



The ACGS Time

The Anoka County Genealogical Society Newsletter

Volume 29 Issue 3 May/June 2007 <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~relativememory>

The ACGS Time

Anoka County Genealogical
Society (at History Center)
2135 - 3rd Ave., No.
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-0600

Hours: .
Tuesday - 10:am-8:00 pm
Wed-Fri - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Every Saturday-10:00 am-4:00 pm

Mailing Address

The Anoka County Genealogical Society,
2135 - 3rd Ave., No.
Anoka, Mn 55303
Email: acgsmn@yahoo.com



Remembering Memorial Day

President's Message by Cathi Weber

Welcome to Spring! I have just finished a research book for a friend and am taking a break before starting another big project. I hope that your research is going well. We have a lot of exciting topics coming up in the next few months. I hope to see you all there and bring a friend!

May 7, 2007, 7:00 PM - **Early Anoka County Pioneers** - Location: Northtown Public Library, 711 County Rd 10 NE, Blaine, MN. East of Northtown Mall

Don't miss the Anoka County Sesquicentennial Wagon Train May 15, 2007 through May 20, 2007.

Watch for more information on the 150th Anniversary of Anoka County at their web-site: <http://www.ac-hs.org/sesqupdates.htm> There will be a lot of exciting things happening throughout Anoka County.

June 4, 2007, 7:00 PM - **Cemetery Records - What can you glean from Cemetery Records and where can you find them?**

Location: Pierce Cemetery - North of Hwy 22 on Nightengale and 221st. Bring you lawn chair. Weather permitting we will be meeting outside.

July 16, 2007, 7:00 PM - **ACGS Board Meeting**. We will be planning future meetings. You are welcome to join us or call Cathi Weber, 763-757-9367 with ideas of what you would like to learn more about.

July 24th - 29th - **Anoka County Fair** - We have a Genealogy display in the Old Constance Church during the fair. Your help is needed to visit with folks about Genealogy during the Fair. - Tuesday - Sunday 10:00 AM to ??? - Please sign up with Cathi Weber to volunteer. You can work as few as 3 hours or all day. You pick the hours that you can be there. All workers will receive a free pass for the day(s) they volunteer. This year we will feature information about the Church and some of the Early Pioneers of Anoka County.

August 6, 2007, 7:00 PM - **School Records** - It's back to school time, so we are *really* going back... to the early schools in Anoka County. What records are available? How can you find school records?

August 17-19, **Nowthen Threshing Show** - Watch for more information in the July August Newsletter

Anoka County Genealogical Society

PRESIDENT

Cathi Weber 763-757-9367
Email: cwebergen@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Barb Thurston 763-421-1844
Email: Barbt2010@msn.com

TREASURER

Marilyn Anderson 763-422-3909
Email: marealtor99@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Lois Love 763-427-3171
Email: bob.lois@att.net

BOARD MEMBERS

Debbie Robb 763-753-5434
Email: pckrt53@aol.com
Mary Pierce 763-421-3232
Jim Johnson 763-444-5300
Jim Marsolais. 763-427-1435

ACGS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Cathi Weber 763-757-9367
Email: cwebergen@comcast.net

The Anoka County Genealogical Society Newsletter is published six times a year.

Mark these dates on your calendar:

September (??10) Annual Meeting at a local restaurant

October 1 – Assisted Research time at the History Center in Anoka, bring your questions!

October 27 - All Day Genealogy Conference at Northdale Middle School

December 3 – Cookbook Recipe Potluck Dinner. Remember to email your Recipes and stories to Cwebergen@comcast.net to have them included in the ACGS Cookbook.

Cathi Weber

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated or helped at the Sale on April 16. We made over \$150.00.

“It’s Your History”

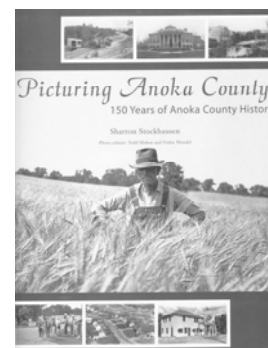
QCTV Cable Show about Anoka County History includes a segment on Genealogy.

Coon Rapids: - Sunday 5 am & 3 pm,
Thursday 3 pm, channel 15 - Comcast
Anoka, Andover, Ramsey, Champlin:
Monday 3:30 pm, 10:30 pm, Tuesday,
3:30 pm, 10:30 pm, Wednesday 11:30
am, 6:30 pm, channel 15 – QCTV
Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Ham
Lake, Lexington, Lino Lakes, Spring
Lake Park: Wednesday 6:30 pm,
Thursday 2:30 am & 10:30 am,
channel 14 - North Metro

Picturing Anoka County on sale now

150 Years of Anoka History

Contact the History Center for details – 763-421-0600



What is a First Cousin, Twice Removed?

If someone walked up to you and said "Howdy, I'm your third cousin, twice removed," would you have any idea what they meant? Most people have a good understanding of basic relationship words such as "mother," "father," "aunt," "uncle," "brother," and "sister." But what about the relationship terms that we don't use in everyday speech? Terms like "second cousin" and "first cousin, once removed"? We don't tend to speak about our relationships in such exact terms ("cousin" seems good enough when you are introducing one person to another), so most of us aren't familiar with what these words mean.

Relationship Terms

Sometimes, especially when working on your family history, it's handy to know how to describe your family relationships more exactly. The definitions below should help you out.

Cousin (a.k.a "first cousin")

Your first cousins are the people in your family who have two of the same grandparents as you. In other words, they are the children of your aunts and uncles.

Second Cousin

Your second cousins are the people in your family who have the same great-grandparents as you., but not the same grandparents.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Cousins

Your third cousins have the same great-great-grandparents, fourth cousins have the same great-great-great-grandparents, and so on.

Removed

When the word "removed" is used to describe a relationship, it indicates that the two people are from different generations. You and your first cousins are in the same generation (two generations younger than your grandparents), so the word "removed" is *not* used to describe your relationship.

The words "once removed" mean that there is a difference of one generation. For example, your mother's first cousin is your first cousin, once removed. This is because your mother's first cousin is one generation younger than your grandparents and you are two generations younger than your grandparents. This one-generation difference equals "once removed."

Twice removed means that there is a two-generation difference. You are two generations younger than a first cousin of your grandmother, so you and your grandmother's first cousin are first cousins, twice removed.

Relationship Charts Simplify Everything

Now that you have an idea of what these different words mean, take a look at the chart below. It's called a relationship chart, and it can help you figure out how different people in your family are related. It's much simpler than it looks, just follow the instructions.

Instructions for Using a Relationship Chart

1. Pick two people in your family and figure out which ancestor they have in common. For example, if you chose yourself and a cousin, you would have a grandparent in common.
2. Look at the top row of the chart and find the first person's relationship to the common ancestor.
3. Look at the far left column of the chart and find the second person's relationship to the common ancestor.
4. Determine where the row and column containing those two relationships meet.

Common Ancestor	Child	Grandchild	G-grandchild	G-g-grandchild
Child	Sister or Brother	Nephew or Niece	Grand-nephew or niece	G-grand-nephew or niece
Grandchild	Nephew or Niece	First cousin	First cousin, once removed	First cousin, twice removed
G-grandchild	Grand-nephew or niece	First cousin, once removed	Second cousin	Second cousin, once removed
G-g-grandchild	G-grand-nephew or niece	First cousin, twice removed	Second cousin, once removed	Third cousin

Just When You Thought You Had it

When you are working with older records, be aware that the meaning of the word "cousin," along with the meanings of other relationship terms, have changed over time.

Finding Your Ethnic Origins: An Irish Example *by Juliana Smith*

One of the most thrilling aspects of family history is the ability to trace your ancestor's steps back to the very place where she or he lived in the old country. While it can be challenging, the rewards are great. When you discover that patch of earth they called home, you suddenly have a better understanding of who they really were and why their move to this country has made a difference in your life. With the discovery of foreign origins, doors open to brand new research possibilities. You may even find that you have relatives living in the old country who are ready and waiting to meet you and tell you more!

When taking any family history quest overseas, it's best to exhaust sources on this side of the ocean first. Records that are right here in the United States can be rich in information about your family. Many nearby sources can get you closer to learning where you inherited your twinkling eyes, your wonderful smile, your sense of humor, and your all-round

great disposition. While some of the resources mentioned here are Irish specific, many of the techniques can also apply to other ethnicities. Here are some things to consider closer to home:

Home Sources

As with all things family history, it's best to start with clues in home sources. Talk with family members and ask them if they can recall hearing anything about your Irish origins. Check old photographs. Something found written on the photograph or something you can see in it may provide you with an idea of how to proceed. Newspaper clippings, postcards, journals, and other items your family members chose to save may be right under your nose. See if anyone has saved old letters that mention places where the family may have lived.

I know of someone whose cousin found a long-forgotten letter that was written by an ancestor as he journeyed to

America for the first time. Not only did the letter include interesting details of the trip, but the dated letter revealed the names of friends and relatives who would be dearly missed in his homeland.

Local Sources

Most of us are not as fortunate as those who find treasured letters and clues in their own home, but new leads can be found in records in or near the place where your ancestor lived in this country. A library or archive in the area where your ancestor lived may have a stash of information that names your great-grandfather and tells you where he was born. We have had good luck finding information about our ancestors' origins online, from census records, passenger lists, newspapers, naturalization and other court records, and especially in church records in this country.

Depending on where and when your ancestor died or was married, his death or marriage record may also include details on his birthplace. Obituaries can be particularly helpful. The following obituary on my great-great-grandmother gave us our first foothold in Ireland.

(A side note: For those with New York City-Irish roots, check out the *New York Herald*. There are only four years currently available at Ancestry, but the obituaries in that paper are often a goldmine for Irish immigrants and typically will note the city and county of origin for the deceased.)

Check for locality-specific publications. There are many dedicated individuals out there helping to preserve pieces of history by scanning or transcribing parish registers, recording tombstones, and other similar projects. For example, in *Old Calvary Cemetery: New Yorkers Carved in Stone*, Rosemary Muscarella Ardolina documents 424 pages of gravestone inscriptions, most of them Irish, and most with city and county of origin in Ireland.

The Importance of Family

Just as it is important to work with your current relatives to discover information about your past, you will find that family ties are equally important as you go back in time. You will find that your ancestors' relatives have left some important clues for you in some surprising places. It may be

that census, church, court, or other records will link them to your grandparents. Records left by your ancestor's brothers and sisters will lead back to a common ancestor or common origins. Look too at the extended family, as well as sponsors and witnesses.

In my own research, I gathered church documents for my extended family then made a list of fourteen baptismal sponsors from the 1840s and 1850s for one line of the family. Checking *Griffith's Valuation*, I discovered that of the fourteen sponsors named on these records, eight of their surnames are found in County Westmeath--the same county from which this line of my ancestors had emigrated. Since some of the surnames are uncommon, this is a clue worth following. Many of the sponsors emigrated from the exact parish and town or near it. I can't draw any strong conclusions for those sponsors who had more common names, but community patterns are emerging from this small study.

In one of the more conspicuous ironies of my research, I now have taken my Kelly line further back than any other family line. Because Kelly is one of the most common surnames in Ireland, we had little hope of discovering their Irish hometown. But because I worked at getting records for the entire family rather than focusing on my direct ancestors I located the exact town name in his homeland for our first Irish ancestor to set foot in America.

My third great-grandmother died at the young age of twenty-six leaving little in way of a paper trail. Her siblings however were much more generous. Through probates and cemetery listings, I was able to piece together the family structure and by knowing all the players, I was able to identify my fourth great-grandfather in the records of the [Emigrant Savings Bank online at Ancestry](#). Here is what I found in his entry:

- Nov. 19, 1857
- Account #15751
- James Kelly
- Occupation: none, infirm
- Address: 34 John St.
- Remarks: Native of Glackmore, Coy. Donegal and arrived at Halifax 30 yrs ago Wife dead Bridget McLoghlin and ch. James, Mary, Jane and Elizth.

Without knowing the family structure, I probably wouldn't have been able to identify this James Kelly as my ancestor. Instead I was able to not only identify him, I learned his town and county of origin, that he emigrated through Halifax thirty years prior, and that his wife's maiden name was McLoughlin. (This one still makes me want to get up and give it a little dance!)

The Usual Suspects

While many of us are disappointed when we find little information regarding a place of origin in our ancestors' passenger arrival records or naturalization papers, there are many exceptions. Passenger lists that I've found for my Irish ancestors who immigrated in the first half of the nineteenth century provide only the word "Ireland" as a place of origin. However tens of thousands of passenger arrivals online at Ancestry do include the county of origin in Ireland, and not all of them are the more recent arrivals.

Typically it is the records after the turn of the twentieth century that will include more detailed information. Later naturalization records may also list a more specific place of origin. But don't exclude earlier records because dates, places, and names of witnesses may turn out to be the just the breakthrough you need. And regardless of what kind of records you are looking at, don't overlook the possibility of exceptions. In "Finding Your Irish Ancestors," author Dave Ouimette points out that he "searched the 1880 U.S. census index at Ancestry.com and found over three thousand Irish emigrants with their county or city of birth in Ireland actually listed on the census." I did searches for various county names in 1860 and got similar results. A search for Dublin turned up 265 hits, Derry got 215, and Galway came in with the highest number with 367. From my little survey, it appears that there are more than 2,000 individuals in the 1860 with county names, and I didn't even look for specific cities as Dave did.

Don't Give Up!

Even if you've been searching for your link to the land of your ancestor's roots for many years, don't give up hope. As you continue to learn more about their lives here, you are

increasing the odds that you'll find it and add a new dimension to your family history.

Juliana Smith has been the editor of Ancestry.com newsletters for more than eight years and is author of *The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book*. She has written for *Ancestry Magazine* and wrote the Computers and Technology chapter in *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, rev. 3rd edition. Juliana can be reached by e-mail at Juliana@Ancestry.com, but she regrets that her schedule does not allow her to assist with personal research.

Burns Memorial Day Commemoration on May 27, 2007

The ninth annual Burns Township Memorial Day commemoration will take on special meaning in this Sesquicentennial year for Anoka County.

In honor of the 150th Anniversary of the County, Burns Township veterans of the Civil War will be the focus of the service held on Sunday, May 27, 2007.

Beginning at 2:00pm, members of the Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery Reenactors will do cannon firing demonstrations with a replica 10 pound parrot rifle in the field behind the Nowthen Alliance Church located at 19653 Nowthen Blvd. in Burns Township. When this Civil War unit was originally formed in 1862, there were more men from Anoka County than any other county in the state. Two of those men were from Burns--Charles Noggle and Joseph Varney. A special commemorative booklet with the stories of all of Burns' Civil War veterans will be available.

The Memorial Day service begins at 3:00pm with a bugler playing the traditional Army *Church Call* from the 1860s. Fully uniformed 1860s reenactors will form a color guard to post the American and Christian flags at the front of the auditorium before taking their seats for the service.

Veterans from Burns will be honored during the service, as will those who are lifelong senior residents of the Township. The names of those veterans who have passed on will be read, and the service will close with a hymn from the 1860s and the traditional *Taps*. Refreshments follow the service.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend this very special Memorial Day event as a part of the Anoka County Sesquicentennial in 2007.