



Genealogy Friends News

Genealogy Friends of
Plano Libraries

Genealogy Friends News
June 2020

P.O. Box 860477, Plano, TX, 75086-0477

[http:// www.genealogyfriends.org](http://www.genealogyfriends.org) <http://genfriends.blogspot.com/>

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Schedule of Events

Haggard Library is closed so we are holding our meetings via Zoom

Mark your calendars now for the exciting Genealogy Friends events in 2020. Meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice from 10:15 to 12:30. Invites will be send out the week before the meeting.

This Month

June 20, 2020—Zoom Meeting—“Four Methods to Search Familysearch.org” and “FamilySearch.org Q&A” by Lynell Moss

Future Events

July 18, 2020—Zoom Meeting—“Armchair Mysteries Solved at Home with Old School Technology” by Patty Gillespie

August 15, 2020—Zoom Meeting—“Mining The Gems in a Civil War Pension File” by Bernard Meisner

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Publications for Sale

The following are available from Genealogy Friends:

Public Land Survey Systems	\$5
Plano Star Courier Index 1904-1910	\$20
Plano Star Courier Index 1911-1917	\$20
Cemeteries of Collin County, TX	\$40
Collin County, TX Voter Registration Index 1867	\$20
Place Names of Collin County, TX	\$10
Railroads in Collin County, TX	\$10

Genfriends Membership

Our membership year runs from October 1 to September 30. Individual memberships are \$30 a year and family memberships are \$50.

The money we raise is used to purchase materials for the Genealogy Section at Haggard Library.

Download the membership form on our website <http://genealogyfriends.org/news/> send it in with payment to

Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc
PO Box 860477
Plano, TX 75086-0477

Genealogy Education & Websites

Celtic Connections Conference has been replaced with Virtual Journey Home. There will be on-demand presentations between July 31 and August 31, live chats and electronic syllabus. <http://celtic-connections.org/index.html>

Virtual British Institute October 12-14, 2020. There will be three tracks each with four live presentations and q&a time. Courses will run consecutively so you can take 1, 2 or 3. <https://www.isbgfh.com/Virtual-British-Institute>

DNA from A to Z: Unlocking Your Genetic Code Dallas Genealogy Society Virtual Seminar will be held July 25, 2020 There will be three different tracks, beginning, intermediate and advanced. You can mix and match classes from the different tracks for the 4 sessions. Registration will be open soon. <https://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/meetings-events/seminars/2020-summer-seminar/>

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be held 2-5 September, 2020 in Kansas City, MO. <https://fgs.org/conferences/> Conference registration and hotel reservations are now open. Early registration ends June 30th.

Texas State Genealogy Society Conference, "Remembering Your Heritage" is scheduled for November 13-15, 2020 at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas. <https://www.txsgs.org/2020-conference/>

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland is free during the pandemic lock down. The dictionary includes information about over 45,000 surnames, early bearers of the name and a surname distribution map. <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780199677764.001.0001/acref-9780199677764>

TG4 is TV Shows from Ireland. A way to visit Ireland from your home. The shows are in Gaelic but you can listen to Irish Music and see some beautiful scenery in the documentaries. <https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/news/tg4-treasure-trove-irish-music-and-documentary-programming>

German Genealogy Resources on the Internet <https://www.germanroots.com/germanlinks.html>

FamilySearch.org is adding new indexes and digitized records every week, don't forget to check back often to see what's new.

Last Person to Receive a Civil War Pension Died <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/07/irene-triplett-last-person-american-civil-war-pension-dies>

Analyzing Records

By Barbara Coakley

Analysis is one of the keys to successful family history research. After determining your research question/goal and conducting a thorough search, the next step is to analyze what you found or didn't find. Two sources of information on analysis are *Mastering Genealogical Proof* by Thomas W. Jones and "Evidence Explained Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage" by Elizabeth Shown Mills <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/>.

Analysis has multiple steps to make sure we are drawing the correct conclusions from our search results.

Sources

Analysis begins with the source itself, the entire item, we need to determine if the source is reliable—who created the record, when was it created, why was it created, what condition is it in, is it clear and easy to read, is it an original, a copy (derivative), an authored work (like a compiled family history, a journal article, or a family tree).

Original sources were created at the time of the event or soon after.

Derivative sources are created from original sources—transcribing it, translating it or altering it in any way.

Authored sources can use original sources or derivative sources and include the authors interpretation of them.

Information

The content in the source, how it is presented, the condition of the source all provide information. Our goal is to understand how much to trust that the information is factual.

Primary information is provided by someone who was present or participated in the event.

Secondary information is provided by someone who was told about the event.

If we aren't sure who provided the information or if they were there the information is indeterminable.

A single record can contain one, two or all three types of information. If the record is faded or the handwriting is hard to read, make a note of this, it impacts the reliability of the information. Don't forget to put the record in the context of the time. You need to understand what was going on at the time to Does it make sense based on what was going on at the time and in that location.

Evidence

We have to review the information to determine if it answers our research question. Thomas Jones says, "Sources and information are tangibles, but evidence is not." We take the death certificate and extract the information written on it and have to make decisions about the source and the information—we interpret the evidence. There are three categories of evidence:

Direct evidence—the information answers the research question.

Indirect evidence—the information suggests an answer to the research question if it is combined with information from other sources.

Negative evidence—there is no information in the source that answers the question. We need to understand why the information isn't there This is why it is important to understand the source—was the information not included because the source didn't cover that timeframe, is the source incomplete, etc.

Each source that we find does not stand alone, we have to compare evidence from various sources. If the evidence conflicts then we need to determine which is correct.

Using templates can help to be sure nothing is missed about a source. Here is an example.

Analyzing Records

Death Certificate of John G Clay

Source: Copy of Death Certificate obtained from Illinois State Genealogical Society from microfilm from the Illinois State Archives.

Certificate 3298

Full Name: John G Clay

Residence: 2220 W 113th Street, lived in City of Chicago for 35 years

Description: Male, White, Married

Spouse: Theresa Clay

Birth: December 17 1868 in Quincy, IL

Father: Wm Clay born Penna

Mother: Elizabeth Malone born Maryland

Occupation: Secy and Treasurer

Death: November 16 1928 aged 59 due to Hemorrhage and shock due to gunshot wounds of the chest and abdomen. Murder. Lying on the floor in the office of the Chicago Laundry and Dye Drivers Union located at 629 South Ashland Avenue. Inquest held. Signed by Oscar Wolf, Coroner and JR Dorfman, Deputy Coroner.

Burial: November 19 1928 at St. Maria, Evergreen, Cook County, IL

Undertaker: James Bradley, James Bradley and Sons, 1724 W Harcross

Informant: John W Clay, 11042 Hermosa Ave. (from other sources I know this is the son of John G Clay)

Source—Original, Derivative or Authored: This is an original source, most of the handwriting is clear and easy to read. The section on the burial is in a different handwriting and hard to read.

Information—Primary, Secondary or Undetermined: Primary information on the address, death and burial; secondary information on birth, parents, time resided in city.

Evidence—Direct, Indirect, or Negative: Direct evidence of John's death, facts agree with those found in other sources—"Homicide in Chicago, 1870-1930", multiple newspaper accounts and family lore. No conflicting evidence has been found.

Citation: Illinois Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, death certificate no 3298, John G Clay (1928), Springfield.

The next step is to summarize the facts from this source as part of the conclusion in the research report. Careful analysis can help us extract accurate information from sources and use it to back up the assumptions we make about our ancestors' lives.

Permanent

STATE OF ILLINOIS ORIGINAL
Department of Public Health—Division of Vital Statistics
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH
County of Cook
City of Chicago
Township of ...
Dist. No. ...
Registration
Primary Dist. No. 3104

2. FULL NAME John G. Clay
(a) Residence No. 2220 - W. 113th
length of residence in city or town where death occurred 35 yrs. mo. da.
(b) Usual place of address ...
Ward ...
Hospital ...
Registered No. ...

3. SEX Male
4. COLOR OR RACE White
5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED Married
6. DATE OF BIRTH December 17 1868
(Month) (Day) (Year)
7. AGE 59
Years Months Days (If less than 1 day hrs. min.)

8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work Secy. & Treasurer
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)
(c) Name of employer

9. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Quincy, Ill.
(State or Country)

10. NAME OF FATHER Wm. Clay ONLY
(City or Town) ...
(State or Country) ...

11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER ...
(City or Town) ...
(State or Country) ...

12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Elizabeth Malone
(City or Town) ...
(State or Country) ...

13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER ...
(City or Town) ...
(State or Country) ...

14. INFORMANT John W. Clay
(Personal signature with pen and ink)
P. O. Address 11042 Hermosa Ave.
Filed ...
P. O. Address ...

15. ...
P. O. Address ...

16. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I took charge of the remains of the deceased herein described, held an inquest thereon and from the evidence obtained find that said deceased came to his death on the date stated above and that the CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Hemorrhage & shock due to gunshot wounds of the chest & abdomen.
Murder
(Duration) ... yrs. ... mos. ... da.
Contributory (Secondary) ...
(Duration) ... yrs. ... mos. ... da.
INSURANCE ...
By Oscar Wolf, Coroner
JR Dorfman, Deputy Coroner
Address 500 - County Bldg.
Date Nov. 16 1928 Telephone 135339
*State the Disease Causing Death, or in deaths from Violent Suicide, or Accidental, (1) Cause, state, (2) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Sudden, or Spontaneous.

18. PLACE OF BURIAL ...
29. DATE 11/19/28

30. SIGNATURE ...

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MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING
WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADE INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD
Every item of information should be checked EXACTLY. CORONERS should state
V. S. J. A.
1909-1928
7197

Belle Star 1848-1889

Submitted by Barbara Brogdon

Found this article on Facebook.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Myra Maybelle Shirley Reed Starr (February 5, 1848– February 3, 1889), better known as Belle Starr, was a notorious American outlaw. Belle associated with the James–Younger Gang and other outlaws. She was convicted of horse theft in 1883. She was fatally shot in 1889 in a case that is still officially unsolved. Her story was popularized by Richard K. Fox—editor and publisher of the *National Police Gazette*—and she later became a popular character in television and films.

Belle Starr was born Myra Maybelle Shirley on her father's farm near Carthage, Missouri, on February 5, 1848. Most of her family members called her May. Her father, John Shirley, prospered raising wheat, corn, hogs and horses, though he was considered to be the "black sheep" of a well-to-do Virginia family which had moved west to Indiana, where he married and divorced twice. Her mother, Elizabeth "Eliza" Hatfield Shirley, was John Shirley's third wife and a distant relative to the Hatfields of the famous family feud. In the 1860s, Belle's father sold the farm and moved the family to Carthage, where he bought an inn, livery stable and blacksmith shop on the town square.

May Shirley received a classical education and learned piano, while graduating from Missouri's Carthage Female Academy, a private institution that her father had helped to found.



A particularly fine and hitherto unpublished photograph of Belle Starr. The original is now in the collection of Fred E. Sutton of Kansas City, who received it from his friend, the late William F. Carver, once called "The Evil Spirit of the Plains" and said to have been a tutor of the outlaw queen's.

During the Civil War

After a Union attack on Carthage in 1864, the Shirleys moved to Scyene, Texas. According to legend, it was at Scyene that the Shirleys became associated with a number of Missouri-born criminals, including Jesse James and the Younger brothers. In fact, she knew the Youngers and the James boys because she had grown up with them in Missouri. Her brother, John A.M. "Bud" Shirley, was called Captain Shirley by local Confederate sympathizers. He does not appear on any list of Quantrill's Raiders, but rode with a group who were called partisans by some and bushwhackers by Union sympathizers. Bud Shirley was killed in 1864 in Sarcoxie, Missouri while he and another scout were eating at the home of a Confederate sympathizer. Union troops surrounded the house, and when Bud attempted to escape, he was shot and killed.

After the Civil War

Allegedly, Belle was briefly married for three weeks to Charles Younger, uncle of Cole Younger in 1878, but this is not substantiated by any evidence. There are numerous claims that Belle's daughter Pearl Reed was actually Pearl Younger, but in Cole Younger's autobiography (quoted in Glen Shirley's "Belle Starr and her times"), he discounted that as rubbish and stated what he knew truly of Belle.

In 1880, she married a Cherokee man named Sam Starr and settled with the Starr family in the Indian Territory. There, she learned ways of organizing, planning and fencing for the rustlers, horse thieves and bootleggers, as well as harboring them from the law. Belle's illegal enterprises proved lucrative enough for her to employ bribery to free her cohorts from the law whenever they were caught.

In 1883, Belle and Sam were arrested by Bass Reeves, charged with horse theft and tried before "The Hanging Judge" Isaac Parker in Fort Smith, Arkansas; the prosecutor was United States Attorney W.H.H. Clayton. She was found guilty and served nine months at the Detroit House of Corrections in Detroit, Michigan. Belle proved to be a model prisoner, and during her time in jail, she won the respect of the prison matron. In contrast, Sam was incorrigible and assigned to hard labor.

Belle Star 1848-1889 (continued)

In 1886, she eluded conviction on another theft charge, but on December 17, Sam Starr was involved in a gunfight with Officer Frank West. Both men were killed, and Belle's life as an outlaw queen—and what had been the happiest relationship of her life—abruptly.

Unsolved murder

For the last two-plus years of her life, gossips and scandal sheets linked her to a series of men with colorful names, including Jack Spaniard, Jim French and Blue Duck, after which, in order to keep her residence on Indian land, she married a relative of Sam Starr, Jim July Starr, who was some 15 years younger than she was.

On February 3, 1889, two days before her 41st birthday, she was killed. She was riding home from a neighbor's house in Eufaula, Oklahoma when she was ambushed. After she fell off her horse, she was shot again to make sure she was dead. Her death resulted from shotgun wounds to the back and neck and in the shoulder and face. Legend says she was shot with her own double barrel shotgun.

According to Frank "Pistol Pete" Eaton, her death was due to different circumstances. She had been attending a dance. Frank Eaton had been the last person to dance with Belle Starr when Edgar Watson, clearly intoxicated, had asked to dance with her. When Belle Starr declined, he later followed her. When on the way home, she stopped to give her horse a drink at a creek, he shot and killed her. According to Frank Eaton, Watson was tried, convicted and executed by hanging for the murder.

However, another story says that there were no witnesses and that no one ever was convicted of the murder. Suspects with apparent motive included her new husband and both of her children as well as Edgar J. Watson, one of her sharecroppers, because he was afraid she was going to turn him in to the authorities as an escaped murderer from Florida with a price on his head. Watson, who was killed in 1910, was tried for her murder, but was acquitted, and the ambush has entered Western lore as "unsolved".

One source suggests her son, whom she had allegedly beaten for mistreating her horse, may have been her killer.

Children

Eddie Reed, Belle's son, was convicted of horse theft and receiving stolen property in July 1889. Judge Parker sent him to prison in Columbus, Ohio. Rosie Reed, Belle's daughter, also known as Pearl Starr, became a prostitute to raise funds for Eddie's release. She eventually obtained a presidential pardon in 1893. Eddie became a deputy in Fort Smith and killed two outlaw brothers named Crittenden in 1895, and was himself killed in a saloon in Claremore, Oklahoma on December 14, 1896.

Pearl operated several bordellos in Van Buren and Fort Smith, Arkansas, from the 1890s to World War I.

