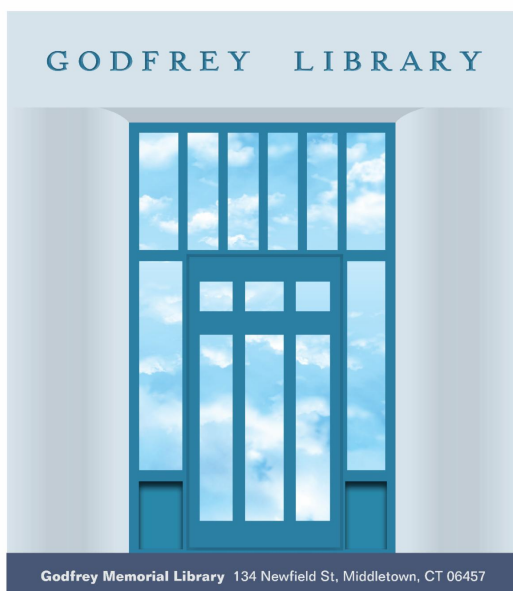


September 2022 | Number 3 Issue 1



This month's Genealogy Club presentation

On **Saturday, September 17**, Carol Whitmer will present

"Platting for Genealogical Gold : Using Land Records and Land Platting in Genealogical Research"

You've probably looked up land records and deeds for an ancestor, but have you ever gone the next step and actually platted them out? (i.e., actually drawn them out?) Why would you want to do this? How difficult is it? What extra information might you glean? Join Carol Whitmer, and she'll answer these questions and more as she demonstrates the fun and wonders of platting.

Carol Whitmer is a CG and a member of Godfrey's Board. She is also a principal, along with Diana McCain, of the firm "Come Home to Connecticut."

The Zoom presentation will take place at **1:30 pm (EDT)**.

Premium Godfrey Scholar members can register for free at the

Closed Saturday of Labor Day Weekend

We will be closed this Saturday, September 3 in honor of Labor Day Weekend.

Photographers needed

There's still plenty of lovely weather ahead of us for at least another month. It's the perfect time to become a **volunteer Laput Collection photographer**. We're particularly interested in Tolland and Windham Counties. If you're interested, give us a call (860-346-4375) and talk to Michael Steffman.

Click here to see a [list of cemeteries](#)

[added](#) to the collection over the last year or so. The total collection now stands at 1045 cemeteries!

Meet the Staff - Michael Steffman



Michael, Assistant Director, busy cataloging or inputting cemetery data

Michael Steffman ably takes care of all manner of "back room" library tasks here at the Godfrey. He came to us as an intern as part of his Masters program in Library and Information Science at the University of Syracuse, and he was so good, we wouldn't let him go! One of his most time-consuming tasks is overseeing the Laput Cemetery Collection project. He's been responsible for the uploading of dozens of cemeteries since his arrival, and he is currently working on and overseeing the tedious project of Quality Control--

following email: [GML GenClub Sept 2022](#)

If you are not a GML Premium member and want to view the presentation, you can pay \$10 via PayPal (click below), **then** return to this email and register at [GML GenClub Sept 2022](#).

Buy Now



Don't Miss the CSG Family History Seminar Day

October 15 -- **No GML Genealogy Club** this day as it is the Connecticut Society of Genealogists' Family History Seminar Day in North Haven, and we will be exhibiting there - drop by and say hello!

Recent Additions to Our Collection



[Click here](#) to see a list of materials we have cataloged and added to our collection since our last newsletter. (Note: some of these titles are not actually "new" to our collection, but may have been recataloged as part of our ongoing inventory process.)

proofreading thousands and thousands of lines of data to be sure it has all been input correctly.

Michael is also responsible for cataloging items that we add to our collection. Because our items are unique, this is often a challenging but interesting job, and a bit of a dying art.

Michael is married and has three cats. His wife teaches elementary school here in Middletown, where they live. He's hoping to take the BU genealogy principles course in the spring.

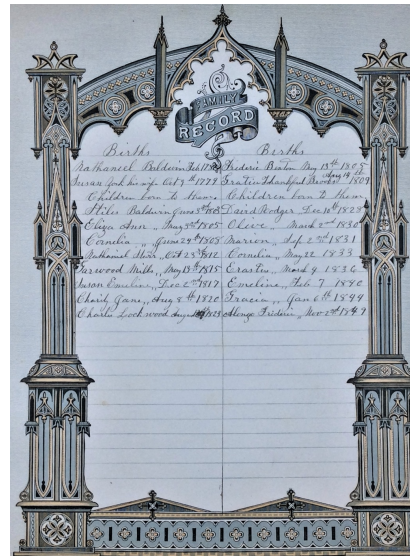
Don't Forget, We've Added a New Page to the Website

Need a refresher on how to search the Scholar? Want to revisit one of our Genealogy Club presentations? We've added a new section called "[Godfrey Videos](#)" which can be accessed under the "Events" tab.

More Bible Records online

We continue to add Bible records to our online collection. In addition to the individual family records we've digitized, we also have a set of records from the Jacquelyn Ricker collection, for a current grand total of 80 sets of family Bible records.

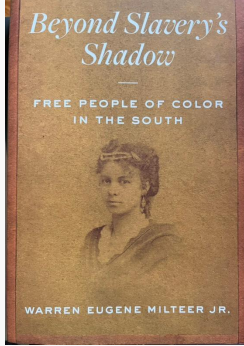
Miss a previous issue of our Newsletter? They can all be found archived on our [website](#).



Featured Resource Shelf

Beyond Slavery's Shadow: Free People of Color in the South by Warren Eugene Milteer, Jr.

We recently worked on a really interesting case which involved families in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. The lines included several free people of color. If you've ever done research on people of color, you're familiar with the 1870 road block;



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2021

1870 was the first U.S. census in which blacks were listed under their own names. Previous to that, things get more difficult. In 1850 and 1860 one can search the supplementary Slave Schedules, but enslaved people are listed with minimal information (age, gender, sometimes first name) under the name of their enslaver. However, one can sometimes find people named in the 1850 or 1860 censuses with full entries, first and last name, marked as "Black" or "Mulatto." These would be your free people of color.

In southern states in particular, they lived in an in-between world. They could own land and property, but could not vote. They could sue someone in court, but not testify against them. In some states, if they were manumitted they then had to leave the state or risk being imprisoned and sold again.

While Milteer tells the stories of several individual people of color, the bulk of his book is concerned with larger trends and patterns. That said, he makes it very clear that each situation was unique, being affected by factors including the geography, the socio-economic level and work skills of the individuals, and the existing laws of the time. He provides extensive notes and his bibliography runs to 38 pages and is divided into manuscripts, newspapers, and published primary and secondary sources--a researcher's dream. This is a group of people you may have been aware of, but if you're like me, you knew little about what their lives were really like. Read this book to find out.

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