

Free Illinois Death Certificate

Did you know that you can get free uncertified death certificates from the state of Illinois from 1916-1949 by emailing secryan@ccgate.sos.state.il.us? Just send the person's name and if you know the approximate date and county via email with your address and they will send the information within 3 weeks for free.

Vermont Local History

This is a great site with lots of wonderful information on Vermont in general and with great links for the various counties. They also have some really interesting articles. I especially liked their article on the Prehistory of Vermont.

Wayne's World Search Engine

This looks like a very good search engine. It indexes only genealogy sites submitted by visitors. Pretty cool...all the other "stuff" is ignored. Give it a try and submit your own site for spidering.

Did Your Waite Ancestor Go "West"?

If your Waite ancestor headed west in search of gold as mine did, you may find the NORCAL-L@rootsweb.com discussion list very useful. The volunteers are hardworking and dedicated. This is a gem!

This is Too Cool!

Take a minute to visit Ed Hamrick's site. He has a wonderful page on US Surname Distribution. You type in a name you're working on and it gives you a map of where the name is found across the US. Years sampled are 1850, 1880, 1920, and 1990. This is a must! It's a great visual aid. See what the surname Waite turns up!

Grandpa? | The Meetinghouse News; pub. 1st Congregational Church, Madison, CT; by Steve Goodier

A little girl climbed into the lap of her grandfather and studied his white and balding head. She ran her fingers along the deep wrinkles road-mapping his face and neck.

"Did God make you?" she wondered.

"Yes," he replied.

"Well," she shrugged, "don't you think he's doing a better job now than he used to?"

USGS National Mapping Site

The Geographic Names Information System site is a great finding aid if you're not sure where a feature, Broken Neck Creek...or town Pearley White, might have been located. It features a powerful search engine and just may answer a question that's been bothering you for a while.

Up For a Challenge?

Take the 8th grade final exam from Salina, Kansas for the year 1895. I couldn't begin to answer the questions. How about you?

Ships Passenger Lists Help

An invaluable resource for culling information regarding vessels departing Europe for the Americas is The Ship's Transcribers Guild which has amassed a huge database that is searchable. Another resource is the ShipsList-L@rootsweb.com (be warned, heavy traffic means upwards of 100-150 emails daily).

Understanding Old Medical Terms

Have you ever seen the terms Ablepsy, King's Evil, Kruchhusten, Lues Disease, or Nephritis on a death certificate or old history and wondered what they were? Well, visit GenExchange's glossary of medical terms and you can find your answers. A great resource.

What Do Those Initials Mean?

Initials after your ancestor's names may provide useful information that you'd not expected. The following list includes initials you may come across when reading old wills or other documents.

a.a.s. died in the year of his/her age (anno aetatis suae)

d.s.p. died without issue (decessit sine prole legitima)

d.s.p.l. died without legitimate issue (decessit sine prole mascula supesita)

d.s.p.m.s. died without surviving male issue (decessit sine prole mascula supersita)

d.s.p.s died without surviving issue (decessit sine prole supersita)

d.unm died unmarried

d.v.p. died in the lifetime of his father

d.v.m. died in the lifetime of his mother (decessit vita matris)

Et al and others (et alia)

Inst present month (instans)

Liber book or volume

Nepos grandson

Nunc Nuncupative will, an oral will, written by a witness

Ob he/she died (obit)

Relict widow or widower (relicta/relictus)

Sic so or thus, exact copy as written

Testes witnesses

Ult late (ultimo)

Ux or **vs** wife (uxor)

Viz namely (videlicet)

A List of Occupations

Ever wonder what the occupation of your ancestor really was? The following is a very small portion of a list of occupations; many of which are archaic, that can be found on The Lancombe Page. These are useful since surnames usually originated from someone's occupation. They also are useful to historians in general. Take a moment to visit and bookmark this great resource for future reference.

- ACATER - supplied food provisions, e.g. a ships chandler
- ACCOMPTANT - accountant
- ACCOUCHEUR / ACCOUCHEUS - one who assisted women in childbirth
- ACKERMAN / ACREMAN - ploughman, an oxherder
- ADVOWEE - normally a nobleman, who had the right to present a clergyman to a benefice
- ALL SPICE - name for a grocer
- AMANUENSIS - secretary or stenographer
- AMBLER - officer of the Royal Stable who broke in horses
- AMEN MAN - parish clerk
- ANCHORESS - female hermit or religious recluse
- ANCHORITE - male hermit or religious recluse
- ANILEPMAN - smallholder (tenant of the manor)
- ANKLE BEATER - young person who helped to drive the cattle to market
- ANNATTO MAKER - worked in the manufacture of dyes for paint or printing
- ANTIGROPELOS MAKER - made waterproof leggings
- APIARIAN - beekeeper
- APRONEER - term used in London for a shopkeeper
- APRONMAN - mechanic
- AQUARIUS (EWAR) - waterman
- AQUAVITA SELLER - sold alcohol
- ARCHIATOR - physician
- AURIFABER - goldsmith
- AVENATOR (PLANTIFENE) - hay and forage merchant
- AVOWRY - term for the lord of the manor
- BACK'US BOY - kitchen servant (from "back of the house")
- BADGER - licensed pauper who wore a badge with the letter P on it and could only work in a defined area (the term "Badgering comes from this"). A corn miller or dealer or an itinerant food trader
- BAGMAN - traveling salesman

- BAIRMAN / BAREMAN - pauper or beggar
- BALER - bales hay and in the mills one who bailed wool or cotton goods
- BALLER / BALLER UP - assisted the potter by measuring out the balls of clay
- BAL MAIDEN - female mine worker who worked on the surface (also a Pit Brow Lass)

And one that was gleaned in my own research from the NORCAL-L list;

ARRASTRAMAN - one who operates an arrastre; a crude machine for crushing ore for the purpose of extracting gold.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

The General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation website provides live database access to Federal land conveyance records for the Public Land States. Image access is provided to more than two million Federal land title records for Eastern Public Land States, issued between 1820 and 1908. This site has many ways to search for your ancestors and could provide some real gems of data. It does not include records for the original 13 colonies.

The Making of America

"A digital library of primary sources in American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction. The collection is particularly strong in the subject areas of education, psychology, American history, sociology, religion, and science and technology. The collection currently contains approximately 1,600 books and 50,000 journal articles with 19th century imprints. The project represents a major collaborative endeavor in preservation and electronic access to historical texts."

Vital Records On-line

Rootsweb now has several on-line, searchable, databases. Most important are the growing lists of vital records...most notable California and Texas. Visit <http://searches.rootsweb.com> for the full list.

Lost In California? | from CA-GOLDRUS-L@rootsweb.com

Have you visited this site? It is an index of all the names in the California county biographies published and available at the California Room of the state library. There's a search feature and it tells you how to order copies if you find one of your names.

Genealogical Acronyms | reprinted from CSG Newsletter, 29th year #6, March/April 1997, p. 5

Ever see the name of a genealogical speaker or author and wonder what the heck all those acronyms after their name stand for? If you are curious about things like that, then here are a few of those acronyms and their meanings to help you the next time you happen upon one. (*Kindred Spirits, November, 1995*)

AG - Accredited Genealogist

APG - Association of Professional Genealogists

BCG - Board for Certification of Genealogists

CAILS - Certified American Indian Lineage specialist

CG - Certified Genealogist

CGI - Certified Genealogical Instructor

CGL - Certified Genealogical Lecturer

CGRS - Certified Genealogical Record Specialist

FGS - Federation of Genealogical Societies

GSG - Genealogical Speakers Guild

NARA Proposal to Revamp Its Reproduction Fee Schedule | from SHELTON discussion list

This proposal includes some significant changes and it is important for us to take the opportunity to comment, either positively or negatively at this time. Please reply though using the guidelines detailed below.

The NARA proposal to revamp the system and fees for providing copies of Military Service Records, Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Files, and Pension Application Files has been published in the 25 April 2000 issue of the Federal Register.

Public comment is invited and should be directed to NARA Regulation Comment Desk 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-6001 Fax: 301 713-7270. The comment period closes on 26 June 2000. NARA prefers that you use either the postal address or fax number to submit our comments rather than e-mail. **NARA proposes three major changes.** The proposed Reproduction Fee Schedule covers a number of items, but the Military Service Records, and the Pension and Bounty-Land Warrants are of the greatest concern to genealogists.

1. The NATF Form 80 would be discontinued, to be replaced by two new forms. NATF Form 85 to request both Bounty-Land Warrant application files and Pension files (more than 75 years old), and NATF Form 86 to request Military Service Records (more than 75 years old).
2. For all three types of files, NARA would no longer send a selection of pages, but would send the complete file. This would eliminate the two-step process currently used and should be beneficial to most genealogists.
3. The fees for all three types of files would be raised. For Military Service Records the new fee would be \$17.00, regardless of the number of pages included in the file. For Bounty-land Warrants the fee would be \$17.25, again without regard to the number of pages. For Pension Files the fee would be \$40.00, regardless of the number of pages.

Finally, the proposal would go into effect on 1 September 2000, if approved. Many genealogists may consider the proposed fees to be excessive. NARA specifically invites comment on the proposed fee schedule. The FGS/NGS Records Preservation and Access Committee urges everyone who wants to comment to carefully read the full proposal before submitting comments. The proposed fees are intended to cover the actual cost of locating, copying and mailing the records, plus 10% as authorized by law, and are based on the average size of the files. NARA states that the average for Military Service Records and Bounty-land Applications is somewhere under 20 pages, while the average for full Pension Files is 105 pages.

The FGS/NGS Records Preservation and Access Committee will be looking at the NARA proposal carefully, and will submit comments as appropriate. Individuals who would like to provide input to the Committee's evaluation are welcome to do so but are also encouraged to comment direct to NARA at the address given above. Comments for Committee consideration should be e-mailed to fgs-access@fgs.org, or mailed to Federation of Genealogical Societies, Attention:

RPAC, PO Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940. In order for the Records Preservation and Access Committee to adequately evaluate such input it must be received by 26 May 2000. The deadline for comment to NARA, however, is still 26 June 2000.

Descendants of Montilleon Wait and Lydia Douglas | Harlan Rees Waite; 1993; The Arthur H. Clark Company; Spokane, Washington; ISBN 0-9636233-0-3; hardcover 498p

What a wonderful job Harlan Waite has done on this book! It begins with a detailed discussion of the lines of each of Montilleon and Lydia's children and explicit descriptions on how the book is organized. Although the ancestry of Montilleon is included and discussed, the bulk of this work centers on his descendants with a chapter devoted to the descendants of each of Montilleon and Lydia's children by generation. One particularly interesting addition is the brief synopsis of current events at the start of each of these chapters. Includes 120 page index. This book may be ordered directly from Mr. Harlan Rees. Please contact me for his address.