



# GENIE BYTES

Volume 4, Issue 1

Grand Strand Genealogy Club

February 2023

## Message from the Editors

### Bonnie Kishpaugh & Ann Hamilton

Editor & Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Associate Board

Can you believe, we are beginning our fourth year publishing Genie Bytes? We can't!

If you suspect you have an ancestor who served in the Revolutionary War but you don't know how to confirm your suspicions, be sure to attend this month's GSGC meeting. Our own Christine Davis will discuss "**Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestors.**" As a prior-to-the-meeting primer, reread Chris' article and the DAR profiles of her patriot ancestors in our November issue. ♦

## Miss Genie Puzzler

In the 1920 Census the head of a family had two nephews-in-law living with him. Do you know how they are related to the head of the household? There could be several possibilities. Please send your answers to the Club's email address with "Newsletter" in the subject line. If you wish, you can write down your answers and hand them to either Bonnie or Ann at the monthly meetings (Feb/Mar/Apr). We will post the answer in the May issue! ♦

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Message from the Editors, Miss Genie Puzzler, "Be in the Know. Shadow!", Featured Book, and Featured Website
- 2 Did You Know? and "Mapping Your Ancestors"
- 3 "Mapping Your Ancestors" (cont'd), and "My Amazing Discovery!"
- 4 "My Amazing Discovery!" (cont'd)
- 5 AK/IN State Guides, Dear Miss Genie, Calendar of Events, Club Officers and Board Members, Club Details, and Disclaimer

## Be in the Know. SHADOW!

### Ann Hamilton

Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Associate Board

During 2022, two members of GSGC's Board of Directors left positions unfilled when they stepped down: the awards/certificate distributor and the British Isles SIG leader. Two other Board members' requests for shadows remain unanswered since August. Our rewards coordinator and webmaster—after a total of 12 years of service—would each like another to be in the know so that they may step aside or have backup as needed.

As I wrote in the editors' message of our August issue, there's no better way to do so than by shadowing. "Shadowing gives you the opportunity to learn the required skills from the resident "expert" and to feel comfortable with your mentor and friend who's just a phone call or an email away when you need help. Remember, when you shadow, if the shoe doesn't fit, you can always say, 'No.'"

So, go to the SCGSGC website and take another look at the positions described on page 3 of that same issue. Some require no more than an hour a month of your time. Compare your talents to those needed. Find the right fit. Speak up. Shadow. Then, like those before you, SERVE. ♦

## Featured Book

Foote, Shelby. *The Civil War: A Narrative*. Vintage, 1986, 3 vols. If there is anything you would like to know about the Civil War, then this series is for you. It may help you in researching your Civil War ancestors. ♦

## Featured Website

Dennis Fitzgerald wondered if our members are familiar with [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) that comes out every day. In particular, he thought the article "[Qwant: The Search Engine That Doesn't Know Anything About You.](#)" might be of interest. ♦

## Did You Know?

Bonnie Kishpaugh and Claire Fleming just discovered they are probably distant cousins. Claire emailed a handout to GSGC members before her November presentation. As Bonnie read it, she recognized the Simcock, Maris, Waln, Lewis and Mendenhall surnames. They are all on her tree. In fact, she has a book called *The Maris Family in the United States. A Record of the Descendants of George and Alice Marris. 1683-1885*. George and Alice Maris purchased land from William Penn. Bonnie contacted Claire who responded, "Wow!" Claire asked Bonnie to bring the book to the meeting. What a small world!

In our February 2022 issue we told you about a Problem Ancestor update in which Phyllis Hughes discovered she and Susan Perhala were distant relatives. Who else in our Club is related? Time and research and sharing, we hope, will tell! ♦

At our December meeting, a member shared that she was having trouble obtaining her adoption records. She was told that the record must predate the inquiry by 100 years before it could be released. She asked if anyone could advise her.

Cynthia Jeffries responded. If you are unable to obtain your adoption records from the state, you can submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

The **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552**, is the U.S. federal **freedom of information law** that requires the full or partial disclosure of previously unreleased or uncirculated information and documents controlled by the **United States government**, state, or other public authority upon request. The act defines agency records subject to disclosure, outlines mandatory disclosure procedures, and includes nine exemptions that define categories of information not subject to disclosure.

A FOIA request needs to be written. Go online. Enter "FOIA Form." Follow the succeeding prompts to make the request. Generally, there is a nominal cost of \$30.00 or less. Cynthia recommends sending the request via certified mail and so receiving a return receipt. The agency promises a prompt response. Please share what we hope will be good news with the Club. ♦

\*\*Have a tip/tidbit you'd like to share? Please submit it to [genieclub2002@gmail.com](mailto:genieclub2002@gmail.com) – Subject: "Tip/Tidbit." We'd love to hear from you. \*\*

## Mapping Your Ancestors

### Bonnie Kishpaugh & Ann Hamilton

Editor & Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Associate Board

At our November meeting one of our members, Russ Rousseau, recommended the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps as an underused and excellent source for genealogists whose ancestors were city dwellers. Beginning in 1867 the Sanborn Map Company periodically published fire insurance maps which were detailed and accurate renderings of the industrial, commercial, and residential sections of over 12,000 cities and towns in the United States, Canada, Cuba, and Mexico. Publication continued well into the 1950s.

Learn about the online collection of Sanborn Maps at the [Library of Congress](#)' website and search the index for a city of interest to you. Find links to additional online collections in California, Kentucky, and North Carolina on the [FamilySearch Wiki](#).

Two detailed articles in Lisa Louise Cooke's *Genealogy Gems* newsletters provide valuable background and strategies for anyone who'd like to add these maps to their genealogy toolbox. They are ["How to Use Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Family"](#) (Jun 14, 2017) and ["Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Genealogy"](#) (Sep 13, 2022).

Another archival collection of interest to genealogists is the [Atlas of Historical County Boundaries](#). Searchable by state, this website gives details of a county's creation as well as its geography. The date selector tool shows the dates on which known boundary changes occurred somewhere in the state.

This website is also invaluable for those researching vital records collected and stored at the county level. In order to find these records, you need to know both the county in which the record was held and the period during which it was created. When a new county was formed all past records filed in the original county were retained in that county. Records did not get passed on to the new county. Use this site for records of probate, judicature, land, guardianship and more. Know that you are looking in the right place for your ancestors.

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The records of the people who resided in the portions of Maryland and Virginia that were ceded in 1790 to form Washington, DC, are a perfect example of this practice.

An ancestor born in 1778 in Maryland--without change of residence-- dies in 1825 in Washington, DC. Where are his records located? Seek out the *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries*. Eliminate fruitless searching.

On *Family Tree Magazine's* website, you can learn more about what's available in the *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* by reading/watching Sunny Jane Morton's article/video entitled [\*\*A Tour of the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries\*\*](#).

We hope these online map resources will help you. They've already helped us. Thank you, Russ!! ♦

## My Amazing Discovery!

### Pat Bernschein

Membership, GSGC Associate Board

"That the Life of a Friend Might be Saved. A Frightful Wound on William Ballantyne's Arm Grafted with Live Skin."

A free weekend on *Newspapers.com* spent searching for my husband's ancestors yielded this result.

William Ballantyne, my husband's great-grandfather, was born in 1868. As a young man he suffered a tragic accident at work. He was married but childless when it happened. The long and short of it is, if he had not survived...and had children...my husband would never have been born!

Since the devil is in the details...let me transcribe the article as it was first printed in the *Baltimore Sun* in 1892.

"Lying on bed No.6 in the surgical ward of the Maryland University Hospital, is a man for whom advanced medical science and surgical skill have done so much that, though his cheeks are still pale and sunken, and his eyes hollow and dark, he may, if all continues to go well with him, be able to walk abroad, ere the lapse of many weeks, a strong, healthy man and a capable bread-winner.

The name of the patient is William Ballantyne, and his age twenty-four years. He is married, but has no children, and the injury for which he is being treated at the hospital was received at the South Baltimore Car Works, at Curtis Bay on June 1 1891. There it was that,

while working at the gang drill, which is used for boring holes in arch bars, the right coat sleeve of the unfortunate man caught in the cogs of the machinery and was torn off, and with it all the soft, superficial portions of the right arm and shoulder, from midway of the collar bone almost to the elbow. Thus, a raw space was laid bare, about eight by twelve inches, and, although no bones were exposed, all of the muscles were, and the wound was so large that it was impossible for new skin to form and cover the hideous sore.

After the accident, young Ballantyne, who is a fairly good-looking and very intelligent man, was taken to the Baltimore City Hospital for treatment. Here he remained for eight weeks, after which he felt able to rejoin his wife and friends at Curtis Bay, and did so. But the wound on his shoulder and arm did not heal, and, after spending several months in a vain endeavor to get well by resting quietly at home, Ballantyne finally concluded to try what change of air and scene might do for him. Accordingly, by the advice of his physician, Dr. Robert Bond, of Brooklyn, Anne Arundel County, he went to Columbus Ohio, where he remained for several months.

But it was all no use, and at last Ballantyne returned to Curtis Bay where he was about to give up every hope of recovery, when Dr. Bond advised him to go back to Baltimore for treatment at Maryland University Hospital. The injured man wisely grasped this last chance of gaining a new lease on life, and on January 11 presented himself to Dr. Martin, the resident physician of the hospital, as an applicant for admission to the institution.

Upon examination, it was found that a raw granulating surface had grown up over Ballantyne's unhealed wound, and that there was but one way to cover the terrible sore. That one way was to ongraft new skin from volunteer patients in the wound, and this difficult and peculiar operation was successfully performed in the operation room of the hospital at noon on Saturday last, by Dr. L. McLane Tiffany, the surgeon of the Institution, assisted by Resident Physician Martin.

### Collecting the Volunteers.

While these medical men were preparing their patient for operation, Dr. Bond was attending to the Curtis Bay end of the matter, and very creditably did he do it. Ballantyne, it appears, is the fortunate possessor of a magnanimous father-in-law. He is no other than Mr.

(cont'd on next page)

John Dunn, the foreman of the wood shop at the South Baltimore Car Works. As soon as Mr. Dunn learned that a number of brave men were wanted, from each of whom a piece of flash must be cut to save the life of his son-in-law, he first declared his own willingness to submit to the operation, and then set earnestly to work to secure other volunteers.

Strange as it may seem, Mr. Dunn's task proved easier than many might suppose. Among the sturdy fellows employed at the works—men of muscle and brawn, who are accustomed to wield heavy sledges and lift huge masses of iron and steel as though they were but so much elder pith — he soon secured ten stalwart workmen, who, knowing by personal experience, perhaps, what it was to have wives, children or mothers dependent upon their strong arms, gladly consented to surrender portions of their own flesh to supply their comrade's deficiency in that respect.

The volunteers: Foreman John Dunn, the father-in-law, Louis Myers, John Linsmyer, James Newman, John McCormick and Joseph Dwyer. On Friday night Dr. Bond prepared the men for the operation by scrubbing their arms, so as to render all the tissues of the skin clear and soft and pliable.

On Saturday the volunteers presented themselves at the hospital, where, baring their brawny arms in the operating room, they prepared to be relieved of a fraction of an ounce of flesh — and also a little blood — apiece.

Ballantyne was laid upon his back upon the operating table, the ether cone was placed over his face, and he was soon perfectly unconscious. Then the operation began. It is known as the Teirsh method of skin grafting. First, Dr. Tiffany rendered the surface of the wound fresh by carefully dissecting and removing the granulating tissue. While this was being done the resident physician, Frank Martin, was examining the volunteers to see if all of them were fit subjects for operation. As fast as a man had been examined he would eagerly watch the progress of the operation, and some gave quiet expression to their anxiety as to the result.

#### Slicing the Live Skin.

As soon as Dr. Tiffany had finished preparing Ballantyne's wound for the grafting, Dr. Martin set to work. From the left arm of each man, between the

shoulder and elbow, he cut away a piece of live skin about an inch and a-half wide and three inches long. As fast as each piece was obtained, Dr Tiffany carefully laid it in place on Ballantyne's raw shoulder. One of the ten volunteers, who was found, on examination, to have symptoms of a skin disease, was discarded, and Joseph Dwyer calmly said: "Well that's all right. Take two pieces from my arm."

This was done, the courageous man actually losing two pieces of flesh, which together made a square three inches each way. The men sat down while being operated upon. There was but one of them who gave any utterance of pain or outward sign of discomfort. Strange to say, this was the biggest and most powerful-looking man in the group. Ballantyne says that another man fainted away while being operated upon, his swoon being caused by extreme pain when the operator's knife penetrated too deeply into his quivering flesh. Only a thin layer of skin was taken in each case, the entire thickness of the skin not being wholly penetrated.

At the conclusion of the operation, which was witnessed by a number of medical students and several prominent physicians of Baltimore, Ballantyne's wound was dressed antiseptically, and he was put to bed in the surgical ward. The wounds of the volunteers were also dressed, and the brave fellows left their homes at Curtis Bay.

Ballantyne's physicians consider his recovery sure, and that he will be out and about again before very long and able to earn his own and his wife's living. He has been employed at the South Baltimore Car Works for about one year.

Resident Physician Martin says that the operation of skin grafting is not an unusual one at the hospital. Before this, however, all that have taken place there have been performed by covering the wounds with skin taken from the patients themselves."

Think of this.... Penicillin was not invented until 1928. As a nurse I am overwhelmed by the fact that he survived not only the injury but also the subsequent operation.

Can DNA be changed by grafts from other others? Thankfully, NO!!!

We hope you enjoyed this amazing story. ♦

## State Guides

### Alaska

(Source: State Guide Alaska by Koch, A. Originally published in the Sep/Oct 2022/Vol.23, Issue 5, P. 33 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1959

First federal census: 1900

Birth and death records begin: 1913

Marriage records begin: 1913

Contact for vital records:

AK Bureau of Vital Statistics. ♦

### Indiana

(Source: State Guide Indiana by Oldenburg, A. Originally published in the Sep/Oct 2022/Vol.23, Issue 5, P.37 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1816

First federal census: 1820

Birth and death records begin: 1882 (county);  
1907/1900 (state)

Marriage records begin: 1800 (county)

Contact for vital records: IN Dept of Health. ♦

## Dear Miss Genie

No questions received this quarter. ♦

\*\*Do you have a question for Miss Genie? Why not send it to her at [genieclub2002@gmail.com](mailto:genieclub2002@gmail.com) – Subject: "Miss Genie." She would love to hear from you. \*\*

### SOUTH CAROLINA GRAND STRAND GENEALOGY CLUB (SCGSGC)

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► Become involved. Shadow a Board member. We welcome you. ◀

\*\*Club T-Shirts (\$10) – See Marie Peacock or email the Club at [genieclub2002@gmail.com](mailto:genieclub2002@gmail.com) to order\*\*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### GSGC MONTHLY MEETINGS

PLACE: CHAPIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY/VIA ZOOM

TIME: 10 AM

Presentations:

- February 11: *Researching Revolutionary War Records and Activities of the DAR* – Christine Davis
- March 11: TBD
- April 8: *Homespun and Calico: Researching the Lives of Our Foremothers* – Peggy Lauritzen

### GENEALOGY MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

**Salt Lake City Research Trip** – February 20-23, 2023. Largest library of its kind with a staggering worldwide collection of records and help by *Ancestor Seekers* consultants. Check website for details/future research trips. ♦

**RootsTech 2023** – March 2-4, 2023. The conference will be in person in Salt Lake City (\$98) and virtual (FREE!). Registration now open. ♦

**National Genealogical Society Annual Family History Conference – Deep Roots of a Nation** – May 31–June 3, 2023. Online at home or in-person at the Greater Richmond Convention Center in Richmond, Virginia. Check website for updates and new information as it becomes available. ♦

\*\*Due to the Coronavirus most – if not all – meetings/conferences are being held virtually. Please visit **ConferenceKeeper** for the most complete "Calendar and Collection of Genealogy Events" on the Internet. This is your chance to attend a meeting virtually you may have been unable to attend onsite because of its distance or cost. \*\*

### MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of each Month 10:00 AM at:

Chapin Library (*FamilySearch* Affiliate Library)  
400 14th Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

\*Meetings held both at Chapin Library and via ZOOM\*

**Email - [genieclub2002@gmail.com](mailto:genieclub2002@gmail.com)**

**Website - [www.scgsgc.org](http://www.scgsgc.org)**

### GENIE BYTES NEWSLETTER

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Assistant Editor: Ann Hamilton

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**Note:** Please send your questions/suggestions/feedback to [genieclub2002@gmail.com](mailto:genieclub2002@gmail.com) - Subject: "Newsletter."

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