



JACKSONVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 27, NO. 2

March-April 2011

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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.

--Seminar Critique--

March 26th, 2011 will be a meeting held to critique our seminar. This is similar to the meeting we held in June 2010. In addition to a critique of the seminar, we wish to continue to receive ideas regarding topics of interest to our members. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE IN MEETING DATE.

--Karen Rhodes--

On April 16, 2011 we are lucky to have as our speaker, Karen Rhodes. Her topic: Paleography. The presentation covers both Spanish and English, mainly because the letter forms are quite similar, and some of the abbreviations are also quite similar. She will show examples of both Spanish and with documents in Spanish dating from about 1526 and English from 1604, and then move into

later colonial and early American periods. Karen will also cover briefly the training and tools of the scribes and some of the basic principles of reading and transcribing old handwriting as well as the writing itself.

--Melody Porter--

May 21, 2011 we will have Melody Porter with us. Her program, "Melody Is An Indian," will most certainly be of interest to many.

You may recall that Melody was our speaker on two other occasions, where she discussed the Pioneer Certificate program of the Florida State Genealogical Society and her second program s regarding research in Georgia Court Houses. Both programs were extremely interesting and we know this program will indeed be excellent.

--George Bass--

June 18, 2011 we will bring back Mr. George Bass. You will remember Mr.

Bass presented a program about using GPS in genealogy research. Rave reviews come to Mr. Bass in his presentation offered to us this time, "World War II Photograph Album."

--Debra Fleming--

July 16, 2011 we will have Debra Fleming as our speaker. Her topic will be "The Three D's, Deeds, Death and Divorce." Debra is managing member and speaker of the Ancestry Detective, LLC, from Lakeland, Florida. Her presentation will be also be extremely informative.

---Grace continues to work hard to bring all of us interesting speakers and programs. Often there are numerous difficulties to overcome. Grace meets the challenge each and every time and deserves much applause. ---

For any additional information any of these meetings please feel free to contact: Jim Laird, (904-264-0743).

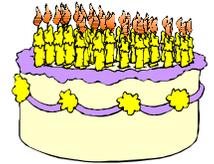
Let us not forget Ann Staley's Genealogy classes:

Ann's five-session Genealogy Class, featuring research in the U.S. will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Room C at the Webb-Wesconnett Branch Library, 6887 103rd Street, Jacksonville, FL. Classes will be held on Saturday's. Dates will be: **May 21 and 28 and June 4, 11, and 25, 2011.** Be sure to mark your

calendars. There is no other word for Ann's classes than: EXCELLENT.

There is no charge to attend these classes and free parking is available at the Library.

Happy Birthday!



We send a "Happy Birthday" to our members who are celebrating in March and April:

March 1	Lisa Broddle
March 12	Christine Pataranick
March 14	Barbara Carpenter
March 17	Mary McCool
March 22	Mary Craft
March 26	Marion Parvin
March 30	Nancy McPherson
April 9	Grace Moran
April 9	Norma LeVey
April 23	Kathleen Krizek
April 26	Carolyn Hartman

If I have forgotten anyone I am sorry; also, please, let me know.

Membership and Telephone Committee

This committee is Ramona Remy and Jim Laird. If you wish to help out in this area contact either one of us. Also please keep in mind that if you have an address change, a phone number change and/or an e-mail change let us know as soon as possible.

We need a new Corresponding Secretary. Ramona Remy is presently holding down

that position as well as First Vice-President/Membership Chairman.

We need a new Recording Secretary. Presently Grace Moran is filling that position as well as Program chairman.

Please feel free to contact me if you have an interest in assuming any of these duties. Jim Laird, (904) 264-0743

Much thanks to those who have stepped up to help with the Refreshments. Polly Hollyfield and Carole Barry come to mind.

Please!! It is time to think of renewing your membership by March 31, 2011. After that date the password for the members only section of the website will change. Our seminar was a success again this year. We are going to be working hard on the website as well and Grace is certainly in touch with qualified sneakers.

The next couple of years should be an exciting time for the society. We are building on all the work of the past with more great changes coming up. Renew your membership and help us to improve while learning and helping the society.

OFFICERS, STANDING AND APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN (terms expiring at end of 2011):

President	Jim Laird	904-264-0743
First Vice President/Membership Chairman	Ramona Remy	904-264-7632
Telephone Sub-Committee Chairman	Jim Laird	904-264-0743
Second Vice President/Publicity Chairman	OPEN(Jim Laird)	904-264-0743
Recording Secretary	OPEN(Grace Moran)	904-384-3847
Corresponding Secretary	OPEN(Ramona Remy)	904-264-7632
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	Harlan Dittman	
Parliamentarian	Richard Cardell	904-730-2128

Wills and Genealogical Research

Wills may provide significant genealogical information. Some consist of a few lines with minimal information. Others may provide important details pertaining to family relationships, economic status, religious and business affiliations, previous/current places of residence, real and personal property holdings, maiden names of females, previous wives/husbands, extra marital relationships, identify family members who have been “disowned” and why, and other valuable data. Historically, a will referred to the provision for the deposition of real property. The term *testament* referred to the

provision for deposition of both real and personal property, after his or her death. To be valid, a will had to comply with specific legal formalities:

1. Wills must be in writing and signed by the testator in the presence of competent witnesses.
2. When a person was unable to write his or her name, a mark, often in the form of a cross or an “x”, served as a substitute for the signature.

Wills come in several formats:

Holographic Will: This type of will is written, dated, and signed entirely in the handwriting or printing of the testator. There are usually no witnesses and the verification process involves proving that the handwriting is that of the decedent.

Nuncupative Will: This is an oral will, declared before witnesses during the testator’s last illness and that is later written. For many American soldiers killed before 1900, this was the type of will that was utilized. For that reason, you sometimes hear the term *battlefield will* associated with a nuncupative will.

Codicil: This is a supplement to an existing will. You will find additions, alterations, qualifications, or deletions from various provisions of the original will. A codicil becomes part of the will and supersedes the will in any respect that differs from the original.

Real property refers to unmovable property such as land and buildings. **Personal Property** refers to movable property, as in personal possessions such as furniture, clothing, children, and slaves. A person who receives real property by will is a *devisee*. A person who receives personal property by will is a *legatee*. Those who receive property from an intestate estate are known as *heirs-at-law* or *distributees*. When the decedent had a will made out prior to death, the executor named in the will presents the will to the court with a petition for probate. Witnesses appear to acknowledge their signatures and testify that the testator was of sound mind when the will was made. The will may be contested by anyone having an interest in the estate. The usual grounds under these circumstances revolve around the testator not being of sound mind or if he or she was subjected to undue influence by another party when making the will.

A document known as *letters testamentary* is issued to the executor and authorizes that person to carry out the provisions of the will. The executor may have been required to post a performance bond unless that requirement was waived in the will. Once a will is admitted to probate, it is recorded in a will book or register. The original will is filed with all related documents pertaining to the case. If the deceased has minor children, the court appoints a guardian to protect their interests. In most cases, this will be a surviving parent, relative, or close family friend. However, in colonial times, a mother, if she was still alive most likely was not appointed as the guardian of her own children, instead a relative or a close friend was appointed by the court.

An inventory of the estate is made and its value is appraised by court-appointed appraisers. The executor is responsible for paying all debts of the estate and collecting any debts owed it. A complete record of all disbursements must be filed with the court. Following the final settlement of the estate, the *decree of distribution* is issued by the court as proof that title has been passed to the devisees and legatees.

BLM 1/4/2011

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Probate Records

Probate records are important to genealogists because they provide evidence about family relationships. Most Americans have made out wills in some form. For those without wills, or in cases where wills have been contested, the courts have been the final jurisdiction for settlement of the estates. Historically, the term **probate** referred to the process of proving the authenticity of the decedent's last will and testament. Today, it covers the entire process of settling an estate.

The legal names of courts handling probate matters will vary from state to state. In some cases, jurisdictions will also vary by time periods as well. Examples include the following:

1. Probate Court
2. Superior Court
3. District Court
4. Orphans Court
5. Surrogates Court
6. Register of Wills
7. Estate Court.

In most states, each county will have its own court handling the process. There are some that have **probate districts** that cover a wide regional area. To locate probate records, you must determine the county or other jurisdiction where your ancestor lived at the time of death. Some possible sources for this information include: bible or family records, an obituary from a newspaper, death record from a county health department, a mortality schedule, pension record, or a census record. If you know the state where an ancestor died, but not the county, you could also try an index or calendar of wills for the given state.

The individual making out a will is known as a **testator**. If a person dies and leaves a valid will, they are said to have died **testate**. Those choosing not to make a will are said to have died **intestate**. A person named in the will itself usually carries out the provisions of a will. This person is known as an **executor**. Some wills name multiple people as **alternate executors** in case the executor cannot or will not perform this function. By law, any intestate estate must go through an administration process. A court-appointed administrator settles this process. Some states use the term **personal administrator** to refer to the person responsible for settling an estate, regardless of whether it is testate or intestate.

BLM 2/8/2010

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Good Evening: While it is only February 2011, I thought you would find this information concerning the 2012 Salt Lake Institute of significant interest. The Salt Lake Institute has a proven track record throughout the genealogical research profession for providing quality instruction on a wide variety of research topics for genealogists at all stages of the research process. My seven trips to the Institute have benefited me in many ways not only in my job but in my own family research. I am passing this information on for your own benefit and interest.

Thanks.

Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy 2012 Genealogy Research Announcement

After much deliberation, the Utah Genealogical Association has made arrangements for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) to adjoin RootsTech next year. The new dates for SLIG 2012 are January 23-27, 2012; the conference will again be held at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City.

Though traditionally SLIG has been held during the second week of January, we felt that changing the date to the end of January would allow attendees two full weeks of genealogical education. It is hoped that this will be especially beneficial to instructors who will be attending both SLIG and RootsTech.

"It just made sense for us to connect ourselves to RootsTech in this way," said Adele Marcum, Director of the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. "We hope this union of scheduling will offer genealogists the best educational experience: first at Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and then at RootsTech."

Although not affiliated with RootsTech or any of its sponsoring organizations, the Utah Genealogical Association sees the importance of collaborating with RootsTech to provide varied and valuable educational opportunities to genealogists.

"We applaud what RootsTech has done in their inaugural year; we want to share what they've done with our attendees at SLIG--and now that the schedules for SLIG and RootsTech align, we can begin discussions with RootsTech to determine how our two conferences can work together to provide greater value to attendees. Working together, I think we will see some magnificent synergy," said Marcum.

The courses for the 2012 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy include:

- 1. American Research and Records: Focus on Families with Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FUGA**
- 2. Welsh Research with Darris Williams, AG**
- 3. Scandinavian Research with Geoffrey Morris, AG**
- 4. Genealogy Software and Research with George Morgan**

5. **Advanced Research Tools: Land Records with Rick Sayre, CG and Pam Sayre, CG, CGL**
6. **Principles of Effective Genealogy Librarianship with Drew Smith, MLS**
7. **Beyond the Library: Using Original Source Repositories with John Phillip Colleta, Ph.D, FUGA**
8. **Advanced Methodology with Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS**
9. **Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis Practicum with Thomas W. Jones and others**
10. **NEHGS: Advanced New England Research with D. Joshua Taylor**
11. **Midwest research with Kory Meyerink, AG, MLS, FUGA**
12. **Problem Solving with Judith Hansen, AG, MLS**

Registration for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy 2012 opens June 4, 2011 at www.ugagenealogy.org

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Hi Jim,

Since I'm fairly new to JGS, I'm not sure if someone has already passed along info about Unclaimed Persons... if so, please disregard this, but if not, it would be great if you could forward this to other members.

Unclaimed Persons is a group on Facebook that uses genealogy to help coroners offices around the country. Many people die and the bodies are identified, but the county can't locate their next of kin, so the body or ashes often stay there unclaimed for months or years. In Unclaimed Persons, volunteers research online and post whatever they find in a private forum, working together to get contact info for family members of the deceased. When enough info is gathered, the case manager sends a report to the coroner, who then contacts the family. It's such rewarding work!

Here are some links. This website has a video about it,

<http://unclaimedpersons.org/index.html>. Here is the public fb group, also with info...

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=24101365049>. Here is a link to the private fb group, where the cases and research are actually posted...

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=143843215486>. You have to agree to a lot of rules, mainly about privacy, and be approved before you can join the private group due to the sensitivity of the info posted. And here are some articles about the group...

<http://www.tonic.com/article/unclaimed-persons-genealogists-help-coroners-locate-next-of-kin/>, <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/the-unclaimed-keep-their-secrets-in-search-for-next-of-kin-1.1094222#axzz1C9loirMH>.

Thank you,
Julie

((NOTE: Some of you may have seen this when I posted it to the JGS On-line mailing that I use that has all our members listed who have computers. Thanks goes out to Julie for keeping all of us in mind about what else is going on around us. Thank You Julie. It is much appreciated. Jim))

Websites of Possible Interest

URL: <http://everynamesindex.com/WhiteCoIL.html>

TITLE: Every Name Index to History of White County Illinois (1883)

DESCRIPTION: Compiled by Cathy L. O'Connor, © 2010. Original text by Inter-State Publishing Company, 1883. Reproduction by White County Historical Society. The 1883 edition was republished in 1954, just in time for Carmi's sesquicentennial celebration in 1966, subsequent reproduction was in 1973. This Every Name Index contains over 17,500 entries.

URL: <http://passagetothepast.wordpress.com/>

TITLE: - Passage to the Past

DESCRIPTION: A blog with tips for Beginning and Intermediate Genealogists.

URL: <http://www.pkgraham.com/genealogical-research-at-the-dekalb-history-center/>

TITLE: Genealogical Research at the DeKalb History Center

DESCRIPTION: How-to article published in Georgia Genealogical Society, Summer 2008, to prepare researchers to visit the DeKalb History Center in Decatur, Georgia.

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URL: <http://www.pkgraham.com/understanding-the-1805-georgia-land-lottery-registration-list/>

TITLE: Understanding the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery Registration List

DESCRIPTION: How-to article published in the Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly, Fall 2004, to explain records pertaining to the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery.

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URL: <http://www.pkgraham.com/historical-records-of-urban-georgia/>

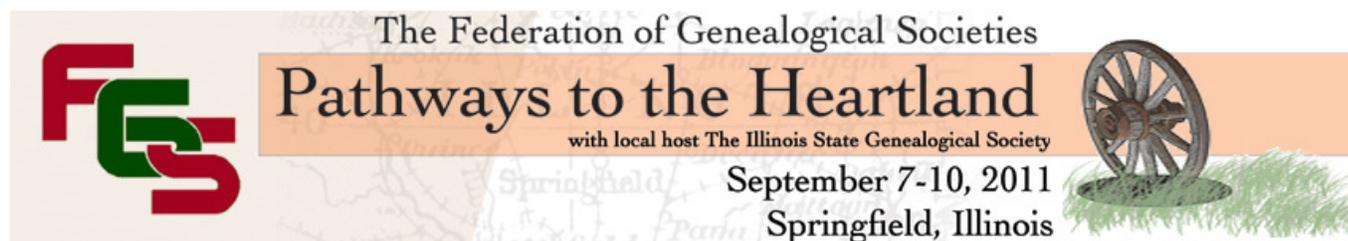
TITLE: Historical Records of Urban Georgia

DESCRIPTION: How-to article published in the Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly, Summer 2007, explaining how to research ancestors who lived in cities.

URL: <http://www.oldtimepatterns.com>

TITLE: Old Time Patterns

DESCRIPTION: Sewing patterns for authentic historical reproduction garments.



Be part of an exciting, educational, inspiring & historic genealogy conference!

The Federation of Genealogical Societies invites you to the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference for the Nation's Genealogists. Our local host, the Illinois State Genealogical Society, joins FGS in welcoming you to historic Springfield, 7-10 September 2011, as we celebrate "Pathways to the Heartland."

Why should you make plans to be there?

- More than 150 educational presentations with well-known speakers from all over the U.S.
- Lectures that appeal to beginning, intermediate and experienced genealogists.
- Topics that cover almost every aspect of genealogy as well as libraries, archives, and repositories.
- Sessions for professional genealogists.
- Attend sessions to help your genealogical society grow, prosper, develop, and educate.
- Meet your favorite genealogical lecturers, authors, librarians, software developers.
- Door prizes galore!
- Keynote address by David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States (NARA).
- 35th Anniversary Celebration speaker Harold Holzer, noted Lincoln scholar.
- Large exhibit hall with exhibitors and vendors.
- Vendors loaded with genealogy and history books, magazines, databases, software, maps, CDs, magazines, journals, and more.
- Librarians Day on Tuesday, 6 September 2011, sponsored by ProQuest.
- Ancestry.com Beginner's Day.
- The host hotel is across the street from the Prairie Capital Convention Center.
- Visit historic sites, libraries, and more in the Springfield area.
- Daily meal functions with exciting speakers and time for networking.

To learn more

- Check the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference Website at <www.fgs.org/2011conference>.
 - View the continually expanded FGS Conference News Blog at <www.FGSConferenceBlog.org>.
 - Visit the Illinois State Genealogical Society at <www.ilgensoc.org>.
 - Follow the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference on Facebook at <www.facebook.com/fgs2011> and on Twitter at <www.twitter.com/fgs2011>.
 - Check the many topics and speakers at <www.fgs.org/2011conference/program/>.
 - Prepare for Illinois tourism at <www.enjoyillinois.com>.
 - Plan for visiting Springfield at <www.visit-springfieldillinois.com>.
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Researching in a Straight Line - - - Backwards

Jacksonville Genealogical Society, Inc. (JGS) will be holding a five-session Genealogy Class, featuring research in the U.S. It will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Webb-Wesconnett Branch Library, 6887 103rd Street, Jacksonville, FL on the following dates:

Saturdays: May 21 and 28 and Jun 4, 11, and 25, 2011

This class is for the beginner and the experienced researcher looking for a refresher course. Subjects include: Back to Basics; Research Documentation; Sources-What are they?; Dates, Places & Relationships; Use of Vital, Court, and Church Records; Record Keeping; and much more. Certificates of Completion will be given to those persons who attend at least four of the five class dates.

Free parking is available at the Library and there is no charge for the class.

Registration Form

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Phone Email Address

Register Online at
<http://jaxgen.home.comcast.net>

Or mail this registration form to:

Jacksonville Genealogical
Society, Inc.,
P. O. Box 60756
Jacksonville, FL 32205-0756

JACKSONVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Application for Membership

Dues are paid on a Calendar year basis. Dues received after 31 October are credited with dues paid for the following year. Please check one of the following categories:

- Principal membership: \$25.00
- Life (Principal) membership: \$260.00
- Student: \$10.00
- Dual membership: \$ 5.00 *
- Life (Dual): \$65.00 *
- Memorial: \$25.00 ** - In memory of _____

* A Dual Member is a person residing at the same address as the Principal Member.
 ** (Memorial Membership does not include issuance of Newsletters or Quarterly issues.)

New Member Renewing Member Previous Member Gift Date: _____

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr): _____

Name: _____
 First Middle Nickname Maiden Surname

Dual Member (First, Middle, Last Name): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code (9 digit): _____

Email: _____ Your Website: _____

Telephone (Home): (____) _____ - _____ (Work): (____) _____ - _____

Birthday (Principal): _____ Birthday (Dual): _____ Wedding Anniversary: _____

Surnames you are researching (up to 5):

SURNAME	CITY	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTRY	DATES
Example: Smith	Timbuctu	Smithers	FL	USA	1880-1900
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					

You are encouraged to submit a 5-generation pedigree chart with your application for our JGS Pedigree Charts Project

Circle ALL areas below that interest you:

- Abstracting
- Audit
- Education
- Historian
- Newsletter
- Cemetery Research
- Programs
- Publications
- Publicity
- Quarterly
- Refreshments
- Secretary
- Research
- Telephone
- Treasurer
- Typing
- Website

By signing below, you grant the Jacksonville Genealogical Society, Inc. permission to use your name, address, email address, and surname data on the JGS Website, in the JGS Website Search Engine, and in the JGS Membership list/directory (which is available to members). Telephone numbers will not be published on the internet but will be listed in the JGS Membership list/directory.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Please mail this application, along with your payment, to:
 Jacksonville Genealogical Society, Inc., PO Box 60756, Jacksonville, FL 32236-0756**

For Office Use only:
 Date Paid: ___/___/20___ Amount Paid: \$___ Type: _____ ID: _____ Year 1st Joined: _____
 Revised 30 August 2007

Books of Possible Interest

The Road to Freedom: John Washington was a slave in Virginia, Wallace Turnage in Alabama. Washington escaped and emancipated himself by making his way through Union lines to freedom. Turnage ran from his master, enduring hunger, dogs, and snakes to get to the coast and finally out to the ship of the Union blockade. Once they were free, both men wrote down their incredible stories, which were passed down through generations of their families. Yale historian David Blight has brought their writings together with other research about their lives before and after their emancipation, and the resulting book is an amazing read.

A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped To Freedom, including Their Own Narratives of Emancipation, by David W. Bright,(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2007)

Histories: You surmised that the digging of the Erie Canal must have been an impressive engineering feat. After all, the canal is 363 miles long, crosses mountains, and the unearthing happened in the early-1800's with relatively primitive tools and by relatively inexperienced workers. What you may not have realized, and what Bernstein makes clear, is that the Erie Canal was the lifeline of a young America, connecting the East to West, enabling trade, expansion, and immigration. A fascinating look at an often overlooked American Wonder.

“Wedding of the Waters: The Erie Canal and the Making of a Great Nation, by Peter L. Bernstein.(W.W. Norton & Company, 2006.)

We Hope For All, Only The Best!!!

JACKSONVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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