

## ROGUE VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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*The Rogue Digger* is a publication of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society (a non-profit organization located in Medford, Oregon, which operates the Jackson County Genealogy Library). To submit an article, contact our editor [caradavisjacobson@gmail.com](mailto:caradavisjacobson@gmail.com) and copy [president@rvgslibrary.org](mailto:president@rvgslibrary.org). Cover images and design © RVGS, 2008.

*Editor's Note:*

*This issue's content reflects a skill needed by all family historians and genealogists—amateur or professional—research! If you began by gathering information willy-nilly without carefully documenting, by now you have discovered how important planning and methodical research can be. Small details matter! We learn as we go, and we ultimately learn to judiciously research our questions in order to obtain not just information, but also **PROOF** of the answers we seek. This issue includes several examples of how careful research and documentation, attention to detail, collaboration, and sometimes serendipity, can lead to breakthroughs in building our family trees. It is never too late to get your research act together!*

## DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT ADDRESS?

by Joan Momsen

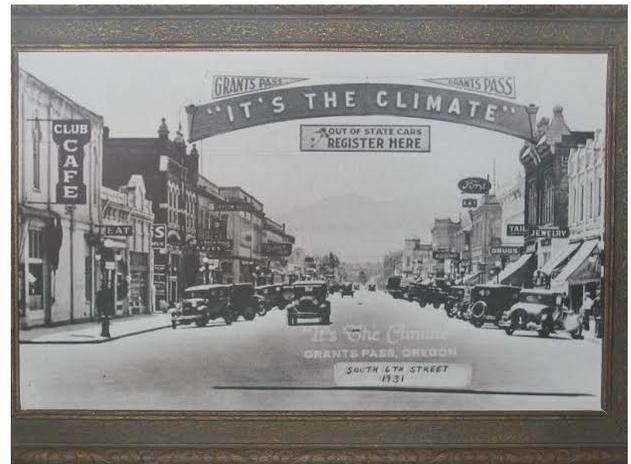
When I was a child, my parents decided to build a house. We lived on 5<sup>th</sup> Street behind Kampher's Market. Dad was a good carpenter and I don't suppose there were as many rules and regulation in the late 1940s as there are now. Mom and Dad bought a piece of land about a mile from where we lived. My aunt and uncle got the adjacent piece of land. Dad and Mom bought a barracks at Camp White (now White City), dismantled it, and built two houses on our new site and had enough material left over to put additions on a couple of friends' houses.

At that time, there were few houses in the area and the address was assigned as 1029. I learned that address because children were taught their home address and phone number at an early age. What I am telling you has a slight connection to what this article is all about. We soon received 7-digit phone numbers. Our exchange was Greenwood, which today is the same, ie., GR, or 47.

However, before we got the longer phone numbers, we got new address numbers. I was nine years old and just learning to sew. I saw an advertisement for name labels made of cloth and imprinted with one's name, address, city and state. No zip code, for those had not yet been created. I ordered, with Mom's help, 100 name labels. I was going to have my name and address in everything I made and even in the articles of clothing that we had purchased.

Of course, as a nine year old, I did not have 100 pieces of clothing, but I was set for a long time to come. Then they changed the address numbers! Oh fudge, I was stuck with 90+ incorrect labels. Once in a while, I still see one of the old incorrect labels in a box or a drawer. Our new number was 1867. Gee, that looked like we had moved eight blocks, but we were in the same spot, same house, same land.

It seems, as I was told, that the street was long and scarcely populated and when they renumbered, they left enough numbers to be assigned to houses that would be built in the future. So all my life, I knew they had changed the numbers of houses in Grants Pass in 1951. I eventually found out how the numbers were rearranged. Looking for a place with a pre-1951 house number can be difficult. Places outside the city had rural route numbers, not a numbered street address. Places inside the city generally have the same street name, although some street names have changed and new streets have been developed. I know our old house on 5<sup>th</sup> Street changed from 515 to 615.



In 1904, the Grants Pass City Council hired a sign company to make house numbers so homes could be assigned with address numbers. It was the first attempt to give each place a number of its own. Before that, and you can verify this by looking at old newspaper advertisements, location depended on neighboring buildings, color, and cross streets. For example, an advertisement might say, “We are one door down from the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and G.” But often it did not say if it was one door down 6<sup>th</sup> or G Street and not whether it was the northwest, northeast, southwest or southeast corner. It really served just to put a person in the right vicinity to find the place of business. Another might say, “We are the yellow building on 6<sup>th</sup> between H and I Streets.” Old black and white photos do not show color, unfortunately, but buildings were painted different colors so they could be found more easily.



1888 Sanborn Insurance Map, Grants Pass, OR

As more and more buildings were built before an address system was developed, the insurance companies decided that they did not want to insure a building that only had a general vicinity notation. It would be too difficult to locate a building that way. The problem was solved when the postmaster announced that mail could be delivered to the homes and businesses if each had a distinct numbered address and all things were standard. This made it important, if not essential, to business owners and householders to have a specific numbered address.

Also, there were duplicate street names such as two A streets, two B streets, etc. When the railroad addition had been attached to the original plat of Grants Pass streets, it had its own system of names. Therefore, several streets got new names. Distant relatives must have thought the people had moved. Not so, same place but a different name was the case.

In the original plat of Grants Pass, 6th Street and streets radiating out from there, for the most part, kept their names and the railroad addition west of the main plat got the name changes. You can still tell where the railroad addition is located. It was laid out (platted) north and south. The original plat was aligned with the railroad tracks. When you drive west on G Street, the railroad addition is where the road turns and goes directly west.

On July 14, 1908 the City Council set up the new system. They started at 1st Street. There is no 1st Street, actually, but they were thinking ahead. The numbers from 1st Street heading east were in the 100 block. 2nd to 3rd was the 200 block, and so forth eastward. Therefore, if one owned a building on G Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets, it would have a 500 number. Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> it would be a 600 number.

Street numbers were eventually changed in 1951, and the numbers ran from 6<sup>th</sup> Street both east and west. If south of the railroad tracks, the numbers were also given a directional indication—southwest if they were going west from 6<sup>th</sup> Street, and southeast if they were going east from 6<sup>th</sup> St. The even numbered buildings were on the right as one went away from 6<sup>th</sup> and the odd numbers were on the left. North of the railroad tracks, northwest or northeast were added to the new numbers.

On streets that ran parallel to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, the buildings on the east side were northeast and those on the west were northwest. *The Rogue River Courier* explained the early changes in the July 24, 1908, edition and the *Oregon Observer* further elaborated in the March 17, 1909, issue.

The street numbers were also changed from the railroad tracks, north and south. For example, J.C. Penney on the northeast corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and G, built in 1941 (the building still stands) had its address changed from 5 South 6<sup>th</sup> to 119 S. 6<sup>th</sup>, then to 119 S.E. 6<sup>th</sup>, according to the local phone books.

I thought everything changed in 1951, but not so. In the 1960s there was a further adjustment downtown, this time north and south, not just east and west. The Southern Pacific passenger station was torn down in 1960 to make room for the Safeway store built in 1962. In 1965, the 1893 railroad station, later the freight depot, was torn down to create Caveman Plaza. The demolishing and rebuilding changed some of the addresses in that vicinity.

Therefore, when you look for the house your great-grandmother lived in, and you have the address, the house you find might not be the correct house! I am not sure if they changed all the deeds of all the homes or just left them as they were when the building was constructed. Somewhere there must be a list or a map, but depending on the location, that list or map could be from 1904, 1908, 1951 or the 1960s. Happy hunting!



## I THOUGHT I KNEW BETTER

by Mary Robsman

My family roots in northern Illinois run deep. In the 1970s my mother and I often drove to talk with relatives (the older, the better) about our German ancestors who came to the USA in the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s, and settled in the area. My mother cross-referenced information they provided by checking facts with her older sisters, newspaper obituaries, and family albums with Baptism/Marriage/Death records. We visited the graves of many relatives including the original settlers in nearby Catholic cemeteries. I listened to discussions and, thus, know many facts and stories.

Recently I returned to my hometown for a family reunion and to do research. My first cousin's daughter shocked me with her discovery: My maternal great-grandmother (GGM) Josepha Münchrath was not a Münchrath. The transcribed Catholic church records, now available in the Historical Collection Room at the public library, proved it to be so. The younger researcher assumed our family's Josepha was adopted by Martin Münchrath and took his surname.

I checked the Catholic church Baptism records at the library. What I found for her and her sisters turned my world upside down. The entry for my GGM Josepha clearly showed she was a Schultz:

Elizabeth Josefa, born February 15, 1856, baptized June 22, 1856.

The parents were Carl and Carolina Schultz. Protestant.

Mary Catherine Schultz, born March 25, 1857, baptized April 26, 1857

The only parent on record was Caroline Schultz. Protestant.

Augusta Maria Muenchrath, born April 11, 1859, baptized March 7, 1860.

The parents were Martin Muenchrath and Maria Carolina Schultz.

Why was Josepha baptized Catholic when both parents were Protestant? Who was Mary's father? When did Caroline Schultz marry Martin Münchrath? Why wait so long to baptize Augusta? Where was Carl Schultz? Who was Carl Schultz?

Caroline Schultz has been a mystery for generations. Our family knew she came from Mecklenburg in Germany. According to the 1860 U.S. Federal Census (see below,) she had a son Charles Schultz (7) born approximately 1853 in Prussia and three daughters born in Illinois. Ditto marks indicated Josepha and her sisters were Schultzes. Caroline (26), born in Prussia, was listed as a housekeeper in the Münchrath household with Martin (45) and his sons, aged 18 and 14, and both born in Prussia.

Years ago when reading this census for the first time, I rationalized the census taker was confused by his, hers, and their families and did not record the surnames correctly. At that time I thought I knew better. Josepha was Münchrath on her marriage certificate to G. H. Schnerre and on birth certificates for her five daughters. The 1860 census did not identify relationship to head of household. I assumed Caroline was Martin's wife before 1856 and the girls were their daughters. My loose interpretation showed flagrant disregard for genealogy standards and good practice. I should

have known better.

Thinking Martin Münchrath (1808-1895) was my great-grandfather, I researched his family at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Martin married Josepha Schmitz at a Catholic church in Rheinland in Germany. Martin (housebuilder), Josepha and five of their children immigrated to New York on the ship *Fleetwood* in 1852. Martin and some children settled in my hometown in 1855. He was a miner, a brick mason, then harbormaster, and served many years on the school board. He owned several properties in town.

In his will, Martin provided specific amounts of money to “the children of my first marriage with Josepha Münchrath, formerly Schmitz.” He divided the remainder of his personal property and real estate among “the children of my second wife Caroline Münchrath, formerly Schultz, namely: Josepha Schnerre formerly Münchrath.” In light of what I know now, that latter phrase might indicate Josepha was Caroline’s daughter but not Martin’s child.

I want to know if I am a Münchrath or a Schultz or another German man’s descendent. DNA can determine paternity. In my case will enough centimorgans\* survive the generations to identify my great-great grandfather? Science will yield more accurate results than my subjective thoughts do. (*\*Editor’s note: A centimorgan is a unit used to measure genetic linkage.*)



## DETERMINING THE BIRTH DATE OF CORNELIUS STEVENSON

by Karen Asche

In the absence of civil and religious records in New York, the likely state where Cornelius was born in the early nineteenth century, how do we determine his date of birth? Cornelius left records of his adult life in Pennsylvania and Indiana. None, however, has been found to provide direct evidence of his birth and a search of his children’s records has revealed no clues. The only known sources are census records and an obituary.

The 1840 U.S. Census is the first written record of Cornelius Stevenson. He was the head of the household which included a female in the same age range of twenty to twenty-nine years. He had probably recently married Permelia Phillips, the daughter of Jonathan Phillips and Grace Henry, and the granddaughter of Esquire Phillips and Anna Gates. No record of that marriage has been found.

Presumably, Cornelius or Permelia gave the information to the census taker in 1840 and they would have known their ages. Therefore, both were born between 1811-1820. That birth year range is consistent for Cornelius and Permelia on the 1850. Permelia died between 1854 and 1858.

By the time of the 1860 and the 1870 U.S. censuses, Cornelius was married to his second and third wives. Both of those wives were considerably younger than Cornelius. If his wives were the informants, they may not have known Cornelius’ age. Cornelius was still married to his third wife at the time of the 1880 U.S. census. The prior census records for Cornelius were probably more accurate.

Most of the 1890 U.S. census was destroyed and no information exists for Indiana. Cornelius died July 19, 1895 and the obituary in the local newspaper stated that he was almost 90 years of age.

**Presentation of Evidence:**

<u>Census year</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Birth year estimate</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>
1840	20-29	1811-1820	Not recorded
1850	34	1816	New York
1860	41	1819	New York
1870	65	1805	New York
1880	77	1803	New York
1895 Obituary	89-90	1806	Not mentioned

**Explicit Discussion of Any Conflicting Evidence:** The federal censuses consistently state that Cornelius was born in New York. His year of birth is more difficult to ascertain since he did not age exactly 10 years between censuses. The informants for the 1840 and 1850 censuses were probably Cornelius or his first wife. In 1860 Cornelius or his second wife may have been the informant. Until 1860, the estimated year of birth falls between 1811 and 1820. Beginning in 1870 and continuing until Cornelius' death, his age suddenly jumps by twenty years. The informant may have been his third wife. The earlier censuses were probably the most accurate because Cornelius and Permelia were closer to the event.

**Summation of Main Points and Reiteration of the Conclusions:** The first census to list a specific age rather than a range was 1850. Cornelius and his wife Permelia would have known their ages. Based on the only documentation currently available, a reasonable conclusion is that Cornelius Stevenson was born in New York between 1811 and 1820, probably 1816. To determine a more exact year of birth will require a search for his parents and siblings.

1. 1840 U.S. Census, Warren County, Pennsylvania, Pine Grove Township, p. 384 (not shown), line 25, Cornelius Stevenson; digital image, Jackson, Ronald V., Accelerated Indexing Systems, comp. *1840 United States Federal Census*. [database online], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com, 1999-. Compiled and digitized by Mr. Jackson and AIS from microfilmed schedules; Ancestry.com, 2001. Data imaged from National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication M704, roll 500, page 384, image 191.
2. Ancestry.com. *Indiana Marriages, 1810-2001* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Marriage of Cornelius Stevenson and Chloe Crites 21 April 1858.
3. Starke County, Indiana Marriage Records, 1850-1890 (Knox, Indiana, Henry F. Schricker Library), p. 30. Stevenson, Cornelius to Betsy Niles marriage 8 April 1868; Book B, page 14 of Starke County Marriages.
4. Knox Starke County Democrat archives, Knox, Indiana, July 25, 1895, <https://newspaperarchive.com/browse/us/in/knox/knox-starke-county-democrat/>
5. 1840 U.S. census, Warren County, Pennsylvania, Pine Grove Township, p. 384 (not shown), line 25, Cornelius Stevenson; digital image, Jackson, Ronald V., Accelerated Indexing Systems, comp. *1840 United States Federal Census*. [database online], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com, 1999-. Compiled and digitized by Mr. Jackson and AIS from microfilmed schedules; Ancestry.com, 2001. Data imaged from National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication M704, roll 500, page 384, image 191.
6. 1850 U.S. census, Switzerland County, Indiana, population schedule, Pleasant Township, p. 345A (stamped), dwelling 300, family 300, Cornelius Stephenson; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>); citing National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 174.
7. 1860 U.S. census, Starke County, Indiana, population schedule, Railroad Township, p. 434 (penned), dwelling 386, family 386, Cornelius Stephenson; Ancestry.com. *1860 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Eighth Census of the United States, 1860*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives microfilm publication M653, roll 297, page 434, image 434.
8. 1870 U.S. census, Starke County, Indiana, population schedule, Center Township, p. 6 (penned), dwelling 50, family 49, Cornelius Stephenson; Ancestry.com, *1870 United States Federal Census*. [database on-line] Provo, UT: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2003-. Original data imaged from National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication M593, roll 359, image 15.
9. 1880 U.S. census, Starke County, Indiana, population schedule, Center Township, p. 8 (penned), dwelling 79, family 79, Cornelius Stephenson; Ancestry.com, *1880 United States Federal Census*. [database on-line] Provo, UT: LDS Church, 1999. Original data imaged from National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication T9\_310; Family History Film: 1254310; page 424D; Enumeration District 173, image 0570.
10. Knox Starke County Democrat archives, Knox, Indiana, July 25, 1895, <https://newspaperarchive.com/browse/us/in/knox/knox-starke-county-democrat/>

# DETERMINING PARENTAGE BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE

by Cara Davis-Jacobson

## Research Question: Who are the parents of Austin Davis (1807-1893)?

### Sources:

Find A Grave, memorial number 54152286, gravestone photo

Frank J. Doherty, *The Settlers of the Beekman Patent, Dutchess County, New York*, 1990-2013

New York Surrogate Court records, 1830, Elba, Genesee County, New York

Cousin Donna Rung; distant cousins Gail MacArthur and Carol Shields

Private discussion with Mr. Tom Jones, PhD, CG® ; CGL<sup>SM</sup>, FASG, FNGS, FUGA; Genealogical Council of Oregon Conference, Eugene, OR, 2014 ([https://www.apgen.org/directory/search\\_detail.html?mbr\\_id=377](https://www.apgen.org/directory/search_detail.html?mbr_id=377) and [www.willametteheritage.org/tag/genealogical-council-of-oregon/](http://www.willametteheritage.org/tag/genealogical-council-of-oregon/) )

DNA test matches in Ancestry.com for Carol Shields

1800 U.S. Federal Census for Fabius, Onondaga County, New York; Homersville, Steuben County, New York; Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

1810 U.S. Federal Census for Fabius, Onondaga County, New York; Homersville, Steuben County, New York; Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

1820 U.S. Federal Census for Fabius, Onondaga County, New York; Homersville, Steuben County, New York; Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

1830 U.S. Federal Census for Fabius, Onondaga County, New York; Homersville, Steuben County, New York; Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

### Narrative:

Austin Davis was a white farmer living in or near Napoli, Cattaraugus Co., New York, from 1830 until his death in 1893. Despite the fact that he is easily documented there in every federal and New York state census from 1830 on (apart from 1880, when he is enumerated in nearby Erie, Pennsylvania), until his death, I could find no records for him prior to 1830. New York did not keep vital records until 1881, so he has no birth certificate; no written record has yet turned up regarding his parentage. As a result, I needed to use other documents to ascertain his parentage.

A photo of his gravestone on Find-a-Grave (a flat-stone replacement of an original upright), at his burial site at Miller Hill (a.k.a. Maple Grove) Cemetery outside Randolph, Cattaraugus Co., New York, says only that he was born in 1807 and died in 1893. A cousin who is related to me through my grandfather Davis' sister (Leora May Davis, sister to my grandfather, Herbert W Davis, whose father was Francis "Frank" Llewellyn Davis, whose father was Austin Davis) said that another cousin who had gone to New York counties to research said that Austin was born in Onondaga Co. in New York. The cousin had not shared with her any additional proof beyond the oral statement.

While researching about five years ago in Salt Lake City at the Family History Library, I discovered the volumes of *The Settlers of the Beekman Patent*, which made reference to an Austin Davis having appeared in court in Elba, Genesee County, New York, in 1830 as "next of kin" and as an administrator for an intestate Zacheriah Davis, a settler of the Beekman Patent. Further research (so far) led to all but the inventory in Surrogate Court papers regarding the intestate estate. The papers say that Austin appeared in court to

represent the estate of Zacheriah Davis “having known him for many years.” Zacheriah had passed away while visiting in the home of John Young of Elba, Genesee, New York. The testimony Austin gave in court gives details of Zacheriah’s death after a fever; Austin also reports the fact that Zacheriah’s wife, Dorcas, is adjudged “insane,” and is living in Fabius, Onondaga County, New York. He also lists the names of four girl children of Zacheriah and Dorcas: Mary Coles, Martha Gorton, and Betsy Kellogg, all of Cazenovia, Madison Co., New York; and Minerva Davis of Hornellsville, Steuben Co., New York. Putting up the bond for the administration of the estate are Thomas Davis and Eleazur Denison Davis. It is never stated directly that Austin is Zacheriah’s son, but renowned professional genealogist Tom Jones commented, after analysis at a conference we both attended, that it was highly likely that Austin was Zacheriah’s son—99% likely. He added that the wording used in the court documents is typical boilerplate for the time and the legal material. 99% is good, and you can’t beat Tom Jones for analysis and as a source, but I knew I’d feel more secure if I could at least find some kind of corroborating evidence to back up that conclusion.

Other documents I could locate (property deeds, tax records, etc.) did not add any relevant information to the question, so I decided to go back through the 1800-1830 censuses for Fabius, Onondaga Co., and the other counties that were mentioned in the court papers. I had looked at these early in my research over ten years before, but the sea of Davises therein were just a litany of names that I could not associate with Austin because at that time I had only seen the census records and knew little more regarding his family. I began researching potential family members, a slow process, indeed, given the surname.

In addition, I had recently done an autosomal DNA test with Ancestry and had a fourth-to-eighth-cousin match to two women who I immediately contacted. We began sharing research on our common Davis lines and I was finally able to identify Austin’s siblings with help from our combined research in New York, Canada, and online. I identified that two of his five brothers lived in Onondaga County, New York: Stephen Davis and Zacheriah Davis. After researching the brothers further so that I knew more about them (thank you Fold3 and American Ancestors), I went back through the census records again. Now I could look for specific Davises!

In the 1810 census for Fabius, Onondaga Co., New York, I found a listing for both brothers. As you may know, this census lists only the names of the head of household, usually the father or another male, and a range of ages for each person living in the household. People are indicated by quantity, not by name. This is not much to go on if you don’t have other documents to flesh out that information. From other documents and research I had completed, I knew that Stephen was born in 1750. Though he was a bit long in the tooth to be Austin’s father, it was not impossible, since many older men took younger wives who were still of childbearing years. Stephen’s entry included the following:

- 1 male 16-25 (likely their son, but possibly an unrelated farmhand)
- 1 male 45 and above (Stephen; born in 1850, he would be 60 at this time of this census)
- 1 female 45 and above (likely Stephen’s wife Margaret)

In 1810, Austin would have been about three years old, so the male in Stephen’s household could not be Austin.

From other research, I knew that Zacheriah was born in 1766. Zachariah’s census entry included the following:

- 1 male under 10
- 1 male 10-15
- 1 male 26-44
- 3 females under 10
- 1 female 10-15
- 1 female 45 and above

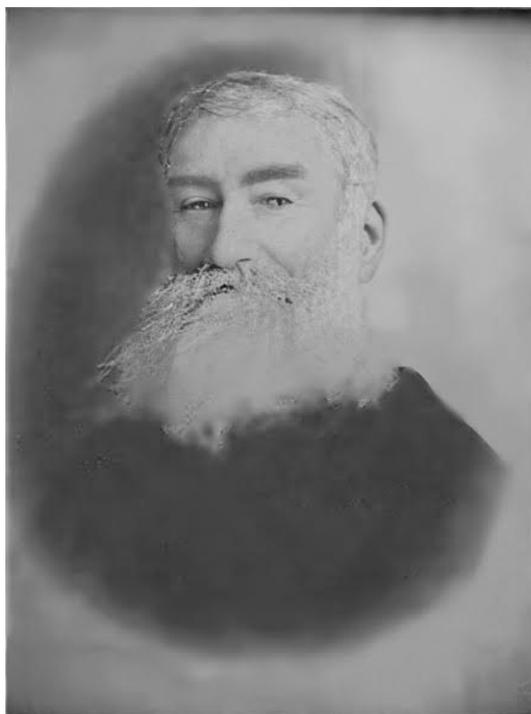
This looked more promising. Zacheriah fit, age-wise (44). Austin, born in 1807, would have been three years old—the male under 10. There is a male 10-15 (born 1795-1800), who is not named in the court papers, so perhaps he has died by 1810 or has been excluded from the estate in 1830 due to prior inheritance or for other reasons. Prior inheritance of the oldest male before death of the decedent was not uncommon. There are four female children (Mary, Martha, Minerva, and Betsy) who align with the court records. There is one female adult, who would be Zacheriah's wife, Dorcas.

In addition, I know from the full family tree (thanks to my additional research and new collaborators) that there was a Thomas Davis Jr. who was an uncle to Austin and brother to Zacheriah and Stephen; Thomas had a son named Eleazur. These names are listed in the court papers as the two who put up the bond. It turned out to be "all in the family," as they say.

### **Conclusion:**

Therefore, the preponderance of the evidence available at this time points to Austin's parents being Zacheriah and Dorcas Davis. I'm now trying to find out more about the mysterious Dorcas and her diagnosis of insanity.

It seems to me now that there are at least two morals to this narrative: One is that sometimes evidence you have gathered that seems "useless" can become very useful as you continue your research. In my case, this took nearly ten years, so persistence and revisiting your older research can be of great value. The other moral is never to discount the value of collaboration with others. They may have key pieces of the puzzle that you are missing.



*Austin Davis, ca. 1892; restoration/enhanced by Amy-Jane Jaymes, Photo Restoration Services, Facebook*

# I FOUND THE FAMILY

by Margaret Clark-Mayfield

*(Editor's note: This first appeared as a post on a genealogy Facebook page.)*

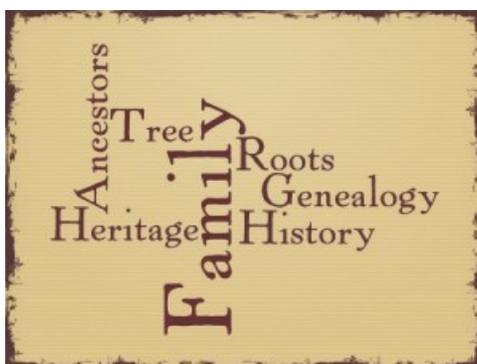
I am a beginner, but I helped a friend solve a mystery with Genealogy.

I just wanted to update my friends on my search for a relative of Jacob Smith, the man who earned a medal for participation in the Civil War. I asked for help in finding some living relatives to give the medal back to.

Well, this turned out to have a very strange ending indeed. I found this medal in an old used couch when I was moving it about 20 years ago. I thought it was a coin and put it away for many years.

After finding his name and other records inscribed around the edge of the medal, I started my hunt for the family. This turned out to be so weird it defies explanation. After going on Ancestry.com, I found out Jacob had a relative in the Seattle area. This is my home town. The relative passed away in 1996 and was the grandson of Jacob. His name was Burl Smith, and his wife's name was Sara.

This stopped me in my tracks. I had an uncle Burl Smith and his wife's name was Sara. He was married to my Grandmother's sister. There are no living relatives on his side of the family. This makes me one of the next closest relatives. So I found the family all right—and it is I!



## WHO WE ARE

The mission of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, Inc. is to inspire interest in genealogy, inform and educate the public, and maintain a growing sustainable library with a strong online presence.

The Rogue Valley Genealogical Society (RVGS) is located in Medford, Oregon, in the Rogue River Valley of Southern Oregon. RVGS was founded in 1966 and now owns and operates the Jackson County Genealogy Library (JCGL), which houses the largest collection of genealogical materials in Southern Oregon. Initial settlement in the valley was spurred by a gold strike in Jacksonville, thus accounting for our logo, the happy miner, who represents the activity of digging for gold in genealogy records.

The objectives of the society are as follows:

- to secure information of a genealogical nature from public and private records by way of historical research as well as indexing and abstracting
- to provide for the preservation and publication of results
- to preserve and protect the collection for future generations
- to acquire by gift, purchase or other means, genealogical materials including books, maps, films, fiche, electronic media, documents, records and artifacts of genealogical and historical interest, and to preserve and protect these for future use
- to acquire funds from membership dues, donations, and fees, and to acquire by gift, purchase or other means, personal and real property in order to support the Society's purposes
- to cooperate and/or affiliate with other nonprofit entities/organizations with like purposes

To accomplish these objectives, RVGS promotes the following activities:

- presentation of programs containing historical and/or genealogical information at general meetings and seminars
- provision of genealogy classes at the library on a range of topics designed for beginners to experts
- publication of an electronic newsletter, the eNews, that outlines society activities and contains genealogical information
- expansion of the JCGL collection through volunteer activities such as the Jackson County Cemetery project
- maintenance of the Pioneer and Early Settler Certificate program for descendants of Jackson County Oregon pioneers

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Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday: 10AM to 4PM

Tuesday: 10AM - 9PM

**Please note: At the time of this issue's publication, the library is CLOSED due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. At this time, only members can use our library subscription websites. Both members and non-members can use the following link on our website to explore a robust set of alternative web resources. We look forward to opening our doors again in the near future.**

<https://rvgslibrary.org/links.asp>

## *Help Keep The Rogue Digger Publishing!*



Do you have an interesting story about researching your ancestors? Unexpected DNA results that changed your research goals? The story of an object (e.g., a quilt, a ring, a photo) that led you on a search or shed light on your family or local history? Have you found a technique or resource that has helped you in your research or that might help others? Have you discovered something interesting in local history or genealogy that you would be willing to write about and share with our membership?

If so, our publication, *The Rogue Digger*, needs you! *The Rogue Digger* is a genealogical periodical that reports information helpful to members and researchers by sharing the results of genealogical investigations, especially those related to the Rogue Valley or to our membership. Submissions can be a mere page long or up to 10 pages long, with or without photos or illustrations. If you have an idea but don't quite know how to pull it together, our editor can advise and help; contact her at [caradavisjacobson@gmail.com](mailto:caradavisjacobson@gmail.com).

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