



CAPITAL DISTRICT
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY



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MAILING ADDRESS:
**Capital District
Genealogical Society**
P.O. Box 2175
Empire State Plaza Station
Albany, NY 12220-0175

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NEWS

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www.capitaldistrictgenealogicalsociety.org | contactcdgs@cdgsny.org

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

*NOTE: Should you receive your newsletter before our **April 23** meeting, we encourage you to join us for **US Immigration & Naturalization Correspondence Files 1890s-1950s: Overview & Update with Marian Smith**. This presentation will be recorded and available to members on our website.*

Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate May 21, 2022 Bonnie J. Lewis

This session will be recorded and available on the members' section of the website.

Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate is a great opportunity to explore your options on saving the special pieces of a senior's life and what to do with the other 'not-so-cherished' possessions. We encourage our older family members to put their estate in order (power of attorney, a health care proxy, a will or trust) but what is the missing link? The family history and family artifacts! It can take just two generations for memories of an ancestor to disappear from the memories of our descendants. What happens to the family memories, artifacts, stories, and photographs is really up to you. This program from the University of Minnesota Extension provides people with practical information about the inheritance and transfer of non-titled personal property (such as a treasured pie plate, a favorite workshop tool, or fishing rod). It assists families to communicate and make decisions to lessen the conflicts when transferring personal property.



Bonnie has been the Dependent Care Educator for the Caregiver Resource Center, a co-partnered program between Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Office for the Aging of Sullivan County, since 1999. In her role as Dependent Care Educator, she provided information and referrals, classes and workshops relating to caregiving and aging, and facilitated support groups. Over the past six years Bonnie has also provided classes and support groups for caregivers assisting individuals with dementia under an additional partnership with the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. Prior to working for CCE Sullivan, she worked at Garnett Sullivan Hospital for 18 years, on their pediatric unit, provided private duty nursing, and worked for United Way of Sullivan County.

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Terri Moran

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Open

CONTRIBUTE!

If you have items of interest to include in the CDGS newsletter, contact the newsletter committee at newsletter@cdgsny.org.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Margaret Lanoue

By the time this newsletter appears we should be finished with mud-brown season and firmly into the uplifting days of new leaves and tender green shoots.

Your Capital District Genealogical Society will be blossoming too and starting to meet in-person. At this writing, details are still being worked out at our new meeting place at the Guilderland Public Library located at 2228 Western Avenue, one mile west of the intersection of Route 155. The Library was extensively renovated during the pandemic even while providing curbside services and online programming. Finishing touches are being completed to the gathering spaces. Stop by and tour the new spaces and see the refreshed Local History Room.

People have learned so much during the pandemic via Zoom and other video sharing platforms. Now we—like other organizations—are eager to learn how we can deliver our programs in a *hybrid* fashion. It will be yet another new learning curve for all of us. Our intention is to be able to have presenters join us either online or in the room with us at Guilderland. We also wish to retain the availability of our programs so all can join us, whether in-person or online.

We beg your patience while we work out the details. One great outcome of the pandemic, if there can be one, is the ability to be much more inclusive. We welcome new members from near and far who have found us during the pandemic years.



Another CDGS innovation during the pandemic has been our Special Interest Group (SIG) for Writers! Read elsewhere in the newsletter about how to sign up for this additional way to participate in your Society. A new session of five monthly sessions is starting in May. As we know, genealogical research and reporting is an ongoing activity. There is always something new to discover and writing up your findings for posterity is an ongoing process that should not be ignored, right? New people are welcome to join in. Space is limited, so sign-up soon.

Remember there are many ways to be involved in CDGS. There are committees to join and offices to fill. Three trustees are up for election each year. Let me know if you are interested in one of these posts by email at president@cdgsny.org. Take a look at the committee list on this page and see where you might fit and send a message to me or to one of our email addresses on the back page. Our hospitality committee needs to be reactivated as we start meeting again! We look forward to seeing you! •

Margaret

WELCOME OUR NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS!

Merry Brown – Gloversville, NY
Cassandra Castle – Little Falls, NY
Ellen Courtney – Glenmont, NY
Kathleen Dartt – Niskayuna, NY
Barbara De Mare – Coxsackie, NY
Karen Dwyer – Lakewood Ranch, FL
Gardner Sherman Gurney – Altamont, NY
Sheri Iamele – Ballwin, MO
Todd Lawrence – Halfmoon, NY

Susan Lee – Lewes, DE
Timothy Job Lempke – Albany, NY
Priscilla Linville – Glenmont, NY
Bev MacCulloch – Burlington, ON
Sandra La Vallee McLaughlin – Avon By The Sea, NY
Irene Heffran Monley – Wilmington, DE
Pamela J Vittorio – Brooklyn, NY
Allison Wierman – Mill Spring, NC
Kim Yeck – Mount Jackson, VA

WRITERS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The Capital District Genealogical Society is sponsoring a continuing round of monthly gatherings of people interested in working on creating narratives of their family history. Make your research come alive for others to truly enjoy reading!

The group began in the Fall of 2021 and welcomes additional writers to join in and share their writings with guidance by retired English Professor, Paul Lamar. Meetings are scheduled for the following Saturdays beginning in May 2022 at 10:30 a.m.: May 14, June 18, July 16, August 13, and September 10.

Typically, Paul Lamar suggests a prompt or cue to inspire a fresh look into whatever aspect of family history the writers are working on. Participants are free to continue working on pieces already started, or to embark on a new line using the prompt or not. Paul reviews the work and suggests portions of people's work to be read at the meeting for discussion.

Due to the additional work that Paul does between meetings on our behalf, registrants are charged \$25 to enroll in this program. To enroll, go to the CDGS website at capitaldistrictgenealogicalsociety.org and click on the blue button that says "Your CDGS Account."

Don't let your research languish in file folders or boxes on the shelf! Learn to tell the tale of your family's history. •

NYC RECORDS AVAILABLE ONLINE

By Christopher White

Great News! In early March, New York City vital records became searchable online. And for free! The New York City Municipal Archives is digitizing its vital records. The project is 70% complete and over 9 million digitized records are available. This is not an index but a search engine that can find and view birth, marriage, or death records. The records are also downloadable.

If you have used the Ancestry record collection "New York, New York, U.S., Extracted Birth Index, 1878-1909" at ancestry.com/search/collections/9089 and found your ancestor, now you can view and download the actual record that this index has transcribed. Instead of viewing a derivative record, now you can view the original record!

For further information and to access the NYC Historical Vital Records Project use this link: a860-historicalvitalrecords.nyc.gov. Birth, marriage, and death records can be browsed or searched by Borough (Kings or Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, Manhattan, and Richmond or Staten Island) utilizing year ranges, names, and a certificate number. Presently, records that are available online are shown below. •

Borough	Births	Marriages	Deaths
Bronx	1872 to 1873 1876 1888 to 1891 1895 to 1909	1898 to 1937	1898 to 1948
Brooklyn	1866 to 1909	1866 to 1937	1862 to 1948
Manhattan	1855 1857 to 1861 1863 to 1865 1866 to 1909	1866 to 1937	1866 to 1867 1871 to 1875 1920 to 1930
Queens	1866, 1876, 1883, 1886 1888 to 1909	1898 to 1937	1898 to 1948
Staten Island	1898 to 1909	1898 to 1937	1898 to 1948

ITEMS FOR PURCHASE

Resources

The Capital District Genealogical Society has the following resources available for purchase on thumb drives.

1854 Albany County Map / Index / Census - \$15 + \$5 shipping/handling = \$20

Includes the 1854 map & index of over 2700 persons named on the map. City of Albany residents are not included by name/location. Also includes the 1855 New York State Albany County Census except for the City of Albany. Includes every name; occupation; relationship; blind, deaf or insane; length of residency; owner of land; and county of birth if born in NYS. Over 46,000 names. All in Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Newsletters 2006-2018 - \$15 + \$5 shipping/handling = \$20

This is a searchable collection of past CDGS newsletters.

If you order both USB drives there is only one \$5 shipping/handling charge

Ordering Instructions:

Order on our website: capitaldistrictgenealogicalsociety.org

Sale Table

CDGS has a sale table set up during monthly in-person meetings. Bring any genealogy magazine, maps and or books and put a price on them. The proceeds are split 50/50. You get half of the sale, or you can donate your half to the Society. Our inventory is low at the moment so if you have any genealogical journals or books you would like to donate, please hold them until we meet again in person.

Dues

Payment of dues may be made online (see page 15 for details) or sent to:

Capital District Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 2175 | Empire State Plaza
Station | Albany, NY 12220-0175

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Land Companies: Post-Revolutionary War Land Development

June 25, 2022
Skip Duett

This session will be recorded and available on the members' section of the website for 60 days.



After the Revolutionary War, there was a shift away from the earlier land transfer approaches. The Holland Land Company, Oliver Phelps, Nathaniel Gorham, Sir William Pulteney, William Constable, and many others operated land companies in the post-war period. Understanding how and where these companies functioned opens a treasure trove of records the prudent New York researcher will not want to miss.

Skip Duett is a professional genealogist, speaker, and author specializing in Upstate New York research and Y-DNA analysis. He is conducting cutting-edge research in the application of advanced Y-DNA analysis for genealogy. He is also actively researching post-Revolutionary War New York land

settlement and records outside county deeds. He serves on the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYG&B) Family History Advisory Committee.

Preserving Family Photographs and Documents

July 23, 2022
Marietta Carr

This session will be recorded and available on the members' section of the website.



Photos, letters, diaries, and other important documents are cherished pieces of a family's history, but they can also be a challenge to preserve and maintain for future generations. Preserving your family papers will assist relatives and friends (current and future) in tracing and understanding your family's history and connections to local and community history. Marietta Carr, librarian and archivist at the Schenectady County Historical Society, will give a presentation on preservation techniques you can use for your family's archives,

including storage, handling, digitization, and organization.

Marietta joined the staff of Schenectady County Historical Society in 2019 and has worked in archives, museums, libraries, and historical societies for over 10 years. Her archival preservation experience ranges from colonial land agreements to 20th century maps, and includes books, photos, recordings, and digital materials. She earned her M.A. in History from Northeastern University in Boston, MA, and her M.L.I.S. from the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. Marietta grew up in Harrisburg, PA, and now lives in Glenville, NY. ▪

Visit our website closer to the event date for program details about the following additional upcoming programs:

August 27, 2022
TBA

September 24, 2022
Writer's Group Presentation

October 22, 2022
Erie Canal Presentation by
Pamela Vittorio

November 19, 2022
Presentation by David
Rencher

RECENT MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

January 22, 2022

The January gathering of CDGS was held via Zoom.

Attendance: Registered: 105 +14 waiting list | Attended: 83

Program: Jill Morelli presented *FamilySearch: The Other 95%*.

Ms. Morelli gave us some background information before getting into the techniques of searching image only data. In 2016, FamilySearch was increasing the emphasis on getting records online. At that time, it was estimated that only about 30% of the images were indexed and could be accessed by surname. 1-2 million images are being added to the website daily, going online 24 hours after digitalization but indexing takes about 2 years. FamilySearch announced recently that all the reels of microfilm were now digitized and online, with only about 5% indexed.

Surname Searches

A surname search is the typical search technique. Online research is usually done by clicking on "Search" and going to the "Records" page and entering the surname being researched. Usually, you can get lots of results.

You can rearrange those records by clicking on "Collection" to sort the results by record type. The advantage of using the Collections feature is that you can get the best hits by record type.

Remember that NONE of these results include the Image-only documents.

Image-only Searches

There are three Principles to an image search:

1. The best way to access these records, which are online but not indexed, or partially indexed, is to **search the**

Catalog by location. To access the Catalog, click on "Search" and select "Catalog" in the dropdown.

2. **Think like the Clerk** (even better, think like a lazy clerk)
3. **Click on the matrix (the nine little boxes to the left)** before beginning your search in the record set. Scan the thumbnail images to identify patterns. If there is a list at the beginning, middle or end, it might be an index. Look at the first few records to see if your visual analysis of the arrangement was correct. Date specific records will usually be in chronological order, while name specific records will be alphabetical. Manuscripts may not have any divisions or index at all and are the most difficult to use because they still may require image-to-image review. Sometimes there is an index book; sometimes there is an embedded index; and sometimes FamilySearch divides the set of records. This will now become a knowledgeable scroll and not a random search.

She showed how to research five different scenarios using the above method.

She also presented some dilemmas that you may run into:

What if you identify documents, critical to your current work, which are not online (indexed or not)?

Sometimes the film has been pulled from the catalog and is being prepared for digitalization. You will have to wait.

What do I do if the film is at FHL, but I cannot get to Salt Lake City?

Try the FHL request a record option. This service is free.

Why are some records available at an Affiliate and others at FHC and still others at FHL?

Permissions need to be obtained by FamilySearch from each owner

of every record set before placing it online. It is possible that there will always be some number of films that are never placed online and/or are only accessible at Salt Lake City.

February 26, 2022

The November gathering of CDGS was held via Zoom.

Attendance: Registered: 73 | Attended: 61

Program: Craig Robert Scott, who spoke on *Follow the Money: Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury, Record Group 217*.

The following is a shortened summary provided by Mr. Scott for this presentation:

Treasury Records, especially those of the Accounting Officers, are the most underutilized records found in the National Archives. With the exception of the Last and Final Payments from the Revolutionary War, the approved claims of the Southern Claims Commission, and the Settled Accounts of the Act of 6 April 1828, Treasury records are little used by genealogists. They are difficult to access because the records are normally filed either chronologically or in account order. However, entry-level materials are being developed which will make the research life of the genealogist a little easier. These finding aids help with the location of documents in over 35,000 boxes (approximately 23,000 cubic feet) of original papers, most of which are housed in Washington, D.C.

An Act of 11 September 1781 established a Treasurer,

Continued from previous page...

Comptroller, Register, Auditors, and clerks. The Act of 2 September 1789, which established the Treasury Department under the Constitution of the United States, provided specifically for three accounting officers: a Register, a Comptroller, and an Auditor. The Register kept the central fiscal records (including ledgers and journals), filed all settled accounts and claims, and prepared annual reports for Congress summarizing receipts and expenditures of the Government as reflected by the official balances. The Auditor settled all accounts and claims, subject to the approval of the Comptroller. The Comptroller examined the settled accounts and claims, certified their balances, and sent them back to the Register. From 1792 to 1816, three additional offices were established to assist the original accounting officers. On 8 May 1792, the Office of the Accountant for the War Department (predecessor of the Second Auditor) was established. The Office of the Accountant for the Navy Department (predecessor of the Fourth Auditor) was created on 16 July 1798, and the Office of the Additional Accountant for the War Department was created on 29 April 1816.

On 3 March 1817, a major reorganization of the accounting officers took place. The Comptroller of the Treasury was designated the First Comptroller and became responsible for civil expenditures only; the Second Comptroller was established to perform similar functions for military expenditures. The Auditor was designated the First Auditor and was made responsible for settling most civil accounts and

claims. The Second Auditor settled accounts for pay and contingent expenses of the Army, the Third Auditor settled all other accounts of the War Department, and the Fourth Auditor settled accounts of the Navy Department. A Fifth Auditor was also established at this time to settle accounts of the State Department and of the Post Office Department and accounts of Indian affairs. Two additional offices were also created. The Sixth Auditor was established to relieve the Fifth Auditor of responsibility for settling accounts of the Post Office Department.

In 1894 the accounting offices were reorganized primarily to investigate and report to Congress on the organization and operations of the executive departments. The changes in the Treasury Department renamed the earlier Auditors, which became the Auditor for the Treasury Department, Auditor for the War Department, Auditor for the Interior Department, Auditor for the Navy Department, Auditor for the State and other Departments, and Auditor for the Post Office Department. The functions of the auditors were, as necessary, shifted to conform to the areas of responsibility indicated by their new titles. In 1921 the accounting offices were abolished.

Record Group (RG) 217, The Records of the U.S. General Accounting Office total approximately 23,000 cubic feet. It consists of records of the accounting offices of the Treasury Department, 1789-1921 that were in the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) as of December 31, 1979. They also include some pre-Federal records created under the Continental Congresses and Articles of Confederation as well as some records of the GAO that are direct continuations of series begun under the Treasury Department.

Mr. Scott gave numerous examples of some of these original documents. He stressed that some records may get lost, such as muster lists or roll calls, but there is always a paper trail for finances. Every payment MUST have a claim attached to it. One of the examples showed how some of the information found in pension files can act as primary sources, such as date of marriage by the widow, list of children, location of pensioner over time, and the date and place of death in the Final Payment record. This is just one example of where valuable information can be located outside of census records, lost church records, etc. ▪

BOOK DONATIONS

We have received two recent donations of genealogy books to CDGS, which are now held at our desk at the State Library. You may find the following titles there:

Prominent People of the Capital District

The Portable Genealogist

The Colony of New Amsterdam (2 copies)

Tracing Immigrants Through the Port of New York

New Netherland in a Nutshell

1950 CENSUS RELEASED

The 1950 Census details were released on Friday, April 1, 2022. You have the opportunity to participate in a transcription project to help improve accuracy of the records. The National Archives reported that they used an optical character recognition and artificial intelligence tool to extract the handwritten names from the 1950 Census population schedules and provide a first draft of the name index for public use. If you have done any searching since the census was released, you may have found that some names didn't come up in your search. That's where you come in. Members of the public can help refine the name index for better accuracy and easier access to the records, using a transcription feature on the 1950 Census website at 1950census.archives.gov.



Questions Asked on the 1950 Census

The 1950 Census had 20 questions for all persons, so it was shorter than the 1940 Census. Additional questions at the bottom of the schedule (Nos. 21-33c) were asked of six persons whose name fell on a highlighted line labeled "Sample." (There were five versions of the form to vary the sample lines.) The person on the last sample line was also asked additional questions, starting from 34. The following is a list of questions asked on the primary lines. Visit 1950census.archives.gov/howto/questions-asked.html to see a full list of questions asked, including those asked of individuals who fell on the "Sample" lines.

Questions Asked on Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

- Name of street, avenue, or road
- House and apartment number
- Serial number of dwelling unit
- Is this house on a farm or ranch?
- Is this house on a place of three or more acres?
- Agricultural Questionnaire Number
- Name
- Relationship to head of household
- Race
- Sex
- Age on last birthday
- Marital status: Married (Mar), Widowed (Wd), Divorced (D), or Separated (Sep)
- State or country of birth
- Naturalization status if foreign born (Yes, No, or AP for born abroad of American parents)
- Questions for persons fourteen years of age and over
- Was this person working (Wk), unable to work (U), keeping house (H), or doing something else (Ot) most of last week
- If H or Ot in item 15: Did this person do any work at all last week?
- If No in item 16: Was this person looking for work?
- If No in item 17: Even though he didn't work last week, does he have a job or business?
- If Wk in item 15 or Yes in item 16: How many hours did he work last week?
- Occupation. Industry in which person worked. Class of worker: Private employer (P), government (G), in his or her own business (O), or without pay on family farm or business (NP)

Additional Information to Note

College students were enumerated where they lived while attending school, rather than where their parental homes were located. Members of the Armed Forces who slept off post were counted where they slept rather than where they were stationed.

A supplemental schedule, *Form P8, Indian Reservation Schedule*, was used to obtain additional information on Native Americans who resided on reservations. In addition to entering each person's name as it appeared on the regular schedule, *Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing*, the enumerator recorded other name(s) by which that person was known, along with his or her tribe, clan, degree of Indian blood, ability to read, write, or speak English or any other language, and participation in any native Indian ceremonies in 1949.

The 1950 census was the last time enumerators personally visited most households with large multi-family census sheets. During the 1960 and later censuses, households received enumeration forms in the mail and mailed them back to the Census Bureau. ▪

MY GRANDMOTHER'S DRIVER'S LICENSE

By Terri Moran

Terri wrote the following piece for the 52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks project, organized by genealogist Amy Johnson Crow. Each week, she writes a story using that week's theme created for the project. This story is for the theme "Females."

I found my grandmother's driver's licenses, dated 1925 and 1926, with my mother's belongings. Theresa C. Kempter, my grandmother, had a license to drive in 1925. She was 30 years old and at that time she had three children, with my mother due soon. When I stopped to think about it, I thought it was amazing, both that my grandmother had driver's licenses in the 1920s and that my mother kept them all those years. I also wondered about what the cars were like in 1925 and how they came to have one.

In 1924 New York State began requiring all drivers to have licenses. Prior to that only chauffeurs or people who drove more than 10 days a year were required to have them. In 1925, learner's permits were introduced in New York State. The permit required the holder to have driving guidance from a licensed driver. There were at that time 1.9 million drivers in New York State out of a population of 11.19 million.

My grandmother was a lovely person, quiet and unassuming. She was the mother of 5 children, and active in her church and community. I knew her in the 1950s and 1960s and enjoyed spending at least a week each summer visiting her and my grandfather and my Aunt Anna. After years of renting homes in Mount Vernon and Yonkers, they bought their first home in Carmel, Putnam County, New York. I knew



that she could drive then but I can't recall riding in a car with her driving. By the time I spent time with them Grandpa was retired and drove all the time.

I researched women drivers in the early days of automobiles. They were permitted to drive in general although some men objected thinking they were too soft and emotional which would make the roads too dangerous. There doesn't seem to be a lot of research or statistics about early women drivers.

But finding the licenses made me think about my grandmother in a different way. She had to be a strong woman to take on the challenge of driving in those early

years, especially in a populated area like Yonkers. I thought about other things I had learned about her. Her father emigrated from Germany in 1883 and her mother was born in the United States one year after her parents emigrated from Germany. Her son Donald recalled that when she started school the family had only spoken German at home. The first day at school she was teased for not speaking English. Her father then declared that from that point on they would only speak English at home. Imagine having to learn a new language at 5 years of age.

She was a strong woman when three of her four sons were serving in the Army during World War II, one in Europe, one in the South Pacific, and one in the United States. She was strong when her youngest son served during the Korean War.

In the early 1960s she was strong when she suffered a stroke and spent months in a rehabilitation center learning how to walk with a brace and losing the use of one arm. She used to write to me at college on a typewriter. As the saying goes, nevertheless, she persisted. I am proud to be the granddaughter of this strong woman. ■

354263 JUN 14 25
ISSUED BY THE STATE OF NEW YORK
BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES
DO NOT WRITE IN ABOVE SPACE

Prior License	DATE OF BIRTH	SEX	HEIGHT	WEIGHT
460326	1895	WH FEM	5' 06"	162
HEIGHT COLOR EYES COLOR OF HAIR				
5' 06" BLU FERN				

THeresa C KEMPTER
29 CORTLANDT ST
MT VERNON N Y K613

OPERATOR'S LICENSE
EXPIRES JUNE 30, 1926

This is to Certify that the person named and described above has been licensed to operate motor vehicles in accordance with the provisions of the Highway Law.
COMMISSIONER OF MOTOR VEHICLES

NOT VALID unless stamped and sealed by licensee on line below.
Theresa C. Kempter
(See your name with ink on this line) (See other side)

TO BE FILLED OUT BY APPLICANT
OPERATOR'S LICENSE
EXPIRES JUNE 30, 1925

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

460326 SEP 23 24
ISSUED

PRINT NAME
THERESA C. KEMPTER
POST OFFICE ADDRESS
29 CORTLANDT ST.
MT. VERNON, N.Y.

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT
THIS MUST BE EXACTLY AS STATED ON APPLICATION

YEAR OF BIRTH	COLOR	SEX	WEIGHT
1895	White	FEMALE	162
HEIGHT		COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
5' 06" IN.		BLU	BROWN

DO NOT DETACH

NOT VALID UNLESS STAMPED AND SEALED
Theresa C. Kempter
SIGNATURE

MADONNAS OF THE TRAIL

By Andrea Kelly

It was a pleasure to learn recently that pioneer women have a trail dedicated to them. Madonnas of the Trail was created in 1928-1929 starting in Maryland and going west to California. The trail follows US route 40 which was the trail used by the (conestoga) covered wagons. There are 12 statues honoring the strength and courage the women had. They traveled west with their families to settle in a new place and build a new home. This was the idea of Arlene Nichols Moss, a DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) St. Louis Chair. She

had help to find sculptor August Leimbach, a 1910 German immigrant who settled in St. Louis. Within three days of being asked he sculpted a clay model and the idea came to fruition. Twelve beautiful monuments were commissioned by the DAR with the support of Harry Truman and donations. The 18-foot beautiful sculptures were placed along the trail in 12 states between 1928-1929. These monuments would be an educational and fun addition to any road trip in those states. ▪



UPCOMING FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCES

National Genealogical Society 2022 Family History Conference

Our American Mosaic

May 24-28, 2022 | Sacramento, California

The conference will feature more than 150 new genealogy lectures on a wide variety of topics.
conference.ngsgenealogy.org

Fort Plain Conferences

American Revolution Conference in the Mohawk Valley

June 9-12, 2022

Sir William Johnson and the Wars for Empire

October 21-23, 2022

Contact info@fortplainmuseum.org or call 518-774-5669

New York State Family History Conference 2022: Getting Back to New York

September 8-10, 2022 | Albany, New York

Online components if you cannot attend in person.

www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nysfhc/2022

ANSWERING THE BRICK WALL CHALLENGE

In this newsletter, we are including two articles from members Brenda Streed and Gail Breen. Brenda is a current member of Paul Lamar's Writers Workshop and Gail is a Trustee and Co-Chair for Programs. We thank them for their submissions and trust you will enjoy reading about their research into their family history. We are currently accepting Brick Wall articles for the August and November newsletters. We encourage our CDGS members to share their stories so that others might be inspired to continue their own research. Articles may be sent to newsletter@cdgsny.org along with relevant photos. Need help with your writing? Watch for Session II of Paul Lamar's Writers Workshop to begin in May. •

HOW I FOUND ROSALIE AND MY HUSBAND'S SWEDISH FAMILY

By Brenda Streed

One of the mysteries in our family research over the past few years involves the heritage of my husband Don Streed's family through his grandfather Martin Streed, who emigrated from Sweden. Don's older sisters lost touch with the Swedish branch after their grandmother Sophie died in 1949. The only connections to be found were two old handwritten letters from "Aunt Rosalie," the title expressed by Don's older sister Shirley (b. 1931, d. 2019).

Letter-writing used to be a major form of communication before the days of telephone, email or internet, and the writer would include news of family, relationship clues and perhaps dates or places involved in the news of the day.

We began our quest in earnest in 2018, poring over our letters for clues to Aunt Rosalie. Who was she and how was she related to Martin Streed, since as far as the immediate family knew, Martin had no brothers or sisters? Shirley called her Aunt, so there could have been a marriage or sibling relationship. The letters were simply signed "Rosalie" without a last name, and the envelopes with addresses long gone.

Letter 1 is dated January 1934 and has the place heading of "Ursholmen," and Letter 2 is dated

09 March 1949, from "Uddevalla." In Letter 1, Rosalie mentions being on an island, with her current husband Axel "being through in 1936...gets his pension".

Where is the best place to find an obscure place name reference? The best place to start in this age of the internet is Google!

The Google search engine came up with this reference to a Swedish place name when I typed "Ursholmen" (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ursholmen). The reference involves an island which fits with the details from Letter 1.

This Wiki page about Ursholmen also contained a link to the Swedish Lighthouse Society (fyr.org/in-english.html) that, as it turned out, maintained history about the lightkeepers and their families that served at Sweden's lighthouses. Since most of us only speak and read English, Google's handy translation feature is an invaluable tool.

Note that some languages, especially Swedish, German, etc., use special characters which are important to include when

searching in the Google Translator. Since most of us do not have these characters on our keyboard, here is the simple technique I use to capture these types of characters. First, highlight the words with the unusual characters on the website page, and copy them (use right click and Copy, or use the Ctrl key + C). Then, paste them in another tool like Notepad (use right click and Paste, or use Ctrl key + V). This will preserve the special characters and remove any additional web page formatting. These texts can now be pasted into Google Translator without issue.

The key search engine I found on the Swedish Lighthouse Society web page, "Sök efter person" ("Search after Person") was fyr.org/fyrpersonal/om-fyrpersonalregistret.html.

Filling out this search page for anyone named Axel, who was "Är fyrvaktare" ("Is a lightkeeper?"), "Ja" for Yes, returned 71 hits—a lot of info to sift through.

How about a search for Rosalie, who was "Nej" for No, as to being a

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ursholmen> 

Ursholmen - Wikipedia

Ursholmen is a Swedish island and lighthouse located west of Strömstad town. ... Location, Kosteröarna (naturreseptat), Strömstad Municipality, Sweden Edit ...

lighthouse keeper? This Search returned 11 hits—much easier to review, and look for references to someone named Axel.

Pictured at right are the 11 hits from the Rosalie search.

Född means Born, and Död means Died. Based on the dates of our two letters (1934 and 1949), we can eliminate a few records above (where someone died before 1934).

After searching through these hits, it was the third record on the page “Holm, Matilda Rosalie Börjesson” who was the wife of someone named Axel. There are other pieces of useful info on the page, such as her birth and death year, the alternate last name Börjesson, and the location of death, Uddevalla. The place Uddevalla matches with our Letter 2 place heading, dated 1949. Rosalie died not long after writing Letter 2.

Identifying Matilda Rosalie Börjesson was only the first step in our ambitious search for Martin Streed’s Swedish roots! Time to re-read the details in Letters 1 and 2, looking for people, places, and dates to confirm we have found the correct Rosalie, answer the question of her relationship to the Streed family, and hopefully find Martin’s Swedish family.

I attacked this research by creating an Ancestry family tree for Mathilda Rosalie Börjesson, and researching her life and family. There were a lot of clues in her letters to help develop the tree, along with some side notes of interest. Rosalies’ abbreviated Ancestry tree listing siblings Ernest, Oskar, Alma and Ester along with Rosalie’s birthdate soon yielded multiple hints that helped to confirm Rosalie’s identity.

Totalt: 11 personer.

Namn	Född	Död	Yrke	Fyrvaktare
Andersson, Rosalie Maria Steinbach	1884	1968		Nej
Elmqvist, Edla Rosalie Steinbach	1852	1929		Nej
Holm, Matilda Rosalie Börjesson	1872	1949		Nej
Petersson, Alma Rosalie Westin	1855	1930		Nej
Rydberg, Alma Rosalie Fredrika Lindquist	1908	1999		Nej
Söderberg, Dagny Rosalie Maria Wahlgren	1895	1960		Nej
Steinbach, Rosalie Marie Lindman	1832	1880		Nej
Steinbach, Rosalie Mathilda	1850	1939		Nej
Svanström, Rosalie	1869	1940		Nej
Svensson, Helena Rosalie Krook	1840	1896		Nej
Thorsell, Rosalie Sofie Sommar	1824	1872		Nej

Person

Du är här: Svenska Fyrällskapet / Fyrfamilj / Person Skriv ut

Holm, Matilda Rosalie Börjesson

Född 1872 Grinstad, Älvsborgs län
 Död 1949 Uddevalla, Gbg o Bohus län
 Yrke
 Föräldrar

Foto 

Make/Maka (1)

Namn	Född	Död	Fyrvaktare
Axel Andersson Holm	1871	1949	Ja

You are here: Swedish Lighthouse Society / Lighthouse staff / Person Print

Holm, Axel Andersson

Born 1871 Kungshamn, Gbg and Bohus County
 Died 1949 Uddevalla, Gbg o Bohus län
 Profession Fyrmästare

Parents
 Anders Andersson born 1841, profession Lighthouse keeper
 Anna Greta Svendsdotter Andersson born 1839, occupation Lighthouse keeper

Photo 

Make / Maka (2)

Name	Born	Death	Lighthouse keeper
Mathilda Simonsdotter Holm	1850	1925	No
Matilda Rosalie Börjesson Holm	1872	1949	No

Ancestry’s search engine helped to build out names, dates, places and occupations for all ten of her brothers and sisters. The most important record was related to a brother Carl Ernest Nathanael Borgeson. Carl lived in Rockford, Illinois, working as a machinist, which matches facts given in both

letters. Carl’s US Naturalization Record card registered in Cook County Illinois, dated 17 Nov 1914, noted one of the witnesses as “J Streed, living at 2637 Prairie Avenue.”

This was the key clue to finding the name of Rosalie’s spouse,

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Family name Borgeson	Given name or names Carl Ernst Nathanael
Address 2575 Emerald Ave.	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) I-13814	Trib. and location of court Superior Court, Cook Co., Ill.
Country of birth or allegiance Sweden	When born (or age) Feb. 1, 1886
Date and port of arrival in U.S. Apr. 9, 1909 X	Date of naturalization Nov. 17, 1914
Names and addresses of witnesses Hilding O. Lindstrom 1173 Lothair Ave. J. Streed 2637 Prairie Ave.	

U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service Form No. 11P

was able to send for a copy of John's death certificate. Death certificates can be a great source of information, often including the names of the father and mother, in John's case Per Martensson Stridh and Signe Erlandsdotter. It seemed that this could be a dead end, since Swedish names can be complicated.

My search at 2 AM looking for any public trees with these two names linked was an amazing moment! I immediately sent an email to Hellstrom, the owner of the tree, explaining what we thought was the connection to Martin Streed, which Mr. Hellstrom confirmed for us. An additional bonus was a handwritten genealogy given to him by his grandfather, which includes Martin Persson Stridh (Streed) and his family (shown below). We were surprised to learn that in addition to John Streed, Martin had two sisters, Johanna and Ingrid. In this genealogy, Martin's branch of the tree only lists his son Perry's three daughters, Janice, Shirley and Thelma listed in the 1930's (these are my husband Don's older sisters).

1900 United States Federal Census for Rosalee Borgeson

Illinois > Cook > Chicago Ward 03 > District 0060

Household No.	Name	Relation	Age	Sex	Color	Marital Status	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Immigrant	Speaks English	Occupation	Industry	Employed
1876	Rosalee Borgeson	Head	24	F	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1875	Yes	None		
1877	John Streed	Wife	22	F	W	Single	Ireland	Ireland	Ireland	1875	Yes	None		
1878	Charles Streed	Son	10	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1890	Yes	None		
1879	Helen Marie Streed	Daughter	7	F	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1893	Yes	None		
1880	Anna Streed	Daughter	5	F	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1895	Yes	None		
1881	John Streed	Son	3	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1897	Yes	None		
1882	William Streed	Son	1	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1899	Yes	None		
1883	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1884	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1885	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1886	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1887	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1888	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1889	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1890	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		

1910 United States Federal Census for Rosalie M Street

Illinois > Cook > Chicago Ward 7 > District 0388

Household No.	Name	Relation	Age	Sex	Color	Marital Status	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Immigrant	Speaks English	Occupation	Industry	Employed
1876	Rosalie M Street	Head	24	F	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1875	Yes	None		
1877	John Streed	Wife	22	F	W	Single	Ireland	Ireland	Ireland	1875	Yes	None		
1878	Charles Streed	Son	10	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1890	Yes	None		
1879	Helen Marie Streed	Daughter	7	F	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1893	Yes	None		
1880	Anna Streed	Daughter	5	F	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1895	Yes	None		
1881	John Streed	Son	3	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1897	Yes	None		
1882	William Streed	Son	1	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1899	Yes	None		
1883	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1884	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1885	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1886	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1887	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1888	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1889	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		
1890	John Streed	Son	0	M	W	Single	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden	1900	Yes	None		

assuming the Streed connection might be her husband. Close relatives or friends were many times on naturalization records as witnesses. J Streed's address links to the street address found in Rosalie's 1900 US Census record (see above, 2637 Prairie Avenue, she is listed as a Single person). J Streed is not listed with her in the 1900 US Census, but it provides insight into how Rosalie would

have met someone named J Streed at that address. I made the leap that her spouse was named John or Johan, updated the Ancestry tree with this potential name, which yielded the 1910 US Census record showing a John Streed, working as a museum guard, married to Rosalie.

Based on several other Ancestry records, John died at age 43, so I

This genealogical journey happened in 2018 before COVID. It was awesome that we found the Streed family in Sweden, and became connected to these roots before Don's sister Shirley passed away in 2019. The family letters that she preserved made it possible for us to reach back in time to make these discoveries. ■

*John Streed 12/10 1838 - 1/12 1907
Lho Valley g.m.
Signe Erlandsdotter 5/1831 - 6/1917*

*Johanna Persson Stridh 1861-1942 in Loola?
Patrik Persson Stridh 1844-1899; Kovanen J.L. homspaka
Johan Persson Stridh 1874 in Loola?
Martin Persson Stridh 1868-1894 in Loola?
1861-1894 in Loola?*

OLD TOM BREEN SERENDIPITY AS THE CATALYST FOR A BREAKTHROUGH

by Gail Breen

This is the story of Old Tom Breen, my husband's great-great grandfather who was born in Ireland, almost certainly in St. Mary's Parish, Clonmel, County Tipperary in 1828.

The Ship Adirondack, out of Liverpool, England, arrived in New York on the 24th of June, 1845 bearing a Thomas Breen and a Bridget Breen. Thomas and Bridget appear in the 1850 Census in Onondaga County with three small children. By the NYS Census of 1855, Thomas and Bridget were residing with their four children in the Town of Clay, and our Breens can be traced back directly to this couple.

When Bridget died in September 1855, Tom was left with the care of their 4 children, aged 7 years to 4 months. Bridget died four months after giving birth to Lawrence, the great grandfather of my husband, Michael Breen. It is possible that she never recovered from childbirth. It's also possible that she succumbed to a disease or an accident. Cholera and scarlet fever were prevalent at the time as were accidents with horses. Regardless, life must have changed drastically for Tom and for the children. Tom still had to work to support himself and his children – possibly leaving the 7 year-old to care for a 5 and 3 year-old and a 4-month old baby. Or more probably, leaving the children with an older neighbor or even the older daughter of a neighbor.

On September 12th, 1858, Thomas married Catherine Hayes. She was 16 years old at the time, a

neighbor, and possibly the caretaker of his children. Although Tom and Catherine are missing from the 1860 and 1865 censuses, in the 1859 city directory Tom appears at the same address as Catherine's father, and in the 1870 census with Catherine and six children from Tom's second marriage.

Many things about Old Tom have remained a mystery to us – what happened to the first three of the four children of his first marriage? How did Bridget die? Why were he and his second family missing from the 1860 census? The 1865 census? Why was he missed in the original Union draft? Did he attend the 25th reunion of his Syracuse Company? Is he in that old picture from the reunion? What did he look like?

But there have been breakthroughs over the years, some requiring a lot of hard work, others as much luck as work.

The breakthrough that I think was the most serendipitous is the discovery of Old Tom's headstone in St. Agnes Cemetery in Syracuse, New York in the fall of 2017. I had requested and received Old Tom's death certificate back in the early 2000's so we knew the year of his death and other information such as his parents' names and birthplaces, place and cause of his death, the name of the attending doctor, the funeral home, and the cemetery where he was interred. One summer as we took a trip down memory lane, driving through my husband's old neighborhood in Syracuse, we

visited St. Agnes cemetery and talked with a person in the cemetery office. She gave us the section and lot number for Old Tom, but when we found the area it was on a downhill slant and appeared to be devoid of anything but grass and leaves.

But in 2017, I decided to dig a little deeper, if you'll pardon the pun. I was attending a conference in Syracuse, and none of the afternoon workshops appealed to me. It was a warm and sunny fall day, and I decided it would be the perfect afternoon for a little outdoor sleuthing. I stopped in at the cemetery office which had much-updated services. The helpful staff gave me a copy of a cemetery document showing the lot and section Old Tom was buried in along with the names of others in the same family lot and their dates of interment. It also showed who had purchased the lot and the amount of the purchase. Excited, I drove off to Section 1 and following my new acquaintance's directions, started looking for lot 44. Alas – still no luck, just a grassy slope ending at a perimeter road.

As I stood there in business conference attire, metaphorically scratching my head, a UTV (utility terrain vehicle) approached with three groundsmen and implements of their trade, including a long iron rod similar to a post hole digger and two or three rakes and shovels. When asked if I was in need of help, I described my situation and showed them a copy of my map.

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Shaking his head, the crew leader said that he could do that map one better. He went back to the UTV and returned with a small computer/tablet that held GPS coordinates for the graves. Within a few minutes and a little poking and prodding with the metal rod, we heard a satisfying “thunk” and the men went to work unearthing Old Tom’s stone. They explained that the stone had probably fallen over years ago (it is situated on an incline) and eventually became one with the rest of the lawn. They also found another stone next to his with the name of Margaret Gilcher (his daughter) and set that upright on its base. Unfortunately, Tom’s stone could not be set on its base as the pins were no longer there to hold the two pieces together.

But, we had found the stone, verifying Old Tom’s final resting place. The stone seemed surprisingly elaborate for a man who was living primarily on a disability pension from the Civil War. The tombstone had a carved top with a flag and underneath gave his name, the company and regiment he served with, the date of his death, and his age. His youngest son from his first marriage, my husband’s great grandfather, had purchased the plot the day after Old Tom’s death, my guess being the widow couldn’t afford to buy one herself. So how did they afford the stone? I later learned that the federal government contracted with private companies to provide headstones for Union Civil War Veterans who served either in the regular or the volunteer army.



THOMAS BREEN
Co I 2nd NY
Prov. Cavalry
DIED
February 19, 1890
Aged 60 years

Six months later I got an email from my contact at St. Agnes. She had done some additional research, and although no additional stones were found, she supplied an updated copy of the cemetery document with handwritten notes on Place of Birth, Cause of Death, Date of Death, Age, and Next of Kin for each of the people buried in that plot. Those notes went a long way to identifying the relationships of the people buried in the lot.

But none of this might have come to light had I not decided to play hooky that beautiful fall day. ▪

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CAPITAL DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY meets monthly, except the month of December, at 1:00 p.m. usually on the fourth Saturday. Meetings are currently being held virtually. For in-person meetings, social meet and greet follows the program at 2:30 p.m. and computer resources are shared at 3:00 p.m. Meeting place and dates are published in our newsletter, local newspapers, website and other media. Future in-person meetings are to be held at **Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Ave, Guilderland, NY 12084**, and are open to the public. For scheduling, consult this newsletter, our Facebook page (Capital District Genealogical Society), or www.capitaldistrictgenealogicalsociety.org.

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