



**Madison County
Genealogical Society,
Box 631, Edwardsville, IL
62025-0631**

DUES 2024:

Indiv/Fam.....\$25.00
Institutional\$25.00
Patron.....\$35.00
Life.....\$300.00
Checks (USA only) payable to
MCGS. Membership cards sent if
SASE is enclosed with check.
Dues are due Dec. 31, delinquent
Jan. 31 each year.

**MCGS WEBSITE:
sites.rootsweb.com/
~ilmadcg**

**LIBRARY WEBSITE:
www.edwardsvillelibrary.org**

**LIBRARY E-MAIL:
ede@edwardsvillelibrary.org**

OFFICERS:
Pres.: Robert Ridenour
rwridenour566@gmail.com
V. Pres.: Mary Westerhold
mtw127@gmail.com
Corres. Sec.: Lynn Engelman
lae21@verizon.net
Rec. Sec.: Rose Mary Oglesby
roglesby25@yahoo.com
Treas.: Ferne Ridenour
faridenour@gmail.com
Newsletter: Robert Ridenour
rwridenour566@gmail.com
Quarterly: Mary Westerhold
mtw127@gmail.com
Librarian: Mary Westerhold
mtw127@gmail.com
Researcher: David Axtell
david.axtell@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

Volume 44 Number 3 Fall 2024

DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES!

Dues for 2024 are now being accepted. We would very much appreciate receiving your renewal checks ASAP. Send your renewal checks to:

***Ferne Ridenour, MCGS Treasurer
4814 Loop Road
Dorsey, IL 62021-1014***

Death of a Life Member – JANE FLAHERTY



The Reverend Jane Frances Flaherty, age 84, died May 16, 2024, at Liberty Village in Jerseyville, Illinois.

Born June 29, 1939, in Alton, she was the daughter of Frank and Julia (Schula) Flaherty. After their death, she was raised by Harry and Rose (Schula) Scoggins.

Jane attended St. Bernard's School in Wood River and Marquette High School in Alton. She graduated from Notre Dame High School in St. Louis, Missouri. She earned an M.A. from St. Louis University, an Ed.D from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and a Masters of Divinity from The General Theological Seminary in New York City.

As Sister Mary Fidelis, she taught in Catholic schools in St. Louis and taught in the Voluntary Improvement Program (VIP) at St. Bridget's Church, established and administered a VIP program at St. Theresa's Church in St. Louis.

After moving to New Jersey in 1969, she worked for the New Jersey Department of Education at Newark State College, supervising adult education teachers and training teachers for the Plainfield Public Schools as an Administrator of Adult Education, and for the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey, as an administrator of the College Level Examination Program (CLEP).

After graduating from General Theological Seminary, she was ordained as a Deacon in 1991 and as a Priest in 1992. She served at Trinity Episcopal Church, Moorestown, New Jersey, and at St. Christopher Episcopal Church, Portsmouth, Virginia. She also served as Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

After retiring in 2004, she returned to Alton, Illinois, where she attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church. During this time, she volunteered to teach Bible Study and conducted weekly services at Trinity Chapel.

She was a Life Member of the Madison County Genealogical Society.

She is preceded in death by her parents, and her aunt and uncle, Harry and Rose Scoggins.

She is survived by her sister, Mary Jane Magee and her husband Pat of California; her cousin Janet (Scoggins) Francis and her husband Bill of Alton; her cousin Jim Scoggins and his wife Rosemary of Florida; their children and grandchildren.

Following cremation, a memorial Mass and Eucharist was celebrated at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, June 28, 2024

MCGS Meeting July 2024

The latest meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society was held on Sunday, July 21, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Edwardsville Public Library

Our speaker was Edwardsville-based author and writer, Cheryl Eichar Jett. She spoke on the subject of her recent book:

Form Follows Function: How to Structure a Nonfiction Book

Edwardsville-based author and writer Cheryl Eichar Jett borrows principles from the disciplines of architecture and design to help guide writers with organizing their material logically and effectively according to the intended purpose of their book. Jett demonstrates using the initial questions, or steps, in creating a building design as inspiration for exploring different ways of structuring a nonfiction book. She also discusses the use of specific criteria to sort what does and doesn't get included in your final book manuscript. A list of various approaches to organizing your content plus a list of useful websites gives attendees resources. Whether a family history, genealogical record, memoir, how-to, travel guide, cookbook, or some other type of nonfiction book, Form Follows Function offers a logical method of organizing content into an artfully planned book.

Her presentation can be found on the MCGS Facebook page: **Madison County Genealogical Society of Illinois.**

Cheryl Eichar Jett is the author of six books for Arcadia Publishing plus a chapter in a forthcoming Route 66 Centennial anthology, in addition to hundreds of articles (travel, Route 66, women's history) in numerous publications, including the popular travel and Americana magazine *ROUTE*. She is also an occasional playwright and award-winning short fiction writer and holds a graduate degree in history from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She is currently working on an Illinois travel book and a multi-year project book focusing on the legacy of women's work on historic Route 66. In 2015, she established the Miles of Possibility Route 66 Conference, which travels annually along Illinois Route 66 and in 2024 will be hosted in Edwardsville. She can be reached by email at: ***cheryleicharjett.com***

“Cluster Genealogy: Broadening the Scope”

by Emily Anne Croom

“Cluster genealogy is the idea that ancestors did not live in a vacuum but in a cluster of relatives, neighbors, friends, and associates. Studying the history of one person naturally puts the researcher in contact with members of this group, as witnesses to each other’s documents, as neighbors, as in-laws, as fraternal brothers and sisters, as business partners or clients, and so forth. Our ancestors often migrated in family groups, as church congregations, or as a group of neighbors. They often lived very close to other family members. They worshipped with, went to war with, bought land from, and were buried near friends and relatives. Although we may not know the names of this group when we begin researching a focus ancestor, we must train ourselves to look for its members.

Some researchers call this the “whole family” approach or the “big picture” approach. Regardless of the name, the principle is the same: We cannot have long-term success if we limit ourselves to a one-name/one-person approach.

When research begins on a focus ancestor, the genealogist may know nothing more than the ancestor’s name, with perhaps a date and place of marriage or an entry on a census record. If applicable, after 1850, the next effort is often to find that person in the context of a family in other census records. Then we move to other basic sources – such as vital records, wills and probate files, family Bibles, church records, and newspaper obituaries – to find names, dates, places, and relationships in the life of the target ancestor. We branch out into land records, military and pension files, naturalization documents, and other sources that sometimes identify the spouse, children, birth and death information, or parents.

We compile at least two family group sheets from this information: one with the focus ancestor as a parent in a family, the other with the ancestor as a child. These two nuclear families are the beginning of, and an important part of, the ancestor’s cluster. Sometimes these charts are all we need to move back in time to the parent and grandparent generations.

When we cannot find direct statements of the events, names, dates, places, and relationships we need for our focus ancestor, we search for clues and evidence wherever we can find them to get the answers indirectly. The cluster is often the path toward these clues. Some clusters provide more help than others, and some are easier to identify than others. However, one thing is certain: a researcher has a much greater chance of success when studying the cluster than when clinging to one name as the sole subject of the research. The progress report in chapter seven and the case studies in chapters ten and eleven [of Croom’s book, *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists*] are examples of the use of cluster genealogy to find answers.

WHY THE CLUSTER?

Why is the cluster approach necessary? For those who have never tried this approach or have not yet needed it to build pedigree charts, some convincing is often in order. Mostly, we use the cluster approach because we want solutions. As in mystery stories, the family and close associates may hold the key to the answer. True, some of the people you will research with this approach may not be related to you. However, if you stick stubbornly to a one-name-only approach, you may end up claiming as ancestors people not related to you.

Consider these reasons for the cluster approach:

In family papers and oral traditions, each child may remember or record different facts about a parent; we put the facts together to get a more complete picture.

1. For some ancestors, answers are simply not found in documents they themselves created. If Major Grace sells his land to Stark Brown, he may not mention that he inherited his land from his father. However, when Stark Brown sells the same land to Pleasant Luster, the deed may name Major’s father as the original patentee of the land.

2. Some ancestors left few records themselves; the only way to learn about them is through records that others created. One Mississippi man “disappeared” for a few years from his researcher; then, in someone else’s diary, she found that he had gone to California during the gold rush. Ancestors who owned no land, for instance, will not usually appear in the deed books, except maybe as witnesses to others’ transactions. Why were they asked to be a witness? Maybe the seller was a brother-in-law, a cousin, or the nearest neighbor. The other person’s transaction places the ancestor in that place at that time, alive. That one piece of information is sometimes very important.

3. When several people by the same name lived in the same county at the same time, their nuclear families and close associates are sometimes the keys to sorting them out. We want to find the right elusive ancestor, not just anybody by the same name.

WHO IS THE CLUSTER?

When you run into that old brick wall in your search, what are your options? Give up on that line and go to one likely to have more information readily available? Get on the Internet with query after query: “I need the parents, grandparents, wife’s maiden name, birth date and birthplace, and names of in-laws of Donald Doe of Whatever County, Iowa. I’ve looked everywhere, and all I can find is that he came to Iowa as a young man just after the Civil War. Will share information”?

A query such as this says several things: (1) The descendant may have little or nothing of substance to share in return, (2) the descendant probably has not looked everywhere, and (3) the descendant may not have a clue of what to try next. That is not an uncommon predicament for researchers at some point along the way. What about the option of researching for the next of kin?

The would-be researcher in the query needs to list everything known about the ancestor and make a research plan. This time, it is cluster time. The disclaimer is that some searches do come to a real dead end before you are ready, but the good news is that many tough searches can be solved. The successful ones often involve the cluster. The cluster includes the next of kin, extended family, neighbors, friends, associates, and other people of the same surname.”

The foregoing article was excerpted from Chapter Three of *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research*, by Emily Anne Croom, published by Genealogical Publishing Company. *The Sleuth Book* contains some excellent suggestions for scaling brick walls.

Spelling and Your Ancestors by Val Greenwood

[The following article is excerpted from Val Greenwood’s acclaimed textbook, The Researcher’s Guide to American Genealogy, 4th Edition, pp.32-35.]

“The use of phonetic spellings and the lack of conventional spellings can be thorny problems. If you go back just 150 years (or even less), a significant percentage of the U.S. population could not read, more still could not write (many could write only their own names), and even more could not spell. Most of those who did write were not concerned with so-called standard spellings; they spelled words as they sounded — phonetically — and as skewed by their local accents. Also, insofar as accents are concerned, remember that the early settlers of America came from many foreign lands. When a record was made, the writer wrote what he heard, accent and all. Also, remember that standardized spellings are a recent phenomenon. (Note that all examples of various documents in this book have retained original spellings.)

What is the significance of these facts? It means that, as researchers, we need the ability to decipher writings with unique spellings in the unfamiliar handwriting of many different scribes. You will oftentimes be called upon to decipher scripts in which you will puzzle over simple words just because they are misspelled and written in an unfamiliar hand.

Another problem quite surprising to the uninitiated is the multitude of spelling variations in names (especially surnames) and places. In his will made in 1754 in Pasquotank County, North Carolina, Jeremiah Wilcox’s family name is spelled two different ways — Willcox and Willcocks. In other documents it is spelled still other ways — Wilcox, Wilcocks, Welcox, Wellcocks, Welcocks, etc. Because Jeremiah could not write (he made a mark for his signature), he had no idea about the correct spelling of his name, if it was ever being spelled correctly, or if there even was a correct spelling. The spelling of his name was entirely at the mercy of the person who chanced to write it.

Jeremiah Wilcox’s situation illustrates the fallacy of believing, as so many people do today, that if a name is not spelled in a certain way, those persons with different spellings have no connection to our family. By embracing this false notion, they overlook much valuable family history information. We must not worry if a name is spelled with an “a” rather than an “e,” with an “ie” rather than a “y,” or with only one “n”. Of course, the connection to our family is not guaranteed, but neither is it guaranteed even when the spellings are the same. In both cases, we have to do the research and carefully weigh the evidence.

While we are discussing the spelling issue, I want to return to the subject of indexes and how we search them. When searching an index, we must consider every possible spelling of the name we seek. It is so very easy to overlook some of the less logical (to us) possibilities and thus neglect many valuable records. Because local dialects and foreign accents often make a significant difference, the pronunciation of a name might have been quite different in Massachusetts than in Georgia, and so might the way it is spelled in the records.

In legal practice, there is a rule called the Rule of “Idem Sonans.” This rule says (and this is complicated) that in order to establish legal proof of relationship from documentary evidence it is not necessary for the name to be spelled absolutely accurately if, as spelled, it conveys to the ear, when pronounced in the accepted ways, a sound practically identical to the correctly spelled name as properly pronounced.

Several years ago, I worked on a problem where the family’s surname was spelled twenty-four different ways in the very same locality. Some of those variant spellings even began with different letters of the alphabet. The correct spelling of the name (supposedly) was “Ingold,” but the following variations were found: Ingle, Ingell, Ingles, Ingells, Ingel, Ingels, Ingeld, Inkle, Inkles, Inkell, Ingolde, Engold, Engle, Engell, Engles, Engel, Engels, Engeld, Angold, Angle, and Ankold. Would you have considered all of these? Or would you have stopped with those beginning with the letter “I” — or even all of those listed?

Other spelling possibilities are Jugold and Jugle. Such variations could easily occur in an index because of the similarities between the capital I’s and J’s and the small n’s and u’s. There may also be other logical possibilities.

Another family changed the spelling of its name from Beatty to Baitey when moving from one locality to another. In another instance, the name Kerr was found interchanged with Carr. Whether these spelling changes were intentional is unknown, but intention makes little difference. In one family three brothers deliberately spelled their family surname differently — Matlock, Matlack, and Matlick — which is actually quite common, even in our day. In his history of the Zabriskie family, George O. Zabriskie reported having found 123 variations of Zabriskie, though not all in the same locality or same time period — and I should mention that many of these were not in the U.S.”

If you found this excerpt fascinating — and helpful — you might want to take a closer look at Val Greenwood’s handy textbook. Among other things, *The Researcher’s Guide to American Genealogy, 4th Edition* contains an in-depth discussion of death and other vital records in the U.S., including where and how to find them. It also includes a chapter on the property rights of women, a revised chapter on the evaluation of genealogical evidence, and new chapters on Internet databases and DNA. Arguably the best book ever written on American genealogy, it is the text of choice in colleges and universities or wherever courses in American genealogy are taught.

Finding US Vital Records Online
by
Gena Philibert-Ortega
Internet Genealogy and Your Genealogy Today author

I am a huge fan of the website <https://www.deathindexes.com/> for links to U.S. death record resources. You can search by state and then county for links to both free and fee-based websites. Do not forget to click on the link to the **Obituaries Guide** for obituary indexes and websites for religious groups, physicians, firefighters, and police officers. The link for **Genealogy Records & Resources** found at the bottom, next to the **Obituaries Guide** link, includes other website links and research guides that that can assist you in your research, including **U.S. Census Records Mortality Schedules 1850-1880**, **Records of Deaths of U.S. Citizens in Foreign Countries and the Panama Canal Zone**, and the **Online Death Indexes and Records for Canada**.

Delayed & Corrected Birth Records **by William Dollarhide**

Sources for learning the names of a person's parents that may be overlooked, such as corrected or delayed birth records, are extraordinary vital records. Consider the following story.

Growing up, the story of my father's birth was repeated in my family often. Albert Dollarhide was born in April 1905 while his parents, John and Addie Dollarhide, and their eight children were en route from Northern California to Southeast Washington. The family was engaged in a 500-mile trip to a new homestead, traveling via two horse-drawn wagons at a rate of about 25 miles per day. The birth took place in the town of Oakland, Oregon, less than a third of the way to their destination. There was no hospital in town, but they did find the local doctor's home in time for the delivery. Apparently, the birth delayed the family's journey for only a couple of days, and they continued on their way.

Dad was raised in Columbia County, Washington, on a homestead farm a few miles south of Dayton. He never went back to Oregon until he was an adult, but since he was born in Oregon, that is where his birth was officially recorded. A birth certificate was prepared and filed by the local doctor at the Douglas County Courthouse, and a record copy of the certificate was sent by Douglas County to the Oregon State Vital Statistics office in Portland.

One of my early genealogical tasks was to request and receive a photostatic copy of my father's original birth certificate from the state of Oregon. It was a real disappointment. Except for the place and date of birth, the birth certificate was incomplete and nearly useless as genealogical evidence. There was no name for the child or mother, just a name for the father as (blank) Dollarhide. The date of birth was correct, but most of the spaces were filled in with the words "don't know" by the attending physician. The doctor who filled in the certificate did manage to write a few words of explanation at the bottom, which said, "These people left the county soon after the birth of this child."

After my father died in 1977, I learned about a packet of papers wrapped in a brown paper bag that my mother had preserved. The packet of papers was stored for safe keeping in the freezer compartment of mother's refrigerator (Mom said she got the idea from *Reader's Digest*). For some reason, Dad had saved several items that were to be very useful to me, such as old driver's licenses, insurance papers, and various membership cards. Also included with the papers was a copy of his original birth certificate, but to my surprise, another document was attached to the birth certificate, entitled, "Affidavit For Correction of a Record." This document corrected every missing item on the original birth certificate! Items corrected included the child's full name, date and place of birth, full maiden name of mother and her birthplace, and full name of father and his birthplace. Until the discovery of this corrected birth record, all references to the maiden name of my father's mother had come from personal interviews. This was the first written evidence of that name!

I still don't know all the details of how and why this document was created, but apparently, my father was encouraged to file an official correction to his birth certificate. He may have intended to file the correction in Oregon, but somehow managed to file it in California instead. The affidavit was a form printed at the top with "State of Oregon, County of Multnomah" but those words were crossed out and added below were the typed words, "California, Humboldt County." The form was notarized and dated 25 August 1944. The correction affidavit form was witnessed by his sister, Mrs. Dewie Fernleaf, who lived in Eureka, California, and which may be the reason it was filed in California instead of Oregon. But I did not know it was possible to file a corrected birth record in a county (or state) different than the place where the birth had occurred.

I have become curious about this process, but I have made only a cursory review of what the rules are for corrected or delayed birth certificates. The rules seem to differ for each state. Obviously, there are some states where a corrected or delayed birth certificate can be filed at a county courthouse without regard for the place of birth of the person in question. But, there are other states where the correction or delayed birth registration must be done in the same state of birth. Florida, as an example, is one state where the corrected or delayed birth registration must be done in the same county of birth.

Delayed Birth Records

It was during the late 1930s and early 1940s that the federal government encouraged people to register delayed birth records. The advent of Social Security, which began in 1935, was an important inducement for people to have a written proof of their birth, and a delayed birth record was a way of doing that. Regular birth records are usually recorded first at a town, city, or county office, and a record copy of the original record is then sent to a state's vital statistics office. However, genealogists may discover that delayed birth certificates are only available at the county level and copies of them never made it to the state office.

My grandfather, Elmer Ross Wiles, turned 65 years old in 1941. His eligibility for a Social Security pension required that he have some proof of his birth, but Elmer never had a birth certificate on file. So, he obtained a delayed birth certificate from the place he was born. The delayed birth certificate he requested was issued by the Clerk of the District Court of Union County, Iowa, after he provided several photostatic copies of items attesting to his birth date and place, including a notarized copy of a page from a family Bible, and signatures of relatives who acted as witnesses. That delayed birth registration is still recorded in Union County, Iowa, today, but to my knowledge there is no copy of that delayed birth record at the Iowa State Vital Statistics unit in Des Moines. I would never have found a copy of Elmer Wiles' delayed birth registration without checking the sources available at the Union County Courthouse in Creston, Iowa. And, that delayed birth record gave the exact maiden name of Elmer Wiles' mother, evidence that I may not have found from other sources.

Hopefully, these illustrations will get you to check all the available, and sometimes forgotten sources. If you have bombed out on locating the birth certificate for a person, do not give up – there may be a corrected or delayed birth certificate on file somewhere. Start at the county of birth, rather than the state of birth. Most counties in the U.S. have their earliest birth records on microfilm, and these images are being systematically digitized for free use on the Internet (by the Family History Library of Salt Lake City, Utah). My investigations in many counties reveal that when there is a set of "Delayed Birth Certificates" in any county, they are always included with the regular birth records on microfilm. So, the first place to look for delayed birth records is a place search in the Family History Library Catalog at www.familysearch.org. Corrected records, however, are filed in various ways at county courthouses, depending on the state. Find these records by doing a general search of records *by title* at any county of the U.S.

Handling Secrets & Sensitivities When Writing Family Histories

by

Michael J. Leclerc, CG

(Excerpted from Michael J. Leclerc, "Crafting Family Histories," Elizabeth Shown Mills, ed., Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2018), 519–44.)

Writing family histories is one of the most meaningful ways we can communicate the results of our research to our family members and even ourselves. Our projects can be large or small. We can present family history as blog posts, books, journal articles, or privately shared biographies and family sketches. Across this variety, there do exist certain formats, standards, and practices that are hallmarks of quality products. There are surprises and sensitivities we have to navigate.

Every family has secrets. Many are things common and unremarkable to us in the modern era. For older family members and in other societies, the situation may have had significant consequences and emotions can run deep.

Obviously, in reporting our findings we should never lie, obfuscate, or obscure the truth. The truth will out eventually. We want our own reputation and legacy to be one of quality research and reliable reporting. In her 1867 genealogy of the Glover family, as an example, Anne Glover wrote:^[1]

"[Rachel] was twice married. First, Jan. 1, 1785, at the age of twenty-four years, to Benjamin Homes, Esq., of Norton, by the Rev. Jedediah Adams, of Stoughton. He was of distinguished family and ancestry, was the second son of William and Rebecca (Dawes) Homes, of Boston, and was born there in 1763. At the time of his marriage he was twenty-two years of age, and had already been elected to various town and county offices, and was Justice of the Peace for the County of Bristol."

Benjamin Homes actually was born in 1760, not 1763, and the truth is that he married Rachel on 4 June 1785. Glover backdated the marriage to January because Benjamin and Rachel's only child was born in November 1785, four months after their marriage. Glover then goes on to discuss Rachel's second marriage and the children of that union. She fails, however, to mention that Benjamin abandoned her and the child. Like Rachel, he entered into a second marriage and had children with his second wife. Glover's purposefully altered "facts" and the lack of documentation for any of her work call into question everything she wrote.

While we must be honest, it is also important to consider the feelings of living individuals. When you are dealing with family secrets from a century or more ago, it should be fairly safe to publish whatever you have found. When it involves incidents less than a century old, people may still be alive who were personally involved or knew those involved.

As a compromise, we might write up everything we have discovered about the issue, attaching copies of any evidence that is not easily available. We then donate the file to a responsible, professionally run archive, historical society, or library—placing access

restrictions on the material. For example, we might stipulate that the file remain closed until a certain amount of time has elapsed (say, twenty-five or thirty years). By the end of an appropriately calculated period, enough time will have passed that no person who would be offended is likely to be alive.

In the meanwhile, the family history we are writing might address the issue vaguely. A footnote can say there is insufficient space to discuss everything about the family in this work, but that files are on deposit at the site we have chosen. This way, future genealogists will be able to get the facts without our being insensitive to the feelings of living people, and we will not have compromised our integrity.

[1] Anna Glover, *Glover Memorials and Genealogies* (Boston: David Clapp & Son, 1867), 326. The chapter from which this excerpt is taken provides documentation for the corrections made above.

Citation Tips: Three Simple Rules to Guide Us

by

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG

To celebrate the release of the new fourth edition of *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, author Elizabeth Shown Mills offers guidance drawn from the new edition. This is the first in a four-part series.

Basic Rule 1: We cite what we use.

This bit of wisdom is one most of us learn the hard way. Nothing, absolutely nothing, helps to keep a researcher out of trouble more-surely than this. For example:

- If we use an online index to church records, our citation does not cite the church records because we did not use them. We used someone's index, and it may or may not have read the names and details correctly. That difference matters.
- If we use a published book called *Podunk Vital Records*, we cite that book. We don't cite our source as "Podunk Vital Records, Town Clerk's Office . . .," because we have not used the actual vital records. We used someone's compilation, which not only could err in the extraction process but, as a source type, often includes hints or assertions gleaned from other sources.
- If we use William Whoever's *History of Podunk* and we find a quote from John Jumpstreet's diary that the author has cited, we don't borrow his citation and cite John Jumpstreet's diary as though we personally read it. *Our* source is Whoever's *History of Podunk*, to which we would add a statement that Whoever's note xxx cites "John Jumpstreet's Diary."

Basic Rule 2: The Common Knowledge Rule

Any statement of fact that is not common knowledge must carry its own individual statement of source. Distinguishing common knowledge from a statement that needs documenting is mostly a matter of common sense. If we state that the Battle of the Bulge began on 16 December 1944, no citations are needed to attest to the validity of that statement or to help others locate information about the event, because details about the battle are ubiquitous. However, a statement that a certain obscure infantryman was killed by enemy fire in the course of that battle would require a citation to a reliable source.

Basic Rule 3: The Velcro Principle—What's Meant to Stick Together Should Stick Together

Velcro? Yes. Images of that sticky two-part tape, with hooks on one part and loops on the other, help us with our citations. Modern research is often online research. That usually involves citing two different entities for one piece of information: (1) The original source that provided the information and (2) the website that delivered the image. For clarity, we usually cite each in a different layer. The Velcro Principle Reminds us that all details belonging to each of them must stick together. Details from one should not be mixed with details from the other. For example:

- An imaged document may display an original *page* number, while the website's frame around that image may state an *image* number. The number of the image created by the website cannot be used in place of the document's own page number, or vice versa.
- The title of the *website's database* can never be substituted for the *record title* in the layer that identifies the record. Any user's effort to find that database title within the original record set would fail, because the website's database title will not exist within the original record set.

Three simple rules. Using them will change our lives as researchers, preventing a host of problems that we don't anticipate and can rarely fix easily once they occur.