

Iida Larkin's family history tips

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ProGenealogist lists the top 50 popular websites for genealogy
<http://www.progenealogists.com/top50genealogy2009.htm>

ProGenealogist lists the top 25 blogs for genealogy
<http://www.progenealogists.com/top25blogs2009.htm>

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The Terre Haute Tribune-Star newspaper has this article of interest.

1890 Census – Was It All Destroyed?

GENEALOGY: Only 6,160 names saved from 1890 census tragedy By Tamie Dehler - Special to the Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE — Over the past weeks, I have been discussing the tragedy of the 1890 census — what was lost and what was saved from the fires and the subsequent mismanagement of the damaged fragments.

Only 6,160 names out of a population of nearly 63 million on the 1890 census were saved. That is only about one-hundredth of 1 percent. Yet, if your ancestor was living in one of the counties recovered, the name is worth looking for because they are all indexed.

Many people aren't aware, however, that much more of the 1890 census was saved — in the form of the Special Enumeration of Union Veterans and Widows.

This enumeration was requested by the

U.S. Pension Office in order to locate Union Civil War veterans or their widows who were involved in pension claims and needed the testimony of former comrades to help prove their service record. Each schedule asked the veteran or widow for name; rank; company, regiment, or vessel; enlistment date; any disability incurred in service; and general remarks. The “general remarks” can provide some interesting and revealing information. In addition, if a disability was sustained as a result of military service, the veterans’ schedule can alert the genealogist that a pension record might be available through the National Archives.

Although this special enumeration was supposed to include only Union veterans of the Civil War, a funny thing happened. Some enumerators included all veterans in the questionnaire. Therefore, a researcher might just find a veteran of the War of 1812, Mexican War, or one of the Indian wars. In addition, many Confederate veterans of the Civil War were also enumerated.

Veteran schedules for the southern states often include large lists of Confederate veterans. These names might be crossed out, but still readable.

If a veteran was deceased, but had a surviving widow, her information was compiled as well as the data for her late husband. Many widows had remarried and their new name, as well as their current address, were listed. For genealogists looking for African

ancestry, service in the “Colored Troops” is documented on the veterans’ schedule. It also is interesting to note that some persons deceptively claimed to be veterans, perhaps hoping to get an undeserved pension.

The original intent of the census office was to publish this veteran information and make it available to the public as well as to veterans’ organizations and associations. However, funding for the project was lacking and in 1894 the schedules were transferred to the Commissioner of Pensions to be used in the government Pension Office. In 1930 the schedules were delivered to the newly created Veterans Administration. In 1943 they were transferred to the National Archives, where they remain today. More than 1 million Union veterans were originally documented as well as more than 163,000 widows.

Although there is no evidence that the 1890 veterans’ schedules were involved in either fire that annihilated the actual census, a significant portion of these schedules is missing. Almost all schedules from the states of Alabama through Kansas (alas, this includes Indiana and Illinois) are missing. Nearly one-half of the Kentucky veterans’ schedules are missing. Surviving schedules include, alphabetically, part of Kentucky through Washington, D.C. They can be found in National Archives Publication M123 and consist of 118 rolls of microfilm. Bundle 198 on roll 118 titled “Washington, DC, and Miscellaneous” contains some fragments for California, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois (Cook and Henderson counties), Indiana (Warrick and White counties), and Kansas.

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In the Mar 2009 newsletter put out by Jack & Sylvia Sonneborn, is this interesting question & answer.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Question: I've heard that some people have extended their ancestral lines back to Adam. Is this possible? If so, is it necessary for all of us to extend our pedigrees back to Adam?

Answer:

Robert C. Gunderson, "Questions and Answers," Tambuli, Aug. 1984, 9-10

Robert C. Gunderson, Senior Royalty Research Specialist, Church Genealogical Department.

The simplest answer to both questions is No. Let me explain. In thirty-five years of genealogical research, I have yet to see a pedigree back to Adam that can be documented. By assignment, I have reviewed hundreds of genealogical pedigrees over the years. I have not found one where each connection on the pedigree can be justified by evidence from contemporary documents. In my opinion it is not even possible to verify historically a connected European pedigree earlier than the time of the Merovingian Kings (c. a.d. 450 a.d. 752.) Every pedigree I have seen which attempts to bridge the gap between that time and the biblical pedigree appears to be based on questionable tradition, or at worst, plain fabrication. Generally these pedigrees offer no evidence as to the origin of the information, or they cite a vague source.

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Records Check List from Family Tree

Blog: Think you've hit a brick wall?

Don't assume you're stuck yet—use this rundown of record types to guide you to other records you haven't checked.

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/upload/images/PDF/recordschecklist.pdf>

At the above link, you can also find

[Where to Look for 1880 DDD
Supplemental Census Records](#)

This state-by-state listing helps you find the 1880 supplemental schedules of “defective, dependent and delinquent classes” for your ancestor's state – or click the blue link.

And another record shows [Vital Records Chart](#) See at a glance the years that each US state began keeping state-level birth, marriage and death records. (Note that many counties began recording these events earlier.)

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TIP OF THE WEEK

Free Obituary Service for Washington State Ancestors

Forum member Baxterlittle wins a genealogy how-to book for this tip that folks with Washington State ancestors will want to know about:

E-mail AskALibrarian@secstate.wa.gov with the name of your ancestor and the date and place of death in Washington State, and they will scan the person's obituary and send it to you via e-mail.

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That's all Folks! For this time.

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