

# FRESNO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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FRESNO-GENEALOGY.ORG

## THE JOTTED LINE MAY 2022

May 10,2022 will be our General Meeting at the Woodward Park Library. Bob Givens will speak on surveying the internet to verify your ancestors. Socializing will begin at 6:30 PM, the meeting starts at 7:00PM



**Happy Mother's Day May 8, 2022**

**I hope you had a wonderful Easter Holiday  
with your friends and family.**

Fresno County Library Heritage Center

2420 Mariposa St Fresno Ca 93721

Monday – Saturday 9 AM to 6 PM

Closed Sunday

Contact 559-600-6230

[Heritagecenter@fresnolibrary.org](mailto:Heritagecenter@fresnolibrary.org)

Parking is free on Saturday

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## In Memoriam



We are sad to pass on the news that former FCGS President and longtime society member Alice Partain has passed away.

She was an integral part of our society for many years. We remember fondly past Christmas parties at her home with her husband Jim and the many book sales in their yard.

There will be a graveside service Tuesday May 17 at 10 AM at the Clovis Cemetery. Cards can be sent to her daughter (with whom she lived):

Karen Phillip  
31032 Donald Ave  
Madera, Ca 93636



### Some information from the library

Below is a list of duplicate books available for members. Donations suggested but not necessary. Thanks to the many donors to our library, we have lots of books to be offered in the coming months. Please email interest to [infofcgs@gmail.com](mailto:infofcgs@gmail.com).

Virginia Census - 1790

Biographical Annals of Lebanon County Pennsylvania Part One - J.H. Beers ISBN 1-55613-798-2

Biographical Annals of Lebanon County Pennsylvania Part Two - J.H. Beers ISBN 1-55613-798-2

Pennsylvania Census - 1790

North Carolina Census - 1790

The Rockingham Recorder Vol 1 December 1946 No.1 (Virginia)

The Rockingham Recorder Vol 1 December 1946 No.2 (Virginia)

Abstracts of Charles County Maryland Court and Land Records Volume 1 1658-1666 - Elise Greenup Jourdan ISBN 978-1-58549-550-4

Abstracts of Charles County Maryland Court and Land Records Volume 2 1658-1666 - Elise Greenup Jourdan ISBN 978-1-58549-285-5

Old King William Homes and Families - Peyton Neale Clarke LCCCN 64-21422

1850 Census Kane County, Illinois McHenry Country

Edgar County Illinois Federal Census 1880 Part Two

Grand Army of The Republic Department of Illinois Transcription of the Death Rolls, 1879-1947 - Dennis Northcott and Thomas Brooks ISBN 0-9728344-0-0

A Handbook of Cornish Surnames Enlarged Edition - G. Pawley White ISBN 0-980643-19 X

Scottish Clan and Family Names Their Arms, Origins and Tartans New Edition - Roddy Martine ISBN 1-85158-418-8

Cherokee Land Surveys in North Carolina 1835 Part 1 - Dr A.B. Pruitt

The Family Tree Resource Book for Genealogists - ISBN 978-1-55870-686-6

Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln Co, NC Books 20, 21, and 22 - Dr. A.B. Pruitt

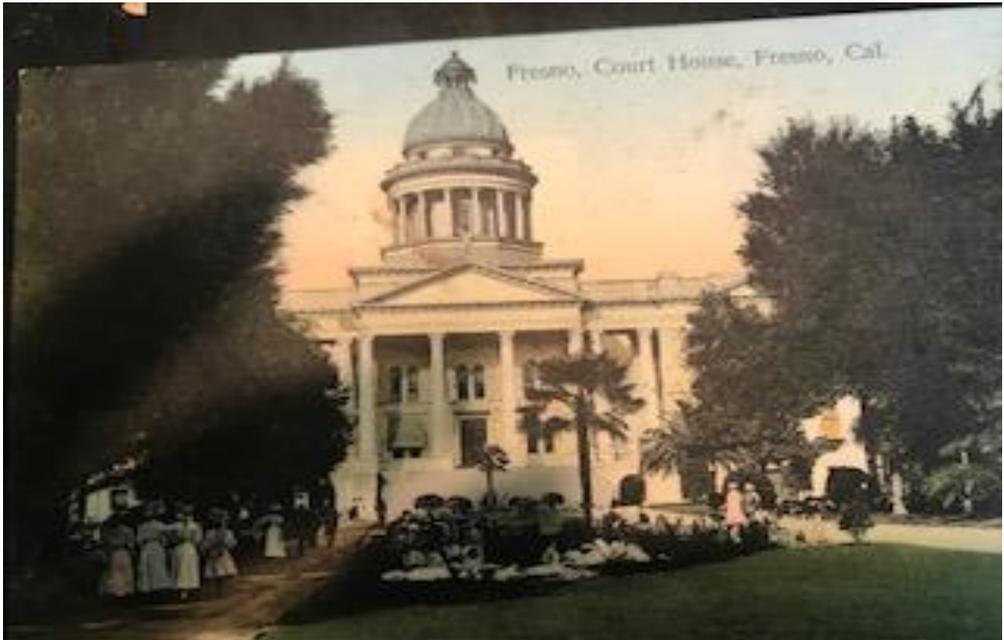
Abstracts of Deeds: Lincoln Co, NC Books 23, 24, and 25 - Dr. A.B. Pruitt

### **From our President Caroline Moser**

Hello members, I wanted to continue my encouragement for you to share your collection. In mid-July 1984 I was asked to clean out my husband's grandmother's mobile home. Allene Blackwell (March 15, 1891, to July 7, 1984). Cleaning out consisted of boxing up items to donate to Goodwill and discarding the rest. I was told I could have whatever treasure I wanted. The first treasure for sure was the huge family bible. The bible was purchased in 1885 and the first entry was Allenes' parents wedding in 1888 in Pittsville MO. After that there were their children's births and other family deaths. Wonderful information for my family tree. The bible was laying on the treadle of an old sewing machine. The machine was a Singer with the manufacture date of 1892, that makes it 130 years old. The next treasure is an old scrapbook filled with antique post cards with dates from 1907 to 1913



Family Bible



Postcard of Fresno Courthouse



Postcard Kearney Park



Singer Sewing Machine

I would like to give my upmost gratitude to everyone who has donated to the Jotted line. If you know of any event happening, a new database, or a class online please let me know. If you have a family story you would like to tell we would love to read about it.

Also, if you use Amazon for any purchases, please use ([smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)). If you use the smile website your orders can support the Fresno County genealogy society as a percentage will be donated to us. Just choose the society as your charity of choice.

“Why waste your money looking up your family tree, just go into politics and your opponents will do it for you.” Mark Twain

Life is lived forwards but understood backwards.” Soren Kierkegaard

## Genealogical Records at the Fresno County Courthouse

On Tuesday April 12, 2022, we had a wonderful meeting with Kathy Tigchelaar, who was speaking on records available in the Fresno County courthouse. There was very useful information on researching family in probate records. For older records you must go to the County of Fresno Court Archives at 1963 E Street Fresno. The records begin in 1860, records prior to 1911 are considered historical. She gave use some useful websites to use in family research, [www.fresnocourts.ca.gov](http://www.fresnocourts.ca.gov) which is the website of the Fresno Superior Court of Fresno County and [www.courts.ca.gov](http://www.courts.ca.gov) which is the home page of the California courts.

### **Book Review**

#### Annie's Ghosts

By Steve Luxenberg

I recently read this book and got completely caught up in the mystery of Annie and the amazing story to find out who she was and what happened to her. This turned into a great non-fiction read.

This is about a family mystery that came to light when Mr. Luxenberg's mother passed away. His brother was going through her personal documents to complete her final needs and of course pay any bills. He finds a file labeled Annie. Who is Annie? They determined from the information in the file that Annie was their mother's sister, but their mother was an only child she told everyone that many times.

So begins a journey to find out not only who Annie is but also where she is. As he goes through all the steps to find answers in genealogical and historical records, I was amazed at how he kept moving forward through all information available one step at a time to solve this mystery.

This was a fascinating story of a determined man who will find out the truth.

## Family Crests and Coats of Arms

I have been reading about Coats of Arms and Family Crests and have learned that having one is rarer than you might think. Having the heredity right to use it is even rarer. A Coat of Arms was the design on the shield of medieval knight and was the only person who had the right to use it during his lifetime. To have legal use it must have been granted by a ruling monarch. There were also times when he was allowed to pass it on to his direct legitimate male heirs.

The first documentation of a Coat of Arms is on the Bayeux Tapestry which dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> century and chronicles the Norman invasion of England. They were more common by the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and were used by many knights.

In most countries. The use of a Coat of Arms is no longer regulated but in the United Kingdom you must be a direct male descendent to use it.

The Coat of Arms is divided into several parts:

The Motto: This is the motto of the person who owns the arms. I can be anything they want to say and is located on the top.

The Crest: Located directly under the motto. This is usually three dimensional and represents some achievement of the owner

The Shield Elements: Since they originally appeared on shields it is a representation of what the original shield looked like. Placement and colors tell a story about the origin of the arms

Supporters: This is two animals or people used as supporters and tell a part of the original story of the Arms

There is nothing to stop anyone from designing their own coat of arms, just understand that it's not a hereditary one. There are many companies on-line that will help you with this. These companies can sell you merchandise with your coat of arms based on your surname, but these are new coats of arms and have no heredity right to use but your family may have a legitimate ancient coat of arms that has come down through the centuries. One family is my mother's family, the Riley's from Cavan County Ireland.



Gold represents generosity  
Green is for hope, and joy  
Drops of blood, a brave act  
The lion is an emblem of courage

The story behind the Riley (there are many spellings) Clan originally O'Ragheallach meaning son of Ragheallach ( "ragh" Irish, "eallach" gregarious) who was possibly killed at the Battle of Clontarf (April 1014). From him all the Riley's are named.

Back in the days when the Riley Clan was in control the family crest was important and had meaning. This was not a romantic impression but, in these times, severed hands were emblematic. It seems the Riley brothers were told by their father the one who touched Irish land first got their choice of the land they wanted. While rowing ashore, a boat race was involved, one of the sons was getting behind, so he cut off his own hand and threw it on the beach. He was the winner by a bloody hand. With this the Riley's held County Cavan, and it's now one of the most common names in Ireland.