



Jacksonville Genealogical Society

Vol. 29, No. 4

July-August 2013

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.

Find us on the web at <http://ljaxgen.org>

Join Us!

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society meets on the third (3rd) Saturday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Webb-Wesconnett Library, 6887 103rd Street, in Jacksonville, Florida. Members are strongly encouraged to attend, and visitors are always welcome. Mark your calendars and plan to join us.

July 2013 Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Several

Topic: "Family Tree Program - Which one should I Get?"
This presentation will be by users who will be sharing some of the how-to's. We will be demonstrating about 4 of the more popular programs (including at least one online version). At the end, each presenter will be answering questions about their particular program.

August 2013 Monthly Meeting

Speaker: Nola K. Magneson

Topic: "Basic German Genealogical Research"
Ms. Magneson will provide basic information regarding searching your German roots, starting with the United States, and basic information for searching in Germany. She is a Professional Genealogist with research experience in Germany, United States, Scandinavia, Czech Republic. She has worked with Latin, Russian and Polish records as well. Her extensive work history includes field research in archives, libraries and government records in the U.S. and overseas; teaching and lecturing; and over 15 years as a Library Reference Librarian. She is a graduate of Brigham Young University with a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS).

Happy Birthday to You!

These JGS members are celebrating birthdays during the months of July and August:



Carol Anne Barry	July 1
Constance Bradshaw	July 8
Kenneth Norwood	July 10
Clyde Stokes	July 10
Barbara Crissman	July 17
Richard Bash	July 21
Amy Ackerman	July 21
Perry Russell	July 24
Laura Jane Swilley	August 7
Ida Severance Lambertson	August 14
Mary Lane Hartshorn	August 17
Irene Ritch	August 18
William Hoey	August 26

Update: Genealogy Returning to TV

by *Connie Coward*

It's official! The Learning Channel (TLC) has announced that "Who Do You Think You Are?" is returning to television

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on July 23rd, 2013. They will air 8 hour-long episodes featuring Christina Applegate, and Chris O'Donnell, among others. Executive Producer Lisa Kudrow returns to present these fascinating stories. Hopefully the quality of the show remains. I am looking forward to watching this one. I will probably set the DVR as well, so I can watch it in perpetuity!

Spring 2013 Genealogy Class

by Ann Staley

The Spring Genealogy Class, traditionally our Beginner Class, Researching in a Straight Line - - - Backwards, was successfully completed. We had 4 sessions this year with topics that included Back to Basics; Research Documentation; Sources-What are they?; Dates, Places & Relationships; Use of Vital, Court, Church and Military Records; Record Keeping; and much more.

It was held in a different location this year. With the activities going on at Webb-Wesconnett it is getting harder to schedule the time we need. Amy Ackerman, Reference Librarian and Genealogy Group Leader at the Bartram Trail Branch Library in Fruit Cove, FL, offered one of their meeting rooms and we took the opportunity to spread the word of our Society to the "other side" of the river. We had 20 graduates! Congratulations to them all.

It Ain't Easy Being Green!

by Connie Coward

I have discovered in the last few weeks that you can teach an **older** dog new tricks. It seems my father, at the ripe young age of nearly 77, has discovered the wonders of a Kindle. He goes to dialysis three times a week, and reading a book is cumbersome for him when one arm is effectually useless. Also, his vision has deteriorated over the years, due to diabetic eye problems. So reading is something he has not enjoyed for a couple of decades. He has never been someone you could call a techie; he uttered no more than a grunt when I bought my first Kindle. With the adjustable print size of the Kindle and it's ease of use, he once again enjoys doing something he thought was relegated to his past.

Have you thought about getting an eReader? There are several on the market these days, with various bells and whistles. Many also allow access to the Internet. One thing I like about my Kindle is that I can send my own documents to it. So, if I need to read a project proposal for work, or if I just want to download my Ahnentafel charts, I

simply e-mail them to my Kindle, and voila! They are there in minutes. And my daughters enjoy reading my genealogical data so much, they have asked to have the documents downloaded to – you guessed it – their own Kindles. But what I enjoy most about my Kindle? Not nearly as many books to dust!

City Directories

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City Directories are, by most accounts, one of the most overlooked resources by genealogists. Directories have been published in a variety of formats since the 1700s. City directories have survived for cities such as Boston, Charleston, New York, and Philadelphia from the 1780s. While the original intent of the publication was to identify commercial enterprises, publishers quickly discovered there was more potential for profit by also including residents.

The earliest directories may or may not list occupational information for residents. The information found in city directories is valuable for locating ancestors, especially during the 1790–1840 periods when the federal census records only identified the head of household by name. By 1860, there were over 70 communities with some form of published city directory.

Historians and genealogists often turn to city directories to learn specific details about life in a particular locality at a given period/periods of time. Examples may include:

1. Residents and business are listed by their street addresses for a given year.
2. Public agencies, schools, churches, and organizations are also listed.
3. By studying multiple years of directories, it is possible to trace the establishment of a business or to make an educated guess when a family moved into a dwelling, or to discover that an individual was a public official or an officer of a particular organization in a certain year.
4. Since the information listed about residents was collected at the time of the event, often by actual house to house canvassing, it often carries the same evidential weight as many "original" records.
5. The information found in city directories often serves as a "link" to other records.

From a genealogical perspective, city directories may provide significant research clues such as:

1. They often include ward maps in a given city, so you can trace the person in census records.
2. Widows are often listed just after the death of a spouse which can lead to vital records or probate packets in that county or town.
3. If the person is listed as a property/home owner, that will direct you to deed records for that location.
4. City directories are one of the key elements in the long-range project by the LDS to re-create the missing 1890 federal census.

5. The alphabetical listing of names can lead researchers to other persons, either with or without the same surname, living in the same location, or as neighbors. As American cities grew, city directories became more detailed. City directories often contain special sections pertaining to businesses, churches, and organizations. Addresses of churches can be useful in narrowing the search to addresses located near to where your family resided.

In most localities, city directories were divided into five sections: Business, Residential, Negro or Colored, Community Facts, Advertisements.

Editor's Note: Don't forget we still have the JGS Jacksonville City Directories Abstract project going on. Contact Ann Staley to see how you can get involved.

Genealogical Research Using FBI Files

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has maintained files on millions of Americans over the decades. Official records cover the period from 1908 to the present. FBI files initiated since 1956 have been computerized. Files for the time period prior to 1956 are in manual format. Some materials exist prior to 1908 but they are incomplete and significant gaps exist. While these files are considered public records, the FBI has imposed stringent rules concerning guidelines for access to files due to security measures in response to the post 9/11 era, coupled with the dramatic rise in identity theft. All requests for FBI records must be submitted using the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

If you have reason to believe that one of your ancestors may have been the subject of an FBI profile, researchers are advised to visit the following links to obtain the most

current guidelines, fees, and protocol for obtaining copies of records. The request letter link includes specific instructions and what types of information are mandatory for processing all requests.

<http://www.fbi.gov/foia/requesting-fbi-records>

<http://www.fbi.gov/foia/sample-fbi-foia-request-letter>

In general, all requests for information must include the following:

1. Full name or names of the person whose file you wish to receive
2. Date and place of birth
3. Date and place of death
4. Photocopy of the death certificate or some other certified legal proof of death
5. Your full name and current address
6. Reason for wanting this information

Proof of death is a mandatory requirement for anyone initiating requests for information other than the person whose file is sought. Proof can be established using any of the following:

1. Newspaper obituary or death announcement showing the newspaper name, date, page number.
2. Citation from Who Was Who in America
3. Death Certificate
4. Biographical reference showing the title page of the source, name of person, date, place of death.
5. Encyclopedia or magazine article on the person which includes details, date, place of death.
6. Declaration that the person was born over 110 years ago. Proof of death is not required if the person was born over 110 years ago, and you can document that fact, because they assume anyone over the age of 110 is probably deceased. However, you must be able to provide some evidence to document your claim including the exact birth date. If the file in question originated prior to 1956, you must inform them of this fact and specify that a manual search is required. You should follow the same correspondence procedures for both manual and computerized (post 1956) files.

Personal Ancestral File (PAF)

by Ann Staley

FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org) announced that they will not be providing the download and support of PAF after 15 Jul 2013. They do provide the information that 3

FamilySearch partners, Ancestral Quest, Legacy Family Tree and RootsMagic, will be available to help you with your family tree support software. RootsMagic (RM) has a website where they are offering a free download of a 16-page full-color booklet titled, "RootsMagic for PAF Users: A Quick Start Guide" <<http://www.rootsmagic.com/PAF/>>; they are also selling their RootsMagic program to you for \$20. On Ancestral Quest there is a FAQ for converting a PAF database.

<<http://www.ancquest.com/faqs/dbformats.htm>>.

As noted in our "Meetings" section, our July 20th meeting will be discussing Family Tree Software. Be sure to attend to have your questions answered concerning PAF alternatives.

Online Resources

by Ann Staley

Here are a couple of websites to check out for maps:

Anyplace America. Free Topographic Maps! www.anyplaceamerica.com. Find Topo maps by state. It has a very easy to use search box.

Land Survey Information System (<http://www.geocommunicator.gov/blmMap/MapLSIS.jsp>)

Used for finding Section, Township and Range, this thing is awesome. You can zoom in and drill down to the actual spot on the map.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 20, 2013

10:00am - 12:00 pm

Summer Community Workshop Series: Writing Your Family's History

Public History Center

301 West 7th Street, Sanford, FL 32771

Topic: Writing Your Family's History

email: publichistorycenter@ucf.edu

\$25 registration fee; no meal. Payment accepted in cash or by check on the day of the workshop. For more information or questions, call 407-823-3817. RSVP to the email above.

Saturday, August 17, 2013

10:00am - 12:00 pm

Summer Community Workshop Series: Preserving Your Family History

Public History Center

301 West 7th Street, Sanford, FL 32771

Topic: Preserving Your Family History (Scrapbooking through the Ages)

email: publichistorycenter@ucf.edu

\$25 registration fee; no meal. Payment accepted in cash or by check on the day of the workshop. For more information or questions, call 407-823-3817. RSVP to the email above.

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