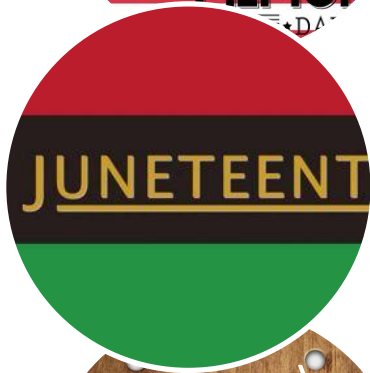


African-American Genealogical Society - Cleveland, Ohio

NEWSLETTER



Holidays to pay homage

Reasons to research & remember...

from whence we came

-Cathy Neal
AAGS Newsletter Editor

AAGS MEETINGS

Held on **4th Saturday** (exc. December)

- Meetings will be held virtually by Zoom until libraries reopen for in-person gatherings
(An electronic link will be sent)
- 10:00-10:15 a.m. – socialization
10:15-10:30 a.m. – info/announcements
10:30 a.m. – speaker presentation



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Per calendar year
Fees due by Jan. 31st

Students (to age 21) \$15 • Individual \$30
Couple \$40 • Family \$45 • Organization \$50

NEWSLETTER

Published quarterly
(March, June, September, December)

Editor reserves the right to edit items submitted for publication.
Permission is required to re-publish articles.

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*To
Discover
Your
Ancestors

Is to
Discover
a Part
of You!*

GENEALOGY NEWS

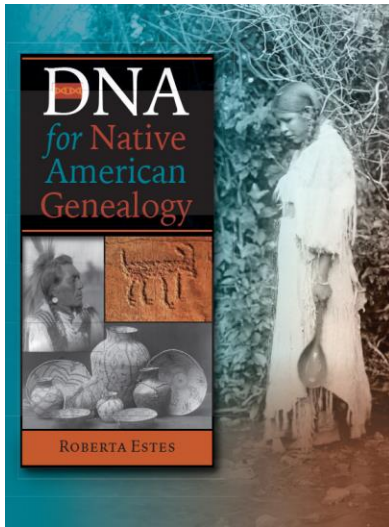
- **101 Best Genealogy Websites of 2022** - <https://familytreemagazine.com/best-genealogy-websites/> *(Note: if a sign-in message appears, hit the 'escape' key)*
- **“Five Facts About Juneteenth”** article by Nicka Smith - <https://blogs.ancestry.com/cm/freedom-redefined-5-facts-about-juneteenth/>
- **“5 Common Genealogy Errors (and How to Avoid Them)”** article by Andrew Koch - <https://familytreemagazine.com/research/5-common-genealogy-errors/>
- **A Dream Delivered: The Lost Letters of Hawkins Wilson** (29-min. film by Ancestry®, incl. Henry Louis Gates and Nicka Smith) - https://www.youtube.com/embed/tg99_BdeSYw
- **Associated Press – New York fund apologizes for role in infamous Tuskegee study:** the apology and accompanying donation to a descendants' group, the Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation, were presented during a ceremony in Tuskegee at a gathering of relatives of men who were part of the study - https://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/new-york-fund-apologizes-for-role-in-tuskegee-syphilis-study/article_99f23ba4-f594-5fc2-9335-75e40091389a.html

AAGS Officers

Interim President..... Joseph Houser, Sr.
 1st Vice President..... Deborah Abbott
 2nd Vice President..... Joseph Houser, Sr.
 Treasurer..... Jonathan Stith

Recording Secretary.... Karen Marshall
 Corresponding Sec’y... Maxine Hairston
 Financial Secretary..... Gayle Ector

Publications



DNA for Native American Genealogy

Author: Estes, Roberta

Publication Date: 2021 Pages: 190

Per **genealogical.com**: Written by Roberta Estes, the foremost expert on how to utilize DNA testing to identify Native American ancestors, *DNA for Native American Genealogy* is the first book to offer detailed information and advice specifically aimed at family historians interested in fleshing out their Native American family tree through DNA testing.

Figuring out how to incorporate DNA testing into your Native American genealogy research can be difficult and daunting. What types of DNA tests are available and which vendors offer them? What other tools are available? How is Native American DNA determined or recognized in your DNA? What information about your Native American ancestors can DNA testing uncover? This book addresses those questions and much more.

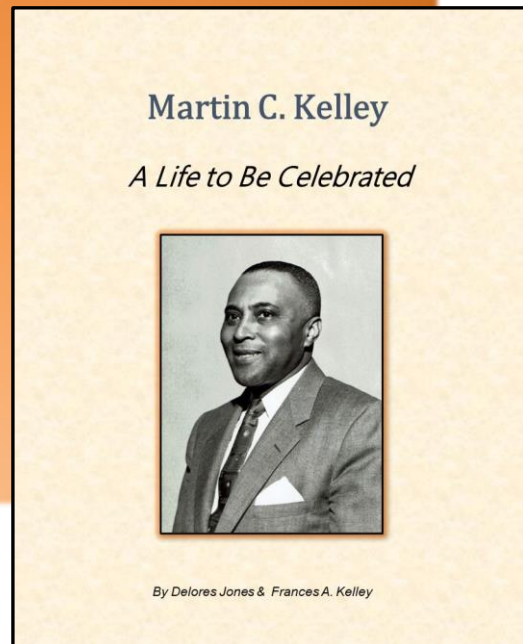
Announcing...

AAGS member **Frances Kelley** has now joined the ranks of the “published” with her new book, *A Life to Be Celebrated*.

The book highlights the legacy of **Martin C. Kelley**, Fran’s father. In collaboration with author **Delores Jones**, Fran transcribed the handwritten life story notes that he had penned and left in a piano bench prior to his death in 2000. His memoir features notable accomplishments such as:

- First Black Superintendent of the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Home
- Early organizer & Foundation Director of The National Bowling Association, which was established for Black bowlers
- Professionally involved with other prominent public figures in Cleveland, Ohio during the Civil Rights era (Carl Stokes, Virgil Brown, Murtis Taylor, etc.)

The book recognizes a dynamic individual and some of his contributions during historic times in the city of Cleveland.



Sharing Our Ancestors' Stories

By Delores Jones



◀ Frances Kelley, a fellow long-time AAGS Cleveland member, was overwhelmed by the volume and variety of family history research she had accumulated over 16 years.

In addition to vital paternal and maternal ancestor records, documents and pictures she has painstakingly documented, Frances has a wealth of unique stories and relics worthy of passing on. Her cast of family characters include captivating, colorful and engaging personalities; their encounters and accomplishments deserve to be celebrated. Some of them have exceptional traits and experiences that make for wonderful family tales.

But, *where* was she to begin with sharing her ancestral findings? *Whose* story should she share first; *how* should she share it; *what* should she share; and, *who* would be interested in her ancestors? *When* and *what* should she do with her family research and stories?

Her parents were active in national, regional and Cleveland-area community and social services, neighborhood revitalization and recreational bowling circles. Fortunately for Frances, her father, Martin C. Kelley, began his own handwritten narrative before he died in April 2000. He didn't get to finish it, but he kept meticulous records. Because aspects of his life are well-documented in local and regional newspapers, libraries and archives, it was easy for Frances to focus first on sharing his story. We should all be so lucky in our search for family!

Frances is the last in her immediate family line. She has no descendants, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles or extended family to pass on her family keepsakes, important documents, photos and stories.

Genealogical Dilemma

Family historians usually have heaps of information in file cabinets, boxes, binders, folders and computer programs. We realize these things are likely to be tossed after we're gone – especially if it is unorganized – if we don't make our wishes known or communicate and share them while we can.

If it was worth the effort to research your ancestors, isn't it worth the effort to share some of the results with your family and the public? Think about what you've discovered about your ancestors from what others have left behind! The internet is loaded with web sites, blogs, libraries, historical societies and archives where you live or where your ancestors lived. If you have a special research topic, i.e., military, professional, fraternal, etc., find a library, museum, college or university that may have an interest in your research. At the very least, share your findings with family! I'm sure your ancestors never expected that four generations later, you would be looking for them!

My Sharing

After 17 years, it was time to do something with my piles of family history research. I finally realized that genealogy had become an obsession for me – and it is never done! There is always more to research, stories to tell, deaths, births, marriages, etc. to document, and life experiences to share.

A journalist by profession, I published my maternal family history, *“A Family Built on Banks and Walls: A History of the Ancestors and Descendants of Tilla Banks and Mack & Anna Wall of Holmes and Carroll Counties, Mississippi”* in 2011. It has been digitized and is available for reading or free downloading at www.familysearch.org.

By no means are family researchers expected to write a book! But, at some point, we should decide *when and what* to do with what we have discovered, properly documented and recorded.

There are lots of ways to do this: PowerPoint presentations, blogs, short stories, picture boards, newsletter articles, emails, donating your research papers and photos to archives, libraries, etc. Ancestry, FamilySearch, You Tube, Facebook, genealogical and historical societies and workshops offer advice on how best to share your particular family history.

Collaboration

Retirement in September 2018 and the COVID-19 pandemic created an ideal opportunity for me to help Frances tell her father’s story.

It was easier to produce her 60-page book, titled *Martin C. Kelley: A Life to Be Celebrated*, than my own. Frances provided and properly documented most of the research! After months of consultation, material reviews and further research, I wrote, edited and formatted the book several times before publication in August 2021 by 48-Hour Books, a national book publishing company in Akron, Ohio. It is available for \$19, including shipping and handling, by contacting Frances Kelley at 216-771-7920.

The book’s preface reveals why his life’s story is worthy of celebrating and sharing:

Martin C. Kelley was a visionary, a trailblazer and an influencer in the different realms that characterized his life. An African-American torchbearer in Cleveland’s social services, juvenile justice, and neighborhood revitalization institutions, his legacy also impacts the recreational fabric of black lives across the United States to this day... His life’s journey during some of the most challenging periods of civil discontent in African-American life allowed him to conjoin his professional and recreational passions for the betterment of people of color.

Frances donated copies of her book to The National Bowling Association, Cuyahoga County Archives, Allen County Public Library and Ohio History Connection.

AAGS ACTIVITIES

Supporting Genealogy In-House & In the Community



March 26, 2022 AAGS Meeting

“Cyndi’s List in Practice” Presented by **Cyndi Ingle**

With the sheer amount of information that is available on the Cyndi’s List website, it was perfect to have the person behind its development take the time to break down the mechanics of using the massive genealogical resource.

Cyndi (owner and webmaster) began this undertaking in 1996 to provide users with an easier way to research by categories.

She explained differences between her site and Google (including “deep” vs. general linking into collections and her work with webmasters to link multiple collections).

The site not only boasts a wide variety of standard research subjects, but uncommon topics as well. It also has educational sections for beginners through advanced researchers, along with plenty of references.



April 23, 2022 AAGS Meeting

“Using African-American Newspapers in Genealogy Research” Presented by **Timothy Pinnick**

It’s always a treat to have Tim join us. He’s the man with the answers to so many questions related to finding our ancestors using newspapers, such as:

- Names of major historically black papers (*Chicago Defender, Pittsburgh Courier, Baltimore African American*)
- Where to find historical papers?
- What information is usually recorded?
- What’s online; what’s not?

Tim also explained why black newspapers should be used in tandem with mainstream (white) newspapers to get the best results. He then detailed tips & strategies (outlined in his handout) that can be utilized.

He mentioned his most frequently asked question: Which newspaper resource is best? His reply: ALL of them; it depends on where your ancestors were focused.



May 28, 2022 AAGS Meeting

“Technology & Genealogy” Presented by **J. Mark Lowe**

Mark can be counted on to bring the expertise and experience necessary to steer learners in the right direction.

He opened by emphasizing that it’s important to find the tools that work for **you**. Sage advice.

He detailed numerous resources available to researchers (Internet Archive, Hathi Trust, Google Books and many others).

As participants made inquiries, he quickly assessed the questions & offered viable solutions.

A few comments from members:

- “I never even thought about the info available on maps!”
- “Great websites and information that I can put to use right away”
- “Excited about looking into much of this”

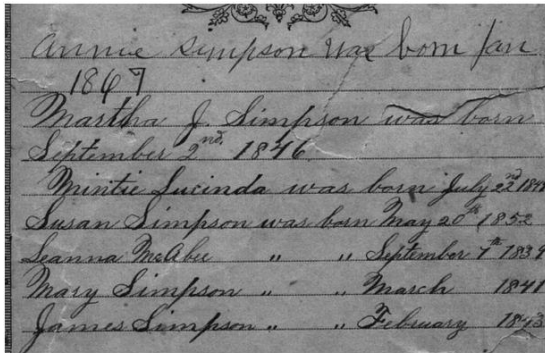
The handout was rich with info.

[Excerpt reprinted with permission from Robyn Smith of "Reclaiming Kin: Taking Back What Was Once Lost"]

Those Doggone Nicknames

August 2, 2021 | Written by Robyn Smith [researcher, writer, lecturer]

My collateral ancestor Mintie was called by her middle name Lucinda in almost every record during her lifetime *except* the bible record and one census:



Bible Page

112	Lucina Simpson	28	W	B
	Marriet S	11	W	B
	Mary "	9	W	B
	Abner W	7	W	B
	Joseph W	5	W	B
	Martha S	4	W	B
	Mintie S	21	W	B

Mintie, 1850

Nicknames, middle names and initials will get you every time in genealogical research. They still get me every now and then and it kinda drives me just a little bit crazy.

That's in addition to all the ways someone's name was misspelled or transcribed incorrectly. It all leads to the number one statement I hear from researchers: "I can't find [insert ancestor's name]. They just disappeared." Though some are indeed missing, others are just waiting to be found.

The Missing Game

Our ancestors were referred to in numerous ways which complicates our research. But understanding this basic fact can help us as we move forward reconstructing their lives.

Remember that our ancestors weren't filling out many of these records themselves. It is the census enumerator or a court clerk who is writing the information down.

Then there's the complication of what a person *heard* versus what was actual *said*. A heavy accent had me searching for the surname Murmon for several years, when the name was actually Merriman.

Being aware of these traps can help us to find our people. It's going to take much more time than just entering their names in a search box and saying "they aren't there" when any search comes up empty. I cannot stress this enough.

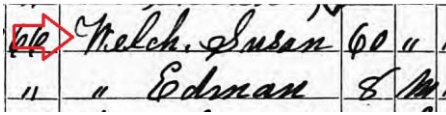
Examples

We should get in the habit of reading the actual census images. At least we should read through the district where we expect to find the person. This may be the district we found them in a different census year. I have lost count of how many ancestors I have found this way.

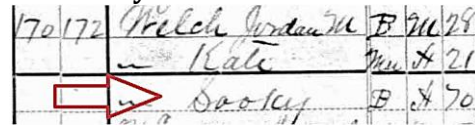
Be on the constant lookout for ancestors who will appear by their first name in one record, and by their nickname in others. It's easy to think of Billy as a nickname for William, but do we know to look for Daisy or Peggy for Margaret? Sally for Sarah?

One surprise I had in my research was discovering that the name Nace was a nickname for Nathaniel. I would have never figured that!

Nicknames can turn **Susan** in one record:



Into **Sooky** in another:



There are also those who used nicknames because their first name was just a mouthful. My collateral ancestor Phlenarie Holt (even I can't pronounce his name) ...decided he would just be Flynn Holt.

Middle Names

Probably even more common than nicknames are persons who appear in some records by their first name, and in others by their middle name as I mentioned with Mintie Lucinda.

My ancestor Mike Fendrick's wife was called Eliza in her marriage record and in the 1900 census, but called "Jane E" in 1880. And guess what? She was remembered by her descendants as Katie.

Closing Tips

All of this is easier said than done since at the time of our research we often don't know their middle names and nicknames. But as we research further, that should change.

- As those middle initials appear in the census and other records, record them and be sure to use them in future searches.
- Broaden your search to a wider variety of records, such as land, court and tax records. They will provide more names.
- Keep that list of nicknames nearby and be sure to search for them not just in the census, but in all other sources you research.
- Use not just Ancestry, but the free FamilySearch website to search for your ancestors in census and other records.
- Get in the habit of reading through the census neighborhood (the actual images).
- Make a timeline. A timeline can often reveal if one person is in records using different names.
- Record everything you search for and the results, *so that you won't repeat that search again.*
- Remember to search using just initials. Certain occupations, like the ministers in my family, were often referred to by their initials, especially in newspapers.

All of this keeps us on our toes and keeps us coming back for more, I suppose. There are certainly times I think I will *never* finish my research!

I think part of why we love genealogy so much is the satisfaction of solving even the tiniest of mysteries.

[See the full article, including more images, at <https://reclaimingkin.com/those-doggone-nicknames/>]

An Introduction to Browser Extensions

By Cecelia McFadden

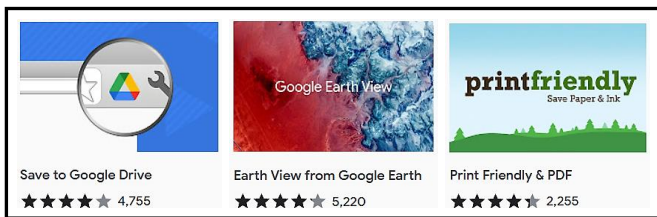
Our last newsletter article focused on digitization, its context and importance to family historians and genealogists. If you've started a digitization project, you're online and have used a browser to carry out your search objectives. Undoubtedly, you've gained some efficiencies by saving favorite online destinations using your browser's bookmark feature. Bookmarking *elevated your browser use beyond being a simple internet navigator*. This article builds your browser and tech knowledge through another concept overview: *browser extensions*.

Browser extensions may be obvious to readers that are Chrome™ users, but for other readers as well as Chrome™ fans, a context may be of benefit.

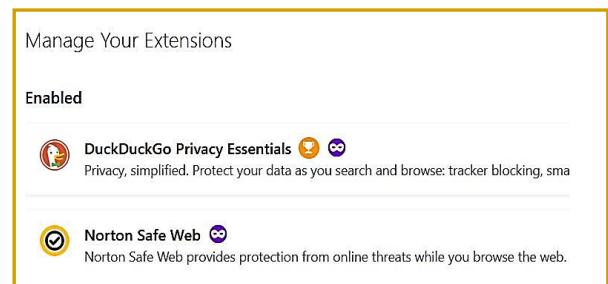
DEFINITION:
A browser extension is a small software module that easily customizes your web browser via download and automatic install

Examples:

Google Chrome™:



Mozilla Firefox™:



Apple Safari™:



Benefits. Browser extensions help researchers save time and be more efficient.

- First, a user no longer needs to click away from a browser location or open another tab to find certain information about a topic
- Second, extensions enable users to customize internet surfing which leads to increased access speed and greater convenience
- Third, browser extensions are inexpensive and many of the most popular are free
- Lastly, extensions flatten the user learning curve (less time spent learning the product)

Genealogy Extension Suggestions. Genealogy experts, YouTube™ videos and magazine articles all contain recommendations for the best browser extensions to enhance family history research. Some of the more popular extensions include MyBib™, RootsSearch®, Ancestry® to FamilySearch™, RevEye™ and Library Extension. These free extensions generate citations, find ancestor genealogy data across software and websites on the internet, bring FamilySearch™ data into Ancestry® without leaving the Ancestry® application, locate image duplicates, origins and metadata, and locate the library editions of book titles of note. More details on genealogy specific extensions can be found at the following links:

- <https://familytreemagazine.com/uncategorized/toolkit-quick-guide-browser-extensions/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3ulYdCqnIw>

More Information. The former material has been collated so that the reader can apply the data across their experiences and browser of choice.

It is important to note that, as of this writing, if your go-to genealogy software is Ancestry®, their browser support is limited to:

- Google Chrome™ and Mozilla Firefox™ for the desktop
- Google Chrome™ and Apple Safari™ for mobile

Major extension library choices include:

- Microsoft Edge™ for mobile and desktop
- Apple Safari™ for desktop and mobile
- Google Chrome™ for desktop and mobile
- Mozilla Firefox™ for mobile and desktop

Smaller extension libraries are available for smaller browser audiences, namely Opera and MoboTap Dolphin.

Conclusion. Whatever your choice, take the time to think about which extensions can save you time and increase your productivity. Make sure there's support available for your extension prior to downloading it. Read the customer reviews. Try a free version of an extension before upgrading to a paid one to validate your needs. Watch or read a tutorial about the extension if you're feeling tentative about installing a feature. Let us know how you're doing. Our email is newschair@aagsclev.org.

Happy surfing!



Identifying DNA Inheritance by Parent

Ancestry® Press Release (excerpt)

April 13, 2022

Ancestry® unveiled SideView™ technology, a first-of-its-kind scientific innovation that separates DNA into parental sides giving AncestryDNA® customers **new insights into which side of the family they inherited their genetics from.**

With more than 20 million people in its growing consumer DNA network, Ancestry is able to provide this type of genomic information **without requiring a parent to be tested.**

This process enables ethnicity inheritance, which informs a customer which side of the family they received each of their estimated ethnicities from.



Read the full press release at:

<https://www.ancestry.com/corporate/newsroom/press-releases/ancestry-introduces-sideview-first-its-kind-technology-gives-individuals>

Genealogy Groups on **f**acebook

Submitted by LaVera Wingfield:

Have you ever wondered whether your research would be easier if you knew someone else who is researching the same locale you are?

You can find such a list of researchers online. A professional genealogist by the name of Katherine R. Willson compiled a list of thousands of local research groups and has recently given them to Cyndi Ingle (of *Cyndi's List*) to maintain.

“Genealogy on Facebook List”
is currently at:

<https://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>

If, for instance you are researching Brookhaven, MS, there are two groups:

- 1) “African-American families & Genealogies of South Mississippi”
- 2) “I’ve Traced My Enslaved Ancestors and Their Owners”

Who knows? You may be able to find a cousin or two.

Happy Hunting!



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