



# Jacksonville Genealogical Society

*Vol. 31, No. 6 (#5 was not issued)*

*November - December 2015*

*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 21 November 2015

Our last meeting of the year is going to be eventful. We will start with the Election of Officers. The election will be by ballot and all members present at the meeting will be entitled to vote. We will also have a Social Gathering. We have so many good cooks in the Society (proof: the 40th Anniversary Cook Book) so I am looking forward to all of the finger foods that will be available for consumption! Please let AnnS ([info@jaxgen.org](mailto:info@jaxgen.org)) know what you are planning on bringing. A good time for us to get together, eat and be merry - before the holiday frenzy sets in.

## Membership Meeting December 2015

We do not have a membership meeting in December. We hope you and yours have a safe holiday season.

## Civil War Class

Jim Vearil, a past lecturer for JGS, sent an email noting that Ken Hoffman will be teaching a series of public education courses on the U.S Civil War. The first will be for 6 Saturday afternoons, 2:45-4:45 at the Pablo Creek branch of the Jacksonville public library. More information and the course description can be found on Ken's blog (<http://jaxhistorian.blogspot.com/p/a.html>). A look at the information on the blog posting is an education in itself.

## October Membership Meeting Report

Our October field trip to the Museum of Southern History was a very enjoyable experience for a number of our members. The museum is operated entirely by volunteers, and their president, Mr. Ben Willingham, very graciously opened just for us on that day. He spent about an hour talking to us about the War Between the States and explaining their collection to us. Then we were free to wander about on our own and explore their extensive library, which contains more than 6,000 volumes.

While we have all heard this war commonly called the Civil War, Mr. Willingham explained that by definition a civil war is a war in which two factions are fighting for control of the same government. But in this war, the Confederates had no desire to take over control of Washington. They simply wanted to be allowed to exist as a separate country. For this reason, Mr. Willingham said that this conflict is more properly called the War Between the States. While both names are used interchangeably by many, it was interesting to hear the reasoning behind terminology.

Their collection of relics includes flags, clothing, weapons, medical supplies, a pump organ, and many day-to-day needs of the soldier engaged in the War Between the States. There are also dioramas of several battles.

If you have not had the pleasure of visiting this hidden gem in Jacksonville, it is highly recommended!

## 2016 Dues

If you have not remitted your payment of dues for 2016, we urge you to do so, promptly. Our calendar year is January through December; therefore, dues for 2016 are coming up.

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

## Gift of Membership

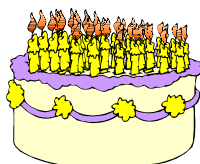
We invite you to give the gift of Society memberships to your friends. We also have a way for you to remember a loved one - a Memorial Gift. A year's membership could not be spent wiser. The enclosed Membership Application has a check box for your convenience.

## Mail and E-Mail Address Changes

Please notify us of any address change that you might have. Bounced e-mail is a bummer and the Post Office charges us a hefty fee for returned postal mail. A simple note to us at [info@jaxgen.org](mailto:info@jaxgen.org) can help save our funds.

## Happy Birthday

We send a "Happy Birthday" greeting to our members who celebrated recent birthdays:



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
Harlan Dittman	October 24
Martha Poarch	October 27
Charlene Hopton	November 8
Mildred Dittman	December 3
Jeanne Carter	December 7
Barbara Strength	December 23

## Volunteer Your Needs, Information and Yourself!

Awesome! We put out the call for the need for officers for the next term and you came through; we have almost a complete slate. However, now is not the time to disappear! We need - you - everyone of you to support the society, if we are to survive. We need a change and this is your chance for incorporating new ideas and visions. We cannot stress enough how much we need YOUR help.

Thank you, again, to those who came forward. We are looking forward to working to make the next two years truly great.

## Intermediate Genealogy Class

The four-session Intermediate Genealogy Class, featuring research resources in the U.S., was held in the computer lab of the Clay County Library Headquarters, 1895 Town Center Blvd., Fleming Island, FL, in August and September.

This class was totally revamped and concentrated on online resources for the genealogist. With an average of 15 students each Saturday, it was enjoyed by all.

## Orphan Trains

By Bryan L. Mulcahy, *MLS*, ([bmulcahy@leegov.com](mailto:bmulcahy@leegov.com)),  
Reference Librarian, Fort Myers Regional Library; 2450  
First St, Fort Myers, FL 33901, Tel: (239) 533-4626, Fax:  
(239) 485-1160 (BLM 6/22/2015) --- Used with permission  
of the author.

Children who grew up homeless, abused, unloved, and were forced to steal to survive never forget these experiences, especially if they had the misfortune to be raised in this manner in big cities on the eastern seaboard such as New York, Philadelphia, and Boston in the 1800s and early 1900s. Many would eventually end up on Orphan Trains.

In 1854, the *Children's Aid Society* (CAS) was founded on the belief that the longer a child was housed in an asylum, the chances for success would be slim in the outside world. By 1855, the CAS began sending trainloads of children out to the Midwest to find adoptive homes. These Orphan Trains departed from the Foundling Home in New York City, transporting close to 200,000 children to the Midwest and into Western states as America expanded. The effort was terminated around 1929.

For some children, the change in scenery was beneficial enough to overcome the memories. For others, the memories never went away and impacted future relationships with their new families. Farming families tended to be the primary sponsors of the majority of orphan children. The quality of treatment varied. For those who made the adjustment, the bonding process often went fairly well. Those who did not adjust usually moved from one family to another in circumstances similar to our current foster care system. Children in this latter category were often chosen by their prospective family strictly based on the perceived value as laborers.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, there were many deadly epidemics and communicable diseases, which were often fatal for large numbers of children, especially in the Midwest and West. This was a major reason for the appeal of orphan children.

People called *Placing Agents* served as escorts on the four to five day train ride with the children. Groups of well-known citizens would often act as a local committee to aid the children's agent. Applications, completed by the agent on each child, were reviewed by the committee. When the train arrived and blew the whistle at the small town depot, the children were herded to a stage, often at a local church, and placed in a row for all to see. Information about their education, personality, and character was then announced to the crowd by the orphan's agent. Sometimes, in their efforts to find a home, the children would even perform.

If your missing ancestor was born between 1850 and 1926 in Boston, New York, or Philadelphia, and grew up west of the Mississippi River with a family of a different name, he or she could have traveled on an orphan train. The Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, now called the National Orphan Train Complex, is considered the best beginning point for anyone involved in this type of research. The link is <http://orphantraindepot.org/>. Another good link is Cyndi's List – Orphans and Orphan Trains at <http://www.cyndislist.com/orphans/orphan-trains/>.

BLM 10/14/2015

## Rules for Success in Genealogy Research

By Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS, ([bmulcahy@leegov.com](mailto:bmulcahy@leegov.com)),  
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First St, Fort Myers, FL 33901, Tel: (239) 533-4626, Fax:  
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the author.

Genealogy is one of the most enjoyable, yet challenging endeavors that one will encounter. Unlike the popular Staples commercial that features the infamous "easy" button, there is no such shortcut in genealogy. Success depends not only on passion, but also research skill, patience, knowledge of historical context, and some luck. Of all of these factors, knowing the historical context and place of residence is paramount. Historical context usually impacted the life decisions made by all of our ancestors. This article is designed to help you as you advance through the research process. Some important concepts are listed below.

1. Whenever you uncover facts, cite all of your sources completely. This is a must because without documentation it's likely you'll need to go back to check the facts.
2. Under no circumstances should you ever assume that another researcher's information is absolutely accurate. This is true even if they documented their sources. Information without documentation should never be trusted.
3. When dealing with the spelling of names, whether it is an individual, locality of residence or origin, you

frequently will encounter variations. Spelling was not standardized for many years.

4. Regardless of the source (print or online), never accept information found on someone's family tree at face value. Treating it as a clue may be useful but accepting it verbatim is not a good practice.
5. When documenting sources, take time to examine the information for accuracy. Don't make assumptions based on what appear to be well-documented sources. Anything a human being can do right, they can also do wrong. In some cases, errors can be intentional to cover up issues.
6. Sharing information among researchers is the key to why genealogists have achieved success over the decades. However, check and double check your information before recording or sharing.
7. When you run into roadblocks or research challenges, step back and check the documentation. Sometimes it's a good idea is to take a short break from research then have a second look at the record or documentation. The break or re-examination of the source citations may provide you with fresh insight. In many cases the answer is there but you need time to refresh and mull over the options. This is also another time when re-examining the historical context can be beneficial.
8. You must maintain an open mind about your ancestors. The decisions they made were based on the historical context of the time.
9. Don't be afraid to ask for help. The genealogy community is populated with individuals of all skill levels and areas of expertise, most of whom are happy to assist others.
10. Share. Offer to exchange information with other researchers. Share a little at a time and request a few documented facts from the other person. Sharing can open up opportunities to overcome research roadblocks. BLM 9/22/2015

## Have you tried these websites?

CalendarHome.com. *The Calendar Home Page!*  
(<http://www.calendarhome.com> : accessed 15 Oct 2015) [You can view a month or year calendar for any year 1 to 10,000 A.D. All leap years and calendar changes are accounted for. You can also print out perpetual calendars. Under "Calculate" there are other calculators for dates.]

Friedman, S. Morgan. The Inflation Calculator.  
(<http://www.westegg.com/inflation> : accessed 15 Oct 2015)  
[An Inflation calculator is great when you have a value amount for your ancestors' worth, but you want to find out about what it might equate to in today's value.]

## Upcoming Events

**Monday, November 2, 2015**

6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

1895 Town Center Blvd., Fleming Island, Genealogy and Local History Room

Speaker: C. Ann Staley, CG, CGL: Overlooked Research Sources: A Gold Mine to be Discovered

We sometimes get caught in a researcher's "rut"; we start looking at the same type of sources and "forget" that there are a lot of different types of sources to be scoured for information and clues to our ancestors. This presentation will take a look at a variety of these sources, what they contain and where they can be acquired.

**Fleming Island Genealogy Group**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2015**

9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Manatee County Central Library, 1301 Baracotta Blvd W Bradenton FL

Susan Lewis Well: *Accessing Land Records Online*

Contact: Ted Reich, [treich43@aol.com](mailto:treich43@aol.com)

**Manatee Genealogical Society Monthly Meeting**

**Sunday, November 8, 2015**

Speaker: Chris Burkland: *DNA and Genealogy*

Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida

Contact: Sally Israel, [sisrael@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:sisrael@tampabay.rr.com); Phone: 727-343-1652

**Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay**

**Tuesday, November 10**

9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Indian River County Main Library, 1600 21st Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960

DearMYRTLE, aka Pat Richely-Erickson: *Ancestry Trees Can Jumpstart Your Family History Research*

Contact Cindy J. Hineman, [pr@irgs.org](mailto:pr@irgs.org), 772 444-7470

**Indian River Genealogical Society November Meeting**

**Thursday, November 12**

7:00 pm

**Central Florida Genealogical Society General Meeting**

Family History Center, 45 E. Par Street, Orlando, FL 32804

Maggie Winter and Lisa Utsey will explore the 17th and 18th century historical events in Scotland that caused so many to leave their homeland. They will discuss the choices that Scots made as they were forced to relocate to Northern Ireland, Canada, North America, South Africa, and Australia and cover the migration patterns for those who chose to come to North America.

Contact Lea Collins [cfqs@cfqs.org](mailto:cfqs@cfqs.org)

**Saturday, November 14, 2015**

9:30 am to 12:15 pm;

Fort Myers Regional Library South Building, 1651 Lee Street; Meeting Rooms A & B

Speaker: JoAnne Ryder

*Tracing Your Historical German Ancestors Using Myers-Orts: Germany was not a recognized country before unification in 1871. Where were the Germanic lands in antiquity? How did they develop into the German states we know today? This gazetteer of the German Empire is the gazetteer to use to locate place names in German research.*

*Translating German Church Records: Begun in 1563 (but not universally implemented then!), these records are an indispensable resource in German genealogy. Many researchers are intimidated by the language and script. Much of the writing in early records is in Gothic Script. This can be a challenge but don't be discouraged. It is "do-able" Learn how!*

**German Genealogical Research Seminar**

**Thursday, November 19, 2015**

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

**FSGS Poolside Chat Free Webinar**

Online Webinar

Speaker: Kathryn Lake Hogan, PLCGS: Find your American Ancestor Using Canadian Records

Registration: FREE online at <http://www.flsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=253>

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

*When you can't find your ancestor's birth, marriage or death registration, or their name on a ship list or immigration record at Ellis Island, then it's time to consider your ancestor may have been in Canada. Discover eight reasons why your American or immigrant ancestor actually may have there.*

**Thursday, December 17, 2015**

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

**FSGS Poolside Chat Free Webinar**

Online Webinar

Speaker: Warren Bittner: On Mountain or Prairie: Treasures in Federal Land Records

Registration: FREE online at <http://www.flsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=253>

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

*Learn how to find federal land case files and see the treasures they contain. Follow a farmer in Kansas who does not appear to own land.*

## **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
  Dual membership: \$ 5.00 \*  
 Life (Principal) membership: \$260.00
  Life (Dual): \$65.00 \*  
 Student: \$10.00
  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      | Other _____       |

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: \_\_\_\_\_



Have a wonderful  
Winter  
Genealogical  
Season of  
Hunting Ancestors



Jacksonville Genealogical Society, Inc.

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