder.

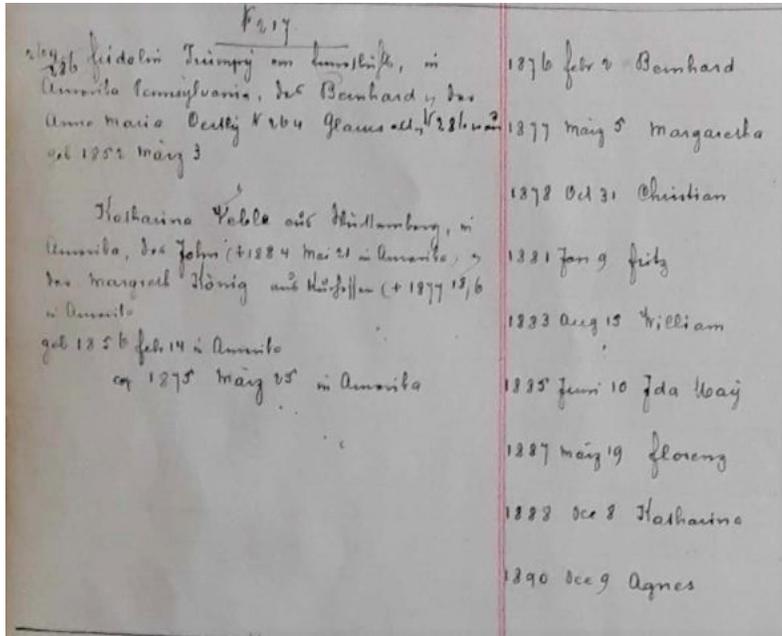
Looking back, the John in 1880 must be John George, leaving Ben missing at that time, and Bernard must die as a child since he never shows up again. In the 1900 U. S. Census, Katharine has eleven children, ten of whom are alive, so this makes sense. I search for a young Ben in 1880, living with a relative maybe, but come up empty.

Problem: his status. I connect with a cousin and learn Katharine brings John George into the marriage and he is raised as a Trumpe. (The biological father remains unknown.) As I research further, someone attaches a few pages from an old Swiss record to FamilySearch. I contact the person... They respond! From Switzerland!

They tell me about the record and send a translation. I learn the names of Fred and Katharine's parents, as well as his grandparents. One entry lists Fred and Katherine's children. Having learned about John George, I am not surprised he isn't there, but there's no Benjamin either. Why? Little Bernard is there, born February 2, 1876. Does this mean Ben is also from a prior relationship? But the family stories only speak of Katharine bringing one child, not two. Is Ben really a Trumpey?

(continued on page 7)

Finding Ben (continued from page 6)



**Family of Fridolin Trümpey and Katharina Veble
in Swiss record**

A thought: This new information sits with me for a while as try to figure out what's going on. Then I have a thought... what if Benjamin and Bernard are the same person?!

It makes so much sense and solves almost everything, only leaving a missing unknown child based on the 1900 census. Thus far I've been working under the presumption Bernard is that deceased child, but one could be born between children four and five and pass before the 1880 census.

So, I'm double-checking my sources and I find it! Ben, who is always Ben or Benjamin, is listed as Benhardt on a daughter's marriage license application!!! Although I may have stuck with this new idea, finding this is icing on the cake and brings a few years' worth of frustration to an end – Benjamin is Bernard, named after his paternal grandfather. He is no longer missing in 1880 and little Bernard doesn't disappear by 1900. He still has a brother John George and another John Frederick, but he is not John Benjamin. He is simply Ben.

sources

1. "United States, Selective Service System. World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration," online images., Benjamin Trumpey.
2. 1880 U.S. census, population schedule, Lincoln, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, enumeration district (ED) 66, p. 29, dwelling 221, family 263, John Webley; digital images; citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T9.
3. 1900 U.S. census, population schedule, Lincoln Township, Allegheny Co., Pennsylvania, enumeration district (ED) 413, sheet 1B, dwelling 22, family 22, John Trumpey; digital images; citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T623.
4. Marriage Record, "Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1885-1950," database with images, FamilySearch (familysearch.org), Application for Marriage License. Trumpey-Morris. 1901.
5. Birth Record, Preston Co., West Virginia, p. 18, Agnes May Trumpey; digital image, "Register of Births," (wvculture.org).
6. Peter Bacher, Switzerland to Heather Wright, e-mail, 27 Oct 2018, "Trümpi (Trümper of)"; privately held by Wright, Virginia, USA.
7. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, death certificate 77661 (1952), Benjamin Trumpey; digital image.
8. Death Record. Ancestry.com., "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007," database (accessed 29 Nov 2018), entry for Benjamin Trumpey, 1952, SS no. 171183552.
9. Olive Kathryn Trumpey Thayer, interview by son David Laird Thayer, Oct 2002; transcript privately held by Heather Crow Wright, 2018.
10. David Thayer, "Descendants of John Frederick Trumpey," p. 3; report to Heather Crow Wright, Oct 2018; pdf report from family tree maker software held by Heather Crow Wright.

VBGS is Changing

New VBGS emails!

Over the past few months, we have been working to set up new position-based emails. You may have already noticed we asked everyone to message meetings@vbgsva.net to reserve a spot in Zoom meetings. Having email addresses such as this does a few things... it's obvious what you are writing for, who you are writing to, and when different people take on positions or monitor accounts, we don't have to create and distribute a new email.

So, instead of having to know who is doing what and if you have the correct email, you can always write president@vbgsva.net to contact the president, treasurer@vbgsva.net for the treasurer, and so on. The message will go to the correct person, no matter who that is. See the updated contact list on the [VBGS About & Contact](#) website page.

Google Calendar

The VBGS now has a [calendar](#) on Google with all meetings and events. Make sure you bookmark it for easy access! Bonus - If you use Google Calendar and would like to add this one to your personal calendar, email a request to calendar@vbgsva.net.



VBGS Mentors

Do you need help understanding something, or are you stuck and in need of guidance during your research? We have mentors to help, and their services are free for VBGS members! Go to <https://vbgsva.net/contact/mentors/> to see the list. Here are some of their offerings:



April Owens: Specialty: Converting media

Craig Fenton: Specialty: DNA

Debby Christian: Specialty: Planning a Genealogy Trip to Europe

Diana Quinn: Specialties: Ancestry, Ancestry DNA, newspapers, DNA clusters, general questions

Duane Harding: Specialties: Basic genealogy, Google Earth, Google Maps, PC computer skills, Maps, Paleography (old handwriting)

Heather Wright: Specialties: Legacy Family Tree, Family Search, DNA (23andMe, FTDNA, GEDmatch, DNA Painter), Weebly (build personal website), general questions, organizing digital genealogy

Kay Knight: Specialties: WikiTree; New York Wills and Land Records

Renee Haynes: Specialty: Ancestry, DNA

Wendy Bransom: Specialty: RootsMagic

WikiTree – A Brief Overview (continued from page 1)

One situation where it does make sense to involve these living relatives is to add them as members in order to bring to bear the power of using the single-family tree in the context of DNA matching. WikiTree does have a learning curve.

A **profile** is the fundamental entry for a person on WikiTree. As of January 2021, there are nearly 26 million profiles, over 7 million of those with DNA test connections. Each participant member of WikiTree is referred to as a **genealogist**, with experience ranging from those new to exploring family history to certified professionals.

To join, you register with an email. This email will be connected to your account and used to send information about WikiTree, but will not be otherwise shared. There are several [membership levels](#).

Each Wiki Genealogist agrees to the terms of the [Honor Code](#), which establishes mutual trust and understanding via the shared code of ethics and principles:

1. Collaborate, working together on shared ancestor profiles
2. Strive for accuracy, aiming to improve the worldwide tree
3. Mistakes are inevitable, with the understanding that they are unintentional
4. Be courteous to everyone
5. Respect privacy, and protect anything that family members might not want public
6. Respect copyrights, don't knowingly copy information that is copyrighted and acknowledge that which is
7. Give credit for research done
8. Cite sources so that conflicting information can be objectively resolved
9. Keep information as free and open as possible

The [privacy](#) for any individual profile controls how much information about names, dates and the family tree is public, and complies with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Any person born more than 150 years ago or died more than 100 years ago must be fully Open. Living persons who are not members are unlisted. To enter the DNA test information for a living person, they must be a member.

The [Welcome to WikiTree video](#) produced by one of the WikiTree members is a great place to start. Next, follow the [New Member How-To](#) which is linked in the message posted by a volunteer greeter on a new member's profile. As Leanne suggests in her introductory video, explore the menus. There is much to learn, but this is a quick way to see what is available. Also explore the [Help Index](#). Some members have volunteered to provide a topical organization for the Help, which was suggested as a 2021 improvement.

A [profile](#) identifies a single real person. The Last Name at Birth (LNAB) is combined with a number to provide a unique identifier, known as the WikiTree ID, for each profile, such as Sands-1865. Guidelines for both [name fields](#) and [locations](#) are to use their convention instead of ours. That means, for example, someone born in 1850 in what is now West Virginia should have a birth location of Virginia. When you create a profile, you will be the [Profile Manager](#), the individual who volunteers to oversee (but not own) that profile.

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WikiTree – A Brief Overview (continued from page 9)

A profile has several data fields, such as name, date and location and a [Biography](#). The biography is written using a subset of the Wiki markup language. Don't let this scare you, it's really not difficult. Viewed in edit mode, a profile will have the following required components:

== Biography ==

== Sources ==

<references />

All of these headings are level 2 headings (because there are two =). There are optional headings, such as Research Notes for sharing information about genealogical research. The Biography is where you can write about the person's life and relationships. For the most part, this will be just plain text that you type, although it can include [formatting](#) such as bold, italics, bulleted items, and unnumbered or numbered lists.

There are two options for the sources on a profile. They can be added as a bulleted list (where each line starts with the * character) **or** can be inline in the biography. An inline source is merely placed between <ref> citation goes here </ref> tags. When displayed, each will appear as a footnote in the text, with the citation content listed below the references tag.

Typically, a profile is created by editing an existing profile to add a relative (e.g., father, mother, spouse, sibling, child). This will open a page to fill in the information for the person. After entering the first and last name and the birth date, a list of possible matches appears.

Review these to ensure that the person does not already have a WikiTree profile. The last name (or LNAB) is very important as this is the unique identifier for the person. Complete the form with remaining information for the person, including death date (if known), gender, birth/death locations. A general location, such as a state, is better than none as it helps find matches to existing profiles. It is best to spell out the full state name and to use the country since WikiTree is global and has many non-US members and profiles. When adding a spouse, also add the marriage date and location (this can be changed later). The marriage end date is of import if there was a divorce or early death/remarriage. Paste the source(s) for the profile in the Sources box. At least one source must be provided. More sources can be added later. The profile will be created when Add Profile is clicked. A newly created profile will have some basic biography about birth, parents, and death. At this point the profile can be edited to add more biography and sources.

There are a number of [Example Profiles](#) that demonstrate some of what is possible. For those of you who remember the show and tell meeting where I brought my [great-grandmother Jane's](#) forks, you will see those in an image on her profile. This also shows use of sources from a variety of repositories (and the very hidden story of investigating everyone named in the probate notices to figure out her family).

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WikiTree – A Brief Overview (continued from page 10)

A [source](#) identifies where you found the information on the profile, and should have [sufficient detail](#) so that someone else can find that source. That is part of collaboration. Use of Evidence Explained format is suggested, but not required. Additional criteria apply for sources on [profiles for persons born before 1700](#). Obviously, sources that provide evidence for the person. In the case of WikiTree, they also serve to share this information to enable collaboration.

WikiTree does not have a source repository as you may be familiar with on other websites. (My personal opinion is that those sites often make it difficult to incorporate sources that are not held in their own repositories.) Once a profile has been created, the RootsSearch tool can be used to search for sources on over 20 different websites. This appears under the Research menu. The tool will populate the search with the information (names, dates, locations) from the profile. FamilySearch is often recommended since it is free to all. Beyond this there are free space pages that identify [sources](#) either by location or topic or focused on a specific project, such as [US Southern Colonies](#).

WikiTree has free-space profiles, which contain information about things. You probably won't create those at first, but there are many that you will find useful, such as the sources and projects noted above.

When you find a source on FamilySearch, you can view the source, open the details and then just copy and paste the content under "Citing this Record" as the source. When you are using [FindAGrave](#) as a source, you can just "View Source" and then just copy and paste that as the source. There is also a template that can be used with FindAGrave that will wrap the URL so that the link will not "break" if the URL changes.

Collaboration occurs via messages sent either privately or posted publicly, and can then be followed by an ongoing email exchange. The [Genealogist to Genealogist \(G2G\)](#) forum is a place to collaborate, share information and ask questions. There is a G2G link under the Help menu. Access to G2G requires a Guest Membership (which has really reduced the spam). Once you begin to explore WikiTree, be sure to explore G2G, there is lots of great information here. Some example posts include [researching AJ Jacobs tree](#), [help with a source citation](#), and a new [DNA Group Projects](#).

Other forms of collaboration include regular Live Casts on Facebook and YouTube, Google groups email forums, shared Google spreadsheets and several Discord channels.

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How-To Tip
questioning if an email is legitimate?

See the sender's full email address by hovering your pointer over the sender's name.

If there is a lot of gibberish or a legit company name before the @ symbol with nonsense after... it's spam. DO NOT OPEN!

WikiTree – A Brief Overview (continued from page 11)

Getting more out of WikiTree – Projects, Tools and Activities

Projects provide a focus for a topic or activity. There are many projects, such as England, Puritan Great Migration, US Southern Colonies, One Name Studies, Data Doctors, and Profile Improvement. Several projects have a trail or voyage where a member works to improve profiles with guidance from project members.

The focus of the [Data Doctors project](#) is to resolve suggestions reported by a third-party tool run weekly that examines profiles for possible errors or other problems. This results in a Suggestions report. The Suggestions under the My WikiTree menu are those for profiles that you manage. The Suggestions under your WikiTree ID (e.g., Name-###) menu are those for profiles that you are related to. There are quite a few profiles that were created before 2012 by GEDCOM imports that have never had attention and can use work. The suggestions also help find unintentional mistakes, like a typo in a date.

Several other third-party tools are listed under Family Tree and Tools, such as Ancestor Explorer and Fan Chart. A full list of tools is listed under [Apps Help](#).

If all of this is not enough to keep you busy for a few lifetimes, there are many other WikiTree activities. Challenges/events that occur regularly included Data Doctors weekly focus on a specific suggestion, both monthly and Saturday sourcing, a bi-monthly Friday Night Date Night (add dates to profiles that lack dates). Many of the individual activities have related chats. There is a general Weekend Chat on G2G starting on each Friday, and a post on G2G about LiveCasts held each Saturday morning and Wednesday evening that discuss current WikiTree events. The LiveCasts are recorded, and can be watched later. A Thon is a 72-hour event, such as Source-A-Thon, focused on a specific task such as adding sources to profiles that lack sources. This often addresses profiles for which there is no longer an active Profile Manager. They are live chats each 4 hours during a Thon to discuss progress and award prizes, although these tend to get silly when folks have been trying to work continuously over a couple days.

WikiTree has established 2021 as the Year of Accuracy, to improve the tree. This includes a weekly challenge focusing on the ancestors for an individual genealogy star who has agreed to work with WikiTree. This began with AJ Jacobs, followed by CeCe Moore, and features Henry Louis Gates Jr in February. The currently ongoing focus on CeCe Moore has created nearly 400 new ancestor profiles (with over 4000 edits to more than 1000 profiles) and has solved a brick wall using DNA connections confirmed by a WikiTree member who is a professional genetic genealogist. Contributors are from the United States, Canada England, Wales, Germany and Australia.



How-To Tip

Wondering if that image is really what it's supposed to be?

Try searching the web for it with [google images](#)

drag and drop your file into the search bar
-OR-
hit the camera icon and upload your [file](#)



(continued on page 13)

Let's Learn About Our New VBGS Members



In 1863 my great-great-grandmother stood firm with legs apart stared down the barrel into the eyes of a Union soldier glaring back at her. She stated, "Tis a brave man to shoot a man in the back," and then she fired her gun and killed the man who had just killed a Confederate soldier in the back.

This is one of many stories I heard as I was growing up about my ancestors. The above story had such a profound effect on me that I named my first daughter after her, Mariah Jane. I had wanted my daughter to be firm in her convictions and fearless. She is that and so much more... I digress.

Jane Amelon

I believe the more we know about our heritage, the better our character can be developed. So I pursue genealogy as a method to better myself and my relatives. Currently, I am actively researching to bridge gaps of lineage with the following lines: Burr Calvert alias Harrison in Virginia; James Kitchen in Caswell County, North Carolina; John Dennis during the Battle of Kings Mountain; and Samuel Goode of Henrico County, Virginia. I look forward to sharing in the future.



Cindy Freed has spent her entire life in west central Ohio. She was born and raised in Lima, a rural area with a population of 35,000. Married to husband Ron, they are the parents of four adult children. Cindy retired in 2020 and moved to Virginia Beach with Ron to be near their three grandchildren.

Cindy has been doing family research off and on for more than 20 years. Although more recent generations in her family lived in Ohio, a few branches came from Virginia including Nantz (Nance), Holmes, and Van Meter.

Cindy Freed

Cindy has a strong interest in Civil War research and looks forward to visiting Civil War battlefields throughout Virginia. She has previously written columns for *Going In-Depth* the monthly digital magazine for The In-Depth Genealogist and the 4th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry Descendants Association's newsletter - *First Call*. She has also authored the book, *Ancestors In A Nation Divided*, a guide to researching Civil War veterans in your family. If interested in her book please contact Cindy at cindy@cindyfreed.com.

Along with genealogy/family history research and Civil War research, Cindy enjoys papercrafts and spending time with her grandchildren.



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From Confederate Blockade Runner to Snake Oil Salesman

Fran Florence
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Norfolk, Newport News and James River Confederate blockade running sloops were manned by Virginians who risked capture by Union troops. In the official records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the “War of the Rebellion,” the account of two such blockade runners, was recorded in January 1863.

On the sloop J.C. McCabe in the James River, were two white men, Sidney R. Durfey and Peter Smith; one colored man, Tom Harris; and three white boys, John Lawrence, age 16, James Smith age 14, and John Benson, age 8. Their “sail” was spotted off Newport News by the Union Gunboat Zouave. When interrogated Durfey and Smith alleged they had escaped from Petersburg to avoid conscription. Tom Harris alleged he came away to find work. The Union Pilot, John A. Phillips, quickly saw through the ruse as a scheme to get to Norfolk in order to run goods up the river for rebel use. The Pilot reported the men had the unusually large sum of \$784.68 in their possession; although they had said they had left their wives in Petersburg with all their money. In the lining of Harris’s hat was an order from J.E. Horner of Petersburg to Thomas Smith of Norfolk to deliver a box of goods to Captain Smith or Tom Harris. Had the sloop blockade run been successful, the box of goods would have been received as cargo on the ship and delivered up the river on the return trip.

S. R. Durfey appeared in the U.S. Military Civil War Prisoner of War Records. S. R. Durfey, Rank: Citizen; Regiment or City and State: Petersburg, Virginia; Where Captured: on board ship Minnesota /McCabe. When captured: January 18, 1863; Sent for Exchange June 10, 1863; Place of Exchange City Point, Virginia; Remarks: Violating Blockade "Willing to take the Oath." (Defeated Confederate soldiers were expected to sign the Oath of Allegiance to the very government they just fought desperately to be free from.)



Samuel Walters: Confederate Raider ALABAMA
Sample Schooner from American Civil War

Following the war, Durfey settled down in Zuni Station, Smithfield, Isle of Wight County, Virginia by 1870. He had a second wife (the first was divorced for being unfaithful during the war) with whom he had a son. His occupation was oysterman. By 1874, he was in Accomack County. Since his sloop was captured during the war, he petitioned to be reimbursed for a schooner and other property seized by the United States authority. (House Journal, April 10, 1874 on page 747.) After his death, the story of S. R. Durfey, a mate on the steamer Arizona, was used in a “snake oil ad” for jamming his foot and finding the cure was **Dr. Thomas' Eclectic Oil**.



Sample
Snake
Oil
Ads

Let's Learn About Our New VBGS Members (continued from page 14)

Born in New York, Pete Peterson and his wife, Agatha, have been married since 1976. He has been a resident of Virginia Beach since 1978. He has three adult children and three small grandchildren, all who reside on the West (Left) Coast. Taking this all into consideration, he is fond of saying that he is, “A Yankee by birth, a Rebel by choice, and a Cowboy at heart.”



*Pete
Peterson*

Pete has spent the greater part of his career flying helicopters. If you read the Creation Story in Genesis 1:1-2, you'll find that the first thing that God did was to create the heavens and earth. The second thing that He did, depending on the translation (ESV or NIV), was to hover over the waters. As a result, Pete likes to believe that God has a special place in his heart for those who hover, especially over water at night. ;-)

Pete graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1976 with a degree in aerospace engineering and flew for the Navy until his retirement from the service. In civilian life, he has flown for the Maryland State Police, Blackwater in Afghanistan, and PHI (Petroleum Helicopters Inc.) in Ghana, Africa and the Gulf of Mexico. He is currently flying a helicopter air ambulance, Air Care Eagle (ACE), in Richmond, VA. He has accumulated over 8,000 flight hours in a variety of helicopters. His goal is to be the LMS (Last Man Standing) and achieve 8,765 flight hours (24 hrs x 365 days = one year in the air). ;-)

One of Pete's hobbies is “high pointing” (highpointers.org). Pete has been to the “roof” of 40 states and is still counting. Despite what you might think, he is NOT an “adrenaline junkie” and is more into risk management. His post-graduate degree from Embry-Riddle is in aeronautical science and aviation safety.



In terms of ancestry, Pete's mother's side of the family has a long lineage within the U.S. going back to the Revolutionary War and before. His father's side of the family is more of a mystery. His father's side of the family emigrated from Sweden to New York in the early 20th century. None survive to tell their story beyond what can be inferred from a few old photographs and documents. He has previously traveled to Sweden in 2014 and is currently researching his paternal grandmother's line (Ruthberg), with help from the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center.

www.augustana.edu/swenson

♥HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY♥