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Lyman C. Draper, Historian Draper's Papers

Janice Schultz
Branch Librarian

The Draper Manuscripts were compiled by Lyman Copeland Draper. They were a product of his lifetime research as a military historian. Lyman Draper was born in 1815 in upstate New York. From a young age he was fascinated with the tales his grandfather told about the Revolutionary War and stories told by his father of the War of 1812. Lyman's grandfather felt it was the New England patriots alone who won the War for Independence.

From the years 1834 to 1836 and again 1843 to 1854 Mr. Draper was financially supported by a relative who funded his research trips. During these years he transcribed records at courthouses throughout the South and interviewed veterans of the Revolution, War of 1812, Indian conflicts, and other subjects of interest.

In 1854 Draper's benefactor passed away. Lyman found employment at the newly-formed State Historical Society of Wisconsin [now the Wisconsin Historical Society]. During this time

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Telling Tales Interviewing & Oral History

Angela McComas
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One of the first pieces of advice given to a beginning genealogist is to talk with as many family members as they can. Oral history is an essential resource in tracing the past. And recording oral history is the best way to preserve that knowledge for future generations.

There are so many stories that can give clues to the researcher about records. Great-uncle Fred fought in the Insurrection. Grandma was a suffragette. Someone in the past was married in Bresloe, Germany. Those are clues to a military pension, newspaper articles, and an immigrant birth place. The thorough researcher will ask everyone about early childhood memories, family history and traditions, historical events, careers and military service.

The best way to gather the family oral history is the one-to-one interview. The process may seem a bit rigid at first, but both the interviewer and the interviewee will soon relax into a conversation.

The preparations before an interview help greatly in the success of the venture. A tentative list of questions should be prepared. Some researchers advocate sending the list to the interviewee so they can prepare or gather photos and memorabilia. Others prefer to not preset the talk, but to let it flow naturally.

The interviewer needs to decide the best way to record the session. Will they take notes and rely on memory? Will audio or video recorders be

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Draper's Papers

Draper's research consisted of correspondence with research subjects and those who knew these people personally.

The Trans-Allegheny West [the western Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, the Ohio River Valley, and parts of the upper Mississippi Valley] was the geographic interest area of Mr. Draper. His subject matter covered the period of the frontier conflicts from the 1740s to the War of 1812. Upon Draper's death in 1891 his research material was donated to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The massive material was eventually microfilmed.

A *Guide to the Draper Manuscripts* and calendars of several of the series are available to help the researcher wade through the immense amount of material. No every-name index exists. An index to the subjects and major biographical figures and an additional index of correspondents do not begin to touch the amount of information found within the papers.

In volume 8C of the Daniel Boone papers one can find the names of those to whom Boone family members sold land. Robert Bell, Henry Baker, John Frohock, Jacob Helker, Joseph Hughes, James Stewart, Aaron Vancleave, Thos. Penry, and Jas. Johnesey had that interaction with the Boone family.

In volume 21 of the Frontier War Papers (U), one can find Draper's handwritten copy of a "Register of Indian Depredation in West Virginia" which was originally penned by Captain William Preston. The interesting list of people, some who lived and some who were killed or captured from 1754 and 1755, includes two lengthy accounts of captive colonists. One is an account of the capture and subsequent escape of Captain Samuel Stalmacker. The other is a sorrowful account of the captivity of the Renick family in 1757.

The Draper Papers contain a wealth of information. These first-hand accounts of history cannot be found elsewhere, with the exception of a few pieces of information which have been incorporated into history books and family genealogies. By looking in the Draper Manuscripts you could be the first in your family to discover something unique about your ancestors.

Interviewing and Oral History

used? Will photos be taken? If technical devices are used, they need to be checked out before hand. Batteries, microphones, cords and outlets must be tested.

At the beginning of the interview, record the names of the people involved, and the date and place of the interview. Talk to the subject about how the information will be shared and ask permission to use their story. This is just a courtesy, as they have already agreed to the interview. There are release forms available on websites and in books if either person feels they are needed.

During the interview, ask the questions from the prepared list. Give the person plenty of time to answer. Sometimes the best information comes during the pauses between the questions! Don't argue or try to correct the person being interviewed. Everyone remembers things differently. Be sensitive to taboo topics.

Interviews should be scheduled for about one hour; never more than two hours. It's better to schedule a second visit than to wear out one's welcome.

The next day, send a thank you note. As soon as possible start transcribing the information that was gathered. Perhaps there will be follow-up questions and the need for another interview.

There are two websites with good advice about running oral history interviews. Check out http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/oralhist/ohh_ome.html and http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html

There are many books available with lists of questions to ask during the interview. One that is very good is First Write's: Forty Writing Exercises for Older Adults by Margaret Gulsvig (Bi-Folkal; 1987). Also look for technique books such as: Oral History Manual by Barbara W. Sommer (AltaMira Press; 2002), Handy Tips for Compiling Oral Histories (Everton Publishers; 1982) and Transcribing and Editing Oral Histories by Willa K. Baum (AltaMira Press; 1977). These are available at Mid-Continent Public Library, Genealogy & Local History Branch as research material.

Don't regret not asking. Ask, and ask now.

Genealogy Websites



Diana Watkins

Reference Librarian

Death Records for Ireland on Ancestors at Rest
http://www.ancestorsatrest.com/ireland_genealogy.shtml
All of Ireland- cemetery, church, and parish records.

Russian Genealogy
<http://www.genealogyrussia.com>
Research in Russian genealogy, ancestry, relative search, family tree, family history, census records, births, deaths, and marriages.

Ukraine Genealogy
<http://www.genealogyukraine.com>
Research in Ukraine genealogy (same as above).

German Genealogical Institute
<http://www.german-ancestors.com>
To discover the history of Germans who migrated to the United States.

Iowa Gravestone Photo Project
<http://iowagravestones.org>
Free, searchable database spanning all 99 Iowa counties.

CadetWeb.Net!
<http://www.cadetweb.net/>
CadetWeb, formerly known as "Salute", is a portal to information about existing military schools, and an archive of information about military schools that no longer exist.

Colorado Genealogy on the Web
<http://www.genealogybranches.com/colorado.html>
Directory of statewide and county resources, including deaths, marriages, census, military and naturalization records.

Marriages records of the Annunciation Catholic Church
<http://www.geocities.com/whosbrett2/annunciation.html>
Abstracts of records kept by pastors of the Annunciation Catholic Church in California, Moniteau County, Missouri, 1909-1953.

Yukon People
<http://www.yukonterritorycanada.ca/yukonpeople.html>
Prominent people of the Yukon and general background information. Also includes general history, geographic information and links.

Irish Genealogy
<http://ballybegvillage.com/genealogy.html>
Includes advice on Irish place-names and Irish land divisions. Site also lists sources for church and civil records.

Researching Your West Virginia Ancestors
<http://www.barbsnow.net/WestVirginia.htm>
Information and links.

Your Guide to Finding Your Michigan Ancestors
<http://www.barbsnow.net/Michigan.htm>
Information, links and advice.

Adoption Search and Reunion Registries Listed By State
<http://www.genesearch.com/people/adoptionsearch.html>
A directory of on-line resources for adoptees and birth parents.

Scottish Borders War Memorial Project
<http://www.sbwmm.co.uk>
This project will photograph all the war memorials in the Scottish Borders, and put the pictures on-line, complete with transcriptions of the monument tablets.

Civil War Slave Compensation Claims
<http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/jkh/slaveclaims/index-links.htm>
St. Louis County Library Special Collections Department listing of 300 slave compensation claims was taken from the records of soldiers in the U.S. Colored Troops.

Wyoming Blacksheep Ancestors
<http://blacksheepancestors.com/usa/wyoming.shtml>
Search for your Wyoming ancestors in free databases of prison and convict records, historical court records, executions and bibliographies of famous outlaws, criminals and bandits.

Wisconsin Blacksheep Ancestors
<http://blacksheepancestors.com/usa/wisconsin.shtml>
Same as above.

Toombs County, Georgia History and Genealogy Project
<http://toombs.150m.com/county.htm>
Toombs County, Georgia genealogical and historical information and links.

New on Ancestry

Oklahoma Osage Tribe Roll, 1921
Virginia Land, Marriage, and Probate, 1639-1850
Maryland Marriages, 1655-1850
Korean War Prisoners of War, 1950-1957
Korean War Casualties, 1950-1957
Chicago Voter Registrations, 1888, 1890, and 1892
South Carolina Marriages, 1641-1965 (adding 1945-1965)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2005

COMPILED BY ANGELA MCCOMAS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CLASS DAY is highlighted Register at 816-252-7228 or mcpl.lib.mo.us/programs	Universal Human Rights Month	Drunk Driving Prevention Month	1 December Rosa Parks Day http://www.rotdig.com/rosa_parks.html	1 7:00 p.m. All I Want for Christmas...	2 Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center opened in KCMO, 1989	3 National Roof Over Your Head Day
4 National Wear Brown Shoes Day	5 1 st MO Territorial General Assembly met in St. Louis, 1812	6 10:00 am Census Records in Genealogy	7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 1941	8 7:00 p.m. Naturalization and Immigration Records	9 Mississippi was established as 20 th state, 1817	10 9:30 am Unlock the Past—Beginning Genealogy
11 Indiana was established as 19 th state, 1816	12 Truce ended “Honey War” between MO & IA, 1839	13 7:00 p.m. Writer’s Blocks	14 Alabama was established as 22 nd state, 1819	15 Bill of Rights Day Boston Tea Party, 1773	16 Most severe earthquake in history occurred at New Madrid, MO, 1811	17 Wright brothers’ took their 1 st flight, 1903
18 New Jersey was established as 3 rd state, 1787 13 th Amendment ratified, 1865	19 <i>Poor Richard’s Almanac</i> published, 1732, by Ben Franklin	20 9:30 am Book Club Sacajawea died at Fort Manuel, SD, 1812	21 Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, 1620	22 Shawnee Indians captured Daniel Boone, 1769	23 Mormon leader Joseph Smith born, 1805	24 LIBRARY CLOSED
25 HAPPY HOLIDAYS	26 LIBRARY CLOSED	27 National Fruitcake Day	28 Iowa was established as 29 th state, 1846	29 Texas was established as 28 th state, 1845	30 31 December Official end of World War II, 1945	31 LIBRARY CLOSED Also closed Monday, 2 January

Finding Resources on the Shelves

by Angela McComas

Browsing the shelves at the Genealogy & Local History Branch can be a great way to find resources. But where to start? The order seems arbitrary. The Dewey Decimal classification system assigns numbers to specific topics and the books are then arranged in numerical order. So, how do you find books about Toombs County, Georgia? At the end of the computer tables, at the front and back of the building, is a white soft-bound book that lists all the counties in the United States in alphabetical order. The classification number for that county is then listed.

The best way to find everything for the locality you are researching is use the locality as a Subject search on the online catalog at www.mcpl.lib.mo.us. This will give you a printable list of the all books on your subject no matter how they are classified.