

WOOD COUNTY ROOTS



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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Dec 2023

Greetings Everyone!
Time sure flies! As I was walking out of the grocery store yesterday, the fellow walking next to me said "What a beautiful day! I just wish it was the Spring thaw!" What an idea—time flying so fast, we just skip over winter? What about the cozy days, sipping hot chocolate by the fire, ruminating on our genealogical brick wall, hoping against hope that something finally clicks! Anyway, it's not going to happen that way—although sometimes our breakthroughs do come blasting out of the blue at us!

Meanwhile, carefully examine all the paperwork you have on your brickwall. After you have checked them over, ask a friend to look over your paperwork. Then invite that friend over to have a cup of coffee, hot chocolate, etc., and sit down and discuss both your findings. That friend will most likely have a different outlook on your research. By discussing it, you

may find a new clue and/or direction into which to move your research. You can also return the favor and offer to look over their research; works both ways!

RootsTech 2024 is fast approaching. Have you registered? It is FREE! This event will take place February 29-March 2 of next year. This is the largest genealogy event in the world, sponsored and hosted by FamilySearch. It brings people from all over the globe together for one common mission: gathering and celebrating family. You can also check out past conferences at rootstech.org. The neat thing about RootsTech is the speakers post their syllabus for their speeches. These usually contain their sources and may prove invaluable to you. I hope you take some time this coming winter to re-examine old research and explore new avenues of research!

Happy Hunting!
Bev Peaslee,
Chair



OFFICERS

Officers were voted in at the end of last year to take us on into the new year. Please help the officers out in any way that you can. Our society is only as strong as its members.

Chairman:

Bev Peaslee

Vice Chairman:

Wayne Peters

Secretary:

Sue Miller &
Myra Sweet

Treasurer:

Tina Krummel

Trustee:

Mary Moss

Dues!

It's that time of year again—your annual dues are payable now. Our membership year runs from **August 1 through July 31.**

Check your newsletter label. The line above your name has the expiration date of your membership. There is a membership form on page 1357 of this newsletter. Please check with Tina, our treasurer, on the status of your membership.

Reverse Genealogy: 5 Reasons to Trace Family Forward in Time

By Maureen A. Taylor

Since the beginning of time, generations of genealogists have learned a basic rule of research: Start with yourself and work backward. Yet some brazen genealogists dare to flout this time-honored tenet.

They'll identify an ancestor and trace that person's descendants—going so far as to look for living relatives. Imagine!

But wait. These same people report stellar genealogical successes with such unorthodox methods.

Professional genealogist Megan Smolenyak is one of them—she endorses researching *forward* in time as a way to:

- * get new genealogy details that didn't make it to your branch of the family tree
- * find oral history subjects
- * collaborate on a family history Web site or book
- * recruit participants for a DNA surname study
- * build a family reunion attendee list
- * reunite an orphaned photo or heirloom with its family
- * add to your family photo collection
- * reconnect family branches that got separated over the years

There's even a name for what Smolenyak and her ilk are doing: reverse genealogy. We wondered if this unconventional technique really can do such great things for family trees, so we set out to talk to some practitioners. Their stories reveal five benefits of applying reverse genealogy principles to your own research problems.

1. **Growing you Family Tree:** By tracing descendants not ancestors, find those on your pedigree chart. Look for documentation on every person in your line, then add their children.

2. **Reuniting Lost Family Branches:** Look at Probate records, census and phone books, look for the people who live in the immediate neighborhood. Search for relatives of your family members. Many families lived in the same neighborhoods or even the same house when they first came to the USA.

3. **Find Genetic Cousins:** Do a DNA test. You will come up with a lot of hits in the database. Many are not valid and are no connection, but you might get lucky and find someone who is related to a family member several generations back. (This happened to me I have contact with my Great Grandmothers cousins son).

4. **Discovering Health Histories:** It can be hard to find reliable causes of ancestors' deaths, what with spotty availability of death certificates, archaic medical terms and lack of diagnostic procedures. But examining your cousins' death records also can reveal unexpected medical conditions that run in the family.

5. **Solving Brick Wall Mysteries:** You've probably gathered that it doesn't have to be one way or the other—most of the researchers we spoke with use a combination of traditional and reverse research to accomplish their goals. By using



Reverse Genealogy Continued



newspapers, family bibles, looking for next of kin, (siblings, children), tracing DNA information.

6. **Reverse Genealogy Resources:** Many of the same resources you use to research back in time also can help you research forward. The folks we spoke with favor these sources:

Censuses: Searchable indexes to federal censuses from 1790 through 1950 are handy for tracing families' movements and, in 1850 and later, learning children's names. You'll find databases on [Ancestry.com](#), [FamilySearch](#), [MyHeritage](#) and [HeritageQuest Online](#), which is free through many public libraries.

Search Engines: Using a general search engine is a relatively easy way to find people. Start by searching for an ancestor's name (inside quotation marks) or a surname followed by *family* or *genealogy*, such as "*Bellows family*." You may turn up websites, genealogy charts and images.

Newspapers: Search for papers by location at the [Library of Congress' Chronicling America website](#); some are digitized there, too. You'll find searchable, digitized newspapers on subscription websites such as [GenealogyBank](#) and [Newspapers.com](#).

Online Directories: Search for living individuals by name and location in online phone books such as [WhitePages.com](#). Some listings will be out of date, so you may have to try a few names to get success. Also, these sources give numbers for landlines, not cell phones. Don't forget to search for people in social networks such as [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), too.

People Locators: These sites index contemporary public records that contain names, ages and addresses. Usually, you can search and get limited information free, then pay for more details. Beware of errors such as incorrect maiden names and middle initials. Note, too, that it's not unusual for two people in a community to have the same name. [PrivateEye.com](#) and [Zabasearch](#) are two to try.

Probate Records: Court documents related to a deceased person's estate can help build a network of relatives. Use a reference such as *Red Book*, 3rd edi-

tion, edited by Alice E. Eichholz to find where your ancestor's county keeps probate records. Many are on [Family History Library](#) microfilm; run a Place search of the online catalog for the county and look for a probate heading.

This article was in *The Family Tree Magazine* (July 2009). I have summarized it the best I can without losing the information. Please look up Maureen A. Taylor for the full article. <https://familytreemagazine.com/research/using-reverse-genealogy-to-overcome-brick-walls/>

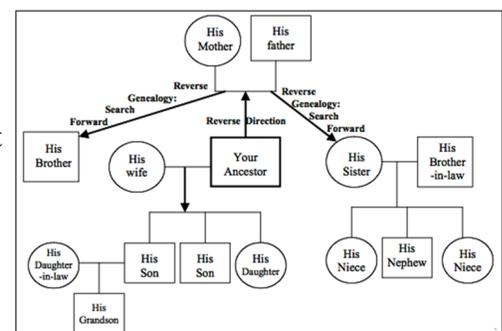
Case Study: Reverse Genealogy and Census Records *By Lisa Louise Cooke*

Several years ago, I was trying to locate my great-grandfather in the 1880 US census on microfilm without success. I found his parents and his siblings who were still living at home. Since Great-grandpa was 17 at the time, I expected to find him there, too. I searched for his future wife thinking perhaps they married younger than I thought. But she was living with her parents. Great-grandpa was nowhere to be found.

In an attempt to find him, I traced great-grandfather's father back to the 1860 census, where he was listed in the household with his parents. I noted everyone in the household. Then I systematically researched forward, locating each sibling in the 1870 and 1880 censuses.

Sure enough, in 1880, I found my then-17-year-old great-grandfather living with his uncle (his father's brother) in a neighboring town. Because of a variation in his name spelling, I probably never would've found him in online censuses.

Take a look at this picture of an ancestor's potential family "cluster." Every one of these relatives has the potential to help you make progress on re-searching that ancestor.



Salt Lake City Library: Ready, Set, Go!

© Lorine McGinnis Schulze

Are you ready for a trip to Salt Lake City Library? I just returned from a great time there so thought I'd share a few tips and suggestions.

Have a plan before you go. Decide what you want to find out. I made a list of dozens of things I wanted to look for - from a specific ships' passenger lists going to New York, to church records in Iowa to land records for great grandpa in Sullivan County New York 1830s to naturalization records for several of my ancestors in Michigan. [Check for Online Ships' Passenger Lists at <http://olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/> or for Naturalization Film numbers at <http://naturalizationrecords.com/>]

Check the online Family History Library Catalogue to find out what they have available. Make a list of the film numbers or book call numbers you need. Write it down on your plan beside each item you want to look for. That saves you time and thinking once there. After a day or two of intensive searching your brain will turn to mush. Your plan will be your salvation, because it is already thought out and organized for searching. [See the FHL Catalogue at http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp]

Pack a research bag. (Sounds obvious but on my second trip to Salt Lake City, I forgot mine, and had to use an awkward size piece of luggage) Stock it with gum, candies, pencils, pens, small ruler, colored paper for those hard-to-read microfilms, tissue, magnifying glass and aspirin! I always throw in a few granola bars for those needed breaks. There's no need to bother with large manilla envelopes for your photocopies that you are going to find, the Library sells most paper and chart supplies, all at a reasonable cost. Get something on wheels if possible. I bought a small wheely luggage rack that holds my laptop and one extra research bag, great for saving your neck and shoulders from carrying all this heavy equipment.

Take bills, not coins. You don't need coins except for the lockers, if you choose to use one. (They do come in handy when you decide to take a break and head to CrossRoads Mall for a sandwich and coffee!) The Library sells Copy Cards and these are used at the Microfilm Reader-Printers, Photocopying Machines and Computer Printout stations. All costs are low, you won't go broke making your paper copies to take home.

Choose your Hotel There is a hotel right beside the Library, so if you don't like to take shuttles or walk too far, that's the one for you. Be sure to request their Genealogy rate! I prefer the hotels further away, and I make use of the free shuttle service they provide. There's pros and cons to both - being nearby you can slip back to your hotel and have a rest in your room if you need to!

You're finally at the Library - now what? You can't reserve readers. There are hundreds on each floor so

don't panic. There are also hundreds of computer stations on each floor. The only reserves are for the scanners that burn from microfilm to CD ROM (more on that in Tip #9) Be prepared for long lines at the copy machines on the Main Floor during the busy time, and remember to follow the rules for making only a few copies at a time when others are waiting. You can keep lining up as many times as you need until you have completed your copies.

Take breaks! Take lots of short breaks, go outside, walk around Temple Square (right across the road) or sit in the little area between the Museum and the Library, and have a cold bottle of water. You can buy one in the Library Snack Room. Even though you don't want to leave at all, because you just know that great grandpa's funeral notice will be on that next microfilm screen, these short breaks will rejuvenate you and stop you from falling asleep at your reader. If you get too groggy you are apt to miss something!

Avoiding the rush I like to head for the Main floor US/CAN books area first, early in the morning before it gets too busy. Once the crowds arrive, I head to 2nd floor US/CAN microfilm and spend the rest of the day there. The busiest time seems to be between 11 am and 2 pm, so plan to arrive early.

If you feel adventurous, sign up for a half hour on one of the Library's wonderful microfilm to CD ROM machines. For \$1.50 you can buy one of their blank CDs and scan and burn microfilm pages to it, to your heart's content. It's a bit tricky but the attendants and volunteers are always happy to help. You cannot use your own CD ROM to do this, you must buy one from the Attendant Window.

You need to eat I like to leave the Library, cross the street to Temple Square and cut diagonally to the right to the next gate. Directly across that street you will see CrossRoads Mall. The food court is downstairs. You can also eat in the Library Snack Room if you don't feel like leaving the building. Take your own snack and eat in the Courtyard outside the Library, or if you feel like sitting down and being waited on, go to the restaurant that is part of the next door hotel.

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If anyone is interested in going to Salt Lake City to research check with NAGCNL Library in Madison they are taking a trip in March 2024

<https://www.nagcnl.org/event/research-trip-to-familysearch-library-in-salt-lake-city/>

Writing a Family Newsletter

As the holiday season come quickly into view many people are putting out the yearly family letter to bring relatives up to date. The yearly letter is wonderful and has lots of wonderful information in it, pictures and updated information. But, what if... you started a family newsletter to keep your family connected and up to date.

Here are a few points that I found in my travels. Hopefully this will help you with some new ideas for your family connections. You might be surprised when someone share something that you haven't seen before and it breaks down a brick wall...

Be sure to date the newsletter for future readers.

Holiday Newsletter
Volume 3, Issue 1
 12/30/2010

Baker Tribune



Zebediah and Sarah Baker, with children Elsie and Samuel (circa 1915)

Choose a straightforward title like this one, or give your newsletter a name with meaning family will instantly understand.

Including contact information makes it much easier for family members to contribute their news.

Contact us
 Baker Tribune
 PO Box 400
 Iola, WI 99999

(999) 999-9999
 Fax (999) 999-9988

fakeemail@email.com

http://newsletter.bakertribune.com

Make sure to clearly identify everyone in photos.

Let your readers know who puts the newsletter together!

Staff
Editor
 Molly Baker

Designer
 Dan Baker

Family Historian
 Fran Baker

Mascot
 Scruffy Baker

Give each article a straightforward title, and make sure the most important story has the biggest headline.

Including a memorable quote from a loved one is a fun way to reminisce about family.

Quote
 "That's too much sugar for a dime!"
 —Grandma Elsie Baker (1910-2005)

Family First!

Try to contain each story to one page—jumping to another page will lose some readers.

Family Reunion set for June 2011

It's that time of year again! The Baker Family Reunion is set for June 16-20 at Gills Landing east of Weyauwega, WI. We've got three full days of events planned, and you and your family are welcome to join in for any of it or all of it. Lunch and dinner will be family-style potlucks, with the exception of Friday evening, which will be catered. We're seeking volunteers to help with food and cleanup. If you're available, call Sally Baker or June Smith. If you remember previous years' reunions, you know the park pavilion is a great location, with easy access to fishing, ball fields and swimming. There's talk of organizing a mini softball league during the reunion. E-mail Dave Baker if you're brave and interested. Dan Baker will be running an arts and crafts table for youngsters (and the young at heart) on Friday and Saturday.

Paul Baker Returns from South America Trip

Paul Baker, a senior at Loyola University Chicago, just got back from six months in Peru, Argentina and Chile, his mother, Sandra Baker, reports. "He just had an amazing time," she says. "I got to see his pictures on Facebook while he was gone, but having him back and hearing about it in person is such a blessing!" Paul is studying economics and development at LUC, and the South America trip was part of an intensive Spanish language immersion. Paul wrote to us in an e-mail: "Living in South America was one of the most challenging things I've ever done, especially since my Spanish knowledge was minimal before I went. But I wouldn't trade the experience for anything." His mother reports Paul has one semester left of school before graduation. After, he hopes to get a master's degree.

Ancestral Mathematics

....in order to be born....

You Needed

- 2 parents
- 4 grandparents
- 8 great grand parents
- 16 second great Grandparents (great-great)
- 32 Third Great Grandparents (great-great-great)
- 64 Fourth Great Grandparents
- 128 Sixth Great Grandparents
- 256 Seventh Great Grandparents
- 512 Eight Great Grandparents
- 1,024 Ninth Great Grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations you need a total of 4,094 Ancestors over the last 400 years.

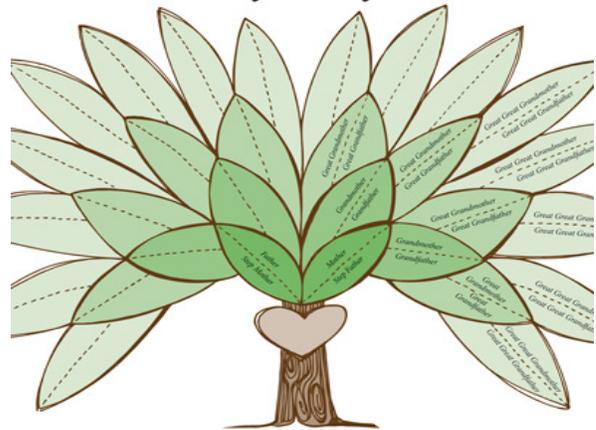
Think for a moment

- How many Struggles?
- How Many Battles?

- How Many difficulties?
- How much sadness?
- How much happiness?
- How Many Love stories?
- How many expressions of hope?

Did you ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment.

My Family



MEMBERSHIP FORM
DETACH AND MAIL WITH A CHECK FOR \$15 PAYABLE TO:
HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1565
WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI 54495-1565

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

New members only: You may have **one** free surname search if you reside outside of Wood County, WI (a \$10 value).

Surname you would like researched: _____

The membership list is published once per year in the December newsletter. We ask that you give permission for us to publish your address, telephone number, and e-mail address by responding to the following questions. **(Please clearly circle your answer; if no response is given, we will automatically publish):** I wish to have the following published in the December newsletter: my address? **Yes No**; my phone number? **Yes No**; my e-mail address? **Yes No**

Members may submit one free query per year, which will be published in the Society's newsletter in order to contact others researching the same ancestors. It should be 50 words or less, not counting the name and address of the submitter. Members and non-members may submit additional queries at the rate of 10 cents per word.

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a membership card mailed to you. Thanks.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec 16th, 2023** **Christmas Social. Games, traditions, ornament and treats (Bring cookies or other treat) not a regular meeting.**
- Jan 2024** **No Meeting**
- Feb 17th, 2024** **Getting to Know FamilySearch.org - Diantha Neinfeldt**
- March 16th 2024** **Dog Tags: They're someones history**
- April 20th, 2024** **Ho-Chunk Nation & Genealogy**
- May 18th, 2024** **Neighbors Past & Present: The Wisc German Experience –Antje Petty**
- June 15th, 2024** **Cemetery Walk**

Watch for Wayne's email about the meetings

Membership note:

**The third Saturday of the month from August through June (skipping January).
At 9:30 a.m. At McMillan Memorial Library
As a committee we have changed our meeting date and time temporarily to see if attendance would rise. We are in need of encouraging new members and activity from members who are in the Wisconsin Rapids Area.**

We would like your input. You can email, or mail our President.

Email: info@howgs.org

**U.S Mail : Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1565
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54495-1565**

Look for us on Facebook.com

Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society.

It is a now an open group so please check it out.

Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society

Chairman	Bev Peaslee
Vice Chairman	Wayne Peters
Secretary	Sue Miller & Myra Sweet
Treasurer	Tina Krummel
Trustees	Flores Gumz
3 years	Betty Pearson
2 years	Mary Moss
1 year	

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Book Purchases	Flores Gumz
Hospitality	Joyce Keehn
Indexing	Mary Peters
Library Files	Arlene Keehn
New Members	Joyce Keehn
Newsletter	Tina Krummel
Sunshine	Sue Miller
Website	Di Neinfeldt
Tech Data Admin	Ben Chitek

Wood County Roots Editor:

Tina Krummel
2520 Ranger Rd
Wisc Rapids, WI 54494
Phone: 715-325-5840
E-mail: krummtin@gmail.com

HEART O' WISCONSIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PURPOSE OF SOCIETY: To assist members and others in genealogical research and to preserve local records.

DUES: \$15 per household—one newsletter per address. Please list names of all persons joining. Due at or before 31 July. **Membership year runs from 01 August through 31 July.**

MEETINGS: Held monthly—August through June—on the Third Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the McMillan Memorial Library, 490 East Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, WI (right across the street from the Hotel Mead & Convention Center).

Wood County Roots Editor:

Tina Krummel Phone: 715-325-5840 E-mail: krummtin@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at www.howgs.org!!!