

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.

November 14: *Peabody Room: Its Past and Future*

Jerry McCoy, librarian at the Washingtonian Room, Washington, D.C., will talk about what they have, as well as what they lost, and the process of recovery after the fire, and how to protect your personal collections from disasters. **Please note the date change!**

December 19: *Annual Holiday Party*

The Beall-Dawson House is an elegant setting for the annual holiday potluck. This year's theme, *Christmas in Miniature*, presents a delightful backdrop to the gathering. There will be sign-up sheets at the November meeting.

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

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

MEETING NOTES:

Show and Tell--September 26th meeting: We opened our fall season with Show and Tell. We are looking for new officers and have asked for volunteers to serve as a nominating committee. We need to present a slate at the November meeting (November 14th). If you are asked please seriously consider helping out. Sharing this responsibility is a good thing for all concerned.

September's meeting focused on the summer journeys of Club members and how their interest in genealogy and history affected their sojourns. Philip Ordway visited the Rochester Historical Society in

Rochester, NY and was impressed with their historic building and their museum and library collections. Joan and Jim Wilson visited Port Tobacco, MD and learned that it was one of the largest Maryland seaports of the 18th century. They also enjoyed discovering an historic cemetery where many Robie family members are at rest. Pat and Bob Andersen traveled to the Midwest where they explored the Rock Island Historical Society. Pat was fortunate to meet a Swedish guest at her family reunion whose ancestor had been a correspondent with Pat's grandmother. Carol Cummings discussed her recent research quest for the Amelung Glass Factory of Frederick County. She is concerned with locating the Amelung home which may or may not still be standing near Park Mills Road.

Snowden Family of Sandy Spring--October 24 meeting:

The Genealogy Club is becoming more comfortable in its new meeting space at the Beall-Dawson House. Although we were gathered for a presentation by Elizabeth Stabler Garrettson on the Snowden Family of Sandy Spring, the meeting began with Club business:

- Cliff Sayre requested that Club members help prepare a roster for nominating and appointing new officers. Please contact Cliff if you would like to nominate someone or are willing to serve. The slate of officers will be presented at the November 14 meeting.
- Glenda said that unfortunately she can no longer serve as the Membership Chairman and asked that someone consider accepting the responsibility.
- Also, Pat mentioned that Charles and Mary Matson are not able to continue in their capacity as Program Chair due to health issues.

Elizabeth Stabler Miller Garrettson delighted us all with stories from her own genealogy and how her ancestor's lives were intertwined with the history of Sandy Spring, Maryland.

Accompanied by her husband, whose PowerPoint expertise added interesting visual content to the talk, Beth Garrettson spoke about the early Snowdens of Wales right up to Francis "Snee" Snowden (1925-2003).

Although most of us are familiar with the Quaker roots of Sandy Spring and their early objection to slavery, we ventured with Beth through history that included little known facts and often forgotten stories about the people and places that enrich the history of Sandy Spring.

Thank you to Mrs. Phyllis Ordway for providing the light refreshments which we all enjoyed at the conclusion of the meeting. Nancy Kellogg has generously offered to bring next month's refreshment.

Genealogy 1st Friday Workshop: September and October 2007

Autumn was not actually in the air for First Friday in September and October but First Friday participation was buzzing with a change of season energy. Some Fall cleaning occurred in the Jane L. Sween Library and a bookcase holding "how-to" books for genealogical researchers was placed in the back of the library near the family files.

Some discussion covered the best websites to search and the differences among the available family tree-making software. Although electronic and internet sources are often discussed at these meetings, it is always useful to hear about the experiences and evaluation of others.

Vern Skinner discussed familial relationships, handwriting and language issues that genealogists must carefully interpret. When naming children the use of "sr.", "jr." or numerical designations does not always imply blood relationships. Penmanship presents involved problems. All genealogical researchers are familiar with the difficulties of reading handwritten manuscripts and trusting transcriptions! Of course, language presents another set of problems. Many early documents can be written in Latin and home country documents will be written in the local language. All languages reflect developmental, political, and geographical changes experienced over time.

Cliff reminded us that genealogical researchers should keep "The 3 R's of Genealogy" in mind while documenting our ancestors: 1) record-keeping and documentation; 2) research and analysis of data; 3) reporting and publication of results. But he said he has added a 4th "R"—Review. Cliff distributed a copy of his "4 R's of Genealogy" to all those attending the October First Friday. If you would like a copy, give Pat a call at the Library. We hope to see you on November 2.

Early Fall Field Trip – Thursday November 8th, to the Balch Library in Leesburg. Please contact Pat in the library if you are interested – We will carpool from Rockville. Call Pat to RSVP: 301-340-2974.

Recent Library Inquiries and Visitors:

- Laura Hawley-Jarvis has been doing some research on Calvert County families in our library, and she passed on a great web site to check out for Calvert County Research from Marshall Hall records: <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=SHOW&db=mrmarsha&recno=45638>. Another helpful web site run by the Maryland State Archives, concerns land records. Not all deeds are on-line, but early deeds for many Maryland counties are available. Advanced researchers are well aware of how helpful land records research can be! You can go directly to www.mdlandrec.net and use a link from that page to apply for a password.

- We've received a query request on two early Montgomery County families: the Mouldens of Rockville (mostly farmers, blacksmiths and day laborers in the mid-1800s) and the Wilsons of Silver Spring. Thomas Noble Wilson (1790-1862), owned a 1,000 acre plantation in the area of Silver Spring, on both sides of today's Georgia Avenue between the District line (Colesville Road) and the Beltway. When much of the property belonged to Thomas's grandfather Henry Wilson (1725-1781) and his father Zadock Wilson (1757-1826), it was part of the Northwest Hundred. After Thomas was killed in the Civil War, the property was divided among his children, with major portions ultimately becoming known as Woodside and Woodside Park. Many members of the family are buried in the graveyard of Grace Episcopal Church on Georgia Avenue. ["I would welcome opportunities to share information on the family. Thomas Noble Wilson/ Willson is my 3rd great-grandfather on my mother's side." Paul P. Blackburn, 1588 Highland Glen Place, McLean, VA 22101. 571-633-1799 e-mail: pekheng@msn.com]

- We have had several researchers in the library looking up former slave families, and we are working on creating a data base for slave bills of sale and manumissions, as well as related records of tax assessments and census data for Montgomery County. If you are a data base maven and would like to volunteer to help out, or if you just want more information, please contact Pat in the library.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY:

- Periodicals—We have a growing collection of Virginia resources, among them periodicals. Remember not everything used by genealogists is catalogued and unfortunately neither are they indexed.
- Samuel Kercheval, *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, a Heritage Classic reprint.
- Williard R. Mumford, *Strawberries, Peas & Beans: Truck Farming in Anne Arundel County*. This interesting volume provides information about tokens the various up-county farmers used for crop workers – basically it is a collectors' guide with a lot of fascinating farm family data. Find it catalogued under 630 Mum.
- Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634-1635, Vol. IV I-L and Vol. V M-P*. More volumes are expected in this second series of New England Families published by NEHGS. If you have any early colonials in your ancestry be sure to check these volumes out.
- John D. Bowman has provided us with his 5th volume of abstracts, *Guide to Selections from the Montgomery County Sentinel, Maryland, January 1, 1893-December 31, 1896*, and is continuing these abstracts into the 20th century. His abstracts provide information about all sorts of activities from jury duty to house sales.

NOTE: Library volunteers have abstracted marriages and deaths from the Sentinel from 1855-1959 and 1968-1969. Those post-1945 are entered into an Access database with more library volunteer labor to credit.