



WHO are you?

GENEALOGY ·N·E·W·S·



JULY 2019



July 10th Wednesday NO Meeting at the Library

2:30 PM --- Judicial Records Center TOUR

5 Hill Street Pawtucket 02860



If you have never had any reason to visit the Center for records, try to make it this time as our tour will give you a glimpse at the inner sanctum. **Andrew Smith**, *Archivist* will head our tour, giving us tips on how we can best use the archives to research court records.

The Judicial Records Center is one of the most fascinating archives as it houses documents for courts all over the state. Here you will find records that filtered in from every city and town, many dating back to the earliest time in Rhode Island. Not your state? Learn about how an archive of this size works and what you may research in the state of your choice...

See Grayce for time, *signup*, more information & directions.



August Meeting

4:30: Chat & Chew



**5:30:
Helen Smith
RIGS**

Helen Smith from the Rhode Island Genealogical Society will give a presentation on LDS's database, **"Family Search."** Test it out ahead of time so you can have your questions prepared, pen and paper ready in hand.

*Two roads diverged in a wood,
and I -- I took the one less
traveled by, and that has made
all the difference.*

~Robert Frost

The American Bald Eagle



It took a bit of research to locate the official reason why the American Bald Eagle became such a strong symbol of the USA. Finally, I located a fact sheet from the U.S. Department of State Dispatch (1996) that explained in detail how the Great Seal was designed. A resolution at the July 4, 1776 Continental Congress gave Franklin, Adams and Jefferson the responsibility of designing a seal. It took 6 years and combined efforts and in 1782 the seal was approved with the Eagle on the Obverse side. William Barton, a young lawyer from Philadelphia whose specialty was heraldry is important for his contribution of

Introducing the Eagle. It was a small crested white eagle. Later Charles Thomson, Secretary of Congress, 1782 – described as a person to “get the job done” chose the final design. He chose the design with a prominent eagle, changing the type of eagle to the native American Bald Eagle. (known only to North America). There were many iterations to the wings, and how and what the talons were holding. [Read the article](#) for further information and details.

Eagle image thank you to the Pennsylvania Game Commission website.



Mohr Library Genealogy Group

2nd Wednesday, 4:30 Special Program times vary

LIBRARY Hours

Mon–Thurs 9-8 ♦ Friday 9–6 ♦ Closed Saturdays—July, August

This newsletter is created and written by **Grayce Moorehead, MILS**

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Upcoming Programs of Interest

♥ July 8 @ 6pm

History Stories: Secret Spies & their secrets revealed

with Professor Beth Shinn [RWU, RIC]

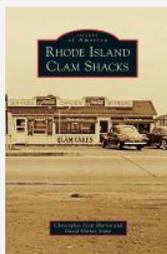
♥ July 15 @ 6pm **History Stories:**

Famous and infamous Women with Professor Beth Shinn [RWU, RIC]

We are starting to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the vote for women, the 19th Amendment. Learn about some characters of the time.

♥ July 22 @ 6pm **History Stories: Unsung Heroes: Reformers of 1800's America**

with Professor Beth Shinn [RWU, RIC]



♥ July 16 @ 7pm
Author Visit: Rhode Island Clam Shacks with authors Christopher Scott Martin and David Norton Stone

Local authors have compiled a fascinating collection of places to get (or where you used to get) seafood in an "Images of America" sure to please book.

Try a relaxing Craft Class

♥ July 29 5:30pm

Glass Painting with Loraine DiLorenzo

♥ July 30 5:30pm

Paper Artistry with Carolyn Leon

♥ July 31 5:30pm

Rock Painting with Grayce

I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend.

Attributed to:
Thomas Jefferson
3rd President



America the Beautiful

*O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain
America, America, God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea .*



According to "Songwriters Hall of Fame" website, Poetess Katherine Lee Bates (1859-1929) is best known for her lyrics to America the Beautiful. [Samuel A. Ward wrote the music]. "America the Beautiful" first appeared in print in the weekly journal *The Congregationalist*, on July 4, 1895. Bates was professor of English literature at Wellesley College, Massachusetts.

Symbols of the United States

If you are like me and dozens of others, one of those things you say to yourself that you would like to do and never seem to find the time to do – check out all those symbols on our dollar bills.

The front and back of the Great Seal of the United States is most fascinating,



...and the seal is shown on the back of the one dollar bill, both front and back.

I did find a terrific website that explains *ALL the details* of the "seal" the Eye of Providence, the pyramid and other symbols. I suggest you check it out:

http://s3.imagediver.org/topic/album/4294b0e/one_dollar_bill_5/1/index.html

If you want a quick version, the "statesymbolsusa.org" website had a brief description:

Symbols on Obverse of The Great Seal

Eagle: In the center of the seal is a bald eagle. The eagle holds a scroll in its beak inscribed with our original motto: "E Pluribus Unum," which is Latin for "one from many" or "one from many parts" (one nation created from 13 colonies). The eagle grasps an olive branch in its right talon and a bundle of thirteen arrows in its left. The olive branch and arrows are symbols for the power of peace and war.

Shield: A shield with thirteen red and white stripes covers the eagle's breast. The shield is supported solely by the American eagle as a symbol that Americans rely on their own virtue. The red and white stripes of the shield represent the states united under and supporting the blue, which represents the President and Congress. The color white is a symbol of purity and innocence; red represents hardiness and valor; and blue signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Cloud: Above the eagle's head is a cloud surrounding a blue field containing thirteen stars which form a constellation. The constellation denotes that a new State is taking its place among other nations.

Symbols on Reverse of The Great Seal

Pyramid: The seal's reverse side contains a 13-step pyramid with the year 1776 in Roman numerals at the base (the year independence was declared).

Eye: At the top of the pyramid is the Eye of Providence with the Latin motto "Annuit Coeptis" in the sky above - meaning "It [the Eye of Providence] is favorable to our undertakings" or "He favors our undertakings."

Scroll: Below the pyramid, a scroll reads "Novus Ordo Seclorum" - Latin for "New Order of the Ages." which refers to 1776 as the beginning of the American new era.



Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library

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