

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

President's Message

This spring promises to be a busy one for the club. In addition to our regular meetings in April and May, we will have a table at the National Archives Genealogy Fair on April 22 and 23 and a tour of Archives II in June. To mark the 35th anniversary of the club, there will be a dinner on June 7th. We have scheduled the dinner for early evening so that people who do not like to drive at night can attend. See the details on the following page and join us for one or more of these events.

One of our members has offered to contribute a sizeable amount toward the purchase of a computer based microfilm reader/printer for the library. In honor of the club's 35th anniversary, we would like to raise the funds to complete this purchase. If you are coming to the anniversary dinner, you can contribute with your reservation. If you cannot attend the dinner and would like to contribute, send a check made out to the MCHS to Lorraine Minor, 6610 81st St., Cabin John, MD 20818. Contributions are tax deductible.

– Lorraine Minor

Genealogy Club Monthly Meetings:

Genealogy Club meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., Rockville, MD. Call 240-314-5019 for directions. There is ample free parking. Meetings are always held on Wednesdays at 7:30, with refreshments following.

April 22nd: *Introduction to Genealogical Resources in the Maryland Department, Enoch Pratt Free Library, State Library Resources Center*

Learn about the book and microform resources for Maryland genealogical research at the Enoch Pratt Free Library from Department Head Jeff Korman. The talk will include information about the variety of online information and value added material created by the Maryland Department staff, and

discussion of the Library's vast collection of historic newspapers.

May 27th: *WWII Records at the National Archives in College Park*

John Bowen is a volunteer at the National Archives in College Park. He will give a general overview of WWII records at College Park with an emphasis on those series of records that relate to people and have genealogical value.

Thursday, June 4 *Tour of Archives II*

John Bowen has graciously offered to give us a tour of Archives II. He will be available after the tour to help people interested in using World War II records. If you are interested in attending, contact Lorraine Minor at 301-229-3515 or flminor@patriot.net.

Meeting Notes:

January 28th: Cancelled due to snow. The good news is that the much anticipated panel on Computer Software has been rescheduled for the October meeting this fall.

February 25th: Lorraine Minor introduced Patricia Andersen, librarian at the Jane Sween Library. Pat's topic, *Elizabeth Pritchard and Her Electrifying Machine*, introduced the audience to Elizabeth Pritchard, an 18th century tavern keeper in Montgomery County who Pat had been researching and the information that she gleaned from using the County land records.

From 1777-1865 land records can be found that do not deal with the sale of real estate but contain bills of sale. Interesting information appears on the bills of sale but many researchers ignore them. For instance, a list of items being sold can give a hint to a person's occupation; the items might be a clue to a particular business. A woman selling the items may indicate a widow or daughter. Bills of sale are usually witnessed by a relative or neighbor; but land sales are usually

witnessed by two Justices of the Peace. Pat suggested a book to help with researching female ancestors, *Women and the Law of Property* by Mary Ann Salmon. Ms. Salmon states that "...it is harder to track both sides..."

Other documents that help with genealogical research include business licenses, Orphans' Court records, deeds, and newspaper abstracts. The indexes for court records are complicated so ask for help if the indices are not understandable. The early indices are not alphabetical but chronological. Later deeds have two sets of indexes: grantor and grantee, check both sets of books. The L-M-N-R-T Russell indexes were briefly illustrated. The offer was made to help anyone who comes into the library with indexing questions.

Abstracts have advantages and disadvantages for researchers. Some disadvantages include copying errors, subjective elimination of "unimportant" information and misread or misinterpreted information.

Advantages include every name indexing.

Submitted by Linda M.

Kennedy, Secretary

FIRST FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

First Friday continues to be fun for volunteers and researchers meeting at the Jane C. Sween library from 10:30 to 12:30 with questions and some

answers – or professional research suggestions doled out. Four people came on January 2nd, six researchers attended on February 6th and five were present March 6th. One of the more interesting problems involved trying to identify parents and grandparents of an ancestor born in 1900 and found with his mother, Catherine (Staley/Stahle) Robison (or Robson) on the census in the hospital in San Francisco at 3 months of age. His father's identity has remained a secret. Other mothers and infants were present, as well as 11 pages of patients and staff. It would have been interesting to see diagnoses – those nearby also appeared to be part of a maternity ward –

with infants 0 to 3 months. One suggestion is the California Voter Registration of 1890 – but then as now, it's a state with high mobility of residents.

National Archives Genealogy Fair - April 22 and 23 For more information on the fair go to <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/genealogy-fair/>. This year, the Genealogy Club will be an exhibitor at the fair. If you are planning to attend and can spare an hour to help at the club table, please contact Lorraine Minor.

Sad Loss: The Genealogy Club has lost a long-time member, supporter and officer in Charles Madsen who passed away March 9.

*You Are Cordially Invited to Attend
A Dinner to Celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Genealogy Club*

Sunday, 7 June 2009, 5:00PM

Normandie Farm Inn

10710 Falls Road

Potomac, MD

Guest Speaker: Bill Offutt, "Misadventures in Genealogy"

Dinner Menu

Salad Normandie

Choice of one of the following served with Appropriate Starch, Fresh Vegetable and Hot Golden Popovers:

Chicken Piccata, Citrus Beurre Blanc or

Grilled Filet of Atlantic Salmon, Fresh Dill Hollandaise or

Vegetarian Lasagna with Portabella Mushroom

Profiterols au Chocolate

