



The Geneline

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

Amelia Island Genealogical Society

MAY 2009 - ISSUE 5



Coming Up!

AIGS General Meeting

Wednesday May 13th 7:00 pm

Donna Moughty, a professional genealogist will be our speaker at the MAY meeting.

**We will be meeting on Wednesday,
May 13, 2009**

at the Amelia Island Museum of History

This is a change from our usual date and meeting place. The change in venue was necessary in order to accommodate Donna's schedule.



Donna's lecture

"Unpuzzling Irish Church Records".

Donna is a former Regional Manager for a national technology company and has been conducting family research for over 15 years. She teaches classes for beginners and lectures on a variety of subjects including Internet, Irish research, and computer topics.

In addition, she provides consultations, research assistance and training. Donna attended the National Institute for Genealogical Research at the National Archives, and the Third and Fourth Irish Genealogical Congress in Ireland, the Salt Lake Institute-Irish Research and the National Institute for Genealogical and Historical Research at Samford University.

She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and served as chair of the Professional Management Conference from 2005-2008, Treasurer of the Genealogical Speakers Guild and is a Delegate to the Federation of Genealogical Societies. She writes a weekly genealogical blog that can be found at www.moughty.com

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**Message from
AIGS President
MARIE SANTRY**

It's just amazing how much genealogical information is available today on the internet. Our own Mike Toomey, AIGS Vice-President and Webmaster, presented our annual technology update at the April AIGS meeting. I consider myself to be pretty computer and internet savvy, but Mike's research

into the digital books available (and searchable) on the internet even surprised me. I have had quite a bit of success finding valuable genealogical information over the last few years through digitized county histories and family histories originally published in the late 1800s. I have downloaded pages from these books and, in some cases, I have downloaded entire books to my computer. I knew of some of the ambitious projects to digitize these valuable resources: Heritage Quest (accessible through the Nassau County Library System), Google Books (<http://books.google.com>), and BYU Digital Collections (<http://www.lib.byu.edu/online.html>) and I have searched those sites numerous times with great success.

But Mike's presentation showed me that I had just scratched the surface of what's out there. And the rate at which newly digitized books are being added to the internet is many thousands per month. I have already tried some of the websites that Mike showed us and I've found several new books that I have downloaded to my computer. This digital (ebook) technology is growing rapidly with great promise for all genealogists. Mike has kindly distributed his list of digital book websites via email to our members. And I highly recommend you try some or all of the sites on Mike's list.

In contrast to this high-tech approach to genealogy, I was reminded today that there's really no substitute for the old-fashioned techniques of searching your family history. I attended an all-day seminar in Jacksonville given by professional genealogist Jana Sloan Broglin. She gave four wonderful presentations on various topics using a large variety of sources - most of which are NOT on the internet.

As much as we would like to believe that we can construct our entire family tree, sitting at our computers in our PJs and slippers, it's just not true. First of all, except for images of original documents - death certificates and the like, information available on the internet should NEVER be considered gospel. Genealogical information gained from the internet are CLUES. It's your job as a genealogist to find the truth from these clues.

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You're ultimately going to have to dig through the courthouse for wills, probate records, deeds, marriage and death records, etc.; contact the churches for christening, marriage, and interment records; maybe even ferret out the school records, union records, and yes, even jail records, in your effort to build the full picture of who your ancestor was and how he lived. The magnitude and variety of records guarantee that the vast majority of your ancestor's history will never be found on the internet - at least not in our lifetime.

So, get out there and start digging. With summer fast approaching, it's time to start planning your next "family history" vacation. Which ancestor will be the subject of this trip? Where will you go to find him/her? Of course, review what you know and what you don't know about that ancestor and spend a little more time at your computer looking for any new clues that may have been added to the internet since you last looked.

See if you can find anything about that ancestor in digital books on the websites that Mike showed us. Then, set out on your genealogical vacation trip and enjoy the search. Wishing you success in your family history search,

Marie Santry

Calling all Genealogists NEW AND LONG-TIME



Submit an article to

**The Geneline or
The Nassau County Genealogist Bulletin**

Share your stories about

1. Share an interesting family story
2. Describe your long term or recent family history research
3. Unusual articles you found about your family
4. Any lessons you learned in your genealogical research.
How did you find the maiden name of your grandmother?
5. DNA Research

For entry we reserve the right to edit for content and space.

Up to 500 words for the Geneline

Up to 1000 words - Nassau County Genealogist quarterly

We are looking for monthly submissions over the next 5 months. (June, July, August, September, October) A panel of judges will determine the 2009 winner for the best submitted article. Contest ends October 24th. Winner will receive a free 2010 AIGS membership. Email articles to Marie Santry at: mcsantry@comcast.net.

Family Stories and Other Fairy Tales

Note: The following article contains excerpts from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2009 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

Do you have a family story handed down over the years? Perhaps an ancestor was a ship's captain. Or perhaps the family name was changed at Ellis Island. Or some lady in your family tree was a Cherokee princess. Another story I have heard many times is that some immigrant was the illegitimate child of the Russian czar or another royal person. Proving such stories can be difficult for one very simple reason: they often are not true! A more common scenario is a family story that contains a bit of truth but was embellished over the generations.

If you are using a family story to try to find an ancestor, I'd suggest that you consider the possibility that the story is only partially true or at least was built on some amount of facts. Let's examine a few common family fables.

“My Great Great Garandmother was a Cherokee princess.” There is no such thing as a "Cherokee princess," despite the thousands of people who believe they have such a princess in the family tree. The Cherokees and other American Indians had no concept of royalty. There were no princes or princesses anywhere amongst American Indians. Even the title of “chief” was not hereditary; it was not passed down from father to son. “My ancestors were of royal stock.” In many countries, ALL illegitimate children were referred to as "the child of the king" or the "child of the Czar." In most cases, they had no royal parentage.

A Thousand Kings Daughters

In Canada, nearly a thousand young female immigrants were admitted as “the King's daughters.” However, that title refers to the fact that their passage was paid by the French government. In effect, the King paid for their passage whereas other young women often had passage paid by their fathers or other relatives. Historians have never found a single one of these young women that was a true daughter of any king.



The Mayflower set sail with 102 passengers

“My ancestor came over on the Mayflower.” Not everyone sailed on the Mayflower. The list of 102 passengers on that tiny ship is well known and documented in many places. Thousands of families erroneously believe that their ancestors sailed on the Mayflower. If all the stories were true, the Mayflower would have been bigger than the Queen Mary! *see page 4 for the list.*

<http://www.google.com/search?source=ig&hl=en>

“All the records were destroyed in the war (or fire or flood or tornado or other disaster).” This is NEVER true in North America and rarely was true in Europe. First of all, there is no central repository of records. Tax records are typically stored at a local government facility, military records are usually stored at a national location, baptism records are stored in the local church, and marriage records are typically stored in the church with duplicates often stored at the town or city offices. And so on. No one disaster ever destroys all the records of a person's existence.

The name was changed at Ellis Island."

Not true. Get over it. "He jumped ship upon arrival in America." This one is possibly true but has been claimed far too often. In short, be skeptical. Even if it is true, you will probably never find any documentation to prove it. Those who jumped ship didn't want to leave records for fear of deportation! It is a great family story, but probably is not true. Even if there is some truth to the story, you probably will never prove it.

"He arrived with fifty cents in his pocket."

Ask yourself: who paid for the ticket and how did he survive in his first few weeks in America? Also, why did the authorities at Ellis Island allow him to pass through when they sent all the other paupers back? Yes, many immigrants did arrive with little or no money, but they always had some guaranteed

method of support after arrival. If they didn't possess such proof, they were sent back.

If you cannot find information about an ancestor's story that's based upon family folklore, question the story. It could be partially right and partially wrong, or all wrong. Go back and ask yourself how you would approach your research if you didn't know about the family story. Would your research point in a different direction?

If you have already spent a lot of time trying to prove a family story and have been unsuccessful, I would suggest that you stop and try to find that ancestor through traditional genealogy research methods. If the story is correct, the facts will eventually prove it.

Mayflower Passenge List - 102 Passengers - Set Sail August 5, 1620

Alden, John	Mrs. Chilton, wife	Damaris Hopkins, daughter	Rose Standish, wife
Allerton, Isaac	Mary Chilton, daughter	Oceanus Hopkins, born en route	Story, Elias
Mary (Norris) Allerton, wife	Clarke, Richard	Howland, John	Thompson, Edward
Bartholomew Allerton, son	Cooke, Francis	Langmore, John	Tilley, Edward
Remember Allerton, daughter	John Cooke, son	Latham, William	Ann (Cooper) Tilley, wife
Mary Allerton, daughter	Cooper, Humility	Leister, Edward	Tilley, John
Allerton, John	Crackstone, John	Margesson, Edmund	Joan (Hurst)(Rogers)
Billington, John	John Crackstone, son	Martin, Christopher	Tilley, wife
Eleanor Billington, wife	Doty, Edward	Mary (Prower) Martin, wife	Elizabeth Tilley, daughter
John Billington, son	Eaton, Francis	Minter, Desire	Tinker, Thomas
Francis Billington, son	Sarah Eaton, wife	More, Ellen	Mrs. Thomas Tinker, wife
Bradford, William	Samuel Eaton, son	Jasper More, brother	boy Tinker, son
Dorothy (May) Bradford, wife	English, Thomas	Richard More, brother	Trevore, William
Brewster, William	Fletcher, Moses	Mary More, sister	Turner, John
Mary Brewster, wife	Fuller, Edward	Mullins, William	boy Turner, son
Love Brewster, son	Mrs. Edward Fuller, wife	Alice Mullins, wife	boy Turner, son
Wrestling Brewster, son	Samuel Fuller, son	Priscilla Mullins, daughter	Warren, Richard
Britteridge, Richard	Fuller, Samuel	Joseph Mullins, son	White, William
Browne, Peter	Gardinar, Richard	Priest, Degory	Susanna White, wife
Button, William	Goodman, John	Prower, Solomon	Resolved White, son
Carter, Robert	Holbeck, William	Rigsdale, John	Wilder, Roger
Carver, John	Hooke, John	Alice Rigsdale, wife	Williams, Thomas
Katherine (Leggett)(White) Carver, wife	Hopkins, Stephen	Rogers, Thomas	Winslow, Edward
Chilton, James	Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins, wife	Joseph Rogers, son	Elizabeth (Barker)
	Giles Hopkins, son by first marriage	Samson, Henry	Winslow, wife
	Constance Hopkins, daughter by first marriage	Soule, George	Winslow, Gilbert
		Standish, Myles	Mr. Ely
			Dorothy, maidservant of John Carve

Visit our Website: <http://www.aigensoc.org/>

Find Information about Amelia Island Genealogical Society

Access old and new GENELINES.

A special reminder to our members: GENELINE is your Society's publication.

Each member is encouraged to contribute material to it

All GENELINE articles are indexed by PERSI

Send GENELINE comments & submissions to Frances Bartelt - Francesbartelt@gmail.com

The Amelia Island Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 6005

Fernandina Beach, FL 32035-6005

The Society's Library Collection is housed in the Fernandina Beach Library

The membership packet includes AIGS information and all current year issues of Society's quarterly

The Nassau County Genealogist, and the GENELINE, AIGS's monthly newsletter.

Family history research training is offered through classes, workshops and ongoing programs

Membership dues are \$20.00 per person and \$25.00 per two-person family.

The membership year is January 1st through December 31st

To join, send application form, along with the appropriate fee to:

The Amelia Island Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 6005

Fernandina Beach, FL 32035-6005

To print an membership application or for more information check our web site:

<http://www.aigensoc.org/aigs/meetings.asp/>