



Jacksonville Genealogical Society

Vol. 36, No. 6

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.

November/December 2020

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

Join Us!

Due to the ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19, the Jacksonville Genealogical Society Board has decided that the remaining meetings for 2020 will be held virtually as webinars. Members are strongly encouraged to attend and visitors are always welcome. Mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Membership Meeting

21 Nov 2020

--- Virtual Meeting ---

Speaker: C. Ann Staley, CG, CGL

Topic: *Slave Narratives: Telling the Story of Slavery and Families*

Please register for the presentation at

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/4926071987029810958>

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

Brief Description: The WPA Federal Writers' Project (FWP) of the late 1930s provides us with more than 2,300 first-person accounts of former slaves. This collection provides autobiographical experiences of the slavery institution. But how can we use this rich resource? Can they be relied upon? The slave narratives, with their autobiographical accounts, can provide insight into the institution, and rich context and clues for family research.

Speaker Bio: Ann is an educator and consultant. Her specialties are Methodology, Research Sources, Computer Resources, Vital Records and their Sources, and Conference



Planning. She is the author of several articles for the *NGS Magazine* and the co-author of the *NGS Research in the States Series-Florida*.

Membership Meeting

Dec 2020

--- NO Membership Meeting ---
Enjoy the holidays with your family

Membership Meeting

16 Jan 2021

--- Virtual Meeting ---

Speaker: Valerie Bonaro

Topic: *Researching at Family History Centers*

Membership Meeting

20 Feb 2021

--- Virtual Meeting ---

Speaker: Joel Warner

Topic: *Case Study – JGS Research Request.*

Presents an interesting set of questions about how much one should rely on inferences without indisputable evidence. There are some interesting twists and turns.

Membership Meeting

20 Mar 2021

--- Virtual Meeting ---

Topic: Program Chair, Georgeann, is working on something special. Stay tuned for details

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 checkbox 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 can help save JGS funds.

2021 Dues

It's That Time Again!

JGS Membership Chair - Brenda Oneil

It's time to renew – or get – your membership for 2021.

Even though we are not able to meet in person, JGS has continued to provide you with informative presentations in the form of webinars each month. They are excellent and, of course, free. You are also able to print out the speaker's handouts and ask questions at the end of each one. Information on the upcoming webinar is sent out several weeks in advance each month and you register online.

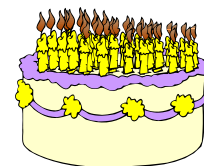
Until we can safely meet again in person, we plan to continue to provide this service to you each month at our regular meeting time of the third Saturday of each month at 1:30 PM. More information is available on the Society Website and through the Newsletter.

We would like to encourage you to renew – or get – your Membership for the upcoming year using the enclosed form and mail it to our Post Office Box 440488. Any Membership Form received before January 2021 will automatically be registered for 2021.

We are reaching out to our members to thank you for helping us to serve you in the upcoming year. Our Program Chairman has and will continue to work diligently to provide speakers each month so you will have great research materials. Thank you for renewing for 2021!

Happy Birthday

We send a "Happy Birthday" greeting to our members who are celebrating birthdays in November and December:



Christine Bass	2 November
Charlene Hopton	8 November
Nedra Soles	12 November
Jeanne Carter	7 December
Christa Snow	10 December
Barbara Strength	23 December

If anyone was omitted, we apologize and wish you a wonderful day of celebration. Please let us know so we can include you in the future.

Wishes for Improved Health Issues

We are sending best wishes for a speedy recovery to Ivy Phillips, Deannie McVeigh, and Barbara Crissman. They are having some issues and we are praying for your return to good health.

North Florida Genealogy Conference

JGS is proud to be one of the five sponsoring organizations of the North Florida Genealogy Conference. Together we have put together a series of conferences which through the years have been attended by an average of 250-300 participants and have consistently received positive feedback.

Due to the continuance of the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision has been made to not hold a conference in 2021. We are not confident that a large gathering will be appropriate or even possible in March. We recognize that many (including those of us to work on the conference committee) greatly enjoy this conference and look forward to it. However, we feel the ambiguity of the current situation works against us.

We thought of having a virtual conference; however, trying to create a virtual conference right behind RootsTech Connect did not make sense to us (see article below). Also, one of the strengths of the NFGC is its social and mingling aspect - we like getting together and having fun! Thus, our decision not to hold a conference in 2021 and hope for better things in 2022.

RootsTech Connect 2021

This year marks the 11th anniversary of RootsTech. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they decided to provide the whole conference virtually and free – as RootsTech Connect. This is great news, as this has become one of the premier conferences. We can now attend without the cost of registration, travel, or lodging!

The conference started as a way of bringing genealogists together with those involved in the technology world. Over the past 10 years, they have added more classes on both sides of the spectrum.

Mark the dates – 25-27 February 2021.

To register and to watch for the schedule, go to <https://www.rootstech.org/>. Many recorded video sessions are also available from 2015 through 2020 at <https://www.rootstech.org/video-archive>

Ancestry® Debuts Searchable Digital Archive of Newspaper Published Historical Wedding Announcements

Ancestry® Society News for 27 October 2020
Permission to copy to Society Newsletter granted.

Ancestry® has been the leader in family history for more than 30 years, developing innovative research tools and adding new content to our unparalleled historical record collections that enable people around the world to discover more about their family's past. Today, Ancestry is excited to launch the first phase of the Newspapers.com™ Marriage Index collection, powered by cutting-edge technology. We trained machine learning algorithms to comb through more than 600 million pages of digitized newspapers to extract and identify key names, relationships and other facts from marriage and engagement announcements in historical newspapers via text classification.

Read the full [blog post](#). Christa Cowan also has a [YouTube](#) presentation providing information on the database and how to use it.

I used to have a life, then I started doing genealogy!

Tell Us A Story

These past months of the COVID-19 pandemic have provided us with opportunities to share stories with our families. Do you have a story that you heard that you would love to tell to anyone who will listen? Is it about that war hero? Or the scandalous black sheep? The hardships endured by your immigrant ancestor? How Grandpa and Grandma managed through the depression? A family member who was there during Jacksonville's great fire? Or Chicago's? Well, guess what? We want to hear it! We want YOUR story for future editions of our newsletter.

If you have a story but feel like you don't know how to put it on paper, we will be glad to do a little editing for you. Just put it down as you would tell it if you were speaking to someone.

We would love to talk with you about your idea for the newsletter. We appreciate your interaction and look forward to new ideas. Send it to info@jaxgen.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Holidays, Family, and Genealogy

Families will be gathering for the many festivities that will be occurring. This is a great time of the year to gather genealogy, oral or otherwise, while you have your families together.

In conjunction with Thanksgiving Day being National Family History Day, the Surgeon General has gotten together a Family Health History Initiative at <https://www.cdc.gov/genomics/famhistory/index.htm>. This is a national public health campaign to help families learn more about family health. On the website, they provide more information about the initiative, an online tool for gathering and saving family health history, and forms that can be downloaded.

Other websites to look at are:
Illinois Department of Public Health
Celebrate this Thanksgiving by Discussing Your Family's Health History
http://www.idph.state.il.us/HealthWellness/family_history.htm

Senior Living Blog
A Thanksgiving Portrait: Gathering Family Health History

<https://www.aplaceformom.com/caregiver-resources/articles/national-family-history-day>

You might also want to check out a Christmas present idea. Just put "family history christmas gift ideas" into your favorite search engine and you might be amazed at the options. Etsy has a good number of great ideas.

Benefits of Having a Genealogy Research Plan

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(BLM 11/25/2019) Used with permission of the author.

Having a research plan is critical for any long-term success in genealogy. The research process helps people understand and appreciate their ancestors' achievements in spite of many challenges. Developing a research plan involves setting goals and objectives.

Creating an effective research plan increases the likelihood you will be able to solve that long-standing brickwall in your family tree. A genealogy research plan is much more than a to-do list. The major objective in developing a genealogy research plan is to identify what you want to know and formulate questions which will address your research goals. Many professional genealogists create a genealogy research plan for each research question. The plan can be as simple as a few steps or multiple pages.

The elements of an effective genealogy research plan usually include the following points:

1. Setting Objectives: What Do You Want to Know?

What specific details do you want to learn about your ancestor? A marriage date? Spouse's name? Where they lived at a particular time? When they died? Determining a research objective helps keep your research focused and your plan on track.

2. Listing All Known Facts: What Do I Already Know?

What have you already learned about your ancestors? This should include names, relationships, dates and places that are supported by original records. The best techniques to obtain this documentation include:

- a. Search home sources for documents, photos, diaries, and family tree charts.
- b. Interview family members and relatives. It is best to begin with the oldest members first. If they pass away beforehand, the stories pass with them. While someone else in the family may know this information, it will seldom be as accurate and detailed.
- c. Search repositories in the area where the ancestors lived.

3. Develop a Working Hypothesis: What Do I Think the Answer Is?

What are the possible or probable conclusions that you hope to prove or possibly disprove through your genealogy research? Let's say you want to know when your ancestor died. You might start, for example, with the hypothesis that they died in the town or county where they owned land. County histories can be a very useful resource, enabling you to learn about the history of an area and your ancestor's role in it. County histories often are available on Interlibrary Loan, and sometimes online.

4. Identify Record Sources: Which Records Might Hold the Answer and Where are They Located?

Some prime examples include:

- a. Census records
- b. Marriage records and certificates
- c. Wills and probate records
- d. Land records such as deeds, mortgages, etc.
- e. Tax records

Create a list of possible sources, and identify the repositories, including libraries, archives, societies or published Internet collections where these records can be researched.

5. Research Strategy

The final step of your genealogy research plan is to determine the best means of accomplishing your research goals, considering the available records and your research needs. Decide which record type is most likely to contain the answer you need. Then determine the best strategy for obtaining that record; does the best technique include, for example, a visit to the area where the ancestors lived, or can you obtain the record by searching microfilm online? Do you need to hire a professional researcher or will a phone call to the courthouse where your ancestor lived, help you determine the location of the record you need? The local library, as well as genealogical societies and historical societies can be very useful resources in

helping you move forward with your research plan.

City Directories – They’re *Not* Your Old Phone Books

By Riverton (Utah) FamilySearch Library

3740 West Market Center Drive

Riverton, Utah 84065-8026 - Phone: 801-240-9601

Copied from "Tip of the Week" 2 Nov 2020

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Riverton_FamilySearch_Library

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>

City Directories are "among the most important sources of information about urban areas and their inhabitants." (A quote from the "[Library of Congress](#)" website.)

The word "city" can be misleading. These helpful directories were in many small, urban towns and go back through the 1800s.

How can city directories help me in my research?

City directories are not like a phone book. They listed people alphabetically, by address, and evolved from just the name of the head-of-household to more detailed family information, such as names of all the occupants at an address, occupation of head-of-household, ages and sometimes where they moved to. This is a great in-between-census place to look. "If you've ever been frustrated because most of the 1890 US census was destroyed in a fire, consider the possibility that your ancestor may be listed in a city directory taken in that year." "If you run into that familiar problem of trying to differentiate between two or more people of the same names, a city directory might be able to help you there as well. Since the purpose of a published city directory is to allow the user to locate specific individuals, they made a point of listing identifying information such as middle initials and occupations." Genealogy How To Issue Sept. 21, 2012 by Aubrey Fredrickson. Also, look for people of the same surname in the same directory for possible family affiliations.

Where can I find city directories?

The public library or historical society of that city, or go to Elder Ron Ray's site at tinyurl.com/familyhistorysites; Ancestry.com, Cyndislist.com, Distantcousin.com, [Library of Congress](#), [USCitydirectories](#), [Google Books](#), and [Online Historical Directories](#).

Finding Ancestral Places of Origin

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(BLM 1/1/2020) Used with permission of the author.

Locating the place of origin for immigrant ancestors can be one of the most frustrating searches encountered by genealogists and historians. While this challenge applies more for immigrants to the United States or Canada, American-born ancestors may present this same issue regarding the birthplace. This can be particularly frustrating if living parents, grandparents, or other family members refuse to discuss any events, facts, or individuals related to the past.

The following list of United States record types have a proven track record for successful research. These records apply to foreign and United States places of origin or birth. For a more complete listing of records that cover this topic, feel free to email me at the address listed at the end of this article.

1. Alien Registrations
2. Baptismal/Christenings and Other Church Records
3. Bible Records
4. Census Records (Federal and States)
5. Civil Birth, Death, and Marriage Records/Applications (Don't Forget French-Canadian Catholic Church Marriages When Applicable)
6. Civil/Criminal Court Records
7. Delayed Birth Certificates
8. Diaries and Journals
9. Military Enlistment and Service Records
10. Naturalization Records and Court Proceedings
11. Newspaper Obituaries and/or Stories (Anniversaries, Personal Profiles, and Weddings)
12. Ship Passenger Arrival and Departure Records

If the subject of your search has a unique or unusual surname in a given locality, a general search in these and similar records may yield valuable clues. In other cases, you may need to search for neighbors and/or acquaintances to uncover the information.

Upcoming Events
With the Covid-19 restrictions still in place,
please contact these groups regarding their schedule.

First Saturday of every month

Time: 10:00 am

DNA Study Group

Murray Hill Library, Jacksonville

Second Saturday of every month

Time: 2:00 pm

Bartram Trail Gen Club at Bartram Trail Branch Library

60 Davis Pond Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida 32259

Second Saturday of each month

Time: 10:00 am-12:30 pm

Website: <https://sgesjax.org/>

The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society

Mandarin Regional Library, 3330 Kori Rd, Jacksonville, 32257

Third Tuesday of each month

Time: 7:00 pm

<https://aigensoc.org/index.php>

Amelia Island Genealogical Society

Fernandina Beach, FL

Third Saturday of each month

Time: 1:00 pm

Website: <https://sagsonline.org/>

St. Augustine Genealogical Society

Southeast Branch Library, 6670 US 1 South, St. Augustine, FL

Sunday or Wednesday each Month

Jewish Genealogy Society of Northeast Florida

Cohen Auditorium, River Garden Hebrew Home, Jacksonville, FL

Website: <https://jgsofneflorida.wordpress.com/>

19 Nov 2020

Time: 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Speaker: Patricia Walls Stamm, CG, CGL

Topic: *Traveling the US Marine Highway*

All states have navigable waterways. These include rivers like the Mississippi, bays like Chesapeake, canals like the Miami, or lakes that link an area to other states or even the ocean. Across the United States, there are 250,000 rivers and canals that create the inland waterway system. For our ancestors, marine travel was an integral part of their lives. While many researchers have river ancestors, they have no idea where to start to look for records. Discover the various avenue of research for our ancestors who lived by or used the waterways for their livelihood and transportation.

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5290725012900946188>

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

FSGS Poolside Chat Free Webinar

Online Webinar

17 Dec 2020

Time: 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Speaker: Annette Burke Lyttle

Topic: *How Research Plans Can Up Your Genealogical Game*

Research is more effective and productive if we make a plan before we dive in. Without planning, we run the risk of overlooking or misunderstanding important records. Learn the steps and techniques of research planning that will save time and frustration and can even help break down brick walls.

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6965656155468940812>

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

Have a wonderful
Winter
Genealogical
Season of
Hunting Ancestors



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