

Bytes & Branches

Genealogy Computer Society

Proof – verification – evidence – primary & secondary What does it all mean?

April 13, 2002

Volume 10, Issue 4

How much of your genealogical information is accurate?

If future generations were to use the information you have today, would they know the source or the reliability of the data?

This is a question we often think about and wonder if an organization like the DAR would accept our findings with the evidence shown.

Tia Magbee, the program sponsor for April has arranged for a speaker who will be able to answer many of your questions.

Tia has arranged for Jean Manker, the Records Chairman of the Georgia DAR will be here on April 13th to talk and answer your questions on the subject.

Bill Reace

Bill is still in Intensive Care. He continues to improve, but it will be a slow process. They will be taking tests on Monday, April 8 to determine his present condition. We will continue to monitor his progress.

Future Programs

Date	Program Sponsor	Topic
April 13, 2002	Tia Magbee	DAR
May 11, 2002	John Smith	Georgia Historical Society
June 8, 2002		
July 13, 2002	Glen Engels	
August 10, 2002	Glen Engels	
September 14, 2002		
October 12, 2002	Marvin Tedjamulia	
November 9, 2002	Bob Warnock	Computer Timelines

Betcha didn't know

- Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of their birthplace.
- Honey is the only food that doesn't spoil.
- Conception occurs more often in December than any other month.
- Men can read smaller print than women; women can hear and smell better.
- 38 % of North America is wilderness; while 28% of Africa is wilderness.
- Each King in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:
 - Spades - King David Clubs - Alexander the Great
 - Hearts - Charlemagne Diamonds - Julius Caesar
- If a statue of a military person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle.
 - If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle.
 - If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.
- Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock & Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.
- The term 'the whole 9 yards' came from WW II fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got "The whole 9 yards."
- The phrase 'Rule of Thumb' is derived from an old English law which stated you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.
- The nursery rhyme 'Ring Around the Rosey' is a rhyme about the plague. Infected people with the plague would get red circular sores. The sores would smell very badly so common folks would put flowers on their bodies somewhere so the scent would mask the smell of the sores ('a pocket full of posies'). Furthermore, people who died from the plague would be burned to reduce the possible spread of the disease ('ashes, we all fall down').
- From the plague we also got 'God bless you' after someone sneezes. Sneezing was one of the final signs of the plague. The sneezing person was sure to die soon. So many were dying that there weren't enough clergy to go around. It became automatic for the general public to bless someone when they sneezed because a priest might not show up in time.

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A Little Trivia for you from
BLUEGRASS ROOTS, KY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Are you a True Southerner?

Only a true Southerner knows the difference between a hissie fit and a conniption and that you don't "have" them, but "pitch" them.

Nobody but a true Southerner knows how many fish, collard greens, turnip greens, peas, beans, etc. make up a mess.

A true Southerner can show or point out to you the general direction of "yonder."

A true Southerner knows exactly how long "directly" is - as in "Going to town, be back directly."

Even true Southern babies know that "Gimme some sugar" is not a request for the white, granular sweet substance that sits in a pretty little bowl in the middle of the table.

All true Southerners know exactly when "by and by" is. They might not use the term, but they know the concept well.

True Southerners know instinctively that the best gesture of solace for a neighbor who's got trouble is a plate of hot fried chicken and a big bowl of cold potato salad. If the trouble is a real crisis, they also know to add a large banana puddin'.

True Southerners grow up knowing the difference between "right near" and "a right far piece." They know that "just down the road" can be 1 mile or 20.

True Southerners both know and understand the differences between a redneck, a good ol' boy, and po' white trash.

No true Southerner would ever assume that the

car with the flashing turn signal is actually going to make a turn.

True Southerners know that "fixin" can be used both as a noun, verb and adverb.

True Southerners make friends standing in lines. We don't do "queues," we do "lines." And when we're in line, we talk to everybody.

Put 100 Southerners in a room and half of them will discover they're related, if only by marriage.

True Southerners never refer to one person as "ya'll."

True Southerners know grits come from corn and how to eat them.

Every true Southerner knows tomatoes with eggs, bacon, grits and coffee are perfectly wonderful; that redeye gravy is also a breakfast food; that fried green tomatoes are not breakfast food.

When you hear someone say, "Well, I called myself lookin'," you know you're in the presence of a genuine Southerner.

Southerners say "sweet tea" and "sweet milk." Sweet tea indicates the need for sugar and lots of it - we do not like our tea unsweetened; "sweet milk" means you don't want butter-milk.

And a true Southerner knows you don't scream obscenities at little old ladies who drive 30 on the freeway - you say, "Bless her heart" and go your way.

Today's history lesson THESE ARE FUNNY LITTLE THINGS

Next time you wash your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly baths in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children -- last of all babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it -- hence the saying "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs -- thick straw, piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice rats, and bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery, and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof; hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that

would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh -- the straw left over after threshing grain-- on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more and more thresh until when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. To prevent this, a piece of wood was placed in the entranceway--hence, a "thresh hold."

They cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight, and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while, -- hence the rhyme "peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man "could bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with a high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Most people did not have pewter plates, but had trenchers, a piece of wood with the middle scooped out like a bowl. Often trenchers were made from stale bread which was so

old and hard that they could use them for quite some time. Trenchers were never washed and a lot of times, worms and mold got into the wood and old bread. After eating off wormy, moldy trenchers, one would get "trench mouth."

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, the "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up -- hence the custom of holding a "wake."

England is old and small. They started running out of places to bury people, so they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, one out of 25 coffins was found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

And that's the truth.

Who says history is boring?
