

The Genie

*To inspire interest in family history through education, preservation and service.
We're in the family business.*



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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THE GENIE
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ARK-LA-TEX GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 4463

Shreveport, Louisiana 71134-0463

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association is a Section 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Louisiana.

The purpose of this organization is:

- To collect, preserve and make available genealogical documents and records
- To encourage an interest in genealogy and to sponsor educational programs for its development
- To promote the Shreveport/Bossier City area as having significant resources for genealogical and historical research
- To compile and publish a quarterly publication, *The Genie*, composed of records of genealogical and historical importance, helpful research information, and ancestral queries.



The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association meets on the second Saturday of each month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Randle T. Moore Center, 3101 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA.

The membership year is from January 1 through December 31 and dues are \$20.00 annually for individual or same household family memberships. Dues for those members joining in the last half of the year (July 1 - December 31) are \$10.00. Membership renewals are due by January 31 at the "whole year" annual rate. Payment may be made online through PayPal, by regular mail, or at regular meetings. Refer to our website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laaltga/join.htm> for details.

Statement of Publication: *The Genie* is published on a quarterly basis and distributed electronically as a pdf document to members and subscribing institutions that have provided an email address. The Association also participates in an exchange agreement with other organizations that publish similar genealogical publications. Those publications that are received are donated to the Broadmoor Branch Genealogy Department of the Shreve Memorial Library.

We welcome family history and genealogy research articles and records, especially those that are likely to be of an interest to others. Some examples are family pedigree charts, cemetery surveys/records, family and community histories, and transcribed courthouse records. We also accept articles describing a genealogical "brick wall," as well as queries. All submitted material should be typed or very plainly written and sent to our mailing address above or emailed to our editor at thegenie.editor@gmail.com. Please note that *The Genie* cannot be responsible for errors or inaccuracies, but will hasten to publish correction.

Copyright Laws: All who submit material from other sources should be aware of copyright restrictions. When articles are obtained from another source, permission should be obtained from the author, compiler, or owner of the material being submitted and a statement to that effect provided. Also, we encourage use of source citations when applicable.

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President's Message

Contributed by Glenda Efferson Bernard

“Intentional living” is a phrase that has been floating in and out of conversations, television programs, and magazine articles lately. What a thought-provoking idea as genealogy comes to mind! Questions which we might find ourselves considering are, “How can I become more intentional in analyzing my research?” or “Why haven't I intentionally used basic research methods which I learned in school to break down a brick wall in my family history?”

We at Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association intentionally plan programs from which we think our audience will learn new techniques and become inspired to delve deeper into research using resources which may be less familiar. We intentionally attempt to involve more people and intentionally try to find speakers with diverse topics to help bring new information to our members. It is with this “intentional living” spirit that we desire to share with each other what we have learned. How can we have an intentional focus to help you with your research? We are open to do that! Please tell a board member or send us an email to let us know how we can help.

Our January monthly meeting was an intense look at epigenetics. Ellen Kyle, our very qualified “nurse in residence,” spoke to the group from her experience and from reviews of books she has read. “Epigenetics and the Health and Happiness of our Amazing Bodies” was the title of Ellen's presentation. She introduced the audience to ideas which were new to most in attendance that day. Thank you, Ellen. Crista Cowan, a professional genealogist, shared “Family History Myths Dispelled” via a video. We were hopeful that this medium might be a different way to “speak” pure genealogy to our group.

We had a fun and informative meeting in February. Margrett Ford delighted us with a look into some of her early family history in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, in “Researching the Farrell/Ferrell Family.” Margrett shared her search for her family history as a retired professional who “intentionally” followed leads from people to put the genealogy puzzle together one bit of information at a time. Raegan Stearns, curator and library consultant, spoke on an interest that has captivated her time, “Unshuttered, Uncovered- Northwest Louisiana's Black Photographic Legacy Project.” She brought slides for all to see black photographers and some of their contributions to photography from the past in the Shreveport area. Thank you, Margrett and Raegan!

For our March meeting, Sarah “Sally” Hamer, instructor and writing specialist from LSU, returned to our group to present a unique survey in “Tracking Your Ancestors – DNA and Genealogy.” Sally aptly explained haplogroups and how better to read DNA results from the DNA testing. A very short, scientific explanation of DNA began the address. Yet, the majority of her talk focused upon a more introspective look into the areas of major haplogroups. Sandy

McCormick, supervisor of the Broadmoor Library Genealogy Department, gave insight into genealogy databases now available and other features of the library. Sandy demonstrated their new parish-wide library website and how to easily access its genealogy related portions. Thank you, Sally and Sandy!

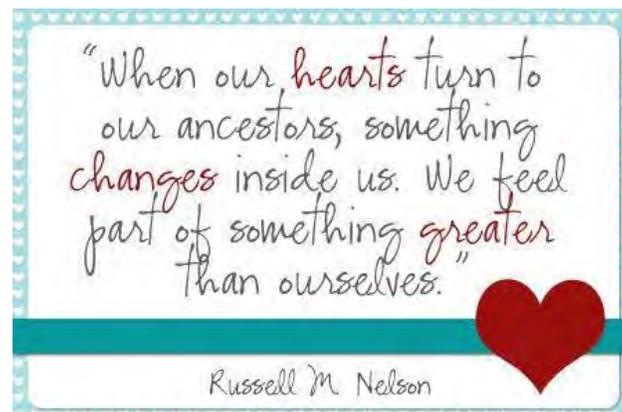
Our members and guests seemed to learn from and enjoy each meeting this quarter. We are grateful for the volunteered time and energy of each participant and the continued efforts of the Programs and Education Committees under the leadership of Jim Johnson and Sonja Webb, respectively.

With the Rootsweb website still out of operation from Ancestry.com and our meeting location of the Randle T. Moore Center undergoing renovation, it would seem that our organization would be “down and out!” But that is not the case at all! Everyone has been so understanding in adjusting to new, smaller surroundings and also in adjusting to the absence of research tools on the website.

We are still talking with one of the regional libraries regarding how to assist in the development of their genealogy program, and we are still planning a Spring Seminar for 23 June 2018. Several have asked about a group of seasoned genealogists and genealogy beginners meeting at the library to work together, so we will be discussing that possibility soon.

Our new Facebook page, “Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Shreveport, Louisiana” is also an effort to promote dialogue with others about genealogy. We will strive diligently to continue to “inspire interest in family history through education, preservation, and service.” “Intentional living” in the genealogy world is an effort to give great thought to exposing research methods, to sharing types of resources available, and to helping others network with researchers.

We aim intentionally to reach out to those interested in family history and to lead the way as much as we possibly can.



Periodical Exchange Review
Contributed by Reed Mathews

The Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association currently exchanges periodical publications with dozens of historical and genealogical organizations across the country. These exchange publications are donated to the Genealogical Department at the Shreve Memorial Library. It is the purpose of this column to make readers aware of these wonderful resources for the family historian by giving brief descriptions of the publications and their content.

The Hoosier Genealogist: Connections. *The Hoosier Genealogist: Connections* is the publication of the Indiana Historical Society that is issued from Indianapolis semiannually. The IHS describes itself as “Indiana’s Storyteller, connecting people to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing the state’s history.” *The Hoosier Genealogist* has been published since 1961. The Spring/Summer 2017 edition has a glossy cover, a soft book binding, and 64 numbered pages that include a table of contents, but no index. All articles include black and white illustrations and all are well-documented.

A *Features* section includes two articles that should be of general interest to family historians. “Territorial Law and Orders” is the second part of Elizabeth Brand Monroe’s discussion of records generated before Indiana achieved statehood in 1816. Monroe describes records created by judicial, executive, and legislative branches of the territorial government, as well as those created by the federal government during this period and explains how researchers may access them.

Randy Mills lovingly reconstructs his father’s early life in the remote southern Illinois community of Horse Creek in “Bound for the Admiralty Islands.” Keith “Doc” Mills enjoyed a Huck Finn boyhood in his sleepy, backwater home, but also survived a bout with polio. He endured an operation on his tailbone to make himself fit for service. To hear his relatives tell, his enlistment as a teenager in 1944 was as much an escape from his even younger girlfriend as a chance to serve his country. A yet-to-be-published follow-up will recount Doc Mills’ naval career on the island of Manus during World War II and may tell more of the girl he left behind, but eventually married.

Regionally focused articles include Natalie Burriss and Rachel M. Popma’s abstracts of legal records from Pulaski County in “Court Papers.” These Pulaski County records are only the first installment of a series of such articles to be drawn from the Barnes Manuscript Collection, which is now housed by the IHS. “A New Interest in Life” is Rachel Christine Fulk’s thoughtful analysis of the 1950s diary of a widow from rural Blackford County named Mattie Tharp Pugh, and “A Tale of Two Orphans” tells the story of the Swartz and Dierdorff families of Elkhart County. In “Pike County Coal,” Judith Q. McMullen recounts the story of coal mining in southwest Indiana from its earliest days in the 1860s through the boom times of the early 20th century and its subsequent decline. She focuses on Logtown, the African-American community of miners, which is now completely deserted.

The Hoosier Genealogist: Connections is an attractive and informative publication. Family historians with connections to Indiana and history lovers in general will find much in these pages.

Valley Leaves. The Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society of North Alabama publishes *Valley Leaves* semiannually from Huntsville. The fall 2017 issue contains 59 numbered pages and includes a table of contents and a full-name index. It is staple-bound with a card-stock cover. This issue is divided into sections on Jackson County, Marshall County, Madison County, and Things to Know. Many of the articles include black and white photographs as illustrations.

In August of 1863, Union troops raided the farm of Jennings and Mary Jane Pemberton on Paint Rock in Jackson County, Alabama. Mary Pemberton's 1873 claim against the federal government for their depredations is transcribed by Jennifer Petty for this issue. In order to receive reparations from the government, Mary had to prove that her family had been loyal to the U.S. government, that they had never supported the Confederate cause, and that the Union Army had expropriated property without giving compensation. Mary Pemberton proclaimed the family's steadfast loyalty to the Union and provided testimony from several witnesses to support her claim.

In her filings, Mary tells a compelling tale. The Pembertons were driven out of DeKalb County by rebel partisans, and they crossed the Tennessee River to Union-held Jackson County. Rebel sympathizers looted their home on Paint Rock and tore their house down. Jennings Pemberton enlisted in the Union Army in the 1st Alabama Vidette Cavalry. He survived his war service only to be stabbed on his return home by the man who had rented him the property on Paint Rock. He died in the same year of 1863. In August of 1863, Union troops took the family's entire corn crop from the field, a horse, an ox, and a heifer. In 1878, Mary Pemberton was awarded \$475 for her losses.

Patricia White Nation's "Thomas Wilson White (1817-1990)" and Gilbert G. White's "James White the 'Salt King' of Abingdon, Virginia" tell how the White family of colonial Pennsylvania and Virginia made a fortune in selling salt and used this wealth to buy vast farm lands in Madison County when this region was first opened. The Whites intermarried with the leading families in the new state of Alabama. Several vignettes on Beadle family members are provided by John P. Rankin. The Thomason and Farris families of Marshall County are also discussed. "Prohibition Search Warrants in Huntsville, 1926" gives information on people suspected of the crimes of making or selling liquor, and "Marshall County Obituary Index for 1939" lists hundreds of people who were eulogized in the *Guntersville Advertiser* and the *Albertville Herald* that year.

The Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society of North Alabama seems to be an active bunch. Besides their excellent work in *Valley Leaves*, they offer a certificate for the First Families of the Tennessee Valley. They have two dozen books that they offer for sale including an *Old Land Records* series covering nine counties in their domain. They are advertising their Annual TVGS Spring Seminar which is set for April 21, 2018. This seminar is an all-day event featuring Claire V. Brisson-Banks' discussion, "British and New England Sources and Strategies."



Election of Officers
Contributed by Jim Johnson

An election and installation of officers was held at our monthly meeting on December 9, 2017. Sarah White and Beverly Bowers were elected as trustees to replace Mary Ann Heinsohn and Ellen Fillippino who were completing their two year term. The remaining officers that serve on the Board of Directors will end their term in December 2018.



Sarah White and Glenda Efferson Bernard



*Front Row: (L to R): Junes Scholes, Peggy LaCour, Sarah White, Sylvia Powers, Glenda Efferson Bernard.
Back Row (L to R): Sonja Webb, Barbara Dean Kronenberg, Johnnie Covington, Jim Johnson*

“Genealogy Feud” Fun Was Had By All

Contributed by Sylvia Powers

Our December 2017 meeting was filled with fun and food. Suzanne Stimits and Sylvia Powers re-purposed Peggy LaCour’s Genealogy Jeopardy game, turning it into a rendition of a Genealogy Feud game. (For a list of the questions, please refer to THE GENIE, 4th Quarter, 2016.) Our panelists consisted of two feuding teams. Six members volunteered for teams A (Thad Pardue, Mary Ann Heinsohn and Keith Hicks) and B, (Glenn Moore, Bob Sanderlin and Kathryn Benson), who challenged each other to be first with a correct answer. Elaine Johnson kept score, while Jim Johnson took photographs. A big thanks to all who courageously participated. After the game, we were rewarded with our traditional feast.



JAMES BLAIR GILMER – PLANTER AND ENTREPRENEUR, Part IV

By Dale Jennings

Some have pondered the reason for James and Paulina Gilmer's failed marriage. Local Bossier Parish history buff, John Ardis Manry (son of J. T. Manry), offered the simplistic explanation that after ten years of marriage, they began to disagree. Paulina and her first husband, Pickett, as well as James' father and brother, had all focused on agriculture. James had a less cautious, more diverse approach to achievement and financial gain, arguably seen either as acceptable risk, or maybe at times seen as enterprising to the point of recklessness. This very well may have been a factor.

When the Gilmers began to contemplate going their separate ways, evidently as early as 1854, their property holdings were vast. Each had come into the marriage with a great quantity of land. They continued to purchase property, which thereafter was considered to be in community between the two. Separate and community became blurred by the way the couple acquired, combined, and improved their properties in the creation and development of their many plantations.

James and Paulina also came into the marriage with many slaves and acquired many more in community while married. They no doubt allowed all to intermarry, and of course, to have children. Families were kept intact, with couples accorded the legal recognition as husband and wife. Louisiana law stipulated that slaves could marry with the consent of their owners. (See article, "Bossier Parish Slave Marriage Records" by this writer in Second Quarter 2010 of *The Genie*.) This mixing of blood lines would likely have caused problems in the sorting out of ownerships in the Gilmers' 1855-1856 property settlement.

Even more problematic would have been the equitable distribution of assets in James' many businesses, all established during the marriage. All the aforementioned and other financial entanglements loomed large over the upcoming settlement. To further complicate this, Paulina's oldest son, John, came of legal age in 1855 and petitioned for his entitlement to his deceased father's estate. Sarah, sister of John and James, died suddenly that year. The death of Paulina's beloved Sallie, just married to Mr. Robert C. Cummings, must have left her in a greatly depressed state of mind. The break-up by James and Paulina Gilmer has been characterized as being very bitter, but this may have been exaggerated, as no affirmation of these insinuations could be found. The underlying story, which would be interesting and profound, remains private.

Interestingly, the late local historian, Eric Brock, had said, with only brief particulars, that Paulina and James had initiated divorce proceedings in 1854, but that they were never finalized. All that this writer was able to find was an enigmatic entry in the Bossier Parish civil suite index: Suit 53 (undated) that reads, "Gilmer & wife ---- chambers (can't find original)." This probably implies that any existing copies (and possibly the original) would have been in the hands of the interested parties.

Ultimately, James and Paulina chose a unique avenue, short of divorce, for obtaining a property settlement while loosening the marriage bond. This would be by way of the Louisiana legislature rather than through the courts. It would be surprising if they had not received the advice and assistance of James' brother-in-law, John M. Sandidge. He was then serving in the U.S. House of Representatives for their district, but he had earlier been the Speaker of the Louisiana House.

The Gilmer couple would petition the state legislature to be allowed to enter into a contract for the division of their property. First, as part of a notarized agreement, they appointed three mutual friends to act as binding arbitrators in this partition. It was agreed to give their arbitrators or referees "full power to settle our property rights and obligations of all kinds whatsoever." This included both separate and community property and covered the assignment of debts and credits. Paulina, represented by her attorneys (her son, John, and R. C. Cummings), joined with her husband and his bondsman, James Washington Vance, in agreeing to an exchange of bonds. These would be one-hundred-thousand-dollar good faith compliance bonds to complete the partition process and to abide by the decisions of their arbitrators. The "articles of agreement" that they hoped to have sanctioned were completed by the parties on October 4, 1855.

The following day they imposed supplemental commitments on themselves. They pledged that if the appeal to the legislature should fail, they would increase their bonds to a reasonable amount not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars. This would be in part to ensure that neither party would interfere with or attempt to influence the referees during their deliberations. It was also to bond an agreement that should their first option fail, they would cooperate in endeavoring to obtain the definitive judgment of a competent court in legalizing the actions of their arbitrators.

James and Paulina brought their petition and agreement before the 1856 joint session of the legislature, the Louisiana General Assembly. That body enacted the one-page Act 30, "An Act for the relief of James B. Gilmer and Paulina De Graffenreid, his wife, of the parish of Bossier" (published in both English and French). Passed on February 29, 1856, the legislature gave the spouses sixty days to ratify and confirm their agreement by notarial act, which they did on April 28, 1856.

The legislature expressed no interest in how the Gilmers divided their property, only that their contract actions did not affect the rights of existing creditors or forced heirs. The couple was released "from all the disabilities resulting from their marriage, to make contracts with each other or with any person or persons." It further stated that all contracts pertaining to their property or otherwise made thereafter would be as valid as any entered into before their marriage. The General Assembly also acknowledged the names of the three mutual friends whom they had picked to be their arbitrators.

By May 10, 1856, the arbitrators or referees had completed their painstaking "canvas" and division of their friends' property and credits. On that date, the primary parties and referees signed the now legally binding contract. The property settlement itself was the greater part of the 29-page contract packet. Also included were the preliminary legal actions executed by the couple in the parishes of Caddo, Bossier, and Orleans for the furtherance of the property division

and its practicable marital separation. They presented the full document to the Bossier Parish Clerk of Court, where on the following day, May 11th, it was recorded as “J. B. Gilmer and wife settlement & partition of property” (Bossier Parish Conveyance Book 4, pages 105-133).

The less intrusive legislative solution was surely preferred by James Gilmer over the more public judicial route, this in keeping with his demonstrated dislike of governmental interference in his business. Paulina took back her previous name, Pickett.

Who were these mutual friends of James and Paulina Gilmer? Two were mentioned among the brief entries of Leonidas Spyker’s Hard Times plantation journal or day book, kept during the six-month period, July 1856 through mid-January 1857 (see article by this writer, “Hard Times in Bossier Parish,” in the winter 2007 issue of the quarterly, *North Louisiana History*). They were James and Paulina’s long-time friend, Doctor James Washington (Wash) Vance, and another friend, Gilmer’s old business partner, Francis Worley Armor. The third was Spyker himself, married to James’ sister, Sarah, and a former business partner also. The Gilmers obviously considered their three mutual friends to be fair minded, of good judgment, and knowledgeable about the scope of their agreed-upon task. Apparently, not all friendships survived the arbitration process unscathed, as hinted at by an entry in the journal.

To fully describe the division of the many tens of thousands of acres of Gilmer land in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas would be too great a task. In Louisiana, the plantations awarded to James were the Buck Hall, Kingston, Egypt, and Christiana. Some nine others as aforementioned went to Paulina. Many other tracts of land in Bossier and Caddo parishes were divided between the spouses. Paulina was given the greater part of their many plantations, farms and tracts of land in Arkansas purchased by Gilmer during the marriage. She also received the large Long Prairie tracts, which had been Pickett property. The tract in Texas went to James.

Paulina received the town of Collinsburg with its various commercial entities. She was also given the old Sentell or Benton and Red Bluff store tracts and stores. She retained her Shreveport city lots, and James kept the many Shreveport lots that he had bought. Paulina got the twenty-five city lots they owned on the Mississippi River in New Orleans. James got the steamboat Marion. Of the 569 Gilmer slaves, Mr. Gilmer was awarded 230, and his wife received 339. The rationale used by the Gilmer arbitrators was not given but would be both interesting and informative.

Within three months of the recording of James and Paulina’s property settlement, James would have embarked to Cuba on an ambitious land acquisition venture and died there. He had named Dr. Wash Vance as executor of his will and administrator of the estate for his heirs, daughters Mary, Martha, and Eliza. He would play much the same role for other Gilmer family members as well. Mary Boutwell Gilmer, the oldest daughter, had recently become the bride of Doctor Vance’s nephew, Dr. Samuel Whitfield (Whit) Vance. (Dr. James W. Vance was the bachelor 2nd great-granduncle of the writer’s wife, Larri Jennings, being the brother of her 2nd great-grandfather, Allen Vance. Dr. Samuel W. Vance was her 1st cousin, three times removed.)

Gilmer chronicler, J. T. Manry, wrote that since the publication of his Gilmer newspaper articles, friends had furnished him copies of some old Gilmer letters. (Copied letters are in Manry

Collection, LSUS archives.) One was a March 9, 1855, conversational letter written by J. B. Gilmer in response to one from his new son-in-law, all while Whit and Mary were on a visit to Alabama. In part, he wrote: "About our future movements we can determine on your return. It is important to my future plans that my children do not settle in Louisiana on account of the laws that do not entitle them to the full benefit of my labors, all of which I am determined they shall have." This was obviously regarding Louisiana's French-based forced heirship laws and seemed to be relative to his anticipated relationship with Paulina.

Mr. Gilmer had some personal and business arrangements to make before leaving for Cuba in mid-June. He would need ready funds to take advantage of opportunities he expected to find in the Caribbean. His finances were encumbered by an obligation he had made earlier that was still in effect. He had given a security of \$104,000 on the bond of William Pickett, the administrator of the estate of Nathan Pickett, both cousins of Paulina's deceased husband, James Pickett. Gilmer sold much of his property from his partition with Paulina and made a settlement of most of his remaining property with his daughters.

On May 24th, James registered at the courthouse a donation of land he was making to Mary, Mattie and Eliza. He stated that this was a one-fourth part of his land to each. It included his Egypt, Buck Hall, Kingston, and Christiana plantations and additional tracts of land, computed to be 7,589 acres in all. He also donated them 159 slaves. He retained his Coushatta Bluff lands, computed to be 1,920 acres, as his own one-fourth. He also retained his body servant, 25-year-old Aleck. James declared that his children should accept his debts in the same percentage of a one-fourth part each. This included some promissory notes.

James' mother held his promissory note for \$6,209. His brother, George Edwin, held one for \$8,116 and his son-in-law held another for \$1,750. The girls' grandmother accepted the \$9,200 debt from their father and donated it to him "for love and affection." She conveyed it to Whitfield Vance, to whom James had given a power-of-attorney and he destroyed it, James having already departed for Cuba with Aleck.

A lengthy letter from Cuba, posted Havana, June 22, 1856, was forthcoming. James Gilmer began by announcing that, "I have been one week in this old and magnificent city of the Spaniard." Mr. Manry previewed the letter by saying that the descriptive powers of Mr. Gilmer could not be surpassed. James was glowing with appreciation for the great beauty and bounty of the island. His agricultural instincts were whetted by what he was beginning to see and hear about the country. Examples of his comments reflect the prospects he was envisioning for himself in this, his newfound frontier:

"Nature here is spontaneous. All that is required for his food or raiment is found growing wild through forest and field. Cotton is growing everywhere wild. Forms a large shrub and grows to old age. The staple when cultivated is good and product might be fair. Sugar cane a perennial and is ready for use whenever the weather will permit the hauling of it to the sugar house. Tobacco indigenous growing all over the island.

"I leave here in a day or two for Trinidad on the south side of the island, to look at a stock and tobacco farm of 12,000 acres of land, 1500 head of cattle, 500 head mares, colts and horses with

14 Negroes offered me for \$36,000, \$10,000 in cash and the balance \$26,000 in eight payments without interest. I am told the estate of land is beautiful and rich beyond description. Is frontier and inland some 25 miles from navigation covered with the fruit of the country and a dense cedar and mahogany forest.”

The next communication from Cuba was another letter, posted Santi Espiritu, Cuba, August 8, 1856, written by a Mr. Joaquin Cesario to Mr. John D. Duggan. Senor Cesario was conveying his first-hand knowledge that James Gilmer had died there of yellow fever during the night. The following are selected excerpts from Cesario’s communication.

“I visited him myself three times though knew nothing of his sickness until the sixth day after he was taken, thinking during that time he had traveled into the interior where he intended to see the country you had recommended him. He was buried at 9 o’clock this morning. He has throughout the course of his illness displayed the greatest fortitude and serenity.I could not believe him so near to his last moments and felt hope that he would survive notwithstanding the unanimous prognostics of the doctors. He was a person of polite and sympathetic manners and appeared to take an interest in our country and liked its customs, whether the result of his education or if a naturally engaging and conciliatory disposition, he soon made himself friends around him.” (Despite what has been said to the contrary, James did not make a land purchase in Cuba.)

Leonidas Spyker was preparing to move with his family to the eastern part of the state when he began his Hard Times journal in July 1856. Primarily, his daily entries concerned the temperature, weather, and crop conditions, as well as business and personal items worthy of note. Here are some entries that lend to James Gilmer’s story:

Jul 7. Rode around the plantation with John Pickett, and sold him both this place and Cash’s Point, the latter for his uncle, Thos. DeGraffenried, for forty thousand dollars the payments to be made on the same time and terms that I have to make when I purchase, which I hope to do in the Parish of Morehouse. (“Cash’s Point,” Cash Point, or “the plantation” is much further south, closer to Shreveport.)

Aug 20. Dr. Vance called to get Jim Gilmer’s paper, titles, etc. Shearing sheep today. (Dr. Vance is James W. Vance)

Sep 8. Andrew returned from plantation; brings a note from Lane who says it is reported that James Gilmer is dead. Hope it is not true.

Sep 9. Death of J. B. Gilmer confirmed. Saw Dr. Vance. He had been to Shreveport to see Hodges. Walked over a portion of the crop; think will not make over 250 bales.

Nov 9. Went to the Orchard to see Sister P. and Cummings. Armor crazy of the effects of Morphine.

Nov 23. Rode to the Orchard and remained to dinner. Saw Armor, who is still drinking whiskey; nothing else is the matter with him. Sister P. sent some apples. (Morphine was

advertised in the stores as a pain medicine. Frank Armor is probably still despondent over the death of his wife, the mother of his young daughter. "Sister P." is Paulina Pickett.)

Dec 4. Dr. Vance agreed to hold an interview with the old lady and myself. (The "old lady" is Leonidas' mother-in-law, James Gilmer's mother.)

Dec 23. F. Smith and myself went to Shreveport together; he was to take the steamer Swan for New Orleans at night. Geo. Gilmer was then on his way to Cuba for J. B. Gilmer's remains.

Jan 14. Probably our last day at Hard Times. I shall leave it with regret. Injustice has been the cause of driving us from home-----and J. B. Gilmer has been at the bottom of all of it. (No explanation was ever given for these strong feelings. Spyker left for Morehouse the next morning with his 100 slaves, 5 six-mule wagons and 2 horse-drawn wagons. His family would come later.)

James Gilmer had given Doctor Vance almost total discretion over the distribution of his property to his daughters, both by donation and subsequently through inheritance. Some clarity for this is provided through a widely circulated February 27, 1857, letter from Dr. Wash Vance to Eliza. It began, "Dear Eliza: I have just received by your sister Mary a letter from Mr. William H. Hull of Athens, Ga., and on the same sheet a few lines from you, in which you both express an earnest desire for my consent to a matrimonial alliance between you."

Other revealing excerpts are: "Your father was ever a brother, yes even more than a brother to me....there was no favor I could not ask but was readily granted. I had the pleasure of meeting with and making the acquaintance of Mr. Hull at your father's house in 1843, when you were but a child four years of age, and his head was then whiter than mine is now. I am constrained to say that I was not favorably impressed with the stability of his habit. You must know that your family have already intermarried too far, and although no apparent bad consequences have resulted from it yet, it is time to stop it. Come home with your Grandma, for I would like to see and talk with you in person. P.S. Please inform Mr. Hull of my objections."

Eliza accepted the advice of her "Uncle Wash." She married Mr. Rufus Y. Graves the following year.

Doctor Vance facilitated the division of his friend's estate. The daughters were allowed to choose their plantations. It was agreed that the youngest, Eliza, should have first choice, and she selected the Egypt Plantation. Mattie chose next and took the Kingston, and Mary accepted the Buck Hall. Dr. Vance sold the smaller Christiana to pay off some debts of the estate. He also made an equitable division of the Coushatta lands on both sides of the Red River. The larger tract on the west side in Caddo Parish was divided between Mattie and Eliza. The plantations of Cuba, Santiago, and Havana would be carved out from the girls' Coushatta and Egypt plantations. The land on the Bossier side, which contained the river bluffs, went to Mary. The slaves were divided evenly.

Doctor Wash Vance was obliged to pay everything owed by the estate, and to collect what was due. He paid Aleck's expenses incurred during the time that he had remained in New Orleans. Dr. Vance returned him to Northwest Louisiana where he was sold to a good owner for \$1,400. That was deemed to be in the best interest of the succession.

James Gilmer hadn't wanted to be returned to Bossier Parish. His remains were brought back to Montgomery, Alabama, and reburied in Oakwood Cemetery next to his first wife, Eliza Lewis Gilmer.



Oil portrait of Paulina and Sallie Pickett, dated 1854, from 2000 Neal Auction Company brochure Bossier Parish History Center, Bossier City, LA

Highlighting Our Members

Contributed by Johnnie Covington

Linda Scott has been a member of ALTGA about 13 years. She's interested in learning more about the Scott family from Shreveport and the Sanders and Gilliards (Gillyards) from Mansfield and Grand Cane in DeSoto Parish. Linda is retired from the Caddo Parish School Board and stays busy with a variety of activities. She's in a book club and enjoys fiction, autobiographies, mysteries and more. Linda is involved with Democratic Women, NAACP, neighborhood association, community renewal, and community service. She also enjoys travel and is in a dance line group.



Barbara Jones is a retired school nurse who worked in Bossier Parish. She lives in Bossier City now but is from Hope, Arkansas. Barbara visits her brother on the family farm there and has helped him in planting pine trees and crops like watermelons. She enjoys gardening, sewing, crochet and quilting. Barbara wants to learn more about family names Bright, Lowry, Bennett, Lloyd, King, and Samuel. She doesn't get to attend the Ark-La-Tex meetings very often as they conflict with the DAR Chapter in Fordyce, Arkansas, where she is also a member. Barbara's Revolutionary War ancestors are Samuel and Bright.



Thad Pardue has been a member of ALTGA about 4 years and really enjoys researching family names including Hays, Hammontree, and Brashier, which is also spelled Brazier and Brasher. He is a native of Claiborne Parish and graduated from Louisiana Tech with his bachelor's and master's degrees. Thad retired from teaching English and history in Caddo Parish schools and now is a frequent substitute teacher at Caddo Magnet, Byrd, and Captain Shreve. He enjoys reading, especially non-fiction, mysteries, and biographies. Eating out with friends and going to movies is great fun, too. While a teacher, Thad traveled in Europe and participated in some archeological digs at Monticello and at Jamestown. He said it was very exciting to be actually digging at the base of the original Jamestown fort.



Kathryn Benson retired as an Associate Professor of Education at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas. When her husband, Danny, retired from farming, they moved to Haughton in order to be close to their children. Kathryn is an avid reader and Master Gardener, and she and Danny are members of Asbury United Methodist Church in Bossier City. The couple are genealogy partners and travel to cemeteries taking pictures of tombstones and posting them on Find A Grave. Kathryn is interested in the Wilson family from Calhoun County, Arkansas, and the Murphy family from Sabine Parish, but she has reached a brick wall on both and may hire a professional genealogist to finish the research.



Paula Moody Sen now lives in Shreveport but has lived in south Louisiana and Texas as well as Trinidad, England, and Belgium. She first became interested in genealogy when she learned that her Great Uncle Gilbert O'Neal was murdered at the age of 19 in the year 1909 in Grant Parish. She is interested in learning more about the O'Neals (Neills) of Grant and Lincoln Parishes. Other family names include Moody in Carpenter, Mississippi, Dill in Natchez, Mississippi, Hoyt in Rapides Parish, and Mercer and Sharpe in Grant Parish. Paula is an environmental hydrogeologist for the state of Louisiana DEQ. In 2014 she traveled to Ireland and Northern Ireland and saw the Celtic Ring Fort Grianan which is believed to have been built by the largest Celtic clan, Ui Neill, and was used for ceremonial purposes. Paula hopes to visit Salt Lake City and do research there and then follow the Donner Party Trail to Truckee, California, over the Sierra Nevada Mountains, ending at Emigration Gap in Sacramento. She'll stop to ski a slope overlooking Lake Tahoe before she returns home.



Aerial photo of Grianan of Aileach

Novels, and I Mean Fiction, Can Help You With Louisiana's History and Genealogy

by Isabelle M. Woods, Editor, *Lineage*, Newsletter of Family History Club, Bastrop, LA

Mrs. Susan Holley assured all that if one selects historical novels of authors with specific ties to their subjects and locale, half the time there may be grains of truth in their novels.

In 1996, when the parents of her husband, Boyd, were still living, the Holley family gathered every year on the weekend of Father's Day at a hunting camp in Mississippi.

One year family members decided to go to Saint Francisville, Louisiana. The women went to town. Mrs. Holley browsed through a book store and purchased a book, Burning Roses written by Barbara Bernard with Scott Michael Long. After scanning its pages, she learned it was not difficult to read. She thought it will be a good book to accompany her on her next trip to the beach.

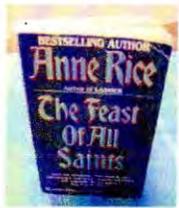


This novel is about a woman in her 30s from Caldwell Parish who wrote about her family. It tells of how her having taken the fall for her son changes the path of her life. She had a ne'er-do-well son, a daughter, and a husband. After taking the rap for her son, who is an arsonist and not yet an adult, she is sent to Angola Prison. Fascinated by the historical data on Angola Prison included in this novel, Mrs. Holley wrote the publisher of Ms. Bernard. Mrs. Bernard made a written reply to Mrs. Holley. In a subsequent telephone call, Mrs. Bernard explained how she acquired this true story after speaking with family members and upon conducting research on her family tree. Mrs. Holley discovered this book richly details the history of Angola Prison. After conducting her own research, Mrs. Holley learned the author's details about Angola Prison are based on facts.

Ms. Bernard said her great-grandmother went to Angola Prison, left prison with the warden's son, whom she later married and divorced. Then she later learns her first husband was not deceased as she had earlier thought. Mrs. Holley highly recommends Burning Roses. It is full of interesting twists and turns.

Mrs. Holley explained why she recommended eight additional historical novels. As she mentioned each book, she summarized the story behind its cover.

Louisiana Stories, edited by Ben Forkner, is a collection of short stories by many of the Deep South's finest writers. Mrs. Holley especially mentioned two writers, George Washington Cable and Kate Chopin, with early Louisiana short stories in this book.

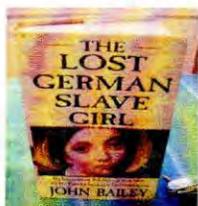
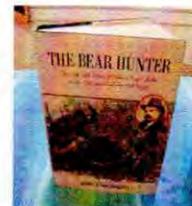


A resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, Ms. Anne Rice wrote the book, The Feast of All Saints. It is set in Louisiana about 1845.

Mrs. Holley and Ms. Rice share an interest in Cat Shows.

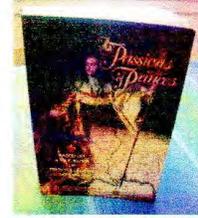
Mrs. Holley has actively participated by showing her own cat. At three previous cat shows, Mrs. Holley saw Ms. Rice with a gentleman who may have been identified as a member of the Creole free persons of color. Like other writers of historical fiction, Ms. Rice perhaps wove a story around the life of a friend with whom she may have known throughout her life.

Mrs. Holley discussed one of her husband's books, The Bear Hunter: The Life and Times of Robert Eager Bobo in the Canebrakes of the Old South by James T. McCafferty from Tupelo, Mississippi. In every chapter, Mr. McCafferty has added endnotes and pages of bibliography. As Mr. Bobo guides hunters in a Mississippi Delta canebrake, readers relive the adventures they experience hunting for black bears. This historical story is well researched.

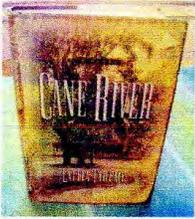


Anyone who has delved into history knows about Irish and German immigrants, who were severely mistreated. Many were indentured servants. The Lost German Slave Girl: The Extraordinary True Story of Sally Miller and Her Fight for Freedom in Old New Orleans by John Bailey. It is based on a true court case of Sally Miller who was discovered in 1843 as the property of Louis Belmonti. Several German immigrants living in New Orleans attested that she was Salome Mueller, a white child, born in the village of Langensoultzbach in the lower Rhine. She was last seen in 1818 standing on a jetty along a swampy wilderness in St. Mary's Parish, Louisiana. This book traces her road to freedom through the Louisiana legal system for many years.

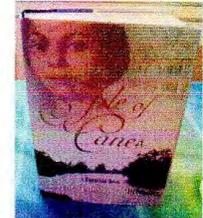
The Passions of Princes: Based on a True Story of French Colonial Louisiana by Eloise Genest begins in 1733. “Its pages combine intrigue at the court of Louis XV in France with romance and war on the Mississippi Gulf Coast...” At the dawn of 1733, ...three European empires compete for dominance in America...”¹ Ms. Genest contacted several families mentioned in the book to assist her with her research.



Since Mrs. Holley’s maternal line originates in Natchitoches Parish, she has personally done extensive research in this area. Author Lalita Tademy has been equally interested in her great-grandmother, Emily, also of Natchitoches Parish. Ms. Tademy’s meticulous genealogical research for Emily’s story resulted in her epic novel, Cane River. It is based on her family’s actual past and traces its four generations of African American women. She was assisted in this effort by Elizabeth Shown Mills. This book contains family photographs and photocopies of legal documents she discovered during her research.



After she concluded her work with Ms. Tademy, Mrs. Mills decided to also write a historical novel. She normally wrote non-fiction. Her book is entitled, Isle of Canes, which discusses the people residing along the Cane River. Ms. Mills also has a website, “Historic Pathways,” where she emphasizes the documentation of one’s literary or genealogical work. She has examples of how to cite your sources, document your genealogical evidence, compose footnotes, etc. Her webpage also contains a lengthy article about the creation of her book, Isle of Canes. She discusses why and how she wrote it and how the historical novel form was used to produce it. She also informs her audience about how much he/she can glean from a historical novel by knowing a little about the author and his/her reasons for writing a particular book.



The ninth book, Lost Souls in the Cities of the Dead: A Fictional Police Mystery Novel is co-written by Lawrence Green and Frederick Norton. Mr. Lawrence “Larry” Green was a New Orleans police detective when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. His family was displaced. However, only his wife and son, Chris Green, relocated to Monroe, Louisiana, when all the Catholic Schools in New Orleans were closed. The Holley and Green families became friends when their sons played on the same high school football team. Chris Green had replaced their youngest son, Webb Holley, who had broken his leg.



Before Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, Detective Green was in charge of a case involving a ring of antique dealers at New Orleans, who stole statuary and antiquities from cemeteries and sold them worldwide. They operated this criminal enterprise from ten to fifteen years. After a seven-year investigation, the New Orleans Police Department gathered sufficient evidence to incarcerate antique dealers at New Orleans and at St. Louis, Missouri. Having lived as an undercover agent for years, Detective Green took time off and wrote this book as a catharsis. The Green family

gave the Holley family this book as a gift.

So don’t overlook a historical novel or a story from relatives. There always something therein forming a basis for truth which will make that story evolves.

Sources: *Lineage*, of June 2017, pages 1 and 2, Volume 5, Issue 6, Family History Club, P. O. Box 1227, Bastrop, Louisiana 71221-1227

¹<https://www.paperbackswap.com>

Photo Credits:

Photographs of book covers by Isabelle M. Woods, Bossier City, Louisiana



RUTH REMEMBERS
**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
 PRAYER MEETING**

©2016 by Ruth Roberts Frank Berlin



Mother
**Hattie Ruth
 Vaughan Roberts**

Grandmother Vaughan died in late September of 1937. My Mother had promised Pa, my grandfather, that she would take care of him following Grandmother's death. Therefore, we moved from our home in Vernon, Texas, to Greenwood, Louisiana.

Daddy gave up his position as principal of Parker School and became a director of a pre-school learning center in the west end of Shreveport, Louisiana. It was not a bad drive from Greenwood.

"Fiddie," as we called Floris, my Mother's youngest sister, taught school in Shreveport. She roomed and boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Curzad. The Curzad's daughter, Marie, taught in the same school as Fiddie. But, if my aunt became ill at any time, Mother drove to Shreveport and brought Fiddie back to Greenwood to receive tender, loving care until she was well.

Our family was also a regular church-going family. We were members of the Greenwood Methodist Church. (My great grandfather, J. C. Harkrider, had given the land for the church.) We also attended the Baptist Church because neither church had services every

Sunday. The Methodists had Sunday morning services on the second and third Sundays. The Baptist Church had Sunday morning services on the second and fourth Sundays. Daddy believed in our being in church every Sunday. He sang in both the Methodist and the Baptist choirs.

And, he believed, we were to be in Prayer Meeting each Wednesday night. I remember that there were many Wednesday nights when the preacher and his family, Miss Mary Flournoy, the piano player, and our family were the only ones attending Wednesday night Prayer Meeting. And we were thankful we had been at Prayer Meeting that particular night in 1938 when the entire world seemed doomed.

When we went to Prayer Meeting that particular night, we left Fiddie, who was ill, at home with her guest, Ted, who was blind. Pa remained at home with Fiddie and Ted. They were going to entertain themselves by listening to the radio that sat on a small table in the living room. The Orson Welles radio program would be their entertainment. It was a weekly favorite.

Now, Pa loved listening to the radio, particularly the baseball games. He visualized each and every play. I have heard him laugh, seen him clap his big bony hands in approval, and watched his eyes sparkle at a successful play. I have seen him become angry with the events of the game. Sometimes he became so upset with the players that he just got from his chair by the radio and with great wrath,

turn the knob that kept the radio from being heard. He then strode away, muttering about how poorly the game was being played.

When we returned to the house from church that night, lights were on everywhere. We heard the radio as we drove in the *porte-cochère*. Mother and Daddy immediately sensed something was very wrong; and they rushed into the house. Fiddie was anything but better. Pa was having difficulty breathing and Uncle Bud, Mother's youngest sibling, was there trying to take care of them. Ted was off, seated in a corner wringing his hands. It was a madhouse!

People began coming in from down the street, the radio was blaring away. As a seven-year-old, I was greatly frightened. Marilyn and I huddled together for we did not know if another member of the family was dead or soon would be dead.

A small crowd quickly gathered there in our living room. Everyone was frightened. All were looking to Pa, Uncle Bud, and Daddy for direction. No one seemed to be concerned about Fiddie, who was ill, or about Ted, who was blind, or Marilyn and me. They were all talking about how they should get prepared to protect their homes and the community from invaders from another planet!

Daddy had no gun; it was at Uncle Claude's in Texas. Uncle Bud had a rifle and a shotgun. Pa had a pistol which pre-dated the Civil War and for which ammunition was very limited. The neighbors told what they had to use for a defense. With all their planning on how to protect the families and the community, I remember Mother repeatedly thanking God that her family had been at the Prayer Meeting that night.

And then, someone called out, "Be quiet! Listen!" The room became silent, except for the quiet sobbing that Mother, Fiddie, Marilyn, and I produced. And the radio, which was still blaring away, gained the attention of all in the room.



It was announced on the radio that Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds" program, which had interrupted his regularly scheduled program, had been only a radio program—not a true invasion of the world by men from Mars.

The group in the living room was flabbergasted! They were not certain whether to shout with joy, or to weep with relief, or to be angry. As many others in the nation, they had been hoodwinked by Orson Welles' imagination.

But, Hallelujah, we had been at Prayer Meeting!

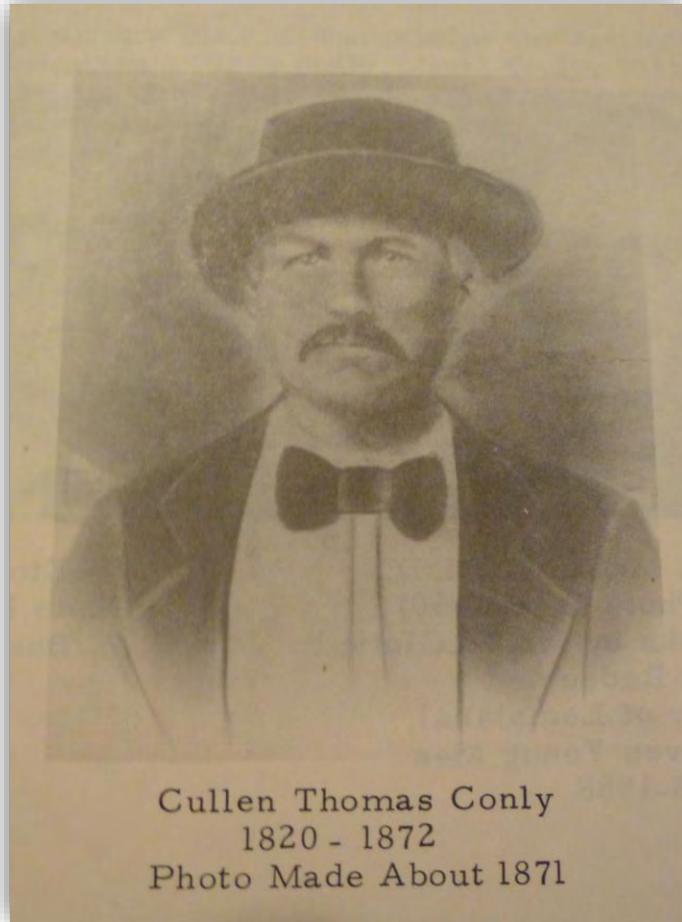
THE IRISH STOWAWAY

by

Dr. Garnie W. McGinty and Etoyle Conly

Copyrighted 1976

*(Contributed by Johnnie Hall Covington, great-great-great-granddaughter
Of Cullen Thomas Conly and Dicy Talton)*



My third great-grandfather is Cullen Thomas Conly, who came to Savannah, Georgia, in 1836, as a sixteen-year-old stowaway. He was born in 1820 in Mt. Conly in County Antrim in Northern Ireland. (Records have been burned, but it is believed that his father was Thomas Conly and his mother was a Cullen.) He reportedly ran away from home and hid himself on a ship anchored in Glen Arms Harbor which was bound for America. He severed all ties with his family.

In that time, only the oldest son inherited the family farm. The younger sons were forced to leave, and the girls were expected to marry. The oldest son, after the death of his father,

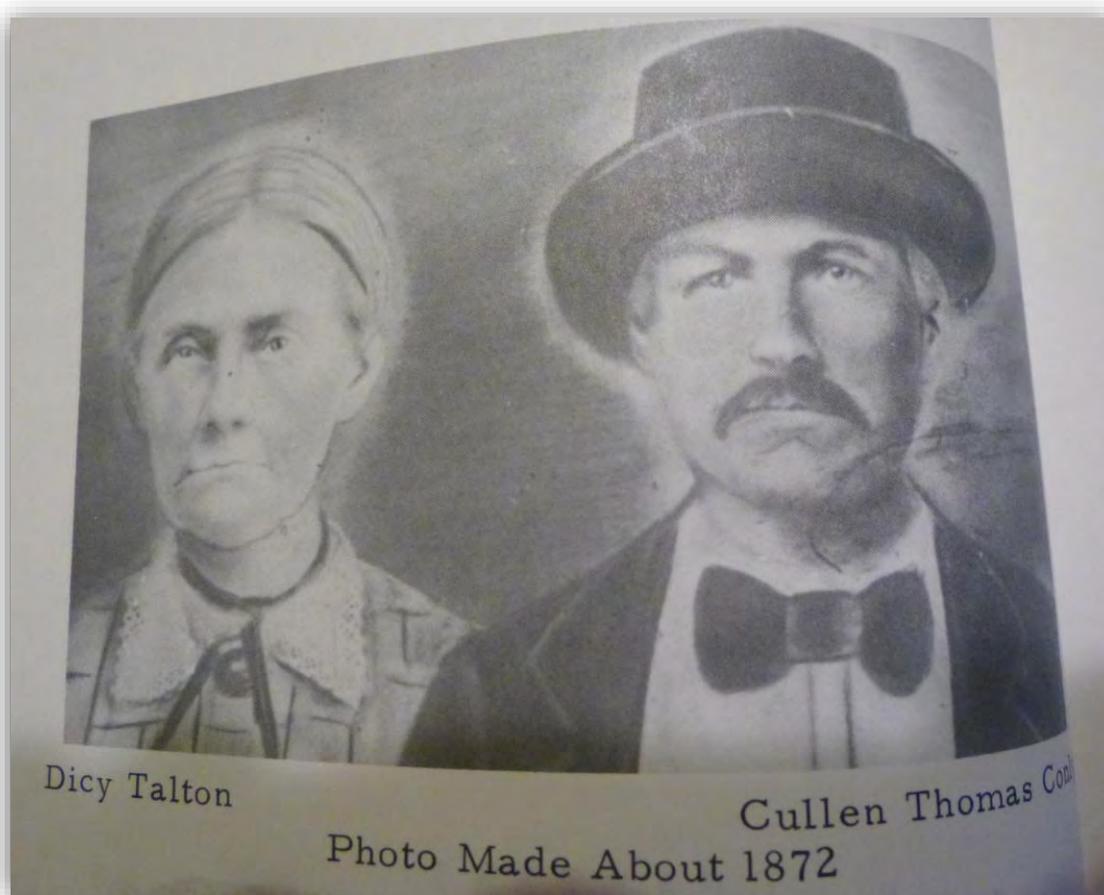
would live in the family home and care for his mother until her death. He could not marry until that time.

Once in the Port of Savannah, Cullen Thomas Conly jumped overboard and disappeared for 8 years. In 1844, he was in Houston County Georgia, about 200 miles inland from Savannah, where he married Dicy Talton, who was born in 1825, in Houston County. She was the daughter of Cullen Talton who was from North Carolina.

Her father and new husband were both “Cullens” and were probably related. Cullen Thomas Conly and bride Dicy Talton, along with a number of her relatives, joined the westward movement and made a home in Bienville Parish, Louisiana, near Lake Bistineau. Their first child, Cullen Jefferson Conly, was born there in 1845. Nine more children would follow.

Cullen Thomas became a U.S. citizen in 1857. The Conlys owned a farm as well as a cotton gin and a grist mill. Their third child, Mary Jane Conly (1850-1932), was my second great-grandmother. Both Cullen Thomas Conly (died 1872) and Dicy Talton (died 1896) are buried in Bienville Parish Louisiana at Springhill Baptist Cemetery.

Dacy Talton’s grandfather, James Talton (born 1780) in North Carolina, served in Hall’s Company 2nd North Carolina Regiment during the American Revolution. But that’s another story.



Do You Have a Favorite Website?

Contributed by Elaine Johnson

I love working on genealogy. Probably my favorite part is going to where my ancestors lived – going through courthouses, local libraries, cemeteries, and other such places.

But there is also something to be said for sitting at home in front of my computer.

I have been researching my family history for many years (about 30 or so). During this time period, I have found many ancestors and their families. All of my ancestors on my dad's side came into this country from the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, and Switzerland during the mid-1800s. So I haven't gone back too far on his side.

My mom's maternal side of the family came over from England in the early 1800s and from Germany in the early 1700s.



*Lela May Burpee Moreland
and my mother Clara Moreland*

But my mom's paternal grandmother's ancestry (Lela May Burpee Moreland) goes deep into the history of the United States. I have found a Mayflower ancestor, several ancestors that have fought in a war that I had never heard of before (i.e. King Philips War), ancestors in the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, and on and on. For many years, I collected names and dates and some stories about these ancestors.

I have discovered that the farther back I go into New England, the easier it is to find information. They have great resources like town records; biographies from sources such as James Savage's book *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*; Robert Charles Anderson's *The Great Migration Begins*; and family history books written about them. Several of my ancestors are in actual history books.

I have learned so much about the history of the United States researching these ancestors and the times that they lived.

Recently, I came across a couple of online resources that have almost overwhelmed me with new discoveries.

The first is *American Ancestors* by New England Historic Genealogical Society. (<https://www.americanancestors.org/index.aspx>). It is a paid website (about \$90.00 per year). But after I spent a free weekend on it, I decided to go ahead and join. I am pretty sure I knew about this one a long time ago, but at that time, I was working on specific families and never really checked it out.

What I have found on this website has been incredible. But my favorite, by far, is all the old wills I have found. For the most part, they are scanned originals, and it has been so much fun to find the wills of my really old ancestors (1630 - 1750 time frame).

If your ancestry goes back to New England, you should check it out. I started by searching their online database. Some of the databases are free, and you can always search for free, just to see if you might be interested. You can easily search “all,” but be sure to note the different categories, which can be searched individually. You can also limit it to search specific Databases or by Record Type. I know I have barely scratched the surface on this website, but I have had a lot of fun trying, and I plan to continue searching.

Database Search

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following fields and options:

- Name:** Includes checkboxes for "Exact Search" and "Soundex", and a "Search" button.
- First and/or Middle and/or [Maiden] names:** Text input field.
- Last Name:** Text input field.
- Years:** "From" and "To" text input fields.
- Record Type:** A dropdown menu highlighted with a red box, currently set to "-All-".
- Location:** Includes a checkbox for "Exact Location" and a text input field with the example "e.g. Boston, Massachusetts".
- Keywords:** A text input field with the placeholder "Enter terms or words".
- Database Type:** Radio buttons for "All databases", "Favorites", "Free" (selected), and "Databases with images".
- Category:** A dropdown menu highlighted with a red box, currently set to "-All-".
- Database:** A dropdown menu highlighted with a red box, currently set to "-All-".
- Family Members (Father/Mother/Spouse):** Includes a dropdown menu set to "Any", and text input fields for "First and Middle Names" and "Last Name".
- + Add family members +** A blue link with plus signs on either side.

Search by category

- Atlases, Maps and Reference Materials
- Census, Tax and Voter Lists
- Court, Land and Probate Records
- Genealogies, Biographies, Heraldry, and Local Histories
- Immigration Records
- Journals and Periodicals
- Military Records
- Vital Records (incl. Bible, Cemetery, Church and SSDI)
- Great Migration Study Project

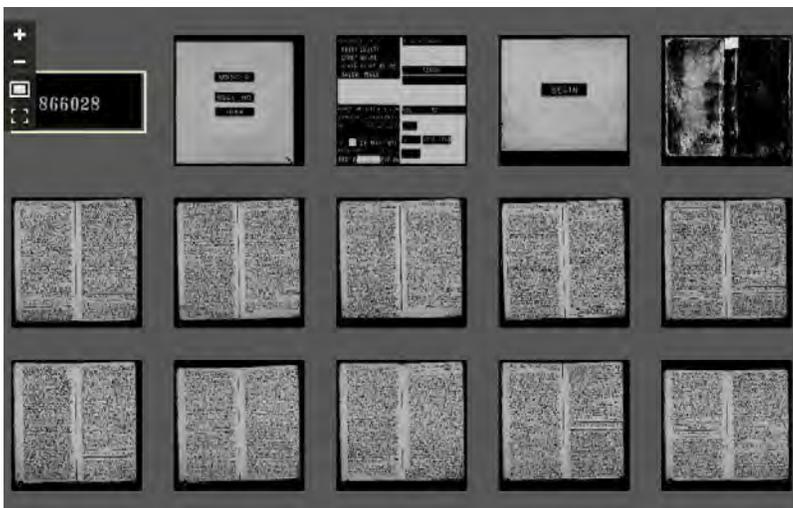
The second website that I have been using a lot lately is FamilySearch.org. Of course, everyone knows about FamilySearch.org. I have used it for years. I have also known that everything is not indexed, and there are some records that can be browsed. I have used that part of the site some, but I've used it mostly on my more recent ancestors in Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

Because I was using the American Ancestors website, I decided to see what types of records there were for Massachusetts (my primary state of interest in New England). I found Massachusetts Land Records 1620-1986. And, OH MY GOODNESS!! What a goldmine!! I have been going through this site one family name at a time. It will take me a good while to get through with it. But I have found so many land deeds. My favorites are the deeds where fathers (or mothers) leave land to their sons and daughters. Some of these deeds actually replace wills. I have attached one to the end of this article as an example. I have included both the original and the transcription. It is amazing the amount of information that I have found in land deeds.



I made a discovery that has helped me tremendously on this website. When I initially start browsing, the default is one page at a time. I used to change the number at the top (where it says 1 of 599), but I would get so lost trying to figure out if I were close to what I wanted or not.

Then I discovered this neat little function. If you click on that, you will see thumbnails of individual pages. (See below.)



Because they normally scan at least two books together, I can use this function to tell where the second book starts, and I can usually quickly find what I am looking for. It certainly makes browsing easier.

I'm sure this is in the instructions somewhere, but I found it just by accident. I thought I would share that information.

It has been so much fun adding "flesh to the bones" of my ancestors.

I hope you have some favorite websites and have had as much fun with genealogy as I have had lately.

Following are a couple of examples of the types of information I have found on these two websites. One is a land deed for my eighth great-grandfather, Thomas Burpee, to his son Thomas Burpee, Jr. (my seventh great-grandfather).

The second is a will for Samuel Burpee (my sixth great-grandfather).

Note: I have been copying the documents into Word. I add my citations and any notes, then save it as PDF and attach it to the fact under their name in RootsMagic, my genealogy program.

Note by Elaine Johnson: Thomas Burpee, Sr. was my 8th great-grandfather (born about 1627 in England, died June 1, 1701, in Rowley, Essex, Massachusetts). His wife Sarah Kelly Burpee (my 8th great-grandmother) was born Feb 12, 1641, in Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts; died Dec. 25, 1713 in Rowley, Essex, Massachusetts. Thomas Burpee, Jr. was their son and my 7th great-grandfather.

Thomas Burpee Sr. did not leave a will, but this land deed was used instead of the will. Over the years I have seen references to it, but have never seen the actual document. Note the amount of information that can be found in this type of deed. (1) Thomas Burpee, Jr. was his only son. (2) Elizabeth was his wife. (3) He had daughters named Sarah and Mary, (it also included Sarah's married name) and (4) a grandchild, Hannah Huggins. (5) It says that Thomas Jr. would initially receive half of their land, etc. In exchange for taking care of his parents, paying their debts, funerals, and legacies, he would receive the other half after the death of both of them. (6) If he did not take care of things as stated, either or both parents reserved the right to "will or moderate said legacies."

I separated the different clauses of this deed only for purpose of easier reading. It was originally all one paragraph. I tried to keep the original spelling and punctuation.

The original land deed follows the transcription.

To all Christian people to whom this present deed shall come, Thomas Burkby of Rowley, in the County of Essex, in New England, sendeth Greeting. Know ye yt the said Thomas, for divers good causes and considerations, him thereunto moving, more especially in consideration of parental love and affection which he beareth unto his only son, Thomas Burkbe Junr, of ye same Towne aforesaid, and also in consideration of that help which he expects from him during his and his wife's natural life, as also of what legacies and payments he hereby obleigeth his sole son, his heirs, executors administrators to pay or cause to be paid before or at the times hereafter mentioned, as also his just debts and funeral charges of him and his wife, sayd Thomas his sons mother, doth hereby give grant aliene enfoeffe and confirm, and by these presents before and after mentioned in this writing, hath given granted bargained - enfoeffed and confirmed unto his said son, Thomas Burkby, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever, the moiety or half part of all his housings, buildings, orchard, upland, ground tillage land and pasture, marsh and meadow ground, enclosed or wilderness lands lying, situated and being of Rowley aforesaid, as if divided and bounded, particularly with halfe of all privileges belonging or appertaining in common, or divided to have and to hold to him, the said Thomas Junr, his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns forever, together with one halfe of all his quick stock or living creatures, neat Beasts and others, and all his utensils of husbandry, and after the decease of said parents Thomas Burkby and his wife, ye said Thomas gives, grants, and confirms ye other moiety and halfe part of all his housings, Buildings, orchard commonage, upland, tillage & pasture land, Marsh and meadow ground, inclosed or wilderness land, situate, lying and being in ye county of Rowley, aforesaid, with ye other halfe of all privileges belonging or appertaining thereto, in common or divided unto his said son Thomas, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, forever after, without any lett of his heirs, executors administrators or assigns of said parents

provided said Thomas, his sone, by himself or his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, during the natural life of his said parents, maintain them with firewood sufficient for their use in Rowley, brought to their dwelling, and keep the house they live in, constantly in repairs and maintain his said father's halfe of ye quick stock of cattle and his halfe of ye increase by cutting his halfe of ye grass & bringing home his hay, and also improve eight or nine acres of his and his fathers halfe of ye land and bring in for his parents also during their natural lives, half of produce of ye land, whether Indian or English corn, and afford them necessary help about odd chores, in going to milk for them, and other errands as formerly,

and after the decease of parents, pay or cause to be paid, to his Sister Sarah Spofford, ye sum of Twenty pounds in corn or cattle before ten years be expired after ye longer lives of his said parents, and Forty pounds to his sister Mary, in like specie, in four years after the decease of ye longer lives of his said parents, if ye said Mary be of Age of Twenty years or marriage, and five pounds to said parents grand daughter, Hannah Huggins, within two years after said parents decease, provided she live to be married and come to Rowley for it,

and give discharge upon ye payment in such specie as before, Rowley aforesaid ye place of payment, upon his discharge of said legacys, said Fathers debts, and parents funeral charges, said Thomas, his son, is to possess and enjoy forever said moiety left in his parents hands and stock during natural life, but if said parents, either one or both, by sickness or other infirmities, come to be more than ordinary expense chargeable to said Thomas, their son, his heirs, executors, administrators above what may be ye course of Gods providence expected, then the said Thomas, his heirs, etc. shall not pay but ten pounds to his sister Sarah, and thirty pounds to his sister Mary & three pounds to Hannah which abatement shall be according to ye advice & judgment of ye pastor or teacher of the Church of Christ in Rowley and if Mary departs this life before said age or marriage, ten pounds of that she is to receive is given to Sarah which said Thomas, by his heirs, executors, etc., is to pay to her or heirs,

but if said Thomas Junr doth not perform said obligations by himself, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, in paying said legacies and doing said duties expected either of his parents, sisters, etc. It is in said parent or parents liberty to alienate any part or all of said moiety or halfe part for ye discharge of ye same by will or otherwise, and what household staff ye said parents leave undisposed of in ye life time, shall be to ye sole benefit of said Mary, if she live to said age or marriage, but if not, then equal betwixt said Thomas and Sarah his sister, ye said parent still reserves liberty in his hands before his decease either by will or otherwise, as Providence shall dispose towards him to moderate said legacies, or make further abatement is he see reason for it, or to state ye abatement specified whether he will, have it made before he departs this life or not.

In witness whereof & for conformation of ye promises, I have hereunto set my hand & Seal this twentieth day of December ANNO Dom 1690.

Thomas (his mark) Burkbe & Seale

Signed, Sealed & Delivered in ye presence of us Witnesses

Thomas Leaver
Nehemiah Jewett

Thomas Burkby appeared July 12th 1693 and did acknowledge this instrument to be his act and deed, before me,

Samuel Appleton
Justice of the Peace

Examined by Stephen Lowell, Register.

Note by Elaine Johnson: Granddaughter Hannah Huggins was the daughter of Hannah Burpee (the deceased daughter of Thomas Burpee and his deceased first wife Martha).

"Massachusetts Land Records, 1620-1986," images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99ZZ-BSVT?cc=2106411&wc=MCBG-S68%3A361613201%2C361856001 : 22 May 2014), Essex > Deeds 1694-1697 vol 10-11 > image 277 of 516; county courthouses and offices, Massachusetts.

119 Thomas Burpee Sr. To Thomas Burpee Junr. Janu^{ry} 13th 1695/6

To all Christian people to whom this present Deed shall come Thomas Burpee of Rowley
 in the County of Essex in New England Greeting Knowe youe that I have for
 divers good causes & Considerations from Masealls Mowing meadows & meadow in Consideration of
 your child love & affection which he beareth unto his only son Thomas Burpee Junr. of
 same Towne aforesaid & also in Consideration of that said child his export from home during
 his & his Wifes Natural life as also of what Legacies and presents he hereby becometh his
 said son his heirs Executors Administrators To pay or Cause to be paid before or at
 Divers hereafter mentioned as also his Just Debts and Funerall Charges of mine
 wife and my said son's Mother both heretofore gave grant sellene Infeoffed & confirm
 hath Given Granted Bargained sold Infeoffed & confirmed unto his said son Thomas
 Burpee his heirs Executors Administrators & assigns forever One Moiety or halfe
 part of all his housing buildings Carchard & Land garden Orchard Linn & pasture
 Marsh & Wooded ground Endowd or otherwise Land Linn Situate & being in
 the Towne of Rowley aforesaid as it Divided & Boundeth particularly with names of all
 premises belonging or appertaining in Common or Divided to him & To hold to him
 his said son Thomas Junr. his heirs Executors Administrators For ever together with
 One halfe of all his stock Heds or Livings Features Root Beasts & others &
 all his Arsenals of husbandry & after the Decease of his parents Thomas Burpee Sr.
 and his Wife of said Thomas gives grants & confirm of other moiety and halfe part
 of all his said housing buildings Carchard Linn garden Orchard & Pasture Land
 Marsh and Wooded ground meadow or otherwise Land Situate lying & being
 in the Towne of Rowley aforesaid with if other halfe of all premises belonging
 or appertaining thereto in Common or Divided unto his said son Thomas his
 heirs Executors Administrators or assigns forever after without any Lett of his
 Executors Administrators or assigns of his parents Provided that Thomas his son by
 himselfe or his heirs Executors Administrators or assigns during Natural life of his
 said Parents Maintain them with fire Wood sufficient for their use in Rowley
 Brought to their dwelling & keep up house they live in Constantly in repair
 and Maintain his said fathers halfe of a Duck stock of Cattle and his halfe of a
 Eperale by fattning his halfe of a grass & by selling home his hay & a
 Improue Eight or Nine acres of his & his fathers halfe of a Land and being
 and for his parents use during their Natural life halfe of the produce of a Land
 whether Indian or English Corn & afford them necessary help about one hour
 in going to Mill for them & other Duties as formerly & after the Decease of his
 said Parents or cause to be paid to his Sister Sarah Spofford of Summe of Twenty pounds
 in Gold or Silver before ten years be expired after the longer live of his said
 parents and forty pounds to his Sister Mary in like specie within four years
 after the Decease of the longer live of his said parents if his said Mary be of age
 if Twenty years or Married and give pounds for parents Grand Daughter
 Sarah Huggins within two years after said parents Decease provided she
 live to be Married and come to Rowley see it and give Discharge upon a payment
 in Duck specie as before Rowley aforesaid if Place of payment upon his discharge of
 said Legacies & His said fathers Debts & parents funerall Charges said Thomas
 his son is to possess & enjoy for ever said moiety of Land in his parents
 hand and Stock during Natural life but of a parents of Thomas Junr

one or both by Bishop or other Justices come to be made than ordinary
 Chargeable said Thomas Thierston his Executors or Assigns about what may
 be in y^e Course of Gods providence Expected than said Thomas his Executors
 shall not pay but Ten pounds to his Sister Sarah and ~~thirty~~ thirty pounds
 to his Sister Mary & three pounds to Hannah which abatement shall be according
 to y^e advice & Judgment of y^e pastor or Teacher of y^e Church of Christ in Rowley
 and if either depart this life before y^e Marriage Ten pounds of that sum
 is to Receive is Given to Sarah which said Thomas his Executors do pay to
 her or heirs but y^e said Thomas hath not performed Obligations by himself
 his Executors Assigns or Assigns in paying said Legacies & Doing said duties
 Expected either to his parents or Sifters or to his said parents or parents Liberty
 to alienate any part or All y^e said Morts or halfe part for y^e discharge
 of y^e same by Will or otherwise and what household stuffe he parents leave
 undivided ^{in y^e same} shall be to y^e sole benefit of y^e said Mary if she live to y^e age
 of Marriage but if not then Equal belived to Thomas & Sarah his Sifters
 y^e parent All Legacies Liberty in his hands before his decease either by will
 or otherwise as providence shall direct towards him to Moderato's Legacies
 or Make further abatement if see reason for it or to State of abatement
 Specified whether he will have it Made before he departs this life or not
 In witness Whereof & for Confirmation of y^e premises I have hereunto set
 my hand & Seal this Twentieth Day of December Anno Dom. 1690.

Thomas J. Burbeck Seal
 his mark
 Thomas Barker appeared July 12th 1693
 I do acknowledge this Instrument
 to be his act & deed before me
 Samuel Appleton Justice of peace
 Thomas Leaver
 Nehemiah Jewett
 Exam. J. A. S. Lowell
 1693

~~John Bradstreet & Moses Bradstreet wth Division of Land Taken January 13. 1693~~

~~This Indenture had Made & Concluded y^e Ninth Day of July Anno Dom. One
 thousand six hundred ninety & five betwixt John Bradstreet of Ipswich in y^e
 County of Essex within y^e Province of y^e Massachusetts Bay in New England of
 y^e one part & Moses Bradstreet his Brother of y^e abovesaid Towne & County
 of y^e other part Witnesseth that Whereas Capt. Moses Bradstreet late of Rowley
 Deced'd did in his last Will & Testament give & bequeath unto his Sons y^e Towne
 he dyed Poss'd of within y^e bounds of Ipswich aforesaid: to be Divided & Lands
 Measur'd & partur'd ground Equally betwixt them & parties have mutually
 agreed: and y^e said John doth by these presents Certifie & declare y^e he hath
 Accepted of & doth Receive y^e part of y^e same hereafter Mentioned to be
 his full and Equall share of y^e same by y^e parent given him being
 bounded as followeth by y^e High Way into y^e Farme betwixt Richard Adams
 his Land & John's Orchard: y^e Way being 40th halfe rod wide: leading from
 said Gate along by y^e Side of y^e Orchard Land sou. Westward until it turns down
 South Easterly towards y^e Mill: his house at a hole & Stand y^e Way being one
 Rod & halfe wide: slant Cut to y^e Corner of y^e Orchard by his Shop at
 a Stake & Stone & then bounded by y^e Orchard which belongeth to y^e said Moses by
 y^e Slakes from Corner to Corner until it come to a line from y^e Slakes at
 y^e Shop Corner to a Stake & Stone some Rods below y^e Orchard at y^e front~~

Following is the will of Samuel Burpee, (born March 17, 1708/9 in Rowley, Essex Co., Mass.; died Oct 26, 1791, in Sterling, Worcester Co., Massachusetts). His wife Elizabeth (Harris) Burpee was born Dec. 28, 1701, in Rowley, Essex, Massachusetts. She died Feb. 27, 1793, in Sterling, Worcester, Massachusetts. The will was dated Sept. 29, 1788.

Samuel Burpee and Elizabeth Harris were my 6th great-grandparents. Their son Samuel Burpee Jr. was my 5th great-grandfather, and Nathan Burpee was my 4th great-grandfather.

I am not sure why Samuel Burpee bequeathed most of his possessions to his grandson, Nathan. For some reason, he bequeathed only his wearing apparel to his son Samuel Burpee Jr. I also did not find any land deeds between Samuel Burpee Sr. and Samuel Burpee Jr. Other documents showed that Samuel Burpee Jr. declined to be the executor of his father's estate. I found that a little strange and wonder what the story is.

I am also not sure what the story is about his son Stephen. Stephen was born Dec. 1, 1739. At the time of the will, he would have been about 49 years old. It appears from this will that there was something (possibly mentally) wrong with him, but I have not been able to determine what it was.

Samuel, Hannah, and Sally Jones were the youngest children of his daughter, Phebe Burpee Jones. Perhaps he had already provided for the older children.

This will actually raised more questions than answers for me.

I have tried to keep the spelling and punctuation as it was in the original.

The original will follows the transcription

In the name of God Amen. I, Samuel Burpee of Sterling in the County of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, yeoman, being through mercy in good health of body and of sound disposing mind and memory, but considering the uncertainty of life do make and ordain this my last will and testament, in manner and form following, hereby revoking and making null and void all former and other wills by me at time heretofore made.

First and principally, I commit my precious and Immortal soul into the hands of God my Creator relying solely on his mercy through the merits and satisfaction of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for the pardon of my sins and gracious acceptance with him. My body I committ to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter named. As for my temporal goods and Estate I will that the same be employed and bestowed in manner as is after expressed.

ITEM: I give to Elizabeth, my beloved wife, during her natural life, the use of all my household furniture.

ITEM: I give to my son Samuel all my wearing apparell.

ITEM: I give to my grandson Nathan Burpee, all my live stock.

ITEM: I give to my son Stephen Burpee, Fifteen Pounds to be paid to him as soon as it is made certain he had received the full enjoyment of his reasoning powers, but in case that shall not happen, the same shall be paid to the Selectmen for the time being for Sterling for the comfortable support of the said Stephen as occasionally wanted from time to time in Case he shall not be able to support himself which sum of fifteen Pounds shall be paid by my grandson Nathan Burpee and in case my said son Stephen shall not recover reason nor have occasion for all or any part of said sum, or should happen to die, then the said sum of Fifteen Pounds or any part thereof remaining shall be given to my grandson, Nathan Burpee.

ITEM: I give to my daughter Phebe, after the decease of my wife, all my household furniture that shall then remain (excepting one chest usually kept for my own private use) and all her wearing apparel.

ITEM: I give to my Grandson Samuel Jones, upon his arriving at the age of twenty-one years, one two year old heifer of midling size to be delivered to him by my Grandson Nathan Burpee.

ITEM: I give to my Granddaughter Hannah Jones, at her arriving at the age of eighteen years, one two-year old Heifer of midling size to be delivered to her by my Grandson, Nathan Burpee.

ITEM: I give to my Granddaughter, Sally Jones, the sum of Five Pounds, six shillings and eight pence, lawfull money, upon her arriving to the years of Eighteen, to be paid to her by my Grandson, Nathan Burpee.

ITEM: I give all my farming and other tools also all my money Bonds, Notes, accounts and Credits of every kind, and the chest wherein they are contained, and all the rest and residue of my Estate in Sterling, or wherever found, to my said Grandson, Nathan Burpee. But upon the express condition that he shall truly and faithfully perform and fulfill every part that is enjoined and required of him by this my last Will, and shall also, without delay, pay all my just debts and funeral charges with all convenient speed after my Decease, and also pay all the funeral charges of my wife.

ITEM: I do hereby nominate and appoint and constitute my son Samuel Burpee and Grandson, Nathan Burpee to be the Executors of this my last will and Testament. In witness whereof, I, the said Samuel Burpee have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-ninth day of September in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight, and in the twelfth year of the independence of America.

Samuel Burpe
Elizabeth Burpe

Signed, sealed and published and delivered by the said Samuel Burpee, the testator, to be his last will and testament, in the presence of us:

Joel Haughton
Joshua Sawyer Swan
John Roper Swan

The will was proved December 6, 1791.

Worcester County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1731-1881. Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2015. (From records supplied by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives.)

<https://www.americanancestors.org/DB1635/i/26969/9289:3/49680259>

In the Name of God Amen
I Samuel Burpee of Sterling in the County of Worcester
and Common Wealth of Massachusetts yeoman being
through Mercy in good health of Body and of sound dispo-
sing and memory but Considering the uncertainty of life
do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament
in manner and form following here by revoking and
making Null and Void all former and other wills by me
at any time here tofore made
First and Principally I commit my precious and
immortall soul into the hands of God my Creator
relying solely on his mercy thro' the merits and satis-
faction of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for the
Pardon of my sins and gracious Acceptance with him
My Body I commit to the Earth to be decently
buried at the direction of my Executors hereinafter
Named - as for my temporal goods and Estate I
Will that the same be imployed and bestowed in
Manner as is here in after Expressed
Item I give to Elizabeth my beloved wife during her naturall
Life the use of all my House hold furniture
Item I give to my son Samuel Burpee all my wearing
Apparell
Item I give to my grandson Nathan Burpee all my live
Stock
Item I give to my son Stephen Burpee Fifteen pound to be
paid to him as soon as it is made certain he has received
the full enjoyment of his reasoning Powers but in
Case that shall not happen the same shall be paid
to the selectmen for the time being for Sterling for the
Comfortable support of the said Stephen as Occasion-
ally wanted from time to time in Case he shall not
be able to support him self which sum of Fifteen
Pounds shall be paid by my grand son Nathan Burpee
and in Case my said son Stephen shall not recover
therefor nor have Occasion for all or any part of said sum
or should happen to die then the said sum of Fifteen pound
or any part or share of remaining shall be given to my
grandson Nathan Burpee

- Item I give to Daughter Phebe after the Decease of my Wife all my Household Furniture that shall then remain (Excepting one Chest usually kept for my own private use) and all her wearing Apparel.
- Item I give to my Grandson Samuel Jones upon his Ariving att the age of twenty one years one two year old heifer of middling size to be delivered to him by Grandson Nathan Burpee.
- Item I give to my grand Daughter Hannah Jones at her ariving att the age of Eighteen years; one two year old Heifer of middling size to be delivered to her by my Grandson Nathan Burpee.
- Item I give to my Grand daughter Sally Jones the sum of Five Pound Six Shillings and Eight pence Lawfull Money upon her Ariving to the years of Eighteen to be paid her by my Grandson Nathan Burpee.
- Item I give all my farming and other tools also all my Money Bonds Notes Accounts and Credits of every kind and the chest where in they are contained and all the rest and residue of my Estate in Sterling or Wherever found to my said Grandson Nathan Burpee.
- But upon this Express Condition that he shall truly and faithfully perform and fulfill every part that is enjoined and required of him by this my Last Will and shall also without delay pay all my just debts and funeral charges with all convenient speed after my Decease; and also pay all the funeral charges of my Wife.
- Item I do here by nominate and appoint and constitute my son Samuel Burpee and Grandson Nathan Burpee to be the Executors of this my Last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof I the said Samuel Burpee
 hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty ninth
 day of September in year of our Lord one Thousand
 Seven Hundred and Eighty Eight and in the twelfth
 year of the Independence of America
 Signed Sealed and Published &
 Declared by the said Samuel
 Burpee the testator to be his
 Last Will and Testament
 in presence of us

Samuel Burpee
 Elizabeth Burpee

Joel Houghton
 Joshua Sawye Sworn
 John Paper Sworn

Dec. 6th 1791
 proved and approved
 Jos. Dan J. Prob



Two events you will not want to miss!

June 23: 'Keeping Your Family Footprint Alive'. This is a two-hour workshop on how to preserve your memories and write your family history. Guest speaker is **Sarah Hamer**, book editor/coach, and award-winning writer. Topics include (1) "Keeping the Memories Alive" (writing and preserving those memories, family stories and history) and (2) "Sharing the Memories."

This event is jointly hosted by the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association and the Broadmoor Branch Library Genealogy Department.

Location: Broadmoor Branch Library, 1212 Capt Shreve Drive, Shreveport
Time: 1-4pm. Free admission. Watch for further details.

August 11: Annual Genealogical Seminar featuring guest speaker: **Philip B. Adderley**, professional genealogist and lecturer. **Barnes & Noble** representatives will be on site with a huge selection of genealogy and history books.

Location: Pearce Hall, Broadmoor United Methodist Church, 3715 Youree Drive
Cost: \$40. Lunch is included. Advance registration recommended.
Details – See flyer (next page)



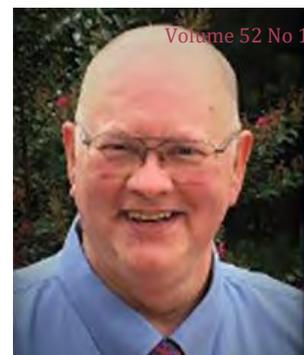
Genealogical Seminar

Presented by
Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association

Saturday August 11, 2018

Speaker

Philip B. Adderley



Philip Burnett Adderley is a self-employed professional genealogist and lecturer. He is a dual national British and American citizen with 40+ years of archival and genealogical research experience. His specialties include land and courthouse records of 19th-20th century Louisiana, federal land records, and British colonial records of 17th-19th century Bermuda. He has a BS in physics and a BA in math, plus an MS in electrical engineering. Mr. Adderley earned a certification from the Board of Certified Genealogists in 2009 and served a 5 year term as a Certified Genealogist, CG[®]. He is a past president of the Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association.

Seminar Location

Broadmoor United Methodist Church – Pearce Activity Hall
3715 Youree Drive, Shreveport, La (Parking lot is on east side on Albany Ave)

Schedule and Topics

- 8:00 am Doors Open - Registration
- 9:00 am Opening Remarks / Introduction
- 9:15 am From 'Baby' Genealogist to Older (Wiser?) Genealogist: Key Tips & Tricks Along the Way.
- 10:40 am Five Basic Strategies for Research in the South
- 11:45 am Lunch
- 1:00 pm " ___ ward Ho!" Basics: Finding & Tracking Early American Settlers pre-1850.
- 2:25 pm " ___ ward Ho!" Case Examples: Finding & Tracking Early American Settlers pre-1850

Plus Barnes & Noble Bookfair (featuring a special selection of genealogy and history books)

Cost of Seminar - - - \$40.00 - - - Includes lunch if registration received by August 8, 2018

PayPal accepted: Go to www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laaltga/ *or search* Google for 'Ark La Tex Genealogy'
Seating limit: 75 For information send email to jjohnson747@suddenlink.net

----- (cut here) -----

To Register: Make your check payable to Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association. Mail with this form to:
Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Assn Seminar P.O. Box 4463, Shreveport, La 71134-0463

Please PRINT the names of registrants (including surnames being researched) separately for each person attending.

Name _____ Email _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

List 4 surnames you are researching (*each*). If received prior to **Aug 6, 2018**, your surnames will be included in the seminar handout.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

Reminiscences Of My Father, Calvin McKenzie "Kenzie" Pardue
Contributed by Thaddeus T. "Thad" Pardue

When I would visit my father after my mother's death in 1991, we frequently would get my car and just drive around. Sometimes we would have a specific destination but usually we would just go wherever our fancy took us. When we would get to a crossroads, I might ask, "Right or left or straight ahead?" He would reply, "I ain't a drivin'." These excursions were the perfect setting for Daddy to share stories – maybe about things that happened to him, maybe about family stories, maybe about events and people that he had known or heard about. Two of my favorite stories he related to me were the following.

During the depression many (or most) of the young men that my father knew (him included) did not have cars of their own. One time one of Daddy's acquaintances asked him if he wanted go on a date (I suppose to a movie) with him and his girlfriend (later his wife). Daddy said that he didn't know Mr. Byrd, who was several years older than he, very well, but he didn't want to miss an opportunity for a date. [I never asked him who his date was, but now I wish I had.] I suppose it was on their way home from the date that he knew that they would be parking, and he was anticipating "getting some sugar." When they reached their parking spot, Daddy was all set for the kissing time to begin; however, when Mr. Byrd parked the car, his girlfriend opened the door and knelt down by the side of the car and said, "Let's have a word of prayer first." Daddy said that his mood was completely ruined. I didn't ask him whether he got any sugar, but he must not have much.

Another story about a car involved Daddy and his aunt by marriage. Aunt Ora Lee Hays, who wanted to go to the graveyard working at Saint Rest Cemetery west of Dubach in Lincoln Parish, asked Daddy if he would drive for her. Daddy, whose parents didn't own a car, jumped at the chance to drive her car, which was new, and, even more, the chance to be seen by the people at the cemetery driving the car. Saint Rest is on a hilly stretch of highway that used to be called "White Lightning" (Highway 146) between Homer (Claiborne Parish) and Dubach. He said that when they came to the foot of the last hill before the cemetery, Aunt Ora Lee asked him to stop. Where they couldn't be seen from the cemetery, Aunt Ora Lee switched places with him and drove up the hill with Daddy sitting in the back seat with his younger cousins. Besides being disappointed, he was humiliated.

The Importance of Obituaries *Contributed by Glenn Moore*

Long before I was interested in my family's history, and long before there was even software available to help save, sort, and reference that data, I would often make light humor of my mother's saving all the obituaries from services of friends, family, and church members whose funerals she had attended over the course of her life.

When my mother passed away a few years ago, I came into possession of a sizable box of obituaries. After painstakingly sorting and resorting, I tried to determine which ones were relatives or which ones were just personal friends and or members of her church. Some of the information I already had, but of the ones that I didn't have, the information gleaned from them allowed me to fill in missing pieces of my family's puzzle and helped me add many more branches to the tree.

I discovered, however, that sometimes the information printed in obituaries is inaccurate, for instance, name spelling and places of birth. I was reminded of something a guest speaker at our January 2017 ALTGA meeting said regarding legacy writing. She urged writing "your story your way" so as not to leave such vital information to chance.

So, while you're attending those family reunions and backyard barbecues this summer, remember to ask those aunts, uncles, and cousins if they have obituaries that you can have or photocopy because obituaries should be a sought-out, valuable source of information for all family historians.

