

The Genie

*To inspire interest in family history through education, preservation and service.
We're in the family business.*



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 4463
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The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association is a Section 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Louisiana.

The purpose of this organization is:

- To collect, preserve and make available genealogical documents and records
- To encourage an interest in genealogy and to sponsor educational programs for its development
- To promote the Shreveport/Bossier City area as having significant resources for genealogical and historical research
- To compile and publish a quarterly publication, *The Genie*, composed of records of genealogical and historical importance, helpful research information, and ancestral queries.



The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association meets on the second Saturday of each month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Broadmoor Branch Library, 1212 Captain Shreve Drive, Shreveport, LA

The membership year is from January 1 through December 31 and dues are \$20.00 annually for individual or same household family memberships. Dues for those members joining in the last half of the year (July 1 - December 31) are \$10.00. Membership renewals are due by January 31 at the "whole year" annual rate. Payment may be made online through PayPal, by regular mail, or at regular meetings. Refer to our website: altgenealogy.com/join.htm for details.

Statement of Publication: *The Genie* is published on a quarterly basis and distributed electronically as a pdf document to members and subscribing institutions that have provided an email address. The Association also participates in an exchange agreement with other organizations that publish similar genealogical publications. Those publications that are received are donated to the Broadmoor Branch Genealogy Department of the Shreve Memorial Library.

We welcome family history and genealogy research articles and records, especially those that are likely to be of an interest to others. Some examples are family pedigree charts, cemetery surveys/records, family and community histories, and transcribed courthouse records. We also accept articles describing a genealogical "brick wall," as well as queries. All submitted material should be typed or very plainly written and sent to our mailing address above or emailed to our editor at thegenie.editor@gmail.com. Please note that *The Genie* cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies, but will hasten to publish correction.

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The President's Message

3rd Quarter 2020

Contributed by Leonard Gresens

Our continuing saga of the 2020 nightmare of the musical chairs game now seems to have turned into rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. As I write this, Louisiana has reached Phase 3; although, it is more of a modified Phase 2. We are still under a mask or face-cover mandate and social distancing, but we can meet with more people. However, there is still no word on having a meeting place we can call home.

Without a meeting under our belt for the past six months, our board decided, **“Let’s try a Zoom meeting!”** As a board, we have met a few times by Zoom, virtually putting our heads together to keep ALTGA afloat. Shreve Memorial Library is not opening its meeting rooms any time soon, so the decision was made to hold our September meeting via Zoom.

I am going to be perfectly honest. As a veteran of online meetings and webinars, I have seen the chaos that can occur in virtual meetings. Just a few of the things that can happen: people cannot get on; there is no sound; the video freezes up; and my biggest pet peeve of all, background noise. But I determined I would think positively.

Debi and Phil Adderley have been on the agenda since March with their program, which we continually had to postpone. It was a presentation that was planned to be done in a live setting. The next question: could it be done in a Zoom meeting format? Luckily, Phil stepped up and put it all together. After a few tests runs on Zoom, we declared we were ready.

Next, I started a series of short Zoom setup meetings so our members could make sure their computer or device was ready. After a few hiccups, everyone was up to speed.

On September 12, 2020, at **one o’clock**, our regular meeting date and time was **“go time.”** In the spirit of **9/11**, **“Let’s Roll.”** At approximately 20 minutes to 1:00, I got a phone call. My first thought was, **“Oh no, here we go.”** But it was just the meeting ID that was needed. I started the meeting, and our members began popping up on the screen. I was getting excited. At about 1:05, I said, **“Let’s get started.”** We had at that time 22 participants in the room. By the time everyone got on, we had 25.

I'll make a long story short. The meeting went GREAT. Take that, 2020 pandemic!!!! Both of these programs went well. The Q&A went well. The comments were positive. I was very pleased with the turnout and with the meeting as a whole. And as a bonus, we had a guest from across the pond (England). **Debi's cousin, who she just met around Christmas, joined our meeting.** Nick wins the 'longest distance traveled award.' What a way to make a comeback!



These programs will be uploaded to our website so that those who couldn't make the meeting can watch at their leisure. Plans are already in the works for our October meeting, and we need to start planning our November meeting. We know we can do this now.

I think that musical chairs nightmare may be over.

Highlighting Our Members

Contributed by Johnnie Covington

Carole Neal lives in Castro Valley, California, which is about 30 miles east of San Francisco. She first became interested in genealogy in late 1996 after having lost her mother, her father, and a sister within a year's time (September 22, 1993 - September 27, 1994). She wanted to know more about her family history. Becoming involved with genealogy proved to be quite therapeutic for her. The names she is most interested in learning about are Neal, Seals, Ward, Davis, Warren, Jamison, and Joe. At a meeting of her local genealogy society, the speaker suggested that researchers join a genealogy group in the geographical area of their research. Her mother, Fannye Deborah Seals, was from Homer, Louisiana, and her father, Solomon Louis Neal, was from Winnsboro, Louisiana. She also had forebears from Arkansas. That is what drew her to ALTGA. She joined the group and submitted her Ancestor Chart for inclusion in **The Genie**. A local member, Willie Griffin, recognized a relationship and contacted her. As it turns out, she and Griffin are third cousins.

Carole's father served in WWII, and while he was away, he corresponded with a young lady back home. When he was finished with his military service, he moved to San Francisco where one of his brothers lived. Carole's father proposed to "the young lady back home," and with her mother's permission, he sent her the train fare. She traveled to San Francisco and stayed with her future sister and brother-in-law until they married.

There were four Neal brothers who migrated from Louisiana to San Francisco, and all of them worked for the City and County of San Francisco, retiring from their respective jobs. Carole has lived all of her life in the San Francisco Bay Area and worked for several concerns. One of her last jobs was with the Convention and Visitors Bureau of San Francisco. When she reached Social Security age in 2014, she retired. She fills her time with reading biographies, autobiographies, fiction (including John Grisham), and cookbooks. She is very passionate about genealogy and has done a lot of work during the pandemic making use of remote access to databases using her local library cards. Carole also has a passion for family reunions and stays in close touch with her godson, nieces, and nephews by emailing, texting, and phone calls.



Earline Cameron is from Urbana, Arkansas, which is in the El Dorado area. She still has relatives there whom she frequently visits. Earline and her husband, "Gus" Cameron, moved to Shreveport in 1952. Earline had worked as a dental assistant but then went to business school and worked as a secretary/stenographer at the VA Hospital in the claims department. Gus was a State Farm Insurance agent for 58 years. He never retired and worked up until the time of his death at the age of 91.

Earline has three grown children. Son "Charlie" Cameron is the Dean of Educational Technology at BPCC. He and his wife have dinner with Earline on Saturdays. They have two children, both of whom live in Searcy, Arkansas. Charlie has started a mission called Hope for the Waiting, which was started after Gus was hospitalized in the neurological unit at LSUMC, and Charlie saw many "out-of-towners" waiting there to hear news of their loved ones who were hospitalized. Charlie realized the need for items such as pillows, blankets, water, juice, and hygiene items (toothbrushes and toothpaste). Charlie has the help of churches and other organizations; donations to Hope for the Waiting are now tax deductible.

Earline's son, John Kendall, recently retired from teaching at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. He is a clinical psychologist.

Earline's daughter, Cindy Wadsworth, is married to Richard Wadsworth, and she and her husband recently retired as State Farm Agents in Dallas, Texas. They have two teenagers, Carson and Cameron.

Earline is a neighbor and good friend of Sylvia Powers, and the two of them often lunch together especially during the pandemic. They are active in the Church of Christ North, the North Shreveport Women's Club, the Book Circle, and DAR. They also enjoy the Little Theater and the Symphony.

The names that Earline would like to learn more about are her maiden name, Humphries, as well as Sturdivant and Cameron.



Barb Fuller's father was stationed with the USAF in Alaska when she was born at Ladd AFB before Alaska became a state. Later the family was stationed at Barksdale AFB; she graduated from Bossier High School. Barb is a Bossier City homemaker and takes good care of her husband and elderly parents who have had some medical problems.

Barb and her husband have been married 41 years; they enjoy watching television together. She is the football fan in the family and pulls for the Saints and LSU Tigers. She also enjoys cooking and trying out new recipes as well as reading historical fiction and inspirational books. Barb has really enjoyed reading a series of books called **HERE BURNS MY CANDLE** which is set in Scotland in the 1700s.

Barb first became interested in genealogy while listening to her father talk about his Irish relatives. She has been unable to determine where they entered the United States and exactly where in Ireland they lived. One of the problems is that there must be thousands of William Andersons. She would like to know more about the names Carter, Smith, Anderson, and Hutton.



John Agan, Local Historian and Author, Dies at Age 61

Contributed by Jim Johnson



We are saddened to learn of the death of a former member and a well-informed program speaker, John Allison Agan, who died on May 19, 2020. John Agan, a native, lifelong resident of Minden, was a featured speaker at many of our ALTGA meetings over the past several years. He last spoke at our April 2019 monthly meeting held at the Broadmoor Branch Library. He had a wealth of knowledge and understanding of Louisiana history and politics. He was an Assistant Professor of History at Bossier Parish Community College. He earned a BA, MEd, and MA from Louisiana Tech University. He served on the board of several organizations dedicated to the preservation of Minden's and Webster Parish's history, including the board of the Dorcheat Historical Association and Museum. For several years he has

written a weekly newspaper column on local history for *The Minden Press-Herald*. He has published eleven books on local history and contributed to many more. In 2018, John was selected as Minden's 2018 Man of the Year by the Minden Lions Club.

His obituary can be found at:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ShreveportTimes/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=196219630>

MARY LOUISE THOMPSON HERSELF

By Debbie Berry (middle child of Mary Louise Thompson/ Hosea)

My Mom, nee Mary Louise Thompson, was the oldest of five children. Joe and Bertha Thompson were the poorest of parents. As cotton farmers, deep in the heart of Texas just 90 miles south of Dallas, their riches were in family life and not in material acquisitions. Mary Louise was an imaginative child and the endless entertainment for her younger siblings. Her two younger brothers, Robert Lee and Joe Kenneth, thought she was magical.

Being the oldest, Mary was tasked with bedding down the livestock at dusk. One night in late spring, Mary decided to beguile her little brothers with a whimsical trick. She had noticed a spider mite (more commonly known as a “daddy longlegs”) had taken up residence under their back porch steps. It was Mary’s habit to make note of the location of the milk cows as she walked from the school bus down the dirt road to the house because she knew she would be herding them home after supper. This spring evening she led her impressionable brothers onto the back porch and reached down under the porch steps gathering the daddy longlegs into her hand. She allowed one long, spindly leg to escape her grasp then positioned herself where the loose appendage would respond according to her wishes. With an authoritative tone she bellowed, “Daddy Longlegs, Daddy Longlegs, where have the cows gone?” At that point she blew a short puff of air upon the spider, and automatically the poor creature raised that lone skinny leg and pointed into the direction predestined by the crafty older sister.

The two little brothers witnessed this phenomenon more than once and tried to perform the ritual a time or two themselves, to no avail. The two of them made sure that everyone who would listen knew that their older, magical, awesome sister could speak to spiders and find the cows wherever they were grazing.



Using Facebook Groups to Enhance your Genealogy

Contributed by Paula Roper

(Full Disclosure: I may either be an administer or assistant on several Facebook Genealogy Groups)

Are Facebook Genealogy Groups Helpful? If you ask me, I will always answer YES. However, some are better than others, so you need to pick and choose the ones you find useful. I have one that I made for my paternal family so I could share all the old pictures and articles found in the house that my family had owned since 1830. What a treasure trove!! My cousin told me about a group for the area; I joined and realized I could assist distant cousins. I began contributing and met old and new cousins. I even met Barb Fuller on the group. I became an assistant with the group because I was willing to share my family stories, and they were a part of many others stories. Others commented, added, and enhanced the story of my family. I am on many Facebook groups for the county or parish of interest and have found like-minded individuals who enjoy research and are willing to share. For an example, last week on the Tensas Parish group, a picture was posted of the 1927 Newellton High School basketball team, and the coach was my husband's grandfather. What an amazing find; when I sent it to his daughter, she had never seen it. It was his first year teaching. I am so grateful to the individual that shared this jewel with us. On another group in Mississippi, I have found old pictures of my grandparents' home and businesses. These were at the local library but would have cost me gas, lodging, and food to go; I got them from the comfort of my home. The groups all need input, and if you share, you will be rewarded with others sharing with you. Give them a try!

The Mystery of the Spurlin Family Deaths in 1853

Contributed by Cary Allen

For years we had seen the Spurlin gravestone memorials in the Salem Cemetery, located in Redland, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, all similar-looking markers, all lined in row with a date of death roughly a month apart, all during the autumn of 1853. While conversing with a couple of other Allen/Spurlin family researchers at the start of our Covid-19 pandemic home confinement this past spring, we may have stumbled across our answer. Yellow fever.

The yellow fever outbreak in Shreveport during the summer of 1873 is well known within the local community, as the "Yellow Fever Mound Memorial" in Shreveport's Oakland Cemetery will attest.^[1] However, 20 years earlier, a large yellow fever outbreak during the summer of 1853 was reported in New Orleans by many of the local area newspapers^[2]. Although slow to acknowledge the outbreak in order to limit economic impact, new cases and deaths were being tabulated by the newspapers with each published edition from August until December of that year. Many people feared for their lives and left the area. The disease spread throughout the Mississippi delta region and much of Louisiana. Although the official number of deaths varies, historians agree that 1853 was considered the peak year for yellow fever deaths with about one in twelve people succumbing to the disease just in the city of New Orleans alone. ^[2,3]

Closer to home in the northwest portion of the state, the *Caddo Gazette* published two articles about the fever in September of that year illustrating how the disease had spread across the region and the concern within the local Shreveport community.^[4]

The Fever

The Vicksburg Whig of the 6th instant says the fever is on the increase in that city. The sexton's report given seven deaths by in [sic] on the 3d, 4th, and 5th instant.

The Natchez Courier of the 2d says: By the sexton's report it will be seen that the interments for four days back have been 27, of which 22 were from yellow fever. It was thought to be on the decrease.

Memphis on the 5th instant, was quite healthy for the season.

In Mobile, the mortality is as great as in New Orleans in proportion to the population. In five days, from the 3d to the 9th inst., the number of interments from yellow fever was 149 out of a population 9,5001 [sic].

In New Orleans the interments in all the cemeteries of the city for the 24 hours ending at 6 o'clock on Friday, 9th September were 43 and for the 24 hours ending at 6 o'clock A. M. on Saturday, 10th the interments were 56.

The fear is invading the watering places on the Gulf and the river towns on the Mississippi. The Choctaw and Texas bring news that these towns are being almost entirely abandoned. We learn that the editor of the Concordia Intelligencer, at Vidalia, opposite Natchez, lost his wife and six children in one day.

YELLOW FEVER IN SHREVEPORT — The question of the existence of yellow fever in Shreveport is fully settled. The disease is have [sic] beyond a doubt, no one now questions the fact.

On yesterday morning the town was all aging [sic] on the subject, and the Mayor called a meeting of the physicians, to commit together as to the extent and probable increase of the disease, and to measures as they should deem necessary as precautionary. They met at 3 o'clock P. M. and we refer to the following as the result of their deliberations.

"The medical men of Shreveport met at the Mayor's office at 3 o'clock, p. m., Sept 16th in order to consult together as to the presence of the yellow fever in Shreveport. The conclusion, after a free consultation was that a few sporadic cases have occurred in Shreveport and several cases have been brought up from below. No evidence exists that the disease is epidemic at present, consequently the alarm is unnecessary. A few cases have died amounting in all to seven most of these were brought up in steamboats from below. The medical men of the town will have frequent meetings, and should danger exist, will make the fact known to the public."

M. Ester, Chairman

Even though the "medical men of Shreveport" saw no reason for alarm, my 3rd-great-grandparents living in Redland, Bossier Parish might disagree. Malinda Spurlin and several of her children seemed to have succumbed to yellow fever that autumn. We can see in later local newspaper reports, the disease was known to have spread inland from Shreveport and likely to Redland.

The September 24th edition of the *Caddo Gazette* reports ^[5]:

"We learn from the steamboat Shreveport that the towns of Campt and Grand Ecore are entirely deserted. Many small places in the interior of this State, unconnected by navigation with the Mississippi, have also been visited with the prevailing sickness and fearful mortality."

The October 21st edition of the *Shreveport Times* reads in part ^[6]:

"During the forty-eight hours a few new cases were reported in the city and a considerable number in the country. Most of the cases in town were doing very well, but we hear of some being seriously ill in the suburbs, where the disease is still raging in an epidemic form."

Malinda Truett was the wife of Green Spurlin,^[8] who came to Bossier Parish from Alabama about 1850 with their family; however, they are not found in the Bossier Parish 1850 census that was enumerated between October through December of that year. The earliest record we have of the family within Bossier Parish is the property located in Redland, which Green Spurlin purchased from David Austin in July of 1853. Between August to November of that year, four members of the Spurlin family had died and were interred in the Salem Cemetery side-by-side as shown in the current photo below.



These Spurlin family gravestone memorials are in very poor condition today. Inscriptions are difficult to read and, in some cases, completely worn off. Early Salem Cemetery transcriptions had misread the year of death as 1855 for Malinda and Sarah, concealing the fact that all of these family members died in 1853; this was partly due to the poor condition of the memorial marker and partly due to the poor relief on the engraving. The fives and the threes look very similar and are easily confused. However, careful examination of these memorials reveals they actually read as follow:





GEORGE T.
SPURLIN,
died
Sept 15, 1853.



MARTHA E.
MARTIN.
died
Oct. 10, 1853.



GREEN SPURLIN
BORN 1795
DIED AUGUST 1860
*Tho' lost to sight,
to memory dear*
ERECTED BY
P.E., G.G., & J.R.
ALLEN



CPL
RILEY M SPURLIN
CO A
19TH LA INF
CSA
1864

Without a medical report or at least an eyewitness account, we can't be certain that yellow fever is **definitely** the cause of the Spurlin deaths in during the autumn of 1853, but the fact that so many young people in one family died during the peak period of that year's outbreak is consistent with the disease's mortality schedule. Furthermore, since the presence of the yellow fever had been reported in the community, it appears to be a strong likelihood the cause. In addition to the Spurlin family, Elizabeth A. Swindle died November 13, 1853, at age "37yrs 10mo 13d" and is also interred in Salem Cemetery as another potential victim of yellow fever, along with others buried that year in Shreveport's Oakland Cemetery, who were named in the local newspapers.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to acknowledge Julie Pike and Marianne Granoff for their help in piecing together this puzzle. Additional recognition goes to Julie Pike for her work in confirming Malinda Spurlin's year of death during her most recent visit to Salem Cemetery this past June, and for the use of her photos.

Research Notes:

(1) George T., Sarah J., and Clementine C. Spurlin are thought to be children of Green and Malinda Spurlin, born in Alabama between 1840-1850. The missing 1850 Census record for Green Spurlin is needed to confirm this fact. To date, it has not been found in any of the counties in Alabama, Arkansas, or Louisiana, where the family was known to have resided.

(2) Clementine Spurlin's stone is broken and lying on the ground today. Part of the date is now missing as shown in the photo. Earlier cemetery gravestone transcriptions record her year of death as 1850, placing the family in Bossier Parish as early as August 1850.

(3) Martha E. Spurlin married John Martin in Bossier Parish in 1851^[7]. She may be a child of Green Spurlin or the daughter of Eli Spurlin, a first cousin of Green, who was living in the community according to the 1850 Census. More work is needed to confirm her relationship with this family.

(4) Paul E., Green G., and James R. Allen are grandsons of Green Spurlin, through his daughter Emily L. Spurlin, who married John G. Allen. ^[8,9]

Sources:

[1] Yellow Fever Mound Memorial, Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport, Louisiana; viewable online at <http://www.oaklandcemetaryla.org/Tour/Stop1a.aspx>

[2] *The Times-Picayune, The Daily Delta, The New Orleans Crescent, & The Planter's Banner* newspapers, issues dated Aug thru Nov of 1853; presented online by *Newspapers.com*

[3] Summary analysis from various historical articles available online returned by a simple Google search for "Yellow Fever New Orleans 1853"

[4] *Caddo Gazette* newspaper dated 17 Sept 1853, page 2, columns 1 & 3; presented online by *Newspapers.com*

[5] *The Times-Picayune* newspaper dated 8 Oct 1853 citing *The Caddo Gazette*, page 2; presented online by *Newspapers.com*

[6] *The Times-Picayune* newspaper dated 25 Oct 1853 citing *The Shreveport Times*, page 8; presented online by *Newspapers.com*

[7] Louisiana, Compiled Marriage Index, 1718-1925; 1946-1961; presented online by *Ancestry.com*

[8] Wills and Probate Records, 1756-1984 (Presented online by *Ancestry.com*; Original data from Louisiana County, District and Probate Courts), Bossier Parish Probate Records, Book C for years 1858-1861; Pages 534 – 537; Succession of Malinda Spurlin

[9] 1870 & 1880 United States Federal Censuses; Township 23, Bossier Parish; Head of Household: J. G. Allen

My Love of Museums

Part 3

Contributed by Leonard Gresens

I left off on my museum series last quarter assuming I was going to make some visits to write about for this quarter. Well, that did not happen. I was willing, but the pandemic had other plans; so here is what I have this quarter.

We did get to vacation this year at the end of June and beginning of July. We went back to Navarre, Florida, for a beach visit. We made this trip three summers ago, without having to wear masks, social distancing, and washing our hands incessantly. On that visit in 2017, we made a trip to visit the National Aviation Museum on the Naval Air Station Base in Pensacola. This is also the home base of the world-famous Blue Angels. During the day, and if all is clear, you can watch the Angels practicing over the museum. Well, just my luck, we actually went to Florida with a tropical storm coming, and the Blue Angels had left the air base for safer weather. The storm turned out to be nothing more than a lot of wind and little rain, but I know you must make the right decisions with \$67 million jets.



Without the Blue Angels in residence, we proceeded to tour the massive museum. There are over 150 beautifully restored aircraft throughout the museum campus. In addition to all the planes, there are many exhibits providing a closer look at the people and events that shaped our history. There are vintage uniforms,

historic documents, and dioramas depicting the history of naval air power. At the time of our visit, our five-year-old grandson was with us. Now you would think he would be in hog heaven with all these big airplanes everywhere. But you can only **keep a youngster's** attention for a few hours, so we had to cut this visit short. If we continue to vacation in the Florida panhandle each year, I will plan another trip to spend more time at the Naval Station. Maybe **I'll** even get to see the Blue Angels practice!

In the summer of 2011, one of the companies I worked for held their national convention in San Diego, California. My wife and I made a vacation out of this trip. We were able to fill in three bucket-list events on this trip. One of our goals is to visit each Major League Baseball stadium. Check off: Los Angeles Dodgers, San Diego Padres, and the California Angels in Anaheim. As excited as I was to accomplish this, the high light of the trip was our last night of the convention, which ended with a dinner party on the USS Midway Aircraft Carrier and museum. I did not have any idea how big these carriers are. Actually, this is a small one compared to the newer nuclear warship today.

The Midway is a historical naval aircraft carrier. It was the longest-serving aircraft carrier of the 20th century, serving from 1945 until it was retired in 1992. The ship houses an extensive collection of aircraft, many of them having been built in Southern California. The aircraft are on the flight deck and in the hanger deck. There are walking tours on the carrier. Talk about close quarters! Exhibits throughout the ship show life on the carrier and provide information on all of the missions the carrier served.



This is another museum I would like to revisit. There **wasn't** enough time to see everything.

Closer to home is the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. Now, I'll confess I haven't been in a while. As a matter of fact, when I did visit, it was named the National D-Day Museum. As with any trip to New Orleans, I was on a tight schedule. This museum has expanded from the previous museum it was; it is one of those museums that I'm going to revisit, with the stipulation to visit it over a two-or-three-day time frame. Everyone I have talked to about this museum tells me, "You can't see everything in one visit." Bucket List!!!

As I previously stated, it was the National D-Day Museum when I visited a number of years ago. I remember a lot about the exhibits. They told the story of our men storming the shores of Omaha Beach. The interesting part of that was the exhibit of the Higgins boat. These small boats carried troops from the ships to the beaches. These craft were manufactured in New Orleans by Higgins Industries. Mr. Andrew Jackson Higgins was a boat maker in New Orleans who won the contract with the government to begin building these watercraft. His small workforce grew from 75 workers in 1938 to over 20,000 by 1943, consisting of a well-integrated force composed of undrafted white males, women, African Americans, the elderly, and handicapped persons. All were paid equal wages. The boats were affectionately called "The Boats That Won World War II."



Now, I'm going to tell on myself. Here in North Louisiana, we have three museums that I have not visited. I am ashamed of myself for not making the time to do a day trip to these great museums. They are Barksdale Global Power Museum on Barksdale Airforce Base, North Louisiana Military Museum in Ruston, and Chennault Aviation & Military Museum in Monroe.

The Global Power Museum gives the history of the Strategic Bombardment at the

home of the 2nd Bomb Wing of the mighty 8th Air Force and the new Air Force Global Strike Command. What makes matters worse is my dad served in the Army Air Corp stationed at Barksdale. You would think I would want to learn more. Now I'm really starting to feel bad. "Mental note, plan visit to Barksdale Museum." It is open, but check on times. No group tours at this time.



Over in Ruston, the North Louisiana Military Museum has over 10,000 artifacts on display and countless photographs to view. The museum chronicles from Civil War to the present War on Terrorism. There is also a display dedicated to Women in the military. This museum is temporarily closed due to the pandemic, but it's a necessary bucket-list visit.

The Chennault Aviation & Military Museum is located at the Monroe airport. It includes many vintage aircraft from all conflicts. All five branches of the Armed Services are included. It also tells the story and history of Delta Airlines, which got its start in Monroe as a crop-dusting service. There are over 11,000 artifacts throughout the 10,000 square foot museum. The museum is currently open, so a short drive east can give you something to do for a day.

You may have noticed by now that there is a military theme to this article. I will leave you with one more (probably my favorite) that I did visit during the summer of 2015. The Warren Lasch Conservatory Center, in Charleston, South Carolina, is not really a museum. It is a high-tech laboratory specifically designed to house and conserve the H.L. Hunley, CSS. The Hunley is the first combat submarine in world history to successfully sink another warship, the USS Housatonic in 1864. After the completion of her mission, she mysteriously vanished and remained lost at sea for over a century. Finally, in 1995, bestselling author Clive Cussler found the Hunley off the coast of Charleston and began to retrieve the submarine from the sea. It was brought to the surface in August of 2000 and immediately delivered to the Lasch Conservatory for restoration.

The submarine, along with hundreds of artifacts found onboard, is currently undergoing preservation, and also historic clues are being pieced together that may aid in discovering the final moments of the Hunley and her crew.

The **visitors'** center houses many of these historic artifacts and clues laid out in a timeline fashion, beginning with start of the Civil War, through inception of the submarine, right up to the events that led to the sinking of the Housatonic.



The Hunley in the conservation water tank before restoration began (front of submarine):

I really cannot do justice to the story of the Hunley. There is so much on the internet to research and discover. There are a number of YouTube videos of the restoration process. The research, history, and even genealogy that have taken place are **incredible**. **Each man's**, (there were eight on board that night), remains were found in their designated place on the ship. A military funeral, conducted after the ship was raised, turned out visitors from as far away as Australia, Germany, France, and Great Britain. In doing the genealogy research, descendants of two of the crewmembers were invited to participate in the burial of their ancestors. This was a wonderful, historic event and celebration for our nation. RIP.



The Hunley in the drained conservation tank during restoration (rear of submarine).

Do yourself a favor. Google CSS Hunley and visit www.hunley.org and learn about this wonderful artifact. The Lasch Conservatory is not open at this time. This is a definite revisit just as soon as I can make it back to Charleston. By the way, the city of Charleston is a great place to visit.

Until next quarter!

When the Army Passed Through Louisiana

(As told by my father, Frank Shively)

Contributed by Ken Shively

It was late summer, 1941. War was raging in Europe and Asia, and many in this country feared that the United States would be pulled into it. The U.S. air and ground forces were operating "war games" in Louisiana to get more prepared. My father, Frank Shively, had been working for several years in the town of Coushatta for the Soil Conservation Service, a job he had been fortunate to get during the economic depression. He and his good friend and coworker, Pat Strother, who I would call Uncle Pat, had the only federal offices in town, and a decorated officer named George Patton set up his office with theirs while army maneuvers were going on.

Colonel Patton wore well-polished boots, carried a pearl-handle revolver, and displayed several stars on his shiny helmet. Several civilians were attracted to what the army was doing, and Patton seemed thrilled to tell them what was going on. Dad and Uncle Pat stood listening to him close to the Red River bank as tanks and trucks rolled past going over a bridge. Overhead, fighters were practicing "dog fights" and bombing tactics by dropping sacks of flour on ground targets of rope laid out in large circles. Suddenly, they heard a bump when a Navy fighter, based out of Lake Charles, Louisiana, hit an Army P-40 Corsair fighter, causing it to lose control.

Dad, Colonel Patton, and Uncle Pat could hear the fighter coming down in their direction and ran as fast as they could away from it. The plane crashed near the riverbank killing the pilot, 2nd Lt. John Bobroski, of Racine, Wisconsin. The pilot of the Navy fighter managed to limp his plane to safety. Watching the burning wreckage, Colonel Patton exclaimed, "I don't understand it. Those were some of the best damn pilots we have!" Soon the army moved on, and the officer flashed his big smile again, waving goodbye to the civilians.

For years, a plaque with the name of that pilot, who would not live to serve in the upcoming war, stood on the crash site by the river. Colonel Patton would, of course, soon become world-famous General George Patton, while leading U.S. forces in North Africa and Europe. Dad served in Pacific theater during the whole war and kept up with the general through war news. He would always say that his claim to fame was that day when he ran alongside the great George Patton to get away from an airplane that was coming down over them.



No membership renewal dues for current 2020 members!

If you are a current member of ALTGA for 2020, you will **NOT** need to pay your 2021 membership renewal dues. This only applies to current 2020 members. Renewal will be automatic. Because of the Coronavirus, we, unfortunately, had to cancel many of our meetings and activities this year. Thank you for your understanding and patience!

Dak Bungalows, 'Sudden Death,' and a Bit of Niagara Falls

My Paternal Barton Ancestors from India to Virginia

Deborah Barton Adderley, September 2020

The focus of this narrative is of the three generations of my paternal Barton line, who served the Honourable East India Company and the English Crown from 1811-1872. I would like to acknowledge and thank several relatives instrumental in providing me with the information of these years of our

history. My 3rd cousin Nick Balmer tirelessly researched Indian archival information about the Anglo Maratha Wars, in the third of which my 3rd great-grandfather began his career. My third cousin twice removed Tony Barton and his wife Rosanna supplied me with many of the facts herein, and my brother Steve Barton researched documents of the Barton family in the States to the present.

The partial 1805 map of the Indian subcontinent (left) is highlighted to show the regions where my Barton line lived and served. Principal among these were the fortress at Bombay (present-day Mumbai); the Maratha Territory to the east and north of Bombay, including Ahmednuggur (aka Ahmadnagar), Poona, and Surat; and further north the Gujarat and Sindh regions, the latter of which contained military outposts (not shown) at Karachi and Hyderabad. My paternal line also served the Crown in Burma, located east of the Bay of Bengal.



India Subcontinent, 1805

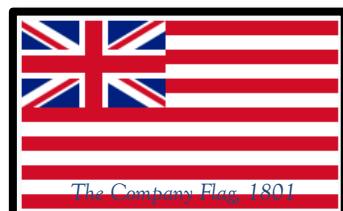
The Honourable East India Company (HEIC) was known by several names, more commonly by the English of that time as “The Company.” Her Majesty Elizabeth I, or “Good Queen Bess,” launched the Company in 1599 and issued it a royal charter on 31 December 1600.

The first delegation surveyed the Indian coast for suitable ports for trading centers. They chose Madras on the southeast coast, Calcutta northeast in the Bengal region, and Bombay on the west coast. The Crown gave the Company a monopoly on all trade east of the South African Cape of Good Hope until 1813, but it continued to manage India on behalf of the Crown until the Indian Mutiny of 1857, known by Indians today as the First War of Independence, after which the Crown assumed control. The Board of Directors in its early days planned for one trip to and from India per year around the Cape of Good Hope. Most of the early voyages initially took about five months, with a month in between for unloading and loading the ship. Before the Suez Canal opened in 1869, one-way trips took about three months, but thereafter three weeks. When the Company was at its largest, it employed 250,000 people among its private army, navy, and civil service. Prior to 1857, the Company leased its military forces from the Crown, but it filled about 80% of its enlisted ranks with Indian troops, called sepoy. The Company dissolved over the two-year period 1873–1874.

My earliest Barton ancestor to serve in India, my 3rd great-grandfather James Barton, arrived in 1811 at Bombay Harbor on India’s west coast, reporting for duty as an officer in the Bombay Artillery.



*The Honourable India Company Coat of Arms
By command of the King and Parliament of England*



The Company Flag, 1801

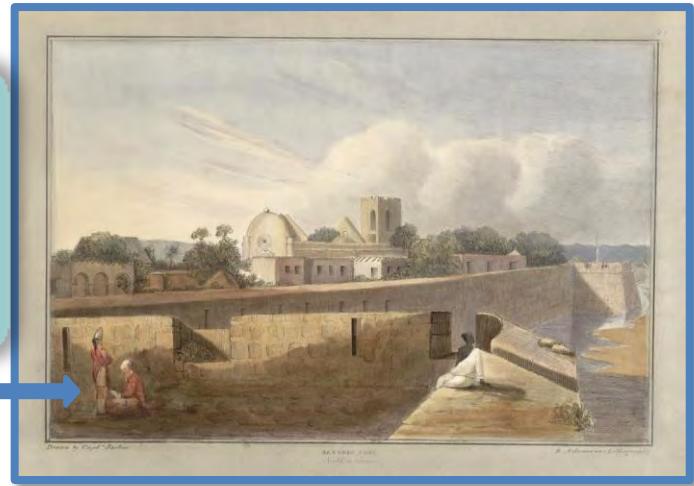


James Barton would go on to serve in several ranks and capacities:

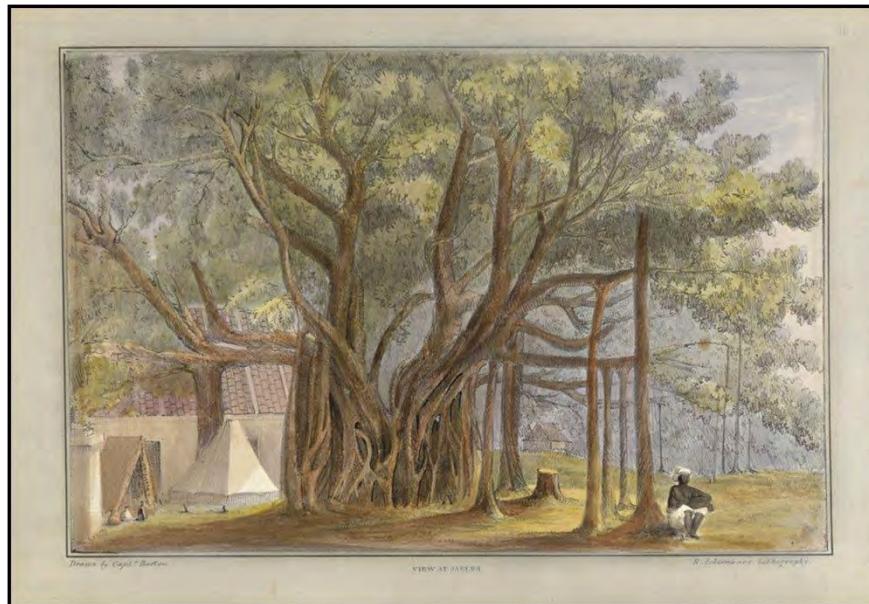
- Lieutenant-Fire worker, and a day later Lieutenant, 1811. (The first rank was unique to the Royal Artillery at that time, and was later abolished in favor of the new rank 2nd Lieutenant.)
- Fought in the 3rd Anglo Mahratta War 1817-1818; made Captain, 1818; and Brigade Major, Deccan Artillery, 1818.
- Adjutant & Quartermaster, Deccan Artillery, 1825.
- Gunpowder Agent, Bombay, 1 Oct 1827.

In the course of his duties, Captain Barton sketched several scenes that were published in 1820. Family tradition holds that James sketched himself in the following depiction:

Here is another lithographed sketch depicting the British



Basseen [sic] Fort, located north of the Bombay peninsula, today known as Vasai Fort
cantonment at Jualna, India. Note the aerial roots of the banyan tree.



View at Jualna, India



Eliza Georgiana Hawkins, 1795-1886

Eliza Georgiana Hawkins (left) was one of ten children in the Sarah and Samuel Hawkins family. There is a family tradition that Eliza's first wedding was an illegal marriage in England in 1814. Some of the family believe that because police stopped the involved groom in front of the church *before* the marriage took place, Eliza was saved from a bigamous marriage to Mr. Felix O'Neal O'Hanlon. There are others who say that the marriage took place because the police stopped them after the marriage had been performed. That embarrassment caused her family to leave England. She went to India, and her parents and younger family members went to France to live.

She later married Captain James Barton at the Bombay Cathedral in 1821.



Present-day St. Thomas Cathedral, Bombay/Mumbai (today). Consecrated 1718.

James and Eliza had five children, all born and baptized in India. Their first child Emily was born in 1822, Henry in 1823, Eliza in 1825, my 3rd great-grandfather Charles James in 1827, and Lionel Chase in 1828.

Captain Barton suffered an early death, leaving Eliza a widow with all five children under ten years old. A twenty-foot tall monument (right) was erected by his brother officers. It is located in Matoonga, Bombay, India. James' grandson, Patterson Barton, later visited Matoonga in 1909 and noted seeing it.

Mr. J. H. Dunsterville was a family friend and attorney. His letter to tell James' relatives in England of his death follows:

My Dear Sir,

It is with feelings of deepest affection that I take up my pen to communicate to you the sad intelligence of the death of your relative and my dearest friend, Poor Barton On Monday, James took the Last Sacraments. I found he had arranged all his papers in preparation for the inevitable He passed a restless night. On Tuesday morning it was plain he was sinking but I found him perfectly sensible ... after wandering for a bit, he breathed his last with the sigh of an infant without a groan or struggle.

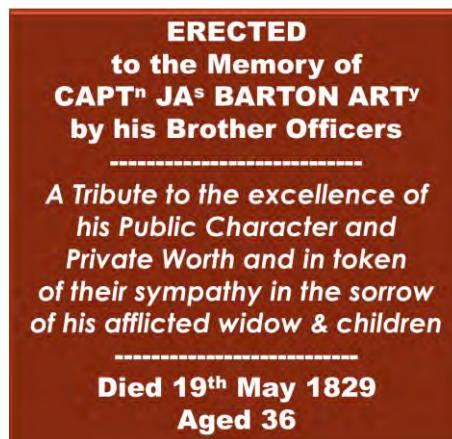
Believe me I am in deepest sympathy,

J. H. Dunsterville, Esquire

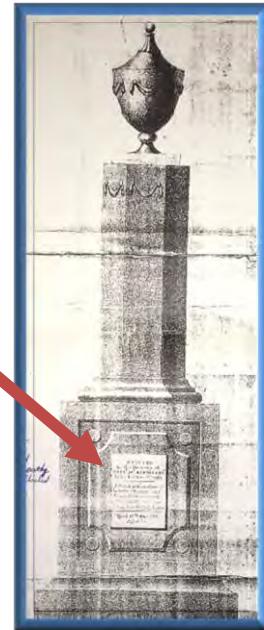
James' widow Eliza returned to England with her five children. She eventually married a Heathcote, a widower with four children of his own, and they had three more children.

James Barton's and Eliza's son CJ (Charles James) attended a military school for training engineering and artillery officers, 1843–1844, run by the East India Company at Addiscombe, Surrey, England. CJ graduated and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in December 1845. He left for India, arriving there in April 1846.

Tours of duty in India were of one to two decades. Many of the military men moved their families to India with them for the duration of the deployment. Likewise, their furloughs as officers were lengthy, upwards of a year or more.



Memorial to Captain James Barton,
Matoonga, Bombay, 1829



HEIC Academy at Addiscombe, Surrey, England

These are my second great-grandparents. Charles James Barton married Elizabeth Birch in 1854. It is believed they met in India and married there.



Charles James Barton and his 1st wife Elizabeth Birch

During his time with the Royal Artillery, Charles, to his credit, was fluent in three Indian languages: Hindustani, Mahratta and Gujarati. By 1851, CJ's position was listed as Quartermaster & Interpreter in the 4th Battalion of the Bombay Foot.

CJ was deployed to Ahmednuggur, a fortified cantonment about 150 miles east of Bombay, serving there as an Adjutant in the 1st Battalion, 18th Brigade, Bombay Artillery, from 1853 to 1859. Among other deployments, it was during this time that the Indian Mutiny arose.

Elizabeth and Charles' first four children were born in Ahmednuggur and baptized in this Anglican church located within the cantonment.



Their first child was Amy, born 1856. Then **Charles Bradford, my great-grandfather**, was born in 1857. The next two children were girls born in successive years 1858 and 1859; they died in infancy and were buried in this church's graveyard. After this, CJ's military papers show a long furlough for the family, presumably spent in England, because their third child, Hugh, was born in Bath, Somerset, in 1860. The furlough lasted 1 December 1859 to 27 January 1861.

Anglican Church at Ahmednuggur, Maharashtra, India

The family returned to India in the Scinde (aka Sindh) region, which is now situated in the southeast region of Pakistan. Their fourth child, Lionel, was born 1864, in Hyderabad, Scinde region. By May 1865, daughter and last child Clara was born in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England. Sometime after this birth, their mother Elizabeth (Birch) Barton died, between 1865 and 1871.

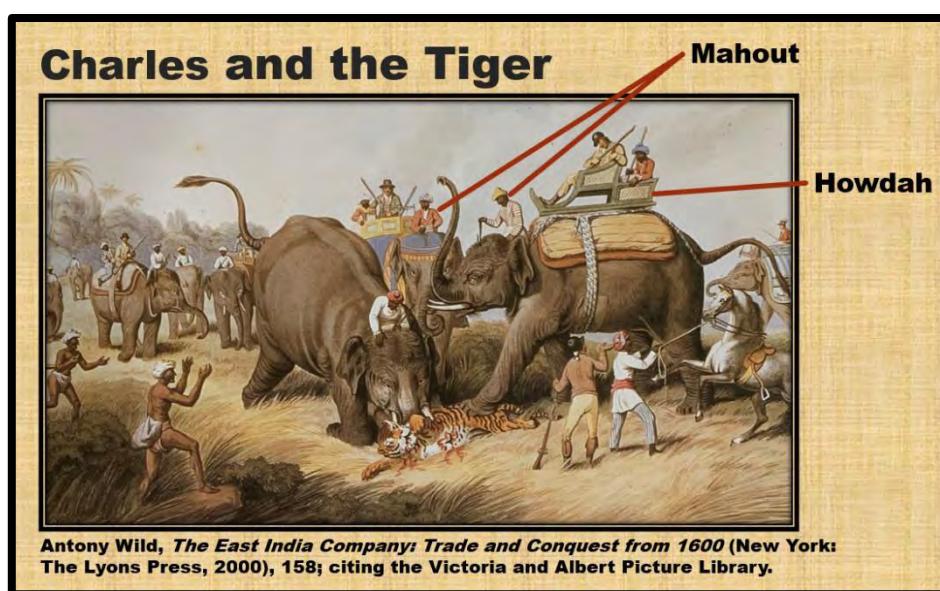
Whether returning from or heading out on deployments, dak bungalows served as overnight stops in India. Although they were created for the dakwalas, postmen who carry the imperial mail, the buildings provided free accommodation for government officials and the East India Company officials. Beds were not required as all the military were expected to travel with their own bedding. Many of the daks came with a dakwala, a durwan (caretaker), and sometimes a khansamah (an attendant who cooked). Dak bungalows were famous for a meal known as "Sudden Death." It was an Indian dish where the chicken was caught as you walked up to the bungalow. It was plucked, cooked, and served almost as one sat down to the table. It was "Sudden Death" for the Chicken!

Family tradition has it that CJ was fearless, plucky, and a skilled horseman. At the 50th wedding anniversary party of my great uncle Valentine Barton and his wife Flora, I remember seeing THE infamous tiger of family lore and the rifle that dispatched it above the sofa. Here is Charles' traditional family version of that tiger hunt: "I spotted a tiger in the jungle near us. I shot it with my musket ---- or so I thought! Because in an instant that tiger sprang up onto the howdah on the Elephant's back and plunged its fangs

into my arm, trying to pull me from the elephant! As the tiger and I were eye to eye, I bellowed, 'Drop me, Sir!' The tiger immediately released me whereupon I snatched my second rifle and dispatched the beast."



A typical dak bungalow



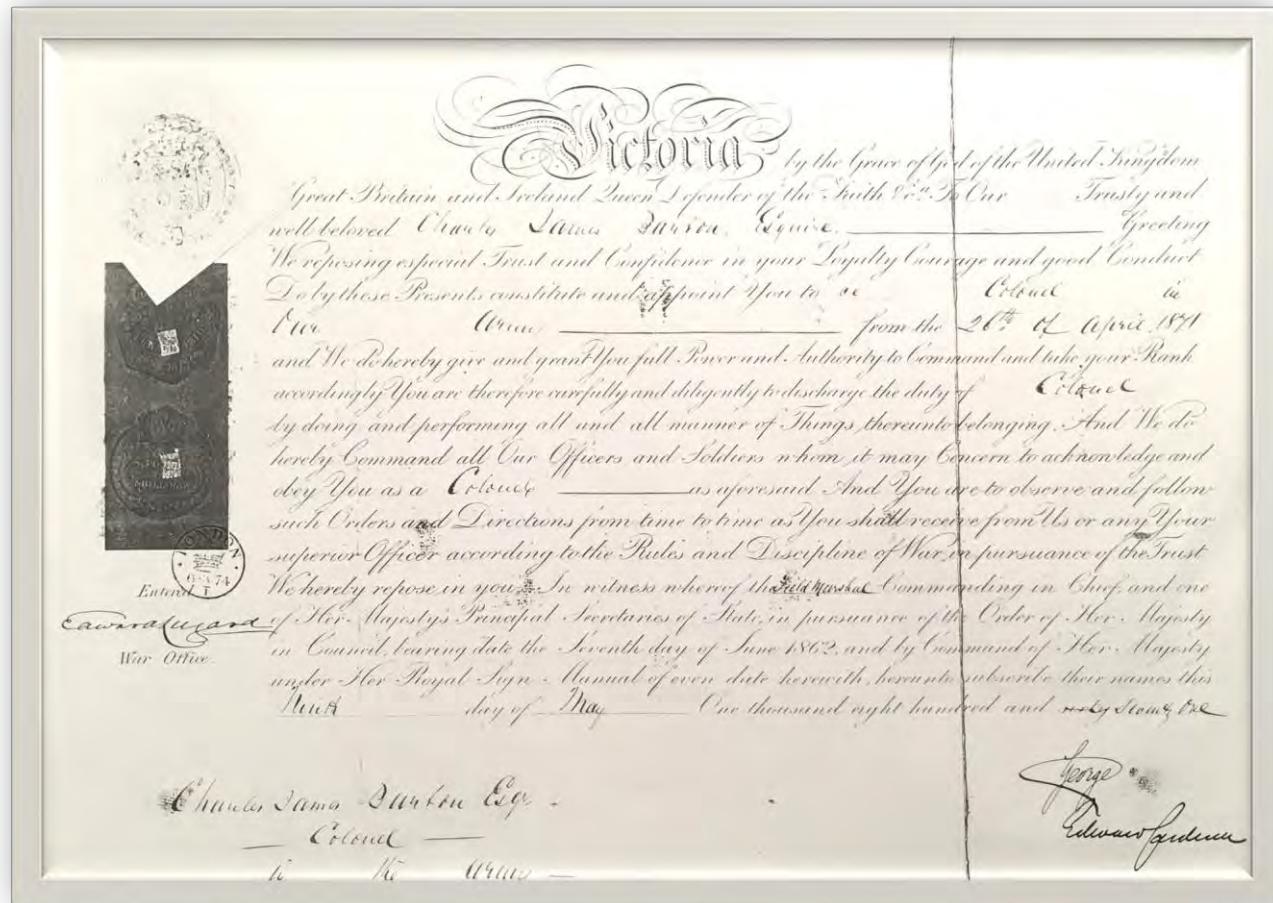
Charles James Barton's military service timeline included the following ranks, positions, furloughs, retirement, etc.:

- Cadet, Addiscombe Military Seminary, 1843-1844; 2nd Lieutenant, 12 December 1845.
- Arrived India, 9 April 1846.
- 1st Lieutenant, 1 June 1849; Quartermaster & Interpreter, 4th Battalion, 1850.
- Adjutant, 1st Battalion, 6 January 1853-26 August 1859; 2nd Captain, 27 August 1858.
- Furloughed "to Europe or Elsewhere beyond India on private affairs," 1 December 1859 to 27 January 1861; during that interval commissioned 1st Captain, 11 April 1860.
- Additional furlough, 308 days, dates unknown, but completed prior to 31 May 1866.
- Lieutenant Colonel, 26 April 1866, Kurrachee (aka Karachi) and Hyderabad, Sindh Region, about 950 miles northwest of Bombay in present-day Pakistan.
- Commanding Officer, Royal Artillery, Pegu Division, British Burma, 1870-1871; Brevet
- Colonel, 26 April 1871.
- Retired and commissioned Honorary Major General, 1 August 1872.



Charles James Barton and some of his officers, about 1866

The following document reflects Her Majesty Queen Victoria's commissioning of Charles James Barton as a "Colonel in Our Army" effective 26 April 1871, while he was in charge of the Pegu Division, a civil administrative division, in Burma, located on the eastern shore of the Bay of Bengal.



Colonel Barton returned from Burma to England and began pondering his options now that he was soon to be retired. America and the opportunities there appeared attractive to him. He left his children with their paternal grandmother, Eliza (Hawkins) Barton Heathcote, and her husband in Devonshire, England. He headed out on the S/S Baltic. The following are brief excerpts from his diary, a twenty-plus page typed transcription:

"June 21, 1872. Left Liverpool. Wet squashy [or squally?] seas. Could not keep my own breakfast down.
 July 1. Landed at wharf in Jersey City about 9am. Disembarked. Intensely hot 99 therm in shade. Bread, cheese, and beer \$.85.
 July 3. Left by train for Washington D. C. Had berth on sleeping car. Awoke to the



S/S Baltic of the White Star Line

clatter of horses and mules clip-clopping as they draw the train cars through the streets of Baltimore. I must say they are very fine animals! Much bigger than ours!

July 5. Visited the White House. Considering it is the President's Official Residence and the only one that I believe in the U.S., it is insignificant as to its size. On to the Capitol! A most imposing structure of white marble but seems adequately suited for its purpose.

July 7, Sunday. Left at 3 pm. Passed Bull Run where the southerners whipped up on the Yanks and at Manassas Junction, the graveyard of their dead in that action. Miles and miles of blackened stumps and ruined homesteads ... All the cooking everywhere appears swimming in butter! No bread, just "hot cakes" of all kinds. Dreadful! My dinner at Warrenton at 75 cents was a cut of lamb and huckleberries in milk, which, the results this morning, warn me not to try again!

July 20. To Grace church today ... During the sermon, I stared at the walls inside and see the marks of war. Many Yankee names and other messages are scribbled on the inside and outside of the buildings. There are pockmarks reminiscent of the bullets and the fire power of rifles or cannon.

August 1. Today I am no longer a soldier. At least it is the day we are to be faretted out [*discharged*]."

Between 3–6 August, Charles took an express train from Richmond to New York and then to Niagara Falls, returning to New York City to catch his return ship home to England. He was amazed that he had accomplished nearly 1000 miles of travel in 52 hours.

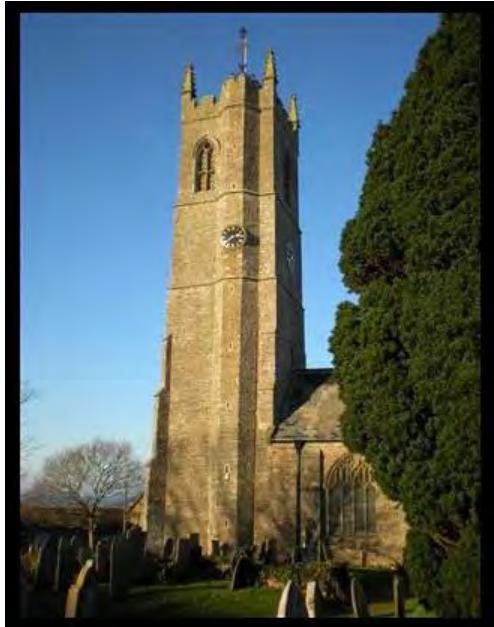
CJ returned home 10 August on the S/S *Baltic*'s sister ship of the White Star Line, the S/S *Adriatic*. Pictured below is the family home "Raleigh," located in Northam, Devonshire, England.



"Raleigh," Northam, Devonshire, England

Notice the sheep in the foreground. While visiting our Barton relatives in Somerset, England, in 1999, we walked the sheep from pasture to pasture. I was thinking they used the sheep for their wool. One evening while eating dinner with them, I asked, "Do you eat the sheep from your farm?" Rosanna quickly replied, "Oh yes! Would you like to know the name of this one on the table?" My eyes opened wide in horror and I answered, sheepishly, "Uhhhhhhhhhhhhhh, no!" I wasn't prepared for that!

CJ met the daughter of a successful attorney in Devonshire, of the Patterson family. Her name was Julia. CJ and Julia married in April of 1873, at Northam Church, Devonshire.



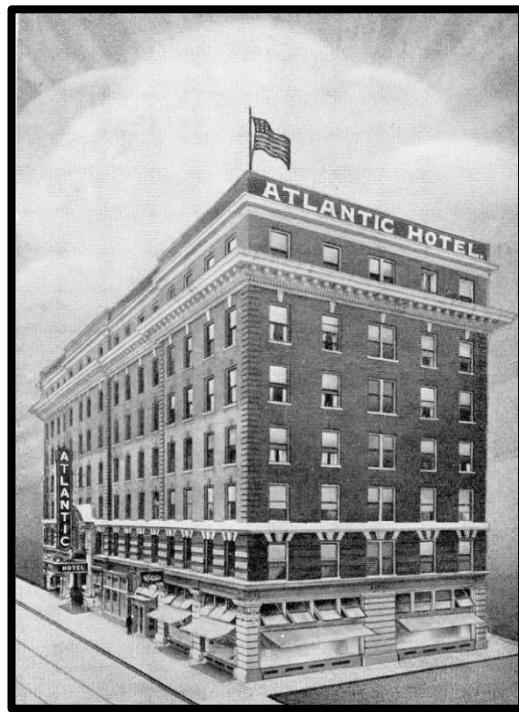
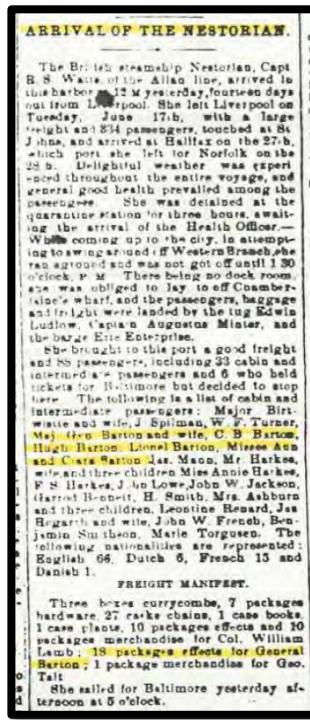
Northam Church, Devonshire, England



Julia Elizabeth (Patterson) Barton, 1847-1874

The whole family moved to the United States of America in 1873. Julia wrote about all of the family experiencing sea sickness and that Clara, the baby of the family, had it the worst. She wrote of watching whales spouting and porpoises frolicking alongside the ship. She mentioned that they all got burnt on the voyage and that she was quite freckled and felt it was unbecoming to her light complexion. She mentioned the ship got into the harbor at Norfolk, Virginia, got stuck on a sand bar, and could not dock until the tides came in (to free it from the sand bar).

The family and she had been living in the Atlantic Hotel for several months before they found a suitable estate.



The Atlantic Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia

The following are excerpts from Julia's letters to both families back in England:

August 7, 1873 ...

My dearest Papa, Mama, Evelyn, Annette, Louise and Duncan [her family], Mr. and Mrs. Heathcote and Aunt Emily,

I was very glad to receive your letter and Oh I have good news! We are just leaving for a house in the country. It won't be long before our 18 packages of goods and the piano will be sent to Bayville from storage. The name of the estate is Bayville. It is in an area called Lynn Haven which is the name of our own cove. It is very close to the entrance of the Chesapeake Bay. There are 16 rooms in the house on 800 acres of land. CJ wants to plant oysters in the cove. He loves them.

With best love from all to all at Melville [Julia's ancestral home] and Raleigh, [Barton home]

I am your affectionate daughter,

Julia

Julia to her sister Annette, November 1873 ...

Dearest Annette,

The weather is very changeable here. One day the cove is frozen over and the next it is warm like early June! It is rather inconvenient to keep one's summer clothes out all winter, but it is necessary. It must be proof of the healthiness of this climate. Charlie and I have decided to change the name of our estate. Instead of Bayville, we agreed it should be named Lynn Barton. It sounds more majestic, don't you think? Lynn for the Lynn Haven inlet where we are and Barton, of course, for us.

I am your affectionate Lady of Lynn Barton,

Julia

First Christmas at Lynn Barton 1873 ...

"Dearest Family,

The children talked of having a Christmas Tree, but I suggested a Bean pie instead. Which, besides being more convenient, was a greater as they had never heard of one before – nor had I! I also made a plum pudding and boiled it for 8 hours. When I told my neighbor of our Christmas feast, she said that she had never heard of anything being boiled for 8 hours!

We finished our first Christmas Day with our two little darlings, Lionel and Clara, singing Christmas Carols and finishing with a rousing rendition of "God Save the Queen!"



**"Bayville" built 1826
for Peter Singleton II,
owned by General
Barton and son
Charles Bradford
Barton, 1873 to
1888, 713 acres.**

**Virginia Landmarks
Register and
National Register of
Historic Places until
lost to fire (lightning
strike) August 2007**



Birth of a son, 28 June 1874, to the boy's maternal grandmother ...

Dear Mrs. Patterson,

You will all, I know, be glad to get a few lines from me announcing our dear Julia's having safely got over her great trial.

About midnight, Friday last, we sent for the doctor. She had a rather hard time of it for 4 hours, but presented me with a fine strong healthy boy about half past 4 in the afternoon (yesterday).

They are both doing well, and I trust they will continue so. I have so many letters to write.

Believe me, Yours affectionately,

Charles



The first male Barton of my paternal line born in the United States was named Patterson, after his mother Julia's surname. Patterson would go on years later to also become an officer in the Royal Artillery, and he visited his grandfather James' monument in Matoonga, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India in 1909.

Eight days later, 6 July 1874, Charles becomes a widower for the second time ...

My Dear Mrs. Patterson,

This day last week I announced to you all my dear Julia's safe delivery of our son. Today, I fully hoped to be able to tell you of the welfare of both, mother and baby, but a Merciful Providence has ordered otherwise. The little one that my poor darling longed for and was so pleased, has been taken from me and Julia's spirit is at rest. It came so suddenly that I am scarcely able to tell you. Julia died in my arms about half past 5 this morning. I am overwhelmed, bereft and desolate as I am sure you are too.

Charles

Part of follow up letter soon after ...

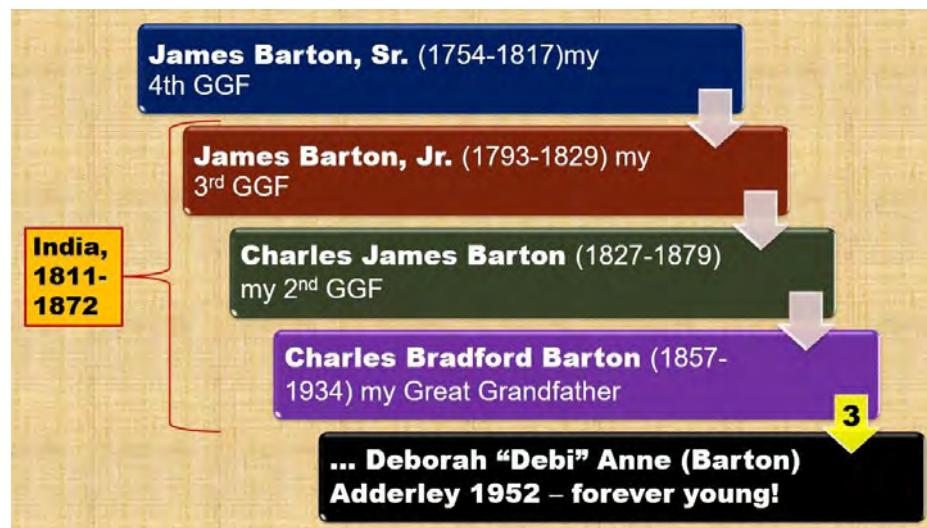
"... Oh, if you only knew how she longed for that little one! What joy she expressed during the days they had together. It is a remarkably strong healthy boy. It never cries except when it wakes up hungry, then it has its bottle which it has taken to well. Then it goes off to sleep again. I dread the responsibility of bringing up that poor thing by hand"

Eventually the family farm Lynn Barton began to produce oysters which the whole family loved. "One oyster is plenty for one's meal." They bartered and traded with the neighbors and took the fruit from the various trees to market to sell. The eldest son and his father made a go of the farm. But Charles James Barton died just five years after his beloved Julia in 1879. He was buried next to his second wife Julia in Norfolk, Virginia.

The three boys tried to keep the farm viable but sold it in 1888. Hugh finished his studies at William and Mary, married, and was gainfully employed. Lionel married and was employed in the Oceana and Virginia Beach area of Norfolk.

The family's English relatives worried about the young girls having no guardian and Patterson's being orphaned at age five. Those three, CJ's eldest and youngest daughters, Amy and Clara, and his son Patterson, returned to England to appease the English family who feared that they would ill become "wild colonials."

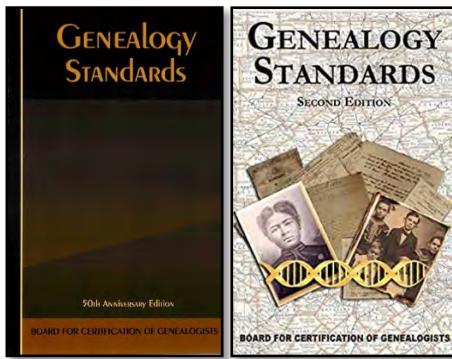
One of the sons remaining in America, Charles Bradford Barton, born in India in 1857, eventually became my great-grandfather. My paternal Barton ancestors are shown below, starting with my 4th great-grandfather, James Barton, Sr.



“Genealogy Research Standards”

ALTGA’s Hornbook for 12 September 2020

Philip Burnett Adderley, 311 Research, L.L.C.



Our hornbook’s foundation is *Genealogy Standards* published by the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG). The 2014’s first edition does not include standards for genetic genealogy or DNA. These were developed by a variety of experts and then incorporated into 2019’s second edition. Kindle versions of these sell for about \$11-12. I highly recommend them to genealogists at all levels.¹ Anyone seeking to become a credentialed genealogist via the BCG (Certified Genealogist (CG[®]) or Certified Genealogical Lecturer (CGL[®]))² must demonstrate a mastery of these standards.

The BCG website’s home page supplies a quote emphasizing their ultimate goal, “... to foster public confidence in genealogy as a respected branch of history by promoting an attainable, uniform standard of competence and ethics among genealogical practitioners, and by publicly recognizing persons who meet that standard ...”³ These standards can be used by genealogists at all levels. The more one uses them the more one’s genealogical research will benefit.

Public confidence depends on many factors. Central among them is the need for accuracy and valid results.

*Accuracy is fundamental to genealogical research. Without it, a family's history would be fiction. This manual presents the standards family historians use to obtain valid results.*⁴ [emphasis added]

Genealogy Standards, Second Edition includes the Genealogical Proof Standard—which we could easily deem the mother of all standards—and ninety additional standards broken down into five groups. The first eighty of those deal with documenting, researching, and writing. A further eight and two are unique to genealogical educators and continuing education, respectively.

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¹ The author does not have any financial interest in the sale of these items.

² The words Certified Genealogist and designation CG are registered certification marks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and the designations Certified Genealogical Lecturer and CGL are service marks of BCG, used under license by certificants after periodic competency evaluations (and only during the current five-year period for which they are certified).

³ “BCG, Board for Certification of Genealogists,” (<https://bcgcertification.org/> : accessed September 2020).

⁴ Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards*, 50th Anniversary Edition (New York: Ancestry.com, 2014), back cover.

Let's examine just **one** of the ninety standards in detail and apply it to a set of research questions concerning the census household of Reuben James in 1850 Rankin County, Mississippi.⁵

Today's Research Standard: #45 Assumptions

"As they obtain evidence, genealogists recognize their assumptions, categorize them, and differentially address each kind of assumption."

[emphasis added]

- **Fundamental Assumptions:** "concepts generally accepted as true."
- **Valid Assumptions:** "concepts generally accepted as *true unless convincingly contradicted.*"
- **Unsound Assumptions:** "concepts that *may* be valid but **cannot be accepted without supporting evidence.**"

Genealogy Standards, 50th Ann. Ed., 26-27.

*Genealogy Standards™ ALTGA's Hooniverse Session, 12 Sep 2020; QdA: ginal9828@gmail.com



The two categories of assumptions most difficult to apply as a genealogist are Valid and Unsound Assumptions. The former is generally the opposite of the latter. We start out with a **Valid Assumption** being generally true and **then seek to invalidate it**. If we do not find conflicting evidence then we incorporate that assumption into our reasoning when we support a proof statement, conclusion, theory, etc. If we seek to apply an **Unsound Assumption**, we do the opposite by **not accepting or applying it without first seeking evidence that supports it.** If no supporting evidence is found, we cannot incorporate it as part of our reasoning and evidence analysis.

Here are some examples of the three types of assumptions:⁶

Fundamental Assumptions	Valid Assumptions	Unsound Assumptions
People do not act after their deaths or before their births.	Mothers between twelve and forty-nine years old conceive children.	A man's widow is the mother of his children.
Travel between places is consistent with the period's technology.	Personal behavior and life patterns are coherent.	Migrating families follow popular routes.
People cannot be in more than one place simultaneously.	People generally observe the legal, moral, and social standards of their time and place.	A bride's surname is that of her parents.
Every person has one biological mother and one biological father.	Raw information in public and church records, contemporaneous family-Bible entries, and sworn court testimony is usually reliable.	The biological father is present with the biological mother at the birth of their child.

⁵. 1850 U. S. Census, Rankin County, Mississippi, population schedule, page 489 (penned), folio 245 (stamped, front), dwelling & family 603, Reuben James household; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com) : accessed 25 January 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 380.

⁶. The first two Fundamental Assumptions, the first three Valid Assumptions, and the first three Unsound Assumptions are supplied in *Genealogy Standards*, 50th Ann. Ed. [1st ed.], 26-27. The remainder are the author's, derived from expert sources & personal experience.

Fundamental Assumptions	Valid Assumptions	Unsound Assumptions
A mother is present in the place and time that her child is born.	Raw information found in a government document, such as a federal census, is usually reliable.	A same-surname male and female who witnesses the same document are husband and wife.
The biological father is present with the biological mother of their child at conception.	Census marshals and enumerators follow their instructions.	A same-surname, adult male and female heading an 1850-1870 census family are husband and wife.
For a variety of reasons (e.g., the delay between the official census day and the enumerator's entry date), not all persons are captured during a federal census enumeration.	All children less than a year old are alive on the official census day.	A minor in an 1850-1870 U. S. census household is the biological child of an apparent mother or father of the same surname.
	Dead people are not recorded.	The sons and daughters of a male 1880-census head of household are also the sons and daughters of his 1880 stated wife.
	A family too large to fit on the bottom of a census population schedule sheet resumes on the next sheet (or its digitized/filmed image).	A family present in the same location in two successive censuses lived there through the entire 10- (or 5-) year intervening period.
		The named children in a father's or mother's will is a complete list of his/her living children at the time the will was written.
		The absence of an expected spouse in the other spouse's will indicates that the expected spouse died before the other spouse's will was written.

Ask yourself, why is each Valid Assumption above **not** a Fundamental Assumption? Ask yourself, why is each Unsound Assumption above **not** a Valid or Fundamental Assumption?

Whether We Are Aware or Not ...

- Every time that we process raw information, we are applying research assumptions:
 - Sometimes overtly and consciously; at other times inadvertently or subconsciously.
 - Sometimes based upon personal behaviors; sometimes unique to the type of record used.
- For assumptions arising from personal behaviors, we are at risk when we examine information through our **personal, present-day 20th or 21st century lenses**.
Records created in the past especially need to be examined through peoples' behavioral lenses of those time periods.
- We are also at risk applying our present-day lenses to specific records, **without relying upon expert guidance unique to those records**.
- How often do you ask yourself, "what research assumptions did I use in processing a given piece of information?" Were the assumption(s) used fundamental, valid, or unsound? Doing this consistently and overtly is difficult for many genealogists.

"Genealogy Standards," ALTGA's Hornbook Session, 12 Sep 2020; Q&A: philas9828@gmail.com

The figure below conceptualizes visually what appears in the previous figure. First and foremost, it is the **Record** that **states** raw information, then **You** apply a warm and fuzzy combination of research assumptions and evidence analysis concepts to the Record's raw information, and, finally, it is **You** that **makes** assertions, theories, or proof statements. Let's illustrate this process.



Answer the following three research questions using the census extract that follows. I want you to write the answer based solely upon the census record and assume that no further evidence has surfaced. Use whatever research assumptions and evidence analysis concepts that you believe apply.

1. What is Reuben's & Margaret's **marital status**?
2. What is Reuben's **age**?
3. What is the **relationship** between Margaret and each child?

Household number in the order of visitation.	Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the Year. Attended School within the year. Persons over 10 years of age when not married and when not school children.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
		Age.	Sex.	Color, black, or mulatto.					
603	Reuben James	30	m		Labour		Miss		
	Maryann	21	f				"		
	George	"	m				"		
	Mark	"	m				"		
	Sarah	"	f				"		
	John	"	m				"		

1850 U. S. Census, Rankin Co., Miss., pop. sch., p. 489 (penned), dwell. & fam. 603, Reuben James household.

Question 1: What is Reuben's & Margaret's marital status?

Perhaps your first answer is that they are probably married. Now, modify your answer, if you wish, considering the following **Unsound Research Assumption**: "A same-surname, adult male and female heading an 1850-1870 census family are husband and wife." Standard 45 requires that this

type of assumption must be supported by additional evidence before accepting and applying it. Should one feel compelled to give an answer *before* seeking such evidence, consider this proposed interim statement:

*“This census record does not overtly state that Reuben and Margaret are married. It is an **unsound assumption** that a same-surname, adult male and female heading an 1850-1870 census family are husband and wife. Therefore, barring new and compelling evidence that supports it, one can only **hypothesize** that Reuben James and Margaret [James] are married. In fact, several other alternative relationships can be suggested, such as siblings, cousins, collateral kin, in-laws, etc., and it is also somewhat possible through informant or enumerator error that Margaret’s surname and the children’s surnames are not, in fact, James, in which case Reuben may not be related to Margaret in any capacity.”⁷*

Examining Raw Information & Old Records Through Personal, 20th or 21st Century Lenses

When I first started census research as a baby genealogist in the 1980s, I noticed at the top of the 1850 population schedule two column headings: “**Families** numbered in the order of visitation,” and, “The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June 1850 was in this **family**” [emphasis added]. I fell into the Family Trap, so to speak, because I saw things through my 20th century behavioral lenses—I naturally **presumed** based upon ages and what I read as the same surname that this **family** had to be father, mother, and their children. In a rush to document my findings, I fell deeper into the Family Trap. The father and mother had to have married, right? All this despite not seeing a shred of raw information in that record stating marital status. Let the researcher beware!

Using Present-day Lenses to Analyze Information Without Relying upon Expert Guidance Unique to those Records

Instructions given to 1850 enumerators define ‘family’ so broadly that it far exceeds our present-day usage. Had I known that such instructions existed, I would have been more cautious: “By the term **family** is meant, either one person living separately in a house, or a part of a house, and providing for him or herself, or several persons living together in a house, or in part of a house, upon one common means of support, and separately from others in similar circumstances. A widow living alone and separately providing for herself, or 200 individuals living together and provided for by a common head, should each be numbered as one family.”⁸

⁷. The writer has in fact encountered a case where a widow’s children by a previous marriage were incorrectly “dittoed” under the widow’s current, married surname.

⁸. Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, Erin Meyer, Jose Pacas, and Matthew Sobek, *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: IPUMS USA: Version 10.0 [dataset]*, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; specifically “1850 Census: Instructions to Marshals and Assistant Marshals,” (<https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1850.shtml>) : accessed 20 January 2020), column heading 2, second paragraph.

Question 2: What is Reuben's age?

The answer seems blatantly obvious, doesn't it? Staring us right in the face as raw information is "30" [years]. It is a valid research assumption that raw information found in a government document, such as the federal census, is usually reliable. Standard 45 reminds us that a Valid Assumption is generally true unless convincingly contradicted, and that we should attempt to do so. Again, let's examine the record through the eyes of those responsible for creating the record—the enumerator's instructions—and with expert guidance.

Examining Raw Information & Old Records Through Personal, 20th or 21st Century Lenses

First, note the 1850 enumerator's instructions: "Under heading 4, entitled "Age," insert in figures what was the specific age of each person at his or her last birthday previous to the 1st of June, opposite the name of such person. **If the exact age in years can not be ascertained, insert a number which shall be the nearest approximation to it.** The age, either exact or **estimated**, is to be inserted."⁹ [emphases added]. Well, that instruction certainly allows for uncertainty! Note carefully that the enumerator was required not to leave the age entry blank. An estimate would be expected, for example, if there were no household member informant, because, say, the household migrated after the official census day but before the enumerator arrived; or if an informant such as a casual friend or neighbor could only guess Reuben's approximate age.

Using Present-day Lenses to Analyze Information Without Relying upon Expert Guidance Unique to those Records

Second, it is worth mentioning that instructions given to enumerators in 1900–1920 federal censuses overtly took into account that submitted ages ending in zero or five were possible estimates, and that enumerators in those instances were to make additional effort to ascertain an accurate age.¹⁰ Let's take this further and examine Reuben's 30-year-age in 1850 relative to all Rankin County residents enumerated with ages 23 to 77. The chart below was compiled using information extracted from Ancestry.com's database and search engine.¹¹ The dotted line is a moving average trendline for those whose ages do not end in a zero (0) or five (5). The gradual decline in numbers is roughly consistent with higher likelihoods of death increasing with age.¹² Following that line as it crosses the 30-year vertical gridline, your author would expect to see approximately forty-eight persons, or, allowing for uncertainty, say forty to fifty-five persons, but

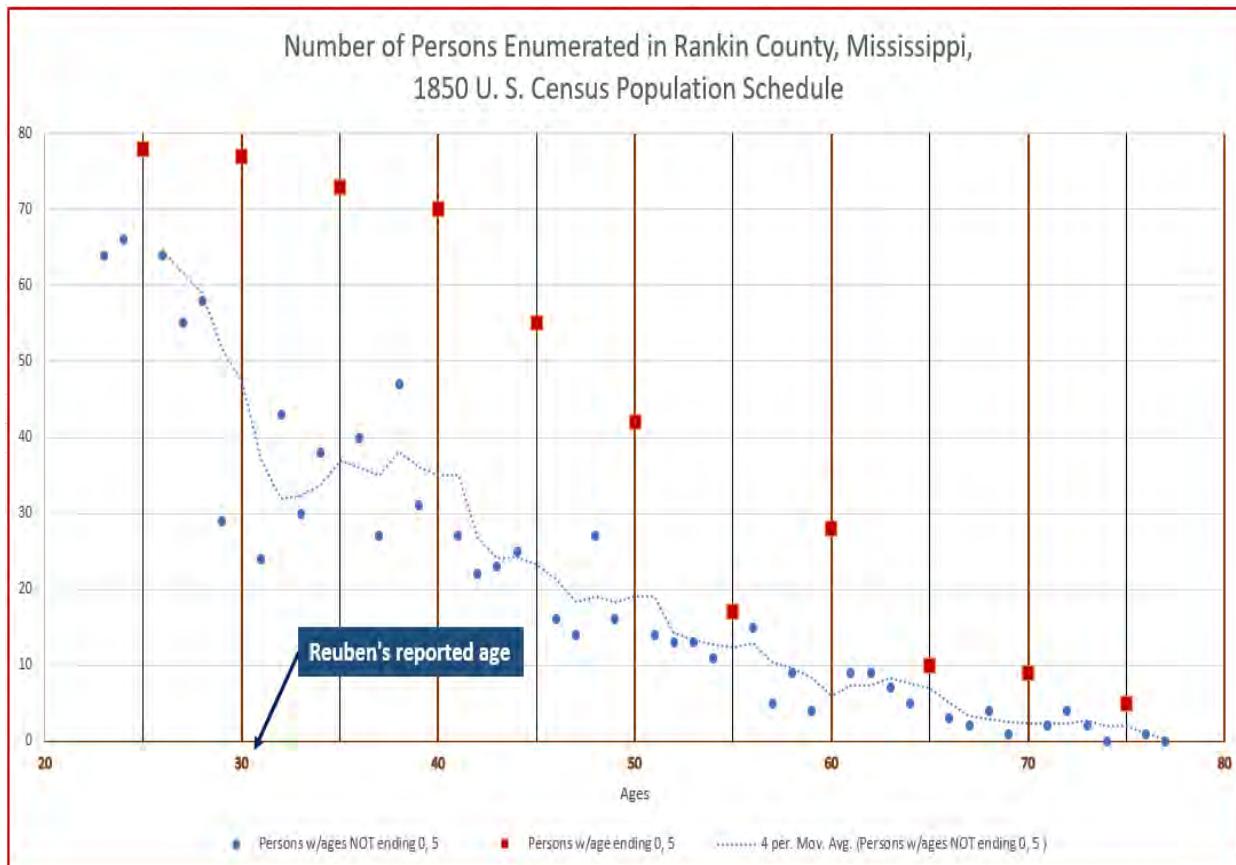
^{9.} Ruggles, "1850 Census ... Instructions," Schedule no. 1, col. 4, "Age."

^{10.} Ruggles, 1900–1920 "Instructions to Enumerators;" with respect to age uncertainty and estimation in population schedules for 1900 see paras. 107 & 131–133; for 1910 see para. 111; for 1920 see para. 123. Note specific instructions for ages ending in 0 or 5. The author suspects these repeated instructions are based upon lessons learned from older censuses.

^{11.} 1850 U. S. Census, Rankin Co., Miss., pop. sch., all households. The number of persons of a specific age in Ancestry.com's database was obtained by inserting a specific birth year, leaving remaining search fields other than residence blank. The search was repeated for each year spanning 1773–1827.

^{12.} There are many factors other than age that can affect mortality and change the shape of the curve, but they are not considered here. For examples, consider the effect of pandemics such as Covid-19 on specific age groups and those who are immuno-compromised.

not seventy-seven. This chart suggests that of the reported 30-year-olds, including Reuben, perhaps twenty to thirty-five (20–35) of the seventy-seven (77) persons, or 25% to 45% had estimated ages! Note also how the finding reoccurs significantly for those reportedly aged 35, 40, 45, 50, 60, and 70; and less so but still pronounced for those aged 25. The remaining persons reportedly aged 55, 65, and 75 do not stand out numerically relative to their “neighbors.”¹³



In summary, there is reason to question in Reuben's specific case the Valid Assumption that raw information found in a government document, such as the federal census, is usually reliable. In fact, we could counter-propose an Unsound Assumption—that adult ages ending in zero or five are more likely to be estimated than other ages in a population schedule. Since an Unsound Research Assumption can not be accepted as valid without supporting evidence, one should seek additional information about Reuben's age from other records before accepting his reported 30-year age.

You may be faced with the dilemma of preliminarily describing Reuben's age without having sought supporting evidence. Instead of saying, “Reuben is 30 years old,” which implies that YOU have determined this to be a fact, a safer, interim assertion is to address only **what the record**

¹³. Statisticians calculate trendlines that best “fit” or correlate with observed data. Points that do not fall within an expected range of a trendline are singled out as “statistically significant” anomalies requiring explanation. Though not calculated here, many of the points associated with ages ending in zero or five are potential anomalies, with age estimation being a likely contributor.

supplies as raw information, or, "This record states that Reuben James is thirty years old." The latter leaves open the possibility that future additional evidence could refine your position.

Question 3: What is the relationship between Margaret and each child?

The record does not overtly state the answer. Two research assumptions affect the analysis:

1. A Valid Research Assumption: mothers between twelve and forty-nine years old conceive children.
2. An Unsound Research Assumption: a minor in an 1850-1870 U. S. census household is the biological child of an apparent mother or father of the same surname.

If George were Margaret's biological child, and if the ages stated were accurate, then Margaret had to be about nine (9) years old when she conceived George. The first assumption above suggests this could **not** be the case. Additional reliable evidence is needed to prove that George is her son, which if attained would convincingly contradict the valid assumption. For the other minors the first assumption would help support a mother-son or mother-daughter relationship, but it is not self-sufficient in itself to prove such a relationship.

The second assumption above cannot be accepted as true without supporting evidence for each *potential* mother-child relationship. You will find credentialed genealogists who have not yet attained supporting evidence describing the situation using *qualified* statements or assertions:

- Margaret is the **possible** mother of minors Mark, Sarah, and John, being at least 14-15 years old at the youngest's conception, but additional evidence is needed to support a mother-child relationship.
- Margaret is **unlikely** to be the biological mother of minor George unless compelling evidence surfaces to support George's conception when she was about nine years old.

So as sound genealogists we should attempt to disprove the valid assumption in George's case, and prove the unsound assumption in Mark's, Sarah's, and John's cases. Only after conducting reasonably exhaustive research of all records that a prudent genealogist would use for this question and for this time and place can we proceed to reach more definitive theories and/or statements of proof.

Research Standard #45 helps us recognize Fundamental, Valid, and Unsound Assumptions in our genealogical research endeavors. We realize that they can affect our work positively or otherwise, the latter perhaps because we may not be aware of them. To recognize and apply them most effectively, good judgment requires us to view records through the lenses of those creating the records and to rely upon expert guidance unique to those records.

Mrs. Era Madden Person (1905 – 2002)

Contributed by Jim Johnson



This article is to acknowledge the works of Mrs. Era Person, wife of Marcus Person. She was a steadfast genealogist in Shreveport in the mid to late 1900s and actively participated in several local and state level lineage and historical organizations. Mrs. Person was a native of South Arkansas and lived her adult life in Monroe before moving to Shreveport where she died in 2002. I discovered her work as a result of an online newspaper search where I found that in 1965 Mrs. Person had submitted a Bible record along with an inquiry to the Shreveport Journal's *Ancestor Hunting* column. Her submission was on the same family surname that I was researching. Being curious about her relationship to the family I was researching, I obtained her obituary and concluded that the Bible records were a part of research that she was doing for a cousin of hers. It was evident that she not only researched her own family ancestors but helped others too.

The obituary included an impressive list of organizations that Mrs. Person belonged to and the leadership positions she held. A common theme among almost all of the organizations involved education, history, heritage, and preservation. Further research revealed that Mrs. Person's son and daughter-in-law reside in the area, and I was delighted to meet with her family to discuss Mrs. Person's genealogical endeavors. The family plans to donate Mrs. Person's research papers to the Broadmoor Branch Library Genealogy Department.

Some of the organizations and societies she was affiliated with are as follow:

- Pelican Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution (DAR). She served on several committees and held leadership positions during her tenure. Mrs. Person successfully researched four of her own patriot ancestors to gain membership in the DAR, meeting their stringent membership requirements.
- Dr. John Sibley Society, Children of the American Revolution (CAR). Mrs. Person was instrumental in getting this local society established. This children's society was named after Dr. John Sibley, who was a surgeon's assistant in the American Revolutionary War, later moving to Natchitoches as surgeon. From 1805 to 1815, Sibley was the official Indian Agent of New Orleans Territory
- Matthew Agee Chapter, Colonial Dames XVII Century. This organization supports and organizes patriotic and historical activities, assists in preservation of historic places, properties, and collections, and educates the public about America's history. Mrs. Person was a charter member and served as chapter president. She also served at the Louisiana state level in several capacities including 1st, 2nd and 3rd vice president.
- Shreveport Chapter, Magna Charta Dames. Its mission is to develop an awareness of the significance of the Magna Charta of 1215. Mrs. Person was a charter member.
- Jacob Bayley Chapter, Daughters of the American Colonists. Members making up this society are descendants of a man or woman who rendered patriotic or civil service to the American Colonies prior to 4 July 1776. Mrs. Person was a charter member.
- General Kirby Smith Chapter of the United Daughters of Confederacy. The objectives of this organization are historical, benevolent, educational, memorial, and patriotic. She served as second vice president.
- Coterie Study Club. Organized for the study of literature and current events. She served as president and in other board positions
- PEO (Philanthropic Education Organization), Chapter F. She served as corresponding secretary.
- Louisiana Association of School Secretaries. Mrs. Person served as president in 1940 – 41.