



JOHNSTON Historical SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

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- TIME & PLACE** 4:00 P.M. October 25, 1995
Johnston City Hall Parking lot We will pool cars so we don't have so many cars enroute to West Des Moines. The actual meeting will be at the Jordan House on Fuller Road which is south of business district of West Des Moines. You can go to Fuller Rd by turning South off of Railroad Ave or East off of Grand Ave about 2 miles east of the Grand Ave (Hwy #90) I-35 Interchange near what used to be Commerce, IA.
- PROGRAM** Tour of the Jordan House, the admission is \$2.00. We will have a short business meeting before our guide arrives.

GENEALOGICAL NUMBERING SYSTEMS (final continuation)

Expansible Numbering Systems for Genealogies

Either the *Register* or *Record* system works well after you have compiled a genealogy, but they are not very helpful while you are organizing and adding to your working files, because once a number is assigned, there is no room for inserting a newly discovered family member. When you are starting you need a flexible system that can be expanded to include new descendants as you find them.

You can build an expansible numbering system on decimal principles using one decimal place for each generation, and assigning the digits and letters to show birth order. Computers have required us to use a letter instead of a the number (10) in parentheses. Therefore (10) becomes A, (11) is B, (12) is C, etc., however your families are limited to 35 children. Nine integers numbers plus the 26 single digit letters. Starting with a common ancestor as 1 his children would be numbered 11, 12, 13 ...1A for the tenth child, 1B for the eleventh, etc. The children of #12 would be 12I, 12J...12A, 12B if there were 11 children in #12's family. The children of #1B if there were twelve children would be 1B1

thru 1BC. This is known as the Henry System, after Reginald Buchanan Henry who used it in his *Genealogies of the Families of the Presidents* (Rutland: Tuttle, 1935). They didn't have computers in 1935; we have modified the system so a computer could be used. See **(Examples D&E)**

Henry used his system for compiled genealogies, however it has not been widely adopted for that use, in spite of its simplicity and logic. But, it is particularly well suited for numbering individuals in your work files while you are still discovering new descendants

This modified Henry system keeps all the data on a generation within one decimal column. We will not discuss a system used in Europe called the d'Aboville system which is similar to the modified Henry system because it is more complex.

Combining Ancestor and Descendant Numbering Systems

You can produce a unique identification number for any collateral relative in any line of descent by using the pedigree (Soja-Stradonitz) number of a common ancestor of a common ancestor, followed by a decimal point and an expansible descent system number (modified Henry) for each individual descended from that pedigree chart ancestor.

Using as an example your grandfather #16, you would number his children in the order of their birth 16.1, 16.2, 16.3 etc. (Of course one of them already has a #8 -- so you can use it, in its proper order, in place of the decimal number or cross-referenced to it.) The children of #16.2 would be 16.21, 16.22, 16.23. and so on.

Finally, you need a way to number spouses other than those in a direct ancestral line or in a direct line of descent. The usual practice is to add lower-case letters -- a, b, c, etc -- to the number of the husband or wife. For example, if you are descended from great-great-grandfather #16 and his second wife #17, you would number his first wife #16a and his third wife #16c. Similarly, the wife of his grandson #16.24 (not in your ancestral line) would be #16.24a and the second husband of his granddaughter #16.23 would be #16.23b.

(Example E is a demonstration of combining pedigree and modified Henry system numbers, with lower-case letters used for spouses without numbers of their own.)

The high range of pedigree numbers after you go back several centuries shows that all of us must have many lines of descent from the same limited number of possible ancestors. Allowing 33-1/3 years as an average interval between generations, 15 generations would take you back to the 1400's, and your pedigree numbers would show that you have 32,768 ancestors in that generation. Going back 12 more generations and another 400 years to about the time of the Norman Conquest of England, you would have numbers for 67,108,834 ancestors in the 27th generation.

The total population of Great Britain at that time is estimated to be at 1.7 million people, so if you are of English or Scots ancestry, you must be descended through a number of different lines from many of the same ancestors. If all your ancestors are British, the mathematical probability is that you are descended 40 different ways from every person then living in Great Britain. In Ireland there were only 350,000 people, so if you are of Irish ancestry, the probability is that you are descended from every person then living in Ireland through 200 different lines from each one.

16.B Eleventh child of #16

Children by first wife 16.Ba

16.B1

+ 16.B2

Children by second wife 16.Bb

16.B3, etc.

THIRD GENERATION

16.32 (Pedigree #4) Second child of #16.3 (Pedigree #8 and his wife #9

Children:

16.321

16.322

16.323 (Pedigree #2)

16.324, etc.

16.B2 Second child of #16.B

Children:

16.B21

16.B22, etc.

I personally prefer to use a hyphen in place of a decimal in the Combined. I then can use the decimal before the last digit of the Sosa-Stradonitz number so as to highlight the order of birth. The computer does not recognize either hyphens nor decimals or periods when it sorts numbers and letters

If you have forgotten the (+) sign in front of a number in a genealogy means that particular individual's line is carried on into the next generation

TRIVIA

That in the 27th generation all people of European descent are related to every King and Queen in Europe.

NEW MEMBERS

Since the publication of our member list we welcome new members Linda Towers, Dr Richard Reay and Lorna, Marjorie Austin and Andy Christenson. Others that were dropped have returned to the fold and will get the newsletter preceding this one. You will appear on the next publication of the members list.

A float was put together by members for the Homecoming Parade. Those who spent their time and effort on short notice in making that publicity a reality are to be thanked. The Gold Star museum is a real asset to our community.

Example D

EXPANSIBLE NUMBERING FOR GENEALOGIES
(Henry System)modified

FIRST GENERATION:

1. Original ancestor.
His eleven children:
11
12
+ 13
14
...
19
+ 1A
1B

THIRD GENERATION

131. First child of #13
Children:
1311
1312, etc.
- 1A3. Third child of #1A
Children
1A31
1A32
1A33
1A34, etc.

SECOND GENERATION:

13. Third child of #1.
Children:
+ 131
132
133, etc.
- 1A. Tenth child of #1
Children:
1A1
1A2
+ 1A3
1A4

Example E

COMBINING ANCESTOR AND EXPANSIBLE DESCENDANT NUMBERS
(Sosa-Stradonitz and Modified Henry Systems)

FIRST GENERATION:

- 16 Common ancestor (Pedigree number from Example A)[Set out in Johnston Hist. newsletter Vol II No.1]
Children of #16 and his wife #17:
16.1
16.2
+ 16.3 (also Pedigree #8)
16.4
...
16.9
16.A [10th child]
+ 16.B [11th child]

SECOND GENERATION

- 16.3 (Pedigree #8) Third child of #16
Children by first wife #9:
16.31
+ 16.32 (Pedigree #4)
Children by second wife #8b:
16.33
16.34

Contents of Time Capsule Box *sealed 10/11/95*

- 2 Johnston logo mugs
- 1 Crown Point mug
- 1 Johnston brochure
- 1 copy of the Johnston Library 1994 annual report
- 1 Johnston logo poster
- 1 sealed envelope from the Johnston Tree Board
- 1 Johnston Silver Anniversary banner
- 1 gavel from the first Johnston Business Association donated by Larry Rolfstad
- 1 program from the Johnston Lions club 50th anniversary celebration
- 1 Johnston Chamber of Commerce brochure
- 1 copy of the Johnston Advance 12/29/94 issue and 1/5/95 issue with 1994 review
- 2 copies of a special Johnston Advance 25th anniversary edition
- 1 copy of Johnston School Superintendent's annual report to the Board of Education for 72-73 and budget for 73-74
- 1 tape of the Silver Anniversary banquet on 11/12/94
- 4 programs from the Silver Anniversary banquet
- 1 Chamber of Commerce 1994 program book
- 1 copy of Johnston Advance story on Citizen of the Year Ray Schleihs
- 1 copy of Johnston Advance from 6/23/94 with story on Silver Anniversary picnic
- 1 copy of the 1993 annual report of Pioneer Hi-Bred International donated by Ken and Carol Andresen
- 1 invitation to the Silver Anniversary REcognition Banquet
- 1 1995 Johnston Public Library t-shirt logo
- Treasurer's books from the city's first year.
- 1 sealed envelope to be opened in 2019
- A letter from Mayor John Ver Hoef to the mayor in 2019
- 1 copy of the Johnston schools history donated by Bob Otto
- First issue of the Johnston News, Johnston's first newspaper, donated by Jeanne Hansen
- Johnston commemorative coin donated by former Mayor Richard Franklin
- Letter from State Senator O. Gene Maddox about the Iowa Legislature in 1994
- 1 envelope containing letters and pictures from residents of Ceres Circle
- 1 Johnston Public Library brochure *& Friends brochure*
- 1 copy - Johnston history book (draft)*