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The New Logo of the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society

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Bernice Georgia Heydon

By Colleen Preston

Hello, my name is Bernice Heydon. As you can see, I was born on Valentine's Day in 1928.

I have two older brothers; one is right here beside me. His stone says "Baby Heydon," but I think if our parents hadn't been so shocked by his early birth and death, they might have named him Paul after our dad...or maybe even George or Leonard after our grandfathers. This brother arrived on June 7, 1920 at 4:30 pm...and was gone by 7:00 pm. Our mom, Dora, carried him for only seven months before he was born.

My other older brother, Darrel Gene Heydon, was born on September 9, 1923. Now, this brother spent ninety years living, and he has told us some stories! He attended Lewis & Clark high school where he played football, acted in plays, and met a girl he would later marry, Mary Joan Mullen. Darrel joined the Navy after high school and became an Electrician's Mate. He says that he got a Purple Heart in the Navy, but that is not something he wants to talk about. He earned a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Let me tell you a bit about our parents. Our dad, Paul Leonard Heydon, was born in Missouri, but his family moved to Greenacres, outside of Spokane in about 1910. Our mom, Dora Lines Baker, was born in Michigan. Her family moved to Spokane in 1912. They married on November 1, 1919, right after our dad got out of the Navy. At first they lived with dad's parents in Greenacres. Our dad was a logging truck driver when our oldest brother was born. He later ran his own business, Spokane Bartile Sales. Our mom was a clerk for the city of Spokane in the cemeteries division.

By the time I came along, our parents were living at 326 Arthur in Spokane. Darrel was four years old that year. I mentioned already that I was born on Valentine's Day, but unfortunately, I was only able to stay for five days. Mine was another early birth. I understand that in 2024 doctors can save babies who arrive at just 7 ½ months, but in 1928 most premature babies suffered from what doctors called "inanition." That's a fancy word for "failure to thrive."

Since our mother worked for the cemeteries division, she visited us here fairly often. If you look around, you will also see our grandparents, Leonard and Sharlet ("Addie") Heydon, here at Pines Cemetery. Our other grandparents George and Sarah Baker are at Greenwood Memorial.

Dad and Mom moved to Seattle sometime around 1960 and then to Oregon around 1970. They are buried in Willamette National Cemetery in Oregon. Darrel is buried in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego.

I may have a niece and nephew still living. Anne Elizabeth Heydon and Richard Neal Heydon.

Questions for Samuel

By Lynn Krogh

Samuel...Oh Samuel!

Many in this world believe that there are no accidents; that those we meet on our life's path are put there for a purpose. I could easily be one of those people...on the days when I think deeply about such things. Whether by accident or by universal design, I can certainly say that meeting you had not been part of my own plans that cold day in winter.

The room was crowded. Happy folks in holiday sweaters stood eating holiday cookies, their high-volume conversations fueled by the adrenaline of having just driven on icy roads. I must have listened to tales of frightful weather and family woes and holiday plans, but those are never the things one remembers later. I know that I was aware of your invitation even in the midst of all the surrounding commotion. And, I know that I accepted your invitation, although later I could not recall your name or anything else about you.

Ah Samuel...you were elusive from the very start!

Your little white envelope joined piles of Christmas cards and grocery lists and overdue bills on my untidy desk, until, in the sudden quiet of January it came again to my notice.

I hesitated a moment before opening it, as if doing so were a commitment I was unsure I wanted to make.

The invitation was so simple:
Your Name.
Your Current Address.
That's it!
So, so simple.

I tried hard to ignore the feeling of being emotionally impelled toward you, but I'd find myself thinking of you in the checkout line or while folding towels. I'd wake at 3 a.m. knowing that you had haunted my dreams.

Finally, on a frosty February morning, I Googled your address. I drove without stopping, knowing that if I hesitated, I would turn back.

I sat with you and asked questions.

**Why have you asked me here?
What can I do for you?
Is this your wife sitting beside you?**

Samuel was silent. I tried more personal questions.

**Where were you born?
What brought you to this place?
Do you have children?**

Samuel once again did not speak.

At a loss, I now sat in silence. The peace and the beauty of the place enveloped us; I suddenly felt a kinship with this man.

I reached into my pocket and pulled out the invitation.

I started to cry.

I get it now Samuel...I get it.

The Invitation



You see, Samuel's last words had been spoken almost 100 years before we met. I was to be his voice for a last time.

April 9, 1848 Samuel David Smith was born to parents Wesley White Smith and Nancy Ellen Mitchell Smith in Moultrie County, Illinois. He joined older siblings: Hugh(11), John(9), George(7), William(5), and James(3).

Were you born early or did you keep your mother waiting?

**Did she have an easy delivery?
Who was there to help?
Was everyone surprised to have another boy?
What did all those brothers think of you?**

1850: The Smith family lived in Moultrie, Illinois. Like most Illinois residents, Wesley Smith earned his living by farming and more than likely the Smith family raised corn and hogs.

**Were you old enough to help with chores at 3 years old?
What games did you play?
What did you squabble with your brothers about?
What was your favorite dinner?**

1851: Death of brother George A. Smith (age 10)

1851: Birth of sister Elizabeth Jane Smith.

1852: Birth of sister Mary Ann "Molly" Smith.

1854: Birth of twin brothers Joseph Knight Smith and Thomas White Smith.

1858: Death of brother James Gordon Smith (age 13)

**So much joy and so much sadness!
How did your brothers die?
Did neighbors come to mourn/celebrate with you?
Did your family go to church?
Where did you go to school?
How far did you go in school?**

1860: Abraham Lincoln elected. Samuel was 12 years old. Moultrie County Illinois is only 50 miles from Springfield where Lincoln campaigned and won the presidency. The Smith family surely knew about the country's politics.

**How did you get your news? Newspapers? Word of mouth?
How much did you understand at 12 years old about the issues in the country at the time? What did you know about slavery?**

1861: Brothers Hugh, John, and William enlisted in the Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Samuel was 13 years old.

**Were your scared for your brothers?
Or did you want to go too?**

February 11, 1865: Samuel Smith enlisted in 154th Illinois Infantry Company A. He was 16 years old.

Brother Hugh had served 3 years and had come home safely. Brother John was wounded in 1862 and was unable to return to duty. Brother William had reenlisted in

1864 and continued to serve. Many neighbors, friends and relations had been wounded or killed in the war by this time.

The minimum age for enlistment in the Civil War was 18. Boys under the age of 18 could enlist only with parental permission. During the Civil War, the individual counties undertook the task of raising troops by offering bounties to volunteers. The bounty was raised by floating county bond issues and a tax was levied to meet the payments. In 1865, Moultrie County authorized a bounty of \$550 to every volunteer. (\$10,600 today)

**What did your parents think?
Did your mother cry?
Did you go with friends?
Were you scared?
What were your duties as a soldier?
How was the bounty money used?**

April 9th, 1865: Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House.

**Were you happy to see the end of the war?
How did you and your fellow soldiers celebrate?**

September 1865: Samuel discharged from duty. His Company did not see any actual battle.

**Was there a celebration when you returned home?
Were your farm chores easier than your military duties?**

March 30th1871: Samuel Smith married Susan Howell. The Howell family lived very close to the Smith family in Moultrie County. They were also a farming family

**You must have known Susan your whole life. Did you always know that you would marry her?
What was your wedding like?
Who attended?
How were you dressed for your wedding?**

1872: Birth of son William Thomas Smith
1874: Birth of son Alvin Bernie Smith
1876: Birth and Death of daughter Ida Bell Smith
1876: Death of son Alvin Bernie Smith (2)
1879: Birth of daughter Nettie Alice Smith
1881: Birth of son Lorenzo Franklin "Frank" Smith
1881: Death of daughter Nettie Alice Smith (2)
1885: Birth of daughter Addie Maude Smith

1888: Birth of daughter Bertha Pearl Smith
1889: Death of daughter Bertha Pearl Smith (infant)
1890: Birth of son Lester Virgil Smith (in Illinois)

**You lost 4 of 8 children!
How did you and Susan manage?
Were you a person who showed emotion?
Was Susan?**

1880-1890: The Samuel Smith family lived in Illinois. Samuel was a farmer.

**What did you farm?
Was your family's life like your own childhood?**

1890-1900: The Smith family lived in Spokane Valley and earned their living by farming. Many of Samuel's siblings also moved to this area.

**What made you move here?
What crops did you raise?
How big was your farm?**

1913: Death of wife Susan. Susan died of nephritis (kidney disease).

**Was Susan sick for very long?
Did your children come to help when she became ill?
How did you manage without your wife?**

1923: Samuel moved to the VA retirement facility in Kitsap County, WA. His brother William lived there with him until William died later in 1923.

**Was it a comfort to have your brother with you?
Were your children able to visit you there?**

1925: Samuel David Smith died at 77 years, 5 months, 6 days. He had lived at the VA Retirement Facility for 2 years and 6 months. He then joined his wife at Pines Cemetery.

**Had you and Susan decided on your final resting places?
Or did your children choose?
Are you happy here?**

Samuel... my dear friend Samuel!

There remain so many unanswered questions. What brought you joy and what brought you sorrow? What dreams did you dream?

These answers are now lost to time, but I truly hope that you had a life filled with much joy and little sorrow and that your dreams...at least some of them...came true.

It has been my honor and my pleasure to spend time with you Samuel. I have celebrated your successes and mourned your losses. I won't forget you.

Many in this world believe that there are no accidents; that those we meet on our life's path are put there for a purpose. I am one of those people.

Samuel Smith Sources

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McDANIEL / McDANIELS, SYLVAN / SILVAN

Submitted by Jeanne Polumsky Coe, 2024

The 1900 census for Cottonwood township in Deer Lodge County, Montana, shows the family of George McDaniel, age 37, born in Missouri, a farmer, with his wife Florence, age 24, born in Missouri. There were four children born to the family but only three were living at the time of the census. The three surviving children were Sylvan, born in December of 1894 (age 5), Margareta, born in 1897 (age 2), and Winifred (son), born in 1899 (age 9 months).

Ten years later in 1910 they were still in the same township of Cottonwood, but the county had changed from Deer Lodge to Powell County. Sylvan's father was still farming but the family had increased by one (son George was age 4). All of the children

were born in Montana. Sylvan was now age 15. His brother Winifred's name was spelled differently throughout his life and in the 1910 census it was spelled Winferd.

In March of 1914 Sylvan's mother unfortunately committed suicide. She had been ill for some time with the grip and erysipelas, which was very painful and apparently there was no relief for her. She was only 39 years old when she died in Montana; Silven was 19 years old.

The World War I Draft Registration took place in 1917-1918 and Silvan was included at age 23. At that time he was residing in Malden, Whitman County, Washington and working as a machinist for the CM & St. Paul Railway in the Malden round house. He was listed as a tall man with grey eyes and light brown hair and was unmarried. He listed his birthplace as Deer Lodge, Montana.

In June of 1917 Silven Eugene McDaniel at age 27 was married to Violet Nina Lore. Both resided at Malden; her family was Norwegian. In January of 1918 he and Violet lost their first born child (premature birth). The baby girl was buried in the Pine City Cemetery near Malden.

Hungary Gulch near Avery in Shoshone County, Idaho, was home in the 1920 census for the McDaniel family. Avery is an unincorporated community along the St. Joe River, east of St. Maries, Idaho. Today in 2024 there are about 25 year-round residents, but in the summer the population expands quite a bit. It is a popular place for people to spend their summers in cabins along the river and in the mountains nearby in order to escape the heat of lower elevations. From 1909-1980 it was a division point for the Milwaukee Road railway. The Avery Depot is now on the National Registry of Historic Places and may be worth a summer road trip as it is in a beautiful area. In the great fire of 1910, the town was saved by the US Army's 25th Infantry Regiment (Buffalo Soldiers). The railroad was abandoned in 1980 and now is used by bikers, hikers, and others using the Route of the Hiawatha Trail.

Sylvan McDaniel's death certificate reveals that he died November 22, 1926, at St. Luke's Hospital in Spokane of a ruptured appendix. His occupation was listed as farming and he was a resident of Othello, Washington. His wife Violet was the informant. Sylvan was buried here in The Pines Cemetery in Spokane County two days after his death. In the spring of 1927 Keith was born, never to have known his father.

By 1930 Violet had moved to Malden with her three children. There was Phyllis (age 8), David (age 7), and Keith (age 2). Most of her neighbors in Malden still worked for a steam railroad. The 1940 census shows the family had moved to nearby Rosalia.

Violet listed no occupation. By the 1950 census, Keith was married and living in King County, Washington.

Phyllis McDaniel, Sylvan and Violet's surviving daughter, was handicapped so Violet must have cared for her most of her life. Eventually Phyllis moved to a nursing home where she died in 1994.

Violet McDaniel is also buried here in The Pines Cemetery about thirty feet from Sylvan. Apparently she never remarried. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs.

Thomas Lore are buried near her.

Virtual Traveling by Janice Moerschel

Though I did not get to travel as I had hoped, I had an amazing summer as old and new pieces of family history conjoined. I could not have imagined that I would be making connections in Dublin, Ireland and in the London area of England, and learning more about my Gregg relatives, without setting a foot abroad.

Years ago now (in 2017), I had inherited a lot of old family photos, letters, and news clippings from my Alaskan cousins regarding my maternal line, the Gregg family.

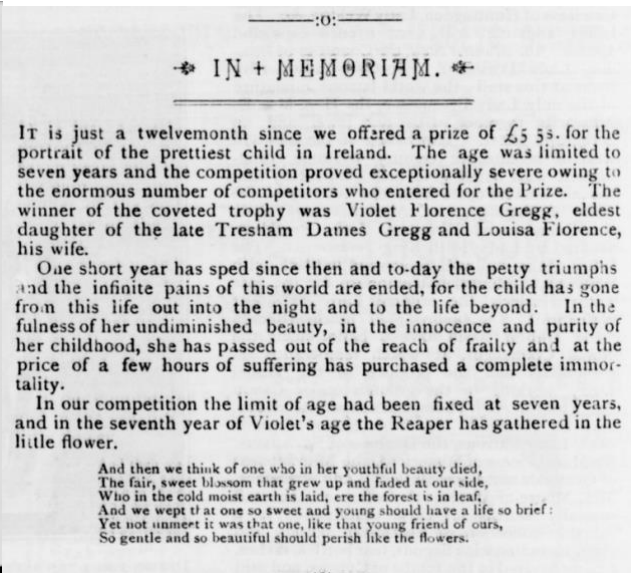
By way of some background, I should mention that my grandfather's father Henry David Gregg, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, had disappeared in 1885. Thus, eventually, my grandfather Tresham (Henry's eldest son) sought out relatives in Ireland to determine whether or not his father had ever returned home. This began a correspondence between him and relatives in Ireland and England and the U.S., starting in 1929 and continuing for several years, as they exchanged family history, stories, and photos.

The first discovery this summer occurred when a woman named Meghan in Dublin sent me a message at Ancestry. She realized that I was researching the Gregg family - but she was doing a different kind of research that involved the history of old homes in Dublin. She found one that had belonged to a man named Tresham Dames Gregg. As I have 13 males of that exact name in my family tree, I needed to discover which one this was, based on the timeframe and location.

I was able to determine that this Tresham D. Gregg was the son of my great-grand uncle Tresham D. Gregg. I'm not sure how long he was living in Dublin, but my information showed he had also lived in South Africa and had a job with Customs for the

British government. Meghan sent me a link to the house that was for sale - a beautiful Georgian style brick building with a garden in the backyard and a pond. It must have sold as the link she sent me no longer functions.

She also sent me a story about a young girl named Violet Florence Gregg, a sister of the aforementioned Tresham. Violet had won a prize for the "prettiest child in Ireland" in 1891. Meghan also found a notice of Violet's death the following year that resulted from typhoid fever where it stated that "the reaper" had "gathered in the little flower."



Both items from "The Lady of the House," Dublin, Ireland, 15 June 1891 and 14 May 1892

I had never seen a picture of Violet before, nor had I known how she died. But I did know about her sister Mabel, who was two years older, as I have a newspaper clipping of her wedding in India in 1913.

Next, I was contacted by a woman named Annie who lives near London, England. I discovered she was a descendant of my great-grandfather Henry D. Gregg's youngest sister Adeline, so we are cousins. Annie noticed that I had the same wedding photo posted on Ancestry as one that she has in her possession. The picture was of the wedding of her great-grandmother Irene Hutchings (daughter of Adeline Gregg and her husband, the Rev. Edgry F. Hutchings) to the Rev. Jon Pim Barcroft in Dundalk, Ireland in 1913.



The Wedding of Irene Hutchings to Reverend Jon P. Barcroft

The group pictured in the wedding photo includes some of my great-grand aunts, cousins, and other relatives.

Annie also shared a photocopy of the newspaper clipping describing her great-grandmother Irene's wedding. Here are some excerpts from the story.

"The quaint little church of St. Paul's, Heynestown, County, Louth was the scene of a very pretty wedding on 25th June when the Rev. Jon Pim Barcroft, Rector of Sixmilecross, Co., Tyrone, son of the late Thos. Malcolmson Barcroft, Rathrone, Sydney Parade, Dublin, was married to Miss Irene Hutchings, youngest daughter of the Rev. E. F. Hutchings and Mrs. Hutchings.

"The Church was beautifully decorated with white roses, lilies, and ferns ... The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a charming gown of ivory satin charmeuse draped with antique Limerick lace (gift of her mother), and a beautiful old lace veil ... Her wreath was composed of real orange blossoms, lilies, and white roses held in place by a pearl leaf which belonged to her great-grandmother, her only other ornament being a pearl pendant which with her beautiful bouquet, were gifts of the bridegroom ... As the happy couple left, the church path was strewn with flowers by some pretty little girls ... Later in the afternoon, Rev. J. P. and Mrs. Barcroft left for London, en route for Switzerland, the bride travelling in a becoming costume of blue with hat to match."

There was a long list of presents. Among the gifts, it was mentioned that the bridegroom gave the bride a pearl pendant and chain and Musquash (muskrat) coat. The bride gave him silver brushes. Irene's mother gave her old family lace and a sewing machine, and her father gave her a Dore (illustrated) Bible and Wedgewood dessert service. There were many other gifts of household items made of silver, tea cloths, an oil painting, and

one of my Gregg relatives gave the couple a portrait of her great-grandmother Martha DAMES Gregg von Feinaigle. There was also a gift of Carrickmacross lace - a fine Irish lace. It is clear from the long list of valuable presents that the Barcroft and Hutchings families were quite well-to-do. Annie also shared with me images of Irene and her daughter and the antique jewelry that had been given to the bride on that day.

Annie sent me portraits of my 3 times great-grandparents Hugh Gregg and Martha DAMES Gregg von Feinaigle that I had never seen before. They married in 1799 in Dublin - wow!



In return, I shared with her many of the old family letters and stories written by relatives, including a letter from Irene. Annie didn't know my great-grandfather Henry David Gregg's story, "The Man who Never Returned," 2018 EWGS writing contest winner, or the story of his eldest sister Gertrude Martha GREGG Reison. Boland: "Gertrude, A Myth No More," third place writing contest winner published in Summer 2024 Digital Digest.

It's kind of funny that Annie also emailed me a link about cousin Ethel Hutchings, a British Army nurse in World War I - not realizing it linked to a story I had written and

submitted to the Qaranc website, dedicated to Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps: <https://www.qaranc.co.uk/Superintendent-Ethel-Hutchings-Royal-Military-Hospital-Ministry-Pensions-Rockfield-St-Michael-All-Angels-Blackrock-Dublin-Ireland.php>

As Annie and I share Gregg ancestry, we also share a connection with the name of "Tresham." Tresham has been a first name in my family for generations. The most recent ancestor with the surname of "Tresham" was my 5 times great-grandmother Rose Tresham who married Hugh Gregg in 1740 in Dublin, Ireland. The surname of Tresham is believed to trace back to one Sir Thomas Tresham.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Tresham_\(died_1605\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Tresham_(died_1605))

Sir Thomas was persecuted for his Catholic faith and one of his sons, Francis, was implicated in what was called the "Gunpowder Plot" in 1605.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Tresham



Sir Thomas Tresham and The Triangular Lodge

Sir Thomas had 11 children (not all were named in the information I've found) and I wasn't sure which of them was my ancestor, but I believed it was not Francis. Just this past month, I have built a line back to Sir Thomas's son Lewis, which I believe to be correct. So it is amazing to have traced this branch of my ancestry back to the early 1600s.

Annie and her daughter visited the "Rushton Triangular Lodge" and saw "Rushton Hall," a lodge with an alleged connection to Guy Fawkes, another alleged participant in the Gunpowder Plot.

A few years back, I located a story at Newspapers.com about the discovery of a hidden Tudor garden at Lyveden, New Bield, in Northamptonshire, England. It described how aerial photographs taken by the Luftwaffe during World War II showed the layout of a garden featuring a pattern of concentric circles. This garden had belonged to the Tresham family and is believed to have reflected the family's religious beliefs.

I hope to continue making discoveries with cousin Annie for years to come. What a great summer!

Translating, Transcribing and Summarizing Documents Using AI

Thomas MacEntee, of Genealogy Bargains
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The power of artificial intelligence can be used to assist genealogists in translating, transcribing, and summarizing a variety of genealogy records. A handwritten baptismal record from the 1800s? No problem. A faded newspaper obituary? No problem. Most AI platforms can help generate useful content for genealogical research.

What is Artificial Intelligence and How Does it Work?

AI stands for Artificial Intelligence and represents computer-based systems that can “mimic” human intelligence. The goal is to have these systems perform human tasks.

The most discussed features of artificial intelligence are “deep learning” and “generative AI.” Deep learning mimics the human brain in that it looks for patterns using vast amounts of information to interpret photos, audio, and text. Generative AI actually “generates” new photos, audio, and text, based on information provided by the user, and again, uses its own database of “training data” to understand patterns and generate output that matches the user’s query.

AI Platforms

While genealogy vendors are incorporating AI into features provided to users, there are some popular AI platforms open to the public that you might want to consider using.

- **ChatGPT:** Meaning “Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer,” ChatGPT (<https://chat.openai.com/>) is the most popular publicly-accessible artificial intelligence platform.
- **Copilot:** Copilot (<https://copilot.microsoft.com>) is an AI-powered intelligent assistant that helps you get answers and inspirations from across the web, supports creativity and collaboration, and helps you focus on the task at hand.
- **Claude:** Claude (<https://claude.ai/>) is an artificial intelligence chatbot created by the company Anthropic that is designed to generate text content and engage in conversations with users using human-like responses.
- **Gemini:** Developed by Google, Gemini (<https://gemini.google.com/>) formerly known as Bard, describes itself as “a family of AI models developed by Google's AI research labs DeepMind and Google Research. Gemini is Google's largest and most flexible AI model, able to run on data centers and mobile devices.”

Summarization

AI document summarization typically uses special programs to focus on and pick out key sentences, phrases, or ideas from a text. These are chosen based on how often they appear and how relevant they are. The aim is to pull out the most important information while keeping the main message and context intact.

Summarize! ChatGPT

ChatGPT allows users to create and share customized programs that can be found by searching the **Explore ChatGPTs** section (<https://chat.openai.com/gpts>). **Summarize!** (<https://chat.openai.com/g/g-Lj07Aq7sC-summarize>) is an excellent tool for summarizing content that offers “In-depth Analysis, Summary, Action Plan and Further Reading Suggestions. Can be used also to summarize historical events, scientific subjects, news, etc...”

Transcription

If you’ve ever struggled to transcribe an older document, with the document propped up to the side of your monitor and you type word by word, then struggle no more. The transcribing abilities of AI platforms are outstanding, and even include the ability to create transcriptions of audio and video files as well as handwritten documents.

However, the resulting content is not always exact or perfect. Older handwriting such as English “secretary hand” or Latin used for German records can only be as good as the training data and examples used by the AI platform. Also review the resulting transcription before using the text in your research.

Translation

While the ability to translate documents and images containing text from one language to another is an amazing and useful feature for genealogists, this tool is not without its issues.

Review the text to be translated and determine when it was created. A Dutch language document from the 17th century may not produce adequate results compared to a more recent document in that language.

Consider using the services of a certified translator especially when translating documents for legal purposes. In addition, interview the translator or the translation service and make sure they can translate your document especially if it is older such as from the 17th century.

Improving Accuracy

Accuracy is dependent upon a variety of factors:

- **Document/Image Quality:** If the image or document is faded or damaged, consider using a photo editor to improve the quality.
- **Document/Image Type:** Not every platform will be able to handle PDF documents. Try using JPG, PNG, or other formats.
- **Document Length/Number of Images:** For large documents or a large number of images, try loading only a few at a time, in batches.
- **Print vs. Handwriting:** Printed text will always be converted faster and with more accuracy. Depending on the handwriting quality, you will see less accuracy. Also forms completed with handwriting (US World War I Draft Registration Cards) will be difficult due to the formatting of the form, especially the lines.
- **Platform:** Some of the AI platforms listed above will do a better job with better accuracy. Try different platforms for best results.

AI and Source Citations

Those new to genealogy and family history soon learn the importance of source citations in proving relationships as well as facts about an ancestor. Usually source citations document how we find and use records such as census population schedules, death certificates, and even letters or diaries.

Citing sources need not be intimidating or time consuming. Stick to the basics: the information found, how it was found, information about where it was found, and locator data so another researcher can find the information.

For artificial intelligence content, here's the formula you might consider using as proposed by the Modern Language Association of America (MLA):

“[QUERY]” prompt. [NAME OF AI PLATFORM], [DATE OR VERSION OF PLATFORM], [NAME OF AI COMPANY], [DATE OF QUERY], [PLATFORM URL]

So, if I asked ChatGPT to translate a page from the book *Le troisième centenaire de l'Édit de Nantes en Amérique et en France*, here is the source citation I would use:

“Translate to English” prompt using digital image of *Le troisième centenaire de l'Édit de Nantes en Amérique et en France*, page 3, published 1989. ChatGPT, ChatGPT 3.5 version, OpenAI, 12 March 2024, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Tips and Tricks

General

- **Provide clear and concise instructions.** Make your prompt clear as to the desired result, such as “transcribe exactly” instead of “transcribe.” For translation use “translate to English” rather than “translate.”
- **Remember to provide feedback.** Most AI platforms provide a way to give feedback on the results generated. Remember these are “learning” platforms and this feedback is essential to better results in the future.
- **Break down the task into separate prompts.** You may find more success if you first ask the AI platform to transcribe a foreign language document and then follow up with the “translate to English” prompt.
- **Beware of platforms recommended by search engines.** There are many “specialized” AI platforms stating that they do a better job of transcribing or translating than “the bigger, better-known” platforms.
- **Review and test customized ChatGPTs.** Most of the offerings in the Explore ChatGPTs section are merely leads to external websites trying to sell an AI tool. Look for the number of chat conversations executed; the higher the number, the more popular the tool.

Summarization

- **Specify format.** Add modifiers to your prompt such as “bullet points.”

Transcription

- **Break down into smaller segments.** Especially when uploading a document or image containing handwritten text, use single pages or smaller segments for better accuracy.
- **Transcribe audio and video content.** Consider using AI to also upload video or audio files to create a transcription.

Translation

- **Craft specific prompts.** When uploading a document or image, use “translate to English” or other language instead of just “translate.”
- **Carefully review translated text.** The translated text should be similar in length to the original text. Some AI platforms may generate lengthy translations that are not useful.
- **Check the context for translated text.** While most AI platforms do a good job of translating text from one language to another, many results are literal rather than contextual.

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Resources

- **ChatGPT**
<https://chat.openai.com/>
- **CoPilot**
<https://copilot.microsoft.com/>
- **Explore ChatGPTs**
<https://chat.openai.com/gpts>
- **Find Results with Full Text** - FamilySearch Labs
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/full-text>
- **Gemini**
<https://gemini.google.com/>
- **Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence (AI)** - Facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1255245945084761>
- **Perplexity**
<https://www.perplexity.ai/>
- **Summarize! ChatGPT**
<https://chat.openai.com/g/g-Lj07Aq7sC-summarize>