

# MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

## NEWSLETTER

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Number 2

### CIVIL WAR IN CASS COUNTY

In our January, 2018 meeting, we met some new members, one of whom will be our speaker for our Saturday, February 17 meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Bromwell Lounge at Brookdale Foxwood Springs in Raymore, Missouri. Donald Knight is a resident of Peculiar, Missouri, and he will speak about "Bushwhackers and Presumed Innocent in Cass County".

Don has previously done a Knight Family Newsletter, and we will benefit from his research for that publication, as well as his knowledge of this county.

Put this date on your calendar, and join us on February 17 for this presentation. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

This month, I am writing about a branch of my family line that I have not written about. This information was given to me by my cousin, Laura Frances (Seals) Scott. She gave me this information, in very nice form, in the 1990's. I looked at it back then, but then put it in a plastic file box. I recently found it and felt that I needed to write this down. This concerns the Foote family line.

My parents were Albert Frank Morse (1909-1972) and Mildred Catherine Janssens (1910-1982). Mildred's parents were David Janssens (1854-1920) and Laura Jessie Mooney (1871-1939). Laura's parents were Joseph Mooney (1816-1892) and Rachel Elizabeth Farnsworth (1831-1915). Joseph Mooney's parents were John Mooney (1786-?) and Lydia Foote (1793-?).

Lydia's parents were John Wesley Foote (1766-

1851) and Mary Grigson (1775-1819). John's parents were Elijah Foote (1740-1813) and Eunice Peck (?-1776). Elijah Foote fought in the Revolutionary War. He was born in Newton, Connecticut and died in West Liberty, Virginia. He was my fourth great grandfather.

Elijah's parents were John Foote (1711-1762) and Amy Seeley (?-?). John's parents were Daniel Foote (1681/1682-?) and Dorothy Blakeman (1682/83-1721/22). Daniel's parents were Daniel Foote (1652-?) and Sarah (?) (1658-1704). Daniel's parents were Nathaniel Foote (1619/20-1655) and Elizabeth Smith (1627-?). Nathaniel was born in Ipswich, Colchester, England and Elizabeth was born in Hadleigh, Suffolk, England. They were married and died in Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Nathaniel's parents were Nathaniel Foote (1593-1644) and Elizabeth Deming (1595-1683). Both this Nathaniel and Elizabeth were born in Colchester, England and were married there. They died in Wethersfield, Connecticut. Nathaniel's parents were Robert Foote (1553-1607/08) and Joan Brooke (1564-?). They were both born and died in England. Robert's parents were Robert Foote (1523-1590) and Elizabeth Hall (1527-1599). Robert's father was Lincolnshire Foote (?-?). He was my twelfth great grandfather.

The elder Nathaniel Foote and his family are considered to be some of the first settlers in what became Weathersfield, Connecticut. This town is located just south of Hartford and near the Connecticut River. A monument was installed in 1908 on the original home lot of Nathaniel Foote. On the back of the memorial are listed his wife, Elizabeth Deming, and their seven children. According to the *Foote Family History and Genealogy* is this quote: "From all that we can learn Mr. Foote came from Shalford, in Colchester, England, and settled in Watertown, Mass. The first mention I find made of his name is in the Records of

the Colony of Massachusetts Bay in 1633, when he took the oath of Freeman”.

The book listed above belonged to Laura Francis. She was a member of the Foote Family Association of America, Inc. They have a newsletter called “Footprints”. I have a notebook of hers, with several years of newsletters in it. I have also looked at their website, [www.footefamily.org](http://www.footefamily.org).

## FEMALE ANCESTORS—PART II

Marjorie Slavens

Last month, we discussed the family of Michael Tefertiller as an example of the difficulty in finding and tracing the lines of our female ancestors. My mother, Mildred Welty Slavens, wrote a book about this family, but she knew nothing about the origins of the family line until she discovered, by accident, the surname of her great grandmother, Derrinda Tefertiller Heape, 1841-1920), while she was researching the Heape family. Derrinda married James Heape in Perry County, Illinois in 1857 when she was 16, and her father, George Tefertiller, had to give permission for his daughter to marry.

“Michael Tefertiller was born About 1755 in Alsace, Germany. He was the step-son of Fridrich Cramer. He married Barbara Wotring March 4, 1775 in Frederick County, Maryland. She was the daughter of John Wotring and Anna Rebman. Barbara was of Huguenot ancestry. Her maiden name appears in the French format (Vautrin) in Lorraine about 1200, soon after the adoption of surnames. about 1525, some of the family joined the Protestant reformation movement. About 1600 they ,with other Huguenots, were forced to flee from French Lorraine to German Alsace. The name under German influence became "Wotring". (This family migrated to Pennsylvania between 1733 and 1749. Michael Tefertiller and Barbara Wotring were married in Frederick County, Maryland.

The third child of Michael and Barbara was Jacob Heinrich Tefertiller, who married Charlotte Plum in Tennessee. Their son, George, Derrinda’s father, married Emily Walker of Georgia. Through the Tefertiller line, Mother was able to trace the female lines of Anna Redman, Barbara Wotring, Charlotte

Plum, Emily Walker, and Derrinda Tefertiller.

James Heape and Derrinda Tefertiller moved to Wise County, Texas with her parents George and Emily Walker Tefertiller in 1859. James and his brother-in-law, Marion W. Tefertiller, served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Marion died during the war.

After the war, the George Tefertillers first moved to Arkansas and then to Dade County, Missouri, where they are buried in the Langford Cemetery. James and Derrinda Heape moved to Cherokee County, Kansas, where they joined his father, Thomas Heape. James served in the Confederate Army during the war and his father was a Union soldier. James and Derrinda’s fifth child, Elzina H. (Ella) Heape, was born in Cherokee County in 1869. The family was in the 1870 Census in that County and Newton County, Missouri in the 1880 Census. Ella Heape met and married Charles Merlin Kerr in Sedan, Chautauqua County, Kansas in 1886. Charles and Ella moved first to Jasper County, Missouri and then to Las Vegas, New Mexico. Their first child, Carrie, died as an infant. Mother’s mother, Hattie Lee Kerr, was born in Missouri in 1889, and Ora A. Kerr was born in Las Vegas in 1892. Ella died following the birth of her fourth child, Ella Mae, in 1895. Not finding an English-speaking care giver for his two small children, Hattie, 6, and Ora, 3, Charles returned to Missouri. He married Millie Bain in 1896, Mother’s step grandmother.

After they left the Heapes in Kansas in 1886, Ella and Charles Kerr had no apparent further contact with her parents. We do not know when or where James Heape died. In 1900, Derrinda Tefertiller Heape lived in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma with a son, James W. Heape. Mother found Derrinda in 1910 living with a sister and brother-in-law, Lucinda and Daniel Ashlock, in Stroud, Lincoln County, Oklahoma. In 1920, Derinda Heape lived with a son, George Heape, in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma. Derinda Heape died May 31, 1920 near Bold Hill, Okmulgee county, Oklahoma. Information about her death was given by her son, G. E. Heape of Route 2, Okmulgee, Oklahoma. She was buried at Lackey Grave Yard, Hitchita, Okmulgee County, Oklahoma on June 1, 1920.

At the time of Derrinda's death, her granddaughter, Hattie Kerr Welty, lived in Kansas City, Kansas with her husband, Edward Alonzo Welty, and four children. My mother, their oldest child, was 10. They did not know Derrinda Tefertiller Heape, their grandmother and great grandmother. All of the past family history of the Tefertillers and Heapes and related families was discovered through Mother's family research.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

In recognition of Black History Month, Fold3 wants to remind you to access all publications in its Black History Collection. Whether you're searching for your ancestors or looking for primary documents to help with other research, the Black History collection gives you access to more than a million documents, records, and photos that help to capture the African-American experience during five eras of American history: Slavery, The Civil War, Reconstruction & Jim Crow Laws, World War I & II, and the Civil Rights Movement.

All the titles in our Black History collection contain valuable insight into the history of African-Americans, but titles that are especially rich in information include:

Danish West Indies, Slavery and Emancipation: These records cover the institution of slavery and the emancipation of slaves in the Virgin Islands during Danish rule, 1672-1917.

Suppression of Slave Trade and Colonization (1854-72): These records cover the institution of slavery and the emancipation of slaves in the Virgin Islands during Danish rule, 1672-1917.

"Amistad", Federal and Supreme Court records: Court records pertaining to the claims of salvage for the Spanish slave schooner "Amistad," seized in 1839 by the US Navy.

American Colonization Society: Documents relating to the American Colonization Society, 1792-1964, an organization best known for its role in founding Liberia.

Board of Commissioners – Emancipation of Slaves in DC: Records of the Board of Commissioners for the Emancipation of Slaves in the District of Columbia, 1862-63.

Court Slave Records for DC: Records of the U.S.

District Court for the District of Columbia Relating to Slaves, 1851-63, including emancipation and manumission papers.

South Carolina Estate Inventories and Bills of Sale, 1732-1872: South Carolina court records relating to estates.

Colored Troops: Compiled military service records of volunteer Union soldiers serving in various colored units in the Civil War, including the United States Colored Troops. ([www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com))

## **WAR OF 1812 PENSION FILES**

Marjorie Slavens

Fold 3 is increasing its War of 1812 Pension Files collections.

"In 1813 and 1816, Congress authorized military pensions for men who had served in the War of 1812. These pensions were given to men who had served between 1812 and 1815 and had sustained related death or disability.

However, later acts passed in 1871 and 1878 expanded the pensions to include more veterans. The 1871 act allowed men who had served at least 60 days during the war to draw a pension, and their widows were eligible to apply as long as the marriage had taken place before the end of the war. The 1878 act expanded the pensions even further to apply to veterans who had served 14 days in the war or in any engagement, and to their widows, regardless of when the marriage had occurred" ([www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com))

Specific documents for individuals vary, but the search brings some good results. My 3 great grandfather, Jacob Hesler (1767-1851), served in this war, although he was not very young at the time. The discovery of his War of 1812 service records helped us find him eventually in the 1850 Census.

My great grandmother, Laura Martin Hesler Slavens Hesler, insisted that her grandfather, Jacob, served in the Civil War. She said her father and one brother served in the Union Army, and her grandfather and another son served in the Confederate Army. Her grandfather died in 1851, and all three of his sons served in the Union Army. (Her second husband,

David William Hesler, was her first cousin.

Her father, Martin Hesler, came to Missouri from Kentucky about 1860 and served briefly in the Iowa Cavalry between 1861 and 1862. He died of disease in a Springfield, Missouri hospital in December, 1862.

Records now available on Fold3 include some of the material we did not find easily before; the search is much easier now on the net.

### **THE YEAR WAS 1943**

The year was 1943 and World War II raged on. In Leningrad, there was finally a break in the siege of that city as the Red Army opened a land passage that would allow food and fuel to the starving and freezing citizens who had been trapped in the city since September of 1941. The siege wouldn't officially end until January of 1944 (900 days after it began), and by then, an estimated 632,000 people had died of disease, starvation, and the extremely cold winters.

In March and April of 1941, Jewish people in and around Krakow were rounded up and moved into a ghetto in the Podgorze district of Krakow. 20,000 Jews were confined to an area that had previously only housed 3,000. Illness and hunger took its toll on the ghetto inhabitants, and in subsequent years, mass transportations to death camps began.

Finally in March of 1943, the remainder of the population was either killed on the spot or shipped to death camps. The Krakow Ghetto was completely wiped out. In the Warsaw Jewish Ghetto, reports of the death camps were trickling in, and in January, residents fired on German troops who were trying to deport another group of Jews. This initial resistance was successful and inspired the fighters, but in April, German troops returned a final time. Although they were able to hold off the German troops for nearly a month, eventually, they were unsuccessful. 7,000 Jews were killed there. Another 56,000 were deported to meet their fate in death camps.

The invasion of Sicily in 1943 was the first step in taking Italy out of the war and led to Mussolini's

removal from the Italian government. Following Mussolini's ousting, the new Italian government aligned itself with the Allies in September, but the Campaign for Italy would not be over until April of 1945.

In the United States, with more and more men being pulled from the workforce to fight in the European and Pacific Theaters, unemployment was down and the need for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was gone; in June of 1943 the program ended. Since its inception in 1935, the WPA provided work for 8.5 million people (and records to many genealogists).

On the home front, rationing extended beyond food to clothing, shoes, fuel, and tires. Women stepped in to fill jobs vacated by men. ("Ancestry Weekly Journal")

### **BEYOND D-DAY**

Trevor

When people hear the date, June, 1944, they often think first of D-Day, which occurred June 6, 1944. But D-Day and the ensuing Battle of Normandy weren't the only things occurring in World War II during June, 1944. Below are a few major events of the war that also occurred that month:

June 4: U.S. Army Enters Rome

As the U.S. Army neared Rome after more than 4 months of fighting their way from the landing beaches at Anzio, the Germans positioned in Rome abandoned the city, allowing the Americans to take it without a fight. Rome was the first of the Axis capitals to fall to the Allies.

June 15: U.S. Landings on Saipan

On June 15, U.S. troops began landing at Saipan in the Mariana Islands, which the Americans hoped to use as a base for bomber attacks on the Japanese home islands. However, the 30,000 Japanese troops on the island fought fiercely, and progress was slow and casualties high for the Americans. Finally, in early July, the Japanese put up their final resistance in the largest banzai charge (suicide attack) of the war. By time the Americans had finally captured Saipan, nearly all Japanese troops on the island had

been killed or committed suicide. After the American victory, hundreds of Japanese civilians on the island likewise committed suicide.

June 19–20: Battle of the Philippine Sea

The Battle of the Philippine Sea, fought June 19–20, was the largest carrier battle of the war and a major victory for the U.S. With the American invasion of Saipan creating a direct threat to the Japanese home islands, Japan decided to force the American fleet into a decisive naval battle to prevent American control of the Marianas. However, over the two day battle, the Japanese lost more than 400 carrier aircraft, in addition to three carriers, essentially ending Japan's ability to carry out any more major carrier actions for the remainder of the war. ([www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), Blog 8 June, 2017)

## **GOOGLE FILTERING TECHNIQUES FOR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH**

Daniel M. Lynch

Google has proven to be an indispensable tool for family history enthusiasts worldwide, but there are several filtering techniques which can help yield radical improvements in both the relevancy of results, and the time to obtain them. Genealogists are often quick to adopt new technology if it can help unravel a family mystery. The “secret” of Google didn't last too long after their launch in September, 1998. Sure, there were other search engines . . . and we were using them to find what we could about our ancestors, but as Google expanded their index and their product offering, it's no surprise genealogists were at the head of the pack using Google Images, Google News, Google Blog Search, Google Earth, Google Patent Search, and now the Google News Timeline and many other innovative services offered by Google. Sure, the fact that these services are free doesn't hurt . . . genealogists like free . . . but it's the relevancy of results and spectacular finds that keep us coming back day after day.

What Does WWW Stand For Anyway?

When presenting at genealogy conferences, I'll often ask the audience if anyone knows what the acronym “WWW” stands for. I can't recall a single event anywhere in the world when the audience didn't immediately respond in unison - "World Wide

Web." My reaction and response then surprises them when I reply, "...well, sure, I guess it could also mean that, but I'm a genealogist first - and a technology guy second." I use this example over and over, both for a cheap laugh, but to reinforce that, as genealogists, we are always asking three basic questions- Who, Where, and When. It's convenient that we've all developed the habit of typing www before the name of our target web site - Google.com or Archives or any other site. I stress that typing www should remind us all why it is that we're about to visit Family historians - beginner or professional, we are all looking for people (the who). We also spend a great deal of our time looking for clues pertaining to places (the where), and certain time periods (the when) associated with either the places or the people. When using Google to search the Internet for clues about the lives of your ancestors, keep in mind that the keywords best suited to helping you find what you're looking for lie in answering the questions who, where, and when. Often in that particular order.

Keywords And Search Strategy

You may not know it, but you already have the most important ingredients for your family search. Depending upon what you are looking for and the dynamics of the surname, you may need to help Google a little more or a little less. The two extremes you might face involve too many results (in the millions) and too few results (zero). Let me explain with a few examples from my own family history.

While the surname Lynch might not be as common as Smith or Jones, it's certainly not unique. The more common the name - especially if the word itself has other meanings - the more important it is that you help give it some context so Google can find results that have some relevancy to what you're searching for.

In this simple example, I provide the first and last name for my grandfather, followed by the name of the city where he lived his entire life. That simple query currently generates over 9,000 results -far too many to inspect individually. If I had simply provided the Who (by entering patrick lynch), Google would have responded with nearly 1.8 million results. That helps demonstrate why the

Where is critical in helping filter results.

There is no single best way to structure a query, but through trial and error over several years, I've developed techniques that help to quickly filter out or allow in results so we're left with just the type of web pages that family historians expect.

You can enhance the filtering of the above example by adding additional keywords, but also by employing special syntax so Google will know more precisely what you're looking for. As you can see in the example, below, the name patrick lynch now appears inside quotation marks as "patrick lynch". That instructs Google to find pages where patrick lynch appears as a consecutive string of characters (what Google calls an 'exact phrase match'). Next, I've added the keyword genealogy, but have placed the tilde simple immediately before the word to instruct Google to find web pages containing the keyword genealogy or words that are similar in meaning. Lastly, I've added the keyword vermont as another place name, but in this instance, I have placed a minus symbol immediately before the word. This instructs Google to exclude all pages that contain the word Vermont. The reason for this is to filter out the pages dealing with Patrick Lynch from Waterbury, Vermont. Someone else may be very interested in this family but I'm not since my family lived in Connecticut. These examples show how you can use a few additional filters to filter out two-thirds of the results that were not likely to have any relevance for your family.

#### Spelling Variations For Family Names

Building upon what we've already discussed above, there is another common challenge faced by many family historians. It is not unusual to find two or more variant spellings for the family surname. In my case, my paternal grandmother had the surname Phelan. Or was it Phalen or Phallon or Whelan or Whalen. I've seen it so many different ways on "official" documents; it's hard to know for sure. In some cases, your family name may have been changed all together for a variety of reasons (that's a topic for an different article).

As you can see in the example above, I use the OR operator. This is placed between one or more terms and must appear in UPPER CASE for Google to perform the conditional search, allowing either result to appear in your results. I used the two most common spellings for my grandmother's maiden name, along with other keywords described earlier. With just 346 results, it's likely that I could quickly find something of relevance.

This same technique can be employed when you are not certain about a location. If family legend has it that your

great grandparents came to America through the Port of Boston, but you have a clue that points to Philadelphia, then search for boston OR philadelphia. Just be sure the word OR appears in upper case, otherwise Google will ignore it as a common word.

#### Mix And Match

There are currently more than 25 billion pages indexed by Google - possibly many more than that number. Hiding somewhere in that "worldwide haystack" are clues that may be of interest to you and a few others researching the same family. In fact, they may have been placed online "by accident" only because their names appear alongside that of a stranger from a century ago. Just your luck though - that stranger has a descendant who recently transcribed the entire page and placed it online as part of their research. Today is your lucky day . . . but you've still got to find that needle in the haystack. Use your keywords, quotation marks, the OR operator, the minus and tilde symbols to further refine your query. While they can be used in any order, I'd suggest trying them in the order listed within these examples for best results.

If you're willing to try the techniques described in this article, I'm confident that you'll quickly master them. As Google displays results, you can place your cursor over the magnifying glass icon following the page title and quickly evaluate if the page holds promise for closer inspection. Additional techniques are described in my book, "*Google Your Family Tree*," and you can find free details for other more advanced family history queries at: [GoogleYourFamilyTree.com](http://GoogleYourFamilyTree.com). (([www.archives.com](http://www.archives.com), 28 January, 2011.)

## NEWS AND NOTES

Our speaker for the March 17 meeting will be Jim Beckner, who will present "Whistler's Mother and The American Civil War".

If you want to renew your MCG membership or join MCG, you may use the attached Membership form.

## OFFICERS

Al Morse, President  
Byron Gilbreath, Treasurer  
Marjorie Slavens, Secretary, Programs, Newsletter Editor

**MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS  
MEMBERSHIP FORM, January 1-December 31, 2018**

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THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF, AND A SUPPORTER OF, MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS! Please send Form and Check to:

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F.Y.I.: Our meetings are on the third Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m., except for September and December, when there are no meetings. We meet in Bromwell Lounge in the Administration Building at BROOKDALE Foxwood Springs 1500 Foxwood Drive (Missouri Highway 58), in Raymore, Missouri. You are always welcome at any of our meetings!