

EXCEPTIONAL QUIRKS, PART 1

TIP 1: *Be on the lookout for unusual errors and omissions, and always check actual or digitized images of original documents, if available.*

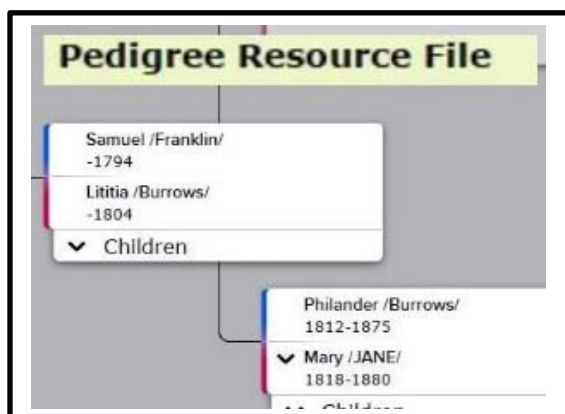
QUIRK no. 1: Sometimes it takes a while to recognize errors or omissions in a database or document. They can come in all shapes and sizes. Ancestral File, Ancestry Public Trees, Pedigree Resource File, and RootsWeb WorldConnect databases all have one thing in common: **nobody** verifies any of the data submitted by someone else. The old computer-geek acronym GIGO—garbage in, garbage out—is only half-true: genealogy garbage stays in, but what’s worse, it multiplies every time anyone duplicates someone else’s submissions. For example, just because 512 trees for John Wilson of Augusta County, Virginia, show his death date as March 1773 doesn’t mean it’s accurate (and Burgess was *not* his middle name—that was his elected office title). So **RED ALERT:** “Ancestry Public Tree” is not a source! It’s a copycat.

Below are some goof-ups I have found, with my comments. Can you spot the boo-boos?

Ancestral File 4.19		BORN	PLACE
Husband: Mose PITMAN		1830	NCar
Wife: Mary Louisa C		1834	NCar
Children			
1. Emaline PITMAN		1829	Tenn
2. William PITMAN		1837	Tenn
3. Mary I PITMAN		1843	Tenn
4. James K Or P PITMAN.....		1844	Tenn
5. Morgan Lydie PITMAN.....		1845	Tenn
6. Winnie E PITMAN		1849	Tenn
7. Matilda PITMAN		1852	Tenn
8. Moses L PITMAN		1855	Tenn
9. Thomas PITMAN		1860	Tenn
10. Lizzian PITMAN		1866	Tenn

Birth years of parents are incorrect. The family was in Sugar Creek Township, Parke County, Indiana, at the time of the 1850 U.S. federal census: Moses, 44; Mary L., 30; Emaline, 21; William, 14; Isabela H, 8; Mary I. or J., 7; James P., 5; Lydia, 4; Winny E., 1.

SOURCE: Moses Pitman family, 1850 United States Census, Parke County, Indiana, stamped page 242, written page 483, lines 29-37, dwelling 850, family 1150. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, microfilm series M432, roll 164.

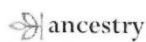


Lititia (or Leticia) Burrows, who actually did die in 1804, was shown as the daughter of Philander Burrows, born in 1812/died in 1875, and Mary Jane, born in 1818/ died in 1880. Philander and Mary Jane may have had a daughter named Lititia, but not this lady.

Exact Search Results - 1850 United States Federal Census

You searched for **Michaels** born in **Germany** [Refine your search](#)

All Census & Voter Lists Results



Viewing 1-50 of 166
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View Record	Name	Home in 1850 (City, County, State)	Estimated Birth Year	Birth Place	View Image
View Record	Caland McClaky	Elizabeth, Allegheny, PA	abt 1820	Germany	
View Record	Alexander McClaky	Elizabeth, Allegheny, PA	abt 1848	Germany	
View Record	Fredk McClusky	New York Ward 11, New York, NY	abt 1814	Germany	
View Record	John McClusky	Pelham, Westchester, NY	abt 1815	Germany	

The handwritten place of origin, "Tre.," was misinterpreted as "Ger." Although married women with "Mc" names may have been born in Germany, the men most likely weren't. Yet many of the 166 hits in this search showed Mc- people as German natives.

Massachusetts, Marriage Index, 1901-1955 and 1966-1971

Name: Evelyn P Applegate

Marriage Year: 1946

Marriage Place: Fall River, Massachusetts, USA

Index Volume Number: 140

Reference Number: F63.M36 v.140

INDEX TO MARRIAGES IN MASSACHUSETTS 1946-1950

	NAME	TOWN	YEAR	VOL.	PAGE
Applegate	Dorothy Joan	Everett	1948	9	117
	Edwin U	Boston	1946	11	321
	Ellsworth S Jr	"	1950	20	401
	Evelyn F	Fall River	1946	60	66
	James D	Fall River	1949	59	17

Crooked image caused an optical character recognition (OCR) indexing error. She was actually married in Boston in 1950. Other entries on this page and in this database are also wrong.

Note: OCR errors are common in transcripts or indexes of digitized city directories, too.

Philadelphia Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms Transcription

First name(s) Joannem
Last name Connery
Birth year 1869
Birth date 28 Jun 1869
Baptism year 1869
Baptism date 11 Jul 1869
Father's first name(s) Laurentio
Father's last name Connery
Mother's first name(s) Thomas
Mother's last name McCarty

11. Bap. Joannem natum 28 Junii ex Laurentio Connery et Margarita Dailly. Sponsus. Thomas McCarty et Margarita McCarty. J.B. Kelly

Transcription erroneously indexed godfather's name as that of the mother's name. Also, remember that church records are often in Latin: John becomes Joannem, Lawrence becomes Laurentio, Mary becomes Maria, James becomes Jacobus, etc. So search parish databases using Latinized first names.

Next Month: EXCEPTIONAL QUIRKS, PART 2

This fact sheet is a public service by Evelyn Roehl to help people find records about their ancestors.

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Please feel free to share this with friends, fellow kin-seekers, and family history and genealogical organizations.