

GENEALOGY CLUB B-E-T-W-E-E-N T-H-E L-I-N-E-S

Genealogy Club Monthly Meetings:

Please remember that genealogy club meetings are held at the Beall-Dawson house. Parking after 7pm can be found on the street (Middle Lane) and in the lot. The door opens at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30pm. RSVP to help us plan space: 301-340-2974.

January 23 *The MOOseum: Our new Dairy Farm Museum in Germantown.*

Barbara McGraw, director of the King Dairy Barn MOOseum and one of its founders, will talk about future plans for the museum as well as the history of the King family and dairy farming in the county.

February 27 *Lincoln's Other White House: The Missing Link in the Story of His Presidency*

Elizabeth Smith Brownstein, will speak on *Lincoln's Other White House*. Before there was Camp David, there was the cottage at the Soldier's Home where presidents went to take a break. It is known as the Summer White House and it is there that Lincoln is said to have drafted the Emancipation Proclamation. She will have available for sale after the talk her book, *Lincoln's Other White House: The Untold Story of His Presidency*, for \$24.95.

MEETING NOTES:

Peabody Room at the Georgetown Library: November 14th meeting:

Joanna Church welcomed Genealogy Club members to their new meeting location, the Beall-Dawson House. She offered to answer any questions regarding the furniture and other artifacts exhibited in the house and gently reminded members not to handle the items and to be careful with the furniture.

Meeting was brought to order at 7:15 pm at the Beall-Dawson House. Pat Andersen presented the slate of officers to be elected. Cliff Sayre, President asked for a motion to accept the nominations. Mary Matson made the motion and Philip Ordway seconded. The new officers for 2007-2008 are:

President:	Lorraine Minor
Program Chair:	Craig Keefer
Secretary:	Linda Kennedy
Membership	John Herman

After the official business was taken care of Mary Matson introduced the evenings speaker, Jerry McCoy.

Jerry is the Librarian/Archivist for Special Collections at the Peabody Room of the Georgetown branch of the DC Public Library System. The Peabody Room is the local history resource center for the Georgetown neighborhood. When Georgetown was founded it was part of Frederick, then Montgomery County before being ceded to the District in 1792. Because of this, early Maryland history is included in its collections.

Jerry's original intent was to speak about the wonderful historical collections in the Peabody Room. However, on April 30, 2007, a three-alarm fire raced through the Georgetown branch of the DC Public Library System doing great damage to the historical documents, manuscripts, maps and artwork. His focus instead was on the damage caused by the fire, smoke and water, and the brave efforts that kept the fire from spreading and saved the collections from total destruction.

A university student videotaped a few minutes of the fire with his cell phone. The video can be seen on www.YouTube.com. The dramatic video shows the roof fire and the cupola falling from the building.

The firefighters carried the paintings to the street, and a recovery company was on the scene immediately to put the soaked books and documents in a freezer to prevent mold from forming. An estimate of the damages to the collections was 10% totally lost, 10% will require extreme conservation and 80% suffered water and smoke damage and will require some conservation.

Huge efforts are now going into raising funds to rebuild the library and conserve the damaged collections. It is hoped that the building will reopen in 2010 in time to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Georgetown Branch. Jerry also asked that any photocopies of collection material that Peabody Room patrons may possess be photocopied again and sent to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. Donations can be made to the Georgetown Library, DCPL Foundation.

Submitted by Linda Kennedy.

Holiday Party: December 19th meeting:

The annual Genealogy Club potluck Holiday Party took place as usual and was a pleasant evening with good food, wine and company. \$200 was made in donations to the Society in support of the library, and Cliff Sayre and Jim Wilson were thanked for their contributions to the club this past year. Thank you cards for Glenda

Buchanan and Mary Matson, the club's other functioning officers, were also signed to be sent out.

Gypsy Ancestry & DNA -

The Library received an email inquiry from Donald G. Locke Jr. regarding Gypsy (Romany) heritage in Montgomery County. He states that DNA testing on the Lock/Locke family has revealed that the family belongs to a rare DNA group, Y Chromosome Haplo Group H. This group is associated with people of Romany descent. The presence of the Lock family in 1700s Maryland, as well as many other families with Romany surnames and/or connection to the Y Chromosome Haplo Group H, suggests that many Romany families left England (or were deported from England) via a known colonial shipping route which took them to Barbados and thence to Maryland and Virginia. The US families (six of which have ties to Maryland history) in the Y Chromosome Haplo Group H are Lock(e), Carter, Campbell, Ruffin, Bailey, Hite and Jewell. Other Romany names found in Maryland history are Smith, Perry, Dixon, Hall and Matthews (to name a few).

Haplo Group H is thought to have originated in India thousands of years ago, and the English Romany people are thought to be of Indian descent.

Donald Locke is wondering if anyone knew of this possible Romany presence in Montgomery County? Please email lockeroots@comcast.net.

First Fridays:

The first Friday of every month, from 10:30-12:30, the Library holds a special genealogy research session. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced researcher who's hit a brick wall, come join our group as we share questions, problems and successes and search for breakthroughs.

Report on Trip to Balch Library in Leesburg:

On Thursday, November 8th, a small group gathered to take White's Ferry to Leesburg. Annette Fletchall gave me her mother's copy of a high school annual from Leesburg to present to the library as a gift, they were thrilled, as it was not a volume they had. We had a tour of their facility by Mary Fishburn, and lunch at a local downtown café. Charles Jacobs, hearing that the Balch Library was seeking a replacement set of the Official Record of the Civil War for their library, contacted them with a very generous gift of his set. We have a full set at the Waters House (courtesy of Larry Moore), for those who want to review a paper copy. Researchers should also know that it is on-line at Cornell University's web site.

New in the Library:

- *1860 Federal Population Census for Loudoun County*, by Patricia Duncan
- *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634-1635*, Volumes IV & V, which covers up to surnames beginning with M-P. We do have the previous volumes I-III of this continuing series, and also the 3 volume set: *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633*. These sets by Robert Charles Anderson, published by NEHGS, promise to become genealogy classics.
- "Montgomery County, Maryland Deaths Reported in the Police Dockets in the Collections of MCHS, July 1931 through October 1940" Abstracted by MCHS Library Volunteers and Indexed.
- A copy of: *Roster of the Soldiers and Sailors who served in organizations from Maryland during the Spanish-American War*, compiled by Hugh Ridgely Riley and Charles S. Carrington, published in Baltimore by William J.C. Dulany Company, 1901.

On-going Library Projects

- ◆ ***Slave Data Base*** – Our high school intern completed inputting data on free persons of color in Montgomery County in 1832 to compare with a growing list of slaves or free blacks (over 3800) named in transactions in the county from 1777 to 1865. These include manumissions, bills of sale (property mortgages or security transactions), importation from Virginia, and an occasional deed where the purchaser is noted as a black man or person of color. **Needed** is a data base expert to work with queries, and report formatting.
- ◆ ***Montgomery County's Confederate Soldiers*** – So far we have a 200+ page manuscript of Confederate soldiers who were in some way connected to Montgomery County, based on research done by Marian and Charles Jacobs. Volunteers are compiling their notes into a typescript for the library shelves. Editors and researchers will still be needed to complete this project.
- ◆ ***Sentinel Abstracts*** – of marriages, deaths and miscellany, 1935-1969 is an ongoing project, with data being entered into an Access database. It is about 75% completed at this point.

Archives Donation:

We've received a fine collection of maps from Charles Jacobs, including a full set of poster-size reproductions of the 1870's Hopkins Atlas of Fairfax County, and almost 50 USGS topographical maps covering parts of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. After processing, these maps will be available to researchers in our general mapcase collection.