



The Geneline

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
Amelia Island Genealogical Society
August 2009 - ISSUE 8

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COMING UP!

AIGS General Meeting

Tuesday - August 18th at 7:00 pm

HELD: FERNANDINA BEACH POLICE DEPT. COMMUNITY ROOM



Lesson Learned: Confessions of a Professional Genealogist

In this light-hearted interview format, Kathy will trace her path as a beginner professional genealogist, where she discovers some of the research pitfalls and business mistakes that commonly plague a “newbie.”

About Kathy Nemaric:

Kathy is a technical editor for a military contractor and also is a part-time professional genealogist. She has been conducting family research for more than 10 years and has been working for clients for the past year and a half.

She specializes in United Kingdom research, with an emphasis on 19th century military records. She works with a partner in England who runs a popular British Light Infantry Web Site which draws inquiries from all over the world.

Kathy is a former board member of the Central Florida Genealogical Society and currently serves on the board of the Amelia Island Genealogical Society as Research Coordinator. She has a bachelor's degree in technical communication and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Message from AIGS President MARIE SANTRY

As I am writing this month's message, I have am completing my preparations for a genealogical research trip. I will be leaving in 4 days and I plan to spend five days of research in the courthouses of Delaware and Randolph counties in Indiana and Darke and Miami counties of Ohio. I am also going to the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, IN to do further research.



MIAMI COUNTY COURT HOUSE, MIAMI, OHIO
One Stop on Marie Santry's
Genealogical Research Trip
July 2009

Now, I know you're thinking "she's not going to be able to accomplish all of the above in five days." Yes, it's a lot of territory to cover, but the key word here is PREPARATION. I have spent more than 24 hours over the last several weeks doing my homework for this trip. I am NOT merely going to a courthouse to spend the day searching for documents that may or may not exist. I'm going with the court record book numbers and page numbers in hand so that I can copy what I need and get out as fast as I can. I'm NOT going to the library to peruse the shelves at leisure. I have a list of titles, authors, and call numbers so that I can go directly to the shelf to pull the book I want to review. So, how is it that I have all this information ready to go?

Like I said, I've done my homework, at my computer. Here are the steps I've taken to make this a successful research trip.

- 1) I have chosen to FOCUS this trip on two branches of the family tree. I have read and re-read every detail of every document that I have collected thus far on these branches. In doing so, I have noticed several pieces of information that I had previously overlooked.
- 2) I have once again turned to the internet to see if there is something out there that is new or that I

had previously missed. I have used the surnames AND the locations in searching for data. I have re-searched ancestry.com, footnote.com, genealogy-bank.com, usgenweb.com (for all of the counties in which these people lived), rootsweb.com, find-a-grave, and other sites. I have "Googled" the surnames and locations. Having done all this, I have found birth, marriage, and death dates that I did not previously have and, in many cases, I have

found the court book numbers and page numbers I need for quick access.

- 3) I have searched the Allen County Library on-line catalog and downloaded individual lists by surnames and locations. I have then prioritized those lists, targeting the most promising books and articles.

- 4) From all of the above, I have created a "to-do" list for each courthouse, library, and cemetery I plan to visit. They are simple Excel spreadsheets with all the known details of every document I need and every book I want to review. These lists will help guarantee that I stay focused and do not stray from my plan. I will keep these lists, long after this trip, as research journals. If I need to make a future trip, I will have a record of what has already been searched, and I won't find myself looking at the same material again.

- 5) I have gone to the "official" county websites to determine what they do and DO NOT have and to determine the addresses, phone numbers, and hours of operation. I have called each courthouse to verify the information and to ask whether patrons are allowed to search the records directly or whether the records are available only through request and assistance from staff.

6) I have downloaded maps and carefully planned a “shortest” route sequence among all the locations I need to visit.

7) Finally, I have gathered the “tools” I need for the trip:

a. Laptop computer loaded with all of my genealogy files for reference;

b. Flash drive for use at libraries that allow digital transfer of images instead of zeroxing;

c. Digital camera for photographing images of documents and book pages. This often results in much better images and allows you to capture images of pages in very old books that could be damaged trying to produce zerox copies. Also needed for taking pictures of cemetery tombstones. And I am taking extra batteries;

d. A GPS Navigator so that I don't waste time lost in unfamiliar locations.

So, I believe I have done everything I could possibly do to prepare for this trip. It will be a whirlwind trip, but I have virtually guaranteed that I will return with needed documents in hand.

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



Genealogical Web Sites

SUBMITTED BY
AIGS MEMBER BOB KEANE

**More good web sites to help in
searching for genealogy
information on the internet.**

The East Central Georgia Regional Library's African-American Funeral Program Collection is online (and free) in the Digital Library of Georgia. The 1,000 funeral programs date from 1933 to 2008, with most dating since the 1960s and coming from churches around Augusta, Ga. www.dlg.galileo.usg.edu/?Welcome

The College of Charleston in South Carolina has launched the Lowcountry Digital Library with about 7,500 images (so far) of historical letters, scrapbooks, photos and more.

www.lowcountrydigital.library.cofc.edu/

GenealogyBuff.com is absolutely free.

You will also find links to other sites such as Ancestry or Footnote or PublicRecordsPro that are fee sites. They are just other good resources. Info about GenealogyBuff.com is in the green region on the main page at <http://www.genealogybuff.com>.

Web site information: “There are no subscriptions associated with GBuff.com at all. The purpose of GenealogyBuff.com is to be a free genealogy search site that will hopefully inspire new family researchers. By providing a means to gather a large amount of data for a surname, one can build a family tree very quickly. (Hint: start with yourself, work backwards, using the census records. Then build using the many databases referenced from this site.) Hundreds of data sources can be scanned using the surname tool below, including county marriages, county deaths, state and federal census records, immigration records, obituaries, etc. Genealogy is a noble hobby and extremely rewarding! Think of it as a never-ending jigsaw puzzle. Finding that elusive piece that fits into the correct location will bring immeasurable satisfaction! GenealogyBuff.com will always be a free genealogy and obituary research site for your ancestry studies. The best of success in your family research endeavors.”

Familytreemagazine.com

10 Best Web Sites for Vital Records

10 Best Web Site for Maps

10 Best Web Sites for Local Searches

10 Best Web Sites for International Searches

10 Best Web Sites for Military Research



How DNA Proved My Family Tree Connection

By Dick Eastman

NOTE: The following article is 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>.

I must admit that I have always been a bit embarrassed to admit that I cannot prove the origins of my own surname. I have been researching my family tree for more than thirty years and have found most of my ancestors back into the 1700s with quite a few families traced even further back. Yet there has always been one glaring exception: the origins of my EASTMAN ancestors. I once remarked in a video interview, "Well, for years I've had this mystery. I have a great-great-grandfather who was deposited by a Martian spaceship...".

Obviously, that's a bit of a joke; but this man's origins remain a mystery to me. It is as if he had come from another planet. I have not been able to prove his origins. Along the way, I have traced the origins of other families in his area who shared the same surname. Indeed, I have strong conjecture and circumstantial evidence of his origins, but I have never found the one scrap of paper that ties him into the other Eastman families in the area. Now, thanks to some great assistance from Katherine Hope Borges and from the folks at Family Tree DNA, I have that proof.

To be sure, DNA does not give the first names of any of these ancestors. It does not state, "Your great-great-great-grandfather's first name was...". DNA cannot do that. However, for the first time, I now have proof that I am a member of the same family as the other EASTMAN men who have had their Y-chromosome DNA tested. Since most of the other men have been able to document their descent from Roger Eastman (often spelled "Easman"), a 1638 immigrant to Salisbury, Massachusetts, I am almost certainly descended from the same man.

NOTE: "Almost certainly" is not the same as undeniable proof. There is still a slight chance that I might be descended from some other person of that time period who was a brother or cousin of Roger Eastman, perhaps even a rather distant cousin. However, I am obviously related. This one immigrant appears to have been the only man of the name in Colonial America. A few other EASTMAN men did arrive 200 years or more later, and their family connections to Roger Eastman, if any, are unknown. Several of the other Eastman immigrants came from Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Spain, and one immigrated to the United States from Argentina. I doubt if they are all related to the 1638 immigrant from England.

Roger Eastman and his wife Sarah had ten sons. Several of those sons also raised large families, so the Eastman Y-chromosome has been widely disbursed. I always assumed that I was related to this one couple but never had proof until now.

Luckily for me, I met Katherine Hope Borges, a DNA expert and Director of the International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG). In the course of conversation, She mentioned that I should start a DNA project to prove or disprove my relationship to others with the EASTMAN name. Katherine then volunteered to do all the hard work. If you have ever met Katherine, you already know that she is quick to do things like that! Today, thanks to Katherine and also thanks to the folks at Family Tree DNA, I now have proof that I am related to the others who are known descendants of Roger Eastman, the 1638 immigrant. I am "in the family."



The Amelia Island Genealogical Society and The Amelia Plantation Chapel

Presents

An Evening with John Colletta

Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 7 pm
at the Amelia Plantation Chapel Fellowship Hall

ADMISSION IS FREE

Topics:

Breaking Through Brick Walls: Use Your HEAD!

How To Prepare for Successful Research In European Records

Limited Seating. Confirmed Registration Required for Admission

About John Colletta

John Philip Colletta is one of America's most popular genealogical lecturers. Entertaining, knowledgeable and experienced, he is based in Washington, DC, where he conducts workshops for the National Archives and teaches courses for the Smithsonian Institution and local universities. His publications include two manuals – *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record* and *Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans* – and numerous how-to articles. His latest book – *Only a Few Bones: A True Account of the Rolling Fork Tragedy and Its Aftermath* – is a history of the German-speaking merchants of the Mississippi Delta during Reconstruction. Dr. Colletta has appeared on local and national radio and television, is featured in Episode Four of "Ancestors," the ten-part KBYU-TV series, as well as its sequel aired in 2000. SOURCE: GENEALOGYJOHN.COM

Registration Form

Name(s) _____

*Phone # _____ *Email _____

* Confirmation will be provided by phone or email.
If neither provided, registration cannot be processed.

**Submit registration by email to: aigswebmaster@comcast.net OR
Mail registration to: AIGS, P.O. Box 6005, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035-6005.**

Do you wish to be placed on a waiting list, if all seats are full? ____ Yes ____ No
If, after receiving a confirmation number, you find that you are unable to attend, please call (904) 321-3460 to notify AIGS so that someone from the wait list may have the opportunity to attend.

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/>