



## JACKSONVILLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

VOL. 27, NO.1

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

(Please note a date change for the January meeting.)

-----January 29, 2011-----

Mr. Alvie Davidson, a certified genealogist, retired U.S. Naval Reserve Intelligence officer, Florida certified private investigator, Class A license, and an author will be our speaker. Mr. Davidson's research specialty is Lineage Societies and Heir Searcher. Mr. Davidson is from Lakeland, Florida. Mr. Davidson's presentation will be: "Introduction to Forensic Genealogy." It will be a case study of forensic research. This should be a very interesting and informative meeting. Please plan to attend. Should you need further information please call Jim Laird at (904) 264-0743.

### SEMINAR---SEMINAR---SEMINAR

February, 19, 2011 is our Seminar. Sharon Tate Moody, CG, Genealogy lecturer, writer and researcher, will be our speaker. Her topics will include: Speaking from the Grave: Understanding Your Ancestors' Probate Files; No Ring? No License? Were They Married?; In the Wilderness and on the Battlefield with Your

Civil War Ancestor; and Finding Missing Links in Land Records. The time is 9:00 with registration beginning at 8:30. Cost is \$30.00 for the JGS member. Non-members cost is \$35.00. Price includes lunch if registration is postmarked by 8 February 2011. After February 8, 2011, refunds will not be given; however a syllabus will be provided.

This year we will return to St. Paul's Church Hall, 2609 Park Street, Jacksonville, free parking and handicap accessible is provided and the church has done extensive renovation since our last visit. Applications will be available at the January meeting and this newsletter with additional help at our website: <http://jaxgen.home.comcast.net> For additional information please feel free to contact Jim Laird, (904) 264-0743.

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. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE IN MEETING DATE.**

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 English, beginning 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.

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

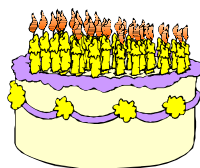
You may recall that Melody was our speaker on two other occasions, where she discussed the Pioneer Certificate program of the Florida State Genealogical Society and her second program speaking regarding research in Georgia Court Houses. Both programs extremely interesting.

June 18, 2011 we will bring back Mr. George Bass. You will remember Mr. Bass presented us with a program about using GPS in genealogy research. Rave reviews come to Mr. Bass in his presentation he will offer us this time, "World War II Photograph Album."

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.

**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.**

**Happy Birthday!**



We send a "Happy Birthday" to our members who are celebrating in January and February:

January 8	Roberta Dill
January 16	Lynn Comiskey
January 22	Joanne Hull
February 7	Kathy Ballistreri
February 13	Patricia Carter
February 13	Pamela Oglesby
February 18	Margaret Anthony
February 27	Joan Peck

### **Membership and Telephone Committee**

Presently, this committee is Ramona Remy and Jim Laird. As we all know, meeting dates can sometimes change quickly; already this year we have two changes to our regular meeting dates. We really do like to keep everyone informed as soon as we know about any changes so please contact us if your e-mail address changes, home address changes, or if your phone number changes. It is very often quicker to make a phone call. Thank You.

I am always thinking of committees and open positions. We are still in need of a refreshment committee; presently Grace and your editor are in charge of that duty.

We also need a Second Vice-President/Publicity Chairman. Presently Jim Laird is filling that position.

We need a new Corresponding Secretary. Ramona Remy is presently holding down that position as well as First Vice-President/Membership Chairman.

Last, but hardly least, 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

Special Thanks here to Barbara Gavan, editor of the Prime Time section of the Florida Times-Union for realizing my "Senior Moment" and rescuing me in the December issue of The Prime Time Section. Event calendars are always on a space available basis. Barbara can't always have a calendar in which to include us but she never stops trying.

From Fort Myers and Bryan Mulcahy

**English Common Law in America**

During the Colonial Era, the American colonies were governed under the English Common Law system adapted from the English Crown. For researchers tracing colonial ancestors from 1620 through 1776, a basic knowledge of the terms and concepts of Common Law is necessary to understand the lives and daily actions and life decisions of their ancestors. Common Law impacted their community status, family relationships, personal rights, property, inheritance, and personal and legal relationships. Genealogical records such as deeds, marriage bonds, wills, etc., were all impacted by aspects of English Common Law.

The concept of Common Law developed out of three parallel court systems that existed in England between 1100 and 1500:

1. **Ecclesiastical Courts:** Operated under the jurisdiction of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and diocesan bishops. They had jurisdiction over probate matters such as wills, administration of decedent's estates, marriage, and domestic relations.
2. **Court of Equity, in the High Court of Chancery:** They had jurisdiction over addressing wrongs requiring corrective action other than the limited remedies available from the law courts.

3. **Law or King's Courts:** Awarded possession of lands or goods or monetary damages. Decisions reflected the royal judges' common understanding of personal and property rights and duties that had evolved through preceding centuries in cases where no royal decree or parliamentary enactment could guide them. Those principles assumed the character of law because judges, in an effort to keep decisions consistent, treated each as a binding precedent for future decisions.

Laws passed by Parliament and the King in Council affected all three systems and further led to the establishment of the concept "Common Law". The term "Common Law" came from the judge's common understanding of their interpretation of the law. The decisions handed down reflected the judges' common understanding of personal and property rights and duties that had evolved through preceding centuries in cases where no royal decree or parliamentary enactment could guide them. Those principles assumed the character of law because judges, in an effort to keep decisions consistent, treated each as a binding precedent for future decisions. However, whether you are talking about England, or the American colonies, one must be aware that the legal interpretation often varied by locality and time period.

Overlapping jurisdictions are another challenge. While in theory each court was a separate entity, there were numerous occasions where jurisdictions overlapped. This same issue with overlapping jurisdictions persisted in the colonies as well which often results in some interesting challenges. English colonists settling in America brought this hybrid common law, in various stages of further evolution, to North America, where it assumed an American character. Because the colonies functioned independently of each other, the law continued to evolve, albeit differently in each colony.

BLM 12/6/2010

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## OFFICERS, STANDING AND APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN (terms expiring at end of 2009):

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

**Determining Immigrant Naturalization Dates Using Census Records**

When researchers encounter problems tracking ancestors before they came to America, census records offer many possible research clues. The 1880 census featured questions pertaining to the birthplaces of each person's parents. The 1900 census was the first to indicate how long immigrants had been in the United States and whether they had been naturalized. The 1910 census asked for the year of immigration and citizenship status, as well as the native language spoken (other than English). The 1900 through 1930 census schedules identified citizenship status with the following symbols: **a** for alien; **pa** for individuals who had applied but not completed the naturalization process; **na** for naturalized.

The 1920 and 1930 census asked expanded questions concerning the background of the immigrant, year of immigration, whether naturalized, if so, the year of naturalization, whether the person could speak English, country of birth, native tongue of the individual and for both parents (language other than English). By 1920, the census also recorded the date of naturalization.

The 1920 census was also influenced by political implications from World War I. Boundary changes resulting from the war led to the directive that census enumerators were instructed to spell out the name of the city, state, province, or region of respondents who declared that they or their parents were originally from Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, or Turkey. Some enumerators were more diligent than others in following this directive.

If you are unable to find the primary ancestor's country of origin in census records, check for relatives or others with the same surname. Besides the federal census, using state, city, township, and school censuses are other possible sources of information. Some of these censuses asked for the names of parents, mother's maiden name, nativity of parents, place of parents' marriage, military service, native tongue (other than English), occupation, and religious background. The ***Handybook For Genealogists*** is an excellent source that includes information on the types of special censuses that were conducted in given states. Local courthouses and school district administrative offices can inform you of local or school censuses and procedures for access. This source will also give complete listings for all courthouses in the United States. ***Patterson's American Education*** is a good source to find the addresses and contact information for school districts nationwide.

BLM 11/4/2010

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### Voter Registration Records

Voter registration records are useful for genealogical research. Registration records certify the eligibility of voters and record participation in local, state, and national elections. Registrations are one of many underutilized public record sources containing relevant genealogical information. Content and format of information on voter registration records often vary from place to place. When researching voter's records, remember that voting was limited to men until Congress ratified the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the United States Constitution in 1920 which granted suffrage – the right to vote in elections – to all women.

Under normal and legitimate legal circumstances, researchers can expect to find some or all of the following types of information:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Name of the person registered to vote   | 7. Address                             |
| 2. Birth date and year   | 8. Party affiliation                   |
| 3. Voting number   | 9. Race or nationality                 |
| 4. Registration number   | 10. Poll tax amount                    |
| 5. Place of birth  | 11. Miscellaneous personal information |
| 6. Voting precinct or district Examples of what might constitute “miscellaneous personal information” include: |  |
| 1. Occupation  |  |
| 2. Land/property ownership   |  |
| 3. Slaves  |  |
| 4. How citizenship was acquired:   |  |
| a. Citizenship of father   | d. Father's naturalization             |
| b. Marriage to a citizen   | e. Naturalization of husband           |
| c. Decree of court   | f. Act of Congress                     |

In most cases, where voter's registration records indicate the voter was naturalized, the record will show the year, name of court, date of proceeding, and place where proceeding took place. Some may even name the presiding judicial official and their legal title. This information can lead you into naturalization records. “Poll tax” requirements for the privilege of voting provide researchers with another avenue in those states that required this form of payment. To access these types of records, follow the same search strategy by finding the state or county of interest and then enter the term “poll tax” as your subject heading. Not all states had voting stipulations for the collection of a “poll tax”.

Older records are usually found in the county courthouse, courthouse annex, local historical society library, state archives, or the state historical society library. The Secretary of State normally has jurisdiction over the state archives. Older records are usually found in those states where the state archives have possession of voting records. Current records are usually maintained at the county level by the county elections supervisor (who is also under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State) on a database shared with main office in the respective Capitol.

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Please note the January and March meeting date changes. January is now the 29<sup>th</sup> and March is now the 26<sup>th</sup>. Cookbooks are still available. Ann Staley's Spring classes are in the works and hope to have the dates soon.

## Websites of Possible Interest

**URL:** <http://www.obitcity.com>  
**TITLE:** Obit City  
**DESCRIPTION:** This is a U.S. obituary database that covers all 50 states. Formerly an Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi database, it now has nationwide obits.

**URL:** <http://www.genealogy-quest.com/military/ww2/1945-casualties-Sept-21.html>  
**TITLE:** US Army and Navy Deaths, Wounded, Missing, Safe and Liberated, 28 October 1945  
**DESCRIPTION:** On 21 September 1945 the navy and war department made public new casualty lists. The report includes the names of army and navy dead, wounded, missing, safe and liberated. Listed here are the soldiers, sailors and marines from Illinois and Wisconsin.

**URL:** <http://www.newhorizonsgenealogicalservices.com/1820-pension-list.htm>  
**TITLE:** 1820 Pension List for Revolutionary and Military Service  
**DESCRIPTION:** The 1820 pension list is a report of the names, rank and line of every person placed on the pension list in pursuance of the act of the 18th March, 1818.

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**URL:** <http://stvincentcemetery.tripod.com>  
**TITLE:** St Vincent Cemetery, Baltimore, MD  
**DESCRIPTION:** Website for St Vincent Cemetery, Baltimore, MD. Includes historical documents, maps, names of those buried there, and information on tombstone research.

**URL:** <http://www.genealogy-quest.com/military/ww2/1945-casualties-Sept-26.html>  
**TITLE:** US Army and Navy Deaths, Wounded, Missing and Liberated, 26 September 1945  
**DESCRIPTION:** On 26 September 1945 the navy and war department made public new casualty lists. The report includes the names of army and navy dead, wounded, missing and liberated. Listed here are the soldiers, sailors and marines from Illinois and Wisconsin.

**URL:** <http://morrowfamilytree.com/family/durantroll.php>  
**TITLE:** Durant Roll - An Interactive native American Database  
**DESCRIPTION:** The Durant Roll is a native american census roll taken by Horace Durant from 1908 to 1910. The Database consists of natives of the Mackinac, Sault Ste. Marie, Grand River and Traverse Chippewa and

Ottawa Indians of mostly of Northern Michigan. Also included in the database are the 1870 Indian Census Rolls.

URL: <http://jamesewilliams.tripod.com/milamcounty-outlawsandlawmen.html>

TITLE: Milam County Outlaws and Lawmen Page

DESCRIPTION: Contains information about outlaws and lawmen from Milam County, Texas, from 1836-1900, including lists of fugitives from justice.

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URL: <http://www.neilelvick.com/Immigration%20Lists/passengerintro.htm>

TITLE: Alphabetized List from I. Daniel Rupp's book 'thirty thousand names...of Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776'

DESCRIPTION: Alphabetized list of names of about 25,000 German immigrants to Pennsylvania from 1727-1776. Includes name of ship.

URL: <http://virtuallibrary.cincinnati.org/VirtualLibrary/>

TITLE: Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County Virtual Library

DESCRIPTION: Cincinnati, OH City Directories from 1819-1898, incomplete.

URL:

[http://www.ancestorsatrest.com/cemetery\\_records/snow\\_churchyard\\_aberdeen\\_scotland.shtm](http://www.ancestorsatrest.com/cemetery_records/snow_churchyard_aberdeen_scotland.shtm)

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TITLE: Snow Churchyard Burials Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

DESCRIPTION: Burials in Snow Church in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland from 1776 until 1857.

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URL: <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/nescotland/graveyards/grkincd.htm>

TITLE: Kincardineshire Graveyards... all different but every one a gem!

DESCRIPTION: Details and photographs of burial grounds in Kincardineshire.

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URL: <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/nescotland/graveyards/grabdncity.htm>

TITLE: Aberdeen City Graveyards and Cemeteries... A Wonderful Selection of Interesting Places

DESCRIPTION: Details and photographs of cemeteries in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

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URL: <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/nescotland/graveyards/grabdnsr.htm>

TITLE: Aberdeenshire Graveyards... So many and all fascinating!

DESCRIPTION: Detail and photographs of graveyards in Aberdeenshire.

**URL:** <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/GettingStarted2010.htm>  
**TITLE:** Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy  
**DESCRIPTION:** A new book by Gary Mokotoff.

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**URL:** <http://www.wadschier.dk>  
**TITLE:** Wadschier.dk  
**DESCRIPTION:** Sources for Danish genealogy research, i.e. parish registers, probates.

**From Fort Myers and Bryan L. Mulcahy:  
February Beginners Series.**

**Speaker: Gina Hamister, Genealogist, Western Reserve Historical Society Library, Cleveland, Ohio. Saturday, January 29, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>. Time: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Session One: Using Home Sources & Organizing Your Research. Session Two: Finding Your Family in the United States Census. Session Three: Using Court House Resources and Vital Records. Session Four: Using Alternative or Hidden Resources For Locating Ancestors.**

***We Hope For All, Only The Best!!!***

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