



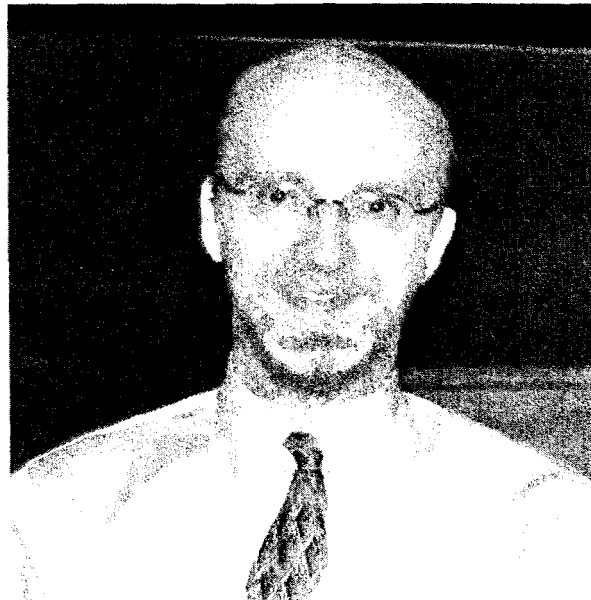
The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois

do John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL 62918-2500

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilgssi>

Fall Conference — Saturday, 17 October 2009

Featured Speaker



Michael John Neill

Book Fair opens at 8 a.m.

Conference Lectures start at 9 a.m.

Morning coffee available to all registrants

Lunch of Baked Potato Bar available by reservation

All events take place in the Ray Hancock Conference Center at JALC

Parking is immediately adjacent to the Conference Center

Lecture topics include:

Researching the entire family

Problem solving applied to genealogy

Effective internet search techniques

Determining your own migration trails and migration chains

See inside for further details and registration form

President's Message

By Mike Brush

It's almost show time at GSSI and the last minute details of the annual Fall Conference are being addressed. The committees have been assigned, the programs have been formatted, the lunches have been ordered and the door prizes have been identified. The list of details goes on and on but come the morning of Saturday, October 17th all will be in place for yet another successful autumn event in the Ray Hancock Conference Center at JALC. The speaker, Michael John Neill has been in frequent communication with our own Rick Allen to firm up the lectures and they promise to be an attractive menu of genealogy topics. Don't miss this one! There is a registration form in this newsletter for your convenience. Early registration reaps a \$5 discount which can be applied to purchases at the Book Fair.

In addition to the stimulating presentation on the "Pioneers of the West Eden Community" (see review by Alvin Griffith below), the recent GSSI gathering at the monthly meeting was privileged to witness the awarding of the **Family History Award** to Ms. Hailee Clark of Cobden, IL. Hailee brought with her not only the display and artifacts associated with her project, but also her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. These ladies made up 75% of the *Four Generations of Women at Southern Illinois University*. Ed O'Day read the citation which was presented to Hailee and the entire group of ladies posed for pictures. At the end of the program, they stayed for additional questions and mingling. GSSI was so proud to recognize this promising young student and hopes to see Hailee at future meetings and events.

In the current edition of the **Saga**, our esteemed Editor, Rick Allen, has proposed the idea of putting out an edition devoted to Southern Illinois churches....much like the recent edition devoted to schools. The schools issue was so popular: I can't help but think the same would be true of a church issue. I would heartily endorse this idea and wish to be among the first to submit resource material to Rick. I hope there are many others who follow the lead.

Ed Annable: A Real Crowd Pleaser

By Alvin Griffith

Our regular GSSI meeting was held on Sunday, September 13 and members, as well as guests, were in for a very enjoyable and informative presentation. Our guest speaker for the afternoon, Ed Annable, related his findings on some of those earliest pioneers of the Cache River Basin: Where they came from and their migration from South Carolina to Tennessee. After staying there for a few years, they moved further west to Kentucky stopping for a few years before moving to Southern Illinois and setting down permanent roots.

Ed spoke of one such pioneer, Hezekiah West, who was one of the earliest men and those that followed: families that were related by marriage: Carter, Peterson, Martin, Mercer, Axley and others. Ed related how these families faced hardships and dangers that we today can only imagine. They had to clear the land of trees so as to get the ground ready for seed and build cabins and shelters. In spite of all these challenges, they started a community and called it "Eden."

I feel we were very fortunate to have Ed Annable as our guest speaker. Maybe we can have him back again? By the way, Ed is President of the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society at Vienna, IL.

Overflow Crowd at The Willard

By Mike Brush

Clear skies and cool temperatures welcomed the attendees of the all day conference held on Saturday, 22 August 2009 at the Willard Library in Evansville, IN. The second floor of the library was packed with over one hundred eager genealogists waiting for the introduction of the featured speaker Ron Darrah, a favorite lecturer of the Tri-State area. A retired teacher and genealogical researcher, Mr. Darrah lived up to his esteemed reputation with his well organized power point presentation entitled *Tree Roots: Using More Obscure Genealogical Sources*.

The first of his four lecture topics was entitled "Dying to Help Out: Probate Records for Genealogists" and it was a detailed description of several aspects of the probate process. Ron initially outlined the possibilities of info bits which can be determined from probate files and then indicated the several locations where probate records can be found. An interesting statistic was uncovered: prior to 1900 only 25% of U.S. White Males had probates. He then outlined the eight basic steps to probate from death and initiation through presentation of a will (or not) to appointment of an executor to posting of bond to inventory of estate to identification of beneficiaries to settlement and finally to submission to the court. Of particular interest to the genealogist, Mr. Darrah pointed out unproven wills, dower rights and contested wills or estates. Finally he addressed the issues of not finding a probate file or record of closure. The most likely reasons for this situation would include having nothing to probate, ancestors intentionally avoiding probate by dividing possessions before death, the estate being delayed significantly or perhaps there was a guardianship. At the end, the audience was cautioned they may be looking in the wrong place. Sometimes aged parents went afar to live and eventually die with married daughters.

The second lecture topic was entitled "School Days: A Great Records Resource" and it explored the many types of schools and the records they generated. A recurring theme was that all secondary schools had a strong emotional attachment. This lead to the keeping of some institutional records, but it moreover lead to the retention of most personal records like report cards, diplomas, annuals and yearbooks, newspaper columns, reunion notices and, most often, class pictures. Darrah indicated that school consolidations are the most significant source of frustration for the genealogist, but he also pointed out additional sources of records which can be searched with a little extra diligence, for example: school district headquarters, high school and local libraries, manuscript collections, newspapers and finally the internet which has seen the development of a national school directory over the last several years.

The third lecture topic was entitled "Special Census Schedules: Going Beyond the General Population Rolls." Ron emphasized the value of searching the Mortality Schedules, the Veterans Schedules, the Slave Schedules, the Agricultural Schedules, the Manufacturers Schedules, the Social Statistic Schedules, the Native American Lists, the State/Territorial Enumerations and the City/Town/County Special Counts.

The afternoon was capped off with a very interesting and stimulating presentation on occupational aspects. The lecture topic was entitled: "Show Me the Money: Work, Jobs and Our Ancestors." Ron emphasized over and over again that economic forces were at play most often when ancestors moved from place to place. He gave a historical analysis of occupational evolution from the Colonial Period to the present Technological Era. As jobs evolved and new social structures were instituted, the opportunities for record generation multiplied. Beyond Immigration and Passenger Lists, Ron emphasized the importance of checking for records generated by, and in, Labor Unions, Business Historians, Company Publications, Professional Directories, Personnel Files, Draft Records, Social Security Records, Obituaries and Manuscript Collections. His final entreaty to the diligent genealogist was to understand their ancestors by understanding their jobs. And if the ancestors are understood, the descendants (we) become more understandable. A very insightful ending to a very enjoyable conference.

don't De/ay

register Today

See you at the GSSI Fall Conference and Book Fair
Saturday, 17 October 2009
Hancock Conference Center
John A. Logan College
Carterville, IL

GSSI FALL CONFERENCE AND BOOK FAIR REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Early bird Registration (rec'd by October 4th) \$35. x = \$ _____

Standard Registration (after 10/4 and at the door) \$40. x = \$ _____

Lunch (optional) \$8. x = \$ _____

Total Enclosed _____ \$ _____

Make check payable to: Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois

Send Registration form and check to:

GSSI Fall Conference Chair
c/o John A. Logan College
700 Logan College Road
Carterville, IL 62918-2500

TAXES

Previously published by Jeanette O'Boyle

What's that old saying, "Nothing is certain in life except death and taxes!" Well, no one wants to hear about death so let's talk about taxes. Taxes have played a large part in the history of the United States, in genealogy, and in each of our lives.

The Revolutionary War was precipitated by the tea tax, The Boston Tea Party, and the consequential punishment of Massachusetts by Lord North, Prime Minister of Great Britain, who did not think the other colonies, would support Massachusetts. They did! The result was the Revolutionary War.

Poll taxes by states to limit the persons who would be able to vote caused the Fifteenth and Twenty-fourth Amendments of the U. S. Constitution to be passed and the Supreme Court in 1966 to give a monumental decision on the equal protection clause of the U. S. Constitution. However, a poll tax passed in Tennessee in 1891 has provided a great boon to genealogists. Everyone knows that the 1890 census burned so there is no census from 1880 to 1900, a twenty-year period when much could occur.

Well, when Tennessee passed their poll tax they incidentally made a listing of all white males of voting age in the state of Tennessee. If a man was in the 1880 census and not in the 1900 census all you knew was that he had died sometime in the twenty years. Utilizing the poll tax list you can know if he died between June 1, 1880 and 1891, or between 1891 and June 1, 1900.

Before the Revolutionary War in the Colonies, adult men had to pay a personal property tax and land taxes. If they did not own land, there still was a record of the men in the personal property tax list. But, how does this help genealogists? Well, Great Britain had decreed that males be put on the tax list when they were employable (about the age of sixteen). By checking the first time they were on the tax list you would have the year they were sixteen and an approximate year of birth. Also, when they were not on the tax list they had either died or moved.

In land taxes if a man is not listed but his wife is listed then he has died. If the tax is paid by neither husband nor wife but by one of the children, then both are deceased and the children or one of the children is occupying the land.

After the British burned the Capital and the U. S. Censuses in the War of 1812, the 1790 and 1800 censuses were rebuilt using tax lists. This is almost as helpful as the census because you are following the head of the household in your early census research. It does not provide the ages of children in the household though. In 1790 and 1800 censuses, the census only states adults over the age of twenty-one. The names of members of the household are not listed in the censuses until 1850 and the relationship to the head of the household is not listed until 1870.

Say that you want to prove that the person you are researching was the person who did something, like serve on a jury or committed a crime, and not another person with the same name. You can go to the personal property tax list and see how many people with that name are listed in the county. If there is only one, then you have your proof. If there was more than one, then you must do additional research to prove who it was.

Taxes are paid every year. The federal census was taken every ten years. If there was a state census, it was usually taken on the alternate fifth year. With censuses there always will be a gap of five years. By researching using tax lists, you can find information on an every year basis. Tax lists can also provide information on years of birth and death. All in all, the genealogist who does not use tax lists has missed a valuable tool of research.

LAND RECORDS

Previously published by Jeanette O 'Boyle

Do you remember in the article about Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness when I was trying to obtain a deed of a land sale from my ancestor, James Grant, to Samuel Cox that took place in Loudoun County, Virginia, in April 1778? Well, I finally received this deed and it was full of information.

The early records of Virginia made a practice of mentioning military titles. Also, since the majority of people could not read nor write, the details concerning the land was put in the deeds as this might be the only record that was made of them.

The land sale, dated 18 April 1778, is by James Grant, "Yeoman", Ann, his wife, and their son, John, to Samuel Cox. John Gwathmey in his *Roster of Virginians in the Revolution* lists James Grant, Navy. The book also lists James Grant of Loudoun County. If there was more than one pay voucher for one person, then he was listed more than once.

The deed states that the land being sold (747 acres) was a gift from John Diskin, father of his wife Ann. Since their son, John, was also listed as an owner, the land must have been given to them when they named their son John after John Diskin. This deed establishes without a doubt the maiden name of James Grant's wife and which Diskin was her father.

The deed of gift from John Diskin was dated 22 February 1756 and designated that John Diskin received this land from the Earl of Granville, representative of King George the Second of England. John Diskin had been appointed as Sheriff of the Colonial Council 4 June 1741. He received the gift of land in payment. The duties of Sheriff included collecting rents and dues, which were owed to the King. Apparently he did a good job since he received a tract of 747 acres of land that sold for 750 pounds "current money of Virginia" in 1778.

James Grant sold his land in Loudoun County, Virginia, prior to moving to Guilford County, North Carolina. So, what has this deed told us in addition to the date of his move? It has told us that John Diskin, "Sheriff" was the father of Ann Grant, the past occupation of her father and the approximate date of the birth of their son, John Grant. I can't think of any other single document that would give all this information.

This land record of James Grant's isn't the only deed that has given me information. In the deed of the land purchase of Samuel Moore in 1817 in Jefferson County, Illinois, I found a listing of the county in Tennessee where he was living at the time of his purchase. Another land purchase in Jefferson County, Illinois, in 1840 told me from where John Williams had moved. In the 1849 land sale by Jonathan McCandless in Hardin County, KY, I learned that he had inherited the land from his father, John McCandless, who had died in 1827. This was the only connective link that we could find between father and son. John McCandless was a Revolutionary War soldier.

Many times the Courthouses burned. This happened often, as stoves were the primary sources of heat during this period. I've heard the statement "I might as well forget about finding anything there because the Courthouse burned!" THIS IS NOT CORRECT!!! When courthouses burned people were urged to bring in their land deeds to be re-recorded. Most people did and usually had included in the record the information on how they had received 'the land (by inheritance, purchase, etc.). Even if the deeds had not been re-recorded, some mention was made in the record when the land was eventually sold. This might have been by the child or grandchild of the person alive at the time of the fire.

Land deed records are one of the most important sources of information in genealogy. ***Anyone who has not checked every deed of every generation has missed a very substantial discovery of genealogical knowledge.***

Member Queries

Dorothy M. Potts 6705 128th St. E Puyallup, WA 98373-5137 (253-840-1191) thelastant@comcast.net
Query: Looking for parents of Benjamin Truitt who was born in Crawford County, IL and lived and died in Union County, IL. He married Susan Blooks-Sullinger in Arkansas. Also looking for her father in Tennessee.

Ruth S. Larson 250 Co. Rd. 221 Florence, TX 76527-4204 (254-793-3974) LarsonRS38@aol.com
Query: Any information greatly appreciated on descendants of Samuel Pryor family, Dent and Poston families from the 1870 census of Perry County.

Karla Lauderdale-Cyphers 1000 W. Delaware Evansville, IN 47710 (812-422-6405)
junknattic@yahoo.com

Query: Need help finding Gifford/Gardner Cemetery in Wayne Co., IL. Could someone give me directions including number on county road signs. Thanks.

Charles R. Shelley 3863 Manchester Rd. Traverse City, MI 49686 (231-946-4637)
shelleychuck@hotmail.com

Query: Martha Rogers married Joseph Lively in — 1870. They moved to Labette City, Kansas where they parented my great grandmother Bertha Maude Lively. Anybody know me?

Donna Spradlin Bundy 8712 Jawbone Ave. Lake Isabella, CA 93240 (760-378-2201)
fwdlbundy@netzero.net

Query: Researching McCrary, Keller, Hinkle, 1830's Union Co., IL. Looking for parents of Hans, Rebecca and John McCrary. These siblings were probably born in NC and married in Union County, IL into the Keller and Hinkle lines. Would be happy to correspond and share info on these lines. Thank you.

Fred and Kit Winter 9436 Lafayette Ave. Manassas, VA 20109-3341

Query: Info on John D. Agnew, born Illinois. Father & Mother — Samuel & Elizabeth (?) Died in Randolph County, served in Civil War.

Ruth H. Jones 802 N. 12th St. Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 RWJ480593@SBCGlobal.Net

Query: Holmes: William and Susanna (nee Barnett) Holmes. They were married December 1855, Alexander County, IL. Daughter, Milinda married William Jones 1880 Alexander County, IL. Wm and Milinda Jones' daughter, Mary Ella Blanche Jones married Guy Washington Cartner in 1902. They had a large family and lived in Thebes, IL. Would like information on Holmes and Cartner families.

Rushing Family Reunion

The 39th Annual Rushing Family Reunion will be held on Saturday, October 17th, at the Glendale Methodist Church south of Glendale, IL on IL Rte. 145. A pot-luck dinner will be served at 12:00 noon. Family, cousins & friends are welcome. Questions: contact 618-695-2849, ellenbroom@gmail.com, or Charlotte Palmer at 217-787-8739. Each person attending is encouraged to bring one or more Rushing recipes complete with history of where it originated.

Change of address

Mary Ann Bonneville who submitted an article about Martha Phelps Powers Gray Brayshaw in the April-June 2009 edition of the **Saga** has moved and can be reached at 6708 Oxford Ln. Maryville, IL 62062 (618-288-4322) or via email at maepbon@charter.net Please refer comments or questions to the new addresses.

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Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois
do John A. Logan College
700 Logan College Road
Carterville, IL 62918-2500

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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DATE MAILED: 25 September 2009



MEMBERSHIPS

All memberships are for the calendar year (Jan I — Dec 31).

2009 Dues

Household -- \$25

Sustaining -- \$35

Supporting — \$50 or More

Please add \$10 for mailing outside the U.S.

Make checks payable to:

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Illinois**

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700 Logan College Dr.
Carterville, IL 62918-2500

Please enclose a SASE with
correspondence requiring a reply.

SAGA OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Published quarterly.

Submissions of items of interest in the
southern 28 counties are welcome.

SAGA Editor
do John A. Logan
700 Logan College Drive
Carterville, IL 62918-2500

MEETINGS

GSSI meetings are held on the second
Sunday of the month in the Library of John
A. Logan College, Route 13 & Greenbriar
Road, Carterville, IL beginning at 2:30 PM.

**There are no meetings in July and
August.** The all-day Fall Conference and
Book Fair are held on a Saturday in
October. Please check the *Newsletter* for
specific details of meetings.

The Genealogy section of the John A.
Logan College Library is open for research
on meeting days from noon to 4:30 PM.

GSSI Executive Board Meetings are held at
1 PM on meeting days.

NEWSLETTER

Published monthly.
Queries may be submitted at no charge.
Please send notices of family reunions, new
book publications, items of interest to:

GSSI
do John A. Logan
700 Logan College Drive
Carterville, IL 62918-2500

GSSI MEETINGS

(Second Sunday each month except
June, July, August, & October)

Saturday
17 October 2009

**GSSI Annual
Fall Conference
And Book Fair**

**Featuring
Michael Neill
"New Ways to Solve
The Family History
Mystery"**

Sunday
8 November 2009
Martha Schwegman
**"Brigham Young's
First Wife"**

Sunday
13 December 2009
Darrel Dexter