



# THE FAMILY GATHERING NEWSLETTER

To research with love  To record with care

Volume 29 Issue 2

October 2008

## PRESIDENT'S DESK

*Happy Family History Month!*

As we look at the calendar for October, it's obvious that there many opportunities to learn more about finding our ancestors. Experts say that in the United States, genealogy is now the second most popular hobby next to gardening. It is believed that more that 80 million Americans are currently actively searching for more information about their ancestors. Make sure you take advantage of the quality classes and seminars that dot the calendar this month, and as always

*Success in your searches,*

*Jeff Teeter*




**General Meeting:  
Organizing Your Genealogy Records  
Presented by Ginny Lilly  
October 21 at 10:00 a.m.  
Yucca Valley Community Center  
Cholla Room**



Pumpkins were used for the *crust* of pies in early colonial times, not the filling. Colonists sliced off the pumpkin tops; removed the seeds; and filled the insides with milk, spices, and honey. The filled pumpkin shells were then baked in hot ashes.

It is one of the most common *myths* found in American family history, but it actually almost never happened. *What is it? See Page 12*

 September Mystery Gift Winners  
Ginny Lilly, Mona Lowe, and Denise Teeter

## WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE :

 [www.gsmb.info](http://www.gsmb.info) 

MAN OF MANY HATS, JEFF TEETER, HAS BEEN DOING AMAZING THINGS ON OUR NEW WEBSITE. IT IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION SO THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO VISIT AND LEAVE YOUR INPUT ON THE DIRECTION AND CONTENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ON YOUR WEBSITE.

*Thank You Giving Spirits Dorothy Daily, Eileen Geil and Ginnilee Shrake for your postage stamp donations!*

## HELPING HAND WANTED

Editor would appreciate a kind soul (or souls) willing to take over the responsibility of delivering our newsletter each month. Duties include picking up the newsletter copies from the printer; folding, stuffing, stamping and mailing same; maintaining a current mailing list; purchasing supplies and postage as needed; keeping library stocked with copies of newsletter, GSMB brochures and membership applications. We currently mail about 30 newsletters, nine times each year. *Please* contact me if you are interested at [whereisgrandma@yahoo.com](mailto:whereisgrandma@yahoo.com). Will train, no experience or special skills required. Live bodies only need apply

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*"Doing genealogy" means starting with yourself and working backward, one generation at a time, toward the unknown". -Emily Anne Croom*

**THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MORONGO BASIN**  
**P.O. Box 234**  
**Yucca Valley, CA 92286-0234**  
[www.gsmb.info](http://www.gsmb.info)

General Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at 10:00 a.m. at: Cholla Room in the Yucca Valley Community Center at 57098 29-Palms Hwy. (760) 369-7211  
 Computer Users Group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Joshua Tree Room. All *members* are encouraged to attend to share their knowledge and discuss computer genealogy topics.  
 Directions: From I-10 take the Hwy 62 exit north toward Joshua Tree National Park about 20 miles to Yucca Valley. Make a left turn onto Dumosa Avenue [two streets past the signal in front of Denny's on Sage Avenue]. Dumosa ends in front of the Hi-Desert Museum - continue past the museum following the driveway to the left into the parking lot.

*GSMB is a non-profit community organization founded in October 1979, to encourage accurate research and record keeping in the field of genealogy, family history, and biography.*

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

VISITORS WELCOME AT GENERAL MEETINGS

Annual Membership dues are \$15 per person or non-profit organization and \$20 per family at one address. Membership is open to all who are interested in the fields of family history, genealogy, and biography and will abide by the Society's stated policies.  
 Subscriptions to *THE FAMILY GATHERING* are available to non-members for \$8 per year. Members receive the newsletter as part of their dues.  
*THE FAMILY GATHERING NEWSLETTER* is published nine times a year, September thru June. Please send submissions to the editor [at the email or GSMB mailing address] by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.  
 Web site: [www.gsmb.info](http://www.gsmb.info). Visit our website for more information about our society and members, scheduled events, newsletter archive, and a surname list that is currently under construction.  
 Board Meetings (closed) are held monthly on the second 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month in the Joshua Tree Room at the YVCC.

President: Jeff Teeter  
 Vice President: Nona Pace  
 Secretary: Carol Schreiber  
 Treasurer: Sandy Moreno  
 Registrar: Pat Heuman  
 Parliamentarian: Ginnielee Shrake  
 Historian: Dorothy Daily,  
 Hospitality: Denise Teeter  
 Librarian: Ginny Lilly  
 Editor: Mary E. DeCremer, [whereisgrandma@yahoo.com](mailto:whereisgrandma@yahoo.com)  
 Site Administrator: Jeff Teeter, [admin@gsmb.info](mailto:admin@gsmb.info)



## Places to Go and Things to do

The Morongo Basin Historical Society presents:  
 Writing Your Family History Workshop  
 November 1st ~ 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
 Taught by Sallie Brown at the Morongo Basin Historical Society Museum & Research Center, 632 Landers Lane, Landers. Call Sallie at 364-4446 for details.  
 Twentynine Palms Historical Society Weed Show  
 November 1 & 2 from noon to 4 p.m on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday for FREE! at  
 The Old Schoolhouse Museum, 6760 National Park Drive  
 For more information call Pat Rimmington at 760.362.4201

Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society meets Saturdays at Yucaipa Branch Library at 1:00 pm  
 12040 5<sup>th</sup> Street, call (909) 790-3146 for library info  
 November 8 ~ Digital Scrap booking  
 demonstrated by Dee Chapman  
 December 13 ~ Surveying and Photographing Cemeteries  
 presented by Earl R. Giddings

website: [www.yvgs.org](http://www.yvgs.org)

Ancestry Novemberfest A Family History Seminar Sponsored by the Redlands and Yucaipa LDS Church  
 November 1 ~ Registration is from 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.  
 Theme: "The Magic of Family History"  
 Keynote Speaker: Barbara Renick

Redlands Family History Center  
 350 Wabash, Redlands, (909) 794-5014  
 FREE! No reservations required.

Contact Dianna Rounds for information, (909) 797-6605  
 See class schedule and map at [www.yvgs.org](http://www.yvgs.org)

Hemet-SanJacinto Genealogy Society continues to sponsor Tuesday classes (10:30 - noon) at the Hemet Public Library. Sign up in the Duffin Heritage Room on the west end of the Library to ensure availability of handouts. For more information, call ☎951.765.2372 or see [www.hsigs.org](http://www.hsigs.org).  
 October 28 ~ Ancestry.com - How to use the World's Largest Public Database  
 November 12 ~ Genealogical Software - How to Choose and What's Out There

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Mesa Arizona Family History Expo  
 Keynote Speaker: Don R. Anderson from FamilySearch  
 Over 100 classes offered throughout the weekend  
 November 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> at the Mesa Convention Center  
 \$75.00 for both days, [www.myancestorsfound.com/events](http://www.myancestorsfound.com/events)

### GSMB 2008 - 2009 CALENDAR

**November 18: Gena Ortega,**

**Using Google for Your Genealogy**

**December 16: Holiday Brunch**

**January 20, 2009: Dorothy Daily, TBA**

**February 17: Jean Wilcox Hibbens, Not Your Grandma's Genealogy**

**March 17: TBA**

**April 21: Jeff Teeter, TBA**

**May 19: Elections and Show & Tell**

**June 16: Installation of New Officers and Potluck**

## Hit A Dead - End in your Research?

Does your family tree look more like a skeleton? Try one of these "brick wall strategies" recommended by Albrecht Powell, About.com:

- 👁️ **Review What You Already Have.** Organizing your files and reviewing your facts may uncover just the clue you're looking for.
- 👁️ **Go Back to the Original Source.** If you haven't already, be sure to go back to the original records, making complete copies and transcriptions and recording all clues - however unimportant they may seem right now.
- 👁️ **Broaden Your Search.** When you're stuck on a particular ancestor, extend your search to family members and neighbors. Often referred to as "cluster genealogy," this research process can often help you find your family ghost.
- 👁️ **Question and Verify.** Many dead-ends are the result of incorrect data. Try to find at least three records to verify any facts that you already know and judge the quality of your data based on the evidence.
- 👁️ **Check Name Variations.** Variations of last names can make research complicated, but be sure to check all spelling options. Records may be recorded under initials, middle names, nicknames, etc.
- 👁️ **Bone Up on Your Historical Geography.** Town, county, state and even country boundaries have changed over time as populations grew or political authority changed hands. Also, records were not always kept in the same locality your ancestors lived in.

- 👁️ **Ask for Help.** Fresh eyes (yummy) can often see through those wall. Post a query on a local or surname web site, check with members of the local historical or genealogical society in the area you are studying, or just talk to someone else who loves family history research.

Source: [genealogy.about.com/basics](http://genealogy.about.com/basics)

## Widows Lost in Your Tree?

*Despite all their hard work, our female ancestors were not on equal status with men; they could not vote, hold office, or represent themselves in court.*

Colonial-era widows and their unwed sisters usually did not receive enough inheritance to survive on; these women needed to find supplemental income if they did not have family willing to support them. Enterprising women who entered the business world may have bought advertising space in newspapers, applied for licenses, paid taxes, or been entered in other public records. When searching records involving the inheritance of public domain land, always note if land is an original homestead grant, which a widow inherited entirely and absolutely.

In Scotland, widows reverted to their maiden names after the death of their husbands.

In many localities in Europe, German and Polish Catholic women were recorded in death registers only by their maiden names.

Source: *The Hidden Half of the Family* by Christina K. Schaefer, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1999

CEMETERY RECORDS can come in a variety of forms, but they generally originate from one of these sources: TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS and cemetery or SEXTON'S RECORDS.

Most cemeteries maintain their own records. Family cemeteries may be an exception, but government, corporate and church cemeteries usually have a set of sexton's records, the sexton being the caretaker of the cemetery. These are always worth checking, but become even more important in cases where the gravestones have been lost, vandalized, or otherwise damaged. While the sexton's records won't generally contain the same information as the tombstone inscription, they still have their secrets to reveal!

Most often, the records will give the name of the individual buried, their plot, the date of the burial, and the name of the owner of the plot - another important clue to establishing family relationships. In some case, you might find extra details such as the cost of the plot or the cause of death. You may even learn of connections to other plots (and other possible family relationships), as when disinterments and re-burials take place.

The best place to find these records, not surprisingly, is at the sexton's office in the cemetery itself, but some older records may have been handed over to local genealogical or historical societies. Happy Haunting! Source: [byub.org](http://byub.org)

## THE PERFECT TOMBSTONE RUBBING

Ingredients: Wax Crayons or rubbing wax and *non-fusible* interfacing material (from a fabric or craft store). Interfacing fabric is cheap and can be folded or rolled for travel without tearing.

Directions: Secure the interfacing tightly around the stone with removable tape. Next, rub gently over the inscription until you have a good impression of the entire inscription. Preserve you rubbing by placing it wax side up on an ironing board, then cover with an old towel and iron. This will set the wax and preserve it indefinitely.

⚠️ Caution: Always get permission to do the rubbing (in some states it is illegal) and make sure the stone is stable.

Source: *ABOUT Genealogy Tip of the Day*, 8/30/2008

## HAMMERING ONE NAIL AT A TIME

“Sometimes, the identification process is as simple as looking in a family Bible, interviewing relatives and reading obituaries. Other times, discovering the names of a previous generation of ancestors isn’t so straightforward. That’s when you need to probe deeper for clues, ask more questions and look “sideways” for more cousins.

Try to focus on one family at one time; it is an in-depth study that leads to breakthroughs. You have to study everything you can find and try to draw logical, reasonable and documented conclusions.

Eventually, all genealogists hit the proverbial brick wall-that’s a given. With enough curiosity and determination, however, it’s often possible to get around those obstacles”. *Emily Anne Croom, Family Tree Magazine, February, 2005*

### Step Two -Assembling What You “Know” [about everyone else]

Continued from September, The Golden Rule-page 4

2. Write down everything you “know” about your father:

- the exact date and place of your father’s birth
- the exact date and place of your father’s baptism
- the full names of your father’s godfather(s) and godmother(s) and their relationship to your father
- the exact date and place of your father’s marriages(s)
- the full name of your father’s spouse(s) a(all his spouses - not just your mother)
- the exact date and place of birth of your father’s spouse(s)
- the full names of your father’s spouses’ parents
- the exact date and place of the death of your father’s spouse(s)
- the exact date and place of your father’s divorce(s) if applicable
- the full names of all your father’s children (your own brothers, sisters, half-brothers and half-sisters)
- the exact date and place of birth of all your father’s children
- your father’s religion
- your father’s profession or occupation
- your father’s Social Security number
- your father’s employer
- your father’s military service (dates and places)
- the exact date and place of the death of your father, if applicable
- the exact place of the burial of your father, if applicable

*By the time you complete this step, you might find that you have a few gaps to fill in . Writing all this down at the start helps you know where the gaps are.*

3. Write down everything you “know” about your mother - all the same information as above.

4. Write down everything you “know” about your paternal grandfather - all the same information as above, including that for his children, who are your uncles and aunts.

5. Write down everything you “know” about your paternal grandmother - all the same information as above, including that for her children, who are your uncles and aunts.

6. Write down everything you “know” about your maternal grandfather - all the same information as above, including that for his children, who are your uncles and aunts.

7. Write down everything you “know” about your maternal grandmother - all the same information as above, including that for her children, who are your uncles and aunts.

8. Write down everything you “know “ about any earlier generations.

*When you have written down everything about your ancestors that you yourself “know”, then you can start filling in the gaps by turning to others in your family.*

9. You then ask those in your family to tell you everything they “know” on the same subject.

*The aim here is to gather together in one place as much detail as you can. When you have assembled everything that you “know” and everything that all your living relatives have told you, then the verification process begins.*

Source: [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com) BEGINNER’S 10-STEP CHECKLIST from Lin Van Buren, NY Gen Web site

“As with real trees, all your family tree really needs to grow and flourish is a little of your time and some attention to the basics. Many genealogists, especially beginners, are only interested in tracing their direct line – grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. While there is nothing wrong with this approach, there is a good reason it is called a family tree, not an ancestor tree.

The further back your research takes you, the more important it becomes to research your ancestor’s brothers, sisters, aunts, and uncles. Commonly referred to as “collateral ancestors” or collateral lines, these family members may provide the clues that your direct ancestor somehow managed not to leave behind.

Many choose not to follow this sibling rule because of all the extra work involved, but I can guarantee that by doing so you’ll find your answer hidden away somewhere”. *Albrecht Powell, About.com, basics/rules*

## Genealogy Online

- ✓ [www.progenealogists.com/top50genealogy2008.htm](http://www.progenealogists.com/top50genealogy2008.htm)  
The 50 Most Popular Genealogy Websites - results of a study by ProGenealogists, Inc., a Utah genealogical research firm - identifies familiar genealogical sites along with some surprises. Nine of the web sites mentioned are subscription, half are primarily data-oriented, and another quarter provided links to data. *Source: OCCGS Newsletter, June/July 2008*
- ✓ [www.distantcousin.com/](http://www.distantcousin.com/) Is an online archive of FREE genealogy records and scanned images of historical documents from a wide variety of sources, such as newspaper obituaries, city directories, census records, ship lists, school yearbooks, military records, and more. In all there are more than six million genealogy records from over 1,500 sources online. There are no fees or memberships required to use their records. *CGS News*
- ✓ [www.scsgenealogy.com](http://www.scsgenealogy.com) Sponsored by the Southern California Genealogical Society, this FREE database is open to non-members too. Surname entries from over a thousand genealogists from around the world are now searchable by family name or geographic region. *CGS News*
- ✓ [www.genealogy.com/bio/index.html](http://www.genealogy.com/bio/index.html) Your "personal research assistant for writing biographies" takes you step-by-step through the process of writing a bio on anyone.
- ✓ [www.whitehousehistory.org](http://www.whitehousehistory.org) White House Ghosts and Spirits live here! Read short stories of haunts, ghosts, and seances from the "Jack-o'Lantern" on the hill.
- ✓ [www.sfmuseum.org/hist11/list.html](http://www.sfmuseum.org/hist11/list.html) From the Virtual Museum of the City of San Francisco, the 1906 List of Dead & Survivors of the S.F. earthquake and fire.
- ✓ [www.stormfax.com/foilage.htm](http://www.stormfax.com/foilage.htm) "Leaf-peepers' guide" to finding the most colorful fall foliage for graveyard viewing across the U.S.

### WITCHES

Most people who were accused of witchcraft were feared for their nonconformist ways more than anything else. Between 1610 and 1840, it is estimated that over 26,000 accused witches were burned at the stake in Germany. In 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century Scotland, between three and five thousand witches were executed. This anti-witchcraft sentiment no doubt influenced the Puritans in America and the subsequent Salem Witch Trials.

- ✓ <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/salem/witchcraft/> Primary source documents from The Salem Witchcraft Papers.
- ✓ [www.adeaw.us](http://www.adeaw.us) The Associated Daughters of Early American Witches, a membership society geared toward preserving the names of those accused of witchery in Colonial America prior to 1699.
- ✓ [www.shanmonster.com/witch/](http://www.shanmonster.com/witch/) Good starting point for research into European witch trials from medieval times through the enlightenment. *Source: Kimberly Powell, About.com, Hunting for Witches in the Family Tree, 2008.*

**FFt:** If you find your ancestor in the Social Security Death Index on Ancestry.com, you can have the site generate a letter to order the SS-5 application. This record gives the ancestor's full date and place of birth and full name of each parent. Ancestry's version of the Social Security Death Index is updated more often than any other version online. *Source: Rookie's Guide to Top U.S. Websites by Michael Ritchey, handout from Gena Ortega's class*

## CEMETERY SITES

- ✓ [www.cyndislist.com/cemetery](http://www.cyndislist.com/cemetery) Find cemeteries, funeral homes, mailing lists, societies, publications, and "how to" links.
- ✓ [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) lists addresses, maps, and GPS coordinates for over 150,000 cemeteries. American cemeteries are organized by state and county, and many cemetery records contain photographs of the individual markers or the entire cemeteries. Thousands of contributors submit new listings, updates, corrections, photographs and virtual flowers every hour. *Find A Grave* is operated by its founder, Jim Tipton, who created the site to cater to his hobby of visiting the graves of famous people. *WorldVitalRecords, Family History Bulletin, 08/18/08*
- ✓ [www.cemeteryjunction.com](http://www.cemeteryjunction.com) lists over 38,000 U.S. cemeteries. Includes addresses and record links.
- ✓ [www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net) includes a database of 3 million cemetery records from 6700 cemeteries.
- ✓ [www.rootsweb.com/~rwguide/lesson4.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~rwguide/lesson4.htm) to see RootsWeb's guide to tracing family trees, vital records, tombstones and cemeteries. *Lots of tips and ideas here.*
- ✓ [www.genealogy.com/202/lesson9/lesson9\\_01.html](http://www.genealogy.com/202/lesson9/lesson9_01.html) Research Tips and Resources by Online Pioneers.
- ✓ <http://daddezio.com/catalog/recndx16.html> the "Cemetery Junction" links to cemetery sites, books and articles.
- ✓ [www.ohiogravestones.org/](http://www.ohiogravestones.org/) Browse over 67,400 gravestone photos from across Ohio on this web site. The mission of this project is to capture digital images of gravestones of Ohio ancestors before they become impossible to read. Search by name index or cemetery.
- ✓ [www.gravematter.com](http://www.gravematter.com) Find graves of Witch Trial Victims and the men who judged them. Also, some local history, genealogy, and artistry of early New England settlers.
- ✓ [www.usgenweb.com](http://www.usgenweb.com) has millions of tombstone inscription records from around the world ready for your viewing on their Tombstone Transcription Project link. *Sources: byub.org, CGS News, bottomline, Gena Ortega, and google.com*
- ✓ [www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org) Dedicated to the study and preservation of gravestones. Photo and rubbing tips and suggestions.
- ✓ [www.zerotime.com/ghosts/cemet.htm](http://www.zerotime.com/ghosts/cemet.htm) A list of "haunted" cemeteries in the U.S.
- ✓ [www.islandnet.com/ocfa/](http://www.islandnet.com/ocfa/) A finding aid for cemeteries located in Ontario, Canada

### DNA SECRETS NOT REVEALED

This year I purchased two DNA test kits from Ancestry as Birthday gifts for my parents. Within just a few weeks, both came back with the same brief statement: "Your DNA results did not match any of the currently known paternal haplogroups. We may be able to match you in the future". I have yet to find any mention of this possible outcome in their sales or advertising literature. Buyer beware! You too may be disappointed by the surprise in your DNA trick-or-treat bag. *Booooo!*

### CREATE YOUR OWN SCARY MOVIE

- ✓ [www.fixmymovie.com](http://www.fixmymovie.com) Upload a movie file from your camera or cell phone to this web site to increase its resolution so that it looks less grainy. The site lets you preview the first few seconds of the video to make sure you like the change. When the site finishes fixing your movie, you can download the file or E-mail friends a link so they can watch it. You also can make photos from stills in your movie. FREE! *Source: Bottomline, 6/01/08*

## BOOKS TO READ IN THE DARK . . . . .

## MYSTERY

Jackpot Blood by Jimmy Fox Tired of the genealogy textbooks? Give your brain a rest and delve into some genealogy fiction with a sinister twist. In his newest Nick Herald Genealogical Mystery, Jimmy Fox weaves the essence of genealogy research seamlessly into the story with wonderfully long descriptions of real genealogy methods and existing records. In Jackpot Blood, Nick Herald, professional genealogist, is hired to identify both ancestors and descendants of six core families in the recently recognized Katougoula Indian tribe. Someone, however, wants the tribe's past and present kept a secret. As Nick explores the tribe's history readers will experience the thrill of rooting out answers in long-forgotten sources and share his triumph when he breaks down a brick wall because he took good paper and pencil notes. Fox also has Nick deal with the everyday annoyances of researching in libraries and old courthouses. Anyone who has ever spent long hours looking at a census will chuckle at Fox's description of a squabble that takes place between Nick and another library patron concerning the use of a microfilm reader. These details make Jackpot Blood not just a great piece of fiction but an exciting genealogy experience. This is the third in Jimmy Fox's Nick Herald Genealogical mysteries. I can't say I much liked Nick when I met him in Fox's first book, Deadly Pedigree, but Fox's writing flows so easily that my annoyance with Nick is easily forgotten with each book as I am drawn in to the story and the genealogy. -Christine McCreedy, *Ancestry* 2004, iUniverse, Lincoln, NE, ISBN 0595308864

## BOOK OF THE DEAD

How to Search a Cemetery by Arlene H. Eakle, PhD. Expand your genealogy research with cemetery records and inscriptions. Enter the unknown world of coffin quilts, burial permits, grave-opening orders and the Book of the Dead. Includes a bibliography, web sites, and cautions. \$15.00, Binder, The Genealogical Institute, 2008. Source: [www.arleneeakle.com/wordpress/2008/page/15/](http://www.arleneeakle.com/wordpress/2008/page/15/)

## THRILLER

Resist the urge to hide under the covers and miss a clue on this video! Cryptic Clues in the Bone Yard, produced by *The Studio* in Hurricane, Utah is a 70-minute family history video featuring Sharon DeBartolo Carmack who "walks" viewers through the following topics:

- The history and composition of grave markers through the ages
- Cemetery trivia and tombstone symbolism
- Tips for visiting and recording information in the cemetery
- A checklist of things to take with you to the cemetery
- How to take good photographs of tombstones
- How to make tombstone rubbings (including tips on the best supplies)
- How to turn the rubbings into lasting family artifacts

Primarily geared toward beginners, but even experienced researchers will learn something new. In VHS format, \$15.95 from [www.123genealogy.com](http://www.123genealogy.com).

## CHILLER

Psychic Roots: Serendipity & Intuition in Genealogy is a out the influence of coincidence and serendipity on genealogical research, the chance combination of events over which the researcher has no control but which nevertheless guides him/her to a fortuitous discovery. Genealogist Hank Jones tells about his own brushes with the preternatural along with the experiences of over a hundred other ancestor hunters. \$14.95 More Psychic Roots: Further Adventures in Serendipity & Intuition in Genealogy contains more stories and debate about serendipity and intuition in genealogy. \$17.95, [genealogical.com](http://genealogical.com).

## BURIED IN BOOKS

The whole family [of President Theodore Roosevelt] were fiends when it came to reading. No newspapers. Never a moment was allowed to go to waste; from the oldest to the youngest they always had a book or magazine before them. The President in particular would devour a book, and it was no uncommon thing for him to go entirely through three or four volumes in the course of an evening. Likewise we frequently saw one of the children stretched out on the floor flat on his stomach eating a piece of candy with his face buried in a book. *Chief Usher Irwin H. Hoover, 42 years in the White House, 1934*

## ANCESTORS IN THE ATTIC

Finding Your Canadian Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide by Sherry Irvine, CG, and Dave Obee. Recommended as a "dual beginners' guide to genealogical research and sort of Red Book for Canada". Ancestry Publishing, \$18.95. *David McDonald, CG, FGS FORUM,*

MYTH: "Our Name Was Changed at Ellis Island". Passenger lists were actually created at the port of departure, where the native names were easily understood. It's very likely the family name may have been changed at some point, but it probably didn't happen at Ellis Island.

## In the Mailbox



## Newsletters

CGS News (California Genealogical Society)  
 CSGA Newsletter (Calif. State Genealogical Alliance)  
 DGS Newsletter (Decatur, IL)  
 LEGGS, (Lake Elsinore)  
 Newsletter (San Diego Genealogical Society)  
 Pedigree Searchers (Palm Springs GS)  
 Rootdigger (Solano County, CA GS)  
 YVGS Family Finders, (Yucaipa GS)

## Magazines

FGS Forum  
 Everton's Genealogical Helper Magazine  
 The Searcher (SCGS publication)  
 Advertisement from Author Dennis Northcott re his new book about Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska Civil War Veterans: Compilation of the Death Rolls of the Departments of Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, Grand Army of the Republic 1883-1948. Order forms are available