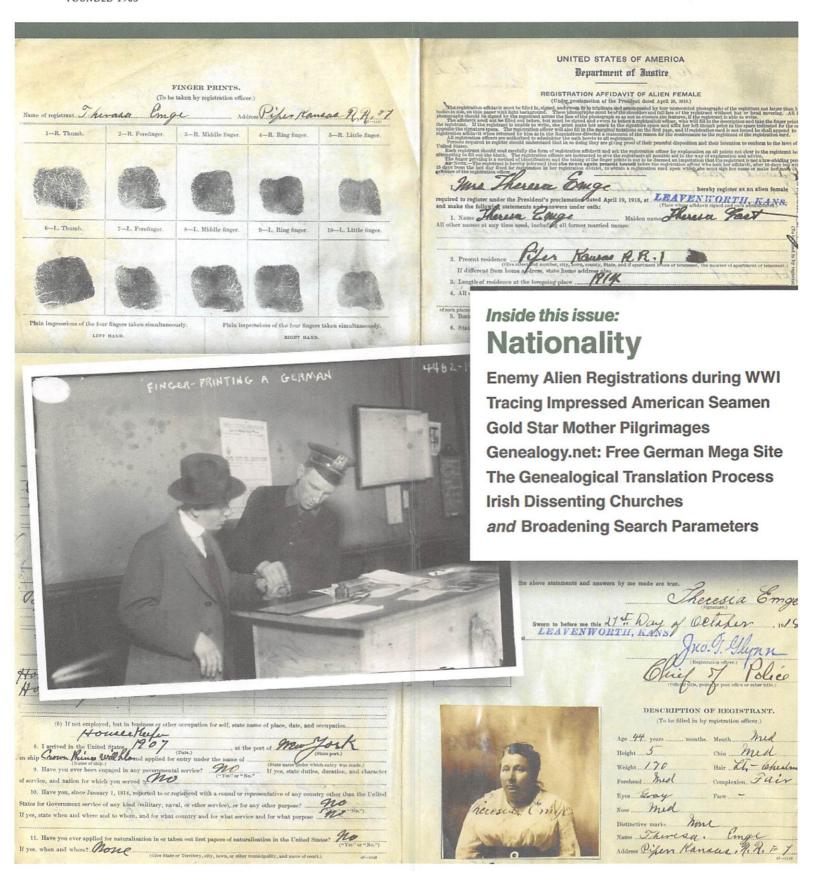


FOR GENERATIONS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

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NGS

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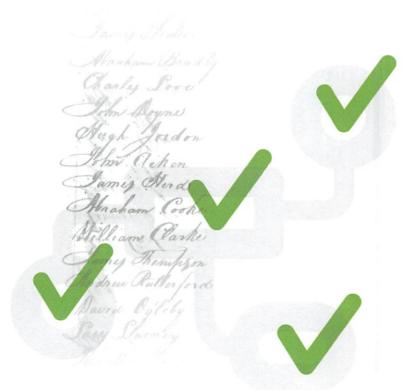


On the cover: The alien registration affidavit of Mrs. Theresa Enge of Pifer, Kansas, contains her fingerprints, biographical information, photo, and signature. Enemy Alien Registration Affidavit for Theresa Emge, ARC identifier 289086, "Enemy Alien Registration Affidavits, 1917–1921," National Archives Catalog, database and images,

https://research.archives.gov/id/286181; NARA identifier 286181, Department of Justice, US Marshal, District of Kansas, Record Group 118: Records of US Attorneys, 1821–1994, National Archives at Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri. The Bain News Service photograph superimposed on the affidavit shows a New York City policeman fingerprinting a German alien in 1918. Glass negative, call number LC-B2- 4482-14a [P&P], George Grantham Bain Collection, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2014706324/.

Broadening Search Parameters: A Case Study

Shannon Green, cg



Most genealogists hit a brick wall at some point when trying to extend their trees. It's easy to blame ancestors for not leaving enough records. However, many times success is not stymied by lack of records, but by narrow search parameters.

Broadening search parameters can lead to finding records that help answer elusive genealogical questions. First, track search criteria in a research log to avoid repeating the same search. Second, revisit prior searches recorded in a research log to determine whether the search criteria should be broadened to find more records.

Use research logs to plan research and record the results. They can be handwritten in notebooks, sortable in spreadsheets, or kept in the cloud by using note-taking programs like Evernote. Regardless of the chosen platform, the key elements in a research log are repository, source or database, and search criteria: the specified surname, time period, spelling, and location.

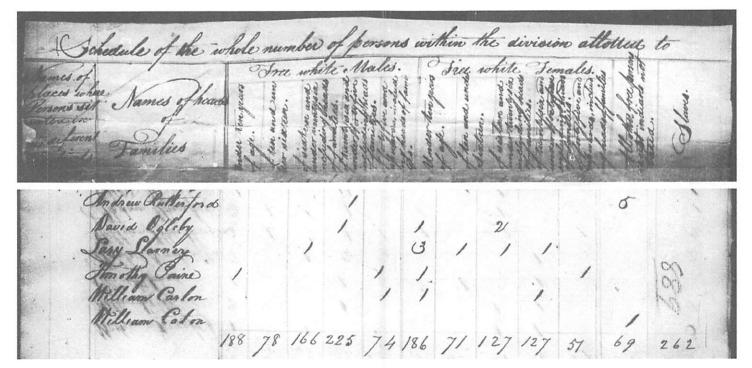
A common research question is to identify the parents of an ancestor, as shown in this case study. Ann Ogilvie married James Clephane in Washington, DC, in 1819 and died twenty years later. The research goal was to identify Ann's father. Limited search parameters initially prevented the answer from being found, although searching in the same records with different search parameters would have easily named her father.

Most states, including the District of Columbia, did not record births or deaths in the early 1800s. Without vital statistics, a preliminary research plan typically includes looking in census records, land records, and newspapers.

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Shannon received her bachelor's degree from Duke University and earned her MBA from Vanderbilt University. Her articles have been published in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record. She can be reached at shannon@greenwichgenealogy.com.

Websites cited in this article were viewed on 26 May 2018.

^{1.} Washington, District of Columbia, Marriage Records, 1811–1950, unpaginated and arranged chronologically, James Clephane and Ann Ogilvie, 1819; FHL microfilm 2,079,251, item 3, image 1284. Also, Find A Grave, database with images (www.findagrave.com), memorial 79828303, Mrs. Ann Ogilvie Clephane, Glenwood Cemetery, Washington, DC; gravestone photographed by Tom Clephane.



David Ogleby, 1800 US census, Washington, District of Columbia.

Alternative spellings

Since Ann was born in 1802 and married in 1819, the assumption was that she lived with her family in the Washington area at the time.² A general search for Ogilvie households in 1800-1830 census records revealed none in Washington or adjacent Maryland and Virginia counties.3 No research log was kept, so the search was conducted multiple times over the years. With no parental candidates, research stalled.

A later page-by-page search of the Washington 1800 census revealed a household headed by "David Ogleby."4 His name was not picked up by the site's algorithms as similar to Ogilvie, even though the exact search option was not selected.

If the initial search parameters had been broadened to try different spellings, a candidate for Ann's father could have been found much earlier. When searching indexes, do not assume the search algorithm will return all similar results—try different spellings. Be sure to log the various search attempts in a research log to avoid duplicating searches.

Expanded time periods

Perhaps Ann's father bought or sold land in Washington when Ann was growing up. A search in the General Index to Deeds for the period 1806-1828 revealed no land transactions for the surname Ogilvie.5 Once again, research stalled without any parental candidates.

Search parameters extended to include a broader time period would have identified a single transaction in January 1800 when David "Oglieve" purchased the western part of Lot 7 of Square 490.6 In this case, this transaction was before Ann's date of birth, but be aware that many deeds are recorded long after the date of the instrument, and in many cases after one or both of the parties died.

Expanding the time period for records before or after the target person's date of birth or death might reveal additional transactions that help answer the research question.

Various locations

A search for a marriage announcement and obituary for Ann in Washington papers did not identify

^{2.} Ibid.

^{3.} All searches were conducted again on 26 May 2018 as the initial searches were not logged. The author searched for "Ogilvie" in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington at *Ancestry* (https://search.ancestry.com/search/group/usfedcen): 1800 US census, NARA microfilm M32; 1810 US census, NARA microfilm M19.

4. 1800 US census, Washington, District of Columbia, p. 889 (penned), line 11, David Ogleby household; image, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com),

citing NARA microfilm M32, roll 5.

^{5.} Washington, District of Columbia, General Index to Deeds, vol. 2–4, 1806–1828; FHL microfilm 895,251.

District of Columbia, Land Records, vol. E5:76, Andrew Rutherford and Alexander Reid to David Oglevie; FHL microfilm 899,403

her father's name. No marriage notice was found.7 A death notice in The Madisonian reads:

DIED—On the evening of the 23rd instant, Mrs. ANN CLEHANE, aged 38, wife of Mr. James Clephane, Printer, leaving a disconsolate husband and six children to lament their early bereavement.8

DIED,
On the evening of the 23d instant, Miss ANN CLEPHANE, agred 26, wife of Mr. Janua Clephane, Printer, leaving a disconsolate husband and tax children to liment their early berevenent.
The friends and acquaintances of the family are installed to attend her funeral. This Evening, at four others.

Death notice. Mrs. Ann Clephane. The Madisonian (Washington, DC), 25 July 1840.

If the newspaper search had been broadened in time and location, perhaps this marriage announcement placed in a Belfast paper more than three thousand miles away—would have been located:

At the city of Washington, North America, capital of the United States, the 10th of October last, Mr. James Clephane, printer, formerly of Edinburgh, to Miss Ann Ogilvie, daughter of the late Mr. David Ogilvie, of Dundee.9

-MARRIED --

biobill; Esq. At the city of Washington, North America, capital of the United Stares, on the 10th of October last, Mr. James Cevenane, printer formerly of this town, to Miss Ann Umryis, daughter of the late Mr David Ogilvie, of Dundee NIER

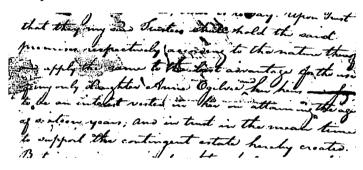
Marriage notice, Mr. James Clephane and Miss Ann Ogilvie, Belfast Newsletter, 8 February 1820.

When deciding where to search for newspaper announcements, consider not only where the event took place but other locations where the individuals might have a connection. Don't limit searches to the year the event took place. In this case, James and Ann were married in October 1819, but the announcement was placed in European papers in February 1820.

Friends, associates, and neighbors

Elizabeth Shown Mills articulated the concept of the FAN Principle: researching the friends,

associates and neighbors of the target person.10 Long after hopes of finding Ann's father were dashed, it was by chance when researching Ann's husband's uncle, Lewis Clephane, that his name was found in an index to a book of abstracted probate files for early Washington. Lewis was an executor of the will of David Ogilvie.11 David wrote his will in 1804 and it was proven 19 April 1805. His land was to be held in trust by his three friends for "my only daughter Anne Ogilvie" until she was sixteen years old.12 Lewis Clephane, one of David Ogilvie's executors, was appointed guardian of Ann.13 Lewis' nephew, James Clephane, emigrated from Scotland and lived with his uncle.¹⁴ Two years later James and Ann were married.



Detail, will of David Ogilvie, 1804, Washington, DC.

Lessons learned

It was only after identifying David Ogilvie that searches in the census, land records, and newspapers were conducted with broader search parameters, revealing additional direct and indirect evidence that David was Ann's father. The search parameters were not adequately logged, which resulted in multiple searches in the same record sets. In retrospect, had the initial searches been carried out with broader search parameters, Ann's father could have been identified much earlier.

To be most efficient with searches, be sure to:

 Log each search attempt and include the specific search parameters used

^{7.} The author searched for "Clephane" in 1819 at Chronicling America Historic American Newspapers (https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov),

GenealogyBank (https://www.genealogybank.com), and Newspapers.com (https://www.newspapers.com).

8. "Died," death notice of Mrs. Ann Clephane, The Madisonian (Washington), 25 July 1840, p. 3, col. 6; Chronicling America Historic American

Newspapers (http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov).

9. Marriage notice, Belfast Newsletter, 8 February 1820, p. 3, col. 1; "Belfast, Northern Ireland, The Belfast Newsletter (Birth, Marriage and Death Notices), 1738–1925," Ancestry (www.ancestry.com). The author would like to thank Val Wilson for her assistance.

10. Elizabeth Shown Mills, "QuickLesson 11: Identity Problems & the FAN Principle," Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage

⁽https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-11-identity-problems-fan-principle).

11. Wesley Pippenger, District of Columbia Probate Records, 1801–1852 (Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1996), 19.

12. Washington, District of Columbia, David Ogilvie will, probated 19 April 1805; DC Archives, Washington.

^{13.} District of Columbia, David Ogilvie probate file, Old Series Case Files, 1801-1878, no. 121; Record Group 21: Records of the District Courts of the United States, 1685-1991; National Archives, Washington, DC.

^{14.} Walter C. Clephane, "Lewis Clephane: A Pioneer Washington Republican," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, vol. 21 (Washington, DC: Columbia Historical Society, 1918).

An example of a personal research log, created by the author in the format of the Genealogy Research Log distributed for free use by Thomas MacEntee of the Geneabloggers blog.

- Try different spellings—don't rely on search algorithms
- Search beyond the birth and death dates of the target person
- Don't limit searches to the location and year in which the event took place
- Always research records for the target person's friends, associates, and neighbors

Resources

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World leading qualifications in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies offered online. The programme covers sources from across the world with an emphasis on research within the British Isles. Flexible online distance learning format. Study at any time from anywhere in the world, part time or full time. Developed by professional genealogists with constructive feedback provided by assigned tutors. Or take an 8 week online beginner to intermediate course; a new Autosomal DNA Genealogy course is available from April 2018. www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning or email scosh@strath.ac.uk The University of Straticyde as a charitable body, registaged in Scotland, number SCU15263