

RECORD OF BIRTHS, PROBATE COURT, VINTON COUNTY, OHIO, 1847-1871									
DATE	NAME	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME OF MOTHER	NAME OF FATHER	STATE OF BIRTH	NAME OF MOTHER	NAME OF FATHER
1847	William Hudson	M	1	Ohio	Elizabeth Hudson	John Hudson	Ohio	Elizabeth Hudson	John Hudson
1848	John Hudson	M	1	Ohio	Elizabeth Hudson	John Hudson	Ohio	Elizabeth Hudson	John Hudson
1849	Elizabeth Hudson	F	1	Ohio	Elizabeth Hudson	John Hudson	Ohio	Elizabeth Hudson	John Hudson
1850	John Hudson	M	1	Ohio	Elizabeth Hudson	John Hudson	Ohio	Elizabeth Hudson	John Hudson



**The West Houston Area
Genealogy Society**

The WHAGS Journal

Volume 3, Issue 1

Just The Facts

September 2022



When I received the news that Linda Hudson needed to step down from publishing the newsletter, I reluctantly volunteered for the job. Reluctant because I knew I had some big shoes to fill. Linda has provided an excellent publication over the past two years, and honestly, I'm little nervous about following in her footsteps. Taking the helm of a ship that has sailed on through smooth waters is not without risk.

But let's try it. As the new publisher, I will follow Linda's basic concept. However, I plan to use my ideas regarding format and specific content. I see the newsletter as an instrument to support the general goals of the society. I want to highlight an article or two from members that have enjoyed unique research experiences. But mostly I want to produce a tool that informs members about society happenings. I plan to ask the committee chairs, each month, to update happenings in their committee.

What is happening and what are their goals? What is happening in the Special Interest Groups?

Also, I would like to use the newsletter as a platform to alert members about upcoming events, both internal and external. And then point them to more detailed information on the website.

So, I hope you enjoy the fresh look, beginning with this edition, Volume 3 Issue 1.

Ron Ware

Read Joe Carrington's article, "A Conundrum," a light hearted story of mixed up "Joe's," confused preachers, and week long anniversary celebrations.

A Conundrum

There comes a time, in your genealogical research, when you find facts that contradict each other. I have had this problem. I come from a long line of Joes. There are/were Joe Sr., Joe Jr., Joe III, and Joe IV. Following my line of Joe's, if not careful in my research, I may

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See newsletter editor, Linda Hudson's farewell address on page 3.

Presidents Note

Due to the sudden death of Gail's father, she will be unable to submit her usual report on the state of our society. Let's all keep her and her family in our thoughts and prayers during her time of grief.

See how webmaster, Neal Scott spent his summer vacation, beginning on page 4.



**September 2022
Presents**

**Connecting Your DNA
By Bernard Meisner
More Information page 8**

**See 1950 census
review update
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find that I am married to my grandmother. My wife is married to my father, my son is married to my mother and my grandfather is married to my son's wife.

Further research may find these 4 families in many different combinations. Some trees in the genealogical world even get the pairings correct. It's like trying to get George Foreman's son's properly aligned in a family descendant chart. So, it can be difficult to correct the inconsistencies in my Joe's or even realize there are discrepancies.

But, after painstaking research I have correctly charted my Joes and their wives, I think. Now, I have another genealogy problem to resolve. Back, what seems like the beginning of time, I convinced my wife that we should get married. She agreed, but only if I handled all the paperwork. It took two years.

Now, at that time, a blood test was required. I got the required papers from the County Clerk's office and we both got tested. This was on the 18th of the month. I took the results of the test to the clerk's office and received the marriage license on the 19th.

We had 30 days to get married. We talked to the preacher at the University Baptist Church in Austin who agreed to perform the ceremony, if he could perform it from the Methodist clergy book.

Brenda said that this would be fine since she was a Methodist. The wedding date was set for the 24th of the month.

At the appointed date and time, we showed up at the church accompanied by two friends. After the ceremony the preacher and all concerned signed the license. The preacher said that he would submit it to the County Clerk's office to be registered. Then my new wife and I took the friends, who stood with us, out to dinner. We had a grand meal at Stake 'N Ale.

After receiving a copy of the marriage license, we just put it with our important papers and forgot about it. Then years later when we got the genealogy bug, we took the license out and noticed that there were some discrepancies. The preacher wrote that he had performed the ceremony on the 19th. The County Clerk stated that they had issued the license on the 22nd and that it was recorded on the 20th.

Now Brenda wants to know if we are really married and do the errors give her an "out." She has doubts that this is a legal document. And there is more. We were married the day before Thanksgiving. Now she wants to know if she can celebrate the entire Thanksgiving week as her anniversary. I told her that the first 10 years we could not afford to celebrate anything. The second 10 years we had a teen-

age daughter which brought its own responsibilities. Now after 50 years, neither of us can remember what we were going to celebrate anyway. We think that we can leave this for our daughter and future genealogist to ponder.

Joe



Joe and his bride Brenda

Our Committees at Work

Our committees have been busy during the summer. Here is an update from the Membership and Program Committees

August Membership Team Update

“Getting to Know you. Getting to know all about you. Getting to like you. Getting to hope you like me.”

Rogers and Hammerstein put it into song back in 1951. Isn't that

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Membership

what we want to do with our genealogy society? Getting to know each other and our journeys into the past.

We can do this with the wonderful programs scheduled for our Society. The speakers and member engagement throughout the year will be educational and fun.

We are off to a great start for our new program year. Since June 1st, we have had 9 new memberships and 27 renewal memberships. That's 36 total so far!

A reminder to send in your dues was emailed recently. Please consider renewing if you have not already done so. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our first program meeting, Saturday, September 17th.

Liz Philip

Your Programming Committee In Action

It's been a hot Houston summer in more than one way. The Programming team has been hard at work planning another year of interesting events. Thanks to the guidance and expert advice of longtime leader Jenny Sharrer, planning began in

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Change Happens

By Linda Hudson



A few years ago, about the time Covid hit, our society looked for different ways to educate and engage our members. Our strategy was to develop a website, Facebook page, and a newsletter. I volunteered to publish the newsletter. These initiatives helped. Unlike many genealogy societies across the country, we grew despite Covid. Our outreach began with a Facebook page, then developed an expanded website, and a newsletter. The society also began our Members Helping Members program and a DNA special interest group (SIG) which are also popular.

I reviewed several other genealogy society newsletters and tried to find columns that met the "educate and engage" criteria. With the help of dedicated and interested members, the newsletter was published and has thrived for two years now.

I have many to thank for

their contributions. One of our unsung heroes is Nancy Crane. Truly, she was the skill behind the scenes. I copied and pasted material, googled a few pictures, then she made everything an easy read. The role of an editor is the most valued skill in publishing.

If you are new to our society, navigate to our website (whags.org), and under the resources tab you will find back issues of the newsletter. You can read the research adventures and great finds of members and enjoy the excitement of their discovery. How they found distant cousins and how they became new best friends. You'll find humor and history, and hopefully, you will be inspired to reach out to your ancestry friends and make many more discoveries. You may even want to share a skill you learned about from a class, another researcher, or an article you read. Educate and engage. Invite your friends. I stepped up, not because I was an expert in anything, but because I wanted to help each of us grow. Every time I did research for newsletter articles, I grew, and hopefully the read helped you grow too.

I hope each of you will decide to write an article or message for the newsletter. You can work with Ron to establish a subject and timeframe that suits you. You have fabulous stories to share and writing those for the newsletter is a win-win. Isn't one of our goals to write about our ancestors, sto-

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Linda Hudson

ries of the family?

Joe Carrington, your stories always make me smile. If there is a research skill that you want to write about, please do so. I can't say what the newsletter committee and its new Editor, Ron Ware have in store for the future, but I'm certain your submissions will be most welcomed. You might want to serve on the Newsletter Committee, as did Ron, Gail, and Edie. Our organization benefits from your experience and ideas when you choose to share them. Just know, that no contribution is too small. We all do what we can. That is what makes us strong. My part in our newsletter was an action of love. A love for research, a love for my ancestors, a love for learning, and a love for education and engagement in the field of genealogy. My hope is you will share your love for the hobby as well.

Thanks to all of you who helped with our newsletter. I couldn't have done it without you.

With gratitude,



Some of the program committee members at work at a recent planning session

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Program Committee

early spring and we now have a committee of five members to carry out this important task. Everyone wants to hear speakers who will challenge our research efforts with new or refreshed information in thought-provoking and attention-grabbing ways. So how do we do that?

Ricky Armes, Meg Philpot, Liz Philip, Ron Ware, and Pacquitta Laverents meet together once a month where they discuss ideas and develop a program schedule to match what members expect. Each committee member volunteers to facilitate one or two programs by setting up arrangements with the speaker and distributing information about the meeting ahead of time. Sharing the responsibilities across the team helps limit the time spent by any one individual. It's also a way to get to know other WHAGS members in a fun and rewarding way.

Pacquitta

Calling All Storytellers

A quality newsletter depends upon the content in its pages. Content (articles, stories, and tips) just doesn't fall out of the sky. I depend on the members to participate. Please get involved – just a few minutes of your time – and help me make

the WHAGS Journal something that you will want to read. If you have an genealogy related idea or a story, please contact me at newsletter@whags.email.

Ron Ware



How I Spent My Summer Vacation...

By Neal Scott

It's September, and school's back in session, and we all remember having to write that first essay of the year to describe how we spent our summer vacation. This year, just as many of you did, I took a summer vacation trip or two during WHAGS' summer break. My travels though, was for pure genealogy field research.

My Mom's side of the family goes back through Tennessee, where she was born, and on to

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Resource Gems

Try these often hidden genealogical resource gems

Harris County Archives

The Harris County Archives was founded in November 2002 for the purpose of preserving and protecting the government records of Harris County, Texas. The records from 70 Harris County offices are housed in the archive. It is a gold mine of historical records.

The archives is located at 11525 Todd Street, Suite 300. For further information, call 713-274-9680, or email at archives@hctx.net.



Also, visit their website <https://www.harriscountyarchives.com/> for more detailed information.

Planning a Research Trip See Cyndi's List

Planning a research trip. Go online and check out Cyndi's list for Travel and Research at <https://www.cyndislist.com/travel/planning-a-research-trip/>.

Great tips on planning trips to several locations or any location.

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Summer Vacation

Kentucky, where both her parents were born. Her Dad's maternal line is the "Forgy" family, and it leads back to an immigrant from Northern Ireland, born in 1752, who came to the colonies with his parents in about 1765, in time for him to fight for America's independence. James B. Forgy, my 4G Grandfather, though born in Northern Ireland, his parents, or grandparents likely were Scottish and part of the large migration from Scotland to Northern Ireland in that era. But little is known about them with any certainty.

James B. Forgy is special for me in that he is my only ancestor



Quality Church of Crist. Site of the Forgy Family Reunion 2022

I know who has a state roadside historical marker in his honor!

The Forgy family settled in North Carolina. There, during the Revolution, James joined the North Carolina militia and served under General Francis Marion "The Swamp Fox." Complete

militia records have long been lost, but it's believed that he rose to the rank of Major. There are records of him referring to himself as such amongst his peers, so if he was a lesser rank, he likely wouldn't have made the claim.

In about 1780, he married a widow, Rebecca (Clements) Haws, in North Carolina, and after the war he and his family emigrated to Kentucky where he purchased land. There he built a home, established a farm, and founded the community that would take on the name "Forgytown," in Logan County (now a part of Butler County), and in the last century renamed "Quality."

James' wife Rebecca had several children from her first marriage, some of whom were later a part of the Mormon migration from Missouri to Utah. She and James had 5 children of their own. The youngest died at age 20, unmarried. The other 4 married and we know 3 of them had children.

So, the purpose of this trip to "Forgytown," was to attend a Forgy family reunion. I had found numerous articles in Newspapers.com about the annual Forgy reunions in the late 1900's. Each article would list the

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Grave marker of James Forgy. North Carolina Militia, Revolutionary War

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attendees, who had traveled the farthest, who was the oldest, etc. At the 1972 reunion, those gathered collected several items of interest and buried them in a time capsule to be unearthed in 2022. I learned about that time capsule only a few years ago when I made my first visit to Quality and saw the granite slab that covered and protected it. The slab was engraved with a description of when it was to be opened, and I added notes in my genealogy software to remind me of it as I didn't want to miss the event.

I began to search for information on the reunion almost a year ago, hindered by no contacts in the immediate area. The few Forgy descendants I had communications with didn't even know

about the time capsule. I called the closest newspaper I could find, but no luck there. Quality, Kentucky is little more than a crossroad, the only area business, a nursery. I tried calling them, but after a few attempts with no answer, I gave up.

Finally, by using Facebook I had success! After searching on several variations of Forgy, Reunion, and Time Capsule, I discovered a small group and reached out to them. Sure enough, plans were being made and I got on their communications list, which I also shared with the other Forgy descendants I knew.

Driving to Kentucky for the reunion allowed me to make

stops along the way in East Texas, and Memphis, Tennessee. Then on the way home, more stops in Mississippi and Louisiana to check out some unvisited cemeteries, or to see how my previous cleanings of family gravestones were holding up. That's a whole another story, though!

On the day of the reunion, I drove the hour from Hopkinsville to Quality, arriving just before the announced starting time of 11 am. None of my known contacts in my Forgy line were able to attend, so I wondered if I'd meet any that I didn't already know. Many Forgy family members live in the area, but those are descendants from another of James' sons.

Upon arriving, I parked on the church lawn, signed in, picked up my name tag, and took some



Neal Scott standing by the plaque honoring his ancestor, James Forgy.

photos of the church, cemetery, and the crowd. Others were doing the same. I'm something of an

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introvert among strangers, so I didn't strike up any conversations. So, I spent the time while waiting for the program to begin, taking photos of the many Forgy grave-stones, the open time capsule crypt, and several displays of family photo albums and memorabilia.

Soon the program began, welcoming visitors from near and far. It opened with a hymn, sung by a Forgy trio from Bowling Green, and awards given for oldest, youngest, and furthest traveled attendees. Google maps revealed the distance from my home to the church was 864 miles. That was only about 50 miles short of the winner who had come from Michigan.

Next was a report by a family historian who told of the life of James Forgy, creating a picture of his life. The description brought James to life in my mind's eye and made him seem so real and clearly a man of character, bravery, and industry. Using my phone, I recorded most of his talk and plan to listen to it again to transcribe notes and information for my records.

Lastly, came the opening of the time capsule. To build up the moment, the contents had not yet been shown and were covered by a large tablecloth. The speaker described the removal of the covering slab and retrieval of the time capsule. Unfortunately, water had entered the capsule over these fif-



50-Year-Old time capsule showing granite lid.

ty years since its closing, and some items were unsalvageable. Then they removed the tablecloth and invited everyone to come view the contents. Included in the items was a copy of the book, "Forgy, Forgey, and Forgie Family History" written in 1957; the program from that reunion; various family photos, newspaper clippings and mementos of folks who at-

tended. Sadly, most were water-damaged to some degree, but many remained in excellent condition. The organizers photographed the contents and continued to share pictures of everything through the Facebook page in the weeks following the reunion.

After the program, a catered

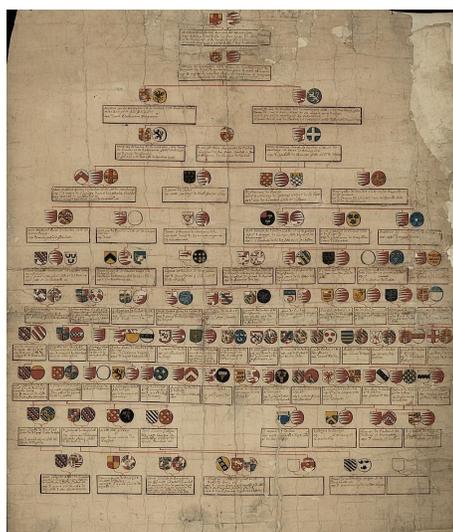
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BBQ lunch was served. I always try local BBQ wherever I travel! Every region of the country has their own twists and variations, and while nothing beats good Texas brisket for me, everyone's versions of pork, ribs, and chicken is delicious. This Kentucky BBQ was no different.

After lunch I did speak with several of the attendees, learning that I was apparently the only descendant attending from "my" branch of the Forgy tree. I also talked with the historian and learned that much of his information came from a book, "Pioneer Families of Butler County, Kentucky," which it turns out, is in Clayton Library's vast collection.

Next summer my Allen family is hosting a large gathering at its ancestral home, Allendale Farm, in Clarksville, Tennessee. You can be assured I'll attend that gathering as well!



September Program

Connecting Your DNA with Genealogy

Saturday, September 17, 2022

Bernard Meisner



Bernard is a genealogist and lecturer based in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. He began researching his family over 25 years ago and enjoys sharing lessons learned from those experiences, including his mistakes. He is past president and current parliamentarian and social media chair of the Mid-Cities Genealogical Society, and is a member of the National Genealogical Society, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the Texas State Genealogical Society.

Bernard earned a B.S. in physics/German from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and an M.S. and Ph.D in meteorology from the University of Hawaii. He has completed coursework of the National Institute of Genealogical Studies, The Texas Institute of Genealogical Research, and many courses in Irish, German, and Pennsylvania Research, Digital Research Skills, and practical Genetic Genealogy at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh.

Come meet and greet at 10:00 am. The program will start at 10:30 am. If you will be joining the program virtually via Zoom, visit our website at whags.org for the presentation link. Those joining in person join us at the Steve Radack Community Center at 18650 Clay Road. Visitors are welcome!



Engaging with WHAGS

By Jenny Sharrer and Liz Philip

We want to get to know you and where your heart is with regard to finding your roots. Are you new to searching to populate the limbs on your ancestral tree? Or have you been searching for years? Have you started writing your family's history? Why did you join WHAGS? What is it you hope your membership with us will provide?

We have members who are brand new to genealogy and, as you might expect, we have members who have been digging for their genealogical roots for many years. Some members have written books to record the results of their journey and several are assisting others with their research.

WHAGS, as an organization, is over forty years old and has come a long way from our roots when we were just a group of teachers meeting over coffee at the Bear Creek Community Center. These ladies met to share both their successes and brick walls. Some of the changes through the years have included: 1) new meeting venue, 2) new name, 3) new meeting time, 4) a newsletter, 5) a Facebook page, 6) a workshop for

Consider the past and you
shall know the future
Chinese Proverb

beginning genealogists, and 7) wonderful growth. Last year we ended the year with 74 members!

You may be asking yourself why we want to get to know you. For starters, it is important to know why you joined the organization. What specifically are you hoping to gain from your time with us? The following are a few of the questions we would love to talk with you about. Have you looked at our website...whags.org? Have you attended one of our Leadership Team meetings? Have you chatted with one of our leaders about where their interests lie and how they became engaged with maintaining WHAGS as a vibrant organization? If your answer to some or all of these questions is "yes", then you know we are an all volunteer organization. We are as active and vibrant as our volunteers support us being.

This year we are looking for 'a few good men/women'! We hope to 'engage' you and a few others in some small or large ways during the year. Our first meeting for this program year is on September 17th. Liz and Jenny will be asking for a 'First Date' with you and others to learn more about your 'heartfelt' interest in genealogy and WHAGS.

The two of them are new to a recently created team, the Engagement Team. Their role is to

WHAGS.org

Don't forget to visit our website often. It is full of information for the enjoyment and use of our members. Watch there for upcoming events. The members only page where you will find a membership roster, and much more.

Google "whags.org"

get to know you and discuss whether there is a small or large task or event you can help out with. By all means, do reach out to them and ask how they are doing. Oh yes, another change that has occurred for WHAGS, we have gone from 3 or 4 members doing all of the tasks needed to manage the organization to well over a dozen members partnering to ensure your time with us is fun, educational, and productive! We look forward to speaking with you about how you might join us to ensure we are all having a lot of success and a great time finding your roots! See you in our new year!

W



National Archives and Records Administration, 200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20408. www.archives.gov

Watch for next month's presentation announcement in the October newsletter.

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1922-23

HELLO!

I'm Lynn Palermo

Family Historian, Author,
Writing Coach



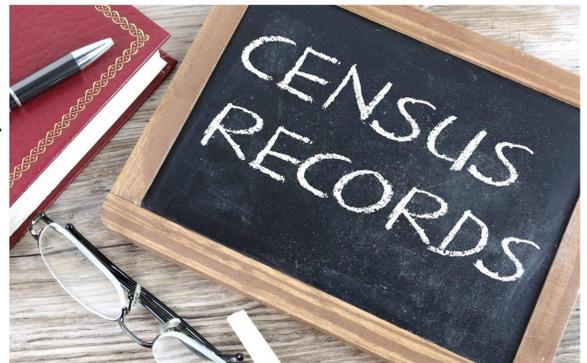
I help family historians shape their research into shareable and entertaining stories.

Coming in November genealogy family history writer and coach, Lynn Palermo, will present

“Writing Family History...Turning Research Into Sharable Stories”

1950 Census Project Update

As I'm sure you know, our society has participated in the review of the automated indexing of the 1950 U.S. Federal Census. I'm happy to report that as of July 25th, seven of our members have reviewed 1, 655 families and 5,915 individuals in 16 states and the District of Columbia.



Although our review is a relatively small contribution, every little bit helps, and I'm happy about our accomplishment.

The review of the census is nearing completion but there are several states that are yet incomplete. So, there is still time to participate. Go to the FamilySearch (familysearch.org) page for further information.

RDW