

Journal of the Association of Philippe du Trieux Descendants

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President's Note

Dear members,

Living in Florida is in many ways the flip side of life in northern climes. Vegetable gardens are in full bloom in February, outdoor events are so plentiful it is impossible to attend many of them, and our towns are filled with short-sleeved tourists (affectionately called snowbirds). Snowbirds crowd our roads and make dining in our restaurants much harder. But, they keep our taxes down and our establishments in the black. Our quaint towns would not be the same without them.

The Association is in full swing this time of year, too. March brings another Journal, dues, and announcing the Scholarship America availability for a Philippe du Trieux descendant. Thanks to a generous Truax descendant, we are eager to bestow another one in 2020. Included in this issue is an insert that will convey the requirements for attaining and keeping The Association of Philippe du Trieux Descendants Scholarship.

(cont'd on page 2)



Association of Philippe du Trieux Descendants Scholarship Program

The guidelines and application for the scholarship program will be available February 25

The application period ends March 30, 2020

Thanks for your interest in the program!

If you or someone you know fits these requirements, please encourage them to apply. If they do apply, **please have them send ASAP the names and birth dates of parents and grandparents of the du Trieux lineage for genealogical verification to:**

kimandgarymabee@gmail.com.



www.philippedutrieux.com

Association of Philippe du Trieux Descendants



First edition of Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

You might say **Louisa May Alcott** is a literary household name for many. Long before Nancy Drew or Harry Potter, young women read **Little Women**. Who would have guessed at that time that we could trace our family back to her. (Thanks to member William Flores for bringing this to our attention.) But, there is so much that we didn't know about her.

Louisa May Alcott was born November 2, 1832, in Germantown, Pennsylvania, and spent much of her life in Boston and Concord, MA. She grew up in the company of **Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau**.



Her education was under the direction of her father, a transcendentalist, who ran a utopian community, Fruitlands, which eventually failed. That failure altered Louisa May Alcott's life. She was so concerned for the welfare of her family that she began to write to make ends meet. Her first works were "lurid and violent" tales written under the name A.M Barnard. The stories described women as strong, self-reliant, and imaginative.

Alcott was a teacher for a short time, a domestic, and a nurse during the Civil War. She contracted typhoid fever and was never completely well again. Her first notable book, **Hospital Sketches**, was the publication of her letters written during that period.

Alcott then wrote stories for "The Atlantic Monthly." The ever-present family need was the reason she wrote **Little Women** which was based on her recollection of her childhood. The novel describes the domestic adventures of a New England family of modest means and traces the different personalities of four sisters. **Little Women** was



family home in Concord, MA

(cont'd on p 2)

(President's Note cont'd from page 1)

A "shout out" to the officers of the Association. Kim is quick to respond in answering our members' and prospective members' questions relating to their individual lineage. Kim will also have to verify the descendancy of the applications for the scholarship. Jan will be collecting the dues and continues to update the growing membership lists, as well as proofreading the Journals. Our Vice President, Henry Truax, has written a column about hunting for family cemeteries. Wendy, our website guru, keeps up with our history and makes any necessary additions and changes. Thanks to Carol Truax for stepping up as Assistant Treasurer.

It was recently brought to my attention by one of our members and frequent contributor, William Flores, that Louisa May Alcott is a descendant of Philippe. I hope you enjoy the article included in this issue. Little Women has had a revival recently in the form of a movie. Researching her biography, I found some interesting facts about her life and books.

Hope you are all well. And as always, we so appreciate your membership.

Karen

Karen L. Vaina
President & Journal Editor

Association's Vice President Explains How to find Ancestral Grave Sites

Henry writes....we all have had families. Some have stayed close while others have moved away. In my case, our children have journeyed across the country. Our branch of the Truax family has lived in Oregon for many years with lots of deaths and various burial locations. I decided that I would go to all the graves I know of, locate the family graves, and use a GPS to determine the exact latitude and longitude of each grave. That turned out to be a lot of travel and work! But for future generations that might be interested in where their forefathers are located, it would be a great help.

Well, then along came the internet. There is a program called "Findagrave.com." Some may have heard of it – I had not. It is the world's largest grave site collection and has been around since 1995. You can install it on a smart phone (which is very handy

Alcott (cont'd from p. 1)

a big hit with young readers and it resulted in her being able to pay off her family's debt. She later went on to write other successful books, **Little Men** and **Jo's Boys**. Her earlier works included books and plays called "Perilous Play" and "Pauline's Passion and Punishment".

Alcott's family hid slaves who escaped via the Underground Railroad. She had discussions about women's rights with **Margaret Fuller** and socialized with abolitionist **Frederick Douglass** and women's rights activist, **Julia Ward Howe**. She got very involved in the suffragette movement, going door-to-door to encourage women to register to vote. She was the first woman registered to vote in Concord.

Alcott never had children, but raised her sister May's daughter as her own after May died in childbirth. Her stories were such a success that in one month she had 100 strangers knocking at her door wishing to meet her. She didn't like the attention, so she pretended to be a servant when answering the door.

A toxic mercury compound was used in medicine to combat typhoid and pneumonia. Because of this common treatment for her own sickness, she had a weakened immune system, vertigo and hallucinations. To alleviate some of the pain, she took opium. Louisa May Alcott died in 1888 from a stroke at the age of 55. –*excerpts from Britannica Online Encyclopedia and www.mentalfloss.com.*

when searching for a grave) or download to a computer.

You start by typing in your relative's name and location, if known. "Bingo!" There is information on the relative and often a picture of the gravestone. Even if you don't know the name of the



cemetery, it is easy to look at several cemeteries or even go to various cities to search.

To begin, you need to enter your email address and a password. Nothing personal is required. Let's look at a couple of examples. Find a relative in a local cemetery. Choose a town and the name of the cemetery (if known) and list the last name. Hit Search. You will get a list of all the names (for example, Truax) in that location. Going one step

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Pilots Called into Service for Native American Children's Lack of Warm Clothes

When **Dennis Truax** volunteered to help collect items for a coat drive, he decided to ask his wife, Jeanie, whom he said "loves a challenge and is very service-oriented," to see what she could do. She reached out to her fellow participants in a biweekly yoga class at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Starkville. They reached out to their churches and asked for donations.

They ended up collecting hundreds of coats, scarves, gloves and other winter clothing items in less than a month, contributing to a haul of more than 1,000 items that Dennis and five other pilots from north central Mississippi flew to Moundridge, Kansas, on Nov. 2. Another cohort of pilots then flew the supplies on Nov. 8 to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Manderson, South Dakota, where children in the Wounded Knee District School would receive them.

Pine Ridge is the eighth-largest Native American reservation in the country and home to the Oglala Lakota Nation of the Lakota Sioux. It is also the poorest area in the country, with 98 percent of its residents living below the poverty line. Average temperatures in South Dakota fall below freezing for five months every year, and with substandard housing and access to medical care, the need for winter clothing is critical.

"It blew my mind that there was that kind of need here in America," said Anita Havens, a retired teacher from Oxford who started the coat drive four years ago. Havens taught at Della Davidson Elementary School at the time and decided to donate unclaimed coats from the school's lost and found to Pine Ridge. Students pitched in with their own donations of gently used coats, and the collection totaled about 300 in its first year, Havens said.

However, the cost of shipping the coats from Mississippi to South Dakota would have been "astronomical," so Havens



needed another way to transport them, she said. Havens' husband, Lynn Havens, had a solution. A member of Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 1189, he recruited fellow members to help him fly the cargo to South Dakota. This year, in addition to himself and Dennis Truax, Charlie Miller of Tupelo, Alan Warfield of Booneville, Dave Leonard of Water Valley and Thomas Sippel of Starkville flew the first leg of the trip.

The joy of flying! Both Sippel and Truax said they have enjoyed flying for most of their lives and that EAA seeks to promote and foster the love of flight. "The more reasons we have to fly, while also doing something good to help people, the better," Sippel said.

Truax discovered flight when his mother booked him a seat on a commercial airline flight as a gift for his fifth birthday, he said. "I got to sit in the pilot's lap, and it was like, 'This is where I'm supposed to be for the rest of my life,'" he said.

Commercial aviation was not a viable career path for him thanks to his 6-foot-2 frame and his vision problems, he said, so he pursued engineering and is now the head of the civil and environmental engineering department at Mississippi State University. He still obtained a pilot's license and has "never given it up," he said.



Dennis Truax

--from "The Dispatch"
Columbus, Mississippi



Dennis Truax, 4th from the left.

Article 1 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The men in the above article are following in the footsteps of one of our most famous ancestors.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in the spirit of brotherhood.

-- Eleanor Roosevelt

Grave Sites (cont'd from p2)

further, enter Woodrow E. Truax, click on SEARCH. His data shows up -- birth 1917, death 1944, and a picture of his grave-stone. So, now I know the location, dates, and his wife's name and her dates, also. This is a big help in locating relatives, but, unfortunately, it does not give you the actual latitude and longitude of the sites I was hoping to learn.

I would welcome ideas, comments, or questions. My email address is shown next to this column. --Henry Truax

(Henry, our new VP has taken this chore on and hopes that it will help our members locate their deceased relatives.)

Welcome New Members

Charles Lehner, Orient, NY

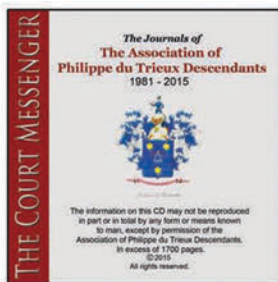
Frank Garcia, Austin, TX

Charles Williams, Clayton, NC

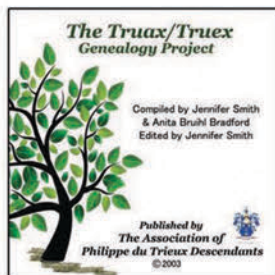
Donald Truex Musgrave, Fox Island, WA

Shirley Bremer, Hastings, MN

PRODUCTS TO HELP IN YOUR FAMILY RESEARCH



\$25 including shipping
\$30 non members



\$30 including shipping
\$35 non members

When ordering these send check to Jan at address on this page.

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These are just a few of the FREE genealogy sites available:

www.familysearch.org
www.worldgenweb.com
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