

# MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

## NEWSLETTER

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### OLD MISSOURI TRAILS LEAD TO HARMONY MISSION

Glynnna Elliott Morse and Julia Morse

Last month, we printed childhood recollections of John Milton Morris, who grew up among relatives associated with Harmony Mission, the Indian mission that was established in 1821 on the Marais des Cygne River in Bates County near today's Rich Hill. The history of Harmony Mission and the trails which lead to it were summarized in 1917 by D.A.R. historian Miss May McCown in a January 11 article of the *Windsor Review* newspaper (Windsor, Missouri).

The article began: "The story of old military roads of this part of Missouri would not be complete did we not give a short story of Harmony Mission, in Bates County, the point towards which all roads through this community converged and a short history of Dr. Amas Jones, the leading missionary of Harmony Mission and of Henry County."

"Harmony Mission was a name given to a mission station established on the Marais des Cygnes, about three miles from its mouth, in the year 1820, by the American Board of Foreign Missions, for work among the Osage Indians." [1]

Missouri became a state in 1821, and transportation was primitive at that time, depending on the river for much of its transportation. Later, the white man came by horse, and with more settlements, horse and wagons used the same trails. The main roads used in 1821 in frontier Missouri had their origins as trails begun by Indians. At least nine

major Indian trails ran through almost every area of Missouri, including the trail from Osage villages to the west, the area where Harmony Mission was established in 1821. [2]

Historian Louis Houck published a map of Indian trails in Missouri in his 1908 book about the earliest explorations and settlements in Missouri. Houck's map shows two Indian trails running through Henry County, including the Osage Trail from Boonville which ran through Windsor and was referred to as the Old Military Road by the time of the Civil War. [3]

The other trail in Henry County was also called the "Osage Trail by Louis Houk; it was another Indian trail which began from the Missouri River at Jefferson City. That Osage Trail which also ran through Benton County and was called the "Old Missionary Trail" or "Harmony Mission Trail." As described in a Benton County history account by White and Miles: "French traders, American hunters and trappers kept a thin line of commerce up and down the Osage River basin until the old Missionary Trail from Jefferson City to the Indian Mission at Harmony in Bates County was established in 1821. By 1830, the river was an artery of immigration. In 1825, the government had established the military road from Palmyra in east Missouri thru Cole Camp, Warsaw, and Springfield to Fort Smith, Arkansas and beyond. Warsaw was the crossroad of western Missouri." [4]

The Old Missionary Trail or road through Benton County would later be called the "Balltown Road", as it led to Balltown, a site a bit south of Harmony Mission but was used by the military as they continued operations with the Osage Indians

in the area and in adjoining Kansas Territory. White and Miles state that “The old military road, also known as Balltown road, had been built in 1825 and was one of the oldest traffic ways in Missouri.”[4]

The 1917 *Windsor Review* account continued with history of Harmony Mission: “Harmony Mission was a name given to a mission station established on the Marais des Cygnes, about three miles from its mouth, in the year 1820, by the American Board of Foreign Missions, for work among the Osage Indians. [1]

“The mission had been established because a delegation of Osage Indians, being in Washington City, expressed a wish to have missionaries sent to them. The American Board of Christian Foreign Missions made up, in 1821, a party consisting of the following: Rev. Wm. B. Montgomery; Rev. Pixley, D. H. Austin, a millwright; Dr. Belcher, a physician; S. D. Bright, a farmer; M. Cally, a blacksmith; and Amasa Jones. All were married and all brought their families with them, and a Miss Ethap, a teacher, accompanied them.” [1]

“In the Spring of 1821, the party passed down the Ohio and up the Mississippi in flat bottomed keelboats, with neither sails nor oars, but poles were used for going upstream.”[1] Other historical accounts indicate the missionary party then traveled up the Osage River to the Marais des Cygne in Bates County, most likely with the same type of keelboats they had used on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

“The party reached Papinville August 9, having been six months on the way from Pittsburgh. Here they found French and half breed traders, also Mrs. Sibley, wife of an army officer.”[1] The Presbyterian group planned to reach the location that Captain Zebulon Pike had taken in an earlier trip to the Osage Indian villages. The Review gave details about Captain Pike’s earlier trip: “In July 15, 1806, Captain Zebulon Pike, with a party, left Belle Fontaine on the Missouri, and, passing upstream, reached the Osage [River]

July 21. On August 19, 1806, they reached the trading post of Manuel Lisa, near where Papinville is now. The Grand Osages had a village nearby, and the Little Osages were on the Little Osage River. The Chouteaus had a trading post there at one time, but it had been abandoned, and Manuel Lisa, a Cuban, took possession of the place; a little later Lisa moved up the Missouri.”[1]

The *Review* continued, “The missionary party selected a location a mile northwest of the Indian village and pitched tents until November; they built crude cabins, covered them with boards, laid puncheon floors, but had no glass for their windows. The carpenter was Colonel Henry Renick, a Kentuckian, who had settled in Lafayette County in 1819. For beds, holes were bored in the walls, framed placed and covered with prairie hay, on which were laid army blankets.”[1] Now the work of the mission could begin.

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Sources:

[1] May McCown, “The Harmony Mission,” *Windsor Review* (Windsor, MO), 11 Jan 1917, p.1

[2] Missouri State Highway Commission, *Missouri Highways - The First 200 Years: 1966 Annual Report*, 1967, p. 7. [https://spexternal.modot.mo.gov/sites/cm/CORDT/MoHwys\\_First200Years.pdf](https://spexternal.modot.mo.gov/sites/cm/CORDT/MoHwys_First200Years.pdf)

[3] Louis Houck, *History of Missouri, from the Earliest Explorations and Settlements..., 1908 until the Admission of the State into the Union*. Volume 1, Chicago: R.R. Donnelly and Sons Company, 1908, p. 226, <https://archive.org/details/historyofmissouri01houck/page/n253/mode/2up?q=Indian+paths>

[4] Kathleen Kelly White and Kathleen White Miles, *The History of Benton County, Missouri, Volume 1*, Clinton, MO: White & Miles, 1967.

Excerpt Provided at Benton County Genealogy Trails.com, [http://genealogytrails.com/mo/benton/third\\_chapter.html](http://genealogytrails.com/mo/benton/third_chapter.html) and

[http://genealogytrails.com/mo/benton/chapter\\_v\\_wars\\_two.html](http://genealogytrails.com/mo/benton/chapter_v_wars_two.html)

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

During this Covid 19 Pandemic, we have all been wondering what to do with our time. I am retired and live in Foxwood Springs, a retirement community in Raymore, Missouri. In normal times, I volunteer at our Thrift Shop and Furniture Garages on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. But, on March 12, 2020 at noon, we were told to close everything down because of the pandemic. After almost a year, we still have not reopened, a policy with which I totally agree. I also volunteered in helping clean out houses or apartments when someone moved out. We organized and listed the furniture and the boxes of saleable items to go to the Thrift Shop or the Bargain Barn. Once a month, Foxwood Springs Marketing had a moving company come and move the items to the designated locations. This, too, has been put on hold. So, what do I do with all of my spare time?

Well, I do have a garden spot. I was able to put all of my energies into planting, weeding, picking, and canning my produce. I also manage a thornless blackberry patch of about 50 to 60 plants. They take some of my time in the spring, summer, and fall to trim the plants, pull weeds, and pick berries. I also do a lot of canning. I can jellies, jams, pickles, beans, and tomatoes. This past summer of 2020, I canned 292 jars of goodies.

The gardeners also give much of their excess produce to neighbors and friends, as do I. This past summer, we set up a market at the garden for Foxwood Springs residents. For a couple of hours

three days a week, we offered vegetables for sale by donation only. The people enjoyed coming from their homes or apartments to buy our vegetables. Many residents had not been to a grocery store for several months. They took home fresh vegetables to eat. We also made canned jellies, jams, and pickles available. This was a huge success and was very much appreciated by the residents.

But when the garden was shut down, cleaned out, and plowed, I stayed at home. I went for many walks around the campus. I now sort boxes of photographs. My wife, Dorothy, and I had taken all of our pictures and identified them by name and date. I had put them in boxes by year. We did this several years ago. I was not sure that our sons were interested in them. So, I got the boxes out and put a book of pictures together. I started with Dorothy and me as seniors in high school, then to our wedding, to our two sons, then to our two grandsons, and stopped at our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary. I took 2 or 3 or 4 photographs per page at a time and made black and white copies of them on the printer. I put a rather large book together and I gave each son a copy of it at Christmas. My daughter-in-law immediately started looking at it. Dorothy was an excellent cake baker and cake decorator. So I had tried to show each son on his birthday with his birthday cake up to the age of 21. She enjoyed seeing her husband at each of those years. When the two grandsons pictures showed up, my grandsons, ages 19 and 16, started looking over their mother's shoulder.

Dorothy had also started other books of this type over the last few years. They covered her families of Newcomb, McDaniel, Burke, and Gaston. She had started a Morse and a Janssens book for me. I have added more pictures to these. In these books I have also included family trees and written articles about the families.

I have enjoyed doing this, and it has helped keep me busy. I have now some of these memory

books to give to my brother and more to my sons. I hope to continue adding to these.

## **CLUSTER RESEARCH (a.k.a. FAN CLUB STRATEGY) OFFERS RENEWED HOPE FOR GENEALOGY BRICK WALLS**

Julia Morse

When a thorough search of all available records fails to provide the desired genealogical answers, professional genealogy researchers often employ “cluster research” in order to methodically uncover the mystery. Constance Knox of “Genealogy TV” calls cluster research “the #1 way to break down brick walls” [1].

Cluster research techniques call for you to cast a broader net for clues. Cluster research is often called “FAN Club” research, a term first coined by professional Elizabeth Shown Mills. FAN stands for Friends, Associates, and Neighbors, reminding us of the people who may have connections with our person of interest, whom we will study in order to look for leads and patterns that ultimately point to new information or hypotheses. [2], [3]

If this sounds familiar, you may already be practicing key elements of the FAN Club strategy, particularly if you normally perform “Whole Family” and community research rather than sticking exclusively to direct-line ancestral families.

Extended family are included in the “Friends” category. With this technique, you also make note of “Associates” such as others in the community associated by occupation or church participation. Witnesses on legal documents should also be included in the FAN Club list. Make a note of any names you come across in a document related to your target ancestor. Of course, a list of “Neighbors,” can often be extrapolated from census pages adjacent to your target ancestor.

A very common example would be examining neighboring families (usually from census data)

to search for ties. Particularly in the 1800's and earlier, it was very common for related families and close friends to migrate together. Also, in rural and small communities, there is a high probability that marriage partners came from families living in walking distance proximity. If the maiden name of an ancestor is elusive, you may not realize until you dig further that in-laws or cousins were living nearby.

It is very common for related families to follow each other as they migrate to new regions. If you can find that associates and neighbors came from the same previous geographic location, that can suggest a special relationship or kinship. Or, it could suggest a previous residence that provides a new location to check for record of your ancestor.

The idea of cluster research is to methodically compile a list of all the names that have a connection with your target ancestor. This is called your target ancestor’s “FAN Club.” Then analyze the “FAN Club” list to prioritize and hypothesize relationships of interest. Finally, methodically research each one.

Professional genealogists are particularly structured and detailed in their approach to see cluster research, logging all research data in a “research log,” very often in a sortable spreadsheets. The spreadsheets aid in sorting and filtering for commonalities among associated persons. Other graphing and schematic techniques may be used to examine and hypothesize relationships.

For difficult genealogical mysteries, cluster research can be time-consuming. In some cases, it becomes a matter of compiling enough circumstantial evidence to provide a compelling case for a hypothesized relationship—something that may require DNA study to prove.

However, there is almost always a secondary and more immediate payoff to cluster research: Gaining a richer understanding of the community life and situation of your ancestor.

Most people recommend learning about cluster research from case examples. I have found the following resources helpful:

(A) **“Locating Your Ancestors Using Clusters,”** a 55-minute practical video introduction to cluster research by James Tanner as part of the BYU Family History Library Webinar Series: <https://youtu.be/FSEIDcp4ySo>.

(B) **Case Study by Elizabeth Shown Mills:** “QuickLesson 11: Identity Problems & the FAN Principle”, Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis (blog) <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-11-identity-problems-fan-principle>.

Elizabeth steps through an example of applying FAN principles.

(C) **“How to Use the FAN Club in Research,”** an audio podcast from Family Locket Genealogists: **Part 1 – Examples of FAN Club/Cluster Research**, including different types of FAN associations found in common records. <https://youtu.be/LYJfys5cCpQ> (16 min.)

**Part 2 – Case Study explaining step-by-step their research method**, including how they used spreadsheets to log and sort information. <https://youtu.be/LYJfys5cCpQ?t=960> (16 min.)

(D) **Case Study by Justyna Cwynar** (video). She used the witness names on Prussian Baptismal records to hypothesize relatives, eventually **confirming with DNA**: <https://youtu.be/Cgc2WtRRbi4>

(E) **“Cluster Research” YouTube Video Playlist on “Genealogy TV” channel**,

by Constance Knox

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiMXWjHlj5RQKQsBOzVta7IN167GBHeb9>.

In particular, Connie provides her method of copying census data pages into Excel and using the automatic filter to isolate males or females with a particular name:

[https://youtu.be/wnI8Np\\_J4WE](https://youtu.be/wnI8Np_J4WE).

(F) **“Creating a Research Plan for Cluster Research,”** a video webinar from

AmericanAncestors (by the New England Historic Genealogy Society). Lindsay Fulton, Director of Research Services, presents a step-by-step explanation of careful, robust techniques used by professional researchers to plan and execute effective cluster research for difficult genealogical mysteries. The presentation begins with extensive ideas for records that can be pursued to develop FAN Club associates of interest:

[https://youtu.be/pFA\\_IfMsThg](https://youtu.be/pFA_IfMsThg)

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References:

[1] Constance Knox, “#1 Way to Break Down Brick Walls: Updated (2020)” (Video), YouTube Channel “Genealogy TV,” 16 Oct 2020, [https://youtu.be/wnI8Np\\_J4WE](https://youtu.be/wnI8Np_J4WE).

[2] Tony Proctor, “FAN Principles Unfolded,” Parallax View (Blog), 16 Nov 2016, <http://parallax-viewpoint.blogspot.com/2016/11/fan-principles-unfolded.html>

[3] Constance Knox, “Cluster Research” (Playlist), YouTube Channel “Genealogy TV,” 12 Feb 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiMXWjHlj5RQKQsBOzVta7IN167GBHeb9>.

## TRACING FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Marjorie Slavens

The previous article suggest tracing friends and neighbors of our ancestors to obtain information about them which we may not have found in their own records. My mother, Mildred Welty Slavens, was not a professional genealogist, but she sometimes found information about our family by tracing other families who were not a part of our direct family lines.

Peter Welty, our immigrant ancestor, came from Germany by way of Holland in the fall of 1727. He settled in Lancaster County, now York County, Pennsylvania

“Peter Welty came to this country in 1727. As it seems that there is no written record of the Welty family, the information concerning it must be put together with the help of information on other people who came to this country about the same time. It has been determined that some of the Weltys were active in the Anabaptist movement in Switzerland as early as 1534. The Anabaptists were followers of Zwingli who opposed infant baptism in the Catholic Church and held the church to be composed of true Christians, baptized on confession of faith, and advocated separation of church and state. The Welty family originated in the communes of Ruderswil and Lauperswil in the canton of Berne. Many of these people became Mennonites, and due to the severe persecution of them in Switzerland, they fled to the Palatinate area of southwest Germany. (Slavens, Mildred Welty, *Peter Welty Family History*, St. Louis, MO: 1981, 1986, Raymore, MO: 2000)

(Will of Peter Welty, June 30, 1755)

“Item 2 It is my will that my beloved wife Catherina shall have thirty pounds currant lawfull money of Pennsylvania and that forever, and the house whereon I dwell at Presents and that for her live time and yearly twelve bushels wheat, and five bushels of rye and one hundred with of pork and two cows and fodder sold and two quarters with flax. If she remain a widow and the said house. 3 Item My son John shall have two cows beforehand and hereafter so much as another child and all my land so well that land which is in John Dixons Line as well that other piece of land which is taken up by Pennsylvania. I do give to my two sons John and Abraham Welty for their heirs and assigns forever and so that the said sons are share and share alike in paying for the said lands as for keeping and dividing said lands and them two sons are to pay to their mother what she has yearly to have and so them thirty pounds as above mentioned and for the above said land the said sons have to pay to their sisters one hundred and fifty pounds money aforesaid, also every year after fulfilling this my last will twenty five pounds 4 Item It is my will and I do order that Michael Danner and

my son John shall be the Executors of this my last will and testament.”

We do not know who the daughters of Peter were except for the following:

“One of the daughters must have been Catherina, who was married to Daniel Reisher. A record of a land transaction dated June 4, 1761 between Daniel Reisher and wife, Katrina and John Welty states that "Peter Welty was the father of both parties". The other daughters are not listed.

In contrast to his father, John Welty, Sr. (Johannes) listed all of his daughters with their husbands in his will; we were able to trace some of those family lines in order to find information about our direct ancestors. John married Eve Cocghnower, daughter of Jacob Cocghnower and sister of Magdalena Cocghnower Welty, wife of John's brother Abraham.

Will of John Welty, Sr.

“In September, 1793, John Welty made a will, disposing of his property upon his death. It was probated August 16, 1794. The executors were his son, Jacob, and his son-in-law, Christian Ruble. He listed these children: Catherina, intermarried with Ludwig Geeding; Peter Welty; Barbara, intermarried with Christian Rubel; Mary, intermarried with Peter Ellenberger; Anna, intermarried with Abraham Myer; Frena, intermarried with Joseph Bixler; Eve, intermarried with \_\_\_\_\_ Golding; Elizabeth Welty; Magdalena Welty; Jacob Welty; John Welty; Abraham Welty, and Joseph Welty.

According to John's will, the land was to be sold after his death and the money to be divided equally among his children. One third of the proceeds were to go to his wife, Eve.”

Because John's estate was divided among his 13 children, none of whom could purchase the land of their brothers and sisters in York County so none of them could remain in York County. Most went to Fayette and Westmoreland Counties in western Pennsylvania. Eve Cocghnower Welty went with her children. She died in Westmoreland County in 1806 Following Eve's

death, some of her children and their families moved to Ohio or Kentucky. Our ancestor, John, child 11, moved with his family to Fairfield County, Ohio, where he was listed in the 1810 Census. His son, also John, was the father of my great grandfather, Henry Welty, who left Fairfield County after the Civil War, first going to Illinois, where his brother, Abraham lived, and then to Jasper County, Missouri to teach and farm.

My mother listed the members of these various families in her Family Treemaker program, but she also prepared books on other Welty family lines, the Bixlers, the Cocghnowers, the Rodehafers and Graffis family, husbands of Henry Welty's sisters, Elizabeth and Anna. We retained information about wills, land records, Census records, marriages, cemetery records for these families as we traced the Welty family from Switzerland to Germany, to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and to Oregon in later years, among other locations. Some of this information did not relate directly to later generations of our family, but we have sometimes found answers to some questions about the ancestors of the people that helped us answer some of our own questions about our direct lines.

## THE WWII PARACHUTE WEDDING DRESS

Fold 3 Blogger Jenny Ashcraft this month highlights the use of scrap parachute material to provide silk for wedding dresses during World War II. We follow the personal story of a U.S. Marine paratrooper and a Navy WAVES Parachute Rigger who fell in love at Joint Fort Dix Army Air Force Base in New Jersey.

You can read their story and view photographs of the beautiful parachute wedding dress at the blog post: <https://blog.fold3.com/the-wwii-parachute-wedding-dress/>

Fold3.com helps family researchers discover more about their ancestors' military history. It can be accessed by membership, or at many local libraries.

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## NEWS FROM MID-CONTINENT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Marjorie Slavens

There may be light at the end of the tunnel. I use the Library of Congress and Audible for my books, but many of my friends have really missed their visits to the library. Family historians should be glad to hear the latest news from the Midwest Genealogy Center (MGC) about opportunities to do their research:

“Great news! In addition to research, customers may now browse and select items from the shelves on their own. All customers must wear masks during their visit for the safety of others and our staff. To learn about other restrictions that may be in place, please call us at 816.252.7228.

Current MGC Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

Ancestry Library Edition can be used from home for free until the end of March 2021 with your MCPL card.

MCPL customers have access to online resources, including genealogy databases, geographic databases, U.S. history databases, world history databases, newspaper databases, web resources for genealogists, and ancestors online pedigree charts. With all of the FREE resources that you have access to through MCPL, finding your Irish ancestors is possible.

### A Note About Virtual Programs

For the safety of our customers, the Library is conducting programs virtually until further notice. You will need to download Zoom or log into Facebook in order to attend MGC programs.

For Zoom, be sure to register so that you receive an access code to participate. Registration will close 30 minutes prior to start of the program. For programs on Facebook, go to the MCPL360 Facebook page at the scheduled day and time.

## REMEMBERING BYRON GILBREATH

We were sad to learn of the death of our friend and MCG Treasurer in late January. Byron was a longtime member of MCG and previously served as Publicity Chair for this organization. Byron has presented several MCG programs about his family research. He was also serving as President of the Foxwood Springs Residents' Council, our charity which raises funds to help residents of Foxwood Springs who have outlived their resources and need some financial assistance to continue to live in this community. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne, son, Dale, of Lee's Summit, daughter, Carol, of Oregon, and several grandchildren.

## OFFICERS

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