



Volume 23, Issue 4

Fall 2019



THE AUGUSTA ARCHIVIST

AUGUSTA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 436
FISHERSVILLE VA 22939

JANUARY	15
Using the LVA Online Library for Genealogical Research.	1 p.m.
Presented by William Bynum, Library of Virginia	To
	3 p.m.
JANUARY	25
Roundtable Researching Your Scots-Irish Ancestors	10 a.m.
AUGUSTA CO. LIBRARY MTG ROOM 1st Floor	to
	12 p.m.
FEBRUARY	19
DNA BASICS	1 p.m.
Presented by Lynn Scott	To
	3 p.m.

PURPOSE

- To help preserve genealogical records and public access to them
- To furnish aid and education in genealogical research
- To foster and encourage interest in genealogical research

JANUARY 15th MEETING LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA WEBSITE

The Augusta County Genealogical Society monthly meeting is Wednesday January 15 at the Augusta County Public Library, 1759 Jefferson Hwy, Fishersville, 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m., lower level meeting room. Guest Speaker William Bynum, Reference Archivist at the Library of Virginia, will share with us the resources available to us by the Library through their website and how to access them from home, as well as when we make a visit to the Library. Everyone is welcome, membership is not required.

ANNUAL DUES REMINDER

Please check your mailing label and you will find your membership expiration date. If it is 2019, please mail your dues (see bottom of page 2) to Augusta County Genealogical Society at P.O. Box 436, Fishersville, VA 22939. If your dues are not paid by March 1, 2020, the Winter newsletter will be your last issue. For those receiving the electronic newsletter, you will receive a notice via e-mail.

BE A SPONSOR MEMBER

Show your support of the Augusta County Genealogical Society with a sponsor membership of \$50 a year. Each month you will receive a copy of the Society's newsletter which will recognize you and/or your organization as a sponsor member. Membership checks or questions can be directed to Bob Kuykendall, membership chair, P. O. Box 436, Fishersville, VA 22939.



Note: Fall newsletter is late due to editor's illness.

Augusta County Genealogical Society Library
2nd Floor
Augusta County Public Library
1759 Jefferson Highway
Fishersville, VA 22939
540-885-1991
Library Hours

Tuesday-Thursday-Friday-Saturday
10:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.

Other Hours
by Appointment

Augusta County Genealogical Society Board Meeting September 18, 2019

The ACGS Board meeting was held on September 18th 2019 at the Augusta County Library.

Vice-President, Leslie Hall announced programs for the coming months:

September 18th - Bill Henry will present a program on the Blue Ridge Heritage Project. The projects goal is to establish a monument to the families displaced by the creation of Shenandoah National Park in each of the eight counties impacted.

October 16th - Annual Meeting and election of new board members. David Riel will give an update on the Surname Project.

November 20th - Holiday Luncheon at Sanzone's Restaurant in Stuarts Draft at 1:00 p.m.

Possible speakers for January and February have been contacted including Charles Culbertson, local historian who will speak about the history of Augusta County and John B. Davis, retired Clerk of the Court of Augusta County who will speak about the wealth of historical and genealogical information at our courthouse.

Beginners Workshop will be held on 14th, 21st, and 28th March 2020. (Weather make-up day April 4th 2020.

Roundtables will be held 25th January, 30th May, and 19th September 2020. The topics will be decided later.

Bob Kuykendall reported that we now have 118 paid up members. New members are: Lewis Crist, David Gibson, and David McPheeters.

JoAnn reported 754 copies of research had been completed and sent to 40 researchers in 28 States and Canada.

Unfinished Business:

Webmasters David Riel, Bob Kuykendall, Sharon Sturdivant and Leslie Hall are continuing to work on the Web site. The membership listing has been downloaded and they are looking for more expertise to help finalize the project. PayPal cannot be set up until the Web Site is running.

Sylvia has inventoried the publications held by ACGS and a list has been sent to Leslie to be included in the Web Site.

The Thomas Hugart DAR Chapter will visit the ACGS library on October 5th. Steve and David have offered to help.

Sylvia and Delores will volunteer at the Profiles of Honor Scanning Days at the Augusta Public Library on Friday and Saturday.

New Business

The election slate will be presented at the October general meeting. A proxy went out with the Fall newsletter. JoAnn will have the ballots ready.

JoAnn and Leslie will meet with Steve Landes, Thursday September 19th to discuss courthouse records. JoAnn received an email from Mary Ann Stripling in reference to Gerry Johnstone from Glasgow, Scotland who is offering to help with research in Scotland.

Augusta County Genealogical Society

MEMBERSHIP Dues are \$15.00 per year, per member, except that dues for additional individuals (eighteen or older) who reside at the same address shall be \$5.00 per year for each additional member. New members who join after June 30 need only pay one-half of the current year's dues. Sponsor membership is \$50.00 for 12 months. Membership entitles you to receive our publication, the *Augusta Archivist*, and access to the ACGS library at 1759 Jefferson Highway, Fishersville, Virginia as long as you maintain a membership for the year you wish to use the library. The Augusta County Genealogical Society disclaims responsibility for any

P.O. Box 436, Fishersville, VA 22939

erroneous statements or opinions stated in any article submitted by contributors of this newsletter. Any questions should be referred to the person who submitted the article. At this time, meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month, 1:00p.m., at the location indicated on page one. No meeting in December. Augusta County Genealogical Society is a non-profit corporation. President: Steve Garber, Vice President: Carole Hoffman, Corresponding Secretary: Sharon Sturdivant, Recording Secretary: Leslie Hall, Treasurer: Sandra Jordan, Newsletter: David Riel, and Directors: John Sherwood and Delores Duncan.

Augusta County Genealogical Society Board Meeting September 18, 2019

JoAnn received a thank you note from Bakersfield High School in California regarding Blue and White Newsletters. She asked if anyone was aware of the connection.

JoAnn concluded the meeting by asking the board members to consider what we have accomplished this year. Some suggestions were: extensive research, field trips, Website development, and David reported that the surname files now exceed 193,000.



Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia E. Butt

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ACGS needs volunteers for doing research at the courthouse on Wednesdays, assisting with our publications, assisting researchers who want access our library materials on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and also on Saturdays, anyone who would like to work on the Surname Files project.

Death of ACGS member.

Charles "Chuck" Anthony Novak, Jr, 72, of Herndon, VA, passed away on Friday, December 13, 2019.

Chuck worked as an IT Manager for the Federal Government for 35+ years. More recently he was an election officer with Fairfax County Office of Elections. Prior to his time with the government, Chuck served his country as a member of the United States Navy from 1967-1971 where he received a National Defense Service Medal. He enjoyed spending time and vacationing with this family as well as gardening and landscaping. He was also actively involved in the National Genealogical Society where he was past president of the Virginia Chapter. Chuck also was instrumental in the creation of Reston Youth Baseball where he served as its inaugural commissioner in 1976 and leading that organization the following years.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Clark, Karol	Batavia, IL	Thomas, Fall, Keller
Coyner, Keri	Staunton, VA	Cook
Crisler, Karen	Spring, TX	Thomas, Fall, Keller
Lecky-Chascsa, Nancy	Wyandotte, MI	
Oertell, Marcie	Clarksville, TN	Glass, Hunt

Augusta County Genealogical Society Board Meeting October 16, 2019

JoAnn Pendley called the Augusta County Genealogical Board to order at the Augusta County Library on October 16th, 2019.

The President said that the publications requested for UVA Special Collections Library were mailed on Thursday, October 10th.

JoAnn said she spoke at the Colonel Thomas Hughart DAR Chapter Meeting on Saturday, October 5th. Due to other items on the agenda there was not time to visit the ACGS Library but they were given a list of ACGS Publications.

Leslie and JoAnn met with Steve Landes on September 19th and gave him a list of the types of courthouse records that we have been mailing out to researchers, the number of different researchers who were helped and the number of different states the information goes to. He was also given a publications list.

Vice-President announced programs for the coming months:

October 16th - Annual Meeting and election of new board members. Board members will share information on an interesting ancestor. David Riel will give an update on the Surname Project.

November 20th - Holiday Luncheon at Sanzone's Restaurant in Stuarts Draft at 1:00 p.m.

Beginners Workshop will be held on 14th, 21st, and 28th March 2020, 10 to noon. (Weather make-up day April 4th 2020.)

Roundtables

25th January 10 to 12 noon: Researching Your Scots-Irish Ancestors

30th May, and 19th September 2020. The topics will be decided later.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$14,112.79 in the general account and \$ 6,860.99 in the African American account. \$1,000 of the current balance of the general account has been obligated to share the cost of the Ulster Historical foundation Program. John noted that the phone bill had gone up and it was decided to investigate a cheaper service. Sandra Jordan will check into the options.



Bob Kuykendall reported that we now have 123 paid up members. He provided Sylvia with a current list to be used at the Annual meeting.

JoAnn said that 816 copies of research had been completed and sent to 42 researchers in 29 States and Canada. The research team closed 55 research files spanning 2004-2019 and the folders are now in the ACGS Library.

Unfinished Business:

JoAnn asked for someone to handle the ACGS Publications sales. Delores Duncan volunteered to do this.

Webmasters David Riel, Bob Kuykendall, Sharon Sturdivant and Leslie Hall are continuing to work on the Web site. Steve Garber will join them at their next meeting on Friday, October 18th.

The Ulster Historical Foundation will visit Staunton Public Library on March 9th, 2020.

Delores shared her experience with helping with the Profiles of Honor scanning days.

The election slate will be presented at the October general meeting. A proxy went out with the Fall newsletter. JoAnn will have the ballots ready. She has received 9 Proxy votes

Respectfully Submitted, Sylvia E. Butt

Augusta County Genealogical Society Annual Membership Meeting October 16, 2019

In accordance with Article IV, paragraph 1 of the Augusta County Genealogical Society Bylaws, the annual meeting of members was held on the third Wednesday, 16th October 2019 at Augusta County Library in Fishersville, Virginia. Notice of this meeting was announced the preceding month and also through written and electronic communication.

The meeting was called to order by President JoAnn Pendley. Sylvia Butt, recording secretary called the membership role and announced that a quorum was present. The minutes will be approved electronically.



The president announced that the purpose of this annual meeting was to confirm members of the ACGS Board of Directors and to vote on amendments to the bylaws.

BYLAWS CHANGES TO BE APPROVED AT OCTOBER 16, 2019 MEETING ARTICLE 1 MEMBERS PARAGRAPH 2 –

CURRENTLY READS: AT EACH REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (“BOARD”), THE RECORDING SECRETARY OR SOMEONE ON BEHALF OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY SHALL SUBMIT TO THE BOARD THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEW APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP. UPON APPROVAL BY THE BOARD AND THE PAYMENT OF DUES FOR THAT CURRENT YEAR, THE APPLICANT WILL BECOME A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING.

THE ACGS BOARD RECOMMENDS CHANGING TO READ:

AT EACH REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (“BOARD”), THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN OR SOMEONE ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN SHALL SUBMIT TO THE BOARD THE NAMES OF MEMBERS.

IF APPROVED, MEMBERSHIP BEGINS IMMEDIATELY UPON THE PAYMENT OF DUES

Ed Critzer made the motion to approve and Delores Duncan seconded.

The change was approved.

ARTICLE 1 MEMBERS PARAGRAPH 3 – THE LAST TWO SENTENCES READ:

NEW MEMBERS WHO JOIN BEFORE JUNE 30 MUST PAY DUES FOR THE CURRENT FULL YEAR. NEW MEMBERS WHO JOIN AFTER JUNE 30 NEED ONLY PAY ONE-HALF OF THE CURRENT YEAR’S DUES

(Continued on Page 6)

THE ACGS BOARD RECOMMENDS DELETING THESE TWO SENTENCE

IF APPROVED, A FULL YEAR’S DUES IS DUE AT ALL TIMES

Sharon Sturdivant motioned to accept this change and Dan Perkuchin seconded. The change was approved.

JoAnn announced the proposed slate of officers and called for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she asked for a motion that the slate of officers be elected by acclamation. Eleanor Altizer proposed that we accept and Sharon Sturdivant seconded.

President – Steve Garber

Vice President – Carole Hoffman

Treasurer – Sandra Jordan

Recording Secretary – Leslie Hall

Corresponding Secretary – Sharon Sturdivant

(Continued on Page 6)

**Augusta County Genealogical Society Annual Membership Meeting
October 16, 2019 (Continued from Page 5)**

Member – at- Large – Delores Duncan

Member –at-large – John Sherwood

Past President – JoAnn Pendley

JoAnn thanked Delores Duncan for her work on the nominating committee and then introduced the new president for ACGS, Steve Garber.

Steve Garber thanked JoAnn for her work for ACGS and expressed his concerns for needing more help in the ACGS library. He announced that the ACGS library would follow the Augusta County Library schedule for Thanksgiving week. In December the ACGS library would be closed from December 22 – 28th December.

As there was no further business this portion of the annual meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Sylvia E. Butt

ROUNDTABLE

25th January 10 to 12 noon:

Augusta County Public Library

1st floor meeting room.

Researching Your Scots-Irish Ancestors

**This is an opportunity to prepare questions for the March visit of members from the
Ulster Historical Foundation.**

Death of Charles (Chuck) Gingerich Bechtel, husband of ACGS member and author, Laten Bechtel.

Chuck passed away peacefully January 10, 2020 at his home, 1 Waverley Green in Staunton, VA. He was born December 19, 1937 in York, PA to Charles Martin Bechtel and Helen Arlene (Gingerich) Bechtel.

Chuck is survived by his loving wife of fifty-six years, Laten Gray (Ervin) Bechtel A veteran of the U.S. Army, Chuck served as a member of the Honor Guard at Fort Myer in Arlington, VA where he also was a member of CISM, the international swimming team. He competed in Germany, France, and Greece, winning several trophies for the U.S.

He retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after a long career as a computer specialist, analyst, and communications specialist in the Washington, D.C. area.

His quiet and patient nature endeared Chuck to all that met him. His kindness, generosity, and compassion are traits that he demonstrated in his daily life and will be forever remembered by family and friends.



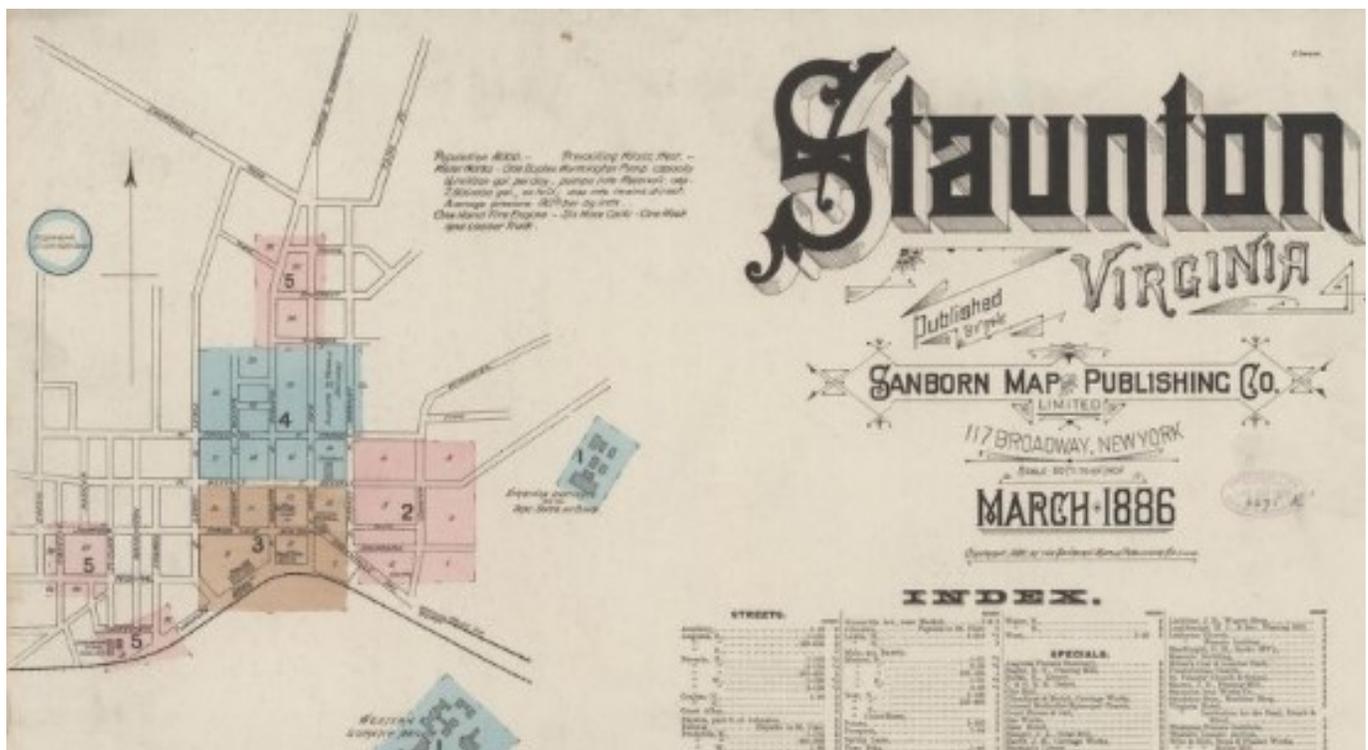
Researching with Sanborn Maps

By Lynn Scott

Maps are a good resource for placing our ancestors in the context of their lives. Particularly informative maps are the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. If you have not used them before, you are in for a treat. They date from 1867 to present and give very detailed information about the location. It is almost like walking down the street since the buildings are outlined revealing porches, outbuildings and the size and shape of the building itself.

Produced for the insurance market, what makes them unique is that the maps are all uniform. In 1866 the Aetna Insurance Company hired D. A. Sanborn, a surveyor from Massachusetts, to produce several insurance maps. Impressed with the popularity of these maps he formed his own company called the Sanborn Map and Publishing Company. Today it is simply named the Sanborn Map Company. Using a scale of 50 feet to an inch, these maps describe houses in over 13,000 towns and cities across the United States.

The Library of Congress has a comprehensive collection that can be viewed online which are listed by state, then city, then chronologically. They do not have every town so check for originals in libraries, historical societies or courthouses. The Library of Congress has maps of Staunton, Virginia for the years 1886, 1891, 1894 and 1899. To find Waynesboro, I had to google Waynesboro, Virginia Sanborn Map and an 1891 map at the Library of Congress came up under the heading of Waynesboro, Independent Cities.

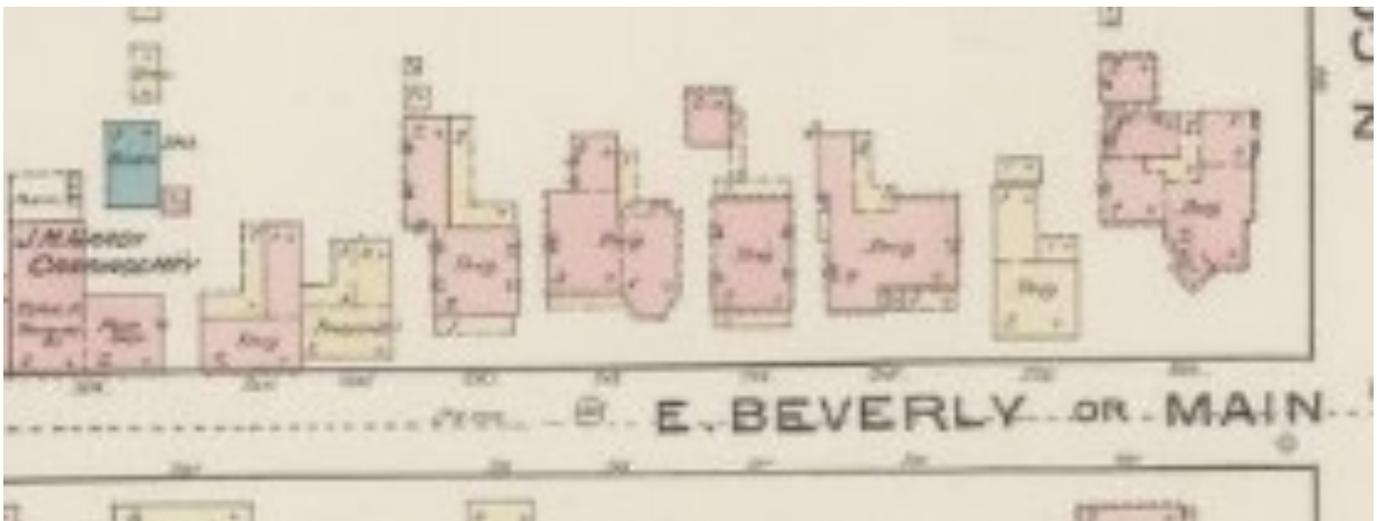


(Continued) on Page 8)

Researching with Sanborn Maps By Lynn Scott (Continued from Page 7)

The first page has a colored map section that serves as a contents of sorts to let you know where to find each section of the city. There is also an index of streets. Houses or buildings by number on their appropriate street can be found on the subsequent pages. If by chance you don't know where your ancestor lived, you can locate their address by consulting a city directory for that time period.

Because these maps were made for insurance, a key in the front of the book tells you the type of material the building was made of – blue for stone, pink for brick and yellow for a frame house. High risk buildings were colored green. Some businesses were labeled by type – drug stores, jewelry, banks, hardware, groceries and hotels. Factories are also often listed. So if you know where your ancestor lived and where he worked you can visually see the path he took to work each day.



On this map of a section of Staunton on East Beverly Street in 1896 you can see the buildings and their porches, each labeled with a house number (although they are not readable at this scale). These maps can also be useful to determine when street names and house numbers changed over the years.

When using Sanborn Maps, be aware of who owns the copyright. Those in the Library of Congress are considered public domain as well as any Sanborn Map dating between 1867 to 1922. The Sanborn Map Company claims ownership for any map past 1922, which would need their permission for public use.

“Fire Insurance Maps: in the Library of Congress, Introduction to the Collection,” Library of Congress>Digital collections>Articles and Essays>Introduction to the collection (<http://www.loc.gov>).

Ibid.

Some Medical Terms Used in Old Records
Reprinted with permission from author Craig Thornber

Death records, beginning in the late 1880s, generally provided a cause of death. This gives the genealogical researcher clues to the life, times, travails and challenges of their ancestors.

Medical terms for disease vary by time period, geographical location and the education of the physician, undertaker or clerk. Diseases are generally identified by signs and symptoms. Many unrelated diseases have the same symptoms - fever, chills, diarrhea and vomiting. The cause of death may simply indicate the nature of the illness prior to death, not the exact cause of death.

Cholera, Malaria, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever

It is important to keep in mind the sanitary and housing conditions that existed in the late 1800 to early 1900s. Michigan, blessed with an abundance of water and woods, was a humid climate. It is muggy and hot in the summer, snow laden in the winter. The land was often described as swampy, with bogs, marshes and sand-barrens.

Epidemics of diphtheria, cholera and malaria swept through the state during the late 1800s. Epidemics often carried away whole families and communities. The virulent nature of the epidemics left the whole family or community ill, with no one to care for the sick. They wasted away due to dehydration from vomiting and diarrhea.

Cholera

Cholera (*vibrio cholerae*) is an acute infection of the bowel with profuse watery diarrhea and vomiting, causing severe dehydration. A person may contract Cholera by drinking contaminated water, milk or by eating contaminated food. Because of the poor or non-existent sanitation excreta from infected people was often dumped into the water supply. Cholera reached New York harbor in 1832. It spread throughout the US via the transportation system of railways, canals, and steamboats.

Cholera was variously referred to as Cholera Morbus, Choleric Fever or Dysentery on death certificates.

Cholera Infantum

Cholera Infantum (or summer diarrhea of infants) was a major cause of infant death in the late 1800s. The term cholera described the symptoms that the infant experience. Cholera Infantum is distinct from the epidemic Cholera described above. It was a non-contagious disease of young children who had been weaned from the breast. It occurred chiefly between the months of April and October.

Cholera Infantum was also called summer complaint, water gripes or weaning brash on the death certificate.

Malaria

Malaria (*plasmodium vivax* transmitted by mosquitos) came with the early settlers to America. Its highest incidence occurred during the Civil War. Many veterans died years later of its side effects. Intermittent symptoms occurred for as long as 30 years after the initial infection, creating a general debility and resistance to other diseases.

Malaria was particularly prevalent near marshy swamplands where mosquitoes multiplied rapidly. Michigan, with its humid weather and swampy lands was the perfect place for the malaria parasite. By the late 1800s malaria began to disappear in Michigan as land was cleared and drained. The introduction of cattle also provided the mosquito with a different host.

Malaria was also transmitted along with the general movement from Canada to Michigan in the 1800's. There were malaria outbreaks as late as 1873. What is considered the malaria district is along the Lake Huron and Ontario shores - in Canada the counties of Newark, Lambton, Kent, Essex and up to Toronto and the Huron Shore in Michigan and New York.

(Continued)

Medical Terms Used in Old Records (continued)

Malaria was referred to as remitting fever, ague (used to describe the recurring chills and fever), chills fever, chill blains, chill fever, panama fever, swamp fever or the shakes.

Diphtheria

Diphtheria (*Corynebacterium diphtheriae*), or contagious disease of the throat, swept through Michigan during all seasons of the year, although more prevalent in the fall and winter months. It was the dreaded scourge, sweeping whole families away in its path. The symptoms are similar to scarlet fever and croup and the diagnosis was not always correct. The majority of cases occurred in children under the age of 10. Transmission of the disease was through contact with an infected individual or through material contaminated by the patient. It thus spread rapidly through families.

Diphtheria was also called putrid fever or typhus diphtheria.

Typhoid Fever

Typhoid fever (*Salmonella typhi*) is a water borne illness and is most often found where there are unsanitary conditions. Crowded living conditions, army camps, and on shipboard are primary places for typhoid fever to take hold. The illness is marked by great exhaustion, fever, headache and abdominal pains.

Typhus or typhoid fever was referred to by many names: bilious fever, camp fever, jail fever, hospital fever, putrid fever, ship fever or spotted fever.

Today, with our ability to distinguish between micro-organisms, we are able to pinpoint the cause of disease and death. In the late 1800 and early 1900s the cause of death was often based on the signs and symptoms the person exhibited. In the late 1800 and early 1900's, infectious diseases were the most serious threat to health and well being. The most common causes of death were the respiratory diseases pneumonia and tuberculosis. The second most common cause of death was the cluster of diarrheal diseases such as cholera and typhoid. Collectively the infectious diseases are known as communicable diseases because they are spread by contact with an infected host. Close human contact provided the conditions in which infestations spread unchecked.

Short life expectancies were the norm in the late 1800's. This led, in part, to large families as the norm. Our ancestors had numbers of children to insure that there were enough to help with the daily tasks of living. Epidemics could sweep away half or more of the children and adults in a family.

Beginning in the late 1800's improvements in living conditions and sanitation heralded a shift in the cause of death. This improvement also extended the life expectancy. The chronic and lifestyle diseases, such as heart disease, displaced pneumonia as the primary cause of death. Families also began to have fewer children and fewer women died in childbirth.

Puerperal Fever

Also called child bed fever, puerperal fever, puerperal exhaustion, metritis or purpura. Puerperal means "childbearing." Death is caused by bacterial infection during and after the process of birth. In the late 1800's the disease was considered to be a common and dreaded consequence of motherhood.

Prior to the advent of hospitals nationwide in the 1930's and 40's, most women gave birth at home with a midwife in attendance. In the 1800's childbirth was second only to tuberculosis as the leading cause of death in women in their childbearing years.

Infection, post partum, was a common problem. The infection may have been generated by the trauma of birth, the hand that examined the woman giving birth, or exposure to an environment that was dirty or septic.

Surgical intervention, when needed, for childbirth was generally performed by the barber surgeons of the time. Infant mortality for cesarean section was near 100%. The mother, if she survived, was often debilitated. Surgical intervention was also a leading cause of puerperal fever.

(Continued)

Medical Terms Used in Old Records (continued)

The possibility also existed for the woman to hemorrhage to death or to die from convulsions or "fits".

Post partum blood clots in the legs might also cause death and be listed on the death certificate as milk leg.

Tuberculosis

Commonly known in the 1800's as consumption, lung sickness, long sickness, white swelling, the white plague, marasmus, phthisis, wasting disease or tuberculosis of the lungs. The evidence for tuberculosis can be traced back mummies in Egypt.

Tuberculosis most commonly affects the respiratory system, but may affect other parts of the body. TB may be acute or chronically progressive. It is spread by the act of breathing by people with an active case of the disease. 100 years ago one in every seven people died from TB.

Prior to 1950, when effective drugs were found to combat TB, many folk remedies were used to treat the disease. Potassium cyanide, unusual diets, leeches and cleansing rituals. Special sanitoriums were created for the TB patient where rest, fresh air and healthy diet were thought to prevent transmission of the disease to others.

The progressive wasting and emaciation of the individual gave rise to the term consumption. Persistent coughing is the most common symptom of an active case of TB. The diagnosis of TB was a slow death sentence. Cough, prolonged fevers, bloody sputum and wasting are the primary symptoms.

The literary and art worlds were affected equally with the general population. Chopin's demise was chronicled by George Sand. Frank McCourt deals with TB and how it effects the family in *Angela's Ashes*. Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain* takes place in a TB Sanitorium during WWI in Switzerland. Chinese writings dating from 2700 B.C. describe lung fever and cough. Greek literature also contains numerous references to tuberculosis".

Erysipelas

Also known as Eel thing, St. Anthony's Fire, or rose is a contagious skin disease, due to Streptococci. The disease is characterized by burning heat resulting from an acute inflammation of the skin. The strep bacterium is the cause of the disease. This is the same germ that is responsible for scarlet fever.

Erysipelas outbreaks occurred mainly during the winter months. March was the month wherein most cases occurred. Erysipelas began with a very high fever, chilling, and swelling of the face. During the late 1880's the standard treatment was to administer laxative "purges" and then to paint the patients face with iodine or silver nitrate. Erysipelas was generally not fatal, unless the person was weakened by other diseases.

Dropsy

Anasarca, ascites, water retention or eclampsia. Commonly known today as Congestive Heart Failure. The term generally referred to people who were swollen with water. They were prone to dropping things because the brain was also effected by the swelling causing neurological side effects.

Common folk medicine treated dropsy with foxglove leaves. *Digitalis purpurea* or purple foxglove is found growing wild in the woods and is grown as an ornamental perennial in gardens. The plant is a herbaceous biennial (flowering every other year) and readily self sows. The leaves, flowers, and seeds of the plant are all toxic and may be fatal if ingested. This is the plant form of the drug digitalis or digitoxin. It's important to remember that during the late 1800s and the early 1900s most of the terms used in death records were generic. The terms encompassed several meaning and generally described symptomology rather than a precise disease state. What one person meant, wasn't necessarily what another meant. There were regional variations in terminology, much like soda - in the northeast - and pop - in the Midwest -both meaning soft drink.

To be continued in next issue

— SPONSOR MEMBERS —

Show your support of the Augusta County Genealogical Society with a sponsor membership of \$50 a year. Each quarter you will receive a copy of the Society's newsletter which will recognize you and/or your organization as a sponsor member.

Ron & Marylyn Bangert	Brookfield, IL	Edith Lorah	Vienna, VA
Marguerite Bolton	Pittsburgh, PA	Mary Lund	Chicago, IL
Carol Boyce	Los Gatos, CA	Charles Nordan	Greensboro, NC
Terry Braden	Spanaway, WA	Martha Reinhart	Las Vegas, NV
Ed Critzer	Richmond, VA	Ramona Curry Roberts	Plainview, TX
Ron Culves	Beardstown, IL	Nancy Seidel	Midlothian, VA
Richard Cummings	Vienna, VA	John & Harriett Sherwood	Staunton, VA
Sylvia Steele Echols	Blacksburg, VA	Jill Souter	San Antonio, TX
Leslie Hall	Waynesboro, VA	Daniel Swift	Staunton, VA
John Kinkead	Staunton, VA	Jean Wilkens	Waynesboro, VA

WHAT UNUSUAL METHODS HAVE YOU USED TO OBTAIN FAMILY INFO? LET US KNOW.

Augusta County Genealogical Society
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Fishersville, VA 22939

Postage

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