



The Geneline

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
Amelia Island Genealogical Society
October 2009 - ISSUE 10



COMING UP!

“Show And Tell Night”
at
AIGS General Meeting
Tuesday - October 20
at 7:00 pm

AT: FERNANDINA BEACH POLICE DEPT.
COMMUNITY ROOM

We invite all our members to come and bring your stories, artifacts, precious treasures, photos, scrapbooks, quilts and other hand-made items, to share with each other.

We want to emphasize the "Show" part of the title this year and will spend the first 20 minutes of the meeting looking at the displayed items and the second twenty minutes will be the "Tell" part of the meeting.

We have had this event each year and have always had wonderful and informative stories and look forward to hearing those again.

Please look around the house or in the attic and see what things you may have inherited that tells something about your ancestors that would be fun to share with the members of the Society, or rack your brains for stories and events that you heard from your parents or grandparents or that you have found in your own research that you can relate.

See you October 20th!



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Did you know that October is Family History Month?

Just think - a whole month set aside to celebrate your family history. So, what are you going to do for your personal celebration?

Well, if you have been too busy recently to further your family history research, may I suggest that you set aside an appropriate time each day or each week during October to get back into the research mode. Choose an ancestor and revisit what it is that you still don't know about that person or family. Select one item of information to search for and use the internet and/or long-distance correspondence to find that information. Once you are back into the groove, you may become excited and find your October celebration extending into the winter months.

Here are a few other ideas: re-establish a connection with a family member and reminisce about "the good old days"; if you have an ancestor with a birthday in October, celebrate that ancestor with a birthday party; if it's feasible, visit the old homestead or take a trip to an ancestor's gravesite; sit down with your own family and start creating that photo album that celebrates you, your children's, and your grandchildren's lives together.

Whatever you do, don't forget to join AIGS at our October 20th meeting, where we will share some of our heirlooms and ancestor stories with each other. We usually do this in November, but it seems more appropriate to do it in October. I hope to see you all at this Family History Celebration.

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



Becoming a Florida Pioneer

by Ken Sturges

Late one afternoon during the dog days of summer (1968) I retreated to the front porch of my grandfather's home to beat the heat. Little did I know that this was the beginning of my genealogical hobby? My grandfather David Duhart Sturges explain that he had always wanted to know just where his middle name of Duhart came from. He further enticed me by saying that this would be an excellent way for me to spend time with my girl friend Nancy. She was a librarian, had an automobile, and what more invitation did I need.

I bit hook, line and sinker as Nancy and I commenced to put the pieces together of my Grandfather's family. Looking back I realize that I was working as hard to put my affairs in order, that I was growing deeper in love with Nancy and wanted to spend the rest of my life with her. We took her super beetle and started making short trips.

All we knew was that David was born in Lloyd Florida in 1881. He had one sister Beulah who resided in Sanford, Florida. She passed on a few years before we

commenced looking for records. David Duhart married Eloise John Ferreira in 1908 after coming to Fernandina around the turn of the Century. Granddaddy Sturges revealed that his father David was killed in a train accident while working for the Railroad when he was 4 years old and his mother died when he was about 9 with yellow fever. He went to live with an aunt and uncle and it was like mixing oil and water. Shortly thereafter he ran away and followed the railroad to Fernandina.

Not a whole lot to go on. But you start with what you have. Make some educated guesses, go look where you think things should be. With luck you find them. I found David Duhart's middle name came from an uncle who served in the Confederate Cavalry with the Howell guards from Tallahassee Florida. My Grandfather's grandfather was named Daniel Duhart Sturges. He likewise was an orphan, but fared much better as a judge in middle Georgia took him in and sent him to law school at the University of Georgia. Daniel became a Judge. Later came to St. Marks, Florida to settle his

Brother Robert's estate and remained to become a farmer, statesman, and minister. A true Florida Pioneer.

We have tracked on back to the Great, Great, Great, Great Grandfather. The Reverend Daniel Sturges was an Anglican Minister and the immigrant ancestor in this family line. He was here in the U.S.A. before the American Revolution. The process of registering and ancestor as a Florida Pioneer and your joining the Society of Florida Pioneers is simple in theory, but extremely time consuming in reality. To begin with one must take the ancestor to be proven and commence with proving their residency in Florida before Florida became a state in 1845. This is accomplished by their voting in the first Florida Statehood Election. This required them to be over 21 in age. They must be a resident of the territory for at least two years. They also had to be willing and able to defend the state against any and all enemies. The other was to prove residency, which was done through service to the state, by serving in the Indian Wars.
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Once residency is established for your ancestor then an un-broken line must be compiled showing direct relationship from one generation to the next commencing with the ancestor who was here before 1845 and ending with you or your descendants. Each and every birth date, marriage date and death date must be substan-

tiated by one primary record (generated at or near the date and place of the happening as it occurred) or two secondary records compiled by reliable sources at a later date which has validity.

As you can see becoming a Florida Pioneer descendant is not

only a way to honor your pioneer, but also a way to have your family records maintained on file forever in the Florida Archives. This process forces you to document everything and get organized, which is an ideal way to start your family history publication.

Seeking Michigan

BY MARIE SANTRY

Many of us in AIGS were privileged yesterday to hear John Colletta talk to us about "Adding Context" to our ancestor's biographical facts. He spoke of many techniques for doing this, one of which was "Evoking a Time and Place in General." Let me give you an example of this technique. Suppose you have verified the fact that your great-great grandfather fought in the Civil War at the "Battle of the Wilderness". But, you have no diary or letters written by him about this event in his life and no stories passed down about this experience. You can add context by reading some of the many books that have been written about this battle or by describing the day-to-day experiences of this long battle using the diaries or letters of others in his regiment.

Finding these diaries and letters has been made much easier with the aid of the internet. More and more of these real-time treas-

ures are appearing on-line. This morning, I was reading Dick Eastman's genealogical on-line newsletter and found an announcement of a fantastic collection of Civil War correspondence, accessible FREE at www.SeekingMichigan.org. Here is an abbreviated version of the announcement:

"Lansing – The Archives of Michigan today helped put history into the hands and on the computer screens of Michigan and Civil War enthusiasts everywhere. Today marked the launch of the digitized collection of Mack and Nan Ewing Civil War Letters, available on the Seeking Michigan Web site, www.SeekingMichigan.org. The collection – believed to be the largest set of Civil War letters ever given to a state archives – was donated by Grand Haven resident Dr. Wallace K. Ewing, the great-grandson of Mack and Nan Ewing.

With plans in place to add much more material,

SeekingMichigan.org currently includes: More than 100,000 pages of Civil War documents; Approximately 10,000 photographs; Roughly 1 million death records;

Works Progress Administration data (circa 1936-1942) about land and buildings throughout rural Michigan;

Oral histories with notable Michigan residents."

Just consider how much realism can be added to your ancestor's life by "evoking" an account of the actual hardships, triumphs, and setbacks that your ancestor experienced. The sources are out there to do this; it's up to you to search them out and give context to your ancestor's life.

Family History

HENRY STORK

January 14 1839 - November 29 1919

by Nancy Sturges

It was a cold, damp early morning when Henry Stork, his father, John and his sister, Mary made their way toward the boats that lined the wharves in the French port, Le Havre-de-Grace. Everyone around them spoke a variety of languages, mostly French. Henry did not want to miss the boat even though they held third class tickets.

It was 1855 and the small Stork family hurried down the walkway toward the ship which would be their home for the next few weeks. Mary was frightened of what the future would hold. But not Henry, a growing boy of sixteen, anticipating the greatest adventure of his life. It seemed as though weeks had passed so slowly after the death of their mother and their decision to go to America. Hygen located in Hessen Germany had been their home for as long as Henry could remember. But the boat was here and now. They were leaving!

This is the way I felt that my great-grandfather would tell the story if you had an opportunity to ask him. Our family has not kept in touch with the Stork family, so I do not have a family rendition from Henry Stork from when he left the Port of Le Havre in 1855. (*Germans to America, 1850 to 1860*)

Records show that Henry enrolled in Union Army in East Liberty, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania on April 20 1861. Henry signed up for three months. I believe his ulterior motive was to receive his American citizenship. He was discharged July 30 1861. The next year Henry married Anna Nuttle in Harmarville, Beaver County, Pennsylvania.

While working as a gardener in Beaver County, Anna and Henry had a growing family of five children: Mary C. (age 11), Louis L. (age 9), William G. (age 7), Margaret E. (age 5), and Annie L. who was 2 years old.

Unfortunately, Henry's wife Anna died December 10, 1877. Shortly thereafter, Henry met and married his second wife, a young widow, Katherin Young Miller on October 10, 1878.

Katherin Young was born in downtown Pittsburgh above a Arts and Glass store located on 418 Wood St. This store was owned by her father's brother, George Jacob Young. The date was November 12, 1852. According to my mother, after Katherin's mother died and her father left for Maryland. All of the five Young children were then placed with different relatives. Katherin was placed with a demanding aunt but was soon transferred to a home for

orphans at Old Economy, Ambridge, Pennsylvania.

Records show that my great-grandmother met and married John Casper Miller on the June 4th 1871 in Baden, Pennsylvania. According to my research, my great-grandmother, Katherin Young Miller had three children, Catherin (age 5), John G. (age 3), and Annie A. (age 1 year) when her husband John Casper Miller died on 20 March 1878.

My great-grandmother, Katherin's marriage to Henry Stork was a "Marriage of convenience" according to my mother, Alice Weise Adams, as Henry was nineteen years older than Katherin. Katherin and Henry Stork settled in Finleyville, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania where Henry was a constable and owned a considerable amount of land.

In the 1910 Federal Census, we find Henry (age 71), Katherin (age 57) and one daughter, a teacher, Martha Caroline, my grandmother. Henry must have been proud of his achievements and grateful that he did not miss the boat. On the other hand, he could have left a suitcase behind with his red hair, fair complexion, allergies and especially his asthma.

But that's another story.

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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

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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

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

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