



The Geneline

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

Amelia Island Genealogical Society

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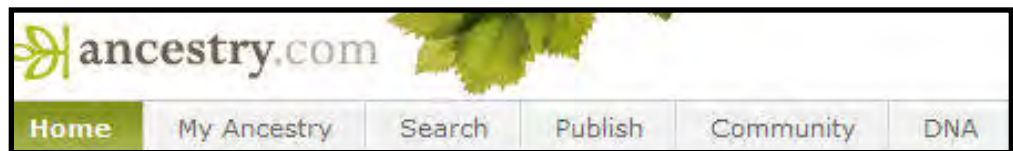
Frances Bartelt

COMING UP!

AIGS General Meeting

Tuesday - July 21st - 7:00 pm

HELD: FERNANDINA BEACH POLICE DEPT. COMMUNITY ROOM



Getting the Most Out of Ancestry.com

ANN HAWN SMITH

“Ancestry is the single best tool for documenting your research except for actually going to each court house and a local genealogy society.”

- Ann Hawn Smith -

About the Presenter - Ann Hawn Smith

Ann got started in genealogy about 1989 when her dad enlisted her help in transcribing some old family letters. After her grandmother died, her dad fell heir to around 1000 old letters dating from 1887 to 1972. Her dad started transcribing the ones on his father's side and Ann took the letters on his mother's side. Her dad also found a genealogy, written by his father in 1925, tracing the descent from his great grandfather, a Hessian soldier, and the descendants of his mother's family. It didn't take Ann long to realize that she needed a better way to reference the genealogy so she got her first computer program. Ann started by copying and pasting excerpts from the letters into the individual files and got hooked on knowing more about the people she was reading about.

Eventually, she ran into conflicts between what her grandfather knew and what was recorded. It didn't take Ann long to start using Ancestry.Com to sort out apparent conflicts and to get additional information. Since then she has had a subscription with Ancestry.Com and considers it as her most valuable resource. Eventually, she started making yearly trips to Maryland and Pennsylvania and becoming more familiar with their records. She has traveled a great deal and followed the family out to Maryland, Iowa and Illinois. Ann has given a basic six week class for the library and done some programs in Jacksonville.

Message from AIGS President MARIE SANTRY



There was a time when I would do almost anything to keep from reading old newspapers in my search for data on an elusive ancestor. I dreaded spending hours and hours turning the crank of the microfilm reader, scanning each page of issue after issue of an old newspaper. My right elbow would ache and my neck would become stiff from bending over the image projected onto the white surface of the machine as I searched for any clue as to the demise of my ancestor. Finding that obituary was my ultimate reward; if that were not possible, finding a legal notice concerning his estate was a close second. It was long, back-breaking, tedious work. To make matters worse, I often would get side-tracked, reading about a visit to my ancestors little town by a notable politician, or a story of a big bank robbery that occurred there. Now and then, my ancestor would be mentioned - he took his family to the Chicago World's Fair, or he attended a meeting of a local fraternal organization, or he ran for a seat on the county commission. What did this news mean to me? It meant that he wasn't dead yet and that I would have to look through many more issues of the newspaper to find his obituary.

Let me confess now that the above scenario was the action and attitude of a genealogy novice. I was just starting out and I was fixated on "collecting dead relatives." I look back and realize that collecting those names and those important dates in their lives was a necessity. Without a location, birth,

marriage, and death date, it's not possible to put my ancestor into historical context. I now understand that that's what genealogy is all about. You have to know when and where he lived in order to understand how he lived and why he did what he did. But, don't make the mistakes I made and ignore the newspaper accounts of life around him. Luckily, I've since gone back and reread those articles and used them to understand my ancestor. I've read local and county histories to help understand the issues of his day. And I now read every historic newspaper I can find that would give me more insight about my ancestor's life.

While I do still have to crank those old microfilm machines occasionally, more and more historic newspapers are being digitized and made available through the internet. We've mentioned several newspaper websites before in the Geneline and in programs at AIGS meetings. Ancestry.com has a large collection of newspapers, as does GenealogyBank.com. Both of these are subscription websites. I have recently revisited the Library of Congress project to identify and digitize America's Newspapers and I am impressed as to how far along they are in that project. You can search newspaper issues dating from 1880 through the mid-1920s from California, DC, Florida, Hawaii, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. The website is <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>. There are additional newspapers at another website called the California Newspaper Collection. (*see pg. 3*) This collection contains over 200,000 pages of newspapers from selected places in California that span from 1849 through 1911. That website is at <http://cdnc.ucr.edu>. These two websites are FREE.

Newspapers are an extremely important resource to genealogists. Using all the information contained there can truly add interest to your ancestor's life.

**Wishing you success
in your family history search,
Marie**

California Digital Newspaper Collection

The following article by Dick Eastman is reproduced here with permission.

Dick Eastman publishes a free genealogy newsletter at www.eogn.com.

The California Digital Newspaper Collection offers over 200,000 pages of California newspapers spanning the years 1849-1911: the Alta California, 1849-1891; the San Francisco Call, 1893-1910; the Amador Ledger, 1900-1911; the Imperial Valley Press, 1901-1911; the Sacramento Record-Union, 1859-1890; and the Los Angeles Herald, 1905-1907. All the issues are available online and can be viewed on your computer. Additional years are forthcoming, as are other early California newspapers: the Californian; the California Star; the California Star and Californian; the Sacramento Transcript; the Placer Times; and the Pacific Rural Press.

The newspaper collection has two search modes: basic and advanced. Also available is a calendar feature that allows you to select a specific issue date and browse it.

The basic search allows you to enter any word or phrase and the entire collection is searched for matches. Advanced searching allows you to refine your results in various ways. The "Search in" field allows you to select which newspaper titles you would like to search. The default is set to search "all newspapers," but you may click on a single title or multiple titles. To select a single title, simply click on the title you want to search. To select multiple titles, click on the first title you are interested in searching, then hold down the control key (ctrl) as you click on your other selections. You can also sort the results in any of several different methods:

1. **BEST MATCH FIRST:** This Google-like utility arranges the results to present the most relevant results first, providing you with the best possible matches.
2. **PUBLICATION TITLE:** Arranges the results alphabetically by newspaper title.
3. **DATE:** Arranges the results chronologically by date.
4. **PAGE:** Arranges the results in page number order. With "ascending" selected in the second drop down menu, the results will be organized with all front pages displayed first, followed by all the second pages, then third pages, etc. This reduces browsing for users who are searching for a specific page. (For example, a user might know that the obituaries regularly occur on page 3 of a daily paper.)
5. **ARTICLE TITLE:** Arranges the results alphabetically by the first word that appears in the title.



San Francisco Call -12-18-03

The California Digital Newspaper Collection is supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

The California Digital Newspaper Collection is available at <http://cdnc.ucr.edu>.



InterNET NEWS

In an effort to keep you up-to-date on the latest genealogical information on the Internet,

AIGS BRINGS YOU NET NEWS

The following information has been generated by investigating websites featured in Dick Eastman's Newsletter, various Genealogical Society periodicals, and genealogical magazines.

If you want to suggest a website that you have used,
please send the website information to Marie Santry at mcsantry@comcast.net.

Washington State Digital Archives:www.digitalarchives.wa.gov

This project has digitized 80 million records, of which approximately 64 million are searchable and linked to original images. Included are birth, marriage, death, census, military, land, and naturalization records. FREE

Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection:www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org
477,000 digitized pages from 147 newspapers published in Colorado from 1859 to 1923. FREE

German-American Newspapers:www.GenealogyBank.com

28 early German-American newspapers (1750 - 1898) from 6 states. GenealogyBank is a paid subscription service. See <http://bit.ly/NGBnr> for the list of titles, etc.

Free Online Small Books: www.dmkheritage.com/store

DMK Heritage has placed "Free Small Books" on their website for use by researchers. They are PDF files that can be saved to your computer, or you can print individual pages from their site. Most books are listed in alphabetical order by title, although not all. Types of books range from abstracts of wills, parishes, vestry minutes, family or town histories, etc, from various locations. At the website, scroll down the page and click on "Free Small Books" (centered in the page) and follow directions from there. FREE

Get Help from Experts at Expert Connect

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ANCESTRY DATED JUNE 25, 2009.

Ancestry.com has just launched the beta version of a new service called Expert Connect. This new service connects Ancestry.com members AND VISITORS with some of the world's best independent professional genealogists and local researchers. The initial services available include:

- **Record Pickup** - Hire a researcher in another state or country to visit a specific archive, collect the record you need and send it to you.
- **Local Photo** - Pay a researcher in your ancestor's hometown to snap a picture of a headstone, historic building or other landmark.
- **Ask an Expert** - Post a question to a range of professionals and get the advice and direction you need.
- **Record Lookup** - Work with a professional to track down hard to find records and retrieve a copy for you.
- **Custom Research** - Recruit a seasoned professional to take on a complex project that may be beyond your experience or time availability.

Starting a project is simple and there are hundreds of experts available to help from the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and the United Kingdom. More are joining everyday offering their unique services. These are terrific, dedicated people with a passion for genealogy and a real desire to help you discover more of your family history. With their help you just may find that brickwalls in your research start to crumble.

Check out the beta site at expertconnect.ancestry.com.

Please provide your feedback as you use the service. We are excited to offer yet another way to help you discover your story.

Join the AIGS Family History Writing Contest



This is your chance to get your family history story published in one of the AIGS publications (either the Geneline or the Nassau County Genealogist) and win a free 2010 AIGS Membership. Submit your article to AIGS by emailing it to Marie Santry at mcsantry@comcast.net. There is no limit to the number of articles submitted. We are currently accepting submissions and will continue to do so through October 24th. All submissions will be judged by a panel and the winning article will be announced in November.

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/>