



Past and Present

Newsletter of The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society
July 2019
www.sgesjax.org

Quote of the month

"Finding random documents to support what we want to believe is not research. It's self-delusion"---Elizabeth Shown Mills

Genealogy detectives at the SGES Library

AA093 Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments

By: Bockstruck, Lloyd Dewitt

If you have a relative that served in the Revolutionary War and may have received a bounty land grant, you need to check this book! This book gives the veteran's name, rank, how much land they received, and if the veteran was deceased it lists the widow and/or heirs. What also makes this book such a great find is that it provides the bounty policies for each state including how much land each rank was entitled to. On a side note, we also have the companion book that is for the grants awarded to the French and Indian wars pre-revolution.

Story of the month

Lady Godiva

By Davine Roberts



Leofric, the Lord of Mercia, and his wife Godgifu (Godiva, known as Lady Godiva) helped give the small village of Coventry, England a firm foundation, leading to its later development as a thriving city. It was not much more than a village when Godiva supposedly made her famous ride along narrow streets, and that tale appeared several hundred years later. So, it is believed that people were still talking about this, as it was a dramatic event.

Godiva was so displeased with her husband's attitude towards the heavy taxes he had placed upon his people that she confronted him about the issue to change his mind and lower the taxes. She thought the taxes should be lowered, because people had no way to pay these taxes and were going hungry. Leofric responded that he would lower taxes, if she would ride naked through the street on a horse. She made the decision to do just this. So, a day was picked and the minister in the village directed everyone to close their shutters and not peep as Godiva was going to make her naked ride through the town in protest of the high taxes her husband had imposed on the people. Supposedly every one followed the minister's request and did not peep with the exception of one fellow named Tom who peeped. The tale of the Peeping Tom came from Lady Godiva's historic ride. Taxes were lowered, so the legend goes.

Godiva would no doubt have been pleased with her town's progress through the centuries. Leofric and Godiva built a Benedictine monastery and church in 1043 on the old site and dedicated it to St. Mary. The couple made Coventry one of their major residences (they owned property in numerous locations), and gave St. Mary's priory and church a rich endowment. When Leofric died, he was buried in St. Mary's. Godiva's resting place is not known, although it is likely she was interred alongside her husband when she died several years later.

Irrelevant of the legend, she is written about, she was definitely a very strong woman for her time. She has left descendants, who honor her and are very proud to be descended from her and Leofric.

The Society of Descendants of Lady Godiva had their first meeting in February 2014 with the Founding Lady General Davine Roberts. There are currently 310 members who have proven their ancestry from Lady Godiva. If you have a proven Gateway Ancestor (an ancestor who first came to this country and who descends from a royal line), you would only need to prove to that ancestor, because the rest has already been proven in numerous well sourced books.

For further information about membership, you can contact me via email at DavineR@aol.com or telephone 904-766-6182. I'll put you in touch with our Genealogist General, Tracy Crocker, a renowned genealogist in royal lineage. Please visit at societyofdescendantsofladygodiva.com where the list of Gateway Ancestors and past issues of the Godiva Gazettes can be viewed. There is also a Facebook page under Society of Descendants of Lady Godiva. Our official insignia is shown above.

Website

Noted Genealogist researcher/author Thomas MacEntee has made available to the public, free access to his "Genealogy Do-Over" program. This is a project-based initiative to improve genealogy research skills while having fun too. Although started in 2018, it is still applicable in 2019.

Topics: 1) Reviewing Genealogy Database Software and 2) Digitizing Photos and Documents

Reviewing Genealogy Database Software

By now, many of The Genealogy Do-Over participants have been tracking their research and then evaluating the evidence to prove or disprove dates, names, relationships and more. The next step: enter proven data into a genealogy software program or on a genealogy website in order to share results and produce reports.

When I first started with genealogy, I purchased the latest version of Family Tree Maker from Banner Blue software (remember them?) and simply entered whatever I found (without evaluating evidence) into the program.

Then when I decided to pursue genealogy as a profession, in 2008, I opted to use a variety of programs, all at the same time. These included Legacy Family Tree, RootsMagic and Family Tree Maker. I also had my data in Ancestry.com on a public tree and on WikiTree. Why did I have my data in all these programs? Then, as now, I am often asked by vendors to beta test new versions and new features, so I had to keep my data in those programs.

Genealogy Database Programs – Are You Being Served?

I did a thorough review of available options and listed the features that were most important to me and my research. Every genealogist is different in terms of how they research so your

choice should suit you and not work against you. Also, before moving to any new program, make sure you a) read the Terms of Services and b) understand how to import a GEDCOM file (that standard genealogy data file format. Some programs will not import notes, sources and other items. Make sure you don't lose data when moving to a new program!

Digitizing Photos and Documents

Understanding the correct way to scan and digitize your family photos as well as your research documents is an important part of genealogy. I can't stress this enough and I knew I had to include the topic in The Genealogy Do-Over.

There are many different ways to handle digital preservation of family photos. You can take the DIY ("do it yourself") approach or use a service that will scan the images for you.

So what is the difference? The DIY approach may require you to purchase a scanner, learn the specifications and correct scanning settings, and then scan each photo. Once scanned, you'll need to rename the file, save it and then move on to the next one. The process can be time consuming to say the least. Using a service tends to be hassle free, usually guarantees a high-quality scan, but can be expensive if you have many items to scan.

If you decide to use a scanning service, please take my advice: review their services and make sure they are using the best equipment and providing you with the best high-resolution scan. Many of the services, including superstores like Costco and Wal-Mart, outsource their scanning to vendors who are more focused on speed and quick turn-around rather than quality. Do you really want to take shortcuts with your family memories?

Documents: How to Convert Image Text to Searchable Text

The digitization of documents is different than photos due to this challenge: how do you convert the text in an image to text that you can search, copy and paste and use? The process employed to convert image text is called OCR or Optical Character Recognition.

Again, just like scanning photos, you can take the DIY approach or use a service. Keep in mind that the quality of the document will impact the OCR results. So if the document is old, faded and hard to read, the OCR process will certainly need review and correction. And, currently, handwriting OCR is basically unavailable.

<https://abundantgenealogy.com/genealogy-do-over-month-7-july-2018/>

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New additions to the SGES Library

GM115 The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War –Major George B Davis
VA316 Early Quaker Records in Virginia—Miles White Jr
VA317 Abstracts of Wills & Inventories Fairfax County VA 1742-1801
with Rent Rolls for 1761 and 1774—J Estelle Stewart King