



Introduction to the Knight Gregson Internet Forum

Getting Started

An internet forum is a discussion board. You may have seen similar discussion boards on a number of websites like Ancestry.com or RootsChat. The difference between this forum and others you may have used is (1) this Forum is focused narrowly on the genealogy of the Knight Gregsons, (2) participation requires that an individual become a member of our site before fully accessing the discussions, and (3) this is a moderated discussion group. A forum moderator oversees the material which is posted and attempts to keep things on track using tools that permit editing the organization of discussion elements. For more information on internet forums see the linked article on [Wikipedia](#).

Discussing issues on an internet forum has advantages over doing the same using email. First, if a discussion is among a number of individuals, managing that discussion using email can be difficult. Some of the problems are:

1. When discussing an evolving document, are you sure that everyone is referencing the SAME version of the document?
2. Are you sure that all people involved in the discussion are receiving ALL emails.
3. I can't find the message from XXX regarding the discussion we were having on YYY. Where did I file that?

I am sure you can add to this list!

You can access our Knight Gregson Forum at the following website:

knightgregson.forumotion.com

Click on this link right now. When you go to the website you will see that the home page is divided (top to bottom) into six sections

1. Who are we and what is this board about? (top banner)
2. A navigation bar: more about the details later (second banner)
3. A message bar displaying messages from the administrator. Here I will try to keep you updated regarding changes to look for in the board.
4. The advertising panel (I have no control over this!)
5. A list of the CATEGORIES and FORUMS
6. Other stuff (who's on line, statistics, etc.)

Take a quick look and identify these six main sections. You will spend most of your time in section 5 which lists the FORUMS on knightgregson.

Before going further let me make a comment about the (despised by me) advertising panel. Some of these may blink and say that you have a new message, or have a new friend, or download free music, or whatever. I suggest that you avoid clicking on this area. The only thing that is confusing to a new user are the ads that indicate that you have a new friend or a new message or a new notification-- these are designed to

attract a click. Messaging within the Knight Gregson Forum is handled in a different section. More on that later. There is not a problem with malware here, since these ads are served by our host Forumotion. This is what you get when you use a free hosting service.

If you wish to join our community after taking a quick look at the Knight Gregson site, go to the NAVIGATION BAR and click REGISTER. You will need to provide a user name, email address and password. I do not have access to your password. That is kept by the system. When I receive notification that you have asked to register, I will approve you and you should receive an email indicating that you are now a member of this discussion group. If you explore the FORUMS and DISCUSSIONS before you are a member, your access to site materials will be limited¹, so I suggest that you register first and then return to explore the details of the FORUM discussions. Since we are spread around the world, your request for membership may come while I am sleeping or away from my computer, so be patient. I'll try to access the site for approvals at least once a day. In the near term it is likely to be much more frequently.

On our Knight Gregson site we *currently* have four groups of discussions called CATEGORIES, as well as one BLOG center

- MEMBER GUIDES (a place to access the latest site documentation)
- BLOGS (a place for each member to make posts which may be off topic, but add to the community we are building.)
- QUERIES (discussion group)
- GENERAL DISCUSSIONS (discussion group)
- ANCESTORS (discussion group)
- DOCUMENTS (discussion group)

As administrator of the board, I set up the CATEGORIES. Under any category there may be many FORUMS. For example, under the CATEGORY ANCESTORS there are currently three FORUMS. These are:

- Early Gregsons 1600 to 1850
- Henry Knight Gregson b. 1821 and his family
- The Knight Family

Each Forum may have one or more topics. If you click on the Forum Henry Knight Gregson b. 1821 and his family you will see two subgroups. These are called TOPICS.

- The Coat of Arms of Henry Knight Gregson
- Charles Edward Knight Gregson (fourth son of Henry and Eliza)
- The Children of Henry Knight Gregson and Eliza Mary Donaldson Selby

If you click on the topic THE COAT OF ARMS OF HENRY KNIGHT GREGSON, as a member you can make a comment using POST REPLY.

Any member of the kg site can (1) post a REPLY to a topic or (2) post a NEW TOPIC. Posting a NEW TOPIC is an invitation to the group to read, and to comment (post a reply) under this new topic. For example, a new topic for this forum might be George

¹ You will not have access to any links or any REPLIES

Charles Knight Gregson (sixth child of Henry and Eliza). If this topic becomes too large, we can promote it to the status of FORUM with its own set of topics (when I mentioned moderated discussion groups earlier, this is one of the tasks a moderator can do). All topics under the forum HENRY KNIGHT GREGSON ... AND HIS FAMILY should be related to that forum. If you would like to generate a new forum contact me and I will set one up. As the site evolves, adding new forums will be common practice, and management of that can be delegated as well, but for the time being, I will retain this administrative function. As you can see, the Knight Gregson site will dynamically change.

The word FORUM might suggest to you that this is a chat room. It is not. The forum is an organized threaded discussion group. It is like a social media site in that members (like friends on Facebook) are invited to post comments. It is different from Facebook, in that the *Facebook Wall* organizes posts/replies by *when* they were posted. Here our posts have a structure, so that responses are grouped by FORUM and TOPIC.

Details

In this section I will give you more details about the site.

Navigation Bar: The Navigation Bar is rather self explanatory.

1. *HOME* No matter where you navigate on the site, *HOME* will take you back to the first page.
2. *CALENDAR* I don't think that we will be using *Calendar*, but who knows?
3. *FAQ* If you have problems, check this first. This is written by our host Forumotion. If you still have problems contact me (email at end of this introduction) or select email in the right-hand panel of any of my posts.
4. *SEARCH* A good tool to find something quickly without going through the details of the TOPICS and REPLYs (posts).
5. *MEMBERLIST* This obviously lists our members, but it also provides a utility to PM (send a private message) to an individual member. This will not go by email but will be processed by the board's messaging system. A notification of a new message will appear in menu item-9 MESSAGES.
6. *USERGROUPS* We have the option to develop user groups which may have some specific common interest. I have not set this up, and probably won't unless the team wants to do this.
7. *PROFILE* This is where you will update your own profile. I have added my ancestral connection to HKG under comments. Mine looks like: Henry KG --> Charles Edward KG --> Archibald KG --> Jessie KG --> Don Falkenburg. Where appropriate, I'd suggest that you do that as well. You are not required to enter data in the second grouping. If you have multiple email addys, make sure that the email you use is where you want to receive email messages from the board.
8. *MESSAGES* This is where your PMs are received

9. *LOG IN/OUT* It is not required that you logout from the system. If you do not, the next time you open the knightgregson.forumotion.com you will not have to login. If you login from another computer from which you have not accessed the site, you will need to login from that computer. Please keep a record of your login password. If you forget this, however, you can reset your password by going to FAQ on the navigation bar; you will find the procedure there.

Explore

I hope that you will take some time to explore the site. If you are new to discussion boards/internet forums, it may take some time getting used to. Here are a few hints:

General Navigation Hints

Throughout the site, links are generally marked in blue font. At the bottom of each page on the site (except the home page) is a bar marked Home, this will take you back to the home page for our site.



All pages have the navigation bar with the first selection being Home.



Some pages (but not all) have a navigation aid to move up and down a FORUM hierarchy. It looks like:

[Knight Gregson](#) :: [Ancestors](#) :: [Henry Knight Gregson b. 1821 and his family](#)

The top level of the hierarchy is Knight Gregson (our home page), the next level is the category *ANCESTORS*, and the next level down is the forum *HENRY KNIGHT GEGSON.....AND HIS FAMILY*. The levels are separated by the double colon :: Clicking on the far left will get you back home, while clicking on Ancestors will get you to the list of FORUMS under Ancestors. Clicking on Henry KG.... will take you the page containing the discussion topics for this forum. At times you may find yourself at a place with no obvious navigation links. Either use the back button on your browser or use the Home link at the bottom of the page or the navigation bar.

As an aid to your visit to our Knight Gregson site, the system will alert you to new material. The icon for each discussion will change if there has been material added since your last visit.



Exploring the Forums

On the home page, the FORUMS are listed in the blue-banded section just below the Advertising banners. Click on forum Henry Knight Gregson b. 1821.... under the category ANCESTORS. You will see two Topics listed here

1. The Coat of Arms of HKG
2. Charles Edward Knight Gregson
3. The Children of Henry Knight Gregson and Eliza Mary Donaldson Selby

The title of each Topic is a link to the discussion topics. If you click on the Coat of Arms... you will see a description of this topic which I entered 28 MAY 2012. There are two links one to [archive.org](#) which is the citation for the material written here, and a second link [symbols....](#) which is the description of the words that are used to describe the elements in a family coat of arms. These external links will always open a new window. When you are done exploring either of these links, close the window.

To get back to the forum page listing the discussion topics either use the back button or click on [::Henry KG b. 1821 and his family::](#) in the forum hierarchy. This is just to the right of POST REPLY. Move one level up back to the TOPIC page. Explore the topic which I set up for Charles Edward Knight Gregson (my great grandfather). You will find a link here to a research paper I am writing to document what I know about CEKG. This document contains images which some members of this forum have shared with me. I try to document the source of these images (when I know it) and/or the individual sharing the material. If you close the window to the pdf file you will be back at the topic level. If you have a comment to make about the research paper or want to post some other material about CEKG you can select POST REPLY. You can simply enter text in the composition box which will be displayed when you select POST REPLY. There are some icons above the composition box that look like a word processor. If you use any of these, your text will have some embedded bb/html code. BB stands for bulletin board and html is the native language of the world wide web. For example, highlight any text that you want to appear in bold font, hit the icon for BOLD and what you will get embedded in the text is

[] text that you want to appear in bold font []

The text will not appear in bold font in the composition box, but will have the [].... [] framing the text. Later when you want to complete the post by hitting SEND, the appropriate text will be in bold font. You can explore the other buttons on the composition box which will allow you to change fonts, colors, write lists, insert tables, etc. For the time being stick to simple formatting. Don't worry about testing this out. As the one who just posted "my experiment", you can either EDIT or DELETE that post using the appropriate button after you SEND what you have composed (button under the composition box). I'll write more later for those who want to fancy-up their posts. About the middle of the format bar is the icon for inserting a link. If you hit this you will get two boxes. The first is the URL where you insert the html link. This can be copied from your web browser; it is the web address of the target of the link. Alternatively it can be a link to a document in the cloud (e.g. stored in

Dropbox.com)². The second box has the letter A with the link symbol attached. This is where you type the words a reader will see. Clicking these words in a post will open a new window to the targeted site. So, for example, for the link to the CEKG paper the web address is where that document is stored and the text which is linked is: *Charles Edward Knight Gregson research paper*. When you are finished composing your post, you will hit SEND. Within the post on the forum this will be displayed as an active hyperlink (it will be colored blue, but no underline as is often the case with hyperlinks). We have a few issues regarding documents that are not in the cloud (e.g. on your desktop machine, for example). For the time being, send any document that is not accessible on the web to me and I will upload it to a cloud server and do the link for you. I will shortly be posting additional material to explain how you can set up a cloud server and link files from that server to the Knight Gregson site.

Exploring the FORUM DOCUMENTS

If you return to the Home page you will find a category called DOCUMENTS. At the suggestion of one of our members, I have divided this into two forums

- Historic Documents
- Member Working Documents

If you follow the link to Historic Documents you will see three topics. Each one of these refers to a document I have posted. Currently there are four:

- Memories of Thomas Knight by his grandson Charles Edward Knight Gregson
- Under a Border Tower: The Death of Thomas Knight
- Under a Border Tower: A Shooting Incident Involving Arthur Knight Gregson

At the time I am writing this, there is a single topic under Member Working Documents.

For each document there is a reference to the owner of the document, a brief description of what is contained in the document, and links to the document. Any member of this board can POST REPLY and make a comment. To start things off, I have included a couple of comments that have been circulated by email by Valerie Edwards and by Don Falkenburg regarding *Historic Documents::Memories of Thomas Knight by his Grandson Charles Edward Knight Gregson*. I will not be posting responses for others in the future, but I wanted to give you an idea how our email conversations could be enabled by and preserved on the kg site. In fact, it may be that Valerie will ask to edit her comments or even to have them deleted. As admin of the board, I will set up the structure, enter some content to get things going, but it is up to the members to make this a living board. Explore the DOCUMENTS forum.

Exploring Queries

QUERIES has been established for members of our community to ask questions that are not related to one of the on-going discussions of our ancestors. If you are

² Dropbox.com is a free cloud server for any sort of computer file. More on this later.

stuck trying to research a particular branch of our family tree, for example, post a query here and see if others may have some input. To post a query, hit NEW TOPIC. To respond to an existing query select POST REPLY under that query.

Exploring BLOGS *protocol for responding to blogs (10 JUN 2012)*

The BLOGS are a place where you can add posts that may represent your personal opinions, family stories, musings, etc. These may or may not be off the main theme of this site, but should (at least) be of interest to our broad community. These are open for reading by any member of the Knight Gregson community, *but not to a casual visitor*. A non-member viewing the site will not see the BLOGS. On my blog I have added my ancestral connection to Henry Knight Gregson. As the community expands, not everyone may be a lineal descendent, so please indicate the nature of your connection to our community.

Each BLOG is itself a forum and is therefore established by the board administrator (Don F.) As standard procedure, I will set up your blog when you register for the site. You can then create a TOPIC and other members can respond to your post. (for an example, see my blog). In order to keep the blogs organized, *the blog owner should be the only person adding new topics*. Others may post a reply; of course the owner can also post a reply to expand the original post or reply to a reply. I don't believe that I can enforce this by the permissions on the site, but we will try to see if this suggested protocol works. If you want to respond to the blog-owner without posting to the board you can send private message or an email. These can be accessed in the right panel of the post (MP is private message, and the email icon is obvious). An email address is not included on your composition box, but the system will route it to the destination. A private message can only be retrieved if you log on the site (message indicator in the Navigation Bar). DONT BE CONFUSED BY NOTIFICATIONS IN THE ADVERTISING BAR BELOW THE NAV BAR. Some of these ads say things like "you've got 2 new notifications". These are ads not private messages.

Explore the Knight ^{NEW!} Gregson site. You can post some dummy replies to test this process out, and then delete them. Of course you can post a real reply. But don't hesitate to try this out even if you don't have anything to really add to the discussion at this time. Note there is a PREVIEW button that will allow you to see your post before you hit SEND. But even if you send it, you can EDIT or DELETE the post. If you posted something, you have the permissions to control that post.

You may choose to use an avatar or not. An avatar is a representation of you. If you do not use an avatar your posts will be accompanied by a rather nondescript stick image. To set an avatar go to the NAV BAR and select PROFILE. Using the tabs across the top of the Profile page select AVATAR. At the bottom there is SHOW GALLERY. You might want to look there and see if there are any avatars in the system gallery you want to use. I did not find anything that appealed to me and I decided to make my own. I Googled (images) for *knight* and found the simple image of the knight on horseback with a rather nondescript shield. I then Photoshopped the image to add our the Knight Gregson Arms onto the shield. Being pleased with the result, I saved the image as a jpg on my computer, then uploaded it to the site using Choose File on this Avatar page.

18 JUL 2012

I find this to be fun, but if this is not your cup-a-tea, then you can skip this entirely. If you have an idea but don't know how to make it happen, email me with your idea and I will try to help implement it. I rather enjoy this kind of thing.

Here is an important reminder that will help all of us to use this site. If you post some genealogical information, make sure that you give a citation of the source. From years of experience I know that I can go to three different sites: the IGI, Ancestry.com or literally hundreds of other sources including books, on-line or off-line records and find conflicting accounts of an event in the life of one of our ancestors. One of the problems with genealogical research is that you often need to select between conflicting reports. Sometimes a decision is made by deciding which source you trust best. Our community will be best served if we make sure that we include citations. Later, new information can be compared with what has already been posted and we will know where each data point came from. More on all of this later.

If you want to suggest expanding the structure of the KG site, you can send me an email or make your suggestion as a POST on Design of Knight Gregson Forums:: Prototype Design I. Remember go to Home, Select Design of KG Forums and then you will see the topic Prototype Design I.

I will be developing a set of tutorials for users of this site. These will be available under the first forum MEMBER GUIDES. Right now, the only guide stored there is this introduction. Enjoy your exploration of our Knight Gregson site. If you are having any difficulty with all of this, please contact me directly at dfalken@comcast.net

I think that the site now has enough structure for us to open this up to more members. If you know of someone who is not a member, please email me to let me know who they are. You can invite them directly or ask me to invite them. I would just like to know if there is someone you have invited so that I have a heads-up regarding requests for membership which may come into the board.

After a week of writing and implementing site updates, I am going to post this (likely flawed) document.

Your volunteer admin
Don Falkenburg

Version History

04 JUN 2012: Draft

10 JUN 2012: Small editing changes for clarity and major change in the BLOG section.

18 JUL 2012 Removed Forumotion Gallery refs, as we now have our own gallery in the forums.