

Title of Session: Frazel Features - Caring About History

Moderator: Midge Frazel

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Room: After School Online

BJB2: Welcome to today's Frazel Features!

MidgeF peering around crowd to see everyone clearly

CaroleMc waves the Australian flag

MidgeF: Tonight (in case you are me) and tomorrow (in case you are Carole)...

MidgeF: I thought we'd discuss a topic dear to my heart...gravestone projects

CaroleMc applauds

MidgeF: I never cared much about history until I found out how much I have in my family

MidgeF: I wrote an article for LMC last January called Gravestone Reflections

CaroleMc queries LMC

MidgeF: Based on some work I did in one of my grad classes

MidgeF: LMC is Library Media Connections published by Linworth Publications

MidgeF: www.linworth.com

MidgeF: One of my hobbies is photographing gravestones of my ancestors (and other people's too)

MidgeF: First, I need to give you the URL of the Cemetery Web page

MidgeF: <http://www.MidgeFrazel.net/cemetery.html>

CaroleMc: okay I'll have a look at that

MidgeF: On my main page, there is a link to my Gravestone blog, "Granite in my Blood"

MidgeF: So...Carole..what interested you in coming to this session?

CaroleMc: wow I didn't know you could search for cemeteries and graves online, I am really into Genealogy this summer...

CaroleMc: I have researched my family tree back to the 1600

MidgeF: All in Australia?

CaroleMc: would like to know how to research further into my British heritage and obtain photos and artifacts

MidgeF: My first online genealogy teacher was from there...

CaroleMc considers doing an online genealogy course - what would you recommend?

MidgeF: Book: Tracing Your Family Tree in England, Ireland and Wales

MidgeF: I took a course through MyFamily some time back but those people have formed their own company

MidgeF: Can't find it right now...

CaroleMc: My great Uncle, William Adrian Allery, did some tracing back in 1924 and he though we had a legitimate claim to the Angell Estate in Surrey, England.

MidgeF: Got it... <http://www.genclass.com/>

CaroleMc: I have the book called 'discovering your English ancestors' and I've been watching a UK-TV program called "Who do you think you are"

CaroleMc: great thanks for the link

MidgeF I took the Scottish class...

MidgeF: Anyway, working with American gravestones and genealogy is easy compared to working with the "old country"

MidgeF: Finding records online (and graveyards) is harder for other places.

MidgeF: I have researched one branch of my family back to Scotland and the records are there but they are expensive.

CaroleMc: Midge, where are your ancestors from in Scotland?

MidgeF: Aberdeen and Dalbeattie area

MidgeF: My grandparents came through Ellis Island.

CaroleMc: Yes, I've found it expensive too and try to do everything online for free.

CaroleMc: My husband is Scottish and I'll be wanting to trace his history next.

MidgeF: The records are wonderful (death records especially) (OK that sounds wierd)

MidgeF: So, I see a link about Digital storytelling on your profile

CaroleMc: I have found the Census records to be most helpful

CaroleMc: Yes, DST is my passion

MidgeF: Do you plan to make digital stories about your family or is this just for fun?

CaroleMc: I have begun making stories for and of my family members, one each for the eldest sisters and several for the grandchildren

MidgeF: I made a movie about the area where I went as a child and posted it to YouTube for my video class.

CaroleMc: now I want to 'write' my family history and include digital videos, yes I too have posted mine to You Tube

MidgeF: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEFuFxRvFIM>

CaroleMc: excellent, I'll just find a link for you too

MidgeF: So, BJ must have told you about my genealogy hobby and that's why you came to this chat?

CaroleMc: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vg0TpcH-Cys>

CaroleMc: yes that's right, I keep in touch with Bj from time to time

CaroleMc: listening to your wonderful music in your story

MidgeF: I have made it a favorite video so I can enjoy it later.

MidgeF: I used Movie Maker and some free music from Amazon

CaroleMc: do you have some digital movies of your Gravestone Reflections

CaroleMc: nicely done, Midge, loved the movie

MidgeF: I have video-ed two graveyards but not made a movie of my favorite gravestones as yet

MidgeF: I am job hunting now that I have my Master's

MidgeF: But, that's a cool idea. If you email me, I can send you the article.

CaroleMc: thanks I'll do that

MidgeF: I'm glad you liked my movie. I had a lot of class requirements to meet and did three others too.

MidgeF: and I can send you Hall Davison's URL for his presentation too.

MidgeF: He talked about adding photos to Google Earth and making "trips" out of them.

CaroleMc: I'm keen to combine my passion for storytelling and genealogy, writing and teaching, mentoring and coaching. and using Web 2.0 tools. ...

MidgeF: I came home and upgraded my Google Earth to work on it.

MidgeF: I think your country is ahead of us here using this with students

CaroleMc: I like using MovieMaker2, so it would be great to use some Google Earth pics in a story/ How do you capture a Google earth image

MidgeF: There is an export to jpg...

CaroleMc nods

MidgeF: Kathy Schrock says she will teach me more as she gets ahead of me all the time

CaroleMc smiles

CaroleMc: so getting back to the gravestones, you said you take photos, is that just for you or do you do that for others too?

MidgeF: But, when I am not job hunting, I like experimenting with the Web 2.0 tools. I joined Facebook today.

MidgeF: I do take gravestones mostly for myself.

MidgeF: But, I have been sharing them with other family members who visit my blog.

MidgeF: I ordered a new digital camera today

CaroleMc: excellent, what camera have you chosen?

MidgeF: I'd like to write more about my family. I did start on a narrative on the plane to Florida.

MidgeF: Sony Cyber-shot DSC-W100

CaroleMc: Me too, I think I'll enroll in the next Genealogy course online - there's one starting on Feb 1 about 'Writing a Family History'. I use a Sony Cybershot (older model)

MidgeF: Most of my family stayed in New England so the earliest stones are very weather beaten and broken

MidgeF trying not to take another course....and not job hunt

MidgeF: Camera I have now is a P32

MidgeF: It still works but is only 3.2 megapixels

MidgeF: I have promised my husband that I will not take over the stones I have done

CaroleMc: I am inspired now to do some digital photography in a local cemetery - to create a sample movie about family history - I'll need to use my husband's Canon EOS digital SLR camera for better shots.

MidgeF: I have a "cousin he's my 10th cousin, who lives in CT who is creating CDs of gravestone photos with pages of genealogy too.

MidgeF: It is good to work with "non-family" so you are not distracted by being excited to find your own ancestors.

CaroleMc: I think it is an activity that many are doing worldwide - digital scrapbooking - a new hobby

MidgeF: I have photographed some local stones.

CaroleMc: when you say 'stones' do you mean 'headstones'

MidgeF: I did find out (from my professor) that this works with at risk students as a project

MidgeF: Well, yes, most are headstones.

CaroleMc: what a great idea for a youth project, I'll pass that on to my colleague who has been using DST for youth at risk

MidgeF: But many New England families have a whole cemetery of their own with a big single stone and smaller markers

CaroleMc: wow, that's cool, how do you get access to those private cemeteries?

MidgeF: On that cemetery page are two project outlines for teachers.

CaroleMc looking now

MidgeF: Mostly, they are not gated.

MidgeF: But, I did find one that is locked and I was lucky to find it open. I'd like to go back.

CaroleMc: hmm lucky find

MidgeF: I started this for a book I wrote on using genealogy in the classroom

MidgeF: That's published by Linworth too.

MidgeF: Links to the Past

CaroleMc: one of my DST students in South Australia produced a wonderful movie called 'Highgate' I'll see if I can find a link to that one - he includes some wonderful special effects to get an eerie feel about this tour of Highgate cemetery

MidgeF: Did you get to hear Kathy Schrock speak when she went to Australia?

MidgeF knows this is a big country....

CaroleMc: I don't know Kathy Schrock

MidgeF: OK. She's spoken there twice on educational technology. Her Web site is hosted by Discovery (school house on my page)

MidgeF: My next chat is about Thomas Edison (who made wonderful movies) that are out in the public domain now

CaroleMc: excellent, I'll check that out, may be a good one to include in our national online conferences

BJB2: February 27

MidgeF gulp, will come up fast.

MidgeF: Edison is one of my heroes.

MidgeF: I'm trying to learn to make DVDs and bought Easy CD Creator 9 for myself but I am not making a lot of progress as yet

CaroleMc: My colleague recommended using Nero but I still need to purchase a DVD burner

MidgeF: I want them to play in my DVD player with the TV. It's harder than I thought.

MidgeF: My new laptop has a burner. I can make DVDs easy but not the ones with the menus and such to play on the TV.

CaroleMc: yes you're right, it takes a bit of work and you have to know the software well, I've yet to try - but many of my workshop participants want to be able to show their stories on their TV, with easy to use menus

MidgeF: My daughter and son-in-law loved my first movie...

MidgeF: I'd like to make one about the place where the Pilgrims landed here in Massachusetts.

MidgeF: plus I can get lobster for dinner

CaroleMc: I think that digital stories will be the next wave in preserving family history, local history and national history - beauty of the software available now is that folks can do them for themselves

CaroleMc: Lobster?

MidgeF: Yes, there was a lot of buzz at this conference I went to and will be even more at the national one in June in Atlanta

CaroleMc: Is that the Digital Storytelling conference you're referring too, or something else?

MidgeF: It's an education technology conference

CaroleMc nods

MidgeF: I guess my Digital Story telling folder is in my other browser

CaroleMc: I am going to have fun exploring the 'Aladdin's cave of links' you provide on your cemetery website. thanks for those.

MidgeF: But I do have more on

MidgeF: <http://www.MidgeFrazel.net/video.html>

MidgeF: I am having trouble getting everything done (and still not making money!)

MidgeF: Well, I guess we should close. Nice to make a new genealogy buddy. Email me!

CaroleMc: yes I know that scenario very well, Midge, I am an independent elearning consultant and the Summer months are very lean

MidgeF: Oh, Plymouth is on the waterfront of Massachusetts where good food is served

MidgeF: So, BJ, should I close?

CaroleMc: excellent to talk with you today Midge, I see in your /video.html page that you are interested in eportfolios too, would love to chat further with you about those via email.

MidgeF: Sure...

CaroleMc: thanks for the 'private session' today, kept me engaged the whole hour

MidgeF: Easy...

BJB2 . o O (I told you you would enjoy meeting Midge, Carole!)

CaroleMc: Bye for now, thanks for the tip Bj

MidgeF: Yes, BJ thanks...easy session!

MidgeF: Goodnight..sweet granite dreams