

Genealogist's Report by Philip R. Freimann

As the guardian of decades of family research, it is not easy to put your arms around what a genealogist does in a five year span of time. In order to detail those responsibilities, I have attempted to consolidate them in major areas of responsibility: Archival and Record Preservation, Education, Research, Research Aids, and Sharing Information.

Archival and Record Preservation

A major job of the genealogist is to consolidate, archive and preserve all BFNA genealogy records.

Most of the original research was done by **Dr. John Harper Blaisdell** (BFNA first president), **Dr. James A. Blaisdell** and **Lowell Shepard Blaisdell**. The BFNA was founded in 1935, and these gentlemen passed their work on to **Phyllis (Jensen) (Butler) Swenson**, along with the records of **Dr. Ralph Everett Curry** in 1959 and 1960. Phyllis was a national officer for over 20 years, serving as Editor of the *Blaisdell Papers*, Vital Statistics and Genealogy.

Her daughter, **Lynette (Butler) Fritz** worked with **Pamela Nelson** and **Sarah Sandberg** from the Ogden Utah Family History Center and shipped those records to **Philip Freimann** in June-2006. These records include index cards, notebooks and file drawers of original research that have been microfilmed by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The records are available throughout the world on microfiche and microfilm.

The records of **Ellie Blaisdell** and **Bernice (Blaisdell) Smith**, our preceding two genealogist, have been passed on to **Philip Freimann** in multiple shipments. Many of the records are handwritten or type written carbon copies. Several notebooks are devoted to cemetery records that Bernice and her sister-in-law **Dorothy (Malloy) Blaisdell** collected on research trips around New Hampshire and Maine.

As far as we know, all of our genealogy records are in Daytona Beach with Philip Freimann at the present time.

Blaisdell Papers Inventory Reduction

Issues of the *Blaisdell Papers* in excess of 25 copies were given away to any members and libraries who requested them. Any issues with 25 or less were sent to **Jody Blasdel** in Indiana for storage and distribution

Digitizing Blaisdell Papers

A major step forward in archiving our *Blaisdell Papers* is listed below as a research aid.

Communication

Daily there are inquiries for Blaisdell family information from the Internet, email, and US mail. More often than not, we are able to provide them with printouts going back up to 15 generations in England. Normally, this

enables us to update our files with two-three generations of new cousins. A major component of this communication is educational.

Genealogy Leaves

I wrote articles in the *Blaisdell Papers* on the *Basics in Genealogy*. I gave tips on getting started in collecting your family history and organizing it into folders. The tips can be used for a computerized genealogy or manual.

Daily Internet Research

Google, Yahoo and Legacy robots are used daily to scan hundreds of newspapers for mention of any Blaisdell/Blasdel. Legacy is only obituaries. Google and Yahoo are all news. Obituaries are harvested for *Blaisdell Papers*. News items are extracted primarily for the UNIDENTIFIED BLAISDELL index (below), arranged alphabetically by name. Can be filtered by location and source.

Facebook

Many Blaisdell/Blasdels use Facebook. It's the next generation of using the Internet to reach out and touch our cousins and keeping up with all their activities and photos.

Illinois Blasdels

We are greatly indebted to **Earl & Margaret Guss, Phil Blasdel**, his sister, **Cindy (Blasdel) Henley**, and **Don Blasdel** for gathering data on nearly 1800 Blasdels. Most are new to our data base. This is not only names and dates, but photos and family stories. These are primarily the descendants of **Lucy Jane (Blasdel) Richmond** (b. 1864) and her younger siblings, **Henry Blasdel** (b. 1869) and **William Fulton Blasdel** (b. 1872) of Champaign, Illinois. The three are great-grandchildren of Lt. Enoch Blasdel - (6.228).

Research Aids

Daily, I maintain a number of databases on Blaisdell information that provide the BFNA with an aid in doing research.

Blaisdell Papers Digitized

We signed a contract in 2008 with the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) to digitize our *Blaisdell Papers* and post contents on their worldwide web site, provided GSU not sell, rent or lease our genealogical information, related photos and stories. This only applies to published *Blaisdell Papers*, and not our genealogical data which is also archived by the GSU.

1920 Federal Census – xls

Extract of all Blaisdells Arizona - Iowa complete.

Every Name, Every Location Index – xls

A pilot program to index every name and every location mentioned in the *Blaisdell Papers*. Two issues have been completed. Four volumes of printed indexes have been scanned into .xls format

Blaisdell Books – doc

Blaisdell authors, illustrators and actors (movie, TV series or periodical) summaries, 1-7 par., publishing info, ISBN no., arranged alphabetically by author (illustrator or actor). Eg.: What books were illustrated by **Elijah Warde Blaisdell**? When? Publisher? A list of 20 books and pictures.

Blaisdell Maps and Genealogy Books – doc

Blaisdell maps/genealogies, published genealogies or maps mentioning Blaisdells, arranged by State, County, City and date -- over 150 locations, including description of book, media, date, author and what Blaisdell info. is included, where available. Eg.: If looking for Blaisdell/Blasdel in MA, Essex County – 1647 – 1795, what resources are available?

Unidentified Blaisdells – xls

We use Google robots to scan hundreds of newspapers for mention of any Blaisdell/Blasdel. News items are extracted and arranged alphabetically by name. They can be filtered by location and source.

Vital Stats Index – xls

Vol 14 & 15 and Vol 13 No. 9 includes all published vital stats and School News and index. Eg.: Have there been an unusual number of 6.79 deaths in the last 5 (or 10) years? Can you give me names of some of my 6.70 cousins? Has Grandpa **John W. Blaisdell**'s obituary been published? If so, when? We use it to make sure we don't publish the same info. twice.

Sharing – Ancestral Quest Software

I converted database from PAF to AQ to enable multiple persons to update the files from different parts of the country. Presently I am testing with the 2010 Reunion Illinois database with Phil Blasdel in Ontario and Cindy (Blasdel) Henley in Missouri as a part of that experiment. It appears that all three of us are able to maintain the same data base.

Currently I am about to upload the entire database. Annually, I process thousands of changes. Copies of the entire database, including photos and obituaries are periodically sent to four or five different locations for preservation.

Philip Freimann will be working with the Genealogical Society of Utah and officers to detail the uploading of our data base to their computer with the same restrictions we have on the *Blaisdell Papers* (i.e. not sell, lease or rent BFNA data.). Information on living persons will not be shared.

Ancestral Quest[®] Printouts

Printouts from the Ancestral Quest[®] database (updated daily) of your personal line of Blaisdells are available from the genealogist. They are in the “Modified Register” format defined by the **New England Genealogical and Historical Society** (Boston, MA). The information is in a narrative form with color photos (if available), notes and source documentation footnotes. These printouts do include living people.

The first chapter starts with your sixth generation patriarch. Each chapter is the next generation, up to 10 generations, with a full index included. Full text obituaries are included (where available) along with pedigree charts. Ahnentafel charts (Table of ancestors) are available from the sixth generation back to 16th century. Printouts are available in a variety of formats. PDF files are available and can be sent with e-mail. The information is copyrighted and has some restrictions. Costs are changing, but basically to cover paper, ink, binding material, time and postage.

Computer files are not available. We must protect the data that represents seventy-five years of research and data by a dozen people for over 70,000 cousins. The genealogical data and *Blaisdell Papers* are our greatest asset.

PAF Companion[®] 5.2 Software

This program produces eight generation beautiful color fan charts on a single page 8 1/2 x 11. \$1 printed + postage or \$1 for PDF via email. This chart includes your direct line ancestors only - not descendants.

Photos

We have a collection of 1254 color photos labeled and attached to individuals. They are available to printout as scrapbooks or thumbnails in our standard genealogy printouts. The standard printout only includes one photo, although we may have a dozen.

1124 – individuals, diaries and documents.

135 - photos of Blaisdell pencils, chalk, pens, etc.

Obituaries - Mostly rtf, some doc and PDF

There are close to 800 obituaries. These are referenced in the standard genealogy printouts, but need to be printed separately and merged in. They are arranged alphabetically, tied to the Ancestral Quest[®] database if LOD is known. About 25% are Lines of Descent Unknown (LDU). They are saved until we can tie them into the Ralph Bleasdale line. We can print full obituaries from newspaper or funeral home, and sometimes the guest book comments from the funeral.

Open Projects Data Base – xls

We have a vast amount of genealogical projects that we now track on an "open projects data base." We have over 80 identified and prioritized. They also are graded by the estimated time to complete: less than 4, 24 and 40 hours and greater than 40 hours. The type of work is also coded: Mostly PC entry, Research or Analysis. With the ability to have multiple people, across the country maintaining the same data base this gives volunteers an idea of what is available and helps to assign projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip R. Freimann, Genealogist
Blaisdell Family National Association