

CENTRAL FLORIDA GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Notes from "The Sot Weed Factor."

A tobacco merchant who came from Plymouth, England, to St. Marys, Maryland during the late 1600's, was Ebenezer COOK. This gentleman had a most unusual and descriptive way of writing of his trip, as found in the book entitled "The Sot Weed Factor." He describes his three month crossing of the Atlantic thusly.

"Freighted with Fools, from Plymouth sound,
To Mary-land our Ship was bound.
Where we arriv'd in dredful Pain,
Shock'd by the Terrours of the Main;
For full three Months, our wavering Boat,
Did thro' the surley Ocean float,
and furious Storms and threat'ning Blasts,
Both tore our and sprung our Masts..."

Cook, paarently, visited various Maryland planters and enjoyed their unique hospitality as to sea food, wild game ("...I thought the Cub delicious meat/ Which ne'er had aught but Chestnuts eat...") and numerous dishes to him previously unknown.

There were then, also, a great many foxes in Maryland and Cook delights us with an account of his being awaken by a fox chasing ducks and geese thru his bedroom.

"Raging I jumped upon the Flour,
and like a Drunken Saylor Swore;
With Sword I fierce'y laid about,
and soon dispers'd the Feather'd Rout,
The Poultry out of Window flew,
And Reynard cautiously withdrew."

Cook decided to spend the following summer's night stretched out in the planter's orchard, to avoid such a recurrence. This was unsuccessful as the outspoken traveler puts it:

"Fortune here, that saucy whore,
Disturb's me worse, and plagued me more
Then she had done the night before."

The croakings of the frogs almost deafened him, and when he did finally manage to drop off to sleep he was, to his horror, awakened by a visiting rattlesnake. Cook thereupon climbed a tree!

"Not yet from Plagues exempted quite,
The curst Muskitoes did me bite.
Till rising Morn' and blushing Day,
Drove both my Fears and Ills away."

Captains and Mariners of Early Maryland, Semmes, pps. 4 & 32.
Contributed by Alice H. Rupe

From an old scrapbook article, pencil-dated 1888:

THE EPIDEMIC GONE

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 18 - President Neal MITCHELL's official bulletin for the twenty-four hours ending at 6 o'clock tonight is as follows:

New Cases	0
Deaths	0
Total No. of cases to date	4,705
" " " deaths " "	418

At a meeting of the Board of Health held today, the following was adopted: RESOLVED, That inasmuch as there has not been a case of Yellow Fever reported for the past seven days within the corporate limits of Jacksonville, the daily bulletin is discontinued from this date."

What is in a name?: "Cowford" was a well-known ford on the St. Johns River in Florida, and was the original name of Jacksonville, Florida, by which name it was known in the early 1800's.

MARRIAGES: Undated:

GALBREATH-BELL

"Solemnized in the M. E. Church Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, Miss Minnie May BELL and Mr. Mack A. GALBREATH, Rev. A. N. ELROD officiating. Attendants: Miss Daisy GALBREATH, Maid of Honor; Mr. Clarence E. GRIFFIN, groom's best man; Miss Muriel GALBREATH and Miss Ethel WESTALL bride's maids; Mr. Hal C. BELL and Mr. Roy O. GALBREATH, groomsmen, Miss Ulla DOHN at the organ. Ushers Mr. W. A. FITTS and Mr. H. C. WALDRON. Bride was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. BELL, and spent most of her life in New Smyrna. Groom also a resident of New Smyrna since early boyhood." (The wedding apparently took place in New Smyrna, published in Orlando paper.)

SEAGRAVES-ATEN

"At noon, a quiet home wedding at the residence of Samuel LOARE, No. 50 Sit graves (sic) Street. His step-daughter, Miss Minnie ATEN m. Walter B. SEAGRAVES. Ceremony performed by Ref. W. W. BARKER, Paster of First Baptist Church. No attend. Guests present (not named) were from Sea Girt, Belvidere (sic), New York; Wilkes Barre, Haubeville, Durham, Kintnerville & Perkasio, Pa. Among the guests were Mrs. CAMPBELL of Perkasio, great grandmother of the bride. Bride and groom will leave on the Bel. Del. (sic) railroad at 6 o'clock for Philadelphia, to be absent a week." (Pennsylvania paper?)

There is a partial obit. notice for "Bishop MOORE, licensed to preach May 26, 1876, by the late Bishop ARMSTRONG. Ordained 1880 as deacon. (rest of article destroyed.

Notice of debut: Ex-Governor and Mrs. Francis P. FLEMING honor their only daughter Miss Elizabeth Legere FLEMING.

An article with photo on the death of Queen Victoria, pencil-dated "Nov. 27, 1900 Times Union."

Pattern-scrap, article abstracted from Orlando papers, 1913:

Tea given by Mrs. H. L. Beeman, at her home on Gore Ave., in compliment to Mrs. J. Rogers SWINDELL, of Baltimore. The honoree was niece of Miss Mollie RAY.
 Attending: Mrs. G. R. NEWELL, Mrs. J. M. TEAS, Mrs. T. P. WARLOW, Mrs. A. L. MALLORY, Mrs. Arthur ODLIN, Mrs. BEARDALL, Mrs. J. T. FULLER, Mrs. J. T. PATTERSON, Mrs. M. B. DA (VIS?), Mrs. Seth WOODRUTE, Mrs. j. m. oheney, Miss CHANEY, Mrs. GOODR (ICH?), Miss HART, Mrs. A. HALEN, Misses Mary and Fannie ROBINSON, Mrs. Leroy GILES, Mts. J. L. GILES, Mrs. weatherbee, Mrs. J. N. McELROY, Mrs. Gray RUSH, Mrs. M. E. GRAHAM, Mrs. C. B. ROBINSON, and the Misses ROBINSON.

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Dr. POULSON, pastor of the Baptist Church.

The SPENCERS are here and have secured the HAPPERSETT house from Mr. CHALFANT for the winter.

Welcome Lodge, Knights of Pythias, has been in Orlando for 27 years. Supreme Represenative thereof was W. R. O'NEAL.

Mr. James McNEIL, a regular winter visitor from Hudson, N. ____.

Mr. Roland WEEKS, of Jacksonville, here visiting relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. ROBINSON arrived from the North and again occupying their home on North Orange Avenue.

Mr. J. H. POWERS, visitor for some time in Orlando, returned to his home in Kansas City, Kansas.

Legal:

William R. O'NEAL, Executor of Estate of Charles Lyman SMITH, Orange County; legal notice to creditors, dated July 10, 1912.

Legal notice to creditors of Estate of Jacob SHANIPARGER, Orange County, dated August 21, 1913.

Adell FRANKLIN, Executrix for Estate of Frederick STREICHER (?), late of Orange County, dated August 26, 1913.

Poll inspectors for election:

H. A. NEWELL, J. P. CAMOOD, E. H. WFSTOVER, Ordered 10th day of October, A.D. 1913, by James A. KNOX, Chairman; Attest: J. D. McKINNON, Sect.

From an old scrapbook of the late Mrs. Lillian Griffin NOLLE:

A partial clipping, inscribed with pencil "Elected July 18, 1898."

_____ IMER
 _____ MMONS
 _____. L. WOODRUFF
 _____ WEISER
 J. (?) H. KING
 E. A. QUIGG
 R. R. WHITTEN

J. M. WILLIAMSON
 Thos. GRIGGS
 J. A. SMITH
 A. P. FUDGE
 John A. MERRILL
 A. B. NEWTON

L. WICHTENDAHL
 ISAAC ATEN*
 Geo. W. CRAWFORD
 E. L. BROWN
 J. H. BEAR

*Later a Justice of the Peace; also a commercial photographer & real estate agent, Orlando

FLORIDA

Continuation of material obtained from Mrs. Perry (Highsmith) Newman's Bible:
Handwritten note:

"Mrs, Tichenor: List of unconverted men in Leesburg. Pray for them.

(Between 2 and 3 o'clock - every day) 'Therefore I say unto you what thing so ever you desire when you pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them" Mark II ch 24 vr.

Mr. Tichenor	Mr. M. Collins	Mr. J. Love
Mr. B. C. Lanier	Mr. Mabry	Mr. M. C. Lee
Mr. Osborn	Mr. Joe Earman	Mr. F. C. Childs
Mr. Baxter Lanier	Mr. Stimpson (sic)	Mr. Keightly
Mr. Elliott	Mr. Mote	Mr. Ivey
Mr. Cockran	Mr. Sam Bradford	Mr. Mathewson
Mr. Anderson	Mr. G. Jaynes	Mr. Gentry
Mr. Miller	Mr. Towle	Mr. Dunbar*
	Mr. Harry Edwards	

The following apparently are classes in the Baptist Church, Leesburg, according to best information available.

Mr. Barton's Class No. 2

Mr. Mote
Mr. Riley
Mrs. N. _____
Mrs. Wager
Mrs. Mabry
Miss Haner (?) Hopson
Mr. D. M. Hopson
Mrs. Pinç s
Miss Jowers

Mr. Abbot's Other Class No. 1

Mr. Hansbrough
Mr. Hopson
Charles Chiles
Mr. Spicer
Mrs. Hopson
Mrs. Tichenor
Mr. Smith
Mr. Tichenor

Class No. 3.

Gidens Mabry
Jessie Mabry
Burwell Ritter
Beñit Huster
Gordon Hunter
Myrtie Adams
Susy Hunter
Sallie Munden
Minnie Stimson
Tillie Tichenor

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After giving both parties a hearing, the German magistrate (in Colonial N. Y.) gave the following important decision:

"Der blandiff and derfendur bote bash regmt, so I dezides;
and pe dunder, der koons topple moosh bay de kosht."

Beginning with this issue, the Newsletter will carry serially:

WEBB'S JACKSONVILLE AND CONSOLIDATED DIRECTORY OF THE REPRESENTATIVE CITIES OF EAST AND SOUTH FLORIDA 1886.

Containing a General Directory of the Citizens, a Business Directory, a Partnership Directory, a Street Directory, a Record of the City Gov't., Institutions, Societies, Corporations, etc., of the cities of: Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Palatka, Gainesville, and their suburbs, together with Business Directories of Lakeland and Plant City, and an account of Haines City and Seffner.

Warten S. Webb, Compiler, Jacksonville and New York

We have only the excerpt of Kissimmee, through courtesy of Mr. C. R. de Haeskie of Sanford, Florida.

KISSIMMEE

ADERHOLD? Jacob W.	Mayor of Kissimmee & dealer in real estate.
ARTMAN, _____	
ARTMAN, Andrew	Orange grower
ARTMAN, Harry	Clerk
ARTMAN, Henry	Grocer
BAILEY, Thomas	
Ball, J. William D.	Boat Builder
BANDY, James A.	
BARNES (E.A.) & THOMPSON (J.W.)	Carpenter & builders; undertakers
BASS, Archie	
BASS, Crawford	Farmer
BASS, George	(See Sellers & Bass)
BASS, George W.	Carpenter
BASS, George W.	(See Cobb & Bass)
BASS, John	
BASS, Robert	Sawmill
BASS, Robert P.	
BASS, William	Carpenter
BASSETT, Stephen R.	Publisher & proprietor of the Kissimmee Leader
BELFORD, Mrs. K.	(See Lofton & Bedford)
BELL, Rev. Thomas J.	Pastor of the Baptist Church
BIBB, Henry	Clerk
BLANSETT, Harry	Engineer
BOOKER, William A.	Shoemaker
BOSWELL, William	Real Estate
BRANDON, George N.	House and sign painter
BRANDON, James V.	Painter
BRIDGES, P. M.	Principal, public school.
BRYANT, Nathaniel	Market gardener
BURNS, Robinson	
CANNON, William	Real estate, orange groves, city lots, sugar lands, South Florida Railroad, Land, Kissimmee Land Co., Okeechobee Land Co., Fla. Land & Improvement Co. & the Florida Investment Co.
CARSON, Charles M.	(See Waters & Carson)
CARUTH, M. C.	Conductor

Rev. Henry Harbrough, in 1856 said, "We are among those who believe that any who does not care about their earthly origins cares little as to anything higher."

I suppose, to study the family history, first one must care: one must love people. And 'tho you may never have enjoyed history or geography in school, let me assure you, you will in family research.

In my research, I've learned that my forebears were such as we are today. They loved, hated, worked, played, lived and died.

In one line is a sailor who refused to (return to) England, once the Mayflower had brought him here. In another is a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

But there are many farmers and carpenters, a few physicians and musicians. Oh yes, a few bootleggers and even a murderer, who was defending the virtue of his bride to be.

To me, none of these things are offensive as I fit yet another name into the puzzle of the FREAD-SEXTON-SMITH-BROWNING line.

I like to think, what were they like, what were their dreams, and did they reach their goals? What games did Becky and Rhoda play, back there on the farm? When Sarah taught them to sew, were they interested or would they rather wade in the old creek?

What did James think as he lay there dying at Fort Donelson, leaving his wife with three small children? Or Allen, wounded and imprisoned at Andersonville? What was Hans' first impression, in 1705, when he landed at Philadelphia with his large family?

- Elva Mary Wickliffe, 1364 Xananir, Apt. 2,
Aurora, Colorado 80010, Women's Circle Nov. 1971

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"There is hope for nobler things
if such the future brings.
But oh, here's love for everything
that long ago took wings."

From The History and Genealogy of Some Pioneer Northern Alabama Families, by Marjorie Brittain Craig, as reprinted in the January, 1970 DAR, p. 53.

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The first Christmas known to be celebrated in the United States was 25 December, 1539, within ten miles of Tallahassee, Florida.

DeSoto, the Spanish explorer, arrived in the area 1 Oct., 1539. He decided to winter there. His food supplies were low. The native Apalachee Indians were hostile. But De Soto captured some of their food stores - mainly corn - and with local game, they were not without Christmas dinner. They remained here until 3 March, 1540, when they moved on into Georgia.

- Hale G. Smith, U. of Fla., from Fla. Handbook 1955,

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Note on Old English: Ye, in such phrases as "Ye good old days," is the Old English method of writing the article the. Y does not correspond to our letter y, but represents the archaic single letter called thorn, which has been replaced by th.

The following information from the diary of James Ure, was given to the Society by one of the couples attending our beginner genealogy class in 1970:

James Ure, William Ure, John Ure, Alexander Ure, Mary Ure, Elizabeth Ure. All these siblings were believed to have been born in Renfrewshire, Scotland.

James Ure was born 11 June, 1817 in Scotland, and was baptized 10 April, 1840 as a member of the Latter-Day Saints Church. On 22 March, 1844, he gave over secular work entirely to devote full time to the ministry of this church. He was sent to Sheffield, England, in April of 1844, as High Priest of the Sheffield Conference. In 1848, apparently late in the year, he and his family departed for America.

These people all joined together at some point, arriving in America in April 1849. On 8 April, 1849 Ann Scobie Ure died, seemingly on shipboard, of Cholera, and was buried Sunday afternoon, the same date, "on Island No. 82, 8 to 10 miles above Columbia, North America."

James Ure m. Janet McCole, ca. 1846, before leaving Europe. The Ure family arrived in St. Louis, Mo., Tuesday evening, April 12, 1849. On Friday morning, April 27, 1849, at twenty minutes past one o'clock, Catherine Ure, aged two years and nine months, died and was buried in St. Louis the afternoon of the same day. She was the daughter of James and Janet Ure.

On May 15, 1849, James and his particular family left St. Lewis, travelling by land, and arrived in Salt Lake City on October 27, 1849. He lived "across the River Jordan," and farmed by irrigating.

In the summer of 1851, James was chosen one of the company of ten, under the command of Capt. McBride, to track down a small band of Indians who were stealing cattle and disturbing the peace of the Tooele Settlement. They found too many Indians, so applied for an additional twenty men from General Wells. These were sent at once. The Indians were dispersed, but not before fifteen days had passed, and due to no irrigation during his absence, James' entire crop was lost. He then was ill for two weeks from sun exposure while chasing the Indians. Recovering from that, he thought to hire out his team to work, but one horse died, leaving him "with no an animal in the world but an old horse."

Somewhat discouraged in his attempts to farm, James Ure now moved his family into Salt Lake City, where he began carrying hod to supply the masons with mortar. This he did for two weeks, but was not paid the entire winter. Early in 1852, he worked some tithing by assisting in the excavation for the foundations for the dwelling house of Governor Brigham Young. As hard luck would have it, a large quantity of frozen earth fell some 12 or 14 feet and bruised his leg so severely that he was unable to labor for eight weeks and the limb was left weakened.

Managing somehow to survive (the notes do not reveal how), he was appointed with many others on 6 April, 1856, to go to Europe on a mission. He was named the clerk of the party, and kept a daily log, which was sent back to Salt Lake City in installments for transcribing for the historical files.

His brothers and sisters had remained in Missouri, and since they had not seen each other since 1849, James was heartily welcomed and entertained upon reaching their homes. For his trip to Europe John gave him \$50, William \$15 and some clothes, and Alexander \$20.

Our notes reflect no information as to his activities in Liverpool, nor if his wife and children had accompanied him, but he returned 19 June, 1864 to Hannibal, Missouri and met his sister, Mary, with her husband and family, whom he had "not seen for upwards of five years."

On 21 June, 1864, he left for St. Louis and was met by John and Alexander and his sister Elizabeth. "Also the widow (Martha Mitchell Ure) of my brother William." He remained in their company through the 30th of June.

Records show that James Ure was ordained a Patriarch in Salt Lake City, Utah on 8 November, 1894.

Note: The first wife of William Ure was Ann SCOBIE, whom he married 9 May, 1846 in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland. Her date of death is above. He married secondly Margaret (a/k/a Martha) Dixon MITCHELL on 27 November, 1852, in St. Louis, Missouri, and was survived by her. It is known that both James and William had issue, and these lines, at least, continue today.

- - Contributed by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Louree
1243 Queens Way Road, Orlando
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MARRIAGE BONDS Issued to males named BROWNING prior to 1826 in Caswell County, S.C.

BROWNING, Edmon	13 Feb., 1790	ALLEN, Sarah
BROWNING, Edmund	9 Sep., 1800	MURPHY, Maryan
BROWNING, James S.	18 Nov., 1826	PARKS, Dtsfu
BROWNING, John K.	6 Apr., 1825	SMITH, Mary
BROWNING, Martin	29 Feb., 1810	GUMER, Polley
BROWNING, Nathan	26 Dec., 1810	MULLENS, Rilla
BROWNING, Nimrod	21 Aug., 1789	PARKS, Rachel
BROWNING, Reubin	9 Feb., 1802	ROBINSON, Polly
BROWNING, Richard	16 Oct., 1798	STREET, Polley
BROWNING, Richard	18 Mar., 1816	CANTREL, Sophiah
BROWNING, Robert	28 Jan., 1785	BROWNING, Hannah
BROWNING, Sanders	15 Oct., 1823	WARREN, Leatha
BROWNING, Simeon	23 Dec., 1819	BROWN, Mary
BROWNING, Thomas	19 Sep., 1795	ALLIN, Elizabeth
BROWNING, Thomas	9 Nov., 1801	LAY, Polly
BROWNING, William	24 Aug., 1797	ANGLIN, Cathrine
BROWNING, William	13 Nov., 1823	NELSON, Permelia

- Agnes Pearlman (Mrs. Carl K.), 2001 N. Westwood Ave.,
Santa Ana, California 29706.

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Nothing can be more absurd than the attempt to make family history, even when true, an unqualified source of ostentation, and such attempts justly merit all the attacks of wit and sarcasm which their pretentious inevitably invite. Still, it is evident that the study of genealogy has suffered much undeserved obloquy and inconsiderate condemnation because many persons do not discriminate between pride of ancestry and a taste for pedigree.

- Henry H. Stiles, M. D., President of the N. Y. Genealogical
and Biographical Society, Feb. 25, 1871.

The impossible just takes a little longer, and that is the whole secret. When you have nothing to go on but rumor and vague bits of information, you just roll up your sleeves, dig in, and prepare to find dry holes.

History is replete with biographies of people who succeeded when the most they had to work with was determination. I have read that Edison tried some 5,000 times before he made a successful light bulb. It seems it was worth the time and effort.

Three years ago I knew nothing about John L. Erwin's forebears. The 1850 Kentucky census said he was born in North Carolina in 1790. Currently that is only 52,426 square miles, but in the late 1700's the area was a vague acreage extending into the hinterlands of Tennessee. How do you find a particular family in this vast area, when you don't even know the names of the people you are looking for?

The 1790 census showed Erwins by the score, scattered over a wide area. Revolutionary War records showed that 32 manly Erwins set forth to help defeat the British. Ten of them were named John - no middle name or initial - four were Williams, four Jareds, and springling of Arthurs, Samuels, Josephs and James answered the call for troops. Did I have a forebear in all this welter of patriots?

My cousin thinks if you look in the wills, the deeds and the land grants, you can find your family. I did, and compounded my problem. Countless Erwins owned land and slaves, hither and yon. Nobody willed John L. anything. Land grants were all taken up before John L. was of an age to qualify. It was not strange that he did not get mentioned in a will, because nobody in the family died in North Carolina. But of course I didn't know that.

At this point, do you give up? The count was nothing like 5,000 tries. What should be done next? I asw nothing for it but to track down all the Erwin families in North Carolina! By a process of elimination, I would surely come up with something.

If Nathaniel went to South Carolina and Arthur migrated to Georgia and John ended up in Mississippi, I counted them out. John L. had gone to Virginia and thence to Kentucky. This turned out to be wishful thinking, since Erwins went every which way, and then went on from there. But it served to eliminate quite a number of Erwins. A few never married, and a few did not have progeny. Very few! Some families were accounted for in wills. Chronology is a good tool! a man born in 1780 could not be the father of a child born in 1790. The field grew narrower. Families were prone to be repetitious in naming their children in those days, so I seriously considered all the Johns and Leanders. There were plenty of Johns, but fortunately only one Leander. A John who died on Third Creek or Cabarras was obviously not my John.

As I garnered all this mass of data, I also paid heed to where the Erwins were said to have come from in the first place, and who migrated when. Fortunately all sources agreed that they came from Ulster County, Ireland. They must have been prolific over there, too!

An Erwin migrated in 1800 was obviously not to be considered. Ship lists and Tory lists came in for scrutiny. It looked as though the North Carolina Erwins were en masse strongly anti-British, and that helped. Wehn I came upon the story of 4 brothers and 2 cousins who came to Pa. in 1740, I did not pay it

story of 4 brothers and 2 cousins who came to Pa. in 1740, I did not pay it much attention. Which shows that everything must be considered and taken down in a notebook, to study as the picture grows clearer.

In other words, I worked from both ends - the migrations and the 1790 birth date.

Rumow said that John L. came from a large family of 8 boys, or had 8 brothers, and an unknown number of sisters. The 1790 and 1800 census of Rowan County revealed the names of Erwins with large families. That was helpful, but all the Erwins were dedicated to populating North Carolina. Some of these left wills, which gave me the names of their children - or supposedly anyway. I began to be a walking authority on North Carolina Erwins, without finding my ancestor. But the field continued to narrow.

I checked the Revolutionary pension lists for Rowan County, where there was a Leander also born in 1790. There was a John, Jr., but he lived in Giles County, Tennessee, when he applied. That was not likely. But of course one must admit that anything is likely. I finally sent to the Archives for John's record. And things started looking up.

Here was a John with a large family, who was on the 1800 census, but not on in 1810. The Archives information showed that John had moved at this period to Spartanburg, South Carolina, and from there to Giles County, Tennessee. Here was a John who sold property before he left, naming Alice as his wife. The marriage records showed John married Alice Brandon, daughter (or sister) of Matt Brandon. Here was a John, Jr., and one of the 4 migrating brothers in 1740 was named John. In Giles County, Tennessee, George and Andrew Erwin were householders in 1840, and John L was said to have had brothers by those names.

I am still working on this problem, but I am pretty sure I have hit pay dirt by a process of eliminating a large passel of Erwins, and using family tales. When you labor with Johns in a profific family, t'aint easy. But it is not impossible. Just try to find out what happened to all the Johns.

Latch onto every family tale and rumor. Some of them are in error, but most times there is a grain of truth somewhere. Also, study the history of the period.

There was no record as to when my John L. died. Relatives took me to the old plantation cemetery where he was buried - along with the slaves as they passed on! But there was no headstone. There were no death records. Nobody remembered when he died. Old Aunt Maggie said all she knew was, he was buried on the coldest New Year's Day anybody could remember.

Well! He was on the 1860 census, but not on the 1870. I had recourse to the Weather Bureau. They told me the coldest New Year's Day between those dates was Jan. 1, 1868. It was really cold - 20 degrees below zero. So John L. died during the Christmas holidays, 1861. The weather was the answer to that problem.

No wonder nobody put up a headstone - and this is where history comes in. John Brown had been ramgaging about slavery since 1859 at least, and Ft. Sumter became history on April 12, 1861. Every plantation in the south was threatened.

Menfolk were enlisting in the army, and womenfolk were hard pressed to keep the family going. Nobody knew from day to day when the Yankees might come tearing through the pea patch. After the war, Southerners were poorer than church mice, and confronted with carpet-baggers as well. It was not hard to discover why the family patriarch was not honored with a tombstone.

I know a researcher whose forebear was said to have gone to visit relatives and died there. She does not know where. It would seem she will have to look up all the families in Virginia with the family name, and then eliminate. She does know he visited relatives of some sort. Maybe his wife's relatives, but relatives none-the-less. Most burials in Virginia were on the family property, and cemetery lists of these are not numerous. There is no telling whether a headstone was put up. But there are clues to work with, and the problem is probably not impossible.

When you work with the impossible, you use every scrap of information, every family tale, and every historic "rumor." You search far and wide and eliminate. If there were 20 counties in that state showing the family name on the records, then you just have to patiently examine them. With ingenuity, you can hook one thing to another and come out with a plausible theory to confirm.

Or are you just going to give up? If so, consider that you might be doing your homework with candles and kerosene lamps if Edisc had taken that attitude.

- Contributed by Mary Jane (Williams Ireland)
Knisely, 13 S. Nowell, Orlando 32811.

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SHIPWRECK SERVICE

For three long months the small vessel sailed the Atlantic, bringing 40 families from Germany to make a new life in Ohio.

Then, on September 17, 1831, with their new homeland nearly in sight, they were struck by a violent storm. The ship was dashed onto a high reef near the Maryland coast and, as it held together by invisible hands, the shattered hulk perched precariously on the rock.

Through long, fright-filled hours of the night, the emigrants knelt on the wave-swept deck praying for deliverance. They vowed that if they were spared, the day would be remembered with prayers of thanks and praise to God - by their children and their children's children.

At dawn's light, rescuers came hurrying to their aid. Not a soul was lost, though their farm equipment and belongings were gone.

By 1846, 36 of the families had worked their way to Jenera, Ohio. And every year on the Sunday closest to September 17, honoring their forebears vow, families gather for a special "shipwreck service" at Trinity Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran churches at Jenera, thanking God for the mercy shown their ancestors on that long-ago stormy night.

- From "Guideposts."

December 1, 1971

Dear Fellow Members:

I wish, first of all, to thank you for your selection of officers to serve during the coming year. Their already evidenced cooperation will serve well, I am sure, in conjunction with the spirit of helpfulness and interest so obvious in the Society. I trust your confidence in our combined efforts will be well placed.

In accordance with the By-Laws, I have appointed from our membership, Mrs. Peola Stuart and Mr. Lowell Barker to serve as Council. With your officers, this will provide a steering committee," as it were, and give us the benefit of the experience of our past president and the aid in research and planning of the only Certified Genealogist in Central Florida. Indeed, only one other Certified Genealogist is in the whole of Florida!

The Stuarts have asked the Society members to their home for our annual Christmas party, which is planned for Wednesday, December 15th, at 8:00 P. M. (5221 Ashmeade Road). Those of you who were here for our first party will remember what a lonely, seasonally decorated affair it was.

We will exchange gifts, by common consent. Just something small, historically or genealogically interesting or useful. Please wrap your gift, and, if necessary, indicate if for lady or gentlemen.

It is my sincere hope that each of you will have an especially enjoyable holiday season, and I extend my personal regards and best wishes to everyone.

- Alice (Henkel) Rupe, President.

MEETINGS:

Dec. 15

Jan. 27

Feb. 24

Board meetings will be held at 6:30 P.M. preceding the regular general meetings, scheduled, as usual, for 7:30 P. M.

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND OUR REGULAR MEETINGS BEGINNING JANUARY, 1972, WHICH ARE ORDINARILY HELD THE LAST THURSDAY IN EACH MONTH IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.