



# JACKSONVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. 24, NO. 3

May-June 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at the Webb-Wesconnett Library, 6887 103rd Street, Jacksonville, Florida.

#### Membership Meeting – 17 May 2008

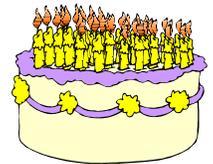
We were unable to procure a speaker for May. So we are going to have a “round table” discussion meeting beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Webb-Wesconnett Library. In the past these have been successful in helping members and interested folks in solving family history roadblocks, or walls, as they are sometimes called. The sharing of ideas and so forth by others to see how or what they may have done to further their research. So plan to attend and share your ideas.

#### Membership Meeting- 21 June 2008

Our regular June meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. at the Webb-Wesconnett Branch Library. Ann Staley, JGS's certified genealogist will be presenting a program, “Heritage Quest Online—The Ins and Outs”. Heritage Quest Online is available—Free—to Duval County residents holding a Public Library card. Not only is it Free, but you can access it from your home. The presentation will show how to use the collection and examples of some of the many records available. We will be using the digitized Books collection (over 22,000), Persi(index only), Freedman;s Savings and Trust Company(1865-1874) Records, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application files, U.S. Congressional, Serial Set, and the U.S. Federal Census collections. On all but Persi, you will have access to digital, searchable images. Come join the fun as we explore a fantastic resource.

### Happy Birthday!

We send a "Happy Birthday" to our members who are celebrating in May and June:



May 09	Lee Weiland
May 24	Eunice Jones
May 27	Marie Santry
May 27	Ralph McQuiddy
May 31	Margaret Wolson
June 06	Georgeann Engel
June 08	Tom George
June 15	Jean Bish
June 16	Kay Swilley Poplin

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

The next Society sponsored genealogy class will be held **10, 24, 31 May and 7 and 14 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. Fall Class dates are being worked out as your read this letter.

### Notes from our Members

Our deepest sympathies go to the entire Crissman family over the passing of Mr. Crissman's sister.

We hope, that Gloria Southerd and James Elliott are feeling better now.

As mentioned in the JGS on-line, a special thank you to Eddie Ansley who undauntedly is doing all the typing of seven volumes of quarterlies so that proofreading can be

done. I hope she will still talk to me after she completes this project. Rae Oliver and Joan Peck have also done excellent work in typing material for the project. Marge Gray and Rosemary Mordock, have done proof reading for the project. Currently, Grace Moran, Kathy Balistreri and Harlan Dittman are sacrificing their eyesight for proof reading more material on this project. There is more to do if you would care to volunteer.

### **Membership and Telephone Committee Request**

(I don't think the following can be stressed enough!!!!)

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!**

It is time we said something nice about Grace Moran. I am not sure, but think, she has probably held every position on the Society's board. Now, alone, standing tall, as always, she has the task of finding speakers for our monthly meetings. That is a job that is a good deal harder than many think. She does it superbly. Thank You Grace.

### **African-American Genealogical Records**

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( I am going to leaves this for one more issue as well.)  
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

#### **MICELLANEOUS; BUT STILL IMPORTANT!**

Negotiations Breakdown – Our people met with Ann Staley's people in an attempt to re-negotiate her "volunteer" contract as Editor of the JGS newsletter. The nerve of some people; she said no. No matter she's done it for a whole bunch of years; no matter she was a great editor; and no matter she has 4 or 6 or 8 other things to do for the society. Nope. She just says no and gets on a plane for Salt Lake City. I guess now all we can do is say Thank You Ann, Very Much, for all your hard work.

Silence is golden –yes, in some instances, I agree. However, organizations and their newsletters, work better

with ideas, comments and news items. Let the editor know. It is, after all, your society and your newsletter. Same is true for the JGS On-Line.

With that as a segway, from JGS On-Line, there is this: The May-June Society newsletter will be sent, this time, via e-mail, using the JGS On-Line e-mail address. Ann Staley assures us that beginning with the July-August society newsletter, this publication will go to the JGS website and be password protected for members only. As Ann does a superb job maintaining our society's website, she will make this transition a smooth one. As always, those JGS members without an e-mail address will continue to receive the newsletter using the USPS.

More and More, genealogical and historical societies, as well as other organizations are using electronic-cyberspace communication for a variety of reasons. Two reasons are the increase price of paper products and the

increase in price of mailing costs. Another reason is that all genealogical and historical societies, as well as other organizations, use only volunteers. In many cases it is easier for one or two people or even a group of folks doing society work, to sit at a computer, in their spare time, than to have to "assemble" volunteers in one place at one time for specific projects. I know in my own case, four of the six societies I belong to are using computers exclusively. Monies collected are therefore used to publish books or work on special yearly projects.

A Wish Comes True For Tina. – A wonderful sight to behold; the large smile on the bright, shining face of Tina Frady as her "field trip" wish becomes a reality. In August, to Orange Park, to visit with Claude Bass and at the Clay County Archives. More on this trip later.

#### 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	Jim Laird	904-264-0743
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:

#### GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SEMINAR.

Saturday, May 24, 2008

10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Fort Myers-Lee County Library

Speakers: Dr. John LaCoste, Professional Genealogist, Research Fellow, New York Genealogical and Biographical Record and Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County Library.

Discussion Topic: Genealogical research involves gathering data from a wide variety of official sources. Genealogists also gather information from family members, neighbors, schools, and churches. With such a variety of sources and the

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passage of time, it is inevitable that conflicts will arise with regards to facts. This seminar is designed to present methods for evaluating the accuracy and reliability of information gathered as you progress through the research process. Registration: Call (239) 479—4635 or e-mail Bryan Mulcahy at [bmulcahy@leegov.com](mailto:bmulcahy@leegov.com). All programs are free and open to the public.

**GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SEMINAR**

Saturday, June 14, 2008

Session One: 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.; Session Two: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Genealogical Internet & Print Resources at Fort Myers-Lee County Library

Session One is: Fort Myers Collection Overview and Services. Session Two is : Database Demonstration.

Speakers: Dr. John LaCoste, Professional Genealogist, Research Fellow-New York Genealogical and Biographical Record and Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Fort Meyers-Lee County Library.

This seminar will feature a demonstration of how to use the updated Lee County Library System Homepage and several prominent other research homepages. Attendees will receive a copy of the study guide which features some of the most popular genealogical research websites. Registration: Call (239) 479-4635 or e-mail Bryan Mulcahy at [bmulcahy@leegove.com](mailto:bmulcahy@leegove.com). All programs are free and open to the public.

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