

UP THE CREEK

Hacker's Creek Newsletter

June 2016

7 REASONS TO JOIN A GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Opportunity to Network

Often at home, our families aren't as thrilled as we'd like them to be about our genealogical pursuits. Networking helps find people who can share and are as thrilled as us. HCPD has a online discussion group available to members.

Blast through research roadblocks

Many times other members can help you blast right through a roadblock you have had for months. You may get helpful hints and tips that can lead you in the right direction. HCPD has the resources.

Travel the proven path

Inexpensive ways to jump start your research and avoid some of the trials and tribulations that others have encountered. They can suggest places to visit and the best times to visit.

Fly with birds of a feather

By joining a local genealogy group you can further your home area research. HCPD has a yearly membership of \$40.00

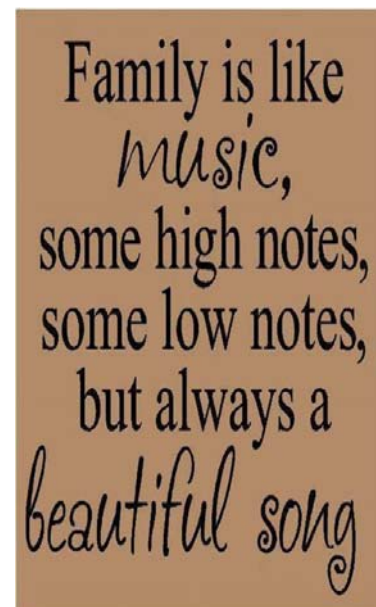
Access to resources

Many societies have tons of research material. HCPD has over 5000 books, maps, old newspapers and family histories all waiting for you to explore.

Help yourself while helping others

Opportunity abounds for those who want to get actively involved. Volunteers always needed. It is an opportunity for you to learn and expand your skills. HCPD is a great place to volunteer.

Share and celebrate



get more quotes at THEDAILYQUOTES.COM

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RELATIVES HIDING IN THEIR NAMES

What is in a name? This can be a problem in your genealogy search. It appears a relative lived in the same area all his life, but online searches can't find him in some censuses or city directories. There are several reasons for name variations, requiring different search strategies to find relatives hiding in their name.

1. Creative Spelling: Searches may not find the person if the surname spelling is very creative. You may use a wildcard search to help find different spelling. Example: Do a Google search on **Michael Krop*** and his name was spelled occasionally as Kropt and Kropp.

2. Initials, abbreviations and two-word surnames: When searching for someone using initials, try it with and without a space between the first period and second initial. Many older newspapers and other documents used initials so often that it's worthwhile to search on them if you know the middle initial.

3. Nicknames, supplanting birth names: Sometimes a person's nickname becomes so common that the birth name disappears. It's particularly difficult when the nickname doesn't relate to the birth name. Example: The birth name Elizabeth, can become Lizzie, Bess or Betty. You can do a search on www.whatsinaname.net and find the nicknames and vice versa.

4. Name change without a Legal Process: Many people changed their names without going to court. Most times the name change was done to avoid discrimination against a particular ethnic group. One may never know why a relative changed their name. A lady born Elizabeth may found she liked the name Alice better, and just adopted it in all her dealings.

5. Naturalization Name Change: Maybe you are searching an ancestor that immigrated on a ship, but found no record. As part of their naturalization process, many took the opportunity to change their names. Example: Casper Smith of Buffalo, NY naturalization papers showed his birth name as Kasimir Smitka.

Have you had mystery names in your tree?

ON THE HILL at the end of Main Street overlooking the town of Weston is the "Old Hill" or Arnold Cemetery. In this old cemetery are many old tomb stones, but one that is interesting and conjures up a love story is that of Cordelia Victoria Wetzel Shea. The monument, located at the highest point of the cemetery is an elaborately carved stone and contains the remnants of a small white marble square, which may at one time contained a likeness of the deceased. The monument is enclosed with an elaborate and probably expensive wrought iron fence and also contains a carved stone urn. At the foot of the grave is a carved stone dog, lying posed as if in a deep sleep.

The inscription carved on the monument makes one want to know the love story. *See pictures of the monument on the next page.*

What a loving tribute to one who died so young at the age of 31.

What we do know, is that Isaac and Cordelia's families lived near each other in Lewis County. Isaac and Cordelia married in Lewis County in July 1871. Isaac's place of residence at that time was Wyoming County, Iowa. In the 1880 U.S. Federal Census we find Isaac and Cordelia living in Crow Creek District, Laramie, Wyoming. They are living in a boarding house with others and list Isaac as an engineer. This clue tells us Isaac was a railroad man.

Do not know what caused Cordelia's death, but she must have been well loved as she was brought back to her hometown for burial. Isaac remarried in 1887 to a lady named Elizabeth Fitzgerald. They had a son, Irl who was born in 1889. Irl Victor Shea was 24 yrs old when his Father died. From the records this was Isaac's only son.

Isaac died in 1914 at his residence in Salt Lake City, Utah at the age of 69. An article in the Wyoming Tribune stated: "Isaac Shea, aged 69, one of the earliest and best known settlers of Wyoming, who came here in 1868, died at his home in Salt Lake City, Utah, last night, according to telegrams received here today. For thirty-three years he resided in this state, before moving to Salt Lake, where he lived the remainder of his life." His remains were shipped to Weston and accompanied by his wife and son and Mrs. Dora Mathson (Isaac's sister). He left a vast estate both real and personal in Wyoming and Utah. It was stated he was buried in Macpelah Cemetery, Lewis County, WV.

Isaac and Cordelia probably grew up together as children in rural Lewis County, WV. Isaac Shea went West to seek his fortune. He returned when a tragic incident occurred. His brother, John Shea was killed by an Indian in 1870. He was out hunting with Isaac in Wyoming when Indians attacked, killing John with an arrow. Isaac and Cordelia were married in Lewis County, WV, July 1871. My love story goes that they reconnected probably after the tragic death of John. Cordelia most likely was a nurturing soul. Cordelia left her familiar surroundings and family to marry Isaac and travel out West. They live in a boarding house and I could see sweet Cordelia cooking and consoling troubled souls when Isaac was traveling on the locomotive as the engineer. They were married only a short ten years, when young Cordelia died. Hopeful she died without suffering, but I cannot find record of how she died. Could it been from childbirth, Indian raid, accident or illness? The tribute shows how much she was loved by Isaac. Isaac returned to the West and after 7 years remarried, Elizabeth Fitzgerald Shea appeared to be a stouter woman than Cordelia. She bore Isaac a son in 1889, Irl Victor Shea. When Isaac died his remains were brought back to Lewis County, WV accompany by Elizabeth, Irl and Mrs. Dora Mathson(sister of Isaac) He was buried in Macpelah Cemetery. Rather strange that after living better part of his life in Wyoming and Utah, that he was brought back to WV, and buried in a different cemetery than his beloved Cordelia. Elizabeth died in 1939 at the age of 78 and was buried in Utah.

We may never know the true life story of Cordelia and Isaac, but one can still be romantic and spin a lovely love story.

The inscription carved on the monument makes one want to know the love story.

Cordelia Victoria

Beloved wife of Isaac Shea

Daughter of J. T. and Catherine Wetzel

Born Nov. 16, 1850

Died Dec. 29, 1881

Through all her placid life

This queen of marriage a most perfect wife

May she rest in peace.



Timeline of Events Shaping Lewis Co, WV

1763-1840

Compiled by Joy Stalnaker DeFazio

- 1763 – John & Samuel **PRINGLE** live in tree at Turkey Run, Upshur Co, for 3 years
- 1769 – John **HACKER** settles on Hacker's Creek & first white child, William **HACKER**, born
- 1773/1774 – First fort at today's Jane Lew built
- ca 1775 – John **HACKER** establishes one of first grist mills in area on Hacker's Creek
- 1776-1783 – America Revolution
- 1776 – Monongalia County formed
- 1777 – Year of the Bloody Sevens – massacres along the western frontier. John **HACKER** and others served with Capt. James **BOOTH** defending the frontier.
- 1778 – Indian attacks. Elizabeth **HACKER FREEMAN**, Thomas **HUGHES**, Issac **WASHBURN**, and numerous others were killed during this year in separate attacks.
- 1779-1780 – Fort abandoned with settlers going to Nutter's Fort & Bushes Fort. Fort burned in one of these years.
- 1790 – Beech Fort, later called West's Fort, built where now Jane Lew Fire Department is
- 1790 - George Adam **BUSH** first settler at present day Freemansburg
- 1780-1790 – John **SLEETH** Trading Post
- 1784 – Harrison County formed. First county court held at Pringle Tree community.
- 1784 – Methodism came to America from England.
- 1787 – Shawnee-**SCHOOLCRAFT** raid on Hacker's Creek Settlement
- 1788 - New York City is chosen as temporary seat of US Government
US Constitution ratified.
- 1789 - George **WASHINGTON** is first president; John **ADAMS** is first vice president.
Thanksgiving established.
- 1790 – Circuit riders from Methodist Church began visiting county.
- 1790 - First Census of US
- 1791 - Bill of Rights added to Constitution
- 1792 – **WAGGONER** Family tragedy; Henry **McWHORTER** built mill at today's Jane Lew
- 1793 - Eli **WHITNEY** patented cotton gin.
- 1794 – **COZAD** children captured by Indians – last raid in the county.
- 1795 – Greenville Treaty brought peace with Indians in the West
- 1795 – Families began to leave Lewis County and head west
- 1797 - John **HARDMAN** was first settler on Little Skin Creek (mouth of Curtis Run)
and operated mill that served the area.
Richard **JOHNSON** followed shortly and was first settler on Big Skin Creek.
- 1800 - George **COLLINS** & Daniel **TURVEY** were first settlers in Collins Settlement
on lands patented to Col. George **JACKSON**.
- 1800 - School being taught by Henry **McWHORTER** and others at old West's Fort.
- 1801 – Edward **JACKSON**'s grist Mill built on West Fork - sawmill added soon after
- 1803 - Louisiana Purchase
- 1804-1806 - Lewis and Clark Expedition to Pacific Ocean
- 1804 – Broad Run Baptist Church established
- 1808 - Widespread economic decline throughout U.S.
- 1808 - Thomas **McCARTNEY** built home near mouth of Bennett Run for William &
Rebecca **McCALLY BENNETT**
- 1809? - Jackson's Mill Post Office
- 1810 - George **BUSH**, then Henry **CURTIS**, operated mill near Gaston
- 1810 – Clarksburg had 31 families living there
- 1812 - Star Spangled Banner written; War of 1812
- 1813 - Andrew "Old Ireland" **WILSON** believed to have settled near Ireland
- 1816 – Dec 18 - measure forming Lewis County passed
- 1817 – Preston and then Flishersville established
- 1818 – Dams on Little Kanawha and the West Fork proposed.
- 1818 - Henry **HARDMAN** teaching in "Old Field" School near Vandalia.
- 1819 – Flishersville became Weston
- 1819 - Earliest major economic depression in the U.S.
- 1819 – Harmony Methodist Church built.

1823 – Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike proposed. First funds the next year.
1824 - Thomas Jonathan **JACKSON** born in nearby Clarksburg
1825 - Bush's grist and saw mill established; eventually became town of Roanoke
1827 – Methodist Church split.
1828 – Survey for S&P Turnpike completed.
1828 - Post office established at Freemansburg. Alexander K. **SLEETH** first postmaster.
1830 – Peter **SWISHER** killed by falling tree. Berlin Methodist church established
1831-1838 - Hackersville post office.
1832 – Minter **BAILEY** granted license to keep an ordinary at Bailey House
1833 - 33 common schools in county supported by Virginia Literary Fund
1834 - Mt. Gilead/Georgetown Methodist Church established on land donated by
John **HELMICK**
1835 - William **BENNETT** started mill at Walkersville
1836 – Dams on Little Kanawha and West Fork proposed again.
1836 – Construction begun on Weston & Gauley Bridge Turnpike; Weston and
Charleston Turnpike laid out.
1836 - New school built on Skin Creek. Teachers included **PETERSON, HARDMAN** and
WILSON.
1837 - Second major economic depression in America
1837 - Samuel F.B. **MORSE** invents telegraph
1839 - Jane Lew Post Office
1840 - Only two settlements made in Courthouse District before this date.
1841 – Portions of Staunton & Parkersburg Turnpike opened.

Actual Funny Correspondence received by the Family History Department of the LDS Church

Our 2nd great grandfather was found dead crossing the plains in the library. He was married 3 times in the endowment house and has 21 children.

For running down the Wheelers, I will send \$3.00 more.

He and his daughter are listed as not being born.

I would like to find out if I have any living relatives or dead relatives or ancestors in my family.

Will you send me a list of all the Dripps in your library?

My Grandfather died at the age of 3.

We are sending you 5 children in a separate envelope.

Documentation: Family Bible in possession of Aunt Merle until the tornado hit Topeka, Kansas, now only the Good Lord knows where it is

The wife of #22 could not be found. Somebody suggested that she might have been stillborn - what do you think?

I am mailing you my aunt and uncle and 3 of their children.

Enclosed please find my Grandmother. I have worked on her for 30 years without success. Now see what you can do.

I have a hard time finding myself in London. If I were there I was very small and cannot be found.

This family had 7 nephews that I am unable to find. If you know who they are, please add them to the list.

We lost our Grandmother, will you please send us a copy?

Will you please send me the name of my first wife? I have forgotten her name.

A 14-year-old boy wrote: "I do not want you to do my research for me. Will you please send me all of the material on the Welch line, in the US, England and Scotland countries? I will do the research.

Further research will be necessary to eliminate one of the parents.

FYI:

Please remember to renew your membership. Dues of \$40.00 is due Oct. 1, 2016 for the 2017 year.

The newest Journal is online and has been mailed to those who request mailing.

2016 Gathering is August 11-14, 2016. The brochure and form can be found on our website. If you did not receive a brochure when journals were mailed, then please call us.

EVENTS:

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| July 23rd | McWhorter Reunion |
| August 11th-14th | Gathering "Telling our Stories" |
| Sept. 2nd—4th | Jubilee at Jackson Mill |

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our library.

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