

Jeans and Genes

*Rockdale-Newton
County Genealogical Society*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

When the Census Taker Gets it Wrong
(excerpts taken from Blog / Records and Research Danielle
Batson)

In searching the 1900 Census for an extended family member with the name Joseph TRACZYK I had little success until I began searching other family members related through marriage. And there it was, Joseph TZIK with his wife Pauline and son Frank residing as boarders with twelve others in the home of an in-law. The sleuth in all of us regard these finds as rewarding but honestly much time could have been saved had the surname been more exact thereby removing our guesswork.



The 1940 Census has a feature that other censuses don't have. It states who gave the information to the census taker. From the instructions of previous censuses, it stated that when a family wasn't at home, a neighbor could give information about them. When incorrect names, ages, and places of birth were listed, it was assumed that maybe a neighbor gave the information. On this census, a plus sign with a circle around it indicated who gave the information. For my father's family in 1940 it was my grandmother who provided the information because she had the mark beside her name. This was the same grandmother who was instrumental in getting me started in genealogy research in the early 1980s and who I went to countless times for family information.

Some researchers become concerned about incorrect information in census records, even to the point of not believing it's their ancestor information matches that of our ancestors because one piece of information is incorrect. Even though the surname was misspelled it doesn't mean it's not my relative. Researchers need to remember that records are created by people and people make mistakes. Errors are going to creep into records. We need to properly analyze all of the information to determine if the information matches that of our ancestors.

We also need to remember that the census was not created for genealogists. They are a serendipitous genealogical result of the government's program to account for the U.S. population. Census takers may have thought the records would never be seen again, resulting in less than accurate recording. Thus, strange or obviously incorrect information is riddled throughout the census records.

As you look for your ancestors, remember to examine each potential record with a shrewd but realistic eye. Understanding the limitations of records such as the census will help you become a better genealogist. It will also save you a lot of headaches!

Chris Zawadzki, President



MEMBERSHIP TALK!

At the January 2018 meeting, it was approved to have membership dues of \$20.00 per year.

Discount of \$5.00 if paid by the February, 2018 meeting.

Membership dues will help our society bring you quality speakers, workshops and seminars. It will also help with attracting new members by the way of our webpage and face book page.



Rockdale-Newton County Genealogical Society
Membership Application

Membership Levels	Membership
Individual (\$15.00 if paid by February meeting)	\$20.00
Family (same residence) (\$20.00 if paid by February meeting)	\$25.00
Student	\$15.00

Visit our website at: www.rockdalegenealogicalsociety.weebly.com

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____
Email address will not be shared with 3rd parties

Payment: Make checks payable to the Rockdale-Newton County Genealogical Society and submit at meeting or Paypal; Friends and Family; RCGS31414@gmail.com

1/14/2018

Library Corner by Martha Brown



Researching Your Family in the Special Collections Room at Nancy Guinn - IV
We've covered books from the states where folks left and settled in the Peach State. Following that column, we traced the counties where they established their homes, eventually some of them settling here in boot-shaped Rockdale County*. The last column followed those who left the state to seek their fortunes or just follow their wanderlust spirit to lands beyond the borders of the state.

We know about the law library and the files of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Rockdale Citizen newspapers. By the way, the files of the Rockdale Citizen are now at the service desk. You just need to ask for them to do your research.

I want to take you back to the map files. As most are not catalogued, I rambled one day. Ever hear about gg-uncle Joe who went to LA to work in the coal fields, but one of his grandchildren told you the family secret that he just "up and left"? So you want to find out if there really was a coal field in LA? You can find that out in Drawer 4. Wala! "Coal Fields in the USA". Did your ancestral land belong to France? Mexico? Drawer 4! Here's the breakdown of the drawers from top to bottom. Some of the maps did have catalogue numbers. First 2 Drawers - World Maps Drawer 3 - North American Maps including Metallogenic Map of North America, surface temperature of North America, Gradient survey and State of Ga Survey Drawer 4-6 - USA Maps - Surveys and the like but the most interesting I found were: Appalachian Trails and other roads in Shenandoah National Park, North District and Central Districts, Public land surveys showing who possessed property before it became part of the USA (quite interesting), Fold and Thrust Provinces of the USA, and Newton Quadrant Survey Colonial GA 1773-1777, Greater Atlanta Earth and Water. Drawer 7 - last file drawer - GA County maps. Many maps here! These are just some of the titles in the drawers.

Leaving the map drawer, you'll pass a sitting area. Just beyond that is a tall black file folder. Those files contain Family File Folders where members of the Rockdale Genealogical Society and others have placed their family histories. And you should, too, if you have not done so!

*If you want to hear an interesting story about how Rockdale County became the shape of a boot just check out Marion Farmer's excellent article in the "Heritage of Rockdale County" book. We're selling the last ones. A bargain at \$55. Get yours at the meeting or at the resource desk in the Nancy Guinn Library. We'll buy more resources for our research at the library with your purchase!

As always, if you need help the staff is always ready to answer questions or guide you.

Martha Brown

Love of the Hunt



Frequently asked questions from newbies?

1. WHAT ARE RESOURCES? WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Resources in genealogy are where you found the information such as in the census, with relatives (please name them), cemetery grave (birth, death date), actual birth/death certificate and so forth.

2. what are the best resources?

relatives, yes, the one you are going to visit on St. Valentines Day. Talking and recording information is the best start and resource. They can give you clues that will help your search.

Internet, of course, free websites as I listed previously. Also paid subscriptions such as ancestry can be used at your local library.

library, there you can find books about your city, county and states. Also, they may have local genealogies and maps. Check out their websites to see what they offer. Also, go to nearby libraries in close counties.

cemeteries, they provide you with birth/death dates of your ancestor, their children and parents and other relatives may be buried around them.

Courthouse (Probate and Superior Court) provide you with marriage certificates, wills, divorces, guardianship. Also land records are in Superior Court. Be prepared with paper and pencil or a scanner.

In May, I will go over the proper way to record a resource.

Ellen Blakeslee, Genealogist



Mental Illness in Genealogy Research

Our ancestors experienced some of the same medical issues we have today; and mental illness and suicide was no different.

Our ancestors were institutionalized for reasons other than insanity. These institutions were referred to as Asylums, places where human beings could be herded, neatly tucked away and at times forgotten about.

Asylums were places to hide the disabled, orphans, depressed, unwed mothers, and disinherited relatives, for all sorts of reasons. Public asylums were sometimes crudely operated and managed to the brink of abuse. On the other hand, people with financial means stored their families in private institutions.

Before the country set up asylums, poor people with mental illness, if not cared for by their families were often placed in workhouses and prisons.

The staff who was employed to oversee patients, was paid low wages and incapable of implementing control. Because of these limitations, punishment included used to control patients. Those punishments included immersion in cold water, beatings, chaining one to a chair or bed and other various means of torture such as electricity.

There were few county asylums before the nineteenth century, but increased in time. As time went on, institutions became more humane thanks to Christian organizations.

Medication was introduced and sedatives such as opium were used. By the 1950's Chlorpromazine was a breakthrough medication used to treat schizophrenia- type disorders.

Mental illness still plagues our society today, but medical science has made great strides either by treatment or medication.

When searching for relatives don't over look the state institutions. I found a distant cousin in the state of Pennsylvania in the Allegheny County Hospital for Insane.

Devra Harney, Genealogist



2018 A Year of exploring in Genealogy

TO DO LIST

[www.rockdalegenealogical
society.weebly.com](http://www.rockdalegenealogical
society.weebly.com)

[Facebook.com/rockdalecounty
genealogicalsociety](https://Facebook.com/rockdalecounty
genealogicalsociety)

www.familytreewebinars.com

conyersrockdalelibrary.org

www.newtonlibrary.org

www.georgiaarchives.org

MY SCHEDULE

March 11, 2018
Family Tree Maker Database

April 8, 2018
Roots Magic Database

May 13, 2018
Organizing your Genealogy

June 10, 2018
Seminar
Documenting your Genealogy
Research

DON'T FORGET

Lunch & Learn - Noon - Georgia Archives

March 9, 2018

April 13, 2018

"Etched in Stone: The Language
Carved in Cemeteries" by
Penny Cliff, Georgia Archives

"Documenting John Henry Holliday"
Doc Holliday
Griffin, GA by

Cindy Barton, Georgia Archives



Tidbits by Ann

How to Find Your Ancestor's Church

Church records can fill in the gaps caused by non-existent vital records. Even when we do have civil vital records, church records often contain different pieces of information. They can be invaluable to our genealogy research. But to get into these records, it helps to know what church your ancestor attended.

Find the Denomination

Before you can find the particular church your ancestor was a member of, you need to figure out what denomination he or she was. Consider:

Where they are buried. Is it affiliated with a denomination?

Their children's names. For example, Lorenzo Dow was a popular name among Methodist families, as was Francis Asbury.

Societies they belonged to. Knights of Columbus is an organization for Catholic men. (The Masons, on the other hand, is not.)

Your ancestor's denomination might be more fluid than you think. If there wasn't a nearby church of their denomination, they might have gone to a church whose teachings were "close enough."

Finding the Specific Church

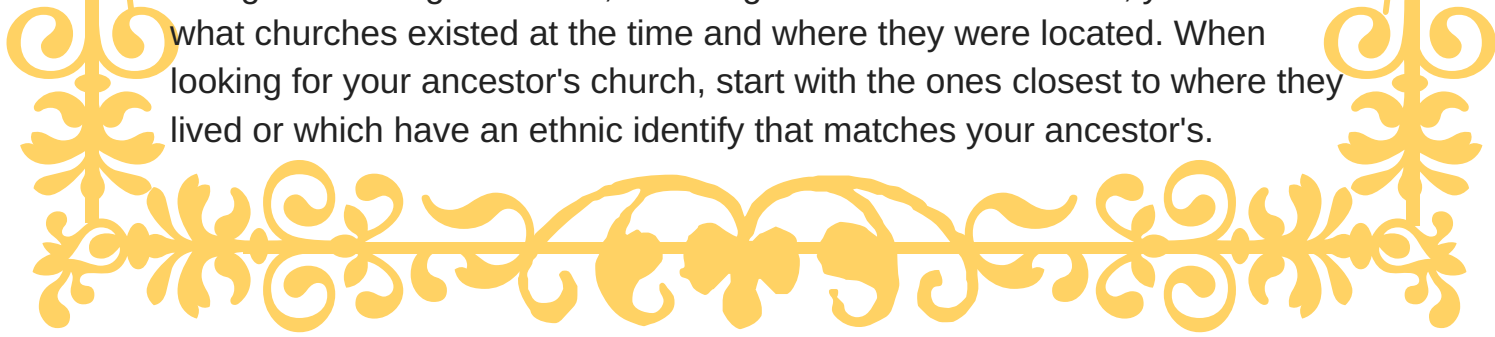
Once you have an idea of what denomination your ancestor was, it's time to start looking for the specific church.

Cemeteries. Is your ancestor buried in a church cemetery?

Obituaries. Does the obituary state where the funeral took place? If it was in a church, there's a good chance that your ancestor was a member there.

Marriage Records. Look at your ancestor's civil marriage records. Did a minister perform the wedding? If so, research that minister and find out what church he/she was affiliated with. (I have a step-by-step example of this kind of research [here](#).)

City and County Directories. Most city and county directories have a section listing various organizations, including churches. With this list, you can see what churches existed at the time and where they were located. When looking for your ancestor's church, start with the ones closest to where they lived or which have an ethnic identify that matches your ancestor's.





Tidbits by Ann Con't

Finding the Records

Of course, once you figure out your ancestor's church, you'll want to get into the records! First, see if that church is still in existence. If it is, contact them to see about the availability of their records. If the church doesn't exist, here are a few suggestions:

If the church has a hierarchy, check with the next level up. For example, if the Catholic church that your ancestor attended has closed, check with the diocese.

Check with nearby churches of the same denomination. If the church merged with another one, they might have transferred their records to that church.

Contact the local genealogical or historical society. They are the people most familiar with the records in the area. They should be able to point you in the right direction.

Ann Rhodes

FREE WEBINAR from SCGS

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 10:00 AM PDT

Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG®, presents:
[The Scots-Irish Migration into North America](#)

Use the below link to register

Join Us!

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3120105424173277697>

