

FRESNO COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 1429 FRESNO, CA 93716

FRESNO-GENEALOLGY.ORG

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THE JOTTED LINE AUGUST 2022

Our Ice Cream Social will be on August 9, 2022, at The Woodward Park Library, at 6:30 PM. Please bring your favorite toppings to share, FCGS will provide the ice cream.

Due to a scheduling conflict, our November 15, 2022, meeting with Diane Manley on Newspapers will be a ZOOM meeting. More information coming

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Our seminar will be held on September 17, 2022, at the Woodward Park Library from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The speaker is Pamela Bell Dallas discussing friends and enemies, collateral research, remember the ladies, burned counties, and the National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC).

Cost is \$25.00 and lunch is included

Flier is included in this newsletter

Fresno County Public Library – Heritage Center

2420 Mariposa St. Fresno CA 93721

(559) 600-6230

Monday – Saturday 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Closed Sunday

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

Did You Know?

The Fresno Central Library on Mariposa Street is haunted, weird things happen. In the children's section books have been seen flying off the shelves. The second floor is haunted by a former librarian. He must have been happy in the library, so he stayed.

### **From our President**

Dear Members,

Last month we celebrated Memorial Day and as always conversations abound regarding cemeteries. I've visited many but the most memorable was during a trip to Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial where General S Patton Jr. is buried. It was a very solemn tour and I don't recall anyone talking. The cemetery was filled with Patton's third army soldiers killed during the Battle of the Bulge. Patton's grave was dug by German prisoners of war. The general's grave is at the front of the entire cemetery. His cross faces those of the men he led, as if he was leading them again for one more battle. The cemetery contains

the remains of 5,076 military dead including one female army nurse. All lost their lives serving their country.

One question that the guide was asked was why he wasn't sent home for burial. The guide responded that Patton's wife Beatrice decided that George would want to lie beside the men of his army that had fallen. This was an emotional visit but a reminder of our past and those who make today's world possible.





### **Gravestone Symbols**

As we discussed last month, Gravestone Symbols have meaning. These symbols reflect the culture which created the work and can have multiple meanings. You will see the name of the person and their dates of birth and death. The Colonial Era in America began in 1492 and ended in 1763 crossing over with the Puritan Era. The colonial Era is often overlooked because headstones were not decorative but utilitarian. These early markers were made from field stone, sandstone, or wood. The wood markers have not survived. The gravestones with symbols on them came later.

The Puritans came around 1630. They were against flashy rituals, and this influenced the carving of gravestones. In their first century here, their gravestones were plain with just basic information. But later, they had designated stone carvers, so inscriptions became more elaborate. These were the early days but as time went on there were stone carvers that included artistry and craftsmanship. Their symbols were carved with images that reflected a culture steeped in dying. The top is a rounded section called the Tympanum or Lunette, the two smaller sides with rounded top are finials and the main area is called the tablet. The main carvings were on the tympanum and the ornamental carvings are on the finials. The headstone pictured has a winged skull which refers to death's flight.

As the population became larger and more diverse the Puritan ideals faded and people started being more focused on life and not death. This is when people became more focused on growth, community, and business. Stone carvers began more beautiful works on gravestones. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a shift to the symbolic with flowers, animals, even anchors.



Winged Cherup



Winged Skull

Many gravestones had epitaphs recorded on them. These messages reflected attitudes towards life, death, and eternity. This offers insight into reading and the devotional spirit of the time of burial. The Bible is a common source of these epitaphs. There were also graveyard poets. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries writers composed poems to illustrate religious lessons. These poets usually had themes of death, the uncertainty of its timing, and the importance of living virtuously.

Edward Young wrote a dramatic poem 1742-1745 called *Night Thoughts on Life*. The poems express the sorrow and pain of bereavement, and the transitory nature of human life. Here are some lines from Edward Young's poem that have appeared on gravestones. The poem is in nine parts, here is an example:

“While man is growing life is in decrease  
And cradles rock us nearer to the tomb  
Our birth is nothing, but our death begun.”

Edward Young

There are also religious headstone symbols, the cross being the most common. Others reference military service, masonic membership, or other fraternal orders. Most American cemeteries include a veteran's area. These have white marble gravestones with flag markers referencing the branch of service. There are many websites that have lists of the various symbols that can be found on gravestones.

There is more to cemeteries than you think. By looking at headstones you can learn about the person buried. Was it a child, did it have a specific religion, died in battle, served in the military, or was a member of a fraternal order? When visiting a cemetery please follow all necessary laws or statutes if you want to do a gravestone rubbing. There are stricter regulations at Veterans Cemeteries. Also, keep personal safety in mind as the ground may be uneven in older cemeteries.

### **Academy Cemetery**

I took a walk around Academy Cemetery (Freeway 168 and Mendocino Ave) in Fresno County on July 16, 2022. It's a beautiful peaceful cemetery that sits on the south bank of Dog Creek. It has been in use since 1867. It has a very peaceful quiet atmosphere and was wonderful to walk around. When looking at gravestones I noticed that there were some old and new graves, and that people of all ages are buried here. It is also the resting place of 125 military servicemen from as far back as the Civil War to modern times. The cemetery is part of the Clovis Cemetery District and is recognized as a Fresno County Historical Landmark.

In 2016 a stone monument was erected to honor the pioneer families. Many of Fresno Counties earliest families settled here engaging first in sheep and then moving to cattle. The Monument Reads:

“The Academy Cemetery is recognized by the Fresno County Historical Landmark and Advisory Commission as a historical Pioneer Cemetery. The first burial was Benjamin Baxter Baily In 1867. Benjamin was 10 years old when he died on November 22, 1867. William R. and Nancy T. Bailey had come west by Wagon train leaving Missouri in 1858. Both William and Nancy Are buried next to their son.

The land the cemetery lies on was donated by Sarah Ann Bailey Simpson, daughter of William and Nancy, and was dedicated as A cemetery on March 2, 1890. It continued to be a family and Community cemetery until it was donated to the Clovis Cemetery District in 1948 by Eleanor Ann Perry Simpson. This memorial Is dedicated to the pioneer families whose remains are interred Here and in recognition of their importance to American, California, And Fresno County History.”

This monument is placed near the large headstones and fits in perfectly. Many headstones are polished granite and are adorned with personal items like Clovis High School Baseball, bouquets, and photographs.

If you decide to go for a visit the land is dry, rough and there are holes dug by gophers and squirrels, so exercise caution when walking around. Besides the gophers and squirrels there were also two red tailed hawks sitting in the trees watching.



The grave of Benjamin Baxter Bailey and his parents



Irish Archives Recreated

In June 1922 the opening battle of Ireland's civil war began. The Public Records at the Four Courts in Dublin was destroyed, along with it. Seven centuries of documents and manuscripts.



## The Four Courts in Dublin Ireland June 1922

In the Four Courts were documents from the Norman Invasion of 1169 up to 1922. The Irish Civil War followed the Irish War of Independence, the opposing members were pro-treaty (Anglo Irish Treaty) and the Irish Republican Army (IRA). There were Republicans in the records office, and they had a hoard of arms with them, there was an order to fire from the pro-treaty member Michael Collins<sup>1</sup> and the arms dump exploded destroying the six-story building. Each side blamed the other, but there was no dispute concerning the consequences.

There is now a new Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland that combines historical investigation, archival discoveries, and conservation to re-create these archives lost. Historians, archivists, and computer scientists have spent years piecing together much of what been lost.

The project is Beyond 2022: Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland. This process used basic academic sleuthing, artificial intelligence, and collaboration with archives in England, Europe, United States, and Australia. It is creating a virtual reconstruction of the destroyed Public Records in Dublin.

The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland, <https://virtualtreasury.ie/> now has 50 million words of searchable text spanning seven centuries. There are also maps, graphs and a 3D construction of the destroyed building.

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Collins – (1890-1922) Hero in the struggle for Irish Independence (Anglo-Irish War (1919-1921) Killed by anti-treaty insurgents in July 1922

From Your Editor-----Request for Newsletter Articles

I would like to receive some good family stories or even historical stories related to your families. They can be anything dealing with family immigrants to the United States to our family's migration west. If you have a famous person in your family tree, or perhaps an infamous I would love to add their story to the newsletter. You have probably noticed that my family history comes primarily from the United States, Ireland, and England. I can write a lot about them, but I want some stories from your families.

If you want to submit an article to the newsletter, I would appreciate it before the 25<sup>th</sup> of the, so I can publish by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

Also remember if you shop on Amazon use the Smile Amazon website to donate to FCGS.

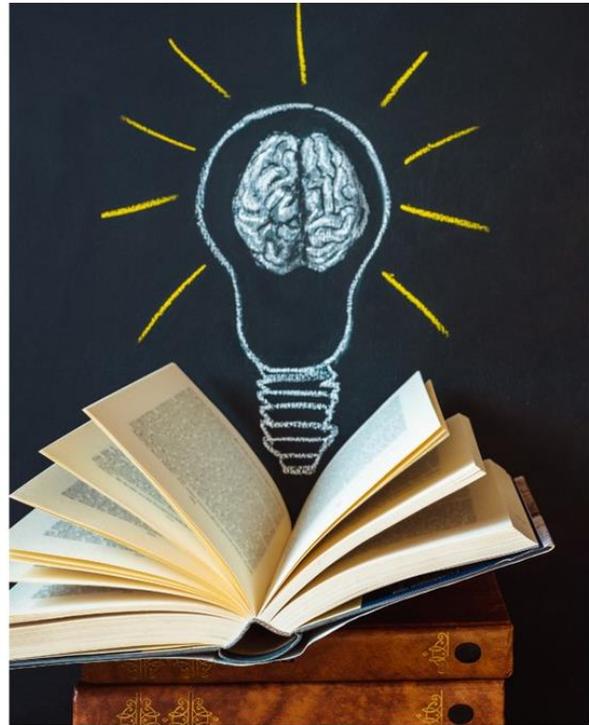


# 19TH ANNUAL GENEALOGY SEMINAR

With Pamela Bell Dallas Professional Genealogist and Speaker

Register

<https://2022FCGSseminar.eventbrite.com>



## WOODWARD PARK LIBRARY

944 E Perrin, Fresno, CA

Saturday, 17 September 2022  
9:30 AM to 4 PM

\$25- Member Lunch/Syllabus  
\$30-Non Member Lunch/Syllabus  
FREE RSVP--SEAT Only

## WORKSHOPS INCLUDE

- Siblings, Friends & Enemies: Collateral Research
- Remember the Ladies: Find Your Female Ancestors
- Burned Counties- are there records?
- NUCMC – A Gold Mine for Genealogists!

Lunch Option Includes: Sandwich, Chips and dessert and bottled water

To reserve your seat and purchase your lunch and syllabus, you can go online

<https://2022FCGSseminar.eventbrite.com>

Or mail in this paper to FCGS SEMINAR 2022, PO Box 1429, Fresno, CA 93716

RSVP-Seat only    \$25- FCGS Member Lunch and Syllabus    \$30-NonMember Lunch and Syllabus

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bread CHOICE:  Whole Wheat    Croissant

Sandwich filling—CHOICE:  Roast Beef    Ham    Turkey    Vegetarian

Please Mail a check along with your order. If you'd like to pay by credit card. <https://2022FCGSseminar.eventbrite.com>

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Or use the form above and mail in