



JACKSONVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 24, NO. 1

January - February 2008

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MISSION STATEMENT:

To promote the sharing of genealogical knowledge;
to provide assistance to members and the public;
to foster preservation of historical records;
and to champion and sustain ethical genealogical standards.

Membership Meetings

The Society meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at the Webb-Wesconnett Library, 6887 103rd Street, Jacksonville, Florida.

Membership Meeting - 19 Jan 2008

Our speaker on 19 January 2008 will be Dr. Carolyn Williams, Associate Professor of History at University of North Florida. She will speak on "From Slavery to Freedom: African American Migration from Fort George Island to Jacksonville, 1870-1910." Her presentation will focus on information uncovered from census reports and other documents about the transition of African Americans who moved from plantations on Fort George Island to settlements in Arlington and other communities of Jacksonville in the first decades after the Civil War. Family life, work, education and residential patterns will be discussed.

Spring Seminar 2008 - 16 Feb 2008

NOTE: We will not be having our membership meeting in Feb. We will be having our all-day Seminar on 16 Feb 2008. We have invited Genealogist, Lecturer, Instructor, and Researcher Ann Mohr Osisek to be our speaker and she has accepted. It will be held at the Westside Christian Church at 10123 Normandy Blvd. Committees are forming so please be sure to sign up to help. Mark your calendars now for a day of wonderful knowledge building. You will find the flyer with the registration form in this newsletter.

We are also planning on having a "Trading Post" at the Seminar. If you have any "slightly used" genealogy materials, such as books, CDs, magazines, etc. that you are no longer using (or that you bought 2 of <g>), please

consider donating them to the Society for the "Trading Post". We will add the raised monies to our general fund. Please bring what you have to donate to the January meeting.

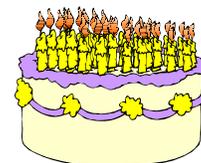
2008 Dues Are Now Due

If you have not remitted your payment of dues for 2008, we urge you to do so, promptly. Our calendar year is January through December; therefore, dues for 2008 are due now.

Please complete the enclosed Membership Application so that we will have your current information in our membership database. Thank you for your continued support.

Happy Birthday!

We send a "Happy Birthday" to our members who are celebrating in January and February:



| | |
|--------|----------------------|
| Jan 08 | Roberta Dill |
| Jan 15 | Suzanne Rosenblum |
| Jan 16 | Martha Lynn Comiskey |
| Jan 30 | Eduardo Bermudez |
| Feb 7 | Kathy Balistreri |
| Feb 13 | Lorraine Robinson |
| Feb 13 | Pamela Oglesby |
| Feb 18 | Alane LaMee |
| Feb 26 | Laura Wareh |
| Feb 27 | Joan Peck |

Spring Genealogy Class "Researching in a Straight Line --- Backwards"

The next Society sponsored genealogy class will be held **3, 10, 24, 31 May and 7 Jun 2008**. This class is great for the beginner and for the experienced researcher looking for a refresher course. The flyer with registration form is enclosed.

Notes from our Members

Tina Frady wrote: "We heard from **Clare Montalto** this Christmas (her husband, Pedine, was from one of the old Italian families here in town that we are very close to) and were glad to find out that she is living in Connecticut with her daughter. Pedine died very suddenly last year or the year before and for a while we didn't know what happened to Clare. Fortunately, our card to her was forwarded and she sent back a nice note saying that she was doing fine.

I don't know if many people remember Clare--she is a very slight, frail lady and very quiet. She had been ill and had not made it to many meetings in the last couple of years. Pedine drove her to meetings most of the time--he was a very friendly, big Italian guy with a hearty laugh--nice, nice man.

She is a Pioneer Florida descendent many times over and I believe even has relatives from counties that don't exist anymore. She had done a lot of work in that area."

Dick Cardell wrote: Please remind everyone of the Northeast Florida Highland Games in Green Cove Springs, Saturday, Feb 23. I will be at the genealogy table and could use some volunteers. Please contact him gen32207@yahoo.com

The Board sends a "Thank You" to everyone who helped set up and clean up for the November meeting - especially Carole Barry, who has worked very hard as Refreshments Coordinator these last few months. Thank You!

Membership and Telephone Committee Request

If your Email address, phone number, or postal address changes, please be sure to let Tina Frady, Membership Chair, and/or Norma LeVey, Telephone Sub-committee Chair, know as soon as possible. Their contact information is below in the list of Board Members for 2008.

A Special Thank You!

Marge Gray, founder of the JGS Online, the Society's online newsletter, has retired from the position after many years of service. "Thank you", Marge, for starting such a wonderful way of keeping in contact with our members in-between our printed newsletter. The position is being ably handled now by our Publicity Chair, Jim Laird. Welcome Jim.

African-American Genealogical Records

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As we prepare to celebrate the upcoming birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King on Monday, January 21, 2008 and Black History Month in February, this seems an appropriate time to highlight the growing interest in genealogical research among African-Americans. Some of the most useful sources for locating information include the following:

1. Federal census data from 1870-1920 is of most value to researchers in African-American research. Prior to 1870, slaves were only listed in special "slave censuses". Unless your African-American ancestors lived in the northern states, other sources must be consulted.
2. Freedman's Bureau records: The main services offered were recording of slave marriages that took place prior to the Emancipation Proclamation and creating a special banking system for former slaves.
3. Courthouses records: Probate and chancery court records are excellent sources for identifying slaves. If a person died and left a will, slaves who were passed on to heirs were identified by first names.
4. Slave narratives: Although very few slaves could read or write at the time of the Emancipation Proclamation, many learned to do so in the years and decades that followed. In the New Deal era, the Works Project Administration hired workers to interview as many former slaves still living as possible. Not all surviving slaves were willing to talk, but they may have written about their experiences or kept diaries that were shared with family members.
5. Church records: In most cases, their church was an integral part of African American family life and social structure.
6. Home Sources: Information contained in family bibles, diaries, letters, and photographs that may exist somewhere (perhaps hidden) around a family member's home may contain valuable clues. Family

bibles may contain family information that may not exist in official records. While African-Americans were included in the vital records that were compiled by various states by the late nineteenth century, it was midwives, rather than doctors, who delivered many African-American babies. Thus, in many cases, birth certificates were not issued. Old photographs can also be helpful, especially if the people in the pictures are identified and the date when the photograph was taken is noted.

7. Military records: African-Americans have fought in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, various Indian Wars, Civil War, Spanish-American War, and both World Wars.

Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian
 Fort Myers-Lee County Library
 2050 Central Avenue
 Fort Myers, FL 33901-3917

Ancestry.com's Latest Additions

Have you looked up your ancestors in some of the newest databases on Ancestry.com? Here are a few new or recently updated databases:

U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925. According to their website, the database contains "U.S. passport applications from 1795-1925, including emergency passport applications (passports issued abroad) from 1877-1907. It also contains passport application

registers for 1810-1817, 1830-1831, and 1834-1906. Passport applications often include information regarding an applicant's family status, date and place of birth, residence, naturalization (if foreign-born), and other biographical information. Twentieth-century applications often include marriage and family information as well as dates, places, and names of ships used for travel."

1930 Census of Merchant Seamen. From their website it contains "enumerated merchant seamen serving on U.S. flag merchant vessels on a special Merchant Seamen schedule. Seamen who were to be enumerated on this special schedule were all persons aboard ship, except officers who had regular or fixed places of abode ashore."

They have also updated the Census Indexes for 1910 and 1920.

Remember you can access Ancestry's Library Edition through any of the libraries in Duval County. Even without a subscription, Ancestry has a good number of free databases. From the home page, under "More Collections", click on "See all databases". The free ones are noted by the word "Free" next to the database name.

Have fun!

OFFICERS, STANDING AND APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN (terms expiring at end of 2009):

| | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------|
| President | Mary S. Chauncey | 904-781-9300 |
| First Vice President/Membership Chairman | Tina M. Frady | 904-695-9139 |
| Telephone Sub-Committee Chairman | Norma J. LeVey | 904-264-5614 |
| Second Vice President/Publicity Chairman | James S. Laird | 904-264-0743 |
| Recording Secretary | Anne Morabito | 904-695-9139 |
| Corresponding Secretary | Kathy Balistreri | 904-721-7630 |
| Treasurer | Harlan A. Dittman | 904-778-0213 |
| Editor/Publications Chairman | Vacant | |
| Historian | Richard Cardell | 904-730-2128 |
| Program Chairman | Grace B. Moran | 904-384-3847 |
| Education Chairman | C. Ann Staley | 904-771-1865 |
| Genealogical Research Chairman | Barbara Crissman | 904-768-8166 |
| Lineage Charts Sub-Committee Chairman | Barbara Crissman | 904-768-8166 |
| Finance Chairman | Vacant | |
| Parliamentarian | Richard Cardell | 904-730-2128 |

Meetings and Seminars Of interest

Looking for something "different" to do one weekend, check the Florida State Genealogical Society website calendar <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsgs/calendar.htm>> to see if there is another genealogy meeting or seminar in the area that you might like to attend. Most Genealogical Societies have meetings that are open to the public. If in doubt, just check with the contact person listed in the announcement. Other area seminars include:

January 26, 2008; Pinellas Genealogy Society; Pinellas Genealogy Society Annual Seminar; 8 a.m-3 p.m.; Largo Public Library, 120 Central Park Drive, Largo, FL 33771; Speaker: Rhonda R. McClure; Topics: "The Golden Door Has Locks: The Detaining of Immigrants to the United States", "New England Research: Resources and Repositories", "Old and New: Combining the Best of the Internet and Traditional Research", and "Finding Your Famous and Infamous Ancestors"; Cost: \$30/members; \$35/non-members - Lunch NOT Included; Food: \$6.00 - prepaid deluxe box lunch; cafe on premises for late registrants; Contact: Pat Strait, Seminar Chair; pstrait1@juno.com Website: www.rootsweb.com/~flpgs Info: Friends of Largo Library provide continental breakfast. Hampton Inn and Suites in Largo is holding a block of rooms for attendees. The Inn is within walking distance of the library and 3.5 miles from the Gulf. For more information, call (727) 585-3333 and mention the PGS group block. You must book by January 29, 2008.

March 1, 2008; Tallahassee Genealogical Society; Annual Spring Seminar; 8:30 AM Registration, 9 AM - 4 PM Seminar; Ramada Inn North, Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL; Speaker: Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak; Topics: 1) Trace Your Roots with DNA, 2) Beyond Y-DNA Your Genetic Genealogy, 3) Cases That Made My Brain Hurt, 4) Reverse Genealogy Techniques for Finding Your Lost Loved Ones; Cost: \$55 (Members), \$65 (Non-Member) if paid by January 29, 2008; Food: Lunch; Contact: Melody Porter at tgstreasurer@gmail.com or (229) 479-4651; Website: www.talgen.org Info: Registration form are available online at www.talgen.org

Have a Happy, Safe New Year.

JACKSONVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 60756
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32236-0756

Website: <http://jaxgen.home.comcast.net>
Email: jaxgen@comcast.net