

# Family History Happenings



LVFSL

February 2019

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Las Vegas FamilySearch Library

Hours: 9 – 5 M, F 9 – 9 T, W, Th 9 – 3 Sa

## Mark Your Calendars

February 21, 2019 6:30 p.m. Thur	Ward Temple and Family History Consultant Training Las Vegas FamilySearch Library
February 22, 2019 10:30 p.m. Fri	Ward Temple and Family History Consultant Training Las Vegas FamilySearch Library
Feb 27-Mar2, 2019	RootsTech 2018 Salt Palace Convention Cntr, Salt Lake City, UT <a href="http://rootstech.org">http://rootstech.org</a>
July 2019	BYU Family History Conference Provo, UT <a href="https://familyhistory.ce.byu.edu">https://familyhistory.ce.byu.edu</a>

## Directors' Message by Castle and Lee Nishimata

We begin with our heartfelt gratitude to Betty Hoskins, Jerry Hyten, Roland Kelts, Deborah Lara, Bonnie Powers, Jacob Sproul, and Bryan Stokes for their dedicated service at the Library. With the exception of Bonnie, all ended their service due to the closure of our scanning operations. We sadly announce the passing of Verdeana Raffie on January 22, 2019. She faithfully served at the Library for several years until 2016.

We kindly turn your attention to a previous article in our January 2017 Newsletter which bears repeating. The article entitled, "Childless Siblings and Empty Silhouettes" by Donna Cox Baker, is presented here with more detail which will be of interest to each of us. She writes:

*"Some of us will never be ancestors. We have no descendants. We died too young, or married too old. We stayed single and took care of our parents or stayed single just because. Or married and couldn't or married and didn't. For any number of reasons or none, we died childless. So who will tell our story?"*

*"I will have no direct descendants using genealogy to restore the memory of me. We married late. Mac and I, and children weren't an option. No whining. No poor me. Just the facts as they are and as they have been for hundreds of millions.*

*"Given the tendencies of many who are building family trees, I can expect to be an empty silhouette over to the side of my three sisters, who between them gave the world nine beautiful human beings. I should then count myself posthumously lucky if my silhouette has at least been given a birth and death year. And I'll be fortunate beyond most childless siblings if one of my sister's descendants adds my husband to the tree. Don't get me*

*wrong. I'm not feeling sorry for myself. I doubt that I'll care by that time. I'm feeling sad for the family tree that has failed to acknowledge what's missing from the story."*

She describes her great-grandparents who are buried in Randolph County, Alabama, with five of their children most of whom never lived long enough to appear in a census. *"If I content myself only with the burial records, these five would have only their birth and death dates and these minimal names to mark their time on earth: A.T. (son), E.J. (son), J.D. (son), L.F. (daughter), Hazzie B. (son). And if that is the only thing the world kept to commemorate their time here, then it is all we can do. But if there are other scraps to fill in the story, we enrich the memory, do honor the departed and learn something vital about our ancestors."*

She then describes her grandfather, Kaylor, who raised four of his younger siblings upon the death of his mother. Only one would have children, one died of pneumonia at age 17, one married three times but had no children, and the fourth, Clarence, never married living with Kaylor until his death. Kaylor lost three of their ten children as infants. All were very dear to them, so much more than empty silhouettes. Does this have a familiar ring with most of us? She ends her article, "To my sisters' descendants, yet to be born, please know that I was part of your ancestral story. There were four of us girls, not three and a silhouette. Whichever of my nieces or nephews you descend from, know that I cared for them, held them, sang to them, spoiled them with candy and gifts...Next weekend, I will be at the wedding of the first born among them...to see him take his vows to the best girl ever. It will be important that I am there. I will be there again when his first-born arrives. And second and third. I was there for it all.

*"I appeal to you all to check your family trees. Have you left some childless silhouettes unattended? Finish your story."*

## LVFSL Training February Classes

The LVFSL class schedule will accompany emailed newsletters, can be obtained at the LVFS Library or be downloaded from our website: <http://www.lvfamilysearchlibrary.org>

## Finding Family *by Linda Coble*

### Refugees of 1776

When we think of refugees, 1776 hardly comes to mind, but it came up in the class on Connecticut when teacher Lee Nishimoto mentioned that Americans from Long Island had to flee to Connecticut when the British occupied the area. That jogged my memory and I remembered reading that some of my mother's ancestors had to leave their homes on Long Island. After class I remarked that I had some who were in that situation. "Hold that thought!" said Lee as she left for a few moments and returned holding a book aloft. The title: *The Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut by Frederic Gregory Mather*. Looking through the index, I found several of my relatives, including Captain Barnabas Horton, my eighth great grandfather, who built the first framed house on the east of Long Island. If you would like to look him up on [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), use PID# LN74-VQZ.

And, if that wasn't enough excitement for the day, Rebecca Eisenman helped me with an extensive search for my third great grandmother, Betsey McCall (KNSJ-6T4). By the end of the day I was both elated and exhausted. I went to bed at 8:00 PM that night and I haven't done that in years.

The following weekend I had the pleasure of being the guest speaker at the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada where I shared many of the topics and stories that I have used in the class here at the library and a fun time was had by all. Afterward several members came up and shared bits of their stories and seemed eager to start the process of preserving them for future generations. Thanks to Janet Snyder who took a photo and posted a comment on her Facebook page: "At JGSSN we were inspired by Linda Coble who talked about writing our own stories to pass down to our family. She told fascinating stories about her family and what she has learned about genealogy over the years. Wow!! Great learning experience!!"



## Research Helps *by Lee Nishimoto*

### GRETNA GREEN

The big holiday in February is Valentine's Day. Here in Las Vegas, Valentine's Day is big business. Las Vegas is a "marriage haven". What many family researchers don't know is that there were many "marriage havens" across the US and in other countries.

The most famous marriage haven was Gretna Green, a parish in southern Scotland situated close to the borders of Scotland and England. In the 1754 Marriage Act was introduced in England and Wales, people were forbidden to marry without your parents' permission if they were under 21 and their marriage had to take place in a church. So, the young and in love began eloping to Scotland, where it was much easier to marry. Scottish law was different: you could marry on the spot, only requiring two witnesses and assurances from the couple that they were both free to marry. Marriage havens are places where a more lenient judge and/or law allowed for quick marriages.

There was a well-known marriage haven in Aberdeen, Ohio about 30 miles from where I grew up. The Ohio town of Aberdeen, directly across the river from Maysville, was known as the "Gretna Green of the Ohio Valley." In 1822, "Squire" Thomas Shelton was Justice of the Peace in Huntington Township. He had the authority to perform marriages, and he married over 20,000 couples. He was succeeded in his death by "Squire Massie Beasley" who continued



practice until his death in 1892. He kept excellent records that prove he married 7228 couples. The boat that carried

the eloping couples from the Kentucky side of the river to Aberdeen was intentionally named "Greta Green".

Recently, I found in the Civil War Widows' pension an affidavit that verified the marriage of my 2gguncle and his bride by Shelton in Aberdeen shortly before he enlisted in

the Union Army. That surprised me because both the bride and groom were from Burlington, Ohio (nearly 80 miles upriver from Aberdeen).



Home of "Squire" Thomas Shelton

When searching for marriage havens, ask the locals (esp., local genealogy society). The havens are usually across a state line. They didn't always marry where we thought they would. Good Hunting.