

# The Rotarian Genealogist

AUGUST, 2023 | FIRST QUARTER 2023-2024

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## Notes from our President

Where are your superhero powers?!?!?

Did you know there are four different groups of surnames?

- occupation (like Baker or Weaver),
- places or geographical features (such as Goodland or Hill),
- nicknames or appearance (like Brown or Little)
- patronymic, meaning based upon the father's name (such as McAndrew, meaning "son of Andrew").

According to Wikipedia, my last name is derived from the word "weaver." Not very exciting in my opinion but I am not sure what I expected. I guess it's better than being related to an insect (spider web). Superheroes or not, All the women in my family are truly gifted with a needle, thread, or fabric so weaver suits them well. Not me, far from it. I must be the black sheep of the family. Anything requiring wool, weaving, or sewing would be sent out to a professional.

What's the meaning of your surname? Share it in the chat box on August 12th during our Family Reunion Meeting. Everyone is eligible. The most interesting share will win a prize.

Kind regards,  
Sue W



## FORG Calendar



**12 August** Quarterly Business Meeting/Reunion

**1 November** Newsletter Published

**11 November** Quarterly Business Meeting/Reunion

**1 February** Newsletter Published

**10 February** Quarterly Business Meeting/Reunion



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QR Code



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to our FB page.

# FORG Family Reunion Meeting

## The Process of Proper Research



**Connie Knox**

Wilmington Cape Fear Rotary, District 7730

Website: [Genealogy TV](#)

YouTube [YouTube.com/GenealogyTV](#)

Facebook [Facebook.com/GenealogyTV](#)

So often we run around our tree “raking the leaves” (cleaning up the hints). Let us get focused and follow a procedure... a process that will ensure you have found all you can find, analyze the records, correlate the evidence, and write our conclusion before moving backwards to the next generation.

**Saturday, August 12, 2023  
1:30 pm Central USA Time**

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87160721911?  
pwd=eXY5RFk2Z05ld1R5TkllNTBEQWVZdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87160721911?pwd=eXY5RFk2Z05ld1R5TkllNTBEQWVZdz09)

Meeting ID: 871 6072 1911

Passcode: 570604

Connie Knox has been a genealogist for over 47 years and a professional genealogist since 2016. However, her genealogy interests are primarily in genealogical education using video.

Connie Knox was a television broadcast professional starting her career at a Public Broadcasting Station in Southern California. She has expertise in video production, advertising, marketing, television station management and ownership. She had been in television broadcasting for over 40 years working in every aspect of TV broadcasting, culminating as the General Manager of a CBS affiliate and as a station owner. As she says, “I went from PBS to CBS.”

She is now the owner of [Genealogy TV](#) and the [Genealogy TV Academy](#).



Genealogy TV can be found at [YouTube.com/GenealogyTV](#). GTV has been on YouTube since early August 2018. The channel currently reaches an average of 150,000 views per month and has achieved over 5 million lifetime views. Genealogy TV typically produces one video per week, released on Friday mornings.



[Genealogy TV Academy](#)

Launched in March of 2022 Genealogy TV Academy which is an online course platform featuring self-guided courses as well as monthly live classes via Zoom.

# Board Member Bio - Martha Stuckey



Martha Stuckey is a native of Baton Rouge having grown up in Baton Rouge, going to University Laboratory School, and graduating in 1987. She then went to Centenary College in Shreveport, LA, and obtained her BS in Elementary Ed in 1991. She returned to Baton Rouge teaching briefly at St. Gerard before going to Northeastern University in Boston to obtain her MBA/Master of Science in Accounting through their GSPA program in 1995. She again returned to Baton Rouge and obtained her CPA in 1997. When she isn't working on forensic accounting projects or tax returns she enjoys reading, baseball, her family, traveling, the beach, working with her church, and genealogy.

Martha was president of the Rotary Club of Baton Rouge – Capital City in 2020-2021 and is currently an Assistant Governor for District 6200 in her 2nd year. As Assistant Governor she helps with the Baton Rouge region which includes the Rotary Club of Baton Rouge (one of the top five clubs in membership size in the world) as well as the Rotary Club of Baton Rouge – Sunrise, the Southeast Rotary Club of Baton Rouge, and her own Rotary Club.

She has been a genealogy buff since she was a youngster. Currently, she has her own collection of data as well as her mom's and Grandmother's (Dad's mother's) which includes the Thomas Stuckey family Bible and several dated pictures. She hopes to be able to pass those on to future family historians one day.

## From the Webmaster

Lawrence Tristram , Board Member and Webmaster

By now those who visit the website will see that I have re-organised the Newsletters. The menu list was getting rather long so the main menu item now gives (with two exceptions) the Rotary years as sub-menu items and within those you will find the links to the newsletters for that year.

Having some interest in the world of AI and ChatGPT I recently found a Find My Past YouTube video featuring a presentation by Blaine Bettinger on the 10 prompts to use with ChatGPT. He apparently uses it a lot and it did give me some ideas on how I might use it within my genealogy work. [You can find it here.](#)

1)Peter Calver of Lost Cousins has updated his 'Masterclass:How to make the most of your DNA test' and I have updated the link in the [Discussion'My DNA story'](#) on the website.

**2)Please [fill our survey](#) if you have not done so already. We would love to get your feedback. Thanks.**



# What Would You Grab??

Luanne Newman , Board Member and President Elect

We have seen it lately – flooding in areas of the US, Canada, and even Europe, that leave residents homeless and wildfires all over, burning many homes. Natural disasters are a common occurrence and they have been for eons. Are there more these days or is it the Internet and constant updates that make it seem so?

As folks interested in tracing our family histories, tracking them, and preserving or sharing them, I ask you: If there was a disaster coming and you had time to prepare, what would you grab?

Some suggest taking items that would make the next days, weeks, and months easier than if you did not take them: identification, a utility bill, cash, credit card, legal documents (but shouldn't those be offsite anyways?). Others recommend medications (or copies of prescription information), mortgage papers, and tax records.

To you and me, who are interested in our years of research, I am not recommending that you lag behind to dig through your photos or take frames off the walls. Be safe and be smart. But should we think ahead to what we could/should/would do if it happened to us?

A decade ago, my former go-to backup program was always Carbonite. I had heard about 'cloud' back-ups for years but I hadn't acted upon it. Now, if you have Microsoft One Drive, all of the files located in that folder are automatically backed up and stored in the cloud....constantly. The beauty of this is that you can access those photos, census records, old letters anywhere.

This means that everything I have scanned, written, received, photographed in the name of family history not only resides on my home computer but also in the cloud. When my husband's computer died some years ago, he lost all files on it. When the PC was fixed after that "Blue Screen of Death", all the files that were lost could be safely downloaded from the cloud. All the



photos, research, and SAR info... all safe. That fantastic benefit of remote access is my favorite. When out and about, accessing records, stories or photos from our Smartphones is easy and nice to share with friends and family.

I was recently at a family wedding, showing my first cousin important information and photos of our Grandfather who immigrated from Italy. All I had was my Smartphone. It was a simple Excel sheet that I showed him. When I would run across letters, photos, census records, etc. that contained dates where my Grandfather worked or lived, I noted it in the spreadsheet. When I handed my Cousin Tom my phone and he perused the file, he learned things he didn't know and was clearly very excited about it.



Scanned photos and saved files were put to good use as I helped my sister. You see, her home was one of the 1200 lost in the California wildfires of September 2015. Detailed plans and lists were made of what she would take, in which order. Problem is, they were out of the area and the fire took an unexpected turn. They were safe, but not one single item was taken out of the home. Not one. Not my immigrant grandmother's photo of 1921 in the oval frame that only she had...and no one had a copy. Let me repeat...they were safe, and that is the most important. Christmas gifts that next December included copies of those precious photos along with scrapbooks and many digital files.



Are your records safe in the cloud? Do you have duplicate files or photos somewhere other than your house? If you knew it could happen to you, what would you plan? And, God forbid it does, what would you grab?

Let me know.

Luanne Newman - [Luanne.Newman@outlook.com](mailto:Luanne.Newman@outlook.com)



# Revolutions, Records, and Anticipating America250

Rachel Christian, New Media Editor, [Family Tree Magazine](#) - The Genealogy Insider



[Library of Congress - Soldiers in Uniform](#) World Digital Library

In July, we celebrated the 247th year since the United States declared its independence from Britain. This is one of many historical anniversaries that have either just wrapped up or are on the horizon. For example, July marked the [160th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg](#) and this winter is the [250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party](#).

And though it may be three years away, the preparations are underway for the big one: the [250th anniversary of the founding of the United States](#). In other words, our "Semiquincentennial."

In celebration of the anniversary, the National Archives and the National Park Service announced [a special project to transcribe a group of Revolutionary War pension files](#). Volunteers are invited to help transcribe the records and share any surprises or interesting stories therein.

This record group is significant because it could contain crucial details about those who fought in the Revolutionary War, including "age, residence, date and place of marriage, and date and place of death of spouse."

America250, aka the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, is the entity in charge of planning the national celebration. One of their first initiatives is called "[America's Invitation](#)."

This project encourages "all Americans to share their own unique American stories - about their communities, culture, neighborhoods and more - and their hopes and dreams for the future."

This July felt like the kickoff to what will be a fun, patriotic, and history-filled few years. It's a great time to learn, honor, and celebrate our ancestors' American experiences as well as our own.

Click here for Family Tree Magazine links to [Revolutionary War Genealogy and History Websites](#).

# Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Working on America250

Denny Scanlan, Tucson Sunset RC, Life Member



Being a lifer in FORG is an honor for any Rotarian and being an amateur genealogist is what brings us together. Our quest will never be complete as each new discovery means additional unanswered questions. For some, their ancestors arrived on the Mayflower in 1620. If so, there is an organization specifically for their descendants. I have read that of the original passengers almost half passed away in their first year in America, but the survivors went forth and multiplied (as the good book says) and today there are over 10 million plus descendants in the United States and over 38 million worldwide!

For those of us who remember our Country's 200th Birthday celebrations in 1976, I'd like to say, "You ain't seen nothin' yet!!" Our beautiful country just celebrated another birthday last month and will be hosting another "big one" on the 4th of July 2026! The Semiquincentennial is just two years away and planning is already underway. Now is the time to get on board and get involved in our own communities. Make your club a leader in the effort to make this the celebration of the century.

250 years ago our ancestors fought the battle for our liberty and freedom from British rule. Believe it or not, it wasn't easy. The war lasted from April 19, 1775 to May 12, 1784, over 8 years! If you are descendants of the Patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War there are two primary organizations for you. [The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution \(SAR\)](#), founded January 17, 1890 and chartered by an Act of Congress in 1906. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have a rich history dating back over 125 years and both can be a great source of information.

Do you have ancestors who were revolutionary war patriots? SAR would like to honor those persons who served our country and ensure their final resting places are properly marked. I am currently working with SAR on the America250 Celebration and am looking for current, former or prospective members who want to be involved in your community to make this the birthday celebration of the century! My goal is to put you in touch with your state or local chapter and together we can make this happen.

Drop me an email or text and let's get this rolling!

Denny Scanlan, Tucson Sunset RC  
[dennyscanlan@gmail.com](mailto:dennyscanlan@gmail.com) (520) 270-8555

# It's All Relative In Census Records

By Robbie Gorr, [Internet Genealogy](#) author

## Not Necessarily Your Nieces or Nephews

Recently I found one of my forebears and his wife in the census records. Over the course of three successive census returns, this childless couple had five different relatives residing with them, variously aged from seven to eighteen, and all identified as a “niece” or “nephew”. But what I discovered was that none of the so-called nieces or nephews was actually the offspring of any of their siblings, and therefore they were not nieces or nephews as we now understand the terms.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, there are also other, more obscure, nineteenth-century definitions. A niece or nephew then was definitely a relative and often a cousin of some degree. Occasionally those terms also were used to describe grandchildren or other descendants. And even more rarely, they could also have been euphemisms for illegitimate children.

It is a good lesson in family relations and connections to bear in mind for future research involving census records, property records, and other legal documents like wills and testaments. In the case of my forebear’s mysterious nieces and nephews, they all turned out to be the children of several first cousins who had, over a period of many years, been sent to stay with the childless couple, probably as live-in help. In the end, it was all relative!

## More Than A Housekeeper

It is not unusual for a man living alone to have domestic help in his house or, if he were a widower, assistance with his children. Depending on his financial ability, his domestic servants could range from a general housekeeper to a variety of maids, cooks, and other staff and laborers. All these would be listed in the household of the man in the census records.

Be observant, however, at the placement of a “housekeeper” in the list of household residents. Most servants are recorded following all the family members, even the youngest children, and also after all visitors and lodgers. But when a housekeeper is listed following the head of household and before any children or other residents, it may be a subtle clue as to her exact relationship within the household.

Common-law partnerships were as commonplace in the days of our ancestors as they are today, although polite society may have frowned upon such relationships back then. Census takers, happening upon such domestic arrangements, often recorded the lady in such a position as the “housekeeper”, placing her in the traditional space where a spouse might be listed rather than among the other servants at the end of the household. Such a small detail could be the key to a previously unacknowledged family relationship if the housekeeper were more than just a housekeeper.



# Lotions and Potions in the Newspaper

[Fishwrap](#) - the official blog of [Newspaper.com](#)

**MILLER'S ANTISEPTIC OIL,  
KNOWN AS**

# **SNAKE OIL**

**WILL POSITIVELY RELIEVE PAIN  
IN THREE MINUTES.**

Try it right now for rheumatism, Neuralgia, Lumbago, sore, stiff and swollen joints, pains in the head, back and limbs, corns, bunions, etc. After one application pain disappears as if by magic.

A never-failing remedy used internally and externally for Coughs, Colds, Croup, Sore Throat, Diphtheria and Tonsillitis.

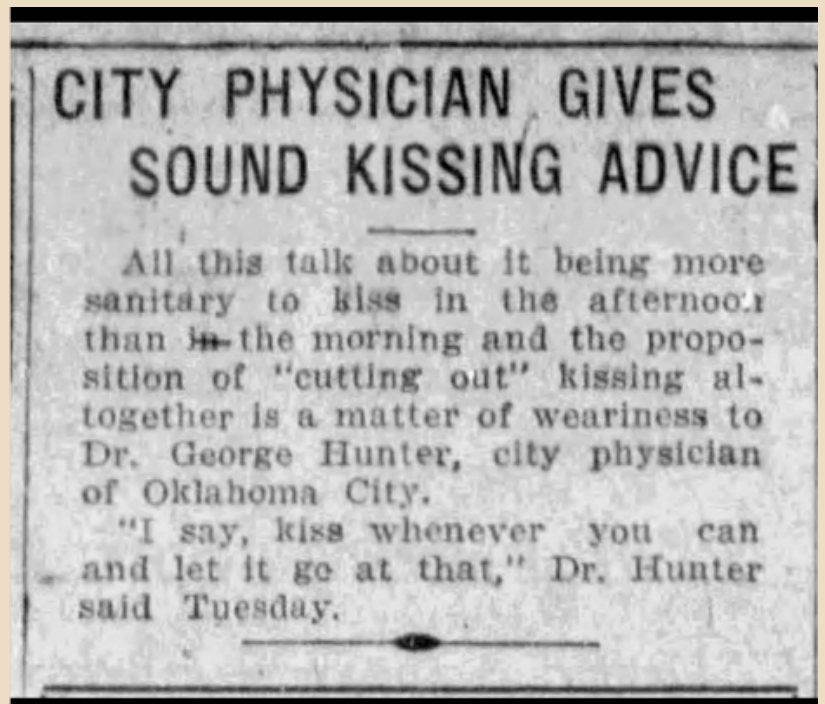
The Oil is conceded to be the most penetrating remedy known. Its prompt and immediate effect in relieving pain is due to the fact that it penetrates to the affected parts at once. As an illustration pour Ten Drops on the thickest piece of sole leather and it will penetrate this substance through and through in three minutes.

Accept no substitute. This great Oil is golden red color only. Every bottle is guaranteed; 25c and 50c a bottle or money refunded. At leading druggists.

Address: Herb Juice Co., Jackson, Tenn.

Historical newspapers contain thousands of advertisements and testimonials touting miracle cures for sickness, aches, and pains. With the benefit of hindsight, we now know that many of these lotions and potions, known as patent medicines, were either wholly ineffective or dangerous and deadly. The patent medicine craze of the 19th century was fueled in part by the proliferation of daily newspapers. For the first time, products were advertised to the masses in an affordable way. Here are a few examples of patent medicines.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup was a popular treatment for fussy babies. Advertisements promised that it would cure baby colic. The syrup was also widely used for teething. The syrup's effectiveness came from two primary ingredients - morphine and alcohol. Sadly, hundreds of infant deaths were attributed to the medicine. [Continue reading...](#)



1920 Oklahoma Times

[The Montgomery Times, Montgomery, Alabama, Sat, Feb 12, 1916 pg 5](#)

## Traitors and Tragedies

[This article](#) from The Guardian tells the story of a professional genealogist who discovered a dark secret in his own family's history.

# Surnames: Resources in Local History and Genealogy LoC Research Guide

This guide provides research strategies and resources at the [Library of Congress](#) to help genealogists understand the origins, evolutions, and relevance of family names.

The term *onomastics*, meaning the study of the history and origin of personal names, dates back to 1904. Onomastics can be a very useful tool in genealogical research as it is one of many ways to build family trees, provide ways around brick walls, and can provide insight into the identities of one's ancestors. Furthermore, some genealogists prefer to create one-name studies to locate and organize information about everyone who has had a specific name as far back in time as possible, instead of building pedigrees or descendant charts of a specific couple. [This guide](#) is meant to direct the researcher to books about personal names. It is not an exhaustive list of everything in the Library of Congress catalogs but furnishes call numbers and titles for further research.

## Origins of Names

Surnames may have originated from personal characteristics, locations, events, or from family associations. The use of surnames was not common in Europe before the Middle Ages. As cities became larger and more populous, additional names were added to be stylish, or to help people specify which Tom was being talked about. Surnames sometimes changed within a person's lifespan or were sometimes imposed by other people or by law. Etymologists and genealogists continue to research and publish the origins and meanings of names.

Surnames have been derived from the following attributes or characteristics:

- Occupational – One way to distinguish between individuals was to specify their occupation. This gave rise to names like Miller, Smith, Tailor, etc., with all their variations.
- Nicknames – Surnames that reflect careers, physical traits, or places may have been imposed by friends or foes. Names like Little, Bigg, Redd, etc. may have originally been adopted to distinguish persons of the same personal name who lived in the same place.
- Place Names or Toponymics – People may have been named for the places they lived like Atwood, Woods, Lake, Berg, Beach, Meadows, etc.
- Naming Patterns and Patronymics – In some places, tradition dictates the naming of infants after specific relatives in a specific order. These traditions help genealogists determine who the relatives may have been. Many countries have surnames that essentially mean "son of" or "daughter of" and in some places these names changed every generation.



Billy Vanderveer, composer. Will J. Hart, lyricist. Any old name is a wonderful name. 1916. Library of Congress Music Division.



# Floating Trees How & Why With Connie Knox, Genealogy TV

(used with permission from Connie Knox)



Member Connie Knox's [Genealogy TV](#) YouTube channel shows us [how and why you should use the Floating Trees](#) on Ancestry.com. This genealogy strategy will help you further your family history research with this powerful trick to help connect your FAN Club (Friends Associates and Neighbors) along with other suspected family members, DNA matches and much more.

## Using Google Sheets for Timelines

Lisa Lisson



Timelines are crucial to your genealogy research! From putting your ancestor in place and time to sorting out ancestors with the same names, creating a timeline is one of the MOST important resources you can create for yourself. In this video I am showing you how to create a genealogy timeline using Google Sheets. ([Click on the image, or click here, to go to Lisa's YouTube video.](#))

Check out Lisa's YouTube Channel "Are You My Cousin?" [by clicking on the image or here.](#)



## Website [historypin.org](http://historypin.org)

**historyp'n**



Lisa Louise Cooke and SunnyJane Morton of [Family Tree Magazine](#) discuss using [historypin.org](http://historypin.org) for their genealogy research [in this podcast](#). They call it "Pinterest for history."



# Conferences, Classes, Webinars

[ConferenceKeeper](#): find genealogical conferences, webinars, etc. Sign up for their newsletter, and you will always have up-to-date information on both in-person and virtual conferences free and for a cost. They also have a [Facebook group](#).

Online Courses from popular genealogical sites are:

[Family Search](#)

[Family Tree Magazine](#)

[Genealogy Guys](#)

[Legacy](#)

[My Heritage](#)

[National Institute for Genealogical Studies](#)

## Upcoming Conferences

19-20 Aug: [The Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe Annual Convention](#)

25-25 Aug: [The Kentucky History & Genealogy Conference](#)

8-9 Sep: [The Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives \(AGRA\) \*Navigating Your Family History: Journeys with Ancestors\*](#), Downing College, Cambridge, UK

8-10 Sep: *Diversity in Genealogy*, [Ontario Ancestors](#)

9-10 Sep: The American-Canadian Genealogical Society's 50th Anniversary [Virtual Fall Conference](#)

17-21 Oct: [19th Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Cultural Conference](#)

22-26 Jan 2024: *Elevate Your Genealogical Education to New Heights*, [Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy](#) (see flyer)

For more conference information, check out [Conference Keeper](#).

# Self-Rising Bread

## Ingredients

2 Tbsp of cornmeal  
1 tsp each of salt and sugar  
1 middle-size potato, peeled and sliced thin  
all-purpose flour  
1/2 pint of sweet milk  
1/2 pint boiled water  
4 C flour  
2 Tbsp sugar  
2 Tbsp shortening  
1 tsp salt

- Mix top three ingredients in a bowl or large jar and pour 1-pint boiling water over it with 1/8 teaspoon baking soda stirred in well.
- Cover bowl or jar with cheesecloth or a tea towel and keep warm all night.
- Next morning remove potato slices from the liquid and throw them away. The liquid should be a little frothy and have a fermentation odor; if not, let sit longer in a warm place.
- Stir into the remaining liquid enough all-purpose wheat flour to make a stiff batter to drop from a spoon.
- Let rise to double. This is your sponge.
- Mix together sweet milk and boiling water and let cool.
- Then mix flour, sugar, shortening, and salt.
- Pour this into the risen sponge and stir together with the cooled water/milk mixture. (If dough is not stiff enough add more flour.) Divide in two.
- Mold\* (in greased loaf pans) and let rise to double in size and bake at 350 degrees F for one hour.

Makes two loaves. \*This dough will be sticky; don't try to knead it.

**Member Peggy Crabtree, Waxahachie Rotary, District 5810**

*Salt-Rising Bread that has been in my family for several generations. It is in my great-aunt's handwriting. The typed (and amended) version is as follows: Our family loves to eat this bread toasted and spread with butter. It's especially good for breakfast served with fried eggs.*

# Yom Kippur Cinnamon Buns

- Spread a springform tin with melted butter.
- Sprinkle it with cinnamon and sugar.
- Make your favourite scone dough (see below) but omit any sugar.
- Roll out on a floured board into an oblong shape.
- Spread generously with melted butter, apricot jam, sultanas, cinnamon, and sugar.
- Roll up like a Swiss roll.
- Cut into 2-inch pieces.
- Arrange, cut sides up in the tin.
- Spread more melted butter, cinnamon, and sugar on top of the buns.
- Bake at 430F for about 60 minutes.

## ***Mom's Scone Recipe***

2 cups flour  
4 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt,  
2 ounces butter  
3/4 cup milk and water

[Measurements are Imperial. Click here to convert.](#)

- Sift dry ingredients
- Cut in butter till crumblike mixture
- Add liquid and mix till a soft dough
- Roll out on floured board
- Cut as desired
- Bake on greased sheets at 400 F for about 10 minutes

### ***Member Beulah Gross***

*My mother, Ida, was an excellent cook and baker. We still make her Cinnamon Buns to break our Fast on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.*