

BLACK SHEEP ANCESTORS AND THEIR RECORDS

C. ANN STALEY, CGSM, CGLSM

PO Box 441364

Jacksonville, FL 32222

Email: ann@cannstaley.com Website: <http://cannstaley.com>

Find the Records to Prove the "Story"

1. Define and state the problem or the objective - write it out.
2. Review, in detail, what you already know about the research problem and Assemble all the data on that ancestor that you already have.
3. Analyze the documents that you have.
Look at your research documentation objectively (without preconceived ideas).
4. Update your files
Update the data in your family tree program.
Create or update the source citations for your facts.
Create or update your Research Log.
Create or update your Timeline.
5. Re-evaluate what you know - Separate your INFORMATION from your CONCLUSIONS.
6. Make a research plan (An outline of the resources you need to research to eliminate any weaknesses and gaps in your previous research.).
7. Search for existing research on the problem ancestor or ancestral family.
8. Outline the resources to review and the repositories to visit.
9. Add sources and repositories for each action item.
10. Execute your research plan and make a report.

RESOURCES

Court Records

- A. Order Books - Covers the day-to-day business of the court; Chronological order by Court dates.
- B. National Archives
 1. National Archives. *Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives of the United States*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1996 [3 volumes describing about "1.7 million cubic feet of records transferred to the custody of the National Archives as of October 1, 1994"; includes an index. Also available online (free) at

<http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/>]

C. Coroner Reports

Found in state, county or city records.
Issued when an inquest is held to investigate an unusual/unknown circumstance related death. Might include cause of death, autopsy findings, testimony about the circumstances existing at time of death & findings of the coroner's jury.

D. Probate records - Wills, Settlement of Estate, Guardianship papers

2. Carter, Fran. *Searching American Probate Records*. Bountiful, UT: American Genealogical Lending Library, 1993

3. Smith, Kenneth L. *Estate Inventories: How to Use Them*. Columbus, OH: Privately printed, 1984

E. Adoption records

F. Divorce

"Insane" Records - Courthouse

- A. Use courthouse records to locate admission records.
- B. Use the court order books for clues to other records.

"Insane" Records - Census Records

- A. 1880 Special Schedule Defective, Dependent and Delinquent (DDD) schedules
Insane, Idiots, Deaf-mutes, Blind, Homeless children, Prisoners, Paupers and Indigent persons
- B. Population schedules list Mental Hospitals.

Convicts . . .

- A. England to America
1718-1783.
Over 52,000 convicts
After the Revolution the U.S. refused to accept any more.

- B. England to Australia
1783-1868
Over 165,000 convicts
- C. Could be sentenced for "transportation" for any number of crimes, including "petty" crimes. Servitude was normally 7 years.
4. The National Archives [United Kingdom]. "Criminal transportees: further research" (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/criminal-transportees-further-research/>: accessed 20 Sep 2016)
 5. Early American Crime. *An Exploration of Crime, Criminals, and Punishments from America's Past*. "Category Archives: Convict Transportation" (<http://www.earlyamericancrime.com/category/c-convict-transportation> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
 6. Early American Crime. *An Exploration of Crime, Criminals, and Punishments from America's Past*. "Convict Transportation to America: Epilogue" (<http://www.earlyamericancrime.com/convict-transportation/epilogue/epilogue> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
 7. Convicts to Australia: A Guide to Researching your Convict Ancestors. (<http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/index.html> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)

Executions & Lynchings

- A. Sanctioned - Executions
- B. Non-Sanctioned - Lynchings
Sometimes the two were blurred.
Newspaper accounts are a good source.
8. DeathPenaltyUSA. The database of executions in the United States. (<http://deathpenaltyusa.org> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
9. Vandiver, Margaret. *Lethal Punishment; Lynchings and Legal Executions in the South*. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2006) [Mainly about Marion Co., Florida and Shelby Co., Tennessee]

Military

- A. Service Records
Rosters/Muster Rolls, Squadron Letters
Orderly Books, Casualty Reports
Prisoners of War, Commendations & Misconduct
Correspondence and filed reports
10. Beine, Joe. *Online Military Indexes & Records: A Genealogy Guide*. (<http://www.militaryindexes.com> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)

11. Deputy, Marilyn, et al. compilers. *Register of Federal United States Military Records, Volume 1: 1775-1860*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1986
12. Deputy, Marilyn, et al. compilers. *Register of Federal United States Military Records, Volume 2: The Civil War*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1986
13. Deputy, Marilyn, et al. compilers. *Register of Federal United States Military Records: 1866-World War II and Records of Various Branches of the Military*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1986
14. Knox, Debra Johnson, *World War II Military Records: A Family Historian's Guide*. Spartanburg, SC: MIE Publishing, 2003
15. Neagles, James C. *Confederate Research Sources: A Guide to Archive Collections*. Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Publishing, 1986
16. Neagles, James C. *U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present*. Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, 1994
17. National Archives – online - databases are available through the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) at <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/>
Records of World War II Prisoners of War, created 1942 - 1947, documenting the period 12/7/1941 - 11/19/1946 - *Record Group 389*
World War II Prisoners of the Japanese Data Files, created, 4/2005 - 10/2007, documenting the period ca. 1941 - ca. 1945 - *Collection ADBC*
Records About Japanese Americans Relocated During World War II, created, 1988 - 1989, documenting the period 1942 - 1946 - *Record Group 210*
Records of Repatriated Korean War Prisoners of War, created 1978-1980, documenting the period 7/5/1950-10/6/1954 - *Record Group 15*
Records of American Prisoners of War During the Korean War, created 1950-1953, documenting the period 1950-1953-*Record Group 319*
Records on Military Personnel Who Died, Were Missing in Action or Prisoners of War as a Result of the Vietnam War, created, 1/20/1967 - 12/1998, documenting the period 6/8/1956 - 1/21/1998 - *Record Group 330*
18. Schweitzer, George K., *Revolutionary War Genealogy*. Knoxville, TN: self-published, 1987

19. Schweitzer, George K., *War of 1812 Genealogy*. Knoxville, TN: self-published, 1995

Prison Records

- A. Local or federal level
Jail, prison or the state archives/ library
Federal prison or the National Archives
- B. Military Prisons
- C. FHL has microfilm/books records
- D. Ancestry.com - card catalog search for "prison"
20. Cyndi's List - Prisons, Prisoners & Outlaws (<http://www.cyndislist.com/prisons> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
21. Prison Search. *Genealogical Prison Records & Jail Records*. (http://www.ancestorhunt.com/genealogical_prison_records.htm : accessed 20 Sep 2016)

Wild West and Notorious Characters

- A. Famous gang members
- B. Political assassins
- C. FBI's Most Wanted List
22. Cyndi's List - Prisons, Prisoners & Outlaws (<http://www.cyndislist.com/prisons> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
23. The FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) FBI Records: Freedom of Information/Privacy Act (<http://www.fbi.gov/foia> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
24. The FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) FBI Records: The Vault (<https://vault.fbi.gov/> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)

Newspapers

- A. Published in U.S. for almost 300 years
- B. Check newspapers in/around your locality
- C. Types of newspapers include
Metropolitan, Community, Religious,
Immigrant/Foreign Language, Ethnic
- D. Newspaper accounts, obits, etc
25. Beine, Joe. *Historical Newspapers and Indexes On The Internet - USA: A Genealogy Research Guide*. (<http://www.researchguides.net/newspapers.htm> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
26. Bobbie's Genealogy Classroom. "Your Guide to Using Newspapers for Genealogical Research". (<http://www.barbsnow.net/Newspapers.htm> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
27. Carter-Walker, Fran. *Searching for American Newspapers*. Bradenton, FL: Privately printed, 1995.

28. Elephind.com (<http://www.elephind.com/> : accessed 20 Sep 2016) [A search engine focused on historical, digitized newspapers.]
29. Library of Congress, *Chronicling America*. (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
30. Library of Congress, *Newspaper & Current Periodical Reading Room*. "Newspapers". (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/lcnewsp.html> : accessed 20 Sep 2016).
31. Midkiff, Miriam Robbins. *Welcome to the Online Historical Newspapers Website*. (<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/Home> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
32. Milner, Anita Cheek. *Newspaper Indexes: A Location and Subject Guide for Researchers*. 3 volumes. Metuchen, NJ and London: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1977, 1979, 1982.
33. Old Fulton New York Post Cards (<http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html> : accessed 20 Sep 2016) [Wonderful website for New York historical newspapers. Claims over 35,875,00 digitized pages from the US and Canada.]
34. National Endowment for the Humanities. *U.S. Newspaper Program*. (<http://www.neh.gov/us-newspaper-program> : accessed 20 Sep 2016) [National effort to locate and preserve U. S. newspapers on microfilm.]

National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)

- A. Index to manuscript collections.
- B. Free cataloging program operated by the Library of Congress.
- C. Includes the author, title, description, notes, subjects, repository, etc.
- D. Printed index volumes, 1-29 (1959-1993) available on microfilm.
35. National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections. (<http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)

PERSI (PERiodical Source Index)

- Subject index to articles in genealogical and historical periodicals (serial publications issued at regular intervals). The time periods of the articles ranges from the 1700s to the present with more than 2.5 million index entries from over ten thousand titles.
36. Boyer, Carl. *Donald Lines Jacobus' Index to Genealogical Periodicals*. Revised edition. Newhall, California: Self-published, 1988.

37. Cappon, Lester Jesse. *American Genealogical Periodicals: A Bibliography with a Chronological Finding-List*. New York: New York Public Library, 1962.
38. Dilts, G. David. "Using the Periodical Source Index (PERSI)." *Genealogical Journal: An International Publication* Volume 29, Number 2 (2001).
39. Towle, Laird C. *Genealogical Periodicals: A Neglected Treasure*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1987.

Hereditary/Lineage Societies

40. Associated Daughters of Early American Witches (<http://www.adeaw.us> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
41. Pirates & Privateers. *Order of Descendants of Pirates & Privateers*. (<http://www.piratesprivateers.org/> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)

General Resources

42. Alzo, Lisa. "The Darker Side Of Genealogy: Tracking Criminals, Rogues, Scoundrels & Black Sheep" <http://www.archives.com/experts/alzo-lisa/black-sheep-genealogy.html> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
43. Blacksheep Ancestors (<http://www.blacksheepancestors.com> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
44. Bockstruck, Lloyd deWitt, MA, MS, "Appendix D: Hereditary and Lineage Organizations," in Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*. Third edition. Provo, Utah: Ancestry Inc., 2006.
45. Crannell, Linda. *The Poorhouse Story*. (<http://www.poorhousestory.com> : accessed 20 Sep 2016) [Provides a clearinghouse for 19th century American Poorhouses information.]
46. Chorzempa, Rosemary A. *MORBUS, Why and How Our Ancestors Died: A Genealogist's Dictionary of Terms Found in Vital Records with Descriptions of the Diseases as They Relate to the Health of Our Ancestors*. Chicago, IL: Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1991.
47. Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage*. "QuickLesson . . ." (<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/tags/quicklesson> : accessed 20 Sep 2016).
48. FamilySearch. *Discover Your Family History*. "Books." (<http://books.familysearch.org> : accessed 20 Sep 2016) [This collection of more

than 200,000 digitized genealogy and family history publications includes family histories, county and local histories, etc.]

49. Davis, Robert Scott. *Georgia Black Book: Morbid, Macabre, & Sometimes Disgusting Records of Genealogical Value* (2 volumes) Easley, South Carolina : Southern Historical Press, 1982 & 1987.
50. Hinckley, Kathleen W. *Locating Lost Family Members & Friends*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 1999.
51. International Blacksheep Society of Genealogists (<http://ibssg.org/blacksheep> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
52. Internet Archive. (<https://archive.org> : accessed 20 Sep 2016) [A free "digital library of Internet sites and other cultural artifacts in digital form."]
53. Internet Searching: Searching the Internet (<http://libguides.athabascau.ca/internetsearching> : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
54. Kiple, Kenneth F. Plague and Elaine Willis, editors. *Plague, Pox & Pestilence: Disease in History*. Sterling Publishing, 1997
55. Linkpendium. *The Definitive Directory*. (<http://www.linkpendium.com/> : accessed 20 Sep 2016) [USA Localities and surnames with over 10+ million genealogy links.]
56. liveroots. (<http://www.liveroots.com> : accessed 20 Sep 2016) [Search engine with a strong emphasis on original records - "online, in print, or on a variety of other mediums."]
57. McClure, Rhonda. *Researching Your Famous and Infamous Ancestors*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2003
58. Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (<http://www.raogk.org/>: accessed 20 Sep 2016) [Provides state and research guides at the bottom of the home page.]
59. RootsWeb. Genealogical Societies: BlackSheep Mailing List (http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/Genealogical_Societies/BlackSheep.html : accessed 20 Sep 2016)
60. Rose, Christine. *Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case*. Dexter, Michigan: Thomson Shore, Inc, 2005
61. Szucs, Loretto Dennis and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, editors. *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*. Third edition. Provo, Utah: Ancestry Inc., 2006.
62. Weber, Peter J. and Michael L. Sankey, editors. *The Sourcebook to public record information: the comprehensive guide to county, state & federal public records sources*. Fourth Edition. Tempe, Arizona: BRB Publications, 2002.