



FRESNO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 1429, FRESNO, CA 93716
INFOFCGS@GMAIL.COM
FRESNO-GENEALOGY.ORG



May 2021

Land Deeds---Some unusual information you wouldn't have thought you could find there.

We know you all try to find land deeds for property that was owned by your ancestors but did you know that you can sometimes find other interesting information in land deeds?

Will:

In 1874 land deeds there appears a will for Elizabeth written in January 1852. It lists as heirs her brother, Peter from Wayne Co., Ohio to whom she left land; her brother, Christian who resided in Tuscarawas Co., Ohio to whom she left money and her nephew, Peter's son, John, to whom she left land. Although that is not a lot of information it does provide some family links if you had nothing else to go on.

Marriage (prenuptial) agreement:

In a deed from 1869 called an "Article of Agreement" we find a marriage contract between Abraham and Elizabeth, so, in essence, a prenuptial agreement. Abraham agrees that if Elizabeth becomes his "wedded wife" and he predeceases her then Elizabeth would have the interest of \$1,500 annually and the use of a twenty-nine-acre tract of land during her widowhood. This was Abraham's second marriage and Elizabeth's third. As it turned out Elizabeth survived him by twenty-four years.

Power of attorney from someone who lives out of state to sell property:

An 1840 deed was written to give Power of Attorney from a couple, Abraham and Rebecca, who lived in Alleghany, Pennsylvania to a "trustworthy friend", Jacob, who lived in Wayne Co., Ohio. Their last names were the same so were most likely related. The Power of Attorney was so that Jacob could sell land that Abraham and Rebecca owned in Wayne Co., Ohio. This was a considerable amount of property including a rural section and twenty-six town lots (out of a total of 80) in a small town.

Cont'd page 5

Ancestry Library Edition has extended at home access through June!

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Thanks!

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are being held virtually via ZOOM at 7 pm.

An invite will be sent to members two days before.

If you are not a member please email- infofcs@gmail.com to receive an invite.

APRIL MEETING

Tuesday May 11th at 7 PM via ZOOM.

"Mid-West Genealogy (Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska"

– presented by Kathy Burrow.

June 8th General Meeting via Zoom

"Court Records"— Judy Harless



Saturday October 30th

Seminar Saturday is back

Our speaker will be Gena Philibert-Ortega.

It will be a day of learning about women in genealogy. We aren't sure if it will be in person or on Zoom so stay tuned.

Our Topics are:

1. 25 tips for Researching Your Female Ancestors
2. Her name was Not Unknown
3. The secret Lives of Women: Research Female Ancestors Using the Sources They Left Behind
4. Wives, Widows, Spinsters, and Mistresses: Documenting Women's Relationships

More about our speaker: Gena is an author, researcher and instructor whose focus is genealogy, social and women's history. She holds a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (Psychology and Women's Studies) and a Master's Degree in Religion. Gena's published works include two books, and numerous articles published in magazines and online. She is the editor of the Utah Genealogical Association's magazine, Crossroads. Her writings can be found on her blogs, Gena's Genealogy and Food Family Ephemera as well as the GenealogyBank blog. Gena is an instructor for The National Institute for Genealogical Studies.

Might you have an idea for a speaker or even a topic for our regular meeting. We would love to hear from you with possible suggestions. We try to have interesting topics that many might enjoy. Right now, we have been focusing on certain areas or states that might be of interest. Kathy Burrow will be speaking on the lower Midwest in May. She will focus on KS, OK and NE. I am sure many of you have relatives who passed through one of those states. Other ideas for topics would be European genealogy concentrating on certain countries like France, England, Germany or one of the Scandinavian countries. Even certain states or Canada. Might you want to learn more about less common sources like tax lists or maybe a certain collection like the Draper Collection.

Please feel free to email Corky at corky@mikaelpeterson.net with your suggestions.

Remember any idea is a good idea.



Memorial Tea for Donna Sibbald Hadrian

On the last Sunday in April Catherine and her sister Sharon held an afternoon tea to honor their mother Donna Sibbald Hadrian. Donna's friends from The Mayflower Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Fresno County Genealogical Society were invited to share a delicious array of food and tea prepared by the sisters. Photo albums and memorabilia were available to illustrate Donna and Jerry's full and lovely life. It was good to meet with others and reminisce about our beloved friends.

As guests left Cat sent them off with packets of seeds from the beautiful foxgloves in the garden, a sweet gift to help us remember Donna by. We will miss her calm authority and her easy smile, and we're grateful to have known her. Our best wishes to Donna's family.



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Betty V. Dearing

August 19, 1927—
April 16, 2020

We are saddened to announce the passing of longtime member, Betty Dearing.

Her daughter said it best,

“It was about that time, that Betty began her real life’s interest and

passion. Genealogy! And she gave it her all!! She loved the gatherings and reunions of the Dearing clan and collected all the information she could about the family’s history. This was the beginning of her becoming the historian for the families.

She wrote the first of her 4 genealogy books, this one was about Charley’s family history. “Dearing Tracks across America”

As time went on, she got more involved in the Fresno County Genealogy Society, serving in every capacity, at one time or another. She held an Honorary Lifetime Membership. She was, as well a Charter Member in another organization; Descendants of the Mayflower, having 6 descendants that came over on the Mayflower. She recorded all of this history in a book titled; “The Peach Tree” (her mother’s family history)

Her father came to the US from Norway when he was a child, settling in Boston. A rich heritage as immigrants to our great America!! “From Norway to America” (her father’s family history)

Later, she even wrote her own biography; “The Life of Betty Peterson” with all the memories, stories, and details of all of our lives. Very entertaining to say the least! “

You can read her full obituary here: <https://everloved.com/life-of/betty-dearing/obituary/>

Cont'd from page 1

Abraham and Rebecca had purchased this land only four years previously while living in Pennsylvania. Were they planning on moving there or did they buy it as an investment?

Agreement for land use and future transfer of property:

In an 1864 deed listed as an “article of agreement” a father, John, made an agreement with his son, George, to give George an 80-acre section of land for George’s “use and occupancy” and that after John’s death, the land would become George’s. Stipulations were that John and his wife, Anna, (George’s mother) were able to continue living on the property, George would farm and maintain the land with one-half of the proceeds going to John. If John’s wife, Anna, outlived John, then George was to continue caring for his mother on the property. {Note: Anna died the next year but John lived and remained on the property for eleven years}

This deed is interesting and valuable as it also lists all of John’s other heirs and amounts of money that George was required to pay them as their share of the estate since George was getting the property. The deed lists by name and relationship John’s sons Alexander and William and daughters Margaret and Hannah (giving their married names). It also lists his deceased sons Samuel and James (both died during the Civil War) and monies to be left to their children. This would be valuable information if you were unable to find a will or probate records.

Town Plat Maps:

In an 1815 deed book were the original plat maps for two small villages. These are important as the villages no longer exist and these plat maps can help you locate where the towns were. One of these small villages, Moscow, is where a marriage I researched took place but could not find the town anywhere. It turned out it was just a few miles from where the couple lived. The state currently has another town by that name, in another county, and it is frequently listed in online trees as the marriage location even though it’s incorrect, as it’s the only “Moscow” people can find now.

So, you can see that land deeds may offer other information that may prove useful in your research. One place to find online land records is at the FamilySearch webpage. From their homepage click on “Search”, then “Catalog”, under the “place search” type in the county and state you’re looking for. Under “availability” check the “online” box if you just want to search what’s online. Click “search” then scroll down to the “land and property section” and see what’s available. The records will vary from county to county. These are not searchable records but most have an index somewhere in them so that you don’t have to look through every image.

Good luck hunting!



More Learning Opportunities:

FamilyTree Webinars: Free Wednesday webinars

-Solving a Brick Wall with DNA – A Case Study: Larry W. Thomas– May 5th

-Researching the Descendants and Ancestors of the Weeping Time People– Brian Sheffey– Friday May 7th

-DNA Downer: Strategies for Dealing with DNA Fatigue– Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D.– May 12th

-The Paternal Ten: Searching for Missing Heirs-Claire Ammon, CG– Tuesday May 18th

-How Testing Multiple Relatives Can Turbocharge Your DNA Research-Michelle Leonard– May 26th



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Society
PO Box 1429
Fresno, CA 93716

Phone: 559-600-6230

E-mail: infofcgs@gmail.com

web: fresno-genealogy.org

FamilySearch Webinars-

Lots of FREE webinars New and Past

Date	Class Title	Link to Webinar
Tue, May 4, 9:00 AM	Using the FamilySearch Wiki (Beginner)	Link to Register
Thu, May 6, 9:00 AM	Research in Canada: An Introduction (Beginner)	Link to Register
Tue, May 11, 9:00 AM	What's New at FamilySearch (Beginner)	Link to Register
Tue, May 18, 9:00 AM	Overview of FamilySearch (Beginner)	Link to Register
Thu, May 20, 9:00 AM	The United States Colored Troops and Buffalo Soldiers: History, Records and Strategies (Beginner)	Link to Register
Thu, May 27, 9:00 AM	Ask Your United States and Canada Research Questions (Beginner)	Link to Register