



Jacksonville Genealogical Society

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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.

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

Join Us!

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society meets on the third (3rd) Saturday of each month, except December, 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.

Membership Meeting December 2014

Continuing with our tradition, there will not be a Membership Meeting in December. It is the time of the year that we need to spend with our families. However, as good genealogists, you can use the time to get more information from those you know and love! Happy hunting.

Membership Meeting 17 January 2015

Speaker: George Bass

Topic: "Identifying Family Relationships with Obituaries"

The objective of the presentation is to promote interest in using obituaries as a tool for family history research. I will give examples of a variety of interesting obituaries that I have encountered in my family research. There will be a short discussion on cousin relationships within a closed community when cousins marry each other. The presentation will be concluded with a case study that was initiated by an obituary of a cousin's wife. I have incorporated the use of family group sheets and time-line analysis in the case study.

George Bass was born and grew up on a farm in Western North Carolina. He has lived in Orange Park since 1972. Attended college at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. Retired from the Navy as a pilot performing aeronautical engineering duty in 1981. Adjunct Professor in Engineering Technology for Florida A&M University 1986 - 1993. Retired as a Computer Scientist and

small business owner in 2006. Started working in Genealogy in 1972. Has given presentations on: Alternatives to Publishing Family History, WW II Photo Album, Burgin Family Names, Global Positioning System and Genealogy, Ancestry DNA, Identifying Family Relationships with Obituaries. Published "Global Positioning System (GPS) and Family History" in "The Florida Genealogist" 2012.

Membership Meeting 21 February 2015

Speaker: Paul Howes

Topic: "Howes That? One-Name Studies, the Howes study in particular and how the internet makes it all now possible"

What is a One-Name Study? Why would you want to study a surname? How has the internet helped, and hindered, the efforts of the studies? How do we do it at HowesFamilies.com? Come and see how participating in a One-Name Study of your name can benefit your research. If technically possible, Paul will demonstrate his website as a part of the presentation.

An actuary and former partner in a global human resource consultancy, Paul is now an executive coach. He has lived in 6 countries and worked in over 50. After helping his son with a class project to map his family tree, he wanted to extend his interest. With three different lines of Howes ancestors, looking at the surname itself seemed interesting.

He started www.howesfamilies.com in 2008 and now has a database approaching 100,000 individuals in reconstructed family trees. Paul served two years as a trustee of the Guild of One-Name Studies and moved to Ponte Vedra in 2014.

Membership Meeting March 2015

We will not be having a Membership Meeting in March. As one of the sponsoring organizations of the North Florida Genealogy Conference, we will be attending the conference

on 21 March 2015. Please see the article later in the newsletter. We hope that Society members will take this opportunity to hear speakers talking on a number of topics and to visit with fellow genealogists.

Introduction to Genealogy Class

The three-session "Introduction to Genealogy" Class, featuring research resources in the U.S. was held at the Bartram Trail Branch Library, 60 Davis Pond Blvd, Fruit Cove, FL 32259, in November and had 23 attendees.

This class is for the beginner researcher, and the experienced researcher looking for a refresher course. Subjects included Back to Basics; Research Documentation; Sources-What are they?; Dates, Places & Relationships; Use of Vital, Court, and Church Records; and much more. If you missed it, we will be offering it again in Spring 2015.

It Ain't Easy Being Green!

by Connie Coward

It also isn't easy to juggle all of the things that require our time these days. I want to apologize for the missing and delayed newsletters this year. My job has put unusually high demands on my time since late 2013, so all of my activities have been suffering of late. I thought it was all getting back to normal (if there is such a thing), and then my father passed away July 1st. I am hopeful that my job will calm down soon, so that future newsletters can be published more timely.

Assembling the information for the newsletter and actually putting it together takes about 2-3 hours of my time, which is not hard to carve out, even with all my other obligations. The part of the publishing that takes the most amount of my time is finding articles to put in the newsletter. HERE IS WHERE YOU CAN HELP. Have you run across an interesting article (magazine or internet) that you think your fellow JGS members might enjoy? Received notice of an upcoming class/conference/event? Send it to me; I'll include it in the newsletter! Have you made a recent discovery in your genealogy research? Broken through a brick wall? Just acquired some new family stories? Been blessed with a new child, grandchild, in-law? Share the news! Send your contributions to me at ladycoward@att.net, and then look for them in the newsletter. I look forward to hearing from you!

GEDmatch.com

GEDmatch.com is a website of "Tools for DNA and Genealogy Research". The website can be used to compare DNA results and you must register to use it.

Happy Birthday to You!

Gina Norstedt	May 11
Carol Norman	May 14
Kearby Parker	May 19
Corah Coward	May 19
Eunice Jones	May 24
Ralph McQuiddy	May 27
Margaret Wolson	May 31
Georgeann Engel	June 6
Kay Poplin	June 16
Perry Russell	June 27
Carole Barry	July 1
Constance Harris	July 8
Ken Norwood	July 10
Clyde Stokes	July 10
Barbara Crissman	July 17
William Smith	Jul 23
Thomas Russell	July 24
Laura Swilley	August 7
Alzina Warner	August 25
William Hoey	August 26
Joel Warner	September 4
Tracey Arpen	September 4
Stephen Torda	September 7
Ivy Phillips	September 13
Mary Chauncey	September 13
Ann Staley	September 14
Dick Cardell	September 14
Brenda O'Neil	September 16
Dorothy Cabanillas	September 30
Robin Berenberg	October 4
Bill Wolson	October 9
Harlan Dittman	October 24
Martha Poarch	October 27
Charlene Hopton	November 8
Nedra Soles	November 12
Marcia Pertuz	November 18
Mildred Dittman	December 3
Jeanne Carter	December 7
Christa Snow	December 10
Barbara Strength	December 23

2015 Dues Are Now Due

If you have not remitted your payment of dues for 2015, we urge you to do so, promptly. Our calendar year is January through December; therefore, dues for 2015 are due now.

Please complete the enclosed Membership Application so that we will have your current information in our membership database.

Gift Of Membership

We invite you to give the gift of Society memberships to your friends. We also have a way for you to remember a loved one - a Memorial Gift. A year's membership could not be spent wiser. The enclosed Membership Application has a check box for your convenience.

JGS Research Chair to the Rescue

The Society Research Chair, Barbara Crissman, recently helped the television show "Finding Your Roots" featuring Henry Louis Gates, Jr. In the episode on Khandi Alexander's grandfather, Joshua Masters, the program shows a newspaper article from the Times-Union here in Jacksonville. The article was found by our very own Barbara. Way to go! [p.s. Barbara says she loves her retired status.]

DNA Still a Hot Topic

There are a number of blogs giving advice about DNA and how to read the results. Among them are: the DNAExplained-Genetic Genealogist at <http://dna-explained.com> and The Genetic Genealogist at <http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com>.

Another resource, especially if you are interested in the behind-the-scenes of the "Finding My Roots" show is the blog by the show's Genetic Genealogy Consultant, CeCe Moore. Go to the website at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/finding-your-roots/blog> and click on the "Behind the Scenes" tab. Then click on "Genealogy Blog".

Ancestry.com Added German Records

Ancestry.com recently added 31 databases for researching German ancestors. Once you are on Ancestry.com, click on "Search" (the 3rd tab over in the menu), then click on "Card Catalog". Once on the Card Catalog page go over to the left-hand column and go down to "Filter by Location." Click on "Europe", then "Germany". You can then filter further, if you want. Then go to the upper right-hand side of the page and click on "Sort By" and change to "Date Added". This will bring all of the new databases to the top. Have fun searching these new records.

FindMyPast has purchased Mocavo and Origins.net.

Mocavo (<https://www.mocavo.com>) has been billed as "one of the largest search engines in the world" and is geared towards genealogy research. There is a free subscription; however, the paid subscription does provide more search capabilities. At the bottom of the home page you can also browse the records available by category, location and date.

Origins.net (www.origins.net) is a website for tracing British and Irish ancestors. You can do some searching for free; however, the site is subscription based. The current subscription information states that to see the "Original Document Images" you must purchase them separately (seeing the record image itself is not part of the subscription price.)

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

(<http://blog.eogn.com>)

If you haven't taken a look at this blog, you are in for a treat. Published daily it is a cornucopia of genealogy tidbits to suit any palate.

MyCanvas

Ancestry recently announced that instead of discontinuing MyCanvas they have opted to continue its operation. Good news, indeed. They are "transitioning the ownership of MyCanvas to Alexander's, a printing production company that has been the long-term printer of MyCanvas products."

North Florida Genealogy Conference

[NOTE: this conference replaces the regular March meeting of JGS]

JGS is proud to be one of the sponsoring organizations of the North Florida Genealogy Conference. Teaming up with the Southern Genealogists Exchange Society and the Family History Centers in the area, we have put together a series of conferences which have received very positive feedback and attendance through the years of 200-300 participants. The 2015 Conference promises to be as good as the predecessors. Here are a few highlights of the conference.

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2015. Doors open at 8:00 am for check-in and the opening session is at 8:45 am.

Location: The LDS church located at 461 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, 32073. This is South of the Orange Park Mall

and immediately adjacent to Orange Park High School. We again thank the Orange Park congregation for allowing us to use this building.

Registration: nfgenealogyconference.com. Online registration and payment is available this year through Eventbrite. Cost is still \$25 and includes lunch for those who pre-register.

The nfgenealogyconference.com website contains information about the conference and bios of the presenters. We are fortunate to have Patti Kirk back with us and, this year, she is conducting a 2-hour session entitled "Meet Me at the Courthouse." Miles Meyer is also back and has two interesting sessions scheduled. Denis Olsen will do two sessions, as will Linda Buck Ellwood. Go to the site to get more particulars.

One feature of this year's conference is some one-on-one help in the Family History Library. They are mostly aiming at helping less experienced folks get some traction and direction, but you can always stop by and see what they have to offer.

Watch for the full schedule and registration flyer in our January-February newsletter.

The Master Genealogist (TMG) Family Tree Software

If you use this software, you should already know that it is being discontinued and you should have ordered the upgrade to the latest version (9.0). If you missed the deadline, Wholly Genes recently announced that Torleif Haugødegård, one of their dealers, still has some unsold copies; however, they may go fast, so you should read the latest Wholly Genes Newsletter of 8 Dec 2014 (Issue 2014-8) to find out how to order a copy.

RootsMagic Family Tree Software

RootsMagic, Inc. announced on 3 Dec 2014 that their latest version has been released - Version 7. They have a webinar "What's New in RootsMagic 7" available on their website at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_ybuoDgXkg. For more information, go to their website at www.rootsmagic.com.

Webinars

Millennia Corporation and FamilyTreeWebinars.com recently announced that their 2015 Legacy Family Tree Webinar Series has been set. They will be offering 58 webinars this

coming season. Attending a live webinar is free. If you missed the live webinar, you may watch the recorded version for up to 7 days after the date of the event for free. After that there is a charge. See http://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2014/12/2015-legacy-family-tree-webinar-series-announced.html for more information.

The Illinois State Genealogical Society also announced that they have updated their 2015 Webinars listing. See <http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=234> for more information.

Stuff Happens

As our Editor noted earlier in this newsletter, on the rocky road of life things don't always work out as planned. We have had such an experience at JGS this year. We had hoped to have a few more items available online, more newsletters published, more updates to our website, etc. Hopefully, 2015 will be a better year for us as an "all volunteer" group. We hope, that as members of the Society, you will step forward and help us with ongoing projects and this newsletter. We also hope you enjoy this issue and please, if you have suggestions or material to contribute, let us know.

Volunteer Your Needs And Information!

We cannot stress enough how much we need YOUR help. A new year always offers a chance for change, a chance for incorporating new ideas and visions.

Two areas we need help with now are Programs and Publications.

For Programs - Do you have a topic on which you would like to have a presentation? Do you know of a speaker we should bring in to address the Society? We are planning the 2015 calendar and want to make sure we have presentations on topics you would like to hear about.

For Publications - Have you heard of something that you think would be of interest to the whole Society? Sometimes our members hear of free websites before the rest of us. Share that knowledge! Do you have an ancestor that is interesting that you could write a short article about? It doesn't have to be a long one; one or two paragraphs would be fine. Joel Warner, our President, offered one for this newsletter (Experiences In Genealogy or Why you should never give up!)

Please, email the society (info@jaxgen.org) and volunteer; we would like to hear from you.

Southern States Research

By Bryan L. Mulcahy (bmulcahy@leegov.com), Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County Library; 2050 Central Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901-3917, Tel: (239) 533-4626, Fax: (239) 485-1160 (BLM 3/6/2012)

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Many genealogists and historians view the South as one monolithic cultural, social, and political institution. Social and political life in general was perceived as so unique that it was impossible to relate any logic to events and circumstances that prevailed elsewhere in America. Historical events such as slavery, succession from the Union, Civil War, and Reconstruction have set the South apart from the rest of the country until recent times.

The settlement of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi began with European outposts in the colonial wars of empire. Each developed under variable conditions. They rarely share a common past other than being geographically located in the South. The history of the Old South, from Virginia to Texas, cannot be told in any one state's story. It can best be understood in the experiences of the many migratory "frontier" southern families. Lack of a tradition of early vital records and religious faiths leaving few surviving parish or congregational registers among a widespread people can complicate matters.

Record keeping was inconsistent. Region-wide consistency begins in 1830 when the first relatively complete and credible federal census records were generated. Policies concerning Indian removal were in full force. Most of the members of the last Native American tribes in these states were removed to western Arkansas, today's Oklahoma, shortly afterwards, creating a large volume of federal and other records of the Indians, and the whites among them, that can contain extensive family information. The various Indian Wars ultimately contributed to the thousands of genealogically valuable military bounty, pension, and other military records of southerners.

With the exception of Georgia, the other states were federal territories. Personal information appears on the settlers of those states in such well-known works as *The American State Papers* and *The Territorial Papers of the United States*. Colonial and early federal records have also been published for individual states. Bureau of Land Management indexes for the land grants of these federal land states have been made widely available but are incomplete for pre-1820 credit grants and for the homestead applications that were never completed.

The Civil War/Reconstruction Era created especially valuable records such as indexes to service records, pensions, etc. These records are available on a number of online websites such as Ancestry, Fold 3, Family Search, through the various state archives, and the National Archives. Most of the

material from the Reconstruction still lacks useful indexes and publication, but extensive personal data on thousands of former slaves and other persons found in what survives of the registers of the Freedman's Bank have been abstracted and digitized by the Family History library and are available online via Ancestry, Family search, and Heritage Quest.

Evaluating Evidence: The Key to Genealogical Research Success

By Bryan L. Mulcahy (bmulcahy@leegov.com), Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County Library; 2050 Central Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901-3917, Tel: (239) 533-4626, Fax: (239) 485-1160 (BLM 3/6/2012)

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One of the most fundamental issues that all genealogists must deal with is evaluating the truth and accuracy behind facts uncovered during the research process. An inevitable fact of life in genealogy is that sources, facts, and information cannot be taken at face value. Some sources will prove more reliable than others.

The first important question for consideration is whether the source was original, as in being created or discovered at the time of the actual event or circumstance? If not, it would go into the category of being a derivative source as in material produced by copying an original or manipulating its content.

Examples of this would include abstracts, compilations, databases, extracts, transcripts, translations, and authored works such as historical monographs or family histories. In the best case scenario, using original records is the best option. Every time a record is copied, transcribed, abstracted, etc, the possibility for human error exists.

The second question involves whether the informant or the person who created the record had firsthand knowledge of the information or event. If the answer is yes, this qualifies as a primary source. If the informant or creator of the record learned it secondhand, this is classified as secondary.

Research proves that in most cases primary information is more reliable than secondary information. Records can contain both primary and secondary information. Detailed newspaper obituaries may include primary information about a given decedent as in when and where the deceased died, and what activities they were engaged in at the time of death. The secondary information may include where and when he/she was born, the names of parents, grandparents, and highlights of the person's life.

The process of determining whether information is primary or secondary can be challenging, especially if you don't know the identity or background of the informant. The obituary may

have been written by the deceased's mother. Under those circumstances it is highly probable that most of the information will be primary, including the birth date and place. If it was written by the father, it would be more likely to be secondary since experience has proven that men have a poor record of remembering details of that nature.

Finally, the question should be asked, does the information contained in the record answer the question directly, or do you need to search for additional details to fully determine the answer? In the first case, a direct accurate answer would be classified as providing direct evidence. If you must look to other sources because something leaves you with doubts, it would be categorized as secondary. When going through the evaluation process, the key concept is the following question "Do the known facts fit the circumstances?"

NEHGS Presents 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award to Dame Angela Lansbury

Reprinted from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, Dick Eastman, author: www.eogn.com

The following announcement was written by the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS):

On Thursday evening, November 13, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts, the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) presented Dame Angela Lansbury with a prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in the Performing Arts with a custom genealogy and multi-generation family tree. The event helped mark the success of the NEHGS Connecting Families, Advancing History capital campaign which has surpassed the \$50 million mark of a \$55 million campaign goal. Through the campaign NEHGS has acquired the adjacent building at 97 Newbury Street to expand its headquarters to include educational space for school children, a museum shop, and increased exhibition space. The campaign has also supported a major website initiative that will add more than 2 billion new records to the Society's award-winning website, AmericanAncestors.org.

NEHGS President and CEO D. Brenton Simons presented Miss Lansbury with a family history researched and written by staff genealogists at NEHGS. Highlighted within is her great-great-uncle, Robert Bruce Mantell, who had a distinguished career in England and America, and after 1915, as an actor in silent films. Following in Robert's footsteps, her mother Moyna Macgill had an active career on the stage in London and in films after being discovered by the great actor Sir Gerald du Maurier; a second career awaited her in Hollywood after the family came to America in 1942.

Simons captured the evening during his opening remarks: "From this family history we draw an amazing and perhaps heretofore overlooked fact; few other acting dynasties have performed consistently in motion pictures from 1915 to the present. Robert Bruce Mantell, Moyna Macgill, and Angela Lansbury together span a century of performances...virtually the entire period of motion pictures in America."

In her legendary career spanning seven decades, Lansbury has won five Tony Awards, six Golden Globes, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Screen Actors Guild, a Kennedy Center Honor, a Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year Award, and has been nominated for three Best Supporting Actress Academy Awards. In 2014, she received an honorary Academy Award.

What Is It?

Front:



Back:



One of our members received the above item at a recent national genealogical conference and didn't have a clue as to what it was and how it was used. After asking a number of friends, one went onto a particular website and located it quite easily. So, do you know what it is, how it is used, and what website can be used to find images of items?

Answers will be in the next newsletter. Happy sleuthing!

Ancestry Announces New Item

Ancestry announced a new addition to their Family Tree experience, recently. Called "Historical Insights" they are similar to their Ancestry hints. Using "information you've added to your tree and historical records to determine whether your relative might have been in" a particular place at a particular time they will attempt to provide you with "historical insights" about your ancestors. They will appear as leafs in a person's timeline. See <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2014/12/02/introducing-historical-insights/#sthash.TzOMiRjN.dpuf> for more information.

Getting Organized for the New Year

Are you trying to start the New Year by getting better organized? Here are a few items that you might be interested in.

1. Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. *Organizing Your Family History Search: Efficient & Effective Ways to Gather and Protect Your Genealogical Research*. Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 1999.
2. Fleming, Ann Carter. *The Organized Family Historian: How to File, Manage, and Protect Your Genealogical Research and Heirlooms*. Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 2004
3. Curran, Joan Ferris. *Numbering Your Genealogy: Sound and Simple Systems*. National Genealogical Society Special Publication No. 59. Arlington, VA: NGS, 1992.
4. Genealogy.com. *Getting Organized*. (http://www.genealogy.com/getting_organized.html#files : accessed 14 Dec 2014)
5. Mailing List. *Genealogical Computing: Record-Keeping-Methodology Mailing List*. (http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/Genealogical_Computing/RECORD-KEEPING-METHODOLOGY.html : accessed 14 Dec 2014)
6. Ancestry.com. *Charts and Forms*. (<http://www.ancestry.com/download/charts#ancchart> : accessed 14 Dec 2014)
7. Howells, Cyndi. *Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet*. (<http://www.cyndislist.com> : accessed 14 Dec 2014) [Categories include "Organizing Your

Research", "Numbering Systems", "Records Preservation", etc.]

8. Family Tree Magazine. *Forms for download*. (<http://familytreemagazine.com/freeforms> : accessed 14 Dec 2014)
9. Genealogy.com. *Census Abstracts and Form Letters*. (<http://www.genealogy.com/00000023.html> : accessed 14 Dec 2014)
10. About.com. "Kimberly's Genealogy Blog" (<http://genealogy.about.com> : accessed 14 Dec 2014) [On the left-hand sided click on the "FREE Family Tree Chart" to find 3 versions to download.]
11. CensusTools. (<http://www.censustools.com> : accessed 14 Dec 2014) [Electronic spreadsheets for census data, cemetery data, research log, passenger manifest data, and more.]
12. CensusMate. *Worksheet for Genealogy and Family History*. (<http://www.censusmate.com> : accessed 14 Dec 2014) [Free MSExcel forms to download to organize and work with the pre-1850 censuses.]
13. Braun, Bev Kirschner. *Crafting Your Own Heritage Album*. Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2000.
14. Slan, Joanna Campbell. *Scrapbook Storytelling: Save family stories and memories with photos, journaling and your own creativity*. No place: EFG, Inc. - The Elaine Floyd Group, 1999.

Dog License Registers

In the 13 Dec 2014 issue of the GenealogyInTime.com Magazine Newsletter, they make note of a new collection of about 3.6 million records that come online at FimMyPast.com - Irish dog license registrations. They state that the records cover the years 1866 to 1914 and that "The name of the owner, owner's address, date of license, dog breed, sex of the dog and the colour of the dog was then entered into large handwritten registers. As an added bonus, in the first year of registration (1866), many clerks saw fit to also right down the name of the dog." See more at: http://www.genealogyintime.com/records/newest-genealogy-records.html?awt_l=MkjA6&awt_m=JTLjmTiQ_Ak.Vy#sthash.lmHYX589.dpuf

Ann Staley noted that these types of records are not unique to Ireland; she has found similar records in Mobile County, Alabama from 1888-1926.

EXPERIENCES IN GENEALOGY

or

Why you should never give up!

By Joel Warner

My grandmother, Olive Rachel Carleton Whiting, was a dogged and successful genealogist. She worked much of her life. I had wanted to make my own copy of her work, so I visited her in 1968 and asked her if could copy it. She said "Did you bring your suitcase?" I then counted 22 thick books of pedigree charts and family group sheets in her closet! So I am thankful that today we have computers and copiers which make all this available to me without hand copying it.

Grandmother was born in Bear Lake, Manistee County, Michigan on May 1, 1891. Her people were early New Englanders who moved from Massachusetts and Vermont to Lewisville, New York. Some of the Carleton's went to Canada but her father, Benjamin Franklin Carleton, moved to Michigan. Her mother, Ellen Delilah Bourn, was from Vermont.

Grandmother was a prolific researcher. How she managed any research in her busy life is a wonder to me. Her husband, Charles Leonard Whiting, was also of New England stock. They spent their lives eking out a living through hard work and ingenuity. Grandfather started as a blacksmith and was successful at it. He was also a generous man. My mother tells of the children helping him write the invoices each month for the blacksmith work. He would walk around the table and look over their shoulders as they filled out these invoices and he would comment on each one. "Don't send that one this month. They have been sick and can't pay." "Cut that one in half, they had a bad crop this year." And so it went.

Pneumonia cut short my grandfather's blacksmith career in 1939. He spent a year and a half in the hospital and had several operations. The family had to get by on farming and entrepreneurial ventures. They hauled wood from the canyons which they sold for firewood. They went into the mountains in the summer and worked the timber. Grandmother worked in a café and a boarding house. And they raised 10 children.

Grandmother got serious about genealogical research in 1923. She took two research courses and received a certificate. "We had a big family and there was much to do," she wrote in her history, "so I often worked far into the night on research." The years went by, the records grew, but Grandmother was unhappy about one place she was "stuck." She explained:

My father's mother, Fanny Willard, presented the difficulty. She was born in Vermont and died in our home in Michigan when I was only a few weeks old. I could find plenty of New England Willard's, but I could not place her in the family where she belonged. I continued on, starting back in England and following down from a common ancestor, down past the time of my grandmother's birth. There were 329 connected families. I still could not tell which one she belonged in.

Needless to say, she was discouraged. Brick walls have that effect. But in the Spring of 1951 she and her husband returned to the Idaho mountains to again spend the summer working the timber. As soon as she stepped into the post office, the Postmaster handed her a thin parcel, saying, "Oh, Mrs. Whiting, someone sent you this and we have been saving it for you." She says she knew, somehow, this was an important parcel. It had been sent by the widow of her half-brother, Clifford. It was a diary made by her dear Auntie Barry more than 60 years before and it contained just what she needed to connect her grandmother into the Willard genealogy. Her grandmother was now tied into her parents and into the great records of the Willard family. She also found information on her father's brothers and sisters. She carefully copied the entire diary before she sent it back. She had worked 28 years on this problem!

There is a sequel to the story. Though she had connected her grandmother into the family lines, there were still a couple of other problems. She related,

I still did not have my grandmother's brothers and sister. The little diary merely stated that George Willard and Charles Willard died in 1886. I felt sure they were her brothers, but had no way to find out. The family moved from Rutland, Vermont because of the extreme cold that froze the crops each year. They seem to have gone to Connecticut and then to New York State, but they must not have stayed long in any one place, as the records are silent about them.

One day in 1955 she and grandpa went to church where she sang in the choir. On coming home they had supper and did the dishes and she then picked up a little book of Spanish songs that her sister passed on from California about 7 or 8 years earlier. She

thumbed idly through the book and was just going to put it away when an old piece of paper in the back caught her eye. It was yellowed and old and had started to crack where it had been folded. To her great surprise it was in her mother's well-remembered handwriting and she had been dead for 33 years. The information could only have come from her mother's mother, who had been dead for 65 years. There were the great-grandparent's names and their family of seven children and the names of four of their spouses. This included her grandmother and her brothers, George and Charles, complete with their birthdays! One very interesting clue was included. Her great-grandparents were Benjamin Willard and Sally Willard. But this piece of paper gave a very interesting clue. Her great-grandmother's name was listed as Sally Willard Willard! So research could go on because her maiden name had been taken for her married name all these years – because it was the same name!

My grandmother relates these stories as "two of the many miracles" of her genealogical research. She, of course, is not alone in having these experiences of finding things that seem like they shouldn't have been found. But that's why we never give up!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Wisconsin Genealogical Society Webinar

8:00 pm - 9:00 pm (ET)

Lost in Your Cemetery Research? FindAGrave Can Help Unearth Your Answers

Registration: Free online at <http://tinyurl.com/kam4tbk>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Speaker: Vickie Schnitzler

"Find-a-Grave" may be an overlooked and under appreciated resource for basic on-line genealogical research. Find-a-grave volunteer, and WSGS president, Vickie Schnitzler, will share information about the organization, website and how to search the more than 111 million graves already posted. She will also share how Find-a-Grave can possibly help you with your genealogical research.

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

Georgia Genealogical Society Webinar

8:00 pm - 9:15 pm (ET)

Packrat or Genealogist? Effective Methods for Organizing Your Family History Research

Registration: Free online at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7298723471359282434>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Speaker: Lisa Alzo

Are you drowning in a sea of papers, documents, old photographs and other research materials? This talk will cover how to organize family history documents, photographs, etc. for quick retrieval. Traditional methods and computer technology will be featured along with ways for distributing/sharing this information with others.

Thursday, December 18, 2014

FSGS Poolside Chat Webinar

8:00 pm - 9:00 pm (ET)

"That First Trip to the Courthouse with Judy G. Russell"

Registration: FREE online at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1421973457548164097>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Speaker: Judy Russell, JD, CGSM, CGLSM

If there is one home truth in genealogy research, it's this: not everything is available online. Sooner or later, every genealogist has got to make that first trip to the courthouse to check out the original records available there. How to prepare for that trip, the rules of the road, what to expect, what to ask for, and how to be sure you'll be welcomed back the next time are explored in this lecture.

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

FamilyTreeWebinars.com

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm (ET)

Genealogy on the Go with iPads and Tablets

Registration: Free online at <http://www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Speaker: Lisa Louise Cooke

Technology has brought much more than the convenience of digitized genealogical records to our home computers. It has also delivered an incredible level of portability to family history research! iPads and tablets are built for hitting the road and are ideally suited for genealogy due to the sleek lightweight size, gorgeous graphics and myriad of apps and tools. In this class you will discover the top apps and best practices that will make your mobile device a genealogical powerhouse!

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

8:00 pm - 9:00 pm (CT)

Registration: Free online at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2933074072977427457>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Speaker: Lisa Louise Cooke

In this extremely popular class Google Earth Guru Lisa Louise Cooke will teach you how to unlock mysteries in your research: from unidentified photographs, to how an ancestral location looked a hundred years ago or more, to plotting homesteads precisely using land patent legal descriptions. You'll learn how to interpret the genealogical records you already have in new and exciting ways, and be amazed to discover that Google Earth is one of the best free genealogical tools available!

Illinois Genealogical Society Webinar

Using Google Earth for Genealogy

Saturday, January 17, 2015

8:00 am - 4:00 pm (ET)

www.gensocofpbc.org

Speaker: Diana Crisman Smith

Topics: "There's More to Immigration than Ellis Island"

"Well, They Didn't Swim Over! Using Passenger Lists"

"Extra! Extra! Ancestors in the News: Using Newspapers in Genealogy"

"I Know She's Out There Somewhere! Finding Female Ancestors"

Genealogical Society of West Palm Beach County FL Winter Program

Embassy Suites Hotel, 1601 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach, FL

Cost: \$45 for members, \$50 for non-members

Includes 2 breaks and lunch

Saturday, January 17, 2015

9:30 am - 12:15 pm (ET)

Speaker: Bryan L. Mulcahy – Reference Librarian – Fort Myers Regional Library

Lecture is geared towards beginners who have never tested and want to learn the basics behind why DNA testing is becoming popular and accepted supplementary tool within the research process. The number of people participating in the testing process has continues to increase. The increased participation has opened up many new options and scenarios that may impact personal research for many genealogists. This seminar will prepare you for the more advanced classes taught by our local DNA genealogist, Ms. Kathleen Callanan at a later date.

DNA and Genealogical Research for Dummies

South Building, 1651 Lee Street, Meeting Rooms A & B

Saturday, January 24, 2015

9:30 am - 12:15 pm (ET)

Speaker: John Bifano – Genealogy Volunteer – Fort Myers Regional Library

This is a follow-up to the beginner's session held in September. Millions of Americans identify themselves as having Italian ancestry. Italy is rich in genealogy and family history resources. John Bifano will cover research topics covering sources, repositories, and agencies in Italy. Program will cover procedures for obtaining records in Italy via mail, Italian sources within the Family History Library, and specific Italian research sites on the Internet highlighting how to extract pertinent information from these records. The lecture will be via Power Point featuring sample letter request for records, samples of Napoleonic records, Italian civil records from 1866 forward, and some ecclesiastical records.

Researching Your Italian Ancestors, Part Two: Research Techniques in Italy

South Building, 1651 Lee Street; Meeting Rooms A & B

Saturday, January 24, 2015

9:00 am - 3:30 pm (ET)

RSVP to Joanne Ryder at ryder.joanne@gmail.com

Speaker: Kory L. Meyerink

Topics: "Accessing Records in Germany: Local Repositories"

"Has It Already Been Done? German Compiled Records"

"Internet Sources for German Research"

"U. S. Sources for Learning the German Hometown"

SW Florida Germanic Genealogy Society Annual Seminar

24 Twenty-One TamiamiTrail, Port Charlotte, FL

Cost: \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members (no walk-ins)

Full home-cooked German lunch included

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

To you and yours!



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