

An illustration of a hand holding a lit candle, with the flame casting a glow. The hand is positioned as if lighting a path. Below the hand is a simple line drawing of a staircase with three steps, suggesting a path or journey.

**GAS**  
**May 2006**

Helping you step toward your ancestors

Web Address  
<http://home.surewest.net/bbetts/gas.htm>

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**17 May 2006 Meeting**  
will be at Belle Coolegge Library featuring  
**Chuck Knuthson: World War I Draft Registration**

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**Attention GAS members:**

At our general meeting on April 19th, there was a vote to increase our individual dues to \$20.00 and family dues to \$25.00 per year effective for the coming year which starts 1 July. It is hoped that the increase will provide funds for more paid speakers at our meetings and the possibility of an enlarged newsletter on occasion to allow publication of member's research or other information that can not be included currently because of extra mailing charges for additional pages.

At the May Board meeting, the Board voted to pay for the entering and electronic logging required by the Central Library to put books donated to the Genealogical Association of Sacramento collection at the library on the shelf. Estimated cost is \$1.00 apiece. Iris Carter Jones' collection was over 450 books. Other collections are also waiting to be shelved. This money will come from money already in the Library budget. This should speed up the availability of our donated books to the membership and the public.

Speaking of the Library, Lorraine Lineer is in need of volunteers to work at the Main Library. She can be contacted at one of the regular meetings to arrange for training and scheduling, if you can help.

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**My mail is always delayed, who should I notify of this problem? Post Office response:**

It would be helpful if we could examine any delayed mail you may have. Often there are identifying marks on an envelope that pinpoint the cause of a delay. Record the delivery date on the envelope and present to your local Post Office for examination. In the event that your mail was lost or rifled through, PS Form 1510 available at your local Post Office.

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News from the Fort Wayne Library, No. 26, April 30, 2006

Allen County Public Library's Historical Genealogy Department, [www.FriendsOfAllenCounty.org](http://www.FriendsOfAllenCounty.org)

**Historic Inscriptions on Western Emigrant Trails By Steven W. Myers**

The title of this brief notice is also the title of a fascinating book by Randy Brown that recently arrived in our department. The author spent 25 years collecting thousands of inscriptions carved into rocks and cliffs by pioneers traversing the plains and mountains west of the Mississippi River. Wouldn't it be fun to find a dated inscription left by an ancestor on the trek to California or Oregon? Doing so can be a snap. The book's index includes all of the complete or partially complete names. Not indexed are the many carved initials which might still be profitably explored by checking the geographically oriented chapters that relate to an ancestor's migration trail. The book features interesting descriptions of each site as well as numerous photographs of the many surviving inscriptions. Fortunately, the author has also collected and included previously published inscriptions that are no longer legible. A substantial bibliography of additional sources relating to the western trails rounds out the volume. Dip into this book on your next visit for an absorbing break from your research, whether you find an ancestor or not!

Other books on the journey from the east to California and Oregon can be found by searching in the catalog using the subject heading "Overland Journeys to the Pacific."

# About the Genealogical Association of Sacramento (GAS)

Mail: PO Box 292145, Sacramento, CA 95829-2145 Web: <http://home.surewest.net/bbetts/gas.htm>  
Lamplighter editor (insert "GAS" in subject line): [lberty7@pacbell.net](mailto:lberty7@pacbell.net)

## Officers and Chair

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## Historian

Melanie Howard

## Publications

Larry Berry

## Salt Lake City Trips

Donna VanLone

## Telephone Committee

Nancy Ehlers

## Webmaster

Bill Betts

## Meetings

We meet the third Wednesday of each month (except July, August and December) at 12:45 pm, Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento. We offer assistance in genealogical research, and support members in tracing their family trees. Activities include guest speakers, seminars, and field trips to library or archive holdings.

**Dues** are \$15 per person or \$20 per couple from July 1 to June 30.

## Salt Lake Trip

Once a year GAS coordinates a trip to Salt Lake City so that participants can research at the LDS Family History Library. Individuals must arrange their own transportation, but hotels are secured at a discount for the group.

## Library Collection

The GAS collection of genealogical books and periodicals is held on the fourth floor of the Sacramento Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA. The collection can be accessed during regular library hours, currently 12-5 on Sunday; 10-6 Monday and Friday; 10-9 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; and 10-5 on Saturday. Donations of books are accepted gladly.

**Help and problem solving group - primarily for starting genealogists.** Carol Byers has volunteered to lead a help and problem solving group, which will meet for 30 to 60 minutes, either before or after the regular meetings, depending on library availability.

## Using LEGACY Genealogy Software

On May 19, 2006, Carol Byers will start a class on "Using LEGACY Genealogy Software" at the Family History Center, 8925 Vintage Park Dr. Sacramento, CA (phone: 916 688-5554). There will be six, three hour classes on Fridays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. There is no cost for GAS members or Elk Grove Family History Center Librarians. The enrollment is limited 12 (GAS members and/or Librarians), and first come first served.

Please fill-out the following application and mail it to:  
or bring it to the April or May meeting and give to Carol.

**Carol Byers**  
**9504 Snowy Springs Circle**  
**Elk Grove, CA 95750**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E- mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Closing date is**  
**17 May 2006**

Also, please complete the following Questionnaire (to determine your knowledge of the computer and the where we need to start the class). Don't be afraid if you know nothing about a computer, we'll get you started.

What kind of computer do you use? MAC or PC? \_\_\_\_\_ How old is your computer? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your computer:

Make \_\_\_\_\_

Processor \_\_\_\_\_

Hard Drive \_\_\_\_\_

Memory \_\_\_\_\_

Operating system \_\_\_\_\_

Input/Output (USB, Firewire, Serial, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

What devices do you use with your computer?

Printer \_\_\_\_\_ Flash drive \_\_\_\_\_

Scanner \_\_\_\_\_ Internet access:

Drawing Tablet \_\_\_\_\_ Dial up \_\_\_\_\_ DSL/Cable \_\_\_\_\_

Storage devices \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

What software programs do you normally use? \_\_\_\_\_

If you use genealogy software:

Which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you used it (them)? \_\_\_\_\_

What special features do you like, and what features would you like to have ?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you have a lap-top computer, can you bring it to the class meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

## KENTUCKY (part 2)

Submitted by Nancy Phillips: May 2006

The following databases are available on the Ancestry.com subscription site available at all Sacramento Public Library branches:

- Kentucky death records, 1911-2000
- Kentucky birth records, 1911-1999
- Kentucky marriage records, 1973-99
- Bourbon Co. marriage records, 1786-1800
- Caldwell Co. marriage records, 1809-28
- Carroll Co. marriages, 1838-1920
- Fayette Co. marriage records, 1803-1814
- Fleming Co. marriage records, 1798-1851
- Franklin Co. marriage records, 1790-1815
- Jessamine Co. marriage records, 1799-1820
- Kentucky marriages, 1802-50
- Kentucky marriages, 1851-1900
- Lincoln Co marriage & will records
- Madison Co. marriage records, 1790-1843
- Mason Co. marriage records 1804-60
- Mason Co. cemetery records (vol. 1)
- Mercer Co. marriages 1786-1830
- Montgomery Co. marriage records, 1817-50
- Nelson Co. marriage records, 1785-1815
- Northern KY marriages, 1795-1850
- Shelby Co. marriage bonds, 1792-1800
- Kentucky Civil War Union volunteers
- Kentucky Confederate volunteers
- Kentucky Soldiers of the War of 1812
- Louisville city directory, 1886-87
- Covington directories, 1890, 1892
- Paducah directory 1890
- Kentucky land grants, 1782-1924
- Kentucky wills, 1795-1849
- Petitions of KY inhabitants to VA, 1769-92
- Barren County wills, 1800-24
- Bath County wills, 1811-24
- Clark County wills, 1792-1826
- Fayette County wills, 1794-1818
- Green County wills, 1796-1824
- Greenup County wills, 1822-1843
- Henry County wills, 1800-1821
- Lincoln County wills & administrations
- Mercer County wills 1818-1826
- Montgomery County wills 1796-1821
- Scott County wills 1794-1820
- Shelby County wills 1794-1817

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### NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Faye Corrin, the lucky recipient of the book in February's raffle will pick two books up today on Washington D.C. genealogy.

April's raffle was won by Verna Benedict who graciously donated the selection of the book to the librarian to be used to purchase a volume from our "wish list". Thank you Verna.

Our library collection will be expanding soon with the collections of the late Frances Wagner and Iris Carter Jones. Over 500 titles have been listed, are being checked for duplicates and then will be cataloged, processed and added to our collection. This will likely take all summer. Duplicates will be offered for sale to members, possibly at the September meeting. If you have Pennsylvania ancestors, in particular, these new volumes will be a treasure-trove.

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### Massachusetts Archives Collection Database (1629-1799) RootsWeb Review, 19 April 2006, Vol. 9, No. 16

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcsrch/RevolutionarySearchContexts.html>

The Massachusetts Archives database serves as a searchable, descriptive index and catalog for documents of eighteen volumes of the Massachusetts Archives Collection. These volumes include:

- Volume 3: Colonial, 1629-1720
- Volume 5: Colonial, 1728-1774
- Volume 9: Domestic Relations, 1613-1774
- Volume 10: Ecclesiastical, 1637-1679
- Volume 11: Ecclesiastical, 1679-1739
- Volume 12: Ecclesiastical, 1739-1749
- Volume 13: Ecclesiastical, 1749-1756
- Volume 14: Ecclesiastical, 1757-1774
- Volume 15A: Emigrants, 1651-1774
- Volume 23: French Neutrals, 1755-1758

- Volume 24: French Neutrals, 1758-1769
- Volume 29: Indian Conference, 1713-1776
- Volume 30: Indian, 1603-1705
- Volume 31: Indian, 1705-1750
- Volume 32: Indian, 1750-1757
- Volume 33: Indian, 1757-1775
- Volume 112: Towns, 1632-1693
- Volume 303: Petitions, 1659-1786

While these volumes are loosely organized by subject (please see [volume descriptions](#) for a full narrative), the documents actually contain information on a much wider variety of subjects than the volume titles would seem to indicate. The creation of this database is an effort to make these documents more easily accessible.

## Top 10 Search Tips for Census Success By [Kimberly Powell](#)

We all have ancestors we would swear were somehow skipped or overlooked by the census taker. It's more than likely that some of them were. More often, however, it's an indexing error that has us running in circles. When online census indexes leave you pulling out your hair in frustration, try these census search tips for locating your 'misplaced' ancestor.

**Don't count solely on soundex.** While the soundex search option, when available, is a great way to pick up alternate spellings, it may not get them all. OWENS and OWEN, for example, are commonly seen variations of the same name - yet they have different soundex codes. Therefore, a search for OWENS will not pick up OWEN, and vice-versa.

**Try a wildcard search.** If you aren't sure how to spell a name, some census search engines allow you to use special symbols called wildcards to represent some unknown letter or letters in a word. Check with the specific census index for specific wildcard rules and symbols, but most (including Ancestry.com) allow you to use an \* to represent an unknown number of characters at the end of a word (a search for john\* might return john, johns, johnson, johnsen, johnathon, etc.) Usually you need to have at least three characters preceding the \*. Another commonly used wildcard character is the ? which is often used to represent a single character within a word (a search for sm?th would match both smith and smyth). A search for "Harriet Sto\*" in the 1860 U.S. census, for example, helps find Harriet Beecher Stowe living in Andover, MA, even though her last name was actually indexed as "Stone."

**Familiarize yourself with nicknames.** It's not uncommon to find families providing census takers with their formal birth names in one census, and then using the names their friends and family called them by in another. Mary might be listed as Polly, Alexander as Alex or Al, and Elizabeth as Betsy, Bessie, Beth or Eliza. Familiarize yourself with the names your families commonly used, as well as [common nicknames](#) for popular first names.

**Check the middle names too.** You probably wouldn't believe how many of my rural North Carolina ancestors listed all of their children by first name in the 1870 census and then by middle name in the 1880 census. Most people wouldn't even recognize them as the same family! As with nicknames, in many areas of the world it is common for an individual to be known to families and friends by his middle name. Be sure to search for middle names, baptismal names, and other alternate names.

**Search by surname and location.** When you're pretty sure you know where an ancestor was living but traditional searches just aren't turning him up, try searching by surname only - restricting by state, county, district, or town as necessary to bring the number of results down to a reasonable number for browsing. You may even discover previously unknown relatives!

**Search for initials.** When you can't narrow down the location enough to use surname only search, and you can't find them listed under their first name, check for initials. Sometimes those census enumerators were lazy! Initials may have been used for first name, middle name or both. M C Owens would come up under a search for either 'M Owens' or 'C Owens,' for example.

**Search for siblings, children or other family members.** When an every name index is available, don't forget about the rest of the family! Your ancestor's first name may have been hard to read, but her brother's may have been a bit easier.

**Search for neighbors.** If your ancestors have been living in the same place for a while, search for people who were listed nearby in neighboring census years. If you find a neighbor in the index, then head to his page and check a few pages on either side for your ancestor.

**Leave out the name entirely.** When all else fails, and the search engine offers enough other options, forego the name and search by other known facts. Searching for someone living in Wilson County, NC, in 1850 who was born in Virginia in 1789 will narrow down the field considerably. Sometimes this is the only way you'll find those people whose names were seriously mangled during the indexing process. Searching by first name only, along with other identifying information such as date and place of birth, can also turn up possible matches for women who have married.

## Using Ancestry.com: Search Tips for WWI Draft Registrations

By: *Michael John Neill*, 23 April 2006

Searching World War I draft cards is significantly easier than before thanks to [the online index at Ancestry.com](#). This is particularly true for those whose ancestors were urban dwellers or in cases where the residence is not known. There were three separate registrations for the draft (with slightly different cards and questions) and all three are included in this database. More information on the various registrations, who they included, and what questions were asked can be found towards the bottom of the [database search page](#). Keeping this in mind, let's take a look at some search options.

### First Name

The first name box allows for searches of any name other than the last name. Many registration cards contain one or more middle names and these names are also searchable using the "first name" search box. For cards that include a first and a middle name, it is possible to locate the card using either the first name alone, the middle name alone, or the first and middle name together.

The only restriction would be that the name would have to be spelled in the index the way it is entered in the search box. Wildcard operators can be used in the name box to get around this limitation; the only restraint is that three characters must be used before the wildcard operator. The \* and ? can be used to create broader searches. *Joh\** will result in matches such as Johan, Johann, and John. (The \* can be replaced by any number of characters.) *Joh?* will catch John, but not Johann and Johan. (The ? is replaced by only one character.)

Wildcard operators can be used when multiple names are used in the first name box. Searches of a first name like *mic\* joh\** are allowed and would catch names such as Michael John, Micheal Johann, John Michel, Johan Carl Michael, etc.

### Last Name

With any last name and any database, consider all reasonable spellings and variants. Name variants are not as problematic with the draft cards as they are with earlier records. However, names still get misspelled, misread, and incorrectly indexed. Wildcard operators are again helpful and the use of the Soundex option (which catches names with similar sounds but different spellings) will catch most alternates. Soundex works reasonably well with names that have English or Germanic origins. Names from other languages are not always easily found using a Soundex-based search. Wildcard operators may be a better approach with these names.

### Registration Place

When searching based upon the registration place, keep in mind that in rural counties, the only information in the index may be the state and county; the "city" of registration may not be listed on the index (more precise information should be on the card). Because of this, begin a search for any non-urban relative by using a state and if necessary, a county. Keep in mind that your family member might show up in an unexpected place and only use registration locations when necessary to reduce the number of hits to a manageable level.

### Birthplace

This was required on the cards of men who registered for the first and second registrations (generally those with dates of birth between 6 June 1886 and 5 June 1897). The third registration did not require the birthplace and the birthplace box should always be left blank for registrants outside the 6 June 1886-5 June 1897 time frame. Even for men within that birth range, the information extracted may vary in terms of specifics. Cards may list the town and state of birth, but in many cases the town does not appear in the index. Entering in a specific town in the city box for birth will result in fewer hits and less desired results.

### Date of Birth

Dates of birth on the draft cards are usually correct, but there are always exceptions. There are known cases where the year of registration has been substituted on the card for the year of birth. In other cases, the precise date or month may have not been provided on the card. In all these situations the error or omission affects what is in the index. It is generally good advice to begin a search using only a year of birth and refine the search by adding a more precise date only if necessary.

### Race

This box may appear self-explanatory, but one must exercise caution when using it to search. Results may appear as African, Asian, Black, Caucasian, Colored, Mongolian, Mulatto, White, etc. Care must be taken or hits can easily be missed.

Continued on page 6

## Calendar of Events

- May 17 -- GAS Meeting - Chuck Knuthson: World War I Draft Registration
- May 19 -- Legacy Class starts -- Carol Byers
- June 21 -- GAS Meeting - Pam Dallas: Evaluating Evidence
- July 29 - August 26, 2006 -- Public Open House for Sacramento LDS Temple, excluding Sundays
- October 25 -- GAS bus trip to Sutro Library and National Archives, Contact Sharon Bias

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### Keyword

Continued from page 5

This field searches all the fields in the database. Entering Wilken in the Keyword field will result in matches where the first, middle, or last name was Wilken. This is a neat little tool when you are not certain of the name or when you are looking for middle names that might have been a mother's maiden name.

### Left Things Blank

The draft card for James P. Hoone in New York City is particularly interesting. Other than his name, it is blank. Hopefully, your ancestor's card is more like the typical registration and is filled with helpful information!

*Michael John Neill is the Course I Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) held annually in Springfield, Illinois, and is also on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois. Michael is currently a member of the board of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org). He conducts seminars and lectures nationally on a wide variety of genealogical and computer topics and contributes to several genealogical publications, including Ancestry Magazine and Genealogical Computing. You can e-mail him at [mjnrootdig@myfamily.com](mailto:mjnrootdig@myfamily.com) or visit his website at: [www.rootdig.com](http://www.rootdig.com), but he regrets that he is unable to assist with personal research.*

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The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2005 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

### Duplicate full-color CDs for just \$1.00 each

To be sure, you can create the disks one at a time in a PC or Macintosh computer, then write "labels" by using a felt-tipped marker. That will look amateurish, at best. A better-looking result can be obtained by printing gummed labels designed for use on CD disks and then attaching a label to each disk.

The gummed label approach is an improvement, but still does not look very professional. In addition, engineers warn that the life expectancy of homemade CD-ROM and DVD-ROM disks is only a few years, at best. Adding the acids of the adhesive in a gummed label will reduce that life expectancy still further. In addition, a gummed label will always result in an out of balance condition, somewhat similar to losing a wheel weight on the front wheel of your automobile. The disk will "shimmy and shake" even though you have no steering wheel to feel the vibrations.

By far, the best solution is to print directly onto the disk's plastic surface in the same manner as all professionally-produced disks. The question is: how to do that in a cost-effective manner?

Most disk duplication facilities can handle all the details for you. All you do is send a homemade master disk to them, along with instructions and payment. The duplication house will return nice-looking finished disks to you.

The problem is that most disk duplication facilities do not like to handle orders for less than 1,000 disks at a time. A few will accept orders for as little as 100 disks but usually charge more on a per-disk basis.

Wholly Genes Software, the maker of The Master Genealogist software, now has an offer for genealogists that looks attractive. The company will meet short-run duplication needs, such as when planning to distribute CDs at a family reunion. The company will handle orders for as few as twenty disks. Direct printing on the disk is included. Artwork and packaging is also available for extra fees.

For more information, including a video of the robotic reproduction process, go to:

<http://www.WhollyGenes.com/duplication.htm>