



Ask Your United States Research Question 5 April 2017

Question 1:

Samuel CALLAWAY, died 1836, Surry County, North Carolina. Alternate Spellings: CALAWAY, CALLOWAY; Born in Virginia ca. 1755; signed Ten Thousand Name petition in Bedford County, Virginia in 1776; moved to Surry County, North Carolina from Bedford County, Virginia with father Francis, Sr. and brother Francis, Jr. ca. 1778; first land grant record in Surry County in 1779. Death notice listed him as a Revolutionary War soldier, but have found no pension application or paper trail to prove this. Could have served in Virginia or North Carolina, but haven't found him in militia records for either yet. Have checked State Archives of North Carolina, NARA records on Fold3. Other suggestions for Revolutionary War military records?

1. County histories for Surry County, North Carolina.
2. Family histories for the Callaway/Calloway surname
3. Persi, the Periodical Source Index available at findmypast.com and HeritageQuest.com: Surnames, revolutionary war soldiers, and the county
4. Daughters of the American Revolution website to see if anyone has joined with him as their ancestor.
5. Public trees on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch Family Tree, MyHeritage, etc.
6. Virginia State Library, they have quite a bit of information on Virginia for that early time period.
7. Surrey County land and property deeds to see where they got the land. See if they got a military warrant. Land deeds may say where the family came from.
8. Bureau of Land Management website bounty land entries. That would be good proof.
9. Newspapers to see if they mention the Veterans in their area, local and county papers. Look at the Chronicling America project by the Library of Congress.
10. Lineage societies, Sons of the American Revolution
11. Cemetery record where he's buried to see if there is a marker on his grave showing he was a veteran. Also try the Sexton records.
12. Church records in the area when he died.
13. Genealogical and historical societies in the area to see what newspapers or other kinds of things they have in their collection.

Question 2:

Stephani: How can I find further information that verifies this person's birthdate or birthplace or identifies this person's parents? Name (maiden): Lydia Grinnell, Birthdate / Birthplace: A newspaper interview with the press when she was 102 years old reported that she was born 16 Sept 1803 in Schoharie County, New York and that her mother died when she was about 6 years old. NOTE: Vital Records handled at the local level for New York were supposedly destroyed by flood in 2011. Surrogate court records (direct phone call resulted in search by personnel on duty) for Schoharie County show NIL (none) results from 1795 to the present for the surname.

1. Church records for the area
2. Check the catalog to see if there is a county history for the area
3. Periodical Source Index local historical and genealogical societies were indexing information from original records to put in their periodical.
4. Land and property records look for deeds to see if there is property from the parents for a cheap price.
5. Newspapers at Chronicling America and fultonhistory.com (search for Fulton County postcards)
6. Probate records giving information about other relatives
7. State archives may have records and abstracts of the records
8. They were married in Schnectady in 1824
9. Search for a military pension for her husband that may give information about her. Any male descendants that may have served.
10. Y-DNA test at FamilyTree DNA.com and mtDNA for mother's line.
11. Genealogical and historical societies to see if there are any family folders for the surname.
12. Obituary for Lydia at her death
13. New York State Archives may have copies of the vital records that were destroyed.

Question 3:

I have an ancestor I believe was in the Gold Rush in California, specifically Grass Valley, Yuba County. I found him on the 1850 census located there. What records might be available to prove this was him. He was from Lewis County, Missouri.

1. Argonaut Society in California for people who came for the Gold Rush.
2. County or genealogical societies in the area may have information about the people who were in their areas. See what newspapers they have for the area.
3. Obituary for the ancestor.
4. County histories for the county where he lived.
5. Land and property records in the county.
6. Claim records may have been filed after gold was found probably in the area.
7. Archives.com research guide at <http://www.archives.com/experts/lang-ruth/california-gold-rush-records.html>
8. 1949 gold rush centennial in the newspapers.
9. Early newspapers at Chronicling America and newspapers for the county.
10. More info on researching mining claims from RootsWeb mailing list: <https://californiagenealogy.org/goldrush/miningclaims.html>
11. Do Fan club of people from the 1850 census who were also born in Missouri.
12. <http://genealogy.stackexchange.com/q/12014/1006>

Question 4:

Martynus Beck/Peck and his wife Margaret of Schoharie, New York born about 1770, perhaps died Trumbull county Ohio 1820's. I believe they are Palatine German ancestry. What are good resources for these Germans?

1. Set of Palantines to America books at the Family History Library
2. Oaths of Allegiance by county

3. FamilySearch Research Wiki to see what we have for the Palantines
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Palatines
5. Palantine societies: Palam.org is a genealogical society. Ohio chapter Palantines to Am <https://oh-palam.org/>
6. Land and property records to see if it indicates where he came from.
7. Church records for marriage and to see if there is information about the church they came from.
8. Research guide at Olive Tree Genealogy <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/palatines/palatine-history.shtml>
9. Transcriber's Guild website
10. Filby's Germans to America at Ancestry.com
11. Burial record in Trumbull County and the church record to see if they have information about where he was born.
12. Palantines to America newsletter in FamilySearch Catalog. Contact them to see if they have a library or other resources <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/477926>
13. Periodical Source Index for church records, vital records, histories for the county, immigration, Oaths of Allegiance, any kinds of indexes to records. Available at findmypast.com and Heritagequest.com. With the help of Allen County Public Library findmypast.com is digitizing the actual periodicals.
14. Joe Beine's research guide on finding passenger lists: <http://www.researchguides.net/immigration/index.htm>
15. County and family histories for the area. Do a search at FamilySearch.org and then search books. There is a wonderful digital collection of books from us and other societies.
16. Look in the International Genealogical Index to see if the surname is located in a certain area to see if it will narrow down where that surname came from.
17. https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Category:Palatine_Place_Names
18. German surname mapping at Geogen <http://legacy.stoepel.net/en/>
19. Church records repositories: Wake Forest University has a Baptist archive
20. Duke University for Methodist
21. Possibly Southern Historical Collection at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
22. Contact the local Family History Center to see if there's someone local.
23. APG Directory by location https://www.apgen.org/directory/search.html?type=location&new_search=true

Question 5:

Gaines Smith: James S Griffin born in South Carolina about 1811. In Wilkes county Georgia married there in 1830 to Eugenia Grant also from South Carolina.

1. Land and property records, when did he first get land maybe from family members
2. Probate records
3. Obituaries
4. Church records - admission records
5. Genealogical and historical societies
6. Periodical Source INdex
7. Did his wife apply for a pension and provide info that might help narrow time periods and locations or any pension file clues

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