



**Madison County  
Genealogical Society,  
Box 631, Edwardsville, IL  
62025-0631**

**DUES 2022-2023:**

Indiv/Fam.....\$25.00  
Institutional .....\$25.00  
Patron.....\$35.00  
Life.....\$300.00  
Checks (USA only) payable to  
MCGS. Membership cards sent if  
SASE is enclosed with check.  
Dues are due Dec. 31, delinquent  
Jan. 31 each year.

**MCGS WEBSITE:  
sites.rootsweb.com/  
~ilmadcg**

**LIBRARY WEBSITE:  
www.edwardsvillelibrary.org**

**LIBRARY E-MAIL:  
ede@edwardsvillelibrary.org**

**OFFICERS:**  
Pres.: Robert Ridenour  
**rwidenour566@gmail.com**  
V. Pres.: Mary Westerhold  
**mtw127@gmail.com**  
Sec.: Petie Hunter  
**petie8135@att.net**  
Treas.: Ferne Ridenour  
**faridenour@gmail.com**  
Newsletter: Robert Ridenour  
**rwidenour566@gmail.com**  
Quarterly: Mary Westerhold  
**mtw127@gmail.com**  
Librarian: Mary Westerhold  
**mtw127@gmail.com**  
Researcher:



# NEWSLETTER

*Volume 42 Number 2 Summer 2022*

***DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES!***

***Dues for 2023 are now being accepted. We would very much appreciate receiving your renewal checks ASAP. Send your renewal checks to:***

***Ferne Ridenour, MCGS Treasurer  
4814 Loop Road  
Dorsey, IL 62021-1014***

***May 12, 2022 Meeting***

On May 12, 2022, Mike Slater made a presentation on ***Using Ancestry DNA to Find Missing Ancestors or Unknown Ancestors.***

Because of the many references Mike made to the displays on the computer, a transcription of the presentation without the displays would not be very valuable. The talk was interesting in that Mike discussed using Ancestry DNA to find many distant cousins of which he had had no prior knowledge. These cousins varied from war heroes to professional baseball players to convicted capitol criminals. He also found places in the family trees that showed people were not who they were supposed to be.

***Deciphering Old English Handwriting***

*[Reprinted from Genealogical.com email ad]*

Just about anyone who takes genealogy seriously is destined to face the challenge of reading original (or microfilm copies of) records written in an unfamiliar cursive style. If your research takes you back to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century, you'll encounter census records, wills, deeds, and multifarious other records that you'll strain to decipher. Records from the colonial period will elicit a double-take if you've never seen them before. You'll run into "ff" where you might expect an "f," and an "f" will actually stand for "s." The ancient abbreviation "Maps" should be read as "Mass" for Massachusetts. The letters "U" and "V," as well as "u" and "v," were used interchangeably. On the whole, the following lowercase letters are most difficult to read, especially in 17<sup>th</sup>-century documents: "c," "e," "h," "r," "s," and "t."

Once you've figured out what the letters are, you'll need to bone up on old abbreviations for terms in common usage today. For instance, "o.s.p." is short for "died without issue." "Yt" stands for "that." "Als" signifies an "alias." "D.v.m." means "died while mother was living," while "d.s.p." also means "died without issue." Did you know that "B.L.W." means bounty land warrant, or that "do" was short for "ditto, or the same as above," a notation you'll encounter repeatedly in census records?

The challenges don't end there. One has to learn to decipher numerals as well as letters. Even after you get familiar with a certain era's lettering, you may find that what was conventional in 1700 is unrecognizable 50 years earlier. Then, of course, there is the problem of individual styles of writing.

For the novice, decoding early handwriting can be an intimidating task. If you are a beginner, you may wish to get your hands on Kip Sperry's excellent handbook, *Reading Early American Handwriting*, the best tool we know of for teaching you how to read and understand the handwriting found in documents commonly used in genealogical research. This guide explains techniques for reading early American documents, provides samples of alphabets and letter forms, and defines commonly used terms and abbreviations. Perhaps best of all, the volume presents numerous examples of early American records for the reader to work with. Arranged by degree of difficulty, from the relatively easy-to-read documents of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to those of the 17<sup>th</sup>, the documents showcase examples of handwriting styles, letter forms, abbreviations, and terminology typically found in early American records. Each document – there are nearly 100 of them at various stages of complexity – appears with the author's transcription on a facing page, enabling the reader to check his/her own transcription.

---

---

### ***Ancestors Don't Just Vanish into Thin Air***

*[Reprinted from Genealogical.com email ad]*

#### **Books Covering the Feeder States**

Here is a familiar genealogical conundrum: A researcher has traced his/her ancestors from present-day California back to the Dust Bowl era in Nebraska, into Missouri just as it was achieving statehood, and finally to Indiana in the 1830s. At that point, the trail has grown cold even though legend has it that the family patriarch was a Pennsylvania patriot during the Revolution. So, how does the genealogist pick up the scent at this point?

One possibility is by studying the various migration routes our ancestors traveled to their new homes. For instance, before 1800, between Boston, Massachusetts, and Charleston, South Carolina, our forebears followed one of a score or more of tested land and/or river routes. Our hypothetical Pennsylvanian, for example, might have traversed the Southern Road, from Philadelphia to Baltimore, where he could pick up the National Road. This would have taken him into western Maryland, briefly back into Pennsylvania, and then into western Virginia (today West Virginia), before the road leveled off in Ohio and Indiana. (By the 1830s, of course, canals and railroads were beginning to compete with roads and turnpikes as the principal means of westward transportation.)

If we know the most likely routes our "lost ancestors" could have taken from the Eastern seaboard, we can begin to look for them in the so-called "feeder states" or "stop-over states," where they quite likely established quarters for a period of time—owing to reasons of topography, health, limited resources, and so forth. Western New York, for instance, was an important way station for New Englanders heading along the Great Genesee Road to Ohio, and Kentucky was an important "feeder state," for persons traversing the "Wilderness Road" to Missouri, as was Tennessee for persons intent upon Arkansas.

This strategy allows the researcher to attain proficiency in reading the documents at a natural rate of progression.

Listen to what the experts have to say about *Reading Early American Handwriting*: "The further back in time our research takes us, the more 'plain English' looks like a foreign language. That's why Sperry's 'plain English' guide to not-so-plain English writing is an absolute basic book for every genealogical shelf," says Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, FASG. According to the "National Genealogical Society Quarterly," "Reading Early American Handwriting" is a timeless reference whose value will increase as more early-American documents become available to researchers of many disciplines."

If you're planning to consult original records of the 19<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, or 17<sup>th</sup> century, or earlier, we encourage you to let *Reading Early American Handwriting* be your guide.

---

---

Since your ancestors couldn't have vanished into thin air, you might be able to pick up their trail in one of the "feeder states." The following books are crammed with genealogies and source records pertaining to inhabitants of "feeder states." We hope you find your missing ancestors in one of them!

#### ***Gateway to the West. In Two Volumes***

"Gateway to the West" had a short but spectacular life as a periodical. In slightly more than 10 years, from 1967 to 1978, it managed to cover some of the least accessible yet most important genealogical records of 76 of Ohio's 88 counties. From common pleas court records, guardianships, naturalizations, and deed abstracts to the more conventional births, marriages, deaths, cemetery records, and wills, "Gateway" offered a range of genealogical source materials unmatched by any other Ohio periodical. For this set, the principal articles, arranged under their respective counties, have been consolidated into two large volumes—each with its own index. Altogether, in some 350 articles naming more than 95,000 persons, in records ranging from Adams County to Wood County.

#### ***Genealogies of Kentucky Families***

This three-volume work, published originally in *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* and *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, and subsequently collected and reprinted by GPC with complete name indexes, references approximately 51,000 individuals. The articles contain every Bible record, every family history, and every genealogical fragment ever published in these distinguished Kentucky periodicals.

#### ***Genealogies of West Virginia Families***

This work is a consolidation of all the family history articles that appeared throughout the complete run of "The West Virginia Historical Magazine Quarterly" from 1901 to 1905. Though a rich source of West Virginia genealogical data, this short-lived periodical is very scarce and, moreover, has never before been indexed. Clearfield Company is delighted to rectify both of these shortcomings by reprinting the genealogical meat

of the magazine and by adding a complete name index of more than 5,000 entries.

### ***Sims Index to Land Grants in West Virginia***

This facsimile reprint of SIMS INDEX lists land grants that were made by Lord Fairfax prior to the creation of the Virginia Land Office in 1779, as well as grants issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia for land now located in West

Virginia and by the state of West Virginia under its first Constitution. The information contained in this exhaustive work was compiled by Edgar Sims, the State Auditor of West Virginia, from copies of land grants filed in his office. More than 50,000 entries are included, each referring to the name of the grantee, amount of acreage, location and date of grant, and grant book and page number.

---

---

## ***DNA Testing: Ethical Considerations***

***By***

***Blaine T. Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D. & Judy G. Russell, J.D., CG, CGL***

*[Reprinted from Genealogical.com email ad]*



Millions of people have voluntarily undergone DNA testing. Probably millions more would do so if they were not bothered about the privacy issues associated with DNA testing. Will the DNA results be shared with someone else without my permission? If the results indicate that I have a gene for a particular medical condition, could this be held against me by my insurance company? And so on.

Genealogists who utilize clients' or family members' DNA results in their research must also bear in mind the ethical considerations attached to such evidence. In the following article excerpted from *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*, Blaine Bettinger and Judy Russell itemize the issues surrounding DNA research and clarify the genealogist's responsibilities in that process.

Genealogical research carries with it an ethical obligation to be sensitive and discreet; all families have secrets that such research may disclose. The potential for such disclosure is so well known that every genealogical code of ethics contains some provision about protecting personal privacy. Because DNA evidence can disclose family secrets, the ethical underpinnings of DNA testing for genealogy are in many respects no different from those underpinning any genealogical research. To draw from the standards set forth by the National Genealogical Society for family historians, we are obligated to:

- respect the restrictions on sharing information that arise from the rights of another as a living private person;
- inform people who provide information about their families [as to] how it may be used, observing any conditions they impose and respecting any reservations they may express regarding the use of particular items;
- require evidence of consent before assuming that living people are agreeable to further sharing or publication of information about themselves;
- convey personal identifying information about living people—such as age, home address, genetic information, occupation or activities—only in ways approved by those concerned;
- recognize that legal rights to privacy may limit the extent to which information from publicly available sources can be further used, disseminated, or published;
- [be] sensitive to the hurt that information discovered or conclusions reached in the course of genealogical research may bring to other persons and consider that in deciding whether to share or publish such information and conclusions.

The primary ethical imperative in the sphere of genetic genealogy is informed consent by the test-taker. This imperative has two parts:

1. Only the person whose DNA is tested, or an individual with legal authority to act on the test-taker's behalf, may consent to testing; and
2. That person's consent must be informed by thorough understanding of the benefits of, and risks inherent in, DNA testing.

The limitation of consent is both a legal and ethical constraint. A duly authorized legal representative may consent on behalf of a deceased individual. A parent or legal guardian may consent on behalf of a minor. However, a grandparent may not consent on behalf of a grandchild unless the grandparent has the consent of the parents or has legal guardianship of the child.

In the absence of specific legal authority such as a court order, testing should not be done on DNA obtained from a person who has refused to undergo that testing. This limitation also requires compliance with the terms of use of the testing company. All major DNA testing companies require an express statement by the person sending in the test that the sample submitted is that of the person tested or that of a person for whom the submitter has legal authority to act.

There also exists an understanding that it is the person whose DNA is tested who owns the DNA. That person has "an inalienable right to the test results and raw data, even if someone other than the tester purchased the DNA test." A beneficiary may be designated to manage test results and/or stored DNA in the event of death or incapacity, and a test kit may be administered by anyone designated by the person tested. But the owner is always the test-taker.

When we share or write about the results of DNA testing, we must take great care to protect the identity of other living persons, unless they have expressly consented to disclosure of their results. All information such as names or usernames, email addresses, and other data that might be personally identifying should be deleted or blurred out when used in lectures or articles, or posted online.

"Always, the test-taker should know the limitations that the testing company's terms of service place on the use of test data by the company, its affiliates, the individual who has tested, and other persons who are found to be genetic matches of the test-taker. The genealogical community widely accepts that there is an ethical obligation not to identify living genetic matches and not to share DNA test results beyond the tools offered by the testing company, without specific consent. Even so, complete anonymity of test results cannot be assured, and any results published on a DNA website may be publicly available."

[*"Guidelines for Sharing Information with Others," National Genealogical Society (<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/>)*]

*NGS-Guidelines/Guidelines\_SharingInfo2016-FINAL-30Sep2018.pdf : accessed 30 April 2020).*]

Obviously, the ultimate responsibility for understanding the benefits and risks rests with the person taking the test. However, as genealogists, we must be mindful of these considerations and more, when recommending—or reporting on—the results of DNA testing.

---

---

### ***"Cluster Genealogy: Broadening the Scope"***

by

**Emily Anne Croom**

*[Reprinted from Genealogical.com email ad]*

The following article is excerpted from Mrs. Croom's book, *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research*. You will find more information about the book at the end of this article

"Cluster genealogy is the idea that ancestors did not live in a vacuum but in a cluster of relatives, neighbors, friends, and associates. Studying the history of one person naturally puts the researcher in contact with members of this group, as witnesses to each other's documents, as neighbors, as in-laws, as fraternal brothers and sisters, as business partners or clients, and so forth. Our ancestors often migrated in family groups, as church congregations, or as a group of neighbors. They often lived very close to other family members. They worshipped with, went to war with, bought land from, and were buried near friends and relatives. Although we may not know the names of this group when we begin researching a focus ancestor, we must train ourselves to look for its members.

Some researchers call this the "whole family" approach or the "big picture" approach. Regardless of the name, the principle is the same: We cannot have long-term success if we limit ourselves to a one-name/one-person approach.

When research begins on a focus ancestor, the genealogist may know nothing more than the ancestor's name, with perhaps a date and place of marriage or an entry on a census record. If applicable, after 1850, the next effort is often to find that person in the context of a family in other census records. Then we move to other basic sources—such as vital records, wills and probate files, family Bibles, church records, and newspaper obituaries—to find names, dates, places, and relationships in the life of the target ancestor. We branch out into land records, military and pension files, naturalization documents, and other sources that sometimes identify the spouse, children, birth and death information, or parents.

We compile at least two family group sheets from this information: one with the focus ancestor as a parent in a family, the other with the ancestor as a child. These two nuclear families are the beginning of, and an important part of, the

ancestor's cluster. Sometimes these charts are all we need to move back in time to the parent and grandparent generations.

When we cannot find direct statements of the events, names, dates, places, and relationships we need for our focus ancestor, we search for clues and evidence wherever we can find them to get the answers indirectly. The cluster is often the path toward these clues. Some clusters provide more help than others, and some are easier to identify than others. However, one thing is certain: a researcher has a much greater chance of success when studying the cluster than when clinging to one name as the sole subject of the research. The progress report in chapter seven and the case studies in chapters ten and eleven [of Croom's book, *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists*] are examples of the use of cluster genealogy to find answers.

### ***Why The Cluster?***

Why is the cluster approach necessary? For those who have never tried this approach or have not yet needed it to build pedigree charts, some convincing is often in order. Mostly, we use the cluster approach because we want solutions. As in mystery stories, the family and close associates may hold the key to the answer. True, some of the people you will research with this approach may not be related to you. However, if you stick stubbornly to a one-name-only approach, you may end up claiming as ancestors people not related to you.

Consider these reasons for the cluster approach:

In family papers and oral traditions, each child may remember or record different facts about a parent; we put the facts together to get a more complete picture.

1. For some ancestors, answers are simply not found in documents they themselves created. If Major Grace sells his land to Stark Brown, he may not mention that he inherited his land from his father. However, when Stark Brown sells the same land to Pleasant Luster, the deed may name Major's father as the original patentee of the land.

2. Some ancestors left few records themselves; the only way to learn about them is through records that others created. One Mississippi man "disappeared" for a few years from his researcher; then, in someone else's diary, she found that he had gone to California during the gold rush. Ancestors who owned no land, for instance, will not usually appear in the deed books, except maybe as witnesses to others' transactions. Why were they asked to be a witness? Maybe the seller was a brother-in-law, a cousin, or the nearest neighbor. The other person's transaction places the ancestor in that place at that time, alive. That one piece of information is sometimes very important.

3. When several people by the same name lived in the same county at the same time, their nuclear families and close associates are sometimes the keys to sorting them out. We want to find the right elusive ancestor, not just anybody by the same name.

### ***Who Is The Cluster?***

When you run into that old brick wall in your search, what are your options? Give up on that line and go to one likely to have more information readily available? Get on the Internet with query after query: "I need the parents, grandparents, wife's maiden name, birth date and birthplace, and names of in-laws of Donald Doe of Whatever County, Iowa. I've looked everywhere, and all I can find is that he came to Iowa as a young man just after the Civil War. Will share information?"

A query such as this says several things: (1) The descendant may have little or nothing of substance to share in return, (2) the descendant probably has not looked everywhere, and (3) the descendant may not have a clue of what to try next. That is not an uncommon predicament for researchers at some point along the way. What about the option of researching for the next of kin?

The would-be researcher in the query needs to list everything known about the ancestor and make a research plan. This time, it is cluster time. The disclaimer is that some searches do come to a real dead end before you are ready, but the good news is that many tough searches can be solved. The successful ones often involve the cluster. The cluster includes the next of kin, extended family, neighbors, friends, associates, and other people of the same surname."

The foregoing article was excerpted from Chapter Three of *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research*, by Emily Anne Croom, published by Genealogical Publishing Company.

---

---

## ***June 6, 2022 Meeting***

On June 6, 2022, Joyce Williams made a presentation on ***Family Histories of Glen Carbon***.

Because of the many references Joyce made to the displays on the computer, a transcription of the presentation without the displays would not be very valuable. The talk was interesting in that Joyce discussed the many pioneering families who built Glen Carbon.

**WHAT MAKES THE 1950 CENSUS DIFFERENT**  
**And Why You Should Search It!**  
**Presented by Mary Westerhold**  
**April 14, 2022**

The 1950 U.S. Census can be found on the National Archives Records and Administration (NARA) website:  
<https://1950census.archives.gov/>

***Overview of the Differences between the 1940 and 1950 Census***

1940 Census	1950 Census
132 Million People Counted	151 Million People Counted
40 Lines per Sheet	30 Lines per Sheet
2 Persons per sheet) asked sample questions	6 Persons per sheet asked sample questions and the 6 <sup>th</sup> person asked additional questions

***Overview of the Differences between the Release of the 1940 and 1950 Censuses by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)***

1940 Census	1950 Census
Website crashed within hours	WEBSITE DID NOT CRASH
Names were not indexed	Names were indexed and searchable

***What's New & Unique about the 1950 Census Release According to the Website <https://1950Census.archives.gov>***

- First time using optical character recognition/artificial intelligence (OCR/AI) for handwriting recognition
- First time using a transcription tool to improve the name index
- First chance to download the entire census in bulk
- First time releasing the census during a pandemic
- First time people were asked if they owned a TV

***1950 Census Records that were not retained!***

- Separate Infant Cards were completed for babies born in January, February and March 1950. Statistical data was compiled but the cards were never microfilmed and then were destroyed.
- Military personnel and their dependents overseas were counted but only used for informational purposes and not retained.
- The back side of form P1 contained information about the individuals' housing. The data was tabulated but never microfilmed.
- Agricultural schedules were completed, compiled, and the individual information was destroyed and never microfilmed.

***1950 Census Fun Facts***

- More training for enumerators – video can be viewed online
- Advertising campaign to encourage people to answer the questions – Slideshow can be viewed online
- Form P8 – Native Americans who lived on Reservations were enumerated on the standard P1 form but also on the P8 form where additional information regarding Native American names, tribes, etc., was recorded. If they did not live on a reservation, Native Americans were only enumerated on the standard P1 form.
- College and University students were enumerated where they lived most of the year, such as their dorm room, off campus apartments, etc.
- Special effort made to enumerate people who lived in hotels, military personnel in barracks in the U.S., transients, and homeless.

- Different standard census forms were used in Alaska (P82), Hawaii (P87), American Samoa (P80), Guam (P85), Panama Canal Zone (P91), Puerto Rico (P93), and the U.S. Virgin Islands (P97).
- Crew members of U.S.-flag commercial and military vessels in U.S. and territorial ports were enumerated.

### 1950 Census Enumeration Fun Facts

- Self-enumeration on “household” forms was tested in Ingham and Livingston Counties, Michigan, and Franklin County, Ohio.
- The 1950 Census was the last census where an enumerator visited most households carrying a multi-family form.

### Reasons to Search the 1950 Census

- First appearance of the Baby Boom generation in the census
- First post-WWII census snapshot
- You’ll see the names of your relatives and ancestors, where they lived and the relationships within the family.
- You’ll find out where they were living and get the actual address.
- You can help correct or add to the index. (Have you ever tried to correct a name on Ancestry.com?)



**Please** be direct with the Census-Taker!

**YOU'D BE FURNISHED BY** one of the standard Census-Taker jobs. This is tough no exception! For two months, that is done up the Census-Taker's job with 100 million more in each, that follow him or her by water. Instead, it would be to estimate the number of people in an area that's out of state.

These Census Takers and Agents are needed by communities and business in planning of both of good things like roads and playgrounds, new parks and

roads, new hospitals, better housing a better education of each citizen in telephone, electricity, gas and water and to find how Congressmen according to population changes it is much important to get the person who lives.

You too do your part by answering the Census-Taker's questions directly and honestly. These Takers and employees will do their best to tell you beforehand what kind of the questions are. Have your answers ready!

**Information You Give to the Census-Taker is STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL!**

Every American citizen should know that all personal information given to the U. S. Census is confidential under the law!

It is not available to the individual or to any other Government agency, but to the Census. (See 1950 Act in the Department of Justice and also the P. S. 11 law in privacy.)

Watch how takes the Census-act to pay you your just and promised to help you also for the future.



Like other American business firms, we believe that business has a responsibility to contribute to the public welfare. This advertisement is therefore sponsored by

NAME OF SPONSOR



**Madison County Genealogical Resources**  
**Available on [idaillinois.org](http://idaillinois.org)**

*Presented by Mary Westerhold*  
*August 18, 2022*

**CENSUS RECORDS**

- 1845 Census of Madison County, Illinois
- 1855 Census of Madison County, Illinois
- 1865 Census of Madison County, Illinois (by head of household only)

**CEMETERY INFORMATION**

- Cemeteries and Tombstone Inscriptions of Madison County, Illinois, Volume 01 through 16
- Glenwood Cemetery, Collinsville, Illinois: a preliminary study of burials, 1822-2000
- St. Joseph Cemetery, Highland, Illinois
- Madison County Genealogical Society Cemetery Listings of Madison County, Illinois, 2007

**HISTORIES AND BIOGRAPHIES**

- History of Madison County, Illinois
- A Complete Surname Index to the History of Madison County, Illinois, 1882
- Centennial History of Madison County, Illinois, and its People, 1812 to 1912 — Volumes 1 and 2
- Portrait and Biographical Record of Madison County, Illinois, 1894
- Index of Biographical Sketches, Madison County, Illinois

**HISTORIC ATLASES**

- Illustrated Encyclopedia and Atlas Map of Madison County, Illinois, 1873
- New Atlas of Madison County, State of Illinois, 1892
- Standard Atlas of Madison County, Illinois, 1906

**MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS**

- Naturalizations and Intentions of Madison County, Illinois: an Index 1816-1900
- The Stalker 1981 (Volume 1) through 2005 (Volume 25)