

Maintaining This Website Is Expensive!

Maintaining this website is expensive both in money and time. For three years the cost has been borne by only two people. It is our hope those of you who use the website and feel we are providing an important service will be interested in donating to WGRF to assure we can continue to stay free and on-line. We have set up an account through Amazon.com's PayPage to provide you a secure way to support WGRF with your credit card.

We Look Different!

I hope you like the new look. This revision has taken an incredibly long time and was done for several reasons...not the least of which was the loss of much of the original site during the death of my last PC. I hope that you find it somewhat faster and easier to use. Please let me know your thoughts and advise me of anything that is not working properly.

Where's My Line?

Probably the most devastating loss to me when my computer gave up the ghost...was the loss of my email folders. Many of you had been wonderful enough to share family histories and photographs for publication. If they had not been moved to the site...they were lost. Please, if you submitted a line and it's not on-line here...please resend it to me. No one's information has been excluded purposely. It is my intention to publish all lines submitted to me...and now that I'm not working 70 hours per week, they will go on-line very quickly.

DNA Reconstruction Project

We're very excited about launching the Waite DNA Reconstruction Project. Please visit this page and read about this exciting new aid to genealogical research! In order to begin, we need six initial participants. I'm hoping that this project will grow rapidly and will receive your support. Remember! Since this is a family line project, only one person in your immediate family needs to be tested. Although you may not be able to participate - perhaps your brother, uncle, dad, cousin will be willing to.

Can you help Claudia?

I recently received an email from Claudia Waite de Souza in Brazil. Her grandfather was Herbert Tom Waite, born in England and removed to Brazil in the early part of the 20th century. He married Mamoela Gonçalez, a Spanish lady, in Brazil. All she has to go on is the fact that her grandfather had a brother named Reginald who remained in England. Please help her if you can. Since she wrote to me in Portuguese, I assume she'll need her answers in Portuguese as well. A great way to do this is to use the Babelfish translator on Alta Vista.

Chat Room

You'll notice a Chat Room logo in our border. We're in the process of setting up this feature and will send out an email when it is ready. We hope to begin a regular series of chats about Waite genealogy. Look for more details later!

Genealogy Today

This is a fantastic on-line magazine with lots of interesting and informative articles of general genealogical interest.

John & Jane Lickman Waite



Religiously devoted families of Abingdon, concerned with moral education for their children, organized a Sunday School in the school house, about a mile west of the village in 1860. John Waite 1820-1905 and his wife Jane Lickman 1832-1916, donors of land and building L.17, C.4 Caistor for the first Abingdon Methodist Church. They also provided wood for fuel and the caretaking.

Abingdon is not very big place (two churches and a baseball field). It is south of Fulton Ontario off Hwy 20 east of Hamilton, Ontario about 10 miles or 8 miles from Binbrook, Ontario going east to Niagara Falls on Binbrook Rd, south of Hamilton. If you ever get a chance to see a copy of a book call West Lincoln, Our Links With the Past there is a lot of info in it on the Waite family and there neighbors, it is out print now. Special thanks to Jim Roszel for forwarding us this photograph of John & Jane Lickman Waite that he found and for the information on Abingdon. This type of support is so important to our success. Thanks Jim!

Erie Cemetery History Project

Donovan Hannis has asked us to announce his new Erie Cemetery History Project. The goal of his site is to feature profiles and pictures of those buried in Erie Cemetery in Erie, IL, as a way of documenting some of the town's history.

Because there are many Waite family members buried in this cemetery, and because the Waite family was important to the development of the town Donovan thought the site might be of interest to our visitors. He would very much like our help in filling in the blanks on the Waite family in Erie. As time permits he is willing to look for additional information for families taking part in our history project. Donovan has copies of Erie Cemetery records to 1990 and various other

documents. Please visit his site. He's also kindly extracted Wait(e) information for us. Perhaps your missing ancestor is here.

Census Mechanics | by Robert W. King reprinted from Shelton Mailing List

Here are some details about the mechanics of taking a census that most of us probably haven't paid much attention to. Beginning with the 1790 federal census and continuing with every census thereafter, each enabling law authorized by Congress specified a census day for gathering the census information from every household in America. From 1790 to 1820, the census day was the first Monday in August.

The census day was NOT the day the enumerator arrived at a household, it was the day for which all the statistics of the census were collected. The actual instructions given to all the U.S. Marshals right before the 1820 census explains:

"...all the questions refer to the day when the enumeration is to commence; the first Monday in August next. Your assistants will thereby understand that they are to insert in their returns all the persons belonging to the family on the first Monday in August, even those who may be deceased at the time when they take the account; and, on the other hand, that they will not include in it, infants born after that day."

Similar instructions have been given for every census since 1790, but with different census days. Census day for each census, 1790-1920, and the time allowed to take the census:

1790 2 August 9 months
1800 4 August 9 months
1810 6 August 10 months
1820 7 August 13 months
1830 1 June 12 months
1840 1 June 18 months
1850 1 June 5 months
1860 1 June 5 months
1870 1 June 5 months
1880 1 June 1 month
1890 1 June 1 month
1900 1 June 1 month
1910 15 April 1 month
1920 1 January 1 month

Genealogists should record two dates when copying information from the censuses: the census day and the enumeration date. No matter how many months it took for an enumerator to reach a house, he was supposed to gather the information as if time had stopped on the census day. Every person whose regular abode was in a particular household on the census day was to be enumerated, even if a person were away at the time of the enumeration.

Understanding the impact of the census day versus the enumeration date may explain why

certain people appear in a census listing, even though you have other evidence to show the person died before the household was enumerated. If a person were alive on the census day, that person was to be included - even if it took some time for the enumerator to get around to the house to take the census. The person could have been dead for several months.

Or, you may wonder why that youngest child in a family was not listed in a census. If a child were born after the census day, that child was not to be included - even if the census taker had visited the house and was aware of a playful little toddler crawling around in front of him.

JUST A SIDE NOTE AND BIT OF TRIVIA: Something that MAY have come into play for some enumerators is that in the pre-1900 censuses, the enumerators were paid by the number of people they enumerated. I am sure that most were quite honest and followed the instructions, but as with all things in life I'm sure there were those for whom the money was more important.