

Kenosha County Genealogy Society



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SOUTHPORT ECHO

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MEETING TIME / PLACE

- **2nd Monday of the month**
Gateway Technical College
Inspire Center, Room I-131
3320-30th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53140
(NO MEETINGS JULY & AUGUST)
6:00pm Registration & Social Time
6:30pm Business Meeting
7:00pm Program
- Check our Website Calendar for the most up-to-date location at www.kengensoc.com

DID YOU PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

After October 30th, dues become \$20.00 for the year. Send checks to Dawn Best, 5722 69th St., Kenosha, WI 53142

Where Were the Pilgrims Really Going?



ANCESTRALFINDINGS.COM

We all know the story of the Pilgrims landing in Massachusetts and coming ashore on Plymouth Rock to start a new colony based on religious freedom, and having Thanksgiving giving thanks to God for his bounty and blessings with the local Natives. Every American school child is told this story early on in their educations. The story has some truths to it, but it leaves out a lot. It is basically the sanitized and simplified version of what really went

on when the Pilgrims came to America... a story suitable for children and one that instills pride in one's country, but leaving out the more harsh details of the tale. For example, the Pilgrims were coming here to practice religious freedom... their own; they were considered too radical in their interpretation of Christianity in England, but once in America, they would tolerate no other type of religious practice in their newly formed town. Further, the Pilgrims lost more than half the passengers of the Mayflower during the first hard winter in America and never would have made it through the cold months had it not been for the assistance of local Natives.

Another misconception taught to American children is that the Pilgrims were coming to Massachusetts on purpose. They were not. They were originally going to Virginia, which was already established as a thriving English colony and had English people ready and waiting there to assist them in getting started. Virginia was a commercial colony and was set up to operate as a corporation, sending back the riches they harvested from the New World in exchange for supplies sent regularly to them from England. As long as they were turning a profit for the crown, they were in good standing. To finance their trip to America, the Pilgrims had to form a for-profit corporation, too, and they knew the place for profit was Virginia.

So, why didn't the Pilgrims go to Virginia, where there would have been fellow countrymen waiting for them, and where they would have had a much easier time getting established in their own community? Why risk the lives of the men women, and children on board the Mayflower by settling in an unsettled wilderness?

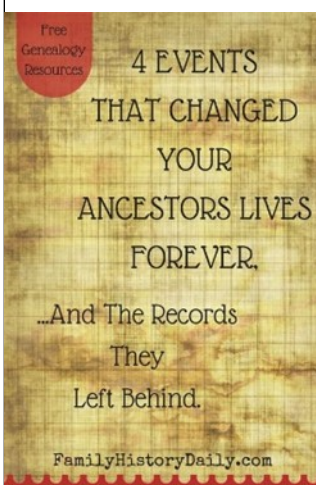
The answer is a combination of going off course and a change in the weather.

The shores of the eastern North American continent were still not extremely well known when the Pilgrims came in 1620. When they spotted land

after two months of misery at sea in a boat that was really too small for everyone who came on it, they realized they were too far north. The ship's captain and crew tried to find a way south, but got caught up in the many small, rocky waterways along the shores of New England. The extra time it took them to try to get out of that maze and follow the coast to Virginia put them dangerously close to winter, and the ship's captain wouldn't waste any more time trying to get the Pilgrims there. This was because the captain and crew intended to go right back to England after dropping off the Pilgrims, and they couldn't do that if they waited till winter was in full gear.

With no intention of wintering in the colonies, the captain dumped the Pilgrims off where they were, which was Massachusetts, then headed back home without them. The Pilgrims were left in a virtually empty wilderness where the local Native population was largely decimated from a plague that came through a few years previously. They made alliances with the few Natives who were left, and with their help, managed to get through the winter. In the spring, new ships from England came to find them and discovered they were already a blossoming town. To satisfy their corporate charter, the Pilgrims harvested resources, largely timber for the timber-poor England, and sent them back in exchange for a regular shipment of supplies.

Thus, the Pilgrims became established in Massachusetts. It was a lot harder than it would have been if they'd gone to Virginia, and they lost more people than if they'd been farther south. But for the ones who made it through that first winter, it was the beginning of a whole new life in the New World, and the establishment of the New England we know today.



1. ***Homestead Act of 1862 and the Opening of the American West Post Civil War***

Westward expansion of the United States provoked many changes as families in the Eastern seaboard and states to the immediate west of them pulled up stakes and headed out.

This movement has its origins in the Homestead Act of 1862, which provided around 160 acres of land to person(s) who could stay and improve the property for a minimum of five years.

To better understand how this important act may have influenced your family and to discover records for researching them please read:

- [Millions of Homestead Act \(and Other\) Land Records Are Free Online from the BLM](https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/blm-land-patents-homestead-act/) (<https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/blm-land-patents-homestead-act/>)
- [Were Your Ancestors American Pioneers? Here's How to Track Them Down Online](https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/ancestors-american-pioneers-heres-track-online/) (<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/ancestors-american-pioneers-heres-track-online/>)

2. ***The 1875 Supreme Court Decision in Henderson vs. Mayor of the City of New York***

In 1875, the Supreme Court decision, Henderson vs. Mayor of the City of New York, transferred control of immigration from the States to the Federal Government for the first time.

The aftermath brought about the U.S. Government's first standardized program for immigration, which helped bring about the immigration centers – such as Castle Garden, Ellis Island and Angel Island – that handled the mass immigration we saw in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Use the articles below to discover how to find your immigrant ancestors online for free.

3. ***1918 Flu Pandemic***

While these days the thought of a massive influenza outbreak is usually far from our minds, the 1918 Flu Pandemic was very real to our ancestors. Claiming more lives than WW1, this pandemic swept through more than 500 million people, nearly a third of the world's population at the time, and killed between 20-50 million. Family History Daily writer Susan Wallin Mosey discusses this in her article [More Died from Flu than Bullets](https://familyhistorydaily.com/personal-genealogy-stories/died-flu-bullets/) at <https://familyhistorydaily.com/personal-genealogy-stories/died-flu-bullets/>.

Use the following sites to get background information on details on this pandemic and better understand how it may have influenced your family.

- [U.S. National Archives Digital Exhibit on the 1918 Influenza Outbreak](https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/influenza-epidemic/) (<https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/influenza-epidemic/>)
- [Naval History and Heritage Command, Flu Records and Information](https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/i/influenza/influenza-of-1918-spanish-flu-and-the-us-navy.html) (<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/i/influenza/influenza-of-1918-spanish-flu-and-the-us-navy.html>)

- [Pennsylvania 1918 Influenza Epidemic Records and Details](https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/1918-Influenza-Epidemic.aspx) (<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/1918-Influenza-Epidemic.aspx>)
- [Genealogical Musings: 1918 Flu Pandemic Research Examples](https://genealogical-musings.blogspot.com/2012/10/1918-flu-pandemic.html) (<https://genealogical-musings.blogspot.com/2012/10/1918-flu-pandemic.html>)
- [Influenza Encyclopedia: The American Influenza Epidemic 1918-1919](http://www.influenzaarchive.org/) (<http://www.influenzaarchive.org/>)

4. Formation of The Works Progress Administration (WPA) and The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

The Great Depression and the aftermath radically changed the United States. If you've done any amount of genealogy research for your 20th century relatives, more than likely these years have been quite interesting to learn about.

One important part of the Depression era were the many government relief programs created as part of the New Deal (read more about these many programs at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Deal) –including the Works Progress Administration (WPA) (1935-1943) and the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC (1933-1942). Due to the impact that the Depression had on many families, and the expansive nature of the New Deal programs that put people to work, more than likely someone in your family's past was involved with these programs in some way.

Editor's Note: Work for the CCC, the WPA and other New Deal programs was often listed when looking at state census records and the 1940 Federal Census so don't forget to check your ancestors' occupations.

The WPA provided jobs to 8.5 million people who were unemployed during the Great Depression during its years of operation. These people included women (although their numbers were less than 15%). A huge range of unskilled, skilled and professional work was completed under this program.

One fascinating project of the WPA, the Historical Records Survey, was responsible for creating inventories, indexes and transcriptions of historical records – records still being used by genealogists in different forms today. WPA was also involved in creating such vital initiatives as the Federal Writers' Project Slave Narratives – information about this collection can be found at <https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection/>.

If you think one of your ancestors was involved in WPA

work you can find information on Personnel Records kept by the National Archives at <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/civilian-personnel/wpa-holdings-access>.

The CCC, which was a separate New Deal program that was later partially managed by the WPA) was composed of work camps focused on assisting unmarried men ages 18-25 with jobs. Public work functions such as land clearing, bridge building, road construction and other public infrastructure tasks were accomplished.

Try the following links for details and information on those who served in this capacity:

- [U.S. National Archives Personnel Records and Holdings on the CCC](https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/civilian-personnel/ccc-holdings-access) (<https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/civilian-personnel/ccc-holdings-access>)
- [Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy](https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/civilian-personnel/ccc-holdings-access) (<https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/civilian-personnel/ccc-holdings-access>)
- [Flickr's Set of Photos from OPB's Oregon Experience on the Civilian Conservation Corp](https://www.flickr.com/photos/osucommons/sets/72157613061881243/) (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/osucommons/sets/72157613061881243/>)

When discovering our ancestors, it's easy to hit the big databases and family trees that we find online or easily share between our family members. However, by focusing our research on historical time periods or those epoch events that might have happened during our ancestor's lives quite often we can extract unknown gold that can prove quite fruitful. Consider these events and see what you can find!

Tombstone Project — Sunset Ridge Cemetery COMPLETED on September 28, 2018 by volunteers:



Suzanne Dibble
Jim Hackett
Tammy Prell
Judy Uelmen



Lois Fuller
Brenda Lambert Miller
Joan Murphy
Kathy Nuernberg
Bob Finnegan
David Corey-Missing
Oren Simpson-Missing

Were Your Ancestors American Pioneers? Here's How to Track Them Down Online

By Tony Bandy, *Family History Daily*

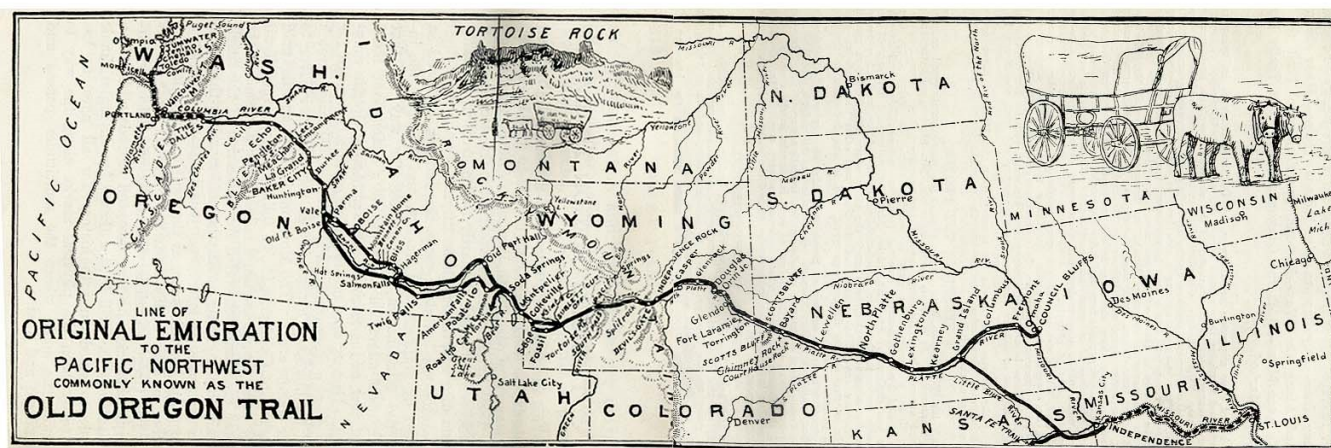
From Conestoga wagons on long, dusty trails to pioneers struggling for success on a homestead in Oregon – America's westward expansion in the latter part of the 1800's has long held promise for genealogists.

There's a lot to consider when investigating your ancestor's movement into the American West, primarily because no singular resource or database has it all. In fact, the sheer number of options in this category can make for some very trying research, especially if you are new to the topic.

Tracking Down American Pioneers

If you're wondering where to start, what to search, or how to separate fact from fiction – here are some basic facts and solid sources to help you on the way to success.

Before beginning your research in online indexes, databases, or primary source materials, it's important to have a grasp of the basic trail systems that lead East to West in the mid-to-late 19th Century. **You will want to note is that there were networks of trails, roads, and paths split up between the northern part of the United States and the southern part, and not just one or two.**



The Oregon Trail, Mormon Pioneer Overland Trail, and California Trail were highly popular with northern emigrants; in the southern part of the U.S., trails with names such as the Santa Fe, the Old Spanish Trail, and the Southern Emigrant Trail were used.

If you are new to this information, it is important to take note of what trails led where and your ancestor's interaction with them. You can learn more about the basics of these trails here, including important background information and facts about the small towns or settlements travelers may have encountered along the way.

Next, you will want to locate resources that have the information specific to *your* family's movements westward:

You might consider starting at a familiar location such as Ancestry or other paid sites, all of which do have some collected records on this topic – as in the case of [Ancestry's California, Pioneer and Immigrant Files](#). However, this can be an expensive route initially if you do not already have a subscription.

You can also try [the resources at FamilySearch for some excellent free information](#). For your best bet, however, consider starting with either (or both) [HathiTrust](#) or the [Internet Archive](#).

At HathiTrust, you can search either by full-text or category such as author, title or subject. Consider starting with some basic searches first – such as “emigrant trail,” “wagon trail,” “pioneer genealogy” or others to retrieve initial record sets.

From here, you can find new keywords or other data that can be used too with your favorite search engine (or even within HathiTrust) to uncover even more information.

Using this method, I was able to gain access to rich sources such as [The Trail Blazers: Historical and Genealogical Record of Early Pioneer Families of Oregon, Missouri and the South](#) and [Early Days in Kansas](#). In each of

these, I could find details on surnames and family information, trip and trail details, and other tidbits of helpful information.

At Internet Archive – a familiar site to many genealogists, a similar search approach can prove fruitful. Try the same keyword search and include specific trail and other information, if you can, in order to retrieve sources such as:

- An Excursion to California Over the Prairie, Rocky Mountains, and Great Sierra Nevada
- The gold seekers of '49; a personal narrative of the overland trail and adventures in California and Oregon from 1849 to 1854.
- The Great Salt Lake Trail.
- Virginia City and Lewiston Wagon Road

It may take a fair amount of research time to pull this all together, but with millions of digitized book, maps, and serials available, you could absolutely find success – especially with some primary source information from persons who lived during this time.

The key here is to extract as much information as possible from the sites above before proceeding to the second set of resources.

Secondary resources can be gained by using your favorite search engine to retrieve results from general sites available across the Internet. This runs the gamut from personal sites to academic, governmental, and more.

Be careful with the sites that you do find, especially with outdated information and sites that may not be legitimate. **Always try to verify any information that you find though multiple sources whenever possible.** That being said, you can certainly find many good sites offering both general and more specific information on westward expansion – much of which you may be able to connect with your family's specific journey.

Here are few particularly helpful places to check out first:

- Roster of California Pioneers (The Native Daughters of the Golden West)
- The Oregon Territory and Its Pioneers
- Society of California Pioneers
- Digital Public Library of America
- Bureau of Land Management Homestead Act Records

As with most of these secondary sources, you may find multiple records and detailed information or maybe just a surname or two. The real value comes when cross-checking the data you find at these locations with a detailed keyword search on HathiTrust or the Internet Archive – this should help you verify, or expand on, your re-

search.

While it can be easy these days to get used to huge databases or easy search methods when looking for our ancestors, when it comes to connecting America's westward expansion to your family history, this is often not the case. While it may not always be quick or easy, by slowing down and taking advantage of all available resources, you are bound to find something worth your while.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 3, 2018—NWSGS — DNA Doubleheader with Robert Sliwinski at Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights. For additional information, visit <https://www.nwsgenealogy.org/meetings/>

November 8, 2018-MCIGS, 7–8:30pm “Ancestry.com Library Edition” presented by Jane Haldeman. Ancestry.com, one of the largest genealogy sites, offers a wide variety of resources for the genealogist. This continually evolving website can be personalized to suit the needs of the researcher. Jane will discuss tips and tricks for using the library version of Ancestry.com, including ideas for easy navigation and successful searches at *The Pointe, Crystal Lake, IL*. For more information. Visit <http://www.mcigs.org>.

November 10, 2018 CAGGNI Internet SIG, 10:30-12:30pm. Internet Genealogical Services include Ancestry, Family Search, My Heritage, Mind My Past, WikiTree and many others. The Internet Special Interest Group intends to review questions about these services and have a dialog on the advantages and features of the services used by members. This complements the features available from computer programs such as Family Tree Make or RootsMagic that exploit the on-line databases available from the internet services. Facilitator: Alan Wilson. Program held at Schaumburg Public Library, 130 S. Roselle Road, Classroom-2nd floor, Schaumburg, IL. For more information visit: <https://caggni.wildapricot.org/OtherGenealogyEvents>

November 10, 2018-LCIGS, 8-3:30pm–26th Annual Genealogical Workshop at the University Center of Lake County, 1200 University Center Drive, Grayslake, IL. To register: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z9FC6_XuNwE3bmpYUX4IsjCnFrUecZho/view

November 14, 2018, BURL, 6:00pm, “Military Genealogy Research”. *Members are invited to research someone on their tree with military service, and share their research and how & where they found information with at least 2 or more items(or copies) of story evidence: photos, maps, military registrations, documents, reports, family stories. Public welcome to attend and hear these interesting stories and research techniques. At Gateway Center, 496 McCanna Parkway, Burlington, WI. For more Information, visit <https://burlingtongenealogical.weebly.com/> (Con't P.6)*

November 14, 2018 MPAFUG, 7:00pm — “TOPICS: “GENUKI Great Britain UK and Irish Research” by Bob Tatalovich and “Irish Church Records On-Line” by Bob Heck at Klemmer’s Banquet Center, 10401 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI. For additional information, visit <http://www.mpfug.org>.

November 17, 2018 BIGWILL, 10:00am–Noon, “Compiling Your Medical Tree” will be presented by Marsha Peterson-Maass. Compiling your medical family tree might be easier than you think even if you don’t have formal medical or genealogical training. This lecture provides a basic understanding of what’s crucial in compiling a Medical Family Tree chart and Predisposition Results Sheet. We’ll also explore both traditional genealogical research methods to find family health records along with what today’s commercially available medical DNA test results can offer. Genealogists are often amazed to discover that they might already possess many records that yield this family medical information. Topics are covered in the textbooks *Fundamentals of Genealogy: Medical Family Tree Workbook* and *Fundamentals of Genealogy: Basics for Everyone*.

November 17, 2018, CAGGNI, 10:30-12:30pm, “General Charles Gates Dawes: the 100th Anniversary of WWI and Holiday Party”. Chicago actor RJ Lindsey portrays WWI General Charles G. Dawes narrating a slide program detailing European royal families’ lineage, their politics and alliances which plunged the world into the Great War. With animated battle maps, Dawes examines major Western Front battles including the critical American victories. The General relates stories of several important political and military participants who will return for WWII. Program held at Schaumburg Public Library, 130 S. Roselle Road, Classroom-2nd floor, Schaumburg, IL. For more information visit: <https://caggni.wildapricot.org/OtherGenealogyEvents>

Surname Project

To keep the KCGS Surname list current and up to date, please remember to submit any additional surnames to Dawn Best at the KCGS monthly meetings or via email at: dawnb23@mail.com.

Be sure to check out the surname list on our website at www.kengensoc.com.

Spotlight on Surnames being researched:

Best	Foster	Jossart
Chiappetta	Giles	Kinnavy
Dibble	Hodges	Uelmen

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SOCIETY ABBREVIATIONS

CAGGNI—Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois

CGS—Chicago Genealogical Society

ILZGS—Zion Genealogical Society

ISGS—Illinois State Genealogical Society

LCIGS—Lake County (IL) Genealogical Society

MCHS—Milwaukee County Historical Society

MCIGS—McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society

MPAFUG—Milwaukee PAF Users Group

NSGS—North Suburban Genealogy Society

NWGS—Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society

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