

THE HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

LINN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



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HEADSTONES OF HISTORY

CAPI LYNN Statesman Journal, August 5, 2003

Prize-winning gardener showed pluck



Florence Wolf

FALLS CITY— Florence Wolf would be aghast to see the dandelions, weeds and sun-scorched grass.

This unkempt hillside cemetery is no place for a champion gardener.

Wolf is renowned for the prize-winning flowers and vegetables she grew in Polk County in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

With the Oregon State Fair a little more than two weeks away, and amateurs and professionals preparing their floral and garden exhibits, it seems fitting to pay tribute to one of their pioneers.

“She won a lot of ribbons, and some of them were the big ribbons,” said Erma Ferguson, indicating the size of a saucer with her hands. “I don’t have any idea what happened to those.”

Ferguson is Wolf’s granddaughter. She lives in Falls City, just down the road from a house where Wolf once lived.

“She had nothing in her yard but flowers,” Ferguson said. “It was just one big bouquet of flowers.”

“She was always the person to beat in county and state fair competitions,” local historian Arlie Holt said.

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**MEETING: 1 P.M.
AUGUST 7 , 2004.**

**ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY.
WAVERLY BRANCH**

**PROGRAM: “History of Albany Newspapers”,
by Hasso Hering, Albany Democrat-Herald**

HOST: Opal Graber & Carol Langley

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CAPI LYNN / Statesman Journal
Florence Wolf's headstone at Upper Falls City Cemetery

Wolf moved into town after the house on her nearby ranch was destroyed by fire.

A local newspaper reported April 12, 1928, that she had "lost a piano, phonograph, a collection of 150 records, a thousand stereoptican pictures and a lifetime collection of other valuables ..."

Part of her collection of flower and garden seeds and bulbs went up in smoke. Some dahlia tubers and gladiola bulbs were spared because they had been stored outside.

Although Wolf has been described as a cultivated woman, she also was known for her grit.

Holt tells a story of Wolf driving her horse and buggy with the body of her dead husband in the back. She presumably was taking him for burial when she stopped to visit folks along the way.

"That's Wolf back there," she said matter-of-factly.

"Those pictures of her with all the flowers at the fair," Ferguson said, "you would have thought she was some prima donna."

After her ranch house burned, Wolf continued to work the land despite the distance.

"She used to walk clear up to her ranch," Ferguson said, estimating it was about four miles from town. "She would bring back baskets of veggies and fruit."

Some of Ferguson's fondest memories of her grandmother are of visiting her house in the wintertime and eating grapes and apples. She also remembers riding in Wolf's buggy, pulled by a horse named Dolly.

Even as a young girl — Ferguson was 13 when her grandmother died — she appreciated the beauty of her gardens.

"Every few rows of vegetables, she had a row of flowers," Ferguson said.

For years, Wolf was in charge of Polk County's exhibit at the state fair. According to old news clippings, Polk won the distinction of being named "Blue Ribbon County" in 1903 and 1904.

A photograph of her sitting in an elegant wicker chair with a first-place ribbon pinned on her dark dress and flowers draped across her lap and feet makes her look like royalty.

It shows just how big a deal it was during her era to win an agriculture prize at the state fair, much more so than today.

"Let's face it, our economy then was agriculture," Holt said. "In some ways, it was almost more important than logging."

Wolf came to Oregon with her family in 1853, when she was 3. They came by wagon train and were on the trail for six months, a journey Wolf later wrote this about:

"We were very much of the time in fear of Indians and some times our food supply was very low, and we were on the verge of starvation. But for all our hardships we finally landed in Salem, worn and weary, but happy to be at our journey's end. Father started with six oxen, a horse and a cow, but got through with only two oxen and the horse."

The family settled in Eola Hills, about five miles west of Salem. Her father, William Ruble, had a gristmill and a farm.

The Rubles later owned much of the land where Falls City would be established. Ferguson's mobile home sits today on a piece of that property.

Wolf married three times and divorced twice. She had at least five children, including Belle, Ferguson's mother.

Like many families, Wolf's had a dark secret.

"Somebody in the family got hung, I remember them talking about that," Ferguson said.

His name was Frank Garrison, and he was Wolf's son by a previous marriage. He was executed Dec. 13, 1912, for the murder of a Coos County man.

Holt said Garrison was one of the last people to be hung in Oregon before the state adopted anti-hanging laws.

Despite having a criminal for a son, Wolf was well-

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respected in the Falls City area and in all of Polk County.

Holt said she lobbied for what the town still needs today — a major road to the coast — around the time when Falls City was incorporated in 1893.

“She was really a mover and a shaker in this town, one of the few women active in government,” Holt said. “If I had to do a biography of one woman in Polk County, I’d do her.”

Wolf was about a month shy of her 90th birthday when she died of influenza in 1939.

She was interred at Old, or Upper, Falls City Cemetery. The hillside resting place may not be suitable for a champion gardener, but the picturesque view of the land she once tended below is befitting.

Florence Wolf
Born: Jan. 6, 1849.
Died: Dec. 1, 1939.

Interred: At the far end of Upper Falls City Cemetery, which is about nine miles southwest of Dallas. The cemetery is located off Falls City Road, just before you enter town. The gravel road to the hillside area is unmarked.

Descendants: Four living grandchildren: Erma Ferguson of Falls City, Vesta DeLaney of Salem, EvaBelle Seymour of Dallas and Viola Goodyard of Springfield.

If you have an idea for Headstones of History, please contact reporter Capi Lynn at (503) 399-6710.

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FUTURE LIST OF PROJECTS

By LGS member Linda Ellsworth

This is a list of projects that I've compiled that members could work on in coming year. Some would be short term but some would be long term. Please feel free to add projects and/or comment on those that I have Listed at our August meeting. Linda

1. 1890 census reconstruction project: extracting from DLC's; then reconcile the data to determine if the person was living in Linn Co. in 1890.
2. Index Linn Co. newspapers after they have been digitalized.
3. List research resources for Albany and Linn Co. to be used by volunteers.
4. Enter names from Willamette Memorial Cemetery/ Twin Oaks Cemetery in to cemetery database.
5. Consolidate obit indexes from individual volumes into Master Index.
6. Index Albany high school yearbooks in our collection.

7. List books in Sherman Pompey's Collection.

8. Organize and list our collection of microfiche and microfilm.

9. Create form for accepting gifts with a receipt to be given to the donor.

10. Create a database of magazine holdings.

11. Prepare a periodical checklist for tracking arrival of magazines and newsletters.

12. Compile serial numbers of computers/monitors and other individual pieces of electronic equipment.

13. Inventory collection.

14. Compile master index of WPA interviews from "Pioneer Stories of Linn Co."

Please contact Linda Ellsworth if you can help out in any of these projects.

50/50 Raffle

The 50/50 Raffle will be at the August meeting.

Those members who have not turned in your raffle stubs and money, please do so at the library or at the Saturday August 7th meeting. We do not want anyone left out for the chance of winning. Thank You

A Summer Reading List

– George G. Morgan

Each year about this time I come up with a list of some of the better books I've come across in the last few months that I think you might enjoy reading when you may have some leisure time. Maybe you're lucky enough to have a porch swing or a hammock to relax in, or maybe you slather yourself with SPF 40 sunscreen and lounge by the pool or on the beach. Perhaps you just curl up on the sofa during the heat of the day, cooled by an oscillating fan or the air conditioner. Regardless of where you choose to relax, I hope you'll find some or all of these books in "Along Those Lines..." this week enjoyable and educational.

Isle of Canes It takes a good writer to create a work of historical fiction, but it takes someone who is both a comprehensive researcher and a great writer to produce an excellent historical novel based on her own family's story. Elizabeth Shown Mills is such an author. Most of us know Elizabeth to be a meticulous genealogical researcher with impeccable credentials and high professional standards. In addition, however, she has now produced a compelling, historically accurate page-turner of a novel that I honestly could not put down.

Isle of Canes is the story of a multiracial family in Louisiana that spans four generations and more than 150 years. It is the story of Marie Thérèse dite Coincoin, the daughter of slave parents and the granddaughter of a king, who is orphaned at age 16. She is determined that her family will rise from slavery and resume its rightful place in society.

The book is published by Ancestry.com, and, at the NGS Conference last month, they hosted a reception for the author as a kickoff for this book. Elizabeth told the assembled guests that "this was a book that had to be written." It is based on some of her own ancestors' lives and she felt the chronicle of their history has been calling her to write this book.

Indeed, Elizabeth has been working on the book since the 1970s. She has brilliantly combined thorough genealogical research with historical and social context, in the process making the reader come to really "know" each person in the book. She has also proved herself a master of dialog that fits perfectly with the factual data and propels the story forward. "Isle of Canes" is much more than "an historical novel." It is a lovingly woven tapestry of real people's lives that will bring you to understand the people as well as the time and place in which they lived. You will not be disappointed with Isle of Canes!

A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard,

Based on Her Diary 1785-1812 Juliana Szucs Smith, whom you all know as the editor of the Ancestry Daily News, sent me a book as a gift some months ago that I finally made time to read this past weekend. It is the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *A Midwife's Tale*, by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich. Originally published in 1990 by Alfred A. Knopf, the book is available in a softcover edition published by Vintage Books.

A Midwife's Tale is the story of the life and times of Martha Moore Ballard (1735-1812), a woman who performed services as both a midwife and a healer in the area near the Kennebec River in Hollowell, Maine. She maintained a diary between 1785 and 1812 that reports on the conditions in which the people lived and about her own personal experiences as a pioneer housewife, a midwife, and a vital member of her community. She traveled by foot, horse, canoe, and boat to reach the people who needed her, sometimes across the frozen river and in harsh weather and paralyzing cold.

Through it all, she maintained a chronicle of her daily life and a set of fastidious financial accounts that provide a vivid picture of the life and times in New England during these years. In addition, researchers with ancestors from that place and time may well find evidence of their ancestors' births in these pages. The book is a fascinating read, and I thank Juliana for turning me on to it.

[ADN Editor's Note: There is a great website, www.dohistory.org, that offers a case study of Martha Ballard's life. Among other things, the site showcases portions of her diary, information about *A Midwife's Tale*, and tips for genealogy enthusiasts.]

Courthouse Research for Family Historians

Over the course of my own genealogical research, I have spent hundreds if not thousands of hours working in courthouses and corresponding with courthouse clerks. The diversity and content of the records found in courthouses can be surprising, I've found, and you never know what you might uncover unless you know what to ask for. Christine Rose's new book, *Courthouse Research for Family Historians*, will open your eyes to some astonishing facts.

For example, if you think indexes are a snap to use you'll probably be surprised to learn that multiple indexing schemes can be used. Do you know the difference between an original and a compiled index? What about the Russell Index System and the Cott System? Have you used first name indexes such as the Campbell

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System? And if you thought that a deed, an indenture, a dower release, and a quitclaim deed were the only land instruments that might be found, think again.

In addition to birth, marriage, and death records, the book covers a vast amount of information about and research strategies for land and property records, estate records, civil records, criminal records, divorces, tax records, voter registrations, naturalizations, name changes, guardianships, and other types of materials. Methodologies for advance preparation for your visit or inquiry and research strategies are well described in a logical, easy to understand way. Published by CR Publications of San Jose, California, you'll find a lot to learn in this new book.

Your English Ancestry: A Guide for North Americans and **Your Scottish Ancestry: Research Methods for the Family Historian.** Sherry Irvine is one of my favorite authors, and she is one of the greatest experts concerning English and Scottish research. If you have ancestors in England or Scotland, you will find these books indispensable.

My own trip to England this past March reinforced for me the differences between records created and maintained in America and those in England. To succeed in your research in the U.K. or anywhere else overseas, it is essential to understand the history of the records that were created. What kinds of records were created and when? Who created them and why were they created? What information was included in these records and are they written in English or Latin or some other language? Where were they used and where were they stored? Where are they stored today and how do I access them? Both of these books are impeccable guides to research methods for the various types of records.

Both also include extensive bibliographic references for further research. **Your Scottish Ancestry: Research Methods for the Family Historian** is, in fact, a new 2003 edition of the work that includes many computer and Internet resources. Both books are published by Ancestry.com, and make for an enjoyable and informative read. I rank these at the top of my list of recommended starting references for genealogical research in the U.K.

How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy

I'd also like to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about my own new book, **How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy**, published in March by McGraw-Hill/Osborne. More than just a how-to manual, this book is structured to provide beginning, intermediate, and advanced genealogists a reference for building a strong research methodology and for really understanding many record types.

There are three things that make this book different.

First, the scope of the book includes research in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K., plus some information about Australian and European research.

Second, I've provided details about desktop and laptop computers, scanners, digital cameras, handheld computers (PDAs), office application software, genealogical database programs, and PDA genealogy software. If you are looking for guidance concerning what hardware, software, peripheral equipment, and utilities will support your research, this book will help you decide how technology can assist your research.

And perhaps most important is an entire chapter titled "Plan a Very Successful Genealogy Trip" to help you prepare and organize your research trips like a pro. The book is filled with more than 150 images of actual documents and software screens that illustrate what is discussed in the text and a wealth of Internet links you'll want to bookmark for regular reference. Part of the McGraw-Hill/Osborne *How to Do Everything* series, I believe this book will make you a more effective researcher.

Other Books? Yes, there are other books I'm recommending too, not the least of which is *Madame Secretary: A Memoir* by Madeline Albright (Brilliant!); *Alexander Hamilton*, by Ron Chernow (A great perspective); and *1912: Wilson, Roosevelt, Taft and Debs--The Election that Changed the Country*, by James Chace (Historical insight at its best).

But then, of course, you have to find the books that interest you and they may not be the same as mine. So, rush to the library or to your favorite local or online bookseller(s) and then to your favorite reading spot, and get started. It's already the middle of June!

Happy Reading!
George

George is president and a proud member of the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors. Visit the ISFHWE website at www.rootsweb.com/~cgc. Visit George's website at <http://ahaseminars.com/atf> for information about speaking engagements.

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YOU'RE AN ADDICTED GENEALOGIST

- **When you brake for libraries.**

Honoring Our Ancestors: "Playing with the Census"

by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak

I'm one of those who can't resist playing with a new toy--especially if it's even remotely genealogical in nature. And recently, I entertained myself for a few hours with the Historical Census Browser found in the Geostat Center portion of the website of the University of Virginia Library (<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/>).

WHAT'S A CENSUS BROWSER? Just as we routinely browse the Internet, this site allows us to browse through the piles of data that have been collected by the U.S. Census Bureau from 1790 to 1960 (as well as additional information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Council of Churches of Christ). There's no person-specific data, but if you have an interest in the social context in which your ancestors lived, you'll appreciate the insight this tool can offer.

We all know that the information collected by census takers shifted each decade, and this database reflects that reality. For the earliest census years, all details are included, but in later years when the questions multiplied, the information was more selectively transcribed. For instance, basic population, housing, race and gender data can be found for all years, but from 1840 on, you can peek into other aspects of your ancestor's world, such as the:

- Number of daily newspapers
- Number of slaves
- Number of libraries
- Value of livestock
- Number of churches
- Number of native-born persons who cannot write
- Number of farms
- Assessed valuation of personal property

All of this exploration can be done at the state or county level, so if you're finally getting around to writing that long-delayed family history, you may be able to fill in some of your gaps.

Not sure how typical your literate, farm-owning, German-born great-grandfather was in his state or county? Now you have the means to find out whether he was just one of the guys or a stand-out. Wondering whether your forebears settled in an area of religious compatriots or were wealthier than most in their area? You can have your answers in minutes. Still haven't convinced your grandkids that your Italian family was a curiosity in 1930 South Carolina? Maybe the fact that there were only 188 Italian-born individuals in the state's population of 1,738,765 will make an impression.

BROWSING BASICS So how do you find the an-

swers to your questions? Let's use the Italians-in-1930-South-Carolina scenario as an example. The first step is selecting the year of interest from the menu provided at the top of the page, so you'd start by clicking on 1930. Then you would browse all the categories that appear for topics relevant to your questions. In this case, you would highlight "no. white persons born in Italy" within the "Place of Birth" category. For purposes of comparison, you'd also want to select "total population" in the "Population Characteristics" category (Incidentally, if you want to select more than one factor within a given category, you simply hold down the Control key while making your selections). At this point, you would scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Browse 1930 Data."

A few seconds later, you'll be taken to a page with all the data for the entire country. It defaults to presentation by an alphabetical listing of states, but in most cases, you're going to want to see the results in some sort of numerical order (low to high or vice versa). To do this, go to the "Resort Data" box (which would probably be a little more intuitive if labeled "re-sort data") on the left of the screen. Using the drop-down menu, select the variable by which you'd like to sort (since I was more interested in the Italian aspect than the overall population, I chose "no. white persons born in Italy") and indicate whether you'd like the results in ascending or descending order by toggling between the two options under the drop-down menu. Then click on the gray "Revise State Table" button just underneath. Your results will be instantly re-sorted, so that you can scroll down the page and easily see that only the two Dakotas had fewer Italian-born residents than South Carolina.

A FEW MORE OPTIONS If you're the kind who doesn't like wading through a sea of numbers and prefers their data in tidy graphs, you'll want to head back to the top of the screen to the Graph a Variable box on the right. Hit the Graph States button and *poof*--instant graph.

Or perhaps you want to drill down on the data a bit. Where in South Carolina did those Italians live? Go back to the page with the state table and check off South Carolina by clicking on the small square to the left. Then go to the bottom of this left-hand column and click View Counties. The results will show that there was a definite clustering effect, with 101 of the 188 Italian-born residents living in Charleston County.

BROWSER REVELATIONS A few minutes spent experimenting with the various options will enable you to extract a wide variety of insights from the

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Historical Census Browser. To give you a sense, I hopscotched my way through the database and did a little digging every forty years: 1790, 1830, 1870, 1910, and 1950. Here's a sampling of what I learned:

1790 - Maryland was home to exactly half (599) of the 1,198 persons of Hebrew nationality in the country at the time.- The urban legend about English defeating German (by a one-vote margin) as the official language of the U.S. back in the late 1700s seems a little suspect when you see that persons of English and Welsh nationality outnumbered persons of German nationality 2,042,077 to 139,309.

1830 - For every free colored person (312,603), there were roughly 6.4 slaves (or a total of 1,987,428). Only Vermont is listed as having no slaves. - Of those recorded as being one hundred years of age and over, about 55% were slaves.

1870 - There were almost six times as many persons born in Poland (5,735) as persons born in Portugal (965) in the U.S. at that time.- Indiana had the most farms under three acres (1,565), while California had the most farms over one thousand acres (713).

1910 - California was by far the fruitiest and nuttiest state, with a value of fruits and nuts of 50,706,869--over a fifth of the nation's total value of 222,018,096.- Politicians wondering whether to carry favor with the foreign-born would have been most prudent to do so in New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts, which collectively contained 46.7% of naturalized foreign-born

white males of voting age, foreign-born white males of voting age, and alien foreign-born white males of voting age.

1950 - New York was first both in people with 4 or more years of college (694,545) and in institutional population (209,786).1950: California and Texas demonstrated the greatest internal and incoming mobility with the largest numbers of persons living in different house in 1950 than in 1949, but same county and persons living in a different county or abroad in 1949.

Total population climbed through the years as follows:

- 1790: 3,893,874
 - 1830: 12,785,928
 - 1870: 38,155,505
 - 1910: 91,641,195
 - 1950: 149,895,183

This is just the proverbial tip of the iceberg in terms of the information that can be gleaned from this database, so why not take a little time to see if you can gain some perspective on the socio-economic environment in which all those folks in your family tree lived? Happy browsing!

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, author of "Honoring Our Ancestors (HOA)," "In Search of Our Ancestors: 101 Inspiring Stories of Serendipity and Connection in Rediscovering Our Family History," and "They Came to America: Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors," can be contacted through <http://www.honoringourancestors.com>.

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Do You Ear What I Ear

by Michael John Neill

Last week's article used the term "birder" house. One astute reader gently indicated that I most likely meant "brooder" house. I thank them for the correction and must plead ignorance for while I was raised on a farm, we did not have chickens. You can be certain I will not make the same mistake using bovine phrases—I would never hear the end of it!

The mistake makes a point and I'm actually glad it happened. Mishearing and misinterpreting words and phrases can cause problems genealogically in several situations. I have categorized the difficulties here, but bear in mind that there might be some overlap and that the distinction between some categories is not really important.

Did Not Hear Correctly Just as I misunderstood Grandma, it might be that the respondent on an official document or record did not hear correctly and gave "incorrect" information as a result. This same difficulty

can arise when family members are asked for information. In one of my families, confusion arose between the two names "Augusta" and "Geske." These names are distinct, however, an individual with a hearing problem might easily confuse the two.

Misunderstood the Question The respondent might have heard all the words and thought he understood the meaning of the question. If your ancestor gave an "incorrect" birthplace for his mother or father, is it possible that he interpreted the question as "where is your mother from?" instead of "where was your mother born?" Mother might have been born in one place and "been from" somewhere else (depending upon where she grew up and where her family originated). It might have been this place that she considered herself "from" even though it was not actually where she was born. We cannot know for certain what our ancestors were thinking when they were answering

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questions for the census taker or the marriage license clerk. All we have is the document they left behind.

When interviewing family members use as many names as possible. Relationships can create confusion. When interviewing my grandmother, it took several minutes to make it clear to her that I was asking about her grandfather Trautvetter, not her father. She had referred to her own dad as a grandfather for so long (to her own children) that she originally answered the questions as if I was asking about her father. Using her grandfather's name of John reduced the confusion (her father, fortunately was named George). While it may not be possible use names exclusively, minimizing the number of relationships used when asking questions can reduce confusion.

Did Not Know the Language Was your immigrant ancestor answering questions that were asked in a language he did not understand? Even if your ancestor could speak English, it seems reasonable that she might have easily mistranslated a key word or phrase.

Was Not Listening Have you ever answered a question without ever really listening to it? Asking your parent, spouse, child, or co-worker might provide a different answer. Is it possible your ancestor was not paying one hundred percent attention when the 1920 census taker knocked on his door? Did your ancestor assume no one would ever really care about the answers eighty years later?

No One Cared When the clerk was filling out my marriage license, he asked me how to spell my mother's maiden name. And so I spelled it out. If I had married in the county where I was born and raised, most of the office staff would have known how to spell the surname (and many would have known it without even asking). Close attention is not always paid to detail today and it certainly was not one hundred and fifty years ago either.

Spoke a Dialect, Used Slang, or Had an Accent Dialects and variations in pronunciation can impact how words are spelled in records. "Gibson" can easily be pronounced so that it is spelled like "Gepson." There are numerous names where this is a problem, a problem compounded by dialects, "drawls," and "twangs." While it may be possible to know how our ancestors pronounced a name or a word, this information is generally not available.

It Has Been a While Since I Was Able to "Ear" It In some cases, it is literally a lifetime from the day when a family tradition is heard until that day it is told. You grandfather might have heard a story when he was a child and not repeated it until he had grandchildren of his own. The chance that as a child he misunderstood something is reasonable. This difficulty is compounded

by the effects time can have on one's memory.

The Ancestor Was Not Literate If your ancestor was unable to read, she could not "proof" any answers or words listed on any form she might have signed. Even if your ancestor could read, if the forms were not in her native tongue, she might have easily misunderstood a question (or her answer). The clerk might not have been concerned about explaining it to her either.

Genealogists need to bear in mind auditory difficulties when dealing with records. These difficulties are compounded by problems with how our ancestors might have interpreted various terms and phrases. Documenting these difficulties may be impossible in many cases. When it can be done, it should, especially with pronunciations.

I always track the ways names are pronounced when I know it. One of my ancestral surnames is Behrens. My great-grandmother pronounced it as "barns" (the kind cows sometimes reside in). This pronunciation is duly noted in my files. While it's not written as technically as it would be in a dictionary, it serves the purpose.

But I Don't Know How It Is Pronounced Asking older family members is a good first step, but not always possible. As your research progresses further and further back in time, the chance that living family members have heard the name decreases. Researchers who do not know how a name is most likely pronounced may wish to post such a question to one of the mailing lists for the surname or the message boards at <http://www.familyhistory.com> or <http://www.genforum.com>. Individuals with the name may post replies, but it is important to remember that the pronunciation today may be significantly different from one hundred and fifty or two hundred years ago.

Genealogists use their eyes for the bulk of their genealogical work, and rightly so. But we must also use our ears and mouths—for that's how many of those words made their way from our ancestor's minds to those records.

Good Luck!

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Michael John Neill, is the Course I Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) held annually in Springfield, Illinois, and is also on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois. Michael is the Web columnist for the FGS FORUM and is on the editorial board of the Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly. He conducts seminars and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical and computer topics and contributes to several genealogical publications, including Ancestry and Genealogical Computing. You can e-mail him at: mjnrootdig@myfamilyinc.com or visit his Web site at: <http://www.rootdig.com/>.

YOU'RE AN ADDICTED GENEALOGIST
If you get locked in a library overnight & you never even notice

**BOSTON MILL SOCIETY NOW A STATE PARK
"FRIENDS" GROUP**

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department welcomed the Boston Mill Society as the Friends of Thompson*s Mills this week.

The non-profit group officially became OPRD*s 15th cooperating association during a society board meeting at the mill. *We*ve been waiting for this day for over 10 years,* said president Martin Thompson. The society was organized in June 1994 to promote the mill*s preservation.

OPRD, which recently acquired the 30.5-acre property, will look to the group for support in developing a living history museum and interpretive center depicting Willamette Valley agriculture in the late 19th century. The society*s original goal, said Thompson, was to develop *a restored, recreated or replica village site.* The Thompson*s Mills property includes one of the first gristmills built in the Willamette Valley. Originally constructed in 1858, it was rebuilt in 1862 after having been destroyed by fire. It was expanded in the 1920s.

OPRD has developed a six-year plan that involves a planning phase (2003-2005), a planning and restoration phase (2005-2007) and a restoration and operational period (2007-2009) for the property, which Gov. Ted Kulongoski has identified as one of 10 new state parks to be developed over the next decade. The site will remain closed over the next few years while park staff make environmental assessments and deal with operational issues.

OPRD purchased the property for \$856,547 using lottery-backed Parks and Natural Resource Fund dollars. Both

the mill and the original owner*s residence, a Queen Anne-style home built in 1904, are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**STEAM-POWERED MACHINERY TO TAKE
CENTERSTAGE**

The 34th annual Great Oregon Steam-Up will take place July 31-Aug. 1 and Aug. 7-8 in Brooks. The event features hundreds of operating steam, gas and diesel tractors and engines, tractor pulling, sawmill operations, threshing, baling, field plowing, blacksmithing, and trolley and miniature rail rides. A parade at 1:30 p.m. highlights daily activity.

Antique Powerland Museum is a power equipment heritage site operated by the Antique Powerland Museum Association, a non-profit organization. Powerland was originally established by a group of enthusiasts dedicated to the preservation, restoration and demonstration of steam powered equipment, antique farm machinery and implements.

Participation by a diverse set of museums and heritage clubs has grown over the years to now entail 14 organizations with a range of interests. Included are activities related to blacksmithing, fire apparatus, electric railroads, miniature railroading, Caterpillar equipment, antique cars and motorcycles, early day trucks, large steam engines, steam operated cranes, model railroading and local history

Antique Powerland is located just west of Interstate 5 at exit 263. For more information, contact www.antiquepowerland.com

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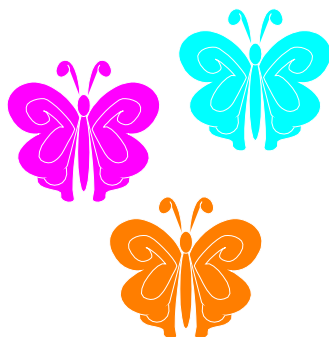
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