

# OGS NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Oklahoma's Centennial Year 2007

November/December 2007

Volume 1, Issue 7

Oklahoma Genealogical Society -- Tips, Techniques, & Tidbits

President: Billie Fogarty

[BillieFogarty@aol.com](mailto:BillieFogarty@aol.com)

First VP: Ruth Moran

2nd VP: Jodie Cole

3rd VP: Fred Dittmar

Rec. Sec: Liz Coddling

Corres. Sec: Rosa Flipse

Treas: Walt Stoyanoski



*DECEMBER SPEAKER: Janelle Lee Miller, retired educator and library media specialist, will present new information about Oklahoma School Census Records at the OGS meeting December 3. Miller, member of First Families of the Twin Territories, and former board member of Oklahoma Genealogical Society, has a special interest in preservation of school records.*

## DIDJA KNOW?

**The Unassigned Lands were considered some of the best unoccupied public land in the United States**

## Why Save the Public School Records?

Janelle Miller became intrigued by school census records years ago when researching the early history of her alma mater, the Putnam City School District. After graduation, Miller served as school librarian, and later as District Director of Media services.

“When I went to the county courthouse to look at school records, they escorted me to a locked storeroom,” Miller said.

She found filing cabinets loosely organized and full of un-indexed small books, archived from the County Superintendent of Schools office, defunct since 1993.

“I went through those files and recognized it for the treasure trove it was,” she said.

Because taxes were based on school requirements, it became important to have accurate information about the number of children of school age living there. After statehood the governor appointed

a State Superintendent of Schools who designed a standardized school census form to be distributed each January.

“The census requested the full name of each child of school age, their age, place of birth, tribe and disability if applicable, and the name of the father, mother, guardian, or custodian,” Miller said.

She knew this information could be invaluable to a genealogist.

“Most records can be found somewhere in the county courthouse and cover the years 1912 to the 1960’s,” she said.

Some counties enumerated more than 200 school districts. Only a few counties have records before statehood, when compulsory public education became required.

Miller will explain what info is available online, and how to access the data online or in person.

**NOTE: NOVEMBER OGS MEETING IS CANCELLED DUE TO SCHEDULING PROBLEMS. NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 6 P.M. IN THE OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER CHESAPEAKE ROOM.**



**OKLAHOMA  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
(OGS)**

P. O. Box 12986  
Oklahoma City, OK  
73157-2986

Newsletter Editor:  
Carolyn B. Leonard  
carolynleonard@mac.com



**DEADLINE  
8 Jan 2008**

**Family Story Writing  
Contest**

**for more info,  
go to [okgensoc.org](http://okgensoc.org)**

We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

**<http://www.okgensoc.org/>**

AND we have a mailing list!

Send an email to:

**[ok-gen-soc-L-  
request@rootsweb.com](mailto:ok-gen-soc-L-request@rootsweb.com)**

... and put "subscribe"  
in the subject line.

The OGS Newsletter is published and distributed in January, March, May, July, September, and November.



**Billie Fogarty  
OGS President**

announced program by Janelle Lee

**Who are the Low Dutch?**



**Carolyn B. Leonard  
January 7, 2008**

Banta, Bergen, Bodine, Brewer, Demaree, Dorland, Duree, Cosart, Cozine, Monfort, Rider, Shuck, Smock, Terhune, VanArsdale, Van Nuys, Voris, and Westervelt are just a few of the surnames associated with the Kentucky Low Dutch Settlers, with many variations of spelling.

They called themselves Low Dutch because they were from the lowlands of the Netherlands, to distinguish from the Germans, who were also referred to as Dutchmen. Many French Huguenots, persecuted for their religious beliefs, escaped to Holland where they connected with the Low Dutch as well.

Most of the Low Dutch settled first in what is now New York City. After the English claimed New Amsterdam and renamed it for the Duke of York in the late 1600s, many migrated to New Jersey and in the 1700s to Conewago Colony in Pennsylvania, near present day Gettysburg. From there, this particular group moved on to the Kentucky frontier by the early 1800s and later scattered across the nation.

The Low Dutch remained close-knit for generations through the bond of their Dutch Reform church. It seemed almost a law to choose a mate from within the church, so the intertwined family groups continued to keep their unique Dutch traditions alive.

**November OGS Meeting Cancelled...**

We must sadly announce the cancellation of the OGS November general meeting due to scheduling conflicts. The

Miller will move to December 3, and the December one will be presented in January. The remaining 2008 programs will be announced soon.

It seems the new History Center is a very popular place for meetings and events these days. The Oklahoma Historical Society, parent of the History Center, desired to have a fund raising event and the only date open was on our regular meeting night. We got bumped!

Although originally told we could meet in the Research Library, that was not possible because we would not be allowed to use any door except the emergency exit from the microfilm reading room, and we could not use the bathrooms in the hallway. Since the emergency exit does not meet the requirements in the Americans With Disabilities Act we felt we had no choice but to cancel.

We apologize for the inconvenience, and will work very hard to keep our meetings from being disrupted again.

**Word Wise  
BANNS:**

The public announcement of an intended marriage. Usually read aloud in church for three Sundays prior to the actual wedding ceremony to allow anyone to raise any legal impediment.

**How to Reach the OHS**

The Oklahoma History Center (OHS) is located just across 23rd Street from the Governor's mansion. See the map online at [okgensoc.org](http://okgensoc.org) and click on \*meetings\*.

Regular OGS meetings are FREE and open to the public. Programs begin at 6:00 pm on the first Monday of each month in the Chesapeake room of Oklahoma History Center, 2401 N. Laird, OKC.

Genealogical assistance is available in the Research Library at 5:00 pm and the library remains open until 7:45 pm on OGS meeting nights.

**COMING ATTRACTIONS!**

Dec 3: Janelle Lee - *Locating the Oklahoma Public School Census.*

Jan 7: Carolyn B. Leonard - *The Low Dutch on the Kentucky Frontier.*

Feb 4: *To be announced.*