



Coastal Georgia

Genealogical Society

News & Reviews

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15 FEBRUARY 2004 Meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at the College Place United Methodist Church on Altama Avenue, show and tell, bring your brick walls and questions!

16 NOVEMBER 2003 Meeting was held at the Brunswick Public Library where we took a tour of the new facilities and learned about future projects of the library.

“Search Engine Basics”

Many of us rely on the internet to do our genealogical search for ancestors. However, many of us have names that become mind boggling to search for using search engines, like the name Smith, Jones, Brown, etc., or you just get way too many hits to possibly look at in one lifetime. So how do you get the best out of your search, how do you find only what you are interested in, or at least narrow it down a little?

Let's start with the basics. Number one, what is a search engine? It is basically a motorized index, you just type in some keywords, and voila, you have thousands of websites with these key words listed in them. Search engines are located everywhere. They are on database sites, the web page that opens when you start your browser. My browser opens at Yahoo.com, and of course there is the search engine. Not all search engines will give you the same results. Many search only websites that they have indexed, some search the entire internet.

Now many of you are saying, yeah but when I put in my name or keyword, over 30,000 hits show up. How do I know which ones relate to the topic I am researching? Usually, the first few are the ones that have your query. For instance, if we put in my name, Amy Hedrick, about 12,200 hits come up, using Yahoo. The first one, isn't me of course, neither is the second one, but it does have the query Amy Hedrick together. The third hit is me, and the fourth, etc. About every other one is a record or query that I have posted online.

Eventually we get to the sites that have Amy and then Hedrick on the same page, but not necessarily

together. This is why we get thousands of hits. Search engines will take what you give them and find every instance of Amy and Hedrick in it's indexed pages not just Amy Hedrick. So how do we find the pages that only have Amy Hedrick side by side, and not just Amy Smith and Bob Hedrick? Well, you will use operators.

Operators are those symbols that help you find exactly what you are looking for. First off, you do not have to capitalize your search, the engine will recognize Amy Hedrick, amy hedrick, or AMY HEDRICK just the same.

The most common operators are quotation marks [“], the plus symbol [+], and the minus symbol [-].

Quotation marks will find your query exactly as you want it. So if we put “amy hedrick” in the search engine, instead of over 12,000 hits, we get 456! Much better.

We can make this list even smaller by using the plus sign, or the word “and”. To find out what I am doing genealogy-wise, let's put “amy hedrick”+genealogy into the search engine. Only twelve hits come up! Most of them deal with the Glynn County web site I operate, and some with my two family websites, and a couple dealing with queries I have posted. One of them has nothing to do with me.

The minus sign will exclude terms that you may not want in your search. For instance I put in “amy hedrick”+genealogy -glynn co. [I had to put a space between genealogy and -glynn] and this deletes all pages that have my name, genealogy, and Glynn Co. mentioned. Quite a few of these pages have nothing to do with me, but they do fit in our search criteria.

There are two more operators that can be useful in searchers, the word “near” and the word “or”. The word “or” is useful when maybe you are searching for an ancestor who had two names, like Christopher or Chris. “Near” can be used when you are looking for someone who has a whole name. For instance John Frank Harris. By just putting in John Harris, you would not get the pages that showed John Frank Harris. You would want to use the search John near Harris. However, this doesn't usually work on most search engines. They will come up with the words “John”, “near”, and “Harris”.

When in doubt, click on the advanced features tab

next to most search engines. This will take you to a smarter search engine, or the directions for using operators with that particular search engine.

We can put our new knowledge to the test. Everyday new databases and records are placed online. There is more out there now, than there was years ago. I got to my Yahoo search engine and typed in the following command: "jeremiah harrold"+indiana+cemetery. One record shows up. It is a tombstone photo, and cemetery transcription of my fourth great grandfather, Jeremiah Harrell.

Also on this site, is his Revolutionary War Pension transcription. I compiled this info and sent it to the gentleman who had taken this photo and put it online. Years ago, when I searched for this cemetery it wasn't online, now there is a complete transcription and a photo!

One key to remember is that the search engine does not do a soundex search. It looks up exactly what you give it, so try searching with misspellings, or using the operators to get better results.

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THE BRICK WALL

I have written up a few of my brick walls in previous issues, my main target is, of course, my surname Hedrick. It has been an exhaustive and frustrating search. Apparently the names Johann, John, and Jacob were very popular with my Hedrick line which makes me feel like I would have better luck searching for John Doe!

For a couple of years I have been stuck at my second great grandfather Jacob J. Hedrick. Finally, around October, I chipped away at my wall. A woman located here in Georgia entered her family Gedcom online last September 2003. Contained in this Gedcom was all of my family names, then a few more generations past my second great grandfather! I was so excited, and after corresponding with this woman, and another lady who helped her, we have finally gotten a grasp on who we are.

The key that broke down my wall was mainly diligence and patience. I know some of you have spent several years, if not more, stuck at a name. The internet is a valuable tool in your family search. Everyday new and more records are being transcribed and placed online. I know this for a fact, because I am one of those people who puts these records online.

Two of my immediate questions in my Hedrick research was who are my third great grandparents and when were they born? I found my third great grandmother's information in a family cemetery in Indiana. Her tombstone had a death date, and how old she was when she died. Unfortunately it didn't give me her maiden

name, nor her husband's name. From locating a probate record, I found her husband's name, John Headrick, and an approximate death date.

Now, when was John born, and who is Maria M. Hedrick [aka Mary] his wife, and when were they married?

Geography can answer many of these questions. By tracing these lines, and looking at who their neighbors were in other towns and states, you can get a general idea of your family picture.

Back in Virginia, I have noticed many family names living next to my Hedricks, and when they arrived in Indiana, some of these neighborly names were there with them. Could they be family? Yes, they very well may be.

Through this geography lesson, and a marriage record online, I found Mary's maiden name, and her marriage date to my third great grandfather John. The family of Waggoner was living around my Hedricks in Virginia, they show up in Indiana with them too, and one is buried in the cemetery that Mary Hedrick was buried in. And the Virginia marriage record for John and Mary Waggoner Hedrick of 5 December 1798 fits right with the birth of my great-great grandfather Jacob J. Hedrick.

Of course this is speculation, but it is very coincidental. Another resource that is very often overlooked is the church record. Many church records are still in existence from the 1700s. The Quaker records being very well researched and available online, and off.

Having the Hedrick names that I have now, I decided to do a little research online with them. One of the ladies involved in crumbling my brick wall sent me to a website that gave me the birth date and parents of my third great grandfather John, it also lists his middle name of William! And while looking further at this document, there are the Waggoners, and quite a few other surnames that have intermarried with my Hedricks.

Most of our ancestors were very involved in the local churches, and many of them started these churches. My Hedrick family and my Dooley family started churches in every community they migrated to, some even named after them.

For those of you stuck at a name, check out the geography, where were your ancestor's living, and who was living near them. Check out estate records for folks who lived next door to your ancestor. Usually neighbors were family, or they were listed in court records involving their neighbors.

Churches are about the only early birth and death records that may still be available for you to search. They provide a wealth of information, not only dates, but sometimes godparents who turn out to be aunts, uncles, in-laws, etc. By knowing your geography, you may be able to locate a church that existed in the 1700s in one county, and now it is in another county, and they still have their parish

books. Unfortunately many churches are very protective of their records. They are private, and some are very, very old. Writing to the local genealogical or historical clubs may help you in finding these records.

INTERNET

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~chalkley/> Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia. Extracted from the Original Court Records of Augusta County 1745-1800 by Lyman Chalkley FREE!!

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/special/wmmaryqtr/> The William & Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine. FREE!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 12 February 2004 Abe Lincoln, Jim Conine, National award winning portrayer of Abraham Lincoln, at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel, 371 Riverview Drive at 7:30pm. RESERVATIONS required call (912) 635-2600.

Saturday 14 February 2004 Annual colonial festival to commemorate the founding of the town of Frederica. St. Simons Island 10am to 4pm call (912) 638-3639.

13-15 February 2004 Revolutionary Days: The Battle of Kettle Creek 225th Anniversary Program in Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia. Sponsored by The Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution with Samuel Elbert Chapter and Kettle Creek Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Robert F. Galer, SAR, General Chairman. Check out the Wilkes County GAGenWeb site for more info: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~gawilkes/>

Tuesday 17 February 2004 "The Georgia Coast" book discussion group meeting to discuss Fanny Kemble's Civil Wars at 11am at the Ida Hilton Library in Darien.

Thursday 19 February 2004 Buddy Sullivan will give a lecture on plantation life in the coastal area based on his recently published book: "All Under Bank: Roswell King, Jr. and Plantations Management in Tidewater Georgia 1819-1854". RESERVATIONS required call (912) 635-2600 Jekyll Island Club Hotel 7:30pm.

19, 20, 21 February 2004 The friends of the library

annual book sale at the Brunswick Library (912) 261-1212.

PUBLICATIONS

"An Imperfect God, George Washington, His Slaves, and the Creation of America" by Henry Wiencek 2003 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 404 pages including index and endnotes. The story about our first president and his involvement with slavery. Discover insightful views on George's family and slave family, and the surprising will that freed all of the Washington slaves upon George's death. This book also talks about the slave descendants and their ties to the First Family. Very informative book on George and America's time before and after the Revolutionary War.

HUMOR

While browsing some message boards, I came across this humorous post. Gentlemen, this is for you!

"Join the Heir Club for Men"

MFI [My Family, Inc.] presents Heir Club For Men--

Since most genealogy researchers are women, it seems the societies and associations have been geared towards them. To equalize the playing field, MFI has created Heir Club For Men. Along with fraternal fellowship, we have many programs designed specifically for men with problem areas.

For those with boring or lackluster heritages, we have a program that lets you blend exciting or royal lines into your family. We like to call this program The Gedcom Weave®. We can blend your gedcoms with those from "donor" sources, to make a seamless and unnoticeable transition from your family to the donated lines. You can chat, upload, publish, and do all kinds of activities, and nobody will notice where your family leaves off, and the other begins.

For those with adoption brick walls, we have developed an exclusive program called Heir Implants®. We have gathered special data bases not generally open to the public, paternity suits, adoption records, and circumstantial evidence, to track these adoptees for you. You may know the truth, but to everyone else, they look like your real heirs.

If you are totally lost in finding your family, or are under the witness protection program, we can create an

entirely new family for you from the beginning. Although much more costly than our standard membership, you will think our Two Pay System® is well worth the price.

Gentlemen, sign up today, and you will soon have fellowship, family and friends you never knew you had.

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Glynn County website has been updated with cemetery photos, partial 1900 census transcription, and more!

www.rootsweb.com/~gaglynn/

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Remit payment to our treasurer:

Barbara Baethke
119 Bayberry Circle
St. Simons Is. , GA 31522

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual membership to the CGGS is only **\$15** for one person or **\$18** for a family. Membership extends from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003.