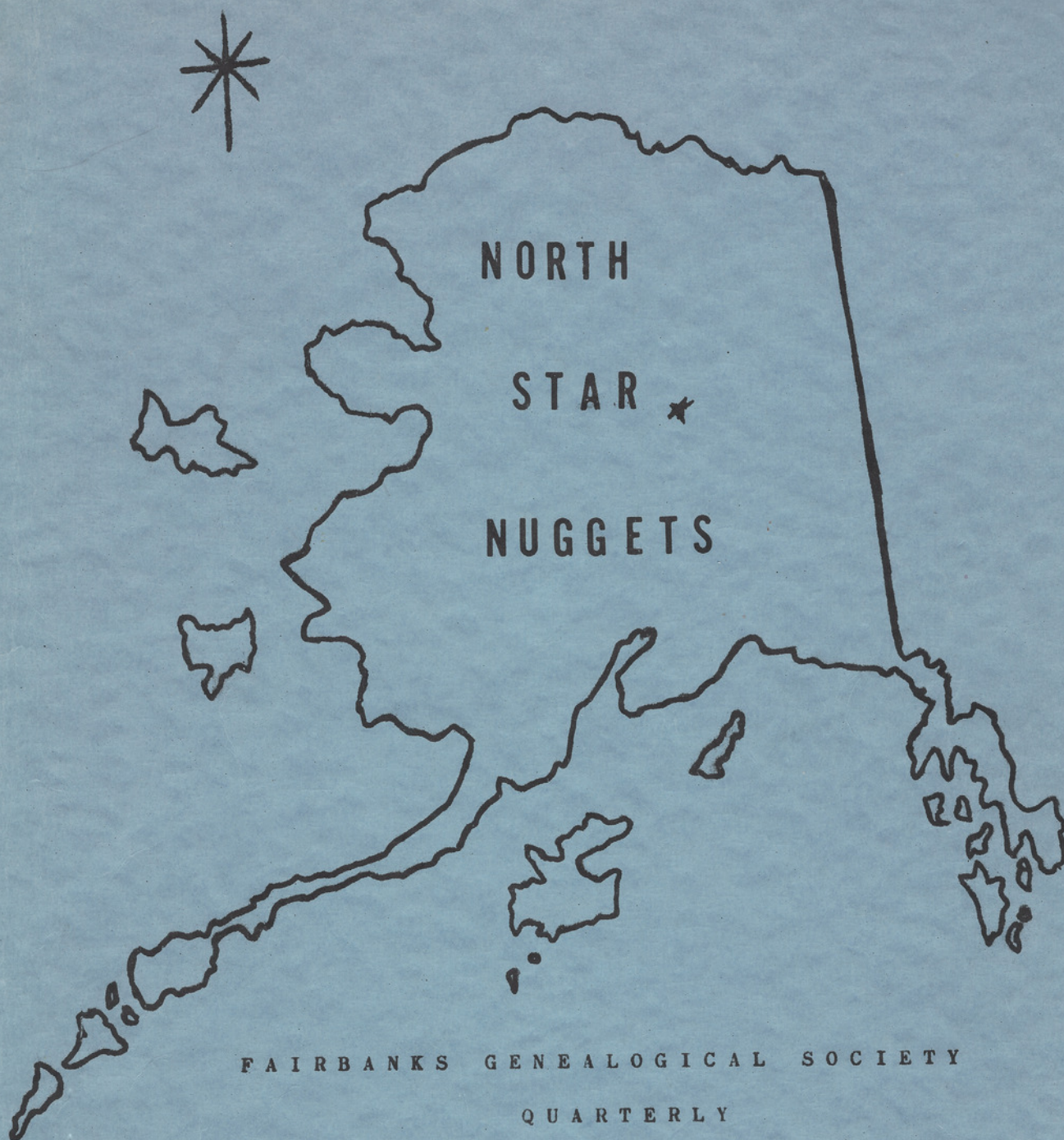


ALASKA



FAIRBANKS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

QUARTERLY

VOL. 1 NO. 1

Spring 1975

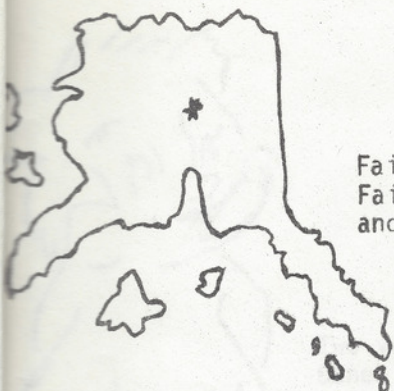
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Material for publication in the North Star Nuggets is requested.

Mail to Christine Amidon, Co-editor
P.O. Box 10061
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701



NORTH STAR NUGGETS

Fairbanks Genealogical Society Quarterly published in Fairbanks, Alaska 4 times a year: spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

Editors: Betty Feakes and Christine Amidon

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Betty A. Feakes
1552 Noble Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

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Florence Collins
P.O. Box 996
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

RESEARCH: Fairbanks area research: Society members \$3.00 per hour. All others \$5.00 per hour. Send information to:

Thomas C. Amidon
P.O. Box 10061
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701



Christine

RUMBLINGS
FROM YOUR
EDITORS

Two years ago, on May 9, 1973, the Fairbanks Genealogical Society was organized. Our purposes are to help each other to trace our ancestry and to help others who may have ancestry in Alaska, the Yukon and especially in the Fairbanks area.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS???????

- 1) Quarterly
- 2) One free query per issue
- 3) Ancestor card file
- 4) Ancestor chart file (8 1/2 x 11)
- 5) Ancestor charts published free
- 6) Lower research rates for Fairbanks area
- 7) All genealogical books in Alaska being catalogued

Our current project is abstracting vital records from the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. In each issue this information will be published.

The Fairbanks Genealogical Society meets six times a year:

Business meetings: Second Wednesday of May and November

Programs: Second Wednesday of March, April, September and October

Membership is from January to December of each year. Membership fee is \$7.00 per year.

PRESIDENT: Betty A. Feakes

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Christine Amidon

HISTORIAN-LIBRARIAN: Florence Collins



Betty



S O U R D O U G H

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John Gillis, a coffee planter from Mexico and Maggie Dalton a school teacher, both lured into the North Country by gold fever, met at Fort Hamlin in the Koyukuk country in February of 1899 and promptly fell in love.

After river travel had closed for the winter the two were part of a party of ninety men and one woman. Among the party was a man called French Joe. When Maggie and John decided to get married, it was discovered there was no preacher in sight.

But there French Joe came into the fore, and arranged a marriage formula which could be recited. Soon the matter was fixed, and under a birch tree the marriage took place.

John Gillis handed two dollars to French Joe and spoke as follows:

By my Gee-pole I swear in under this tree,
A good and kind husband to Maggie Dalton I'll be;
To love and protect this maiden so frail
From the sourdough stiffs on the Koyukuk trail.

Then he grasped Maggie's hand and Maggie said:

Ten miles up from the Yukon, by the banks of a lake,
The hand of John Gillis for a husband I take.
No preacher is here, no chance for a ring,
But we'll get to the Koyukuk if it takes till next spring.

This troth having been plighted, French Joe swelled out his chest and in a loud clear voice said:

For two dollars in Cheechaco money I make this couple
in matrimony,
He be a rancher and she a school teacher,
I do the job up just as good as a preacher.

Following the wedding there was general rejoicing. A large piece of foolscrap paper was found and each and every one signed his name while at the head of the paper was put the words of the marriage ceremony that took place in the Arctic Circle. The quaint words were also carved into the birch tree where they were found many years later.

Mr. and Mrs. Gillis went down to Nulato and from that point embarked for the outside and back to the coffee plantation in Mexico.

This story was told by Jack Welch, well known old timer, musher, prospector and pathfinder.

G. C. Dunlop, who lived near Strelna, Alaska found these marriage lines carved on the birch tree under which he camped in March of 1921.

(News-Miner--14 April 1921--page 3, Column 2.)

Little Nuggets of News

Billie Robinson is the proud possessor of the first and only piano in Fairbanks. 19 September 1903

I. B. Shirly, the pioneer roadhouse man, was in town this week. 19 September 1903

Miller Thorsison is working his mine, 6 Below, on Goldstream. 19 September 1903

New arrivals in town on the Steamer Isabelle: Mrs. Fred Limbacker and her two children, also Al Foster, an old sourdough well known in all the camps. 19 September 1903

Dr. and Mrs. G. M. Moore celebrated their third wedding anniversary. 22 June 1908 (all Fairbanks Daily News Miner)

TILLY BROCKMAN

Tilly a 39 year resident of Fairbanks was born Matilda Schuback in Gruenendeich, Germany (near Hamburg) the 14th of February 1900, the 11th child of 14. Her parents were Hinrich Schuback (died 1918) and Adelheit Schacht (died 1934).

In 1922 Tilly left Germany to live with her brother in San Francisco. Her first job was working for him in his grocery-delicatessen. Tilly married Ernest Koehler in 1923, of that marriage which ended in 1930 by divorce, one child was born, Irma (Born 21 May 1927 in San Francisco, married Quinten Bohnet January, 1948 at San Jose, California. They have four boys: Gary, Alan, Donn, and Lyle, and one girl: Diane. They presently reside at Auburn, California.).

Tilly Koehler arrived in Fairbanks in November 1936 on her great adventure. She came by boat to Juneau from Seattle and flew in a ten passenger Lockheed Electra piloted by Joe Crossen and Jerry Jones to Fairbanks.

Tilly's first job was at Bell's Hand Laundry located then at 3rd and Barnette. Her second position was at Palace Rooms, making beds (then located at 4th and Cushman, now located at Alaska Land). Her third place of work was at the Friess Coffee Shop, now where the Chena Building sits. In 1939 the name was changed to the Peerless Coffee Shop.

When Tilly arrived in 1936 the streets were only gravel and they were never plowed in the winter. Taxicabs were the only transportation in the winter. Residents didn't drive their cars in the unplowed streets. In 1936 it was the custom to keep all doors unlocked. (This changed when the Alaska Highway was built.) Wages were 50¢ an hour, man or woman, no matter what the work. Tilly lived in a two room log cabin with her daughter, Irma who arrive from San Francisco in May 1937. (Irma stayed with an aunt until Tilly was settled and school finished.) The cabin rented for \$15. a month. It is situated in Garden Island and is still standing (near the News-Miner office). The cabin had an attached woodshed with an out-house as part of it. Once a week the Honey Bucket delivery man came, hauled the bucket away and left a clean one.

In 1943 Tilly married Henry Brockman. In 1945 they started homesteading at 6 Mile Chena Hot Springs Road. Tilly left her position at the Peerless Coffee Shop when they moved to the homestead. At that time there was no road, just a trail. In 1946-47 the Chena Hot Springs Road was built.

On the homestead, they started a chicken farm, mostly an egg business. They prospered until a fire occurred in 1949 in their chicken house. They lost one thousand chickens. The building was saved though damaged. The Fort Wainwright Fire Department came; Tilly served breakfast in shifts to the men fighting the fire.

Tilly went back to work at Peerless Coffee Shop. Tilly supplied the funds while Henry built the business up again. In November 1949 she bought the coffee shop from the owner. For three and one half years she operated the Peerless Coffee Shop. Cap Lathrop owned the property (coffee shop and 22 rooms), Tilly rented from him.

In 1950 Tilly divorced Henry Brockman. She resides on 30 acres at 6 Mile Chena Hot Springs Road. In 1954 she adopted a child, Gary Brockman (Born 18 September 1952 at Valdez, Alaska. He married 7 August 1971 Jacqueline Pacheco at Commerce City, Colorado. The young couple presently live with Tilly.)

In 1955 Tilly leased some property for five years and opened the Peerless Coffee Shop again! She served soup, chili, sandwiches, pastries and cake, plus one additional item, a speciality: Tilly's potato salad. Tilly is still asked to make her potato salad!

Tilly started to build her present home in 1961. In a four year period she completed her home. Tilly did all the work herself except the plumbing and electricity. A friend came over and hung the heavy front door. The basement is still being completed. She is pouring the concrete floor herself!

Tilly worked at Lathrop Highschool in the cafeteria full time, 1961-1967. She then began working half days until February 1975 when she retired! Tilly may have retired from the employment field, but hasn't retired from work. She's now working on her home, planning the planting of her garden and raising chickens this summer.

Tilly has left Fairbanks only three times in the past thirty-nine years: once in 1941 for 5 weeks, once to see a Seattle doctor for one day only, and again when her son Gary married in 1971 for 4 days. It is easy to see where Tilly's heart is!

LYNDON F. FUNK

Lyndon was born of George Funk and Mary Abigail Olsen on 9 November 1914 at Ferron, Utah. He married Nevenka Skocilic in Los Angeles, 3 March 1939. Neva was born 15 April 1915 at Vrata, Yugoslavia of Paval Skocilic and Marija Jovanovic. After her mother's death, she came to America with her father.

In 1940 when the Funk's appeared on the Fairbanks scene, the population was three thousand, and two streets were paved: Fourth Ave. to Cushman St. Bridge and Second Ave. from Cushman to Noble Street. The two roads leading out of Fairbanks (Steese to Circle and Richardson to Valdez) were gravel.

At first they rented a log cabin on Illinois Street, a one, two, three house. So named for the construction of each room, one addition a year, front room, bedroom, kitchen.

Lyndon and Neva moved to a homestead in the spring of 1942, located at the end of the Steel Creek Road. This homestead is now at the corner of the Steel Creek Road and the Chena Hot Springs Road. They started with one large room, no partitioning.

Spring breakup in the country was equally spectacular and threatening. A memorable trip during breakup occurred one Easter morning. The Funk family was dressed in their special attire, topped with coveralls! Lyndon hitched the wagon to the tractor and then they traveled five miles over gullies and washed out places with water bubbling and running in all directions. Upon reaching the Steese Highway, they climbed into their parked car, leaving coveralls behind and proceeded to the LDS Church.

Lyndon hurt his back badly and needed a back fusion operation in 1950. They sold their homestead and moved to Ferron, Utah.

But Alaska was in their blood, in 1956 they returned. They purchased 160 acres across the street from their former homestead. They started a dairy farm on this land. Lyndon worked nights as an aircraft mechanic and Neva worked days as an accountant. One misfortune after another occurred, they lost a quonset hut full of grain by fire, their home burned to the ground, heifers died and Lyndon broke his arm! This ended their business. During

these black hours, Craig their eldest child was called to serve a mission for their church, the autumn of 1962. Craig served two years in the mission field. Lyndon had a successful arm operation. Life was looking better for them.

Three children were raised on the homestead, Craig (Born 29 November 1941 at Fairbanks, married Loahna Thornhill 3 September 1965. Children: Dana, Lance, Cheryl and Brad.), Lynda (Born 17 April 1945 at Fairbanks, married Thomas Jackson 25 May 1967. Children: Tammy, Troy, Timothy and Terry.), and Paula (Born 14 May 1948 at Fairbanks, married Rodney Rigby 28 May 1969.).

Mark was born 19 August 1951 at Price, Utah, married Carol Ann Lane 7 October 1972. Child: Christian. Their last child Gwen was also born at Price, Utah on 1 March 1954, married Dennis Doty 19 May 1972. They have two children: Aaron and Calab. Of their five children, Mark is the only one that resides in Fairbanks.

Lyndon is currently building a home for them. Neva and Lyndon are proficient gardeners. Every year their garden is huge and successful. These past several years they have raised chickens and turkeys for slaughter in the fall.

Neva hopes to retire within the year. Together they are considering now their future.

Genealogy hints:

- 1.) When copying information from tombstones count the rows and the stones in each row. When identifying the stone you want, it is marked on your paper: row 5 headstone #3. Remember to write the name of the cemetery on the paper! You might find it necessary to draw a map so that the cemetery can be found again, much easier.
- 2.) When writing to relatives for data, try sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and an index card to be returned with the question on card and room for the answer to be placed on it.



ABSTRACTINGS

from the Fairbanks News-Miner

It should be remembered that during the Goldrush days Alaska was called the "Port of Unknown Men". Many used an alias and of some nothing was known of their background nor did anyone ask.

DIED Mr. FISBY of heart disease. Worked for FISBY BROTHERS. Died Mascot Creek, Bettles, Alaska. 19 September 1903, Page 10 Column 2.

DIED Clyde O. COOKE Unmarried 30 years old of typhoid. Worked for the N. C. Company. Mother and sisters arrived from Redlands, California. Died Wednesday morning last. Buried Thursday by the Masonic Lodge. Doctor in attendance, Dr. GEHO. 30 July 1904 Page 4 Column 3.

MARR. Alfred THOMPSON and Miss MILLER. Last month. 7 May 1904 Page 3 Column 1.

DIED BROGAN old Yukon pioneer, of pneumonia. 16 November 1907, Page 5, Column 3.

DIED The "La Flamme Woman". Suicide. Home is Montreal, Canada. Her consort LEROUX. Occupation: Fallen Woman. Died Monday. 12 December 1907, Page 3 Column 2.

DIED E. BOWLEY and W. ALLIOTT in a mining accident. Atlin Claim Spruce Creek. 2 June 1908 Page 2 Column 2.

DIED Elizabeth Galloway LEWIS. Date of birth 4 July 1874, Nanaimo, Canada of Scotch Presbyterian stock. Married 29 April 1903 to Luther L. LEWIS. Leaves a three year old daughter. Was a missionary helper to Dr. PRINGLE on the Bonanza, Klondike, Yukon. Died 1 June 1908 in St. Matthews Hospital, Fairbanks, Alaska. 2 June 1908, Page 2 Column 1.

MARR. Jay C. JOHNSON to Agnes Veronica MULROONEY 30 May 1908 in Fairbanks, Alaska by Reverend Father MONROE. 3 June 1908, Page 2, Column 5.

DIED Jay C. SNOWDEN about 38 years old. Body found on sandbar 3 miles below Chena. Resided 38 Hanna Street, St. Michael. Ship steward and waiter. 3 June 1908, Page 4, Column 2.

MARR. Wilber WARD to Elizabeth Rena CHARLTON 18 December 1908 by Reverend Eugene BETTICHNER. 4 June 1908, Page 2, Column 5.

DIED Franz GIEBEL found frozen on the trail near Yosts. Belonged to Odd Fellow's Lodge. 19 January 1908. Page 1, Column 2.

MARR. Reverend Sheldon JACKSON celebrated golden anniversary 18 May 1908. He was formerly Superintendent of Public School Instruction in Alaska. 2 June 1908, Page 3, Column 4.

DIED Joseph HENZELL alias LENT swept off a raft near Ogilvie. U.S. Army deserter from Ft. Seward. A musician. 6 June 1908, Page 4, Column 2.

MARR. Frank M. LARSON to Anna THORSEN 6 June 1908 by the Reverend John PARSONS in Fairbanks. Bridesmaid Miss OSS. Best man Mr. SOULE. 7 June 1908, Page 7, Column 5.

DIED John CLARE of Juneau. Suicide. 8 June 1908, Page 3, Column 2.

DIED BERGMAN a Swede. Murdered by ELFORS for \$200.00 in Dawson Creek. 9 June 1908, Page 1, Columns 3,4,5.

MARR. Norman KEON to Frances QUIGLEY. 3 January 1916, Page 1, Column 4.

MARR. Grand COURTNEY to Mrs. A. A. JEWELL, 1 January 1916. He came to Yukon and Alaska in 1898 or 1899. She operated a roadhouse in Chatanika for several years. 3 January 1916, Page 2, Column 4.

BORN Son 6 January 1916 to J. F. KELLY living at Miller House, Fairbanks. 6 January 1916, Page 4, Column 4.

DIED K. REED pioneer of Valdez, Alaska, 7 January 1916 at Valdez. Member of Valdez Eagle Lodge. 8 January 1916, Page 1, Column 5.

MARR. Carl BERGE to Edith BOYLE, 8 January 1916 in Fairbanks, Alaska. 8 January 1916, Page 4, Column 3.

DIED James STAPLES 9 January 1916 about 60 years old. Old timer came to Dawson in early days of Klondike. Died St. Joseph's Hospital, Fairbanks. 10 January 1916, Page 4, Column 2.

DIED E. SORENSON 20 January 1916. Frozen to death 9 miles from Bluff, Alaska. 20 January 1916, Page 1, Column 2.

DIED Frank ADAMS, 12 January 1916, General Hospital, Seattle. Age 41. Widow, living in Fairbanks with daughter, Geraldine. Went to Seattle as guard for Marshal's party. Member of Eagles Lodge and Moose Lodge. Buried Georgetown, Washington. 12 January 1916, Page 4, Column 3.

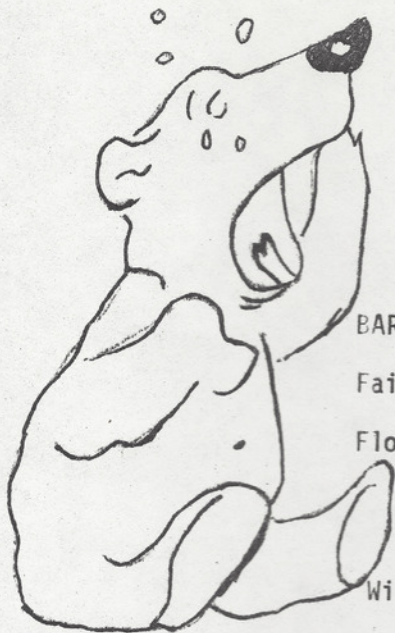
DIED Edward B. "Sourdough" SMITH, 9 January 1916, age 61, Suicide. Lived Iditarod, until mid December of 1915. Member of Odd Fellows and "Knights of Pythias". 13 January 1916, Page 2, Column 4.

DIED Ronald or Roland GRIFFIN, Negro, 15 January 1916, Fairbanks, Alaska. 15 January 1916, Page 1, Column 1.

BORN A son of Charles HAYES, Fairbanks, Alaska. 15 January 1916, Page 1, Column 6.

DIED George KAGA, Japanese, 24 January 1916. Frozen in his cabin 30 miles below Tanana. 24 January 1916, Page 1, Column 2.

DIED Paul BORELLO, 20 January 1916 of Toloxana, Alaska. Buried Fairbanks. 26 January 1916, Page 4, Column 4.



Q U E R I E S

Any information on the ancestry of the five (5) BARLOW brothers who went from Fairfield, Conn. to Fairfield, Vermont about 1791.

Florence Collins Box 996, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707.

Searching: John PATTERSON. born about 1830, Ohio.
Wife Annie, born 1830, Ireland. Family living in Mahoning County, Ohio 1850- 1880 (Federal Census). Husband not with family in 1860.

Thomas C. Amidon P.O. Box 10061, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Any information: Jacob S. STEPHENS born 1816 Newport, Tenn. Major 6th Cavalry Indiana Volunteers 1862. Also Jacob S. STEPHENS age 45 or over in 1820 Census of Orange County, Indiana

Betty A. Feakes 1552 Noble Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Searching: Husband Andrew KEYSER born Ohio 1817, death before 1860? Wife Catherine born 1818, Pennsylvania. Living 1840-1880 with children in Camden County, New Jersey (Federal Census).

Christine Amidon P.O. Box 10061, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

ANCESTOR CARD FILE

Use a 3x5 index card.

ANCESTOR'S name (Spouse's name)

BIRTHDATE and PLACE

MARRIAGE date and PLACE

DEATH date and PLACE

Your Relationship (example: 5th ggson)

Your Name and Address

One for every male and female in your direct ancestry (on your ancestor chart).