



**Henderson County Genealogy
and Family History Society**
110 Hill Crest Dr., Biggsville, IL 61418
hendcolibrary@gmail.com 309-627-2450
Spring, 2024

Oquawka Grand Opera House

(Eileen Nolan Photograph Collection, Henderson County Library)

Biggsville Cemetery: Burials & Deeds Update – Bill Leonard and Craig Rima have updated the Biggsville Cemetery book that Bill revised and published in 2023. Anyone who purchased a copy of the book will receive by mail an update of the burials that took place during 2023. Copies of the book are available for \$20 plus postage. Contact or stop by the library.

Turnbull Funeral Home and Stronghurst Banks & Beals Funeral Home Obituaries – Bill Leonard received permission from John Turnbull and Kris Beals to copy and publish obituaries from those two businesses. The obituaries start with the publishing of online obituaries from those two firms. Turnbull Funeral Home in Monmouth began online obituaries in 2008. Banks & Beals in Stronghurst began using this format in 2007. Bill assembled the printed obituaries by the year. In the near future the books will be available for use in the genealogy room at the library. If there is sufficient interest, we will consider the possibility of printing them for sale.

A Name for the Genealogy/Local History Room – Not only did the genealogy room get a face lift with new paint, additional shelving and filing cabinets, and room rearrangement in 2023, it was recarpeted in January, 2024. Now we are ready to vote on a new name for the room so we can get signage installed. We will vote on a name for the room at the April meeting. There is still time to send in your entry for the room naming contest. Send it in care of the library by April 10.

April Society Meeting– We plan to have our regular meeting on Thursday, April 18 at 7 pm at the library. Yesenia Lambert, Director of the Henderson County Library, will present the program on the new digital newspaper system. There will be a sale of genealogy books (mainly from the Ross collection) before and after the meeting.

Dues for the 2024 Year -- Unless you have a lifetime membership in our society, your dues for 2024 may be mailed to the address at the top of the newsletter or dropped off at the library in Biggsville. Thank you for your continuing support of our society and its endeavors.

Your Help Is Needed – You probably know this already, but according to our by-laws we need to have a full slate of officers for the genealogy society. We are still short two officers. The vice-president presides over meetings in the absence of the president. The secretary keeps meeting minutes. These are both important positions. Please consider taking one of these offices. Thank you in advance for taking one of the offices. Contact President Trish Alexander to volunteer. Thank you in advance for taking one of the offices.

Genealogy Reference Guides -- Kenneth R. Marks from *The Ancestor Hunt* has created a series of reference guides to help genealogists. This issue's guide is "10 Clever Ways to Find More Ancestor Newspaper Articles" (used with permission). Use some of these hints with the library's new digital newspaper program.



Burlington Public Library Spring Genealogy Workshop will be held in late May at the Burlington Public Library. Keep an eye on its calendar for further details - www.burlington.lib.ia.us.

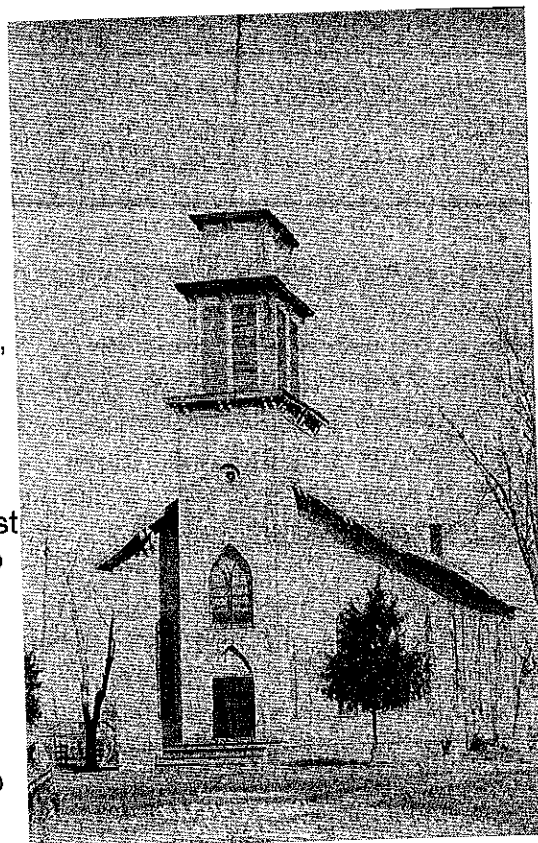
Raising Funds to Buy Gymnasium Chairs -

(*Henderson County Journal*, April 16, 1936) "A movement to raise funds with which to buy new chairs for the gymnasium is being sponsored by the Mothers Study Club of Oquawka. As most of our residents and *Journal* readers know, the building being used as a gymnasium is the former Baptist church building given to the Grade school some months ago by Dr. C.J. Eads, the only surviving trustee. Before the transfer was completed, however, the church seats were removed from the building thus the gymnasium has no seating facilities. The ladies of the above organization have a number of plans for raising money but have decided first to ask all former pupils of the Oquawka grade school to help with the movement.

"A good substantial metal folding chair will cost \$1.00 and about 300 chairs are needed and anyone willing to donate the price of a chair is asked to send their money to Mrs. Emmett Jewel, Oquawka, Illinois.

"It is hoped that a goodly number will respond to this invitation and will pass the word on to others and help the good work along.

"Reports of the progress of this drive for chairs will be made from time to time and any help received will be appreciated."



(Eileen Nolan Photograph Collectio

WPA Canning Project Getting Under Way - (*Stronghurst Graphic*, March 28, 1940) "Mrs. Clidean S. Edmonds, Area Supervisor of the Hot Lunch Project, attended a meeting in Quincy where the Canning and Gardening project was given considerable discussion and plans were made to get the first part of the program in action. This program supplements and uses the same women and same W.P.A. laborers to seed, care for and can the produce from large gardens for next winter's use in the schools' lunches...Canners and pressure cookers, etc. will be furnished by the project. Local sponsors will furnish the ground and prepare it for a seed bed which will then be seeded by laborers with local seed donations. What amount of the jars and lids that must be furnished by the local sponsors has not been determined; however, in the past schools have furnished all jars and lids...for each \$1.00 expended, they have received \$5 - \$8 worth of canned goods."

The DAR and the Daniel McMillan Chapter – Most of us would agree that one of the outcomes of the COVID pandemic has been its effect on the existence of organizations – political, patriotic, and social. Membership in some groups has rebounded, but other groups have folded or consolidated with nearby groups. The disappearance of some of these groups in our county happened before COVID, partly due to aging of the members, the lack of interest in a group's purpose, and/or the lack of time to participate in the group.

The Daniel McMillan Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is one of those groups. It was organized in Stronghurst on July 10, 1925 with sixteen members. According to *Daughters of the American Revolution* compiled by Rose Moss Scott in 1929, "The chapter was named for a Revolutionary soldier, Daniel McMillan. He served from the State of South Carolina, was wounded in the battle of Brandywine, later came to Henderson County, Illinois, with his children and is buried in the South Henderson Cemetery."

What was the initial purpose of the organization? It stressed patriotism, education of youth, and historic preservation. "The chapter distributes flag codes, teaches the correct use of the flag, has conducted an essay contest and awarded a prize to the winner. The grave of Daniel McMillan is being cared for. Two chairs in Constitutional Hall (in Washington, D.C.) were purchased the past year, one in honor of the organizing regent, Mrs. J.C. Brook, and one by the regent in honor of the chapter." (Scott)

The chapter had monthly meetings which for years were well attended. "In 1929 there were 25 members. The officers at that time were as follows:

Regent – Maud (Mrs. J. Cecil) Brook; Vice-Regent – Minnie B. (Mrs. W.J.) McElhinney; Recording Secretary – Miss Esther Marshall; Treasurer – Mabelle J. (Mrs. Guy R.) Sanderson; and Registrar – Nannie S. (Mrs. C.R.A.) Marshall."

Membership in the chapter gradually waned. In the early 2000's it gave up its charter. Interested members transferred their membership to Roseville's Chief Shaubena Chapter.

The most important requirement for membership in the DAR is tracing one's lineage to an American Revolutionary soldier. To follow is a list compiled by Virginia Ross of 54 patriots whose service in the Revolutionary War made possible DAR membership for ladies with Henderson County connections who were interested in joining:

Addis,	Roger, Capt.	Hamilton,	Robert
Barnard,	Moses	Harsha,	John
Brokaw,	John	Hastings,	Peter
Bruen,	Timothy	Heard (Hurd)	George
Bryan,	William	Horne,	Ephraim
Bull,	William	Lackey,	Thomas
Carothers,	Roger	Lauther,	James
Crandall,	Benjamin	Lincoln,	Joshua
Crane,	Stephen	Lincoln,	Abraham
Cummings,	Oliver	Marshall,	Robert
Earle,	Bayless	Marston,	Nathaniel
Ervin,	Otis M.	McClelland,	John
Eyanson,	John	McMillan,	Daniel
Findley,	David	McMillan,	John, D.D.
Fisher,	Adam	McReynolds,	Robert
Fliege,	John Edward	Miller,	John
Foster,	Constantine	Oaks,	Seth
Freeman,	Seth	Painter,	William

Patterson,	James	Stratton,	Seth
Pence,	Peter, Sr.	Stryker,	John
Powell,	Nathan, Sr.	Tarlton (Tarleton)	Elisha
Schenck,	Josiah	Taylor,	Seth
Schlfe (Slifer),	John	Tinkham,	Jeremiah
Scott,	James, Capt.	Van Tuyl,	Isaac
Smith,	Godfrey	Welch,	John
Steele,	Andrew	White,	Thomas
Stevens,	Abijah	Young,	Jacob

This genealogical information is available to the public. There are several ways to access it.

The Illinois DAR website suggests the following:

"There are a couple of ways to search on our Genealogical Research (GRS). You can search by Ancestor, Member, or Descendant. Sometimes entering less info is better. Especially with maiden/married names."

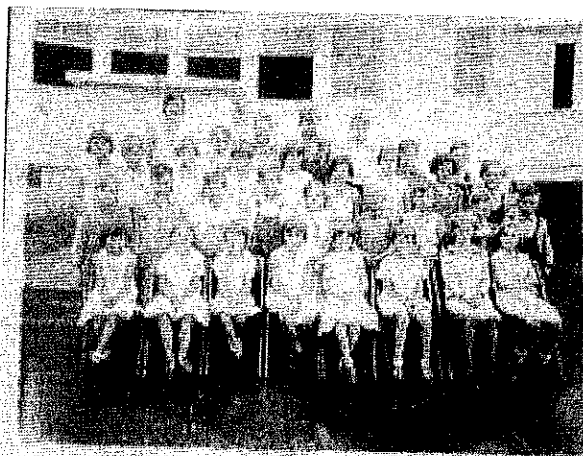
Gail Chambers

NVC Social Media Approvals, VIS Committee

Illinois State Organization, Volunteer Genealogist Co-Chair

Here's the link:

<https://www.dar.org/national-society/genealogy>



Lomax Grade School Loses a Student – This annual school photo was taken in September, 1931 in front of the Lomax Grade School. It was donated to the library for its online "Henderson County Old Schools" collection.

Names were written on the back of the photo as follows: First Row -Left to Right – Betty Ramsey, Dorothy Bradford, Rella Hopkins, Darlene Gittings, Maxine Shanks, Eileen Pence, Dora Dean DeMoss, Juanita Ramsey;

2nd Row – Lloyd Cook, Clifford Daniels, Allen Sutton, Mervin Hedge, Rosalind Foglesong, Elias

Jolley, Irvin Worley, Vernal Sparrow, Wilbert Baillie;

3rd Row – Darlene Gittings, Roger Gittings, Constance Hedges, Agnes Pence, Betty Lee Eckhardt, Vivian Moulton, Phyllis Jean Gittings, Edna Woods, Richard Van Hyning; and

4th Row – Beryl Sparrow, Martin Duffy, Richard McNeil, Willie Pence, Junior Logan, Glenn Nixon.

According to the person supplying the names Vingle Worley was absent. Darlene Gittings's name was written twice so it is unclear who the second Darlene was, or if there were two Darlene Gittings. The name of the teacher was not included. [See article below for possible name.]

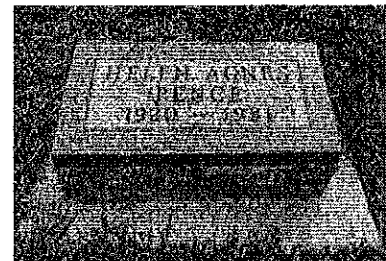
About two months later tragedy struck the school. (*Stronghurst Graphic*, Nov 19, 1931)
"The Lomax community was saddened to learn of the death of Agnes Pence, little 10-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pence, which occurred (sic) at 3 p.m. Saturday, November 14, 1931.

"She had been seriously sick the past two weeks suffering from an ulcerated tooth, blood poisoning having set in after the tooth was extracted. Later she had erysipelis (sic) and pneumonia. Several doctors were called but to no avail, as the poison had rapidly spread through her system. They gave her up Tuesday, but she lingered until Saturday and everyone hoped she would recover....

"She leaves to mourn her passing her parents, six brothers and four sisters, namely: Allen of Galesburg; John of Carman; Ernest, Troy, Dale, Bonnie Jean, all at home. [The article did not include names of four siblings.]...She was a lovable child with a pleasant disposition, always having a smile for everyone....

"She was in the fifth grade at school and her teacher, Mrs. Effie Pence and the fifth grade pupils went in a body to the services...The funeral services were held at the Lomax Christian church Monday at 2:30 conducted by Rev. W.T. King. Burial was in Crane cemetery.

"The grade school was dismissed for the afternoon and the church was filled with neighbors, relatives and schoolmates. The floral offering was beautiful."



(Find a Grave photo)



The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round – “Loren 'Cork' Van Doren (1899 - 1975) had the first school bus service in the state of Illinois. His first bus carried fifteen passengers and made daily trips from Raritan to Media. This was started in 1926 and by 1933 it was necessary to purchase a larger bus. When he had obtained the bus (Raritania) his first trip was taking a bus load to the Chicago's World Fair. At other time “The Raritania” was carrying people to baseball games. He provided bus service in the early thirties to transport students to Media High School. Cork furnished bus service for the high school until the consolidation of Smithshire, Raritan and Media grade schools. He took senior classes to Chicago after graduation in the early thirties and then in 1937 started taking graduating classes to the east coast to visit Washington, New York, Niagara Falls, and other points of interest in the east.”
(*A History of Raritan, Illinois and Community: Honoring the 150th Anniversary of Raritan, 1856 – 2006*. Compiled by James Cook, Doris Cook, Janet Brokaw and Roberta Hanger)
He operated the bus service for 38 years and was also the first mayor of Raritan. (Find a Grave)



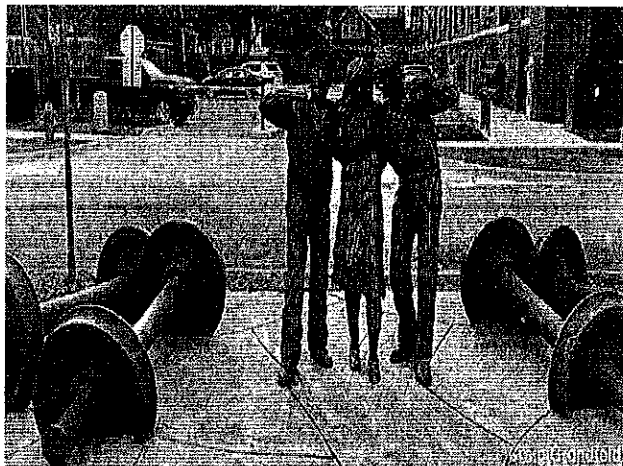
Rat Banquet – (*Stronghurst Graphic*, March 28, 1940) “Approximately 400 packages of prepared rat bait will be distributed to farmers in Henderson County on the evening of March 29th. This bait is prepared by G.C. Oderkirk of the U.S. Biological Survey and sold at cost. This will be the third distribution of prepared rat bait in Henderson County in a year's time. Because of the great number of rats in the county this year and the large amount of grain in storage, control methods are especially advisable. Farmers through the county may call at the nearest distributing station: Swanson's Service Station, Terre Haute; Lloyd Sparrow, Lomax; Churchill's Service Station, Raritan; Farm Bureau, Stronghurst; Biggsville Shipping Assoc., Biggsville; C.W. Cooper Service Station, Bald Bluff; and Henderson Co. Journal, Oquawka.”

Twenty-One Year Old Carman Veteran Killed in Crash – (*Stronghurst Graphic*, May 2, 1946) “The residents of Carman were greatly saddened and shocked when they learned of the tragic death of 21 year old Howard Stimpson, who was instantly killed in the Naperville crash April 25....

“Two Burlington Railway Zephyrs, the Advance Flyer and the Exposition Flyer, were two minutes apart when they left Chicago. The Exposition Flyer ploughed into the rear car of the Advance Flyer which had stopped in Naperville due to engine trouble that made it impossible for it to gain speed. The crash was fatal for 45 people in and around this area. It was the greatest tragedy ever to befall the Burlington route. Outside of the 45 killed there were over a hundred of the passengers injured, and some of them are still in critical condition.

“Howard Clinton Stimpson was born near Carman, Illinois, August 15, 1925, the fifth child of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stimpson....He graduated from the Stronghurst high school on May 27, 1943. He was drafted into the Navy November 23, 1943....He was on his way home after having been discharged from the services.

“The funeral services were held at 2:00 P.M. With Rev. Joseph B. Dahlquist, pastor of the Carman church officiating. The American Legion conducted the committal service at the cemetery....”



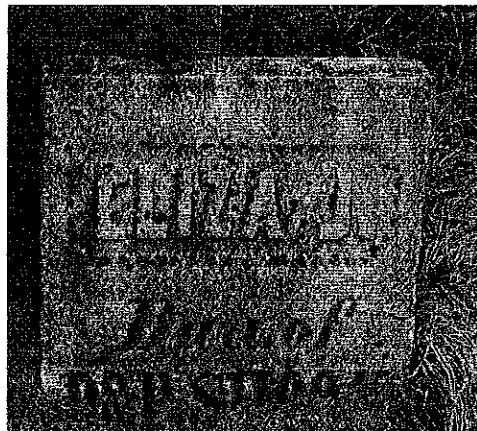
Memorial in Naperville, Illinois

Stronghurst Boy Has Miraculous Escape – (*Stronghurst Graphic*, May 2, 1946) “Pvt. Elbert Hartman, Jr. of Stronghurst was sitting by the side of his friend Howard Stimpson in the front of the rear car on train No. 11 when the other train crashed into it and split the car wide open. Although Stimpson was killed, Hartman miraculously escaped with only a bruised arm. He said he and Stimpson were talking when suddenly there was a terrible crash and a jolt and the car was split open and passengers thrown about with violent force.

“Pvt. Hartman is a son of Mrs. Wilma Hartman of Stronghurst community. He was coming home for a brief furlough. His many friends will join in expressing joy over his miraculous escape.”

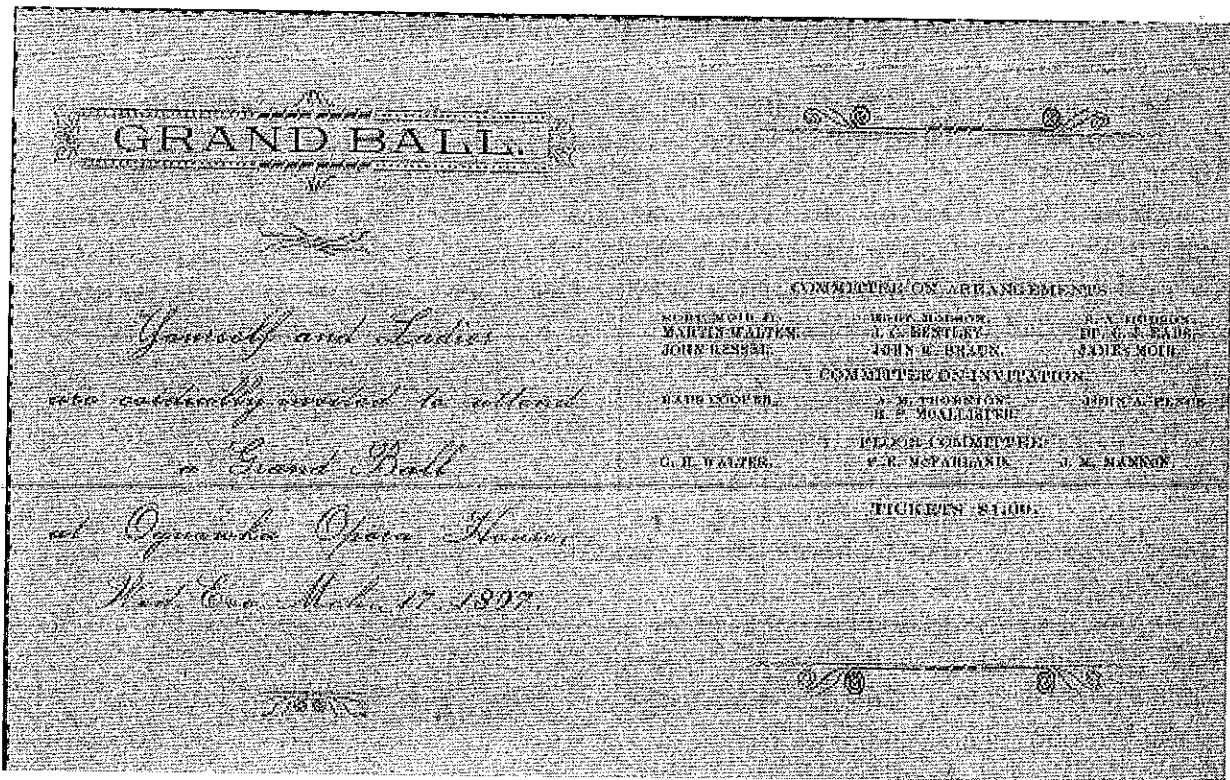
Salter's Grove Cemetery – According to Bill Leonard, Salter's Grove Cemetery is the first cemetery of record in Henderson County. It is located 3 miles east and 2 miles south of Biggsville. The library has a copy of Bill's book *Salter's Grove Cemetery Burials & Lots* (2004) which contains information from several sources including the Biggsville Cemetery Board, Mary McAllister, and Virginia Ross.

The first burial appears to be that of Eliza J. Shook, who died September 6, 1839, at the age of 1 year and 4 months. She was the daughter of Dykeman Shook, Sr., and Mary (Polly) Conkright Shook. Eliza was the eighth of ten children.



(Find a Grave – Angela Schisler)

Grand Event in Oquawka in 1897



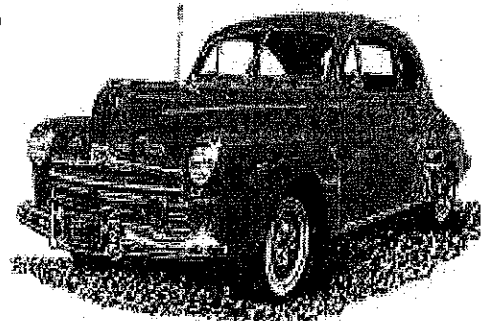
(Eileen Nolan Photograph Collection, Henderson County Library, Biggsville)

In today's dollars, the tickets would have cost \$37.00 each. "Yourself and ladies" is a bit unclear. Were only ladies invited? Were you the only male invited? *The Oquawka Spectator* didn't have a follow-up article on the event. Maybe there were no survivors from the evening which took place on St. Patrick's Day?

Who Has the Oldest Ford Car and Truck in This County? (*Stronghurst Graphic*, May 22, 1946) "The fiftieth anniversary of the Ford automobiles is May 29th [1946]...It would be interesting to know what resident of Henderson county was first to purchase a Ford car, and who has the oldest Ford car still in service. This newspaper will appreciate it if early Ford owners will give us information which will help establish the identity of these people.

"The Golden Jubilee commemorating 50 years of progress in the automotive industry, is a nationwide event...The past 50 years have been great ones for the world in general and the Ford industrial world in particular....

"J. Earl Davison, proprietor of the Davison Motor Sales has been associated with the Ford business for the 23 years. He started with Anguish & Wolfenbarger Co. Ford dealers at Dallas City in 1923. In 1930 he and his family moved to Stronghurst where he became manager of a branch Ford agency for this county. He purchased the business in 1942. This included the building and complete, modern shop equipment at Stronghurst, and the Ford agency for Henderson County."



1946 Ford Special Deluxe Coupe

10 Clever Ways to Find More Ancestor Newspaper Articles

Deliberately Misspell When Searching Online

OCR is not perfect and scanning 100 year old newsprint creates errors. Change your search criteria and replace letters that have a similar shape, such as "b" and "h"

Try Abbreviations

for given names, such as "Wm" for William, or "Eliz" for Elizabeth, or "Jos" for Joseph, and "Robt" for Robert. Also "Ave" for Avenue, "Col" for Colonel, etc.

Remember to Search Hyphenated Words

In the old days, many words were hyphenated so search portions of names. Try beginning syllables and ending syllables as your keyword.

Search for an Address Rather than a Name

or combine address or just street name with surname

When Searching for Obituaries

add "beloved" or "dear" or "loving" in your online search criteria. Also try "devoted", "In lieu of flowers", etc. This will get you to the Obituary section of the paper.

Married Women went by the Husband's Name

So you are likely to find "Mildred Jones" as "Mrs. Samuel Jones". Only if they were unmarried, a child, or a widow will their given name appear in the paper. This started to change in the 1960s.

Browse for Cause of Death

for up to 2 weeks prior to death date from obituary for an article about an illness or accident.

Combine Names

with occupations, business names, clubs, churches, etc. in your search criteria

Searching for Birth Announcement?

Then add "born to" or "born to the wife of" to surname

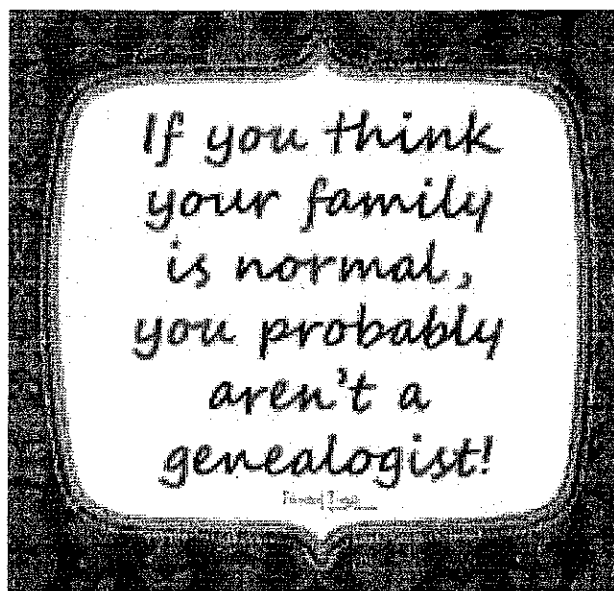
Visit The Ancestor Hunt

at the [Newspapers Page](#) to get hundreds of articles and links to help you become a master newspaper researcher

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Henderson County
Public Library

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Henderson County Public Library

hendcolibrary@gmail.com

309-627-2450

Library hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday – 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (open through noon hour)

Closed Sundays and holidays

Genealogy meetings held on the third Thursday of February, April, June, August, and October