



# LINKS



## *The Monthly Newsletter of South Bay Genealogical Society*



**MARCH 2025**

**SBGS News & Information**

**Vol 31 No 3**



**March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Guest Speaker**

***Carol Rooksby Weidlich***  
*presents*

### **What's in Your Tool Box?**

What are the tools you are currently using in your family research? Are there tools you're not aware of and not using? Join the discussion on research tools you might not be aware of, and how they may help to increase your research results.

### **DON'T DELAY!**

#### ***Mail in your Reservation Today!***

Reservations for the SBGS luncheon meetings must be in **9 DAYS** prior to the luncheon. March reservations must be received in the PO Box by

**Sunday - March 9th!**



Allow 4-5 days for mailing!



### **March Menu**

#### ***Shepherd's Pie***

*or*

***Vegetarian:***

#### ***Baked Stuffed Shells*** *w/ marinara sauce*

***Meals include:***

Salad, Rolls, Coffee, Iced  
Tea, Water & Dessert

Any questions, call Vicki:  
**864-607-1330**

## **TECHNOLOGY**

### ***Genealogy Tech Forum***

Monday ~ March 3rd ~ via Zoom

10:30am to 12:00 noon

To join in, use this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82823676088?pwd=epyeBLMa7laMpwkDO2P5AcNCbICs2a.1>

Meeting ID: 828 2367 6088 - Passcode: 208101

### **Open Topic**

***Bring Your Genealogy Questions to the GTF***

*Please log in a few minutes before start time*



### ***Introducing our Guest Speaker***

Carol Rooksby Weidlich was born and raised in Rochester, NY and relocated to Connecticut for school and lived most of her adult life in the Hartford area. She began serious family history and genealogy research in 1998.

In 2000, she and her husband Jim took early retirement and relocated to North Fort Myers. However, in Sept 2022, hurricane Ian did severe damage to their home and they moved to the Villages in Jan 2023.

Carol is past President of the Lee County Genealogical Society, Inc; a member of the Jefferson County Genealogy Society in NY; and a member of the Estero Island Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and their newsletter editor. Carol is researching family history in New York; Connecticut; Ontario, Canada; England and Germany.



**Next meeting March 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Ruskin Elk's Lodge ~ SCC ~ Lunch noon ~ Program 1:00pm**



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



### The April luncheon meeting will be Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Elk's Lodge could not accommodate us on April 15<sup>th</sup> due to a prior commitment. Therefore, the Board decided, rather than cancel our April meeting, we would meet the following week, on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Going forward we don't see a problem with a date conflict as they will pre-book us for all the 3rd Tuesdays.

**This is a one-time change.**



Come to the luncheon meeting  
a bit early and enjoy the

### **Round Table Discussion**

It convenes at 10:30am.

Bring your questions  
and the "group" may be able to help  
you find the answers. If you have  
not attended this SBGS "EXTRA"  
give it a try and join the group.



### PAY IN ADVANCE

#### Sign Up for Next Month's Reservation



You may want to try our "Pay in Advance" plan so you won't miss the next luncheon meeting because you forgot to mail in your reservation. We hope this will help and you won't miss any of the luncheon meetings. So don't forget your check book!



When you arrive for the current month's luncheon meeting, you can pay for the next month's luncheon and select your meal. This will alleviate these problems:

- Forgetting to mail your check in time
- Being too late to mail your check and reservation
- Missing the luncheon because the deadline has passed
- Plus you'll save an envelope and stamp (now 73¢)

*Make your  
Reservation*

*Reminder: Checks for the current luncheon are not deposited upon receipt. Sometimes it may be a couple of weeks or more until they are deposited.*

### **April 22<sup>nd</sup> Luncheon**

Pork Chop & Roasted Potatoes

OR

Vegetarian Quiche

**Guest Speaker - Debbie Smyth**

*presents*

**Digging in the Dirt:  
Researching Land Records**



### **Research Tip**



**City Directories:** Many immigrants won't show up in directories until a few years after arriving. Frequent moves to better housing might explain why they are missed.



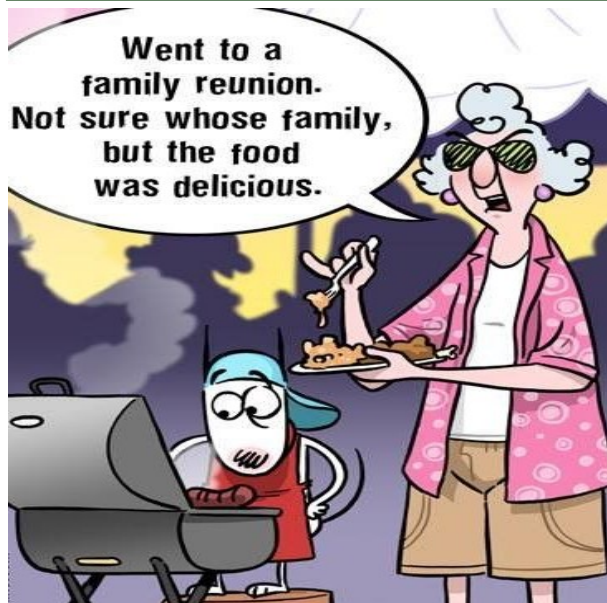
### **Murphy's Law of Genealogy**

Your great grandfather's newspaper obituary states that he died leaving no issue of record.



### **GENEALOGY FUNNIES**

Went to a  
family reunion.  
Not sure whose family,  
but the food  
was delicious.







## GRANDMA'S CURES

### Rainy Day Cure for Dog Odor



Next time your dog comes in from the rain, simply wipe down the animal with Bounce or any dryer sheet, instantly making your dog smell springtime fresh.



## Social History Websites – Weather & Disasters

(continued from Feb LINKS)



### GenDisasters



Floods, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, blizzards, train wrecks, earthquakes, mine explosions, even horse and buggy accidents—if it made the headlines, look for it here. Browse by type of disaster, state or year on this site created with genealogists in mind. Newspaper transcriptions provide breaking news accounts of events that touched our ancestors' lives. <http://www.gendisasters.com/>

### Influenza 1918



The so-called Spanish Flu killed more than 600,000 Americans, more than any other epidemic. PBS has documented the outbreak with articles, a timeline, interviews and video clips from its American Experience series.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/influenza/>

### National Climatic Data Center

Weather—severe or not—adds interest to historic events. Find local weather summaries, local storm data, and more climate reports on this site from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/climate-information/extreme-events>

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## POIGNANT TOMBSTONE



### Dorothy Marie Harvey

4 Feb 1926 ~ 1 Jun 1931

Hope Hill Cemetery ~ Medina (Gibson) TN

Dorothy Marie Harvey was the daughter of a family that happened to be passing through Medina on their way up North to find work. Dorothy Marie sickened and died of measles. Her family buried her with the help of the good townspeople of Medina. A stone was erected by the town, as the family had no funds and had to continue on their way. Update: Death certificate indicates Dorothy died in St. Louis, Missouri, of pneumococcal septicemia, post Scarlet Fever, and was returned to Tennessee for burial.

## LAND RECORDS

### Types of Land Records

#### Land Deeds

The most essential land record is the deed. Deeds document the transfer or sale of title, or ownership, of a piece of land or other property from one party to another. Deeds usually concern land, or “real” property, but they also often mention moveable or “chattel” property, such as household goods and even enslaved persons.

They sometimes, but not always, contain explicit, direct statements of relationship between family members. Sometimes this can be a parent-child relationship, but deeds can also include a list of people who are children or heirs of a particular deceased person who owned the land being sold. Sometimes the language in deeds involving heirs makes it clear that the heirs are children, sometimes not, so some care must be taken not to assume that all heirs are children. Research in other records sets such as probate, census, and church records may make the relationships of the heirs to the deceased land owner clearer.

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## CONTACTS

SBGS: [southbaygs@gmail.com](mailto:southbaygs@gmail.com)

SBGS website: <https://southbaygenealogy.org/>

Roots Magic Help – Beth Clarke: [beth7938@gmail.com](mailto:beth7938@gmail.com)

Luncheon Reservations – Vicki McDonnell: (360) 608-1647

Membership – Cathy Rebhun: [cathy33596@yahoo.com](mailto:cathy33596@yahoo.com)

Programs/Newsletter – Dru Thomas: [sbgsdruthomas@gmail.com](mailto:sbgsdruthomas@gmail.com)



### GENEALOGY BUMPER STICKER

## HISTORY BUFF

(I'd find you more interesting  
if you were dead!)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

## SouthShore Regional Library



If you plan to use the computers in the **Genealogy Center**, you are no longer able to use your library card. You need to stop at the information desk in the center of the library and get a sign-on to access the databases on the computers. However, you are still able to use your library card from home to access the databases, with the exception of Ancestry and JSTOR.

## Researching Unique Surnames

If you have an unusual surname, it can be frustrating to find any information at all. Yet, when you do, it will be much easier to understand how it directly fits into your family.



Unusual surnames have two advantages: there are limited numbers and everyone remembers it if they ever met someone with that last name



### Don't Assume the Surname was Always Rare

Just because your surname is unusual today, don't assume that's always been the case. Search for those names on family history websites and in genealogical records, but remember to closely analyze any finds you make. Don't assume a surname was uncommon back in your ancestor's time and therefore that any person you find with that name is part of your family tree.

### Use Cluster Research



Unusual surnames, even those of only collateral relatives, are ideal fodder for cluster genealogy. Typically used with cousins, neighbors and associates who migrated with your ancestors (in a "cluster"), the strategy works even better when such folks have surnames that stand out.

## SURNAMES

### Look at Unique First or Middle Names

Another way unusual surnames can provide research clues is when they become unusual first or middle names. In the 18th and 19th centuries, it was common for family surnames, especially maiden names from the wife's family or the husband's mother's family that would otherwise vanish, to be used as first or middle names for children.

David Fryxell and Barbara Krasner-Khait  
Family Tree Magazine Newsletter - 4 Aug 2021



Stay tuned for the conclusion in the April LINKS

Don't



Forget

## THE SWAP TABLE

Members can donate, share & swap genealogy materials. It's free! If you have books, magazines or newsletters you no longer want, bring them to the next meeting for the swap table.



## Social History Websites

(continued from page 3)



## Special Interest



### African-American Odyssey

This American Memory site offers digital access to the LOC exhibition "A Quest for Full Citizenship," as well as other related collections. Resources here span 200 years of African-American history, dating back to the 1700s.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaohml/aaohome.html>

### The Civil War



This site's year-by-year overviews, battle summaries, biographies, discussion of medical practices and more provide plenty of fodder for putting your Civil War-era ancestors in historical context. Photographs, drawings and maps convey more than words alone. Digitized issues of Harper's Weekly magazines published from 1861 to 1865 provide a unique view into this tumultuous time.

<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/>



### Immigration to the United States 1789-1930

Harvard University Library's digital collection covers a wide range of immigrant experiences, neatly organized by topic. You'll find information and resources to help you understand Scandinavian immigration, the California Gold Rush, the Settlement House Movement, the Chinese Exclusion Act and many other issues.

<https://library.harvard.edu/collections/immigration-united-states-1789-1930>

Shelley K Bishop - Family Tree  
Magazine Newsletter - 27 Aug 2021



Stay tuned for the final Social  
History Websites in the April LINKS.

### Addicted to Genealogy

You know you're addicted to genealogy when you can give more information about the long deceased from memory than you can about the living.



### Newsletter

TIP!

If the hyperlinks to websites in the newsletters do not work, copy & paste the link into your browser.

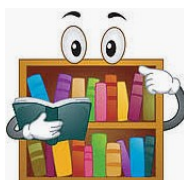




## ON THE BOOKSHELF

### To Walk About in Freedom: The Long Emancipation of Priscilla Joyner

By Carol Emberton



Many books that cover emancipation following the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Jim Crow South, do so from a broad perspective that attempts to find continuity in the experiences of the formerly enslaved. However, historian Carole Emberton, in *To Walk About in Freedom: The Long Emancipation of Priscilla Joyner*, points out that every individual's story should also be viewed and valued independently. Their experiences in enslavement and freedom were unique to each of them and did not always fit into neat categories although collectively they can help shed light on some common aspects of those experiences.

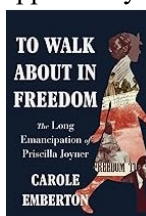


Emberton's book makes extensive use of the material gathered from the Slave Narrative interviews conducted by the Federal Writers' Project (FWP) in the 1930s and focuses on the life of a woman named Priscilla Joyner. Where records about Priscilla's life are scarce, Emberton examines the interviews of others to compare, contrast, and illustrate Priscilla's own story. Priscilla was born in January 1858 in North Carolina and raised by Ann Eliza Joyner, a white woman who claimed to be Priscilla's mother. Eighty years later when Priscilla was interviewed by the FWP fieldworkers it was clear that she harbored doubts about whether Ann Eliza was indeed her birth mother, and she still resented the fact that Ann Eliza never revealed who her father was. Priscilla's early years existed in a gray area, neither enslaved nor free, isolated and tormented by her white half-siblings. After the war, when Priscilla was twelve years old, Ann Eliza sent her away to live with a black family. There Priscilla began to build a life for herself and found her own sense of freedom and community during the ups and downs, and dangers, of the post-war South.



Given the competing agendas of those in charge of the FWP and its various projects and the persistent racial attitudes of the time, it is difficult to know how much of the interview notes and subsequent writings based on them have been altered. Likewise, it is hard to know how much the formerly enslaved interviewees may have adapted or left out of the answers given to the predominantly white, middle class, and Southern interviewers due to distrust or in fear of possible reprisals. Despite these obstacles, the surviving FWP records are a rare opportunity to hear the voices and eyewitness accounts, both in writing and in some cases through audio recordings, of those who lived through Slavery and its aftermath, and to begin to understand what freedom meant to those who experienced it.

Courtesy of Karen Fortin



## Land Records

(continued from page 3)



In the early years of a settlement, and sometimes later, deeds books also often contained other types of transactions, including the sale of enslaved persons and sometimes even wills. These are often records for which no other copies survive. Thus, surviving deed books should always be checked for ancestors and their family members in every jurisdiction in which you do genealogy research.

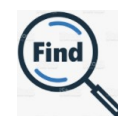


Also, remember to check published abstracts of deeds if they exist, as witnesses to deeds were not included in most indexes to the original deed books. Witnessing a deed was one of many ways relatives assisted one another, and thus the presence of one of your ancestors as a witness for someone else suggests they had some kind of relationship, which might lead to the discovery of previously unknown ancestors.

Also keep in mind that not all states required the recording of deeds throughout their history, or did not require them to be recorded in a timely fashion. Pennsylvania is an example of this lackadaisical attitude to record keeping that now seems foreign. When researching land records in Pennsylvania it is important to remember that deeds for an ancestor might have been recorded years, even decades, after the actual transaction took place. Therefore, always remember to check the indexes for deeds and other transactions many years after the person in question died or left the area.

## LAND RECORDS

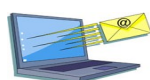
In other states, such as New Jersey, land was sold at the colony and state level for longer than is typical in other areas and thus land records must be sought at the state or colony level up to that time. In the case of New Jersey, deeds only began to be recorded in the various counties around 1785. Therefore, New Jersey real property research must be done at both the county and state or colonial level. In the case of colonies and states with massive record loss, such as Virginia, land records recorded on the state level are often the only records that survive for some counties, and thus are critical for success in navigating such "burned" counties.



(continued on page 6)

Whenever you change your address, phone, or e-mail, please notify SBGS at:

[southbaygs@gmail.com](mailto:southbaygs@gmail.com)

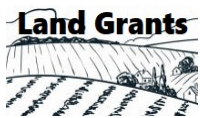


## Genealogy

### Quip

Every family tree has some sap in it.





## Land Records

(continued from page 5)

### Land Grants and Patents



Land grants and patents issued by the various colonial, state and federal governments are also an important resource, including land lotteries in states like Georgia. In many states, such as Pennsylvania and North Carolina, the original applications, warrants, surveys, and patents or grants still exist and can be searched at the state archives or online. While these documents do not often state relationships, they sometimes do, as in the case of one of my ancestors whose father had applied for a land patent in Pennsylvania in 1787, but had died before the patent was issued in 1800, and thus it was granted to his son by the same name. However, the land patent spelled out that the original applicant had died and his son was the person actually receiving the patent.



Land patents and grants, as well as deeds in general, can also document the dates in which an ancestor resided or at least owned land in a given location, assisting the researcher in establishing timelines for ancestors and for differentiating between two or more individuals residing in a given area with the same name. Anyone dreading research on their Smith and Jones ancestors might just find the solution they seek in those old, musty deed books!



### Tax Records



One other land record that could crack the case is land tax records. Everyone who owned land had to pay taxes on it, at least in theory. Sometimes, land tax books include notations about one person inheriting land from another, or more commonly, the change in owner's name from one year to the next can indicate inheritance of the land. The absence of a deed or will showing the transfer might be explained by checking the land tax books.



### Mortgages



Other land records that might prove essential in solving genealogy puzzles are mortgages, which in some states like New Jersey were recorded locally earlier than deeds and sometimes survive for earlier years than do deeds. A mortgage is a promise by a borrower to repay a loan using real estate as collateral—in effect deeding title to the real estate to the creditor if the loan is not repaid. A similar instrument called a deed of trust, or trust deed, performs the same function with the exception that a third-party trustee takes title if the loan is not paid back in full. In the early years, mortgages and trust deeds were usually contracted with private individuals, but as the banking industry grew in the United States over the course of the nineteenth century, they began to be taken out with banks instead of private persons.



(conclusion in next column)

## Genealogist's Wish List

1890 Census

Some spit from my dead great-grandma

The restoration of records  
from 3 burnt court houses

The missing page from my  
Ancestor's pension file

The long-lost family bible

*That's not too much to ask – right?*



## South Bay Genealogical Society

PO Box 5202

Sun City Center FL 33571



### Mortgages

(continued)



The two parties involved in a mortgage are the “mortgagor” and the “mortgagee,” and indexes can often be found for mortgages using those terms. However, sometimes early mortgages and trust deeds were recorded in the same books as deeds, so keep an eye out for them. And remember: the mortgagor is the borrower, while the mortgagee is the creditor. But don't be put off by their sometimes-confusing terminology. Old mortgages and trust deeds are some of the most underused land records in existence—yet they can sometimes be the key that unlocks the door to that next ancestor. Don't overlook them!

Land records are some of the most underutilized, yet most useful, records available in genealogy. Often, they are the only records which state a direct relationship between family members. They can also be used to prove relationships indirectly by studying the land laws in force at the time. Sometimes they can even be used to locate an ancestor's farm or original house, so that we can walk today where our family walked long ago.



Land records exist in the United States in abundance for most locations, yet they are an often overlooked resource for many genealogists. Don't make the same mistake!

===== CUT ✂ HERE =====

***Reservation for March 18, 2025, SBGS Luncheon at the Elk's Lodge in Ruskin***

Lunch starts at 12 noon followed by Speaker's Program at 1pm

Please reserve luncheon(s) for: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal choice: Shepherd's Pie \_\_\_\_\_ Stuffed Shells \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ A check for **\$18.00** per meal is enclosed. Please note lunch choice on your check memo space.

Mail this reservation slip, along with your check payable to South Bay Genealogical Society, to:

**South Bay Genealogical Society - PO Box 5202 - Sun City Center FL 33571**

**Reservations must be RECEIVED in PO BOX by March 9th**