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THE AUGUSTA ARCHIVIST

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

A Note from the ACGS President; Steve Garber

The last couple of months have certainly been an unusual time for all of us, filled with personal anxiety but also filled with the opportunity to focus on family ancestry research. First of all, I want to thank the ACGS Board of Directors for their support, but especially for their amazing expertise in the field of genealogy information and research. I, for one, have learned much from their years of experience.

I have been interested in my own family histories for more than 20 years beginning with data passed down from family members coupled with the huge advances in online information and systems that allow research from the comfort of home. I am retired after 40 years in communications technology, so the future technology emphasis in genealogy and historical document preservation is of special interest to me.

The focus of ACGS for the remainder of 2020 is to inform the membership of news, technology, and resources available while maintaining safe "isolation" in our places of residence. Online access to the Augusta County Library system as well as the Library of Virginia are open and remain an important resource that are easy to access and improving almost monthly. In addition, the major national data bases of Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.com and others have stepped up to the challenges and opportunities of the social environment in 2020.

Even though our library facilities are closed for the foreseeable future, the ACGS Board is committed to serving the members and encourages contact with questions as well as your own ideas and techniques you find useful during these extraordinary times.

Actions Taken at the ACGS Board Meeting via Video-Conference, 13 May 2020

- ◆ Library closed and all activities suspended until further notice.
- ◆ 2020 memberships extended through 2021.
- ◆ Editor will disseminate shorter monthly newsletters for remainder of 2020.

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

Augusta County Genealogical Society Library

2nd Floor

Augusta County Public Library

1759 Jefferson Highway

Fishersville, VA 22939

540-885-1991

[Library Hours](#)

CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GENEALOGICAL STANDARDS FOR YOUR FAMILY TREE NEW OR EXISTING by David Riel

During my extended time at home, I have been reviewing my personal trees and others that I do for the ACGS library. I decided to review my accuracy and see if I followed genealogical standards. I discovered I didn't always follow the guidelines. So, I thought I would share some with you. Some are for all types of trees and some are for Ancestry.

Start with yourself, add your, parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles as you know them. Then find proofs on their information, births, marriages, and deaths. Names: Enter full names, i.e., Eula Catherine May. Do not use the married name.

Find their birth certificates, and verify the spelling and dates. My mother-in-law went through life thinking her name was Eula, but on her birth certificate it is Ula, and is also on a handmade sampler we found showing the family tree.

Check place of birth, as Eula was born in Greenbrier County, WV with the courthouse in Lewisburg. Her parents lived on the county line and recorded the birth in Pocahontas County where the courthouse was in Marlinton which was closer to home. Eula did not know she had a birth certificate, so for Social Security, she applied for and received a delayed one. Now go back to her name and change it to Ula and add another name as **AKA** (also known as) Eula Catherine May.

If you don't know the spouse's maiden name, leave the space blank. If you add a ?, Ancestry thinks you placed a wildcard. (A ? is a wildcard for a single letter. An * is used as a wildcard for multiple letters). Ex. Riel or Piel, search using ?iel, or use *iel and you find all names ending in iel. If you add unknown, missing, FNU, (first name unknown) LNU (last name unknown), Ancestry and probably other search systems think that is her name. You can also use the ? and * in Findagrave. Ancestry will automatically search the maiden name and also the names of the husband (s). Also use AKA for name variants such as nicknames like Butch, Sonny, Suzie etc.

When adding dates, be sure to use dd/mmm/yyyy, i.e., 17 May 1986. This will ensure the best results when searching. If it is easier for you to type in 3/7/2019 Ancestry will offer you the converted date as 07 Mar 2019.

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

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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.

GENEALOGICAL STANDARDS FOR YOUR FAMILY TREE NEW OR EXISTING (continued)

Place names: enter smallest to largest, i.e., city, county, state, country. This also gets more research results. Try to be consistent. Use the pop-up list if you can. I have my own preferences, such as, Washington, DC, not Washington City, District of Columbia, USA. I have been putting the “USA”, but I think it is a nuisance, so I planned to delete it from my locations, but, it gets filled in automatically, so it is a lost cause. I also prefer to include county, such as Fishersville, Augusta County, Virginia.

I found that I hindered my searching ability by placing the name of the cemetery and/or church in the burial field. This field should only contain the location of burial. Any other details should be placed in the description field for burial. This would also apply for marriages. Put the name of the church in the description field.

I synchronize my Ancestry tree with the same tree on Family Tree Maker (FTM). If I want to be sure that I haven't entered the same person twice, FTM is the easiest way to locate duplicates and merge them. One method to see if you are consistent with location names if in FTM, use the person tab on the left. This will display all of your information on a single person including sources. I found that I have used Riverhead instead of Riverheads, discrepancies in location as people are in Rockbridge, then Augusta and back to Rockbridge. This indicates I should recheck the census records for addresses.

Cemeteries: where people are buried does not mean they died there. My GGrandparents' home was in Wisconsin, but GGfather died in Nebraska while visiting a child. GGmother died in Minnesota while visiting a child, therefore, no death certificates for either in Wisconsin.

Source validity: it is important to remember to check who provided the information.

Birth record and certificate: should be accurate as the mother/father fills it out.

Marriage license and certificate: information should be accurate as it is provided by the couple getting married, if the clerk wrote it down correctly. I have found marriage records where the date the license was issued is used as the date of marriage. Also check the place of marriage as sometimes the place of marriage and the celebrant's place of authorization are recorded incorrectly, i.e., Staunton vs. Augusta County.

Forms: death certificates, obituaries and tombstones are a different subject. The deceased usually does not provide the information, therefore, a family member may do it but not know the deceased's parents names or how to spell them. Although, I have written my own obituary. On Findagrave, and census records, beware of the transcriptions. I have a Findagrave record where the year of birth is transcribed as 1889. The engraving on the tombstone is 1899.

All record forms: Most contain more information than what Ancestry attaches to your tree. Read them carefully and manually add such items as addresses, occupations, etc. to your tree.

Take a day and discover your errors and fix them.

Happy Hunting!

MARRIAGES

WALTER-BRADY – In the Virginia Hotel parlor, Staunton, January 22nd, by Rev. d. T. Williams of the M. E. Church South, A. F. Walter of Basic City, to Miss Maggie Brady of Basic City, daughter of G. W. Brady of Augusta.

BOWMAN-JOHNSON – Near Port Republic, Rockingham, Dec. 24th, by Rev. Samuel Petry, Prof. J. M. Bowman, of Rockingham, to Miss Delia M. Johnson, of Augusta.

COFFEE – TYREE – At the residence of James Brown near Sherando January 8th, Peter Coffee to Miss Susie Tyree, all of Augusta.

KRIGER – SMITH – In Staunton, Jan 21st, by Rev. H. H. Hawes, D. D., Wm. Kriger to Miss Bessie B. Smith, all of Staunton.

BUTLER – MATHEWS – At Clifton Forge, Alleghany county, January 21st, by Rev. R. A. Tucker, Mr. James C. Butler, only son of Mr. S. M. Butler, to Miss Mollie E. Mathews, daughter of Mr. Cyrus A. Mathews, both of that place.

MELHORN – ARMENTROUT – January 11th, by Rev. I. Conder, Mr. Wilton A. Melhorn, son of Capt. John H. Melhorn, and Miss Barbara J. Armentrout, daughter of the late Jerry Armentrout, both of Rockingham.

REED – LANDES – January 23, 1891, near Mt. Sidney, Mr. Luther H. Reed and Miss Martha F. Landes.

FISHER – CLEMENTS – January 20th, in Staunton, Mr. Joseph R. Fisher and Miss Leona Clements.

CHRISTIAN – WILSON – January 13th, 1891, near Swoope, by Rev J. E. Booker, Mr. James H. Christian and Miss Minnie L. Wilson.

DEATHS

SWINK – January 22, 1891, near Moscow, Mrs. Elizabeth, wife of Geo. W. Swink, aged about 50 years. Interment at Mossy Creek church, of which she was a member, Rev. L. H. Paul officiated.

PERRY – On Friday, the 23rd instant, of consumption, Miss Belle Perry, daughter of Mr. Jas. Perry, near Mt. Sidney, aged 20 years, 8 months, and 16 days. Interment at Salem Church Sunday, the 25th.

Transcribed by JoAnn Pendley

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

Bright's Disease

Bright's Disease was a general term used to mean death caused by some form of kidney failure. It was a common term for kidney diseases that were defined by high concentrations of protein in the urine - uremia. The term is obsolete and no longer used.

Glomerulonephritis, Polycystic Kidney Disease and Chronic Renal Failure were some of the diseases labeled as Bright's disease by practitioners.

In the 1700s and 1800s, Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) was often given the label of Bright's Disease. PKD is a hereditary disease that is autosomal dominant. The gene is dominant, meaning that with each pregnancy there is a 50% chance of inheriting the disease. Glomerulonephritis, also called Protein Disease, is the term for the non-hereditary, serious kidney disease that was called Bright's Disease. This is an inflammation and swelling of the kidney's filtering system that was fatal in the early 1900s. This condition was often seen following infections of the respiratory tract by the strep germ. What we commonly now call strep throat. People died because there were no antibiotics to treat the strep infection and because there was no treatment for renal failure. Urine therapy was a common treatment for Bright's disease in the late 1800s. Many people drank their own urine to try and cure Bright's Disease. There is no significant data that suggests this was effective. Drinking urine for therapeutic purposes.

Effluvia.

This is a very general term meaning exhalations or emanations, applied especially to those of noxious or toxic character. In the mid-nineteenth century, they were called "vapours". Women especially died from the "vapours". This is to be distinguished from what is called the contagious effluvia, such as rubeolar (measles); marsh effluvia, such as miasmata (foul odors from the earth); and those arising from animals or vegetables.

Mania or Acute Mania

Any of the forms of mental illness, or dementia. May also mean, along with the term "vapors" that the individual died from acute alcohol ingestion, or the DTs. In the 1800s it was defined as severe insanity. Acute mania was used as a term for death when the patient had been hospitalized in a mental institution. It would be hard to say exactly what the mental illness was. Mental illness contains a cultural definition and what is mentally ill in one culture may not be in another.

Softening of the Brain

Cerebral infarction, dementia, Alzheimer's, Old Timer's Disease, cerebral hemorrhage, stroke. This phrase was often used in conjunction with dementia or senility to indicate a disruption in the thinking processes or a deterioration in the nervous system. The dementia or senility may have had a number of causes, including cerebral infarction or stroke. Disease such as Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's may have also been labeled "softening of the brain".

Death from Teething

Before the discovery of antibiotics to treat infections and adequate dentistry people died from tooth infections.

Epilepsy

Falling sickness, convulsions, fits or Jackson's March are the antiquated terms for Epilepsy in any of its forms.

French Pox, German Pox, Spanish Pox

These were the terms used for the venereal diseases such as syphilis and gonorrhoea. The term was most popular during WWI when soldiers returning from the front were thought to have brought home the disease with them.

The Gripp or Le Grippe

Essentially the flu or influenza. An example is the great Swine Flu epidemic of 1918. The flu is a respiratory disease that is highly contagious and spreads rapidly. So many people were affected during the Swine Flu Epidemic that whole families were often wiped out. This was due to the fact that there was no one to care for the ill. People dehydrated quickly and there was no effective means to rehydrate them.

Lock Jaw

Medical Terms Used in Old Records (continued)

This is the term used for tetanus on death certificates. Tetanus is an infection by the bacterium *Clostridium tetani*, a cousin of the bugs that cause gangrene and botulism.

The person initially experiences neck and jaw stiffness. The classic symptom of late stage tetanus is difficulty opening or closing the jaw, therefore the term lock jaw. The whole body may go into spasms.

Quinsy

General term for tonsillitis. Especially an advanced case that can be seen on the muscles of the neck near the jaw.

Scarlet Fever

This was a streptococcus bacteria infection that was a major cause of death in children before the 20th century. The disease was recognized by the skin rash and the very high fever it caused. Death from collapse of the circulatory system often occurred within 24 to 48 hours. Because it was a virulent infectious disease it was spread in bouts as epidemics.

Scrofula, King's Evil, Ships Fever

Tuberculosis of the lymph nodes of the neck.

Canine Madness

Essentially rabies caused by the bite of an animal.

Domestic Illness

Mental breakdown, depression, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, or the after effects of a stroke or any illness that kept a person housebound and in need of care and support.

Death certificates may also have other interesting clues for you. The person you are searching may have died in the pest house. This was an isolation or quarantine hospital for those with infectious or contagious epidemic diseases. But sure and check where the person died on the death certificate - another clue to the life your ancestor lived.

Donna Hoff-Grambau is co-webmaster of the Michigan Family History Network. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a concentration in American History. Her areas of research expertise include early American migration patterns, genealogical records, the Mid-Atlantic States, Sweden, Scotland, Ukraine and Southeastern Poland, and Northern Europe. Her passion is Michigan History and Genealogy.

Medical terms of the 1800s

If you have some medical terms to share, please contact [me](#).

Ablepsia	blindness
Ague	intermittent fever or chills
Ambustio	burn
Amputation, primary	usually done in within the first 24 hours of original injury
Amputation, secondary	performed to improve the primary amputation
Anodynes	medication that help with pain
Apoplexy	stroke, or impairment from a brain hemorrhage
Aphtha	Thrush
Army Itch	Scabies

Medical Terms Used in Old Records (continued)

Asthenia	weakness
Bilious fever	malaria or typhoid
Black water fever	fever accompanied with dark colored urine
Bright's disease	Kidney disease
Camp state or fever	symptoms which happened when troops were crowded together like fevers and diarrhea.
Catalepsy	seizures or trances
Catarrhus	mucus membrane inflammation
Child Bed Fever	infection after childbirth
Chlorosis	anemia
Cholera	infectious disease, including diarrhea, often leading to death
Colica	abdominal pain
Consumption	tuberculosis, or a general wasting away
Coryza	acute inflammation of nose and tonsils.
Cow Pox	a virus similar to smallpox. Caught from the udders of cows which have blisters, caught by touch, usually localized. Was used as a successful vaccination against smallpox.
Crop Sickness	bloated stomach
Crowd Poisonings	fevers and sickness when troops were camped crowded together
Debility	lack of strength, a lasting symptom
Dementia	insanity, many different levels
Dengue	fever from a mosquito bite
Dropsy	congestive heart failure
Dysentery	inflammation of intestines, caused by bacteria or parasites
Dyspepsia	stomach discomfort after meals
Dyspnea	trouble breathing
Erysipelas	contagious skin disease, redness and swelling of affected areas
Falling Sickness	epilepsy

(To be continued 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.

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Leslie Hall	Waynesboro, VA		
Edith Lorah	Vienna, VA		
Elizabeth McCue	Verona, VA		

ACGS members who are library patrons of the Augusta County Library may be interested to know that during the pandemic shutdown you can access the library's edition of [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) for **FREE**. Follow these instructions for access [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) at the Augusta County Library: Go to [augustacountylibrary.org](https://www.augustacountylibrary.org)

- From the banner across the top at the far right select: select **My Account**
- This will bring up a new box titled "**Log Into Your Account**"
- Enter your library account # and PIN #
- When complete you will see a banner across the top of the screen with "Your Name's Account" at the right top corner. For instance: David's Account.
- Click on the drop down arrow next to your name
You will see a list of choices - select the second item down which reads "[Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)"
- Now you will be able to research the **Ancestry Library Edition**.

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