

Fairfield Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Number 4

1991

You will note the different type styles in this Newsletter. That is because this had to be completed on a borrowed word processor because mine "crashed" as they say in computer slang. That unhappy situation, however, does serve to give some credence to the lead story in this issue of the Newsletter. I wrote that story last month and finished it just as my word processor started acting up. I was lucky to get it printed out of the processor before it went down. Currently my machine will only stay on for a few minutes and then it goes off and loses whatever is in the machine at the time. It wont stay on long enough to print what I have previously stored except for a few short sentences. (This, for instance, had to be typed on a loner machine.) It turns out that while our new electronics are wonderful they are not a complete panacea.

The cost of repair on my current machine would be prohibitive, so it is, for all practical purposes, a total loss. By next issue I hope to have a new machine, but, because of the nature of electronic beast, I will have to take precautions with it also.

In this issue we are pleased to have Ann Gwinn's chart and I urge each of you to get yours in if you have not already done so. Also, please get those short family histories in. And thank you Pauline Lauderdale for the information from the old Winnsboro newspaper.

It's time to re-up your membership so please take the time to do that. Also, don't forget the cemetery books are ready if you have not ordered yours yet. Please see the previous issue of the Newsletter for the complete information on the cemetery books.

Have a good Christmas and we hope to see you all in the new year.



Writing Your Family History

In 1987 the South Carolina Genealogical Society offered two courses at its Sixteenth Annual Workshop in different aspects of applying a computer to genealogical work. One of the two instructors there introduced his lecture in a rather unusual way.

This particular instructor was a Professor of Computer Science at the University of South Carolina and he told us of a then impending disaster in the United States Federal Census. He said the 1960 Federal Census had been recorded on a series of computer tapes that were, at the time, on the most advanced computer available. He spoke of how proud the officials at the Census Bureau were, back in 1960, of their advanced technology. Then he told us there had developed a tremendous problem with that Census information and asked the class if anyone might guess what that problem was. From what he had already said some people guessed that the old computers may be out of date, but we didn't see any major problem with that.

He agreed that they were "out of date" but it was more than just that. He pointed out that the computers which could read those tapes had, as all other computer mainframes of that time, become irretrievably obsolete. He informed us there were no other computers in existence--not in the whole world --that could actually read those Census tapes.

We all sat there in a stunned silence. He then quickly added, much to our immediate relief, that the Census Bureau had kept several of those old, large, and now hopelessly obsolete, mainframes just to read those particular tapes. At some time in the near future, he said, the Census Bureau planned to reassemble those old machines and access that electronically stored data and then translate it into some other form and store it in some other way.

He used that shocking bit of information to introduce us to a basic aspect of the world of computers--that is, one must be able to READ information for the information to do you any good. He pointed out that computers are the special equipment that make sorting and storing information so easy, but it also takes special equipment to access (read) the information once it is stored.

Well, just this last month I see where the tapes themselves of the 1960 Census are now so badly deteriorated that the Census Bureau will not be able to run them through the machines. And even if they could run those deteriorating tapes, the old machines can't actually be made to work now due to a number of mechanical and electronic problems that have developed. In other words, the 1960 Federal Census has been lost more completely due to computer obsolescence than the 1890 Census was to fire. The 1960 Census has ceased to exist.

The 1960 Census is a victim of an obsolete computer that may have been a miracle in its day, but now, only 30 years later, it is so obsolete that some of the parts needed to run it are not only unobtainable, they are actually unmanufacturable due to the vast changes that have taken place in the field of computer electronics.

The world of computer electronics is moving vary rapidly, as anyone who takes only a quick look at the field knows. Indeed, the word processor on which I am typing this very article is now so obsolete that I can no longer expect to buy the tapes I need to make it work after next year. There is a Federal law that requires a manufacturer to make parts available for new products it introduces, but they are required to supply those parts for only seven years after the product is discontinued. My particular word processor was first offered in 1984 and it was replaced in 1986 by an updated model that used small disks to store information rather than small tapes. After 1993 they are under no requirement to offer the tapes that I will need to make this unit function. In fact, these tapes are already so difficult to obtain that I have to order them from the manufacturer in New York because the local dealers do not carry them.

And you, too, may be using some form of computer right now that will, in a few years, become obsolete. Or you may be storing your genealogical information in a form that your future computer can't read. In fact, in due course, the computer you are using now will become just as obsolete as my old 45 RPM record player .

So is this a plea for you to stop using a computer? Not at all. In fact, just this week I'm finishing up a computer course that I am taking specifically to prepare me to use a computer in handling my genealogical material. And it was I who insisted on the first two computer classes we offered in our Workshop back in 1987. My interest in computers not only continues, but it grows. In fact, I encourage the use of any instrument that will make genealogy easier and a computer and word processor certainly does that.

So what is it that I am saying? Just this.

Our instructor, after shocking us with the bad news about the 1960 computerized Census then made the point that the easiest thing to READ is a book. The value of a book, he pointed out, was that anyone who was not completely blind or completely illiterate could pick up any book written in his native language and "access" the information contained therein. Indeed, even with very poor eyesight, one can read almost any English book written in the last 500 years! (Any earlier than that the old language gets a little difficult.) But even so, 500 years is a darn sight longer than the Census Bureau's 30 years, which as a written history goes, isn't long at all.

So the moral of the story is: There is no substitute for putting your family information in a book.

You can use a computer as a work tool, as a temporary storage place for information that you plan to organize for publication, but you can not rely on it for anything other than a temporary tool.

I confidently predict that just as we now hear dozens of stories where some good soul has labored for years only to pass away and have his notes and papers tossed away by his heirs, in the future you will hear of dozens of people who pass away with their notes stored in a computer that can not be made to function. And then, just like the Census Bureau, the material will be lost forever.

In 1970 a cousin of mine died. She was 93 at the time and had outlived even her younger sister who had died two years earlier at age 89. Both of these ladies were ex-school teachers, and maiden ladies who had no children. In the last year of her life the eldest took out a spiral notebook and a ball point pen and, with very shaky hand, patiently wrote down her family history as she remembered it. May her name be praised! She did a wonderful job, too. So far we have found only a few errors in her work. What she left was a treasure that no one else could have rendered in just the way she did. Everyone in the family is very thankful for her efforts.

Now think about that. A spiral notebook and a ball point pen--only one copy that has now been photo copied over and over--and we treasure it.

Every time someone actually publishes a family genealogy and has it reproduced with at least one copy going to the local library and another going to a genealogical repository such as the Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, that person has actually enriched their community and glorified their family name.

A few years ago I heard a lady at a seminar ask if anyone had an answer to her genealogical dilemma. Her problem, it seemed, was a relative who kept pestering her to turn over her material to him so he could publish it. She had compiled the material, but she just wasn't quite ready to publish yet, she explained, and she wondered if anyone else had encountered the same problem. She wanted to know just how to tell him to butt out of the whole affair.

Everyone was so sympathetic. All hastened to point out she, after all, was the owner of the material and she had every right to its complete control. Everyone except me, that is.

I asked how long his "shameful behavior" had been going on. Well, it had been going on for almost ten years she asserted. And then in an unsympathetic spirit which was at odds with everyone else it seemed, I suggested that if she wasn't going to publish within the next twelve months, she should give it to him and let him do it! She was not pleased with my answer.

But, you see, I had visions of her never completing that work and of her three decades of research going to waste. Better to publish an imperfect effort than to hone and refine material until you die and then have the material lost.

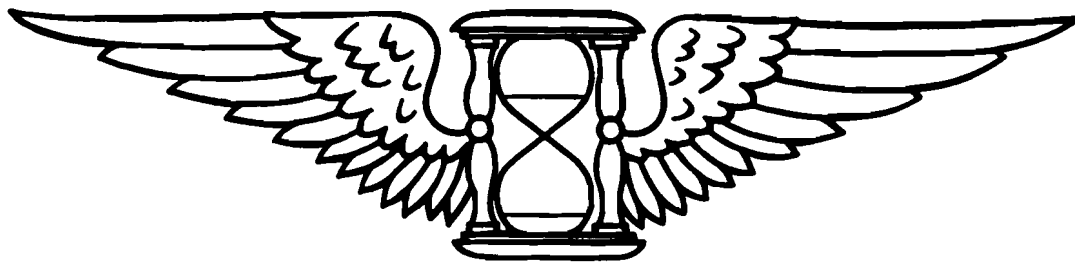
People who are in their sixties and seventies should be getting at least a feeling for their own mortality. And any of us who spends any time at all in cemeteries reading dates on tombstones should reflect on the large number of people there who never passed their fiftieth birthday.

I'm really not trying to be morbid about this, but I am trying to engender at least a small feeling of anxiety in each of us. Short family histories can be put together and at least published in a genealogical newsletter if one is truly not able to get all the material needed for a book.

However, if a book is getting near, please don't fall into the trap of thinking all one need do is get a word processor or computer and then all of your troubles are over. Get the computer, by all means do. Then get the work completed. In the meantime, get short articles published in your newsletters.

And please don't forget this point--just as you yourself have said from time to time, "I wish I had asked my grandparents some questions when they were alive," one day your descendents will say the very same thing about you. That's right. One day, you will be the grandparent they wished they had talked to. One day your descendents will wish they had paid attention to you when you were around and could tell them the information they need. So won't it then be grand when they can reach up on the shelf and pull down the book you wrote and flip to the very information they want. Then you too will be a blessed name in your families memory.

The answer is to get that material you have been filing away and get it in publishable form. Then do it! Create a book that anyone who is not blind can take from the shelves, even 500 years from now, and read.



Here are some newspaper clippings that came from the Winnsboro papers in the year 1937. The information, as you can see, is a listing of deaths from approximately 20 to 30 years earlier. This is the sort of good information we can use and it was given to us by Pauline Lauderdale who found it in her family papers when she was collecting material for her book on the Laurdadales.

DEATHS IN OUR COUNTY SINCE YEAR OF 1902

Many Natives of Winnsboro And Fairfield Have Passed Over River Since Turn Of Century. List Below Compiled From Records Kept By Late Chas. M. Chandler.

Editors: The News & Herald—

Our good friend Chas. M. Chandler, during the latter years of his life, kept a record of most of the deaths in Town and County. Having secured that list, and thinking it might be of interest to some of your readers, I am asking you to publish it, if it does not take too much of your time and space.

James M. Smith

List of Deaths & Dates

George H. McMaster, July 18, 1902.
 Ulysee Smith, August 16, 1902.
 Dr. R. A. Buchanan, July 1, 1902.
 Major T. N. Woodward, Sept. 4, 1902.
 Mrs. Mary T. Phinney, Sept. 21, 1902.
 Rev. D. E. Jordan, Sept. 5, 1902.
 Wm. N. Chandler, Sept. 27, 1902.
 Edwin A. Nelson, October, 1902.
 Prof. W. H. Witherow, Oct. 19, 1902.
 J. M. Beaty, Jan. 17, 1903.
 N. G. Gonzales, Jan. 19, 1903
 Sam R. Johnston, Jan. 31, 1903.
 Miss Mary Kennedy, May 17, 1903.
 Mrs. James L. Weathersby, May 25, 1903.
 Mrs. C. E. McDonald, June 16, 1903.
 Mrs. Jane Torbit, June 10, 1903.
 Miss Macie Johnston, June 23, 1903.
 Jas. B. Turner, July 10, 1903.
 J. F. McMaster, July 27, 1903.
 Mrs. Thomas B. Cathcart, Aug. 14, 1903.
 John A. Simpson, Oct. 14, 1903.
 Charles Muller, Dec. 4, 1903.
 Fred Habernicht, Aug. 10, 1903.
 Mrs. Jennie Boag Sloan, Aug. 23, 1903.
 Mrs. J. Frank Fooshee, Oct. 14, 1903.
 Jas. McKinney Elliott, Oct. 17, 1903.
 Wm. B. Creight, Feb. 16, 1904.
 Mrs. Harriet Romyed, Mar. 18,

1904.
 John H. Propst, May 11, 1904.
 R. Means Davis, Mar. 13, 1904.
 Wm. A. Morrison, June 18, 1904.
 Joseph Groeschel, June 25, 1904.
 Mrs. G. B. Dunn, July 9, 1904.
 J. O. Boag Sloan, Feb. 5, 1905.
 Silas W. Ruff, Aug. 29, 1904.
 Rev. James Douglas, Aug. 21, 1904.
 Mrs. Samuel Cathcart (nee Miss Ella Doty) Sept. 30, 1904.
 Miss Ray Cummings, Dec. 10, 1904.
 John Hollis, Dec. 1904.
 Mrs. S. A. Boyleston, Feb. 5, 1905.
 Miss Lizzie Phillips, March 27, 1905.
 Mrs. W. E. Aiken, Mar. 28, 1905.
 Robt. Bankhead, Apr. 16, 1906.
 Mrs. Jas. L. Bryson, (nee Emma Lauderdale) June 26, 1906.
 Miss Margaret Blain, Sept. 10, 1905.
 A. Williford, Sept. 25, 1905.
 John L. Hawes, Sept. 29, 1905.
 John A. DesPortes, Oct. 23, 1905.
 Mrs. Sarah L. Cathcart, Nov. 9, 1905.
 Dr. B. J. Quattlebaum, Nov. 9, 1905.
 Mrs. H. A. Gaillard, June 14, 1906.
 Miss Maggie McMaster, June 20, 1906.
 (Continued on page eight)
 Chas. A. Dickey, June 24, 1906.
 Mrs. J. S. Connor, May 21, 1906.
 Joseph A. Steward, June 5, 1906.
 Frank Elder, July 17, 1906.
 Miss Sarah Beaty, Sept. 25, 1906.
 Paul M. Brice, Nov. 21, 1906.
 Miss Kathleen Caldwell, April 29, 1907.
 R. E. Ellison, July 10, 1907.
 Miss Rebecca Buchanan, July 21, 1907.
 Nelson Hanahan, Aug. 21, 1907.
 Mrs. W. R. Garrison, Nov. 13, 1907.
 Mrs. J. F. McMaster, Dec. 7, 1907.
 Sam Dubose, Dec. 13, 1907.
 John H. Cathcart, June, 1908.
 W. B. Gilbert, Dec. 9, 1908.
 Mrs. H. Langley, Feb. 24, 1908.
 Chas. T. Gooding, Mar. 20, 1908.
 Dr. T. B. McKinstry, Apr. 14, 1908.
 Robt. Crawford, May 19, 1908.
 Mrs. R. C. Buchanan, July 22, 1908.
 Oscar W. Brice, June, 1909.
 R. M. Dunlevy, Feb. 22, 1909.
 Thos. Blain, Mar. 20, 1909.
 Young H. Robertson, Apr. 13, 1909.
 Rev. C. E. McDonald, Apr. 13,

1909.
 Mrs. H. G. Coleman, Oct. 14, 1906.
 Mrs. Nancy Hendrix, Nov. 2, 1906.
 Mrs. Ann Elliott, Dec. 31, 1907.
 Edward G. Gaillard, June 18, 1908.
 A. W. Ladd, Feb. 11, 1908.
 D. A. Broome, March 17, 1908.
 O. W. Buchanan, Mar. 17, 1908.
 Jas. R. Curlee, May 19, 1908.
 Charles Douglas, July 9, 1908.
 Mrs. J. W. Bolick, 1909.
 John B. Stevenson, Feb. 11, 1909.
 Jas. A. Brice, Mar. 13, 1909.
 Jas. L. Richmond, Sept. 10, 1909.
 John A. Hinnant, Apr. 14, 1909.
 Geo. W. Crawford, May 20, 1909.
 Mrs. Nancy Walker, Aug. 16, 1909.
 W. N. Chandler, Jr., May 25, 1909.

(To be continued in the near future.)

BUR.
 METHODIST
 CHURCH

Deaths In Our County Since 1902

James Y. Turner, Oct. 7, 1909.
 Dr. James H. Carlisle, Oct. 21, 1909.
 David McDowell, Jr., Oct. 30, 1909.
 S. S. Gibson, Nov. 11, 1909.
 John D. McCarley, Nov. 13, 1909.
 A. Y. Milling, Nov. 14, 1909.
 Thomas Jordan, Dec. 2, 1909.
 Riley H. Boulware, Feb. 8, 1910.
 Mrs. Charlotte Douglas, Feb. 13, 1910.
 Mrs. W. S. Pedan, Feb. 15, 1910.
 William S. Stevenson, Mar. 2, 1910.
 Capt. T. J. Cureton, Mar. 16, 1910.
 Mrs. John E. Matthews, Apr. 29, 1910.
 Mrs. F. Gerig, May 2, 1910.
 Miss Jane Gilbert, June 7, 1910.
 Mrs. Ellen Cathcart, May 25, 1910.
 Mrs. W. A. Morrison, June 12, 1910.
 Wm. J. Heron, Sept. 10, 1910.
 Wm. Miller Tennant, Sept. 16, 1910.
 Jacob T. Barron, Sept. 16, 1910.
 Rev. E. G. Smith, Sept. 27, 1910.
 W. J. Turner, Sept. 30, 1910.
 Robt. F. Martin, Oct. 21, 1910.
 Frank S. Boulware, Nov. 26, 1910.
 Ed W. Hanahan, Feb. 2, 1911.
 R. P. Lumpkin, Feb. 23, 1911.
 Troy T. Lumpkin, 1912.
 Edwin S. Stewart, Mar. 22, 1911.
 Boyce Elliott, Mar. 25, 1911.
 Mrs. Mary A. Milling, Mar. 28, 1911.
 Mrs. Priscilla Ketchin, Apr. 10, 1911.
 R. J. McCarley, May 2, 1911.
 Mrs. D. J. McCauley (nee Miss

Sallie McMaster) May 7, 1911.
 Miss Sallie B. Douglas, Aug. 25, 1911.
 Mrs. Nancy Madden Cathcart, Oct. 28, 1911.
 Miss Marie Stevenson, Nov. 11, 1911.
 Robt. Moore, Nov. 14, 1911.
 Mrs. Jim Neal, Nov. 18, 1911.
 Mrs. R. T. Matthews, Dec. 25, 1911.
 Jas. M. McNaul, Dec. 24, 1911.
 John S. Crawford, Dec. 26, 1911.
 Mrs. Wade H. Williford, June 26, 1912.
 Mrs. Susan H. Sloan, Apr. 10, 1912.
 Mrs. Frank Elder, July 19, 1912.
 Mrs. C. Mackerel, Dec. 1, 1912.
 Mrs. Savilla Timms, Dec., 1912.
 Miss Nannie A. Phinney, Apr. 8, 1913.
 Mrs. Daisy Deal, Mar. 14, 1913.
 Lawrence E. Owens, July 21, 1913.
 B. G. Tennant, July 15, 1913.
 John P. Matthews, Sept. 25, 1913.
 Robt. Young Bolick, Nov. 15, 1913.
 A. S. Douglas, Jan. 5, 1914.
 Robt. H. Hood, May 1, 1914.
 John E. Williams, June 15, 1914.
 Geo. S. Hinnant, Nov. 7, 1914.
 Mrs. S. E. Prentiss (nee Mattie Egleston) May 20, 1913.
 John R. Craig, Oct. 13, 1913.
 S. Means Pagan, May 2, 1913.
 Jas. R. Harvey, June 15, 1913.
 Irvin F. Pagan, Sept. 12, 1913.
 James M. Blain, 1913.
 Mrs. Rebecca Y. Owens, Feb. 20, 1914.
 Mrs. Joseph C. Caldwell, Mar. 1, 1914.
 Miss Mary Matthews, June 12, 1914.
 Richard N. McMaster, July 2, 1914.
 Mrs. Sarah F. Dubose, Nov. 13, 1914.
 D. J. McCauley, Nov. 1914.
 Dr. R. B. Hanahan Jr., July 30, 1919.
 Mrs. R. B. Hanahan Sr., Mar. 1914.
 John G. Mobley, June 8, 1915.
 John K. Ragsdale, June 8, 1915.
 Mrs. Jane Weir, Feb. 7, 1915.
 T. L. Devault, Mar. 11, 1915.
 Mrs. H. A. Klink, Mar. 13, 1915.
 Mrs. W. M. Dwight, Sept. 10, 1915.
 Isaac L. Withers, Mar. 22, 1915.
 Amos E. Davis Sr., Apr. 8, 1915.
 Mrs. R. N. McMaster, May 17, 1915.
 Mrs. Nancy Madden, May 26, 1915.
 Capt. R. H. Jennings, May 25, 1915.
 Mrs. R. H. Jennings, Apr. 30, 1916.
 Mrs. A. Williford.
 Theodore Bye, June 20, 1916.
 Wm. C. Beaty, Mar. 12, 1916.
 Miss Annie Horne.
 Samuel Cathcart, Sr., Mar. 7,

Carson Macfie, Nov. 18, 1916.
 Jas. E. Cathcart, Jan. 12, 1917.
 Miss Chanie Coleman, Mar. 13, 1917.
 Rueben E. Richardson, June 8, 1914.
 U. G. DesPortes Sr., Jan. 4, 1916.
 Mrs. U. G. DesPortes Sr., Jan. 5, 1916.
 Names of a few negroes who died during the making of this list.
 Charlie Goings, Feb. 20, 1906.
 John D. Smart, Mar. 27, 1908.
 Frank Williams, May 21, 1909.
 Lucy Ladd, 1909.
 John Floyd, June 14, 1912.
 Paul Wright, Nov. 12, 1911.
 Sam Craig, Sept. 17, 1916.

1917.
 Miss Maggie Elder, Mar. 1, 1917.
 Miss Maggie Tennant, Mar. 20, 1917.
 T. L. Bulow, 1915.
 Mrs. J. W. Mayo (nee Miss Ada Cureton) June 6, 1915.
 Dess F. Clarke, Aug. 21, 1915.
 Jas. P. Caldwell, Sept. 14, 1916.
 Capt. W. G. Jordon, Oct. 4, 1916.
 David A. Crawford, Oct. 6, 1916.
 Joseph C. Caldwell, Oct. 28, 1916.

This is a very good article that appeared in the "North Carolina Genealogical Society Quarterly" in 1980. It was copied by Sheila Boykin Rogala and reprinted in the "Black River Watchman" which is the Newsletter for the Sumter Genealogical Society. The article is titled CHARACTERISTICS OF WRITTEN RECORDS and it is by Raymond A. Winslow, Jr.

Most of the surviving records created before 1900 in North Carolina are manuscripts. Indeed, the dominant characteristic of such records, however diverse they may be otherwise, is that they were written by hand. Even after the use of printed forms became common for some record types in the nineteenth century, the key elements such as names and dates were still entered by hand. Within the past hundred years the typewriter, electronic copier, microfilm camera, and computer have finally eliminated the age-old reliance on handwriting in the recording of information.

In the course of research the historian or genealogist will study thousands of pages of manuscript records. Some of those pages will be covered with beautiful examples of the handwriting art, delighting the eye. Others will be filled with crabby scrawls illegibly rendered by hurried scribes or barely literate men and women. Some will be immediately readable while others will be hardly decipherable. Manuscript readers will contend not only with poor handwriting but also with faded ink, discolored paper, torn pages, unusual letter forms, strange and inconsistent spelling, obsolete terminology, unfamiliar calendars, and techniques developed by men who spent a lifetime writing. Patience and experience coupled with specialized knowledge, will make the task of reading and interpreting old documents less difficult. By means of selected examples and general statements of principles, some of that knowledge is imparted on the following pages in an examination of the major characteristics of written records.

HANDWRITING

Handwriting is a highly individual and changeable skill. One person's writing evolves through many stages; persons trained in the same school of writing exhibit marked differences in hand; and the manner in which letters are shaped and joined goes through many fashions. The necessity of correctly reading those documents that record the past brings the researcher up against two difficulties at the outset: bad handwriting and unfamiliar letters.

Bad handwriting is commonplace, especially in records of the late nineteenth century and most of the twentieth. Letters can be formed so indistinctly that words look like lumpy lines. When the researcher has studied a word carefully, compared it with other letters and words in the same record, examined it with a magnifying glass, tried to deduce its meaning from the context--even then he may not be able to read it. Although science offers techniques to illuminate writing problems, some things will remain unreadable.

Illegible handwriting is not the researcher's sole difficulty. Unfamiliar letter forms can be hard to read even when carefully and clearly written. The handwriting styles of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in particular employed many letter forms quite different from modern ones. Some more are both illustrated and explained, along with forms of numbers, in E. Kay Kirkham's The Handwriting of American Records for a Period of 300 Years. Certain letters are of sufficient importance to be singled out for comment here.

The most often misread letter is γ which formerly had a special usage in addition to that use it still retains. As our alphabet developed, various letters were used for a time and then dropped. One of those was \mathcal{P} , called thorn, which represented the th sound. After its abandonment scribes tended to use the letter γ which somewhat resembled the old symbol, in many words. Thus γ^e was written for and pronounced as the, γ^t for that, γ^m for then, and so forth. That usage continued well into the eighteenth century, and the context of words must be studied to determine when γ is modern γ and when it is th. Special care must be taken to ascertain when ye is a variant of you, namely thee, and when it means he. Popular misconception has produced such visible modern errors as Ye Olde Gifte Shoppe which researchers must not emulate.

Another problem letter is the tailed g, written \mathcal{g} . It is often mistaken for an f or a p. In print it does closely resemble an f except that the horizontal stroke does not cross the vertical, thus \mathcal{f} . It usually appears within a word rather than as its first or last letter.

One of the strangest letters is Ꝣ, which is actually a capital Ꝣ. A misreading of it led to a controversy as to whether John Durant's wife was Sarah Jooke or Sarah Iooke. Although the initial letter of her surname in the 1684 marriage record did resemble both J and I it was nonetheless Ꝣ; her name was Sarah Cooke. Such misreadings of records are obviously disastrous to research.

Other early letter forms included:

<u>ī</u> = c	<u>h</u> = h	<u>h</u> = h	<u>ī</u> = i
<u>ȝ</u> = d	<u>ȝ</u> = l	<u>h</u> = r	<u>u</u> = u
<u>ȝ</u> = ds	<u>l</u> = l	<u>s</u> = s	<u>w</u> = w
<u>e</u> = e	<u>l</u> = l	<u>t</u> = t	<u>w</u> = w

Certain letters were formerly used interchangeably: i and j, i and γ, and u and v. Others could be easily confused: a and o, e and i, e and o, l and s, and m and n. Whole words like seventy and twenty were often look alikes. Numerals, too, resembled each other in certain forms, especially the 1 and the 7.

SPELLING

The concept that every word has a single correct spelling did not take hold until public school systems became common in the nineteenth century and such texts as Webster's blue-back speller became standard. Earlier periods allowed more freedom to spellers and an individual might spell his own name several different ways in one document.

HERE'S HOW TO JOIN OUR CHAPTER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

INDIVIDUAL \$15 FAMILY \$20 ASSOCIATE \$10

It is time to pay your chapter dues for 1992. If you have not already paid yours, please take a minute to do so now. New members as well as renewals will receive chapter and state society mailings throughout the year 1992.

Indicate the type of membership you desire, enclose your check for the proper amount, clearly print or type your name and mailing address and then: MAIL TO:

FAIRFIELD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 696
Winnsboro, S.C. 19180

Here are two short articles dealing with "old" subjects. Just as our writing and spelling has changed over the years, so has our money and many of the terms we use every day. Below is a short article gleaned from an out-of-state genealogical publication, plus a short piece adapted from another publication.

MONEY IN EARLY AMERICA

An interesting background on money in early America is that before Congress passed the Substance Coinage Act in 1850 much of American business was transacted with Spanish coins and other foreign coins. Our saying "two bits" meaning 25 cents comes from a Spanish coin that was deeply scored so it could actually be broken into eight equal pieces. Two of those pieces then became "two bits" and was a quarter of a whole coin.

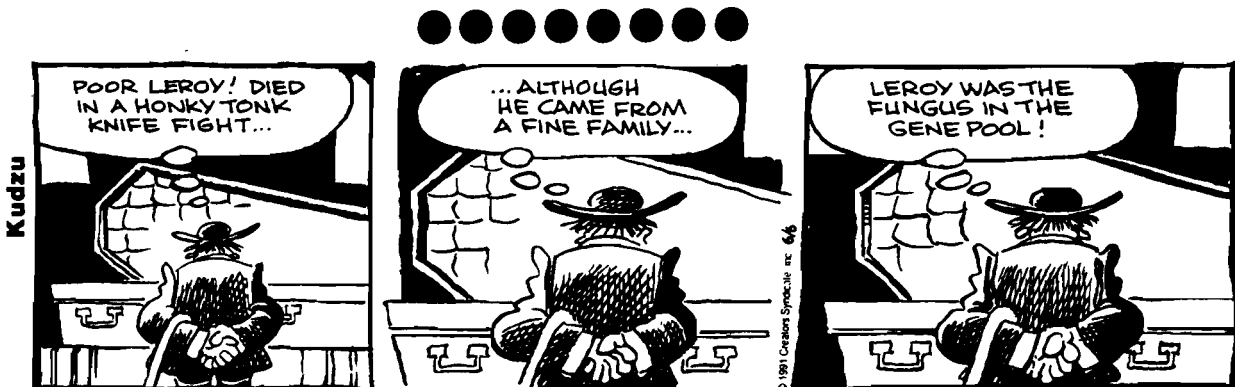
Even though foreign coins were often used, written accounts, plus legal documents, such as deeds, were written up in the British money terminology (pounds, shillings, and so forth) or they were written up in the money used in the state of the new independent American. Those state terms were generally the same as the British terms. It is difficult to convert cost in the seventeenth and eighteenth century into today's cost (passage from England to Virginia in 1640 was 7 pounds and a man's tobacco crop for the year was valued at 20 pounds), but it is good to know the valuation of the money exchanged in the documents you find for your ancestors. Below is a conversion table.

1q. is a farthing (written 1q.)	1q. = .0027
4q. equals a penny (written 1p.)	1d. = .011
12d. equals a shilling (written 1s.)	1s. = .13
20s. equals 1 pound (written £)	1£. = \$2.60

The British penny is slightly more than our present day penny--about 1.1 cents. Therefore a shilling (12 pence) is 12 times 1.1 cents or about 13 cents. A pound is 20 shillings, or 20 times 13 cents which is about \$2.60.

GENEALOGICAL TERMINOLOGY FOUND IN OLD RECORDS

- CONSORT----- means the mate was still living when the husband/wife died.
- RELICT----- means the spouse is already deceased.
- YEOMAN----- an independent farmer; especially a member of a former class of small freeholding farmers in England.
- VICAR----- Clergyman
- AE or AETATIS--means years of life.
- ISSUE----- means offspring of progeny.
- FREEMAN----- means a person entitled to the rights of a citizen, to vote and conduct business.
- B.L.W.----- means bounty land warrant. A gift of bounty land due a person or his heirs entitled by military service.
- LANDGRAVE---- a title or rank in early South Carolina that was an early attempt to establish a titled nobility in the American colonies. A Landgrave owned 48,000 acres of land.
- ORDINARY-----in Georgia, a probate judge.
- SURROGATE----in N.J. and N.Y. a judicial officer presiding over probate.



Lineage Chart No. _____

COMPILED BY: Ann Whitener Gwinn

DATE: July 23, 1988

(Your father)

2 Dorace Benjamin Whitener

Born Nov. 26, 1900
 Where Union, S. C.
 When married Jan. 23, 1930
 Where " Harlan, Kentucky
 Died Dec. 8, 1972
 Where Columbia, S. C.
 Buried in Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbia, SC

1 Patricia Ann Whitener

Born Aug. 23, 1933
 Where Columbia, SC
 When married July 24, 1954
 Where " Grace Methodist Church in Union, SC
 Died
 Where

(Your mother)

5 Emma Margaret Madden

Born Oct. 23, 1896
 Where Harlan, Kentucky
 Died Nov. 20, 1975
 Where Columbia, SC
 Buried in Green Lawn Cem. beside DBW

(Paternal grandfather)

4 Benjamin Alexander Whitener

Born July 22, 1879
 Where
 When married
 Where " Union, SC 1899
 Died May 6, 1949
 Where Union, SC

(Paternal grandmother)

5 Lillian Lona Scott

Born July 21, 1881
 Where Jonesville, SC
 Died March 5, 1943
 Where Union, SC

(Maternal grandfather)

6 Jacob Madden

Born 1853 Harlan Co. KY
 Where
 When married Nov. 10, 1875 "
 Where " Harlan Co. KY
 Died
 Where KY

(Maternal grandmother)

7 Sarah Pace

Born 1858
 Where Harlan Co. KY
 Died
 Where KY

(Great-grandparents)

8 Adolphus Silvanus Whitener

Born July 12, 1851
 Where NC
 Mar. Where
 Died Feb. 5, 1919
 Where Hodges TWP Greenwood County, SC

9

Born
 Where
 Died
 Where

10 Fletcher B. Scott

Born Feb. 6, 1858
 Where
 Mar. Where
 Died Feb. 3, 1915
 Where

11 Virginia Gibson

Born May 26, 1861
 Where
 Died July 7, 1942
 Where Union, SC

12

Born
 Where Tenn.
 Mar. Where
 Died
 Where

13

Born
 Where Lee Co. VA
 Died
 Where

14

Born
 Where Harlan Co. KY
 Mar. Where
 Died
 Where

15

Born
 Where Harlan Co. KY
 Died
 Where

16 Benjamin Marcus Whitener

b. March 8, 1825
 d. Oct. 19, 1864

34 Frances L. Gilbert

b. April 23, 1826
 d. Sept. 19, 1857

36

b.
 d.

38 Elizabeth Amanda Richardson

b.
 d.

40 Charles Wesley Scott

b. March 21, 1819
 d. Dec. 30, 1880

41 Mary Elizabeth Gault

b. Feb. 10, 1828
 d. Jan. 24, 1903

44 Gibson

b.
 d.

47 Mattie Mosby

b.
 d.

48

b.
 d.

51

b.
 d.

52

b.
 d.

53

b.
 d.

54

b.
 d.

55

b.
 d.

56

b.
 d.

32 Joseph Whitener

b. Aug. 4, 1796
 d. Jan. 7, 1873

34 Andrew Gilbert

b. d.
 d.

35 Rachel Tronbjerg

b. d.
 d.

36

b. d.
 d.

40

b. d.
 d.

42 (Robert ?) Gault

b. d.
 d.

43

b. d.
 d.

44

b. d.
 d.

45

b. d.
 d.

46

b. d.
 d.

47

b. d.
 d.

48

b. d.
 d.

49

b. d.
 d.

50

b. d.
 d.

51

b. d.
 d.

64 Benjamin Whitener

b. Aug. 4, 1796
 d. Jan. 7, 1873

66 Mary (Polly) Cline

b. Oct. 19, 1796
 d. Dec. 11, 1874

68

b. d.
 d.

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b. d.
 d.

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b. d.
 d.

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b. d.
 d.

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b. d.
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b. d.
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b. d.
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b. d.
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b. d.
 d.

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b. d.
 d.

80

b. d.
 d.

64 Benjamin Whitener

b. Aug. 4, 1796
 d. Jan. 7, 1873

66 John Cline

b. Oct. 19, 1796
 d. Dec. 11, 1874

68

b. d.
 d.

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b. d.
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b. d.
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b. d.
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b. d.
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b. d.
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b. d.
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b. d.
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b. d.
 d.

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b. d.
 d.

80

b. d.
 d.

G/F Josiah Smith

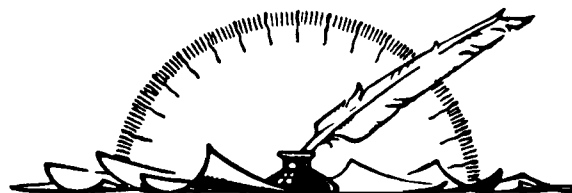
G/M Dorcas Gault

Gibson

Madden

Pace

QUERIES



Surnames that I am researching are Joseph Graham c 1800 from S.C. and Peter Patrick c 1801 from S. C. If you publish queries in your newsletter, I would appreciate you printing mine.

My great grandfather, John B. Graham, was born 14 April 1827 in Sumter County, Alabama who married Eunice Huldah Patrick born 17 July 1825, the daughter of Peter Patrick and Anne H. _____. I believe John B. Graham was the son of Joseph and Catherine _____ Graham. The only other information I have found is that five brothers came to Alabama from S. C. The brothers are:

Elijah Graham c 1785	m	Anna _____
Joseph Graham c 1800	m	Catherine c 1800
Dempsey Graham c 1809	m	Mary Boyd
Charles Graham c 1813	m	Margaret Knighton
John Graham c		

Any information concerning this family of Grahams would be appreciated.

Thanks.

Howard Graham
Box 123
Pampa, TX 79065