

TREE TALK

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Visit our internet site at: <http://cherokeecountygenealogy.com/index.htm>

Editor's Letter

We are once again blessed to have an article by our loyal member Richard Robertson with his story "Genealogy Bonuses" beginning on page 3. Richard lives in Austin, Texas.

Dr. Deborah L. Burkett gave me the information "Accepted Revolutionary War Service" to be accepted in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) commonly known as the DAR. This article expanded my knowledge of acceptable service to become a member of the NSDAR. I hope you will find it informative.

I had never met or heard of Boyd McNeil until I received his email about Dr. P.E. Jones of the Lone Star and Ponta area. I found the information about Dr. Jones and his family interesting and I hope you will too. Thanks, Boyd!

Thanks to James L. Douthat, Mountain Press for permission to republish his columns from the Mountain Press.

Gordon Bennett, Editor

Genealogy Bonuses by Richard Robertson

I'm not sure what the professional genealogists would call it, but there have been some real bonuses for me in my genealogy searches. I believe some call them "finds." Anyway, some bonuses or finds have come as complete surprises and others have come after considerable digging.

I took my first Lifetime Learning genealogy class about 10 years ago. I had a bonus in "my hip pocket" in that my mother worked on our family trees from 1923 until the late fifties. My initial interest in taking the class was to put the work that she had done on the computer. I was interested in getting the right software to do that. In the class I learned that there were many software programs but finally decided on PAF, Personal Ancestral File, the software of the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

I didn't really get excited about genealogy until Juanita Dodgen's Lifetime Learning classes. I took two semesters from her and really got hooked. Juanita also encouraged me to join the Austin Genealogical Society where my friend, John Miller, was president. With that membership and their activities, I have become a serious amateur genealogist.

The first bonus came when I went on the Society's bus trip to the Clayton Genealogy Library in Houston. We left Austin early in the morning, spent the day at Clayton Library, and returned that night. One of my goals was to try to find my long-lost cousin, Kellene Sory. Kellene was the daughter of my Uncle Julian and his wife Anna. They divorced in 1933 and Uncle married my Aunt Bernice. They had no children. Apparently Uncle Julian had a next to impossible time in seeing Kellene, who lived in his hometown of Jacksonville. So I had not seen Kellene since 1933. I knew that her married name was Jarratt and that she had once lived in Houston and understood that she was a widow. When I got to Clayton, I asked one of the librarians for some advice in looking for her. She gave me a number of suggestions. We both agreed on one of them--check the Houston phone book. That was the first thing I did. At the pay phone I found a listing for a "K.S. Jarratt" so I called the number. A lady answered and I asked if she was the former Kellene Sory, that I was her cousin. There was excitement on the other end of the line. Indeed it was Kellene. She asked me where I was. I told her the Clayton Library and she said "I will be



Uncle Julian, Richard, Kellene, June

August 1933

Genealogy Bonuses by Richard Robertson

there in 45 minutes. We had a great reunion, had lunch together, and repeated the whole process the following year when the genealogy society sponsored another trip to Clayton. We invited Kellene to a weekend in Dallas with my sister's family and one summer we met her in Jacksonville to learn more about our roots .. I did research in their library and collected a lot of family information. We have stayed in touch and I have been able to give her pictures and information about her dad.

Another bonus came when I was surfing the Roots Web weekly genealogy letter on my computer. Some weeks I read it closely and others I quickly scroll through it. This particular day I noticed a website for the West Harris Family. That struck a familiar chord because I had spent a couple of days in 2001 in the Virginia State Library trying to locate some of my early Harris line based upon my mother's information that took the Harrises to Richmond. I went to the new-found website (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~westharris>) and found that it was our family and traced the Harrises back to England and forward to my great great grandmother, Priscilla Harris Haltom. I contacted the webmaster and gave him information I had that was missing, including James Harris in the American Revolution, and made corrections to other information from my mother's files. The webmaster lives in North Carolina and we have maintained contact.

You can call the following a bonus or a coincidence or both. I was on a message board for the Sorys, my maternal grandfather, great-grandfather, etc, when I saw a message from Ellen Halladay saying she had numerous Sory pictures, including my great grandfather and many great uncles. I contacted her and she sent all of them to me and we began putting together our relationship and the family information each of us had. She descended from Martha Myrick Haltom who was the sister of my great grandmother, Jane Catherine Haltom Sory. The more we emailed and talked back and forth, the more interesting it became. Much of the information about the family that she had came from Abbie Burton Otto, a great aunt of hers. That rang a bell. I looked at some of my mother's letters and there was Abbie Burton Otto. Mother and Abbie were researching at the same time and corresponded from the late twenties through the late forties. I had most of the letters Abbie had written to mother and the carbon copies of the letters mother had written to Abbie. What a find! Ellen was ecstatic and I made many copies of Abbie's letters for her. Ellen lives in a town in Utah close to Salt Lake City and we continue sharing family information.

These examples are great highs for me and it is good to remember them as I sweat my brick wall, trying to find my great grandfather's parents in Tennessee or North Carolina. The genealogy folks tell me to keep plugging. Bonuses will come if you try long enough.

Richard Robertson
October 2005
\\Memoirs\\Genealogy Bonuses. wpd

Accepted Revolutionary War Service for the DAR

Accepted Revolutionary War Service

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to preserve the memory and spirit of those who contributed to securing American independence. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership.

In applying for DAR membership, women must document their lineage back to an ancestor who aided the cause of American independence. These efforts may come through military, civil or patriotic service and must occur during the period between 19 April 1775 (Battle of Lexington) and 26 November 1783 (withdrawal of British Troops from New York).

The National Society accepts service as follows:

- **Signers of the Declaration of Independence**
- **Military Service**, such as participation in:
 - Army and Navy of the Continental Establishment
 - State Navy
 - State and Local Militia
 - Privateers
 - Military or Naval Service performed by French nationals in the American theater of war
- **Civil Service**, under authority of Provisional or new State Governments: State Officials, County and Town Officials (Town Clerk, Selectman, Juror, Town Treasurer, Judge, Sheriff, Constable, Jailer, Surveyor of Highways, Justice of the Peace, etc.)

Accepted Revolutionary War Service for the DAR

- **Patriotic Service**, which includes:

Members of the Continental Congress, State Conventions, and Assemblies

Membership in committees made necessary by the War, including service on committees which furthered the cause of the Colonies from April 1774, such as Committees of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety, committees to care for soldier's families, etc.

Signer of Oath of Fidelity and Support, Oath of Allegiance, etc.

Members of the Boston Tea Party

Signers of Petitions acknowledge the right of the new provincial and/or state government to represent the people. In addition, the content and wording of the petition must clearly demonstrate loyalty to the cause of American independence. Petitions regarding religious issues do not qualify.

Defenders of Forts and Stations: Individuals who lived on the frontier, from the Great Northern Lakes to Georgia, who are documented as having actively defended the western frontiers against British forces and their allies, the Indians.

Doctors, nurses, and others rendering aid to the wounded (other than their immediate families)

Ministers who gave patriotic sermons and encouraged patriotic activity

Furnishing a substitute for military service

Prisoners of war or refugees from occupying forces

Prisoners on the British ship Old Jersey or other prison ships

Service in the Spanish Troops under Galvez or the Louisiana Militia after 24 December 1776

Accepted Revolutionay War Service for the DAR

Service performed by French nationals within the colonies or in Europe in support of the American cause

Those who rendered material aid, in Spanish America, by supplying cattle for Galvez's forces after 24 December 1776

Those who applied in Virginia for Certificates of Rights to land for settlement and those who were entitled to and were granted preemption rights

Those who took the Oath of Fidelity to the Commonwealth of Virginia from October 1779 to 26 November 1783

Those who rendered material aid and supported the cause of American Independence by furnishing supplies, with or without remuneration, loaning money and/or providing munitions. Some states enacted special tax laws to raise money for supplies. Payment of these "supply" taxes is considered patriotic service.

The National Society reserves the right to determine the acceptability of all service and proof thereof.

To get started on your genealogy search, visit the **DAR Genealogy** section of the website.

Dr. Pearl Elzie "P. E." Jones**From:** Boyd McNeil <boydmcneil@frontier.com>**Sent:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 12:11 PM**To:** ccgs@suddenlink.net**Subject:** Cherokee County

Hi Gordon,

I'll start by saying I'm not related to any of the folks in the following information. My dad's brother married a Texas girl and I'm researching her family for my cousins. Aunt Ann was a descendant of William Daniel Little, through his son Jason Bryant "J.B." Little. I am currently working on a Liles branch of the Little family, through Jason Bryant Little's sister Midian Elizabeth Little.

I have some obituaries obtained from Newspapers.com and an interesting article about Dr. Pearl Elzie "P. E." Jones that you might like to post on the Cherokee County GenWeb page.

There is a printing error in the original newspaper that left a blank space. I've added in what I believe was missing and I put it in ().

From Newspapers.com

The Tyler Courier-Times

(Tyler, Texas)

11 Oct 1953, Sun Page 29

IN 53 YEARS

Ponta Doctor Has Delivered More Than 3,000 Etex Babies

By PHIL DIBERT

Courier-Times-Telegraph East Texas Editor

Ponta, Oct. 10. - More than 3000 Cherokee County men,, women and children can thank a veteran white-haired "country doctor of this little community for their entrance on the world scene.

That's how many babies Dr. P. E. Jones has delivered in his 53 years of rural practice as a general, practitioner. that rapidly vanishing species of medico.

Like thousands of his colleagues in medicine, Dr. Jones has been the enduring victim (of) slow-paying clients. But D(r). Jones believes one of his patient(s h)olds the record for slow pay. (He) explains this in his own w(o)rds: "One cold, rainy night, a young fellow came to the house and asked me to drive to Reklaw and deliver his wife's baby. Well, sir, I did. The baby was a girl. The father told me he had no money to pay me but would pay me as soon as he was able to.

Dr. Pearl Elzie “P. E.” Jones

"Well, that man moved away from Reklaw not long afterwards and was gone three-four years. He came back and located at Gallatin. Meanwhile his daughter, the one I delivered, grew up and married and moved near Lone Star where I lived then. That spring she had a baby and I delivered it.

"That summer I drove Into Ponta and there was that man who still owed me for delivering that first baby. He was a tomato--grower now and had done all right. He called me over to him. 'Say, Doc,' he said, 'I owe you for delivering a baby!' And 'then he paid me."

Dr. Jones said he has delivered "many a child for \$10" and was lucky to get that much sometimes.

Dr. Jones, now 72 and suffering from a bout with arthritis (he carries a cane these days), was born in the Lone Star community near Ponta. His father was in the furnishing business for many years until the T&NO Railroad came through and then he moved to Jacksonville. Young Jones passed the state board examination for the practice of medicine so he would be able to practice while attending medical school. (That was permissible in those days). Then he enrolled in Barnes Medical College at St. Louis, Mo., and graduated in 1905. His framed diploma, complete with photographs of the graduates, still hangs in his office at Ponta.

He practiced at Lone Star until 1913 when he was appointed by Gov. O. B. Colquitt physician and surgeon at Rusk State Penitentiary. At that time the penitentiary had 2000 prisoners and the young doctor had his hands full attending to their physical welfare.

"We had a pretty fair hospital, though," he says, reminiscing.

After Gov. Colquitt's term of office expired, Dr. Jones resumed his practice at Lone Star. Until he bought his first automobile, the doctor made his calls by horse and buggy in all kinds of weather and over almost impassable roads. He always used two horses.

"Sometimes the roads would get so muddy and rough the doubletrees would break," he recalls. "But somehow. I'd always get through."

The most rugged period of Dr. Jones' career, he says, was the terrible flu epidemic of 1918, which raged across the nation like a prairie fire. Whole families were wiped out by the lethal disease, believed to have been brought from overseas by returning World War I veterans. Dr. Jones, like other doctors throughout the country, worked around the clock tending to flu victims.

"I hardly took off my shoes for several weeks, I was that busy," he says. "Doctors were losing cases all around me and I began to swell my chest, thinking I knew something about how to treat flu. Then, all of a sudden. I lost five cases in two weeks. It sure took all the wind out of my sails.

"I took the flu myself on a Thursday. Went to bed and stayed there till Sunday. Got a call to see a woman that afternoon. She died of the flu that night."

Dr. Pearl Elzie “P. E.” Jones

In those days, says Dr. Jones, they didn't "know a thing" about treating flu except to handle the symptoms as they came along and hope for the best. Another often fatal disease was pneumonia. The crisis usually came about the eighth or ninth day and then the patient either lived or died, according to his natural resistance. If he passed the crisis, he usually survived.

Another malady which plagued East Texans years ago was malaria. "Sanitary conditions in those days were terrible," Dr. Jones says. "There were no screens for windows or doors, no proper sewage disposal and no powerful medicines like we have today. I can remember starting out in the morning on a call and never knowing when I would get home that evening. Folks would leave word at the house where I was going to come see them when I was finished there. Often I'd have to go from house to house on calls all day long."

How did Dr. Jones get into the medical profession? "Just took a fancy to it," he says. That's the only reason I can think of."

In 1942 he was appointed medical director and chief medical examiner for the Consolidated Steel Corporation's shipbuilding division at Orange, Texas. He served in that capacity for four years.

Dr. Jones is a big man six feet and 200 pounds and there's a rugged, enduring look about his ruddy features, as though the weather and work of more than a half-century have been etched in every line of his face. His hair is cotton-white and his eyes an intense; piercing blue, combining clinical shrewdness with mellowed kindness.

His practice these days is still active he's the only doctor in this vicinity although he makes no more night calls because of his physical condition. He thinks today's specialized medicine is "all right, but works a hardship on country people," since there are so few general practitioners.

His hobby is registered cattle; He has more than 100 head of Herefords on pasture between Ponta and New Summerfield. But his chief interest is still human beings and their ailments.

Dr. Pearl Elzie “P. E.” Jones

Dr. Jones' Obituary:

From Newspapers.com

Tyler Morning Telegraph

(Tyler, Texas)

28 May 1964, Thu Page 7

Dr. P. E. Jones

JACKSONVILLE (Spl) - Funeral, services for. Dr. Pearl Elcie Jones, 82, Ponta. will be held Friday at 4 p.m. in the chapel of Thompson-Elliott Funeral Home with the Rev. A. E. O'Conner officiating.

Masonic graveside rites and burial will be in the Jacksonville city cemetery.

Dr. Jones, one of the pioneer physicians in Cherokee County, died Wednesday about 8 a.m. in a Jacksonville hospital following a brief illness.

A native and lifetime resident of Cherokee County, he was a practicing physician for many years in the Lone Star community.

He graduated from the Barnes Medical College of St. Louis in 1905 and returned to his home community to practice medicine. However, he previously had practiced medicine for five years in the community after passing the state board examination to practice while attending medical college, a procedure that was permitted at that time.

Gov. O. B. Colquit appointed Dr. Jones as physician of the Rusk State Penitentiary in 1913 and he held this position for several years.

In recent years, Dr. Jones had retired from the practice of medicine and had devoted his time to his Ponta farm.

Survivors include his widow. Mrs. Lorena Jones, Ponta; and one daughter-in-law, Mrs. Virgie Jones, Sacul.

Dr. Jones was twice married, I didn't find an obituary for his first wife, Armer V. Pierce Jones. They divorced sometime before the 1930 census. Dr. Jones and Armer had one son, Loris S. Jones.

Loris and Virgie Jones

Dr. Jones was twice married, I didn't find an obituary for his first wife, Armer V. Pierce Jones. They divorced sometime before the 1930 census. Dr. Jones and Armer had one son, Loris S. Jones.

Loris Jones obituary:

From Newspapers.com

Tyler Morning Telegraph

(Tyler, Texas)

22 Feb 1956, Wed Page 5

Loris S. Jones Rites Wednesday

JACKSONVILLE, (Spl.) - Funeral services for Loris S. Jones will be held Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. in Gragard - Spraggins - Swofford Funeral Chapel.

The Rev. A. E. O'Conner, Dallas, will officiate and burial will be in Douglas Cemetery near Alto with Masonic graveside rites.

Mr. Jones, 53, died Monday at 1:50 p.m. in a Woodville hospital.

Survivors are his widow and his father, Dr. P. E. Jones of Ponta.

Mr. Jones was born at Lone Star and had lived in Cherokee County most of his life. He had been associated with the State Livestock Sanitary Commission for 30 years and was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Ponta.

Loris married Virgie Wisener, they had no children.

Virgie Wisener Jones obituary:

From Newspapers.com

Tyler Morning Telegraph

(Tyler, Texas)

07 May 1993, Fri Page 6

Virgie Wisener Jones

NACOGDOCHES - Services for Virgie Wisener Jones, 90, Nacogdoches, are scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday at the Cason Monk-Metcalf Funeral Home Sunset Chapel with the Rev. Billie Thomas officiating.

Burial will be in Douglass Cemetery, Nacogdoches County.

Mrs. Jones died Wednesday in a Nacogdoches hospital.

She was born June 1, 1902, in Nacogdoches to W.M. Wisener and Nettie Ellen Rightmer, and lived most of her life in Nacogdoches.. Mrs. Jones was a homemaker and a Baptist.

Mrs. Jones was preceded in death by her husband, Loris S. Jones, April 20, 1956.

Survivors include a brother, Mack Wisener, Nacogdoches; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Nephews will serve as pallbearers. Family will receive friends 6-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Lorene Liles Jones

On 8 July 1933 Dr. Jones married Lorene Liles, a daughter of Jeremiah "Jerry" and his wife Lula Pennington Liles.

Lorene Liles Jones obituary:

From Newspapers.com

Tyler Morning Telegraph

(Tyler, Texas)

25 Aug 1987, Tue Page 8

Mrs. Lorene Jones

PONTA - Services for Mrs. Lorene Jones, 78, Ponta, are scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday in Renfro Memorial chapel in Boren-Conner Funeral Home in Jacksonville with the Rev. Jack Jeter officiating.

Burial will be in City Cemetery in Jacksonville.

Mrs. Jones died Sunday in a Jacksonville nursing home after a lengthy illness.

She was born Nov. 10, 1908, in Texarkana, and had lived most of her life in the Ponta area. She was a retired Licensed Vocational Nurse in Nan Travis Hospital and was a member of Home Demonstration Club where she was very active. She was also active in WMU where she was a member of Ponta Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. P.E. Jones.

Survivors include a sister, Mrs. Elnora Simmang, Bryan; eight nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Joe Jackson, Terry R. Perkins, Paul Chupp, Ronnie Wooten, Clavis Greenwood, B.R. Darby.

Used by permission of Boyd McNeil III, October 15, 2020.

Surprise!! Surprise!! Surprise!! Census Findings

By James L Douthat, Mountain Press

Gomer Pyle is famous for saying this, but it is really true when you take a second look at all of the Federal Census records. I have written about the census many times in prior newsletters but as the New Year begins, it is time to revisit some of the minor points that you might have missed in your research. Hidden in each of the Federal Census issues, there are a few subtle points that are often overlooked. Let's look at a few of these.

1790 Census - This is the most simple of all the census, therefore, little is to be overlooked. You just have to remember that there were only two major points made in these census of the Thirteen Original Colonies. The two categories were "16 & under" and "16 and over" for the whites, slaves and other freed persons. We can, therefore, deduct that the one number are for adults and the other are for children. Keep track of the numbers until later census.

1800/1810 Census - Now begins a new category for certain ones in the family, "16-25". This age is very important to the United States at this time as this is their supply of fighting men in the colonies. In 1800, the United States only had about 1,000 men in military service as they depended on the militia for protection of the frontiers and established colonies.

1820 Census - Two notes are made in these two census of interest, "foreigner not naturalized" and "occupation". The first one can indicate that the person for whom it is listed or someone in the household is just coming to this country. Make note for the 1850 census to give some indicate of their place of birth. Note the occupation also refers to someone in the household and this will become apparent in later census.

1830 Census - In this census, there were instructions to note those who were "deaf & dumb under 14", those 14-25 as well as those over 25. In addition they ask for those "who are blind" and "aliens - foreigners not naturalized". These notes do not refer to just the head of households, but anyone within that house. Make a note that there will be someone in the household that falls into these categories. Later census will indicate which individual is in that area and might explain why a child remains at home all of their life.

1840 Census - The most ignored and most underused Census in the lot. The problem with this census is it is recorded on two pages and page two is just a series of marks. It does take a little time to transcribe this page with the page one of names and ages, but it is well worth the time and effort. On page two you find the slaves and freed colored set apart into age groups just like the whites. There is the category of "occupations" with a number of different ones in broad categories, i.e. mining, agriculture, commerce, manufacturing and trade, navigation on the ocean, navigation on canals, lakes and rivers. It is always good to see these folks and their occupations. However, you need to be careful here as always. I was transcribing one for Wythe County, Virginia and found one man listed as "navigation on the ocean". If you know your Virginia maps, you know that Wythe County is about 400 miles from the ocean. He could have been a sea captain who has retired and moved west, but as I remember the age he was only about 30-40 years old. Even in those days with the short life span this is too young to retire. Another category is given as "learned professions and engineers". I feel that this should read - learned - professions - engineers. The next list is very important as here is given "name and ages of military pensioners". The two wars up to this time are the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. With the age, you can determine from which war they have received a pension. They did not indicate the persons that fought in the war, but never received a pension. This latter is a much larger list. Following the pensioners are marks for "cannot read or write", "blind" and "idiotic". Remember these were not professionals to determine either of these cases. Mark these down with an open mind. Finally, there are several columns for "teachers - students" and also for those who taught schools with private pay and those who were paid by the county.

Surprise!! Surprise!! Surprise!! Census Findings

1850 Census - From the “least used” to the “most used” census in the collection we make our way to the 1850 Census as the last in this discourse. Beyond the name, age and sex comes some more interesting notes as “occupation”. Does this compare with the 1840 Census? Now do they own property and does it have a value? Great time now to look at Deed Books and Survey Books to see where the land is located. From whom did he purchase the land and to whom did he sell that land? See how a small little note can lead you in all kinds of directions? If he had land, then he probably made a will! It never ends. The next column is “place of birth”. Do you suspect them as being “alien” from 1840? Does this match? Go back to the 1840 and double check the ages for the alien since it might have been a parent living in the household earlier or even yet the parent could have had the same name and has since died and the son of that name is now being listed as head of household. Then there is a space for one “married within the last 12 months”. Oh boy, look closely at the six children. Note their ages. Could this have been a second or even third marriage? There are also notes on those over 20 years old who cannot read and write, blind, deaf, insane, idiotic, pauper or convicts. In transcribing the 1850 Marion County, Tennessee census a number of years ago, there were notes that baffled me for a long time. Having written a book on the individuals of Sequatchie Valley, I noted some of the Marion County persons were “Methodist” in their religious preference. In the Census, they were listed as “M”. Others were listed as “B”, “C”, etc. Therefore, I concluded that this mean that some were Methodist, others Baptist or Catholic, etc. So far no one has challenged me on this summation.

Surprise!! Surprise!! Surprise!! Hopefully you will find tidbits you did not know existed and help make your ancestors come more alive. Oh, what fun genealogical research can be if you just take a few extra minutes to understand what is there and what you can do with the little tidbits found in the pages of the Census. Go and look for those Surprises!!!

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Also see: www/SouthernGenealogyBooks.com

Death Records by James L Douthat, Mountain Press

Many times in our genealogical research, we are trying to find the death records of one or more of our ancestors. This can be a daunting task as many of these items were never recorded. Most states did not start recording death certificates until after 1912 while a few states began as early as 1908. If your research goes back into Virginia/West Virginia/Kentucky, you will find that these three states requested the county court clerks have a book for "Deaths" beginning in 1853. The recording of the births or deaths was on a volunteer basis, but citizens were urged to provide these records. If you are lucky enough to find one of your ancestors in these records, there is a gold mine of information with parents, and sometimes grandparents listed, the locations of where the family was living at the time and the date of the birth/death. However, it is rare to find this information for your research.

To pin down the death of our ancestors, the best source for the information is the family Bible. While it is the best source, it is sometimes the hardest source to find. There was usually only one Bible and tracking it down can be difficult. In my family, I knew there was a Bible and I traced it down to a line of the family that had gone extinct by the early 1900s and then we lost track of the Bible. The last we knew, it was in a bank vault somewhere in west Tennessee. My grandmother had the contents of the names, dates, etc. of some, but not directly from the Bible. One day I received an email from a fellow in New England concerning a family Bible he had but knew nothing about, except that it contained "Douthat" names in it. He scanned the pages and sent them to me. How amazing to find the Bible after forty years of looking!

To be of help, the Tennessee State D.A.R. gathered Bible records a couple of years ago and made available a huge index of the names and the images of the original pages with a transcription of those pages. This is one of the finest collections on a state basis that I have seen. There are Bibles from every corner of the state and beyond as the members searched out their local areas for the records. Many thanks go out to these ladies for their tireless efforts in preserving the Bible records.

Another source of death data can be found in newspapers. Many of the early papers have been microfilmed especially by the journalism department of the state universities and the state archives. You can check with your local genealogical library as to the source for the area you are looking into for your research. The typical obituary is a late entry into the newspaper world, but the death of local citizens is nothing new, especially if the individual had some local significances.

Don't forget the local funeral home records. Most of them have their records back to the beginning of their business. In many cases, one funeral home bought out another older one and may have the older records as well.

Many cemeteries have their own records located in an office somewhere and you don't have to spend days walking from grave to grave. In those states where the W.P.A. program included cataloging of cemeteries, this work was done in the late 1930s. These records are especially helpful when there was only a funeral home marker on the grave. Since these markers have probably been lost or destroyed since the 1930s, you have a record of the information. Keep in mind that in the case of small older cemeteries, the whole cemetery could now be lost.

Military pension files often give information on the death of the soldier. When the widow applied for a pension, she generally had to prove her marriage to the soldier and when he served and when he died. This type of information helps to fill in a lot of blanks in your history of the family. In the case of one of wife's ancestors, the widow received as little as \$8.00 per month as a pension yet they still had information on the family. He was in the "Cherokee War", which was not a war at all, but only the guard action in the removal west of the Cherokee. Her application gave the family history a real boost with facts that were nowhere else to be found.

Just remember that most deaths are recorded after the fact. This means that different persons might be giving the information and their memory might not be "right on target". If you find that you have different dates, keep both until you can verify which is more likely to be correct. You may never pin the exact date down, but you can only do your best.

Happy Hunting!

GENEALOGY AND THE WEATHER by James L. Douthat, Mountain Press

The weather!!! This is a subject that everyone has discussed at length with the result being that there is nothing that we can do about it but live with it. In all the years I have been doing research into various families from generations to generations, I have never heard anyone talk about the effects of the weather on our history. To my knowledge, there has never been a class on the weather's role in genealogy in all the hundreds of workshops I have attended across the United States. But it really does have a cause and effect on our families.

My grandmother Douthat was a head nurse in the nursery of our local hospital for over thirty years. She always said that the full moon produced a rush of babies to be born. She depended on that fact to increase her staff for the week after a full moon and she said it never failed to produce a rush of babies to be born. Do you have family born on a full moon? It would be interesting to research it out. There are plenty of charts to give the date of the full moons for several centuries back in history.

Then there was the year without a summer. This was in 1816 as a matter of fact. In that year, especially in the New England and Atlantic area of Canada, the earth's temperature dropped by only one degree on the average but that was enough to cause all kinds of problems. It seems that there was widespread snow in July in that area as well as frost and freezing weather all across the region from early May until August. This killed crops, animals, and mass starvation was rampant across the whole of the area. In reading many of the court records, newspapers, and private diaries this was well documented for that year.

The cause was the 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora in the Dutch East Indies, the largest eruption in at least 1,300 years. The earth had started in the 14th century to cool down which is labeled "Little Ice Age". All of this more than half a world away, but it was felt around the world for a long time. To think it was due to just one degree fall in average temperature.

In Europe the drop of one degree at a time that the whole of Europe as recovering from the Napoleonic Wars which lead to food riots in the United Kingdom and France. Food was stolen as if it was gold, either steal or starve seemed to be the motto of the day. A study of the Switzerland area showed that deaths doubled in that year over their average.

Now the cause might be well known, but what of the results? The biggest result is that many hundreds began to move around. In New England people migrated south and west to find food as their main quest. In Europe, people began to try to get to North America where they felt there was hope. In events like this you can expect to notice that you have ancestors that are in one place for several generations and suddenly they are in another. It is a fact that people do not stay where they cannot provide for their families.

In Europe, the lack of oats for horses inspired German inventor Karl von Drais to begin to research for ways of the horseless transportation. He invented the "velocipede" or as we know it as a bicycle.

The weather is still a subject that we all discuss and still can do nothing about it. We just need to understand the cause/effect of it in the lives of our ancestors. For example, we know that a large number of our ancestors were in the great land rush into the middle part of the country and then suddenly they were in all directions - north, south, west, and east. This was the results of the "dust storms" that wiped out all of crops and farming in the middle part of the United States in the 1930s. The Dust Bowl was a very real area and a place most did not want to stay at the time and so they moved where the dust did not blow.

When you are trying to follow your ancestors around the world, don't fail to check on the climate where they have been. You might get a clue as to where they might have gone. Weather is really important on the movement of our ancestors.

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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