



# The Geneline

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

**Amelia Island Genealogical Society**

November 2009 - ISSUE 11

## **AIGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Jean Mann

### **Beginners Program**

Marie Santry

### **Geneline Editor**

Frances Bartelt

## **COMING UP!**

### **AIGS General Meeting**

**Tuesday - November 17th at 7:00 pm**

**AT: FERNANDINA BEACH POLICE DEPT. COMMUNITY ROOM**



## **An Introduction to Genetic Genealogy by Arnold Weeks Jr.**

This program will explore the use of DNA testing to extend paternal and maternal lineages. DNA basics will be briefly discussed. Current DNA testing services, surname projects, and other genetic genealogy issues will be presented. Other topics of this program include: The Genographic Project, Public and Private DNA Databases, Laws pertaining to Genetic Information, Rewards and Risks of DNA Testing

### **About Arnold Weeks Jr.**

Arnold Weeks has been the Director of Libraries in Clay County, Florida since October 1987. In June of 2007 he was promoted to the position of Director of Community Services for Clay County. The Clay County Department of Community Services includes the State Housing Program, Veteran's Services, the Extension Service, and the Library Division.

He has a B.A. degree in History from the University of West Florida and a Master's in Science from Florida State University. He is a sixth generation Floridian and enjoys fishing and football. Mr. Weeks has been involved in Genealogy for over forty years. He is active in the Boy Scouts of America and Rotary International, and is a member of the National Genealogical Society, the Florida Historical Society, and the Florida Genealogical Society. Mr. Weeks's special areas of genealogical interest are Native American Genealogy (Creek and Cherokee), family history and health, and Civil War ancestry research.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



### **The big event is behind us.**

As you know, AIGS presented "An Evening with John Colletta" on October 1st at the Amelia Plantation Chapel. The final attendance count was 90. John Colletta presented a program packed full of useful tips for overcoming brick walls in our family history research, and taught us the technique for researching European Records. As always, his style of presentation was entertaining, as well as educational, and his use of concrete examples to demonstrate his method was clear and concise. There are a lot of people to thank for this successful venture.

**First and foremost, I want to thank the Amelia Plantation Chapel and the Frees Family Foundation for providing the funding to bring Colletta to Amelia Island.** I want to also thank the AIGS planning committee that included Mike Toomey, Bob Keane, and Lori Miranda. A special thanks goes to Mike Toomey who handled the pre-registration and sent confirmation for each registrant, even while he was out west on vacation. Thanks also goes the event hospitality chairs, Gloria Toomey and Nancy Sturges, and all of the members who volunteered to bake the wonderful food that was served for the event (Nancy and Ken Sturges, Barbara Swearingen, Faith Varrasse, Lori Miranda, Pam Manley, Judy Bouchard, Ann Fontaine, and Marilyn Gordon). Gus Reinwald, Bob Keane, Kay Watt, and Pam Manley manned the check-in process at the door, which went very smoothly. Finally, I want to thank everyone who pitched in to help us clean up after the event. It was a wonderful event and we couldn't have done it without all of you.

### **Now, I turn to another event in which we need your support.**

We will hold our annual meeting on November 17th, at 7:00 pm at the Police Station. Our speaker, Arnold Weeks, will present a program on Genealogy and DNA testing. Even though we expect a pretty good turnout for that meeting, we will need a quorum of our members in order to conduct the election of 2010 directors and approval of the proposed 2010 budget. Included in this newsletter is the list of director candidates recommended by this year's nominating committee, as well as a short biography of each candidate. (pg. 3&4) Also included is a copy of the proposed budget and a proxy statement. (pg. 4 &5) Please look these over carefully. We encourage all of our members to attend the meeting; but, if you cannot attend, we urge you to print out the proxy, fill it out and get it in the mail quickly, so that the required quorum will be met. Without a quorum, we cannot proceed with the election or approval of the budget. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. While you are mailing in your proxy, please consider filling out the 2010 membership form, also included in this newsletter and remitting your 2010 membership check with your proxy. We look forward to your continued interest and support in AIGS and will continue to do our best in providing you with quality programs, newsletters, and quarterlies. Also remember, we do not hold a general meeting in December, as everyone is particularly busy during the holiday season. Your next Geneline Newsletter will come in early January with news of the January program and our Beginning Genealogy Course, which will begin in late January.

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

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
2010 SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR**

**President** - Marie Santry  
**Vice President** - Mike Toomey  
**Secretary** - Lori Miranda  
**Treasurer** - Royce A. "Gus" Reinwald  
**Director-at-Large** - Bob Keane  
**Director-at-Large** - Pam Manley  
**Director-at-Large** - Charles Finnigan  
**Director-at-Large** - Kay Watt

*Note: Past President, Bob Loveless, remains a Director, per AIGS By-Laws*

## Candidates for 2010 AIGS Board

### **President - Marie Santry:**

Marie has been researching her family history for 20 years and has helped others in their search as well. She is also involved in teaching the beginning genealogy classes offered by AIGS and has presented programs at AIGS, the Amelia Island Historical Society, and the Amelia Island Museum of History Elderhostel. She taught high school and college math for 14 years before joining RCA as an Electrical Engineer in 1983. She retired from Lockheed Martin in 2003, having worked in the fields of Automated Test Equipment and Flight Simulation.

### **Vice President -Mike Toomey**

Mike is currently the AIGS Vice President and Webmaster. He has presented programs for the AIGS membership and in the Beginning Genealogy course offered annually. When the Florida GenWeb Project needed someone to take over the Nassau County GenWeb site, Mike stepped up to the task - he redesigned the website and has added volumes of genealogical data collected by AIGS over the

years, making this data accessible to everyone across the US and the world.

### **Secretary - Lori Miranda**

Lori is an architect by trade and a genealogist at heart. She is currently serving AIGS as Secretary and is also active as an instructor, program speaker for AIGS and a volunteer abstractor for the AIGS Newspaper Obit Project.

### **Treasurer - Gus Reinwald**

Gus was born in Lock Haven, PA where he grew up and graduated with a BA in Fine Arts. He began his career as a translator for the National Security Agency, after Army service in Vietnam. After 32 years in general aviation for Piper Aircraft and Lycoming Engines, he retired in 2006 to our area. Gus became interested in genealogy 18 years ago when he opened his father's old trunk, finding a great grandfather's diary chronicling his emigration from Scotland to Montreal. He became hooked and his family tree includes over 1800 individuals. He has traced some lines back 16 generations, including two Mayflower lines and one Jamestown Colony line.

### **Past President - Bob Loveless:**

Bob was born in Washington, D.C., the 4th generation of his family born in that city. He grew up in Maryland. After receiving a forestry degree, he was a forester in Virginia before returning to school for a Master's degree in Economics. Since it takes some of us longer than others to get educated, he later picked up a Master's degree in Business Administration. He has worked for Smurfit Stone for 28 years in Accounting, Research and Development, Technical and now Information Technology. Currently he's serving on the Finance committee at church, as well as on the AIGS board.

### **Member-at-Large**

#### **Bob Keane**

Bob spent his working career in the construction and engineering management field, which allowed him to live in many parts of the US (NJ, Philadelphia, NH, CT, MI, Chicago, and the Four Corners area of CO). He retired in 1991 and made his home on Amelia Island 15 years ago. He soon found an interest in Genealogy and *(continued pg. 4)*

joined AIGS over 12 years ago. He has served as VP, Membership Chair, and is currently on the AIGS Board. His research involves ancestors in MA, NH, VT, NY, and Cape May, NJ. His current focus is his father's parents who emigrated from western Ireland circa 1880 and settled in Manchester, NH.

**Member-at-Large**

**Charles Finnigan:**

Charles spent 20 years in the US Air Force as a Navigator and Electronic Warfare Officer, operating, evaluating, and testing Electronic Warfare Systems. He retired in 1982 at the rank of Lt. Col. He then spent 26 years at Lockheed Martin in Senior Management and Business Development. In 2007, Charles moved his family from Connecticut to Fernandina. Top on his list of hobbies is Genealogy, followed closely by

travel, and golf and fishing.

**Member-at-Large**

**Pam Manley**

Pam moved to Amelia Island in 2008 to take a position as Reference and Genealogy Librarian for the Nassau County Public Library System. She holds a Masters degree in Library Science from University of Missouri - Columbia. Her library experience runs the gamut from reference and genealogy to readers' advisory, children's services, computer technology, cataloging, preservation, archives and museum studies. Her family tree research began in the early 1980s. Some branches were easy to follow - Lee and Ball families of Virginia and Brewsters and Allertons of Mayflower fame. The real challenges remain for her and anyone who does not have enough "brick walls" of their own are

welcome to share hers - Hall family of Paragould, Arkansas or Lile, Liles, Lyle, Lyles family of Cherokee County, Georgia.

**Member-at-Large**

**Kay Watt**

Kay has become addicted to genealogy research over the last six or seven years, after dabbling in it for many prior years. Her primary emphasis has been on ancestors in North Carolina and South Carolina dating to pre-Revolutionary War settlements, then following their westward movement across Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, and into Texas. Kay is also one of the most productive volunteers for the AIGS Newspaper Obit Project. In addition to her AIGS membership, Kay is a member of the Coweta County Genealogical Society, and Old Buncombe County Genealogy Society.

**AMELIA ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**2010 PROPOSED BUDGET**

PREPARED BY DAVID K. STURGES JR., TREASURER

<b>Cash on Hand</b> (Oct 5, 2009)	\$2,293.76	<b>EXPENSES 2010</b>	
<b>Est. Remaining 2009 expenses</b>	\$ 570.00)	Postage	\$ 175.00
<b>Expected cash on hand</b> 12/31/2009	\$1,723.76	P.O. Box Rent	\$ 50.00
<i>(Does not include prepaid 2010 Dues)</i>		Speakers/Programs	\$ 600.00
<b>INCOME 2010</b>		State Incorporation	\$ 75.00
Prepaid Dues collected in 2009	\$ 400.00	FGS Membership	\$ 50.00
Dues to be collected 2010	\$1,200.00	Library	\$ 300.00
Beginning Classes	\$ 120.00	Printing	\$ 600.00
Sale of Materials	\$ 80.00	Genealogy Course	\$ 120.00
Donations	\$ 25.00	Fla. State Gen. Society	\$ 25.00
Cemetery Tour	\$ 500.00	Gen. Liability Insurance	\$ 175.00
Estimated Income 2010	\$2,325.00	Website	\$ 50.00
Total Operating Capital 2010	\$4,048.76	Ancestry	\$ 500.00
		Cemetery Tour	\$ 500.00
		Misc.	\$ 100.00
		Total Expenses 2010	\$3,320.00
		Unrestricted Reserves	\$ 728.76
		Expenses plus Reserves	\$4,048.76

# Amelia Island Genealogical Society Membership Application 2010

SINGLE DUES \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ or FAMILY (2) DUES \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Place a check above indicating type of membership and fill in the rest of the form. Make your check payable to Amelia Island Genealogical Society

MAIL IT WITH THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO:  
AIGS, P.O. Box 6005, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035-6005

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MAIDEN SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Optional)

If applying for a family membership, please provide the name of the 2nd Household Member  
2ND HOUSEHOLD MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(AIGS Monthly publication Geneline sent to  
your email address)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership includes a monthly newsletter The Geneline that comes to you through your email address and a quarterly journal The Nassau County Genealogist, distributed at AIGS meetings. If you cannot be present at the monthly meetings, all four (4) quarterlies will be mailed to you in December.

If you would prefer to get the monthly Geneline by mail, please indicate with X here. \_\_\_\_\_

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**PROXY – PROXY – PROXY**

I hereby authorize the AIGS President, or \_\_\_\_\_,  
to cast my vote, as I direct below, at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

**DIRECTORS**

\_\_\_\_\_ I approve the slate of Directors for 2010, as identified in the November issue of the Geneline Newsletter.

\_\_\_\_\_ I reject the slate of Officers and Directors for 2010, as identified in the November issue of the Geneline Newsletter.

**2010 BUDGET**

\_\_\_\_\_ I approve the 2010 budget as published in the November issue of the Geneline Newsletter.

\_\_\_\_\_ I reject the 2010 budget as published in the November issue of the Geneline Newsletter.

Member Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# A GENEALOGIST'S CHRISTMAS EVE

CONTRIBUTED BY KEN AND NANCY STURGES

FROM THE GENELINE - NOVEMBER 1995

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

**T**'was the night before Christmas when all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The dining room table with clutter is spread with pedigree charts and with letters which said...

"Too bad about the data for which you wrote sank in a storm or on an ill-fated boat."

Stacks of old copies of wills and the such were proof that my work had become much too much. Our children were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of sugar plums danced in their heads.

And I at my table was ready to drop from work on my album with photos to crop.

Christmas was here, and of such was my lot that presents and goodies and toys I'd forgot.

Had I not been so busy with grandparents' wills, I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills.

While others had bought gifts that would bring Christmas cheer, I'd spent time researching those birth dates and years.

While I was thus musing about my sad plight, a strange noise on the lawn gave me such a great fright.

Away to the window I flew in a flash, tore open the drapes and yanked up the sash.

When what to my wandering eyes should appear, but an overstuffed sleigh and eight small reindeer.

Up to the housetop the reindeer they flew, with a sleigh full of toys, and 'old Santa Claus, too.



And when in a twinkle, I heard on the roof the prancing and pawing of thirty-two hoofs.

The TV antenna was no match for their horns, and look at our roof with hoof-prints adorned.

As I drew in my head, and bumped it on the sash, down the cold chimney fell Santa — KER-RASH!

"Dear" Santa had come from the roof in a wreck, and tracked soot on the carpet, (I could wring his short neck!)

Spotting my face, good old Santa could see I had no Christmas spirit you'd have to agree.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work and filled all the stockings. (I felt like a jerk.)

Here was Santa, who'd brought us such gladness and joy; when I'd been too busy for even one toy.

He spied my research on the table all spread "A genealogist!" He cried! (My face was all red!)

Tonight I've met many like you, Santa grinned. As he pulled from his sack a large book he had penned.

I gazed with amazement—the cover it read "Genealogy Lines for Which You Have Plead."

"I know what it's like as a genealogy bug," He said as he gave a great Santa hug.

"While the elves make the sleighful of toys I now carry, I do some research in the North Pole Library!"  
*(continued on pg 7)*

A special treat I am thus able to bring, to  
genealogy folks who can't find a thing."

"Now off you go to your bed for a rest, I'll clean up  
the house from the genealogical mess."

As I climbed up the stairs full of gladness and glee,  
I looked back at Santa who'd brought much to me.

While settling in bed, I heard Santa's clear whistle,  
to his team, which then rose like the down of a  
thistle.

And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight,  
"Family History is Fun! Merry Christmas!  
Goodnight!"

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS,  
WE'LL PUBLISH AND SEE YOU WHEN THE NEW YEAR BEGINS.  
**KEN AND NANCY STURGES**

## **Founding Families of Cape May, New Jersey**

BY BOB KEANE

On September 4 and 5, 2009, I attended the Founding Families get-together in Cape May, NJ with my daughter and grand-daughter. It include a dinner, tours of the museum and displays, several talks, tour of the very large Cold Spring Church cemetery, and displays of various craftsmanship as performed in those early days.



As background, Cape May was discovered in September 1609 by Henry Hudson as he sailed up the coast before reaching New York and discovering and exploring the Hudson River. Cape May County therefore has been celebrating its 400th anniversary this summer.

In the late 1600's some 39+/- "founding" families came from New England and eastern Long Island, NY and settled in Cape May primarily to pursue whaling and other related activities. One couple was Joseph Whilldin and his wife Hannah Gorham (Grand-daughter of John Howland, the Pilgrim) and they along with several other Pilgrim descendents made Cape May the largest home of Pilgrim descendents outside the Plymouth area in Massachusetts. Since Cape May was a small community and remote (at least in the 1600's and 1700's), naturally there was constant intermarriage between these 39 families and later arrivals.

Therefore the Cape May Historical and Genealogical Society decided in conjunction with the 400th anniversary to have a joint affair for descendents of all early families, many of course whose descendents still live in the area. Most of those in attendance were related to several of the families. For example, my early Cape May families are: Whilldin, Downs, Edmunds, Hughes, Hand, Page, Bancroft, Church, Wilmon and possibly a few others. All were in Cape May prior to 1725. My mother was an Edmunds and her grandfather, Charles Carroll Edmunds, Sr, was born in Cape May in 1831. Her great grandmother was a Hughes.

One of the reasons I attended was to meet some of the "cousins", particularly Dan Stites, a physician from California and his brother, who are also descended from both the Edmunds and the Hughes and are 6th or 7th cousins of mine. They share most of my Cape May families but have even more Cape May families. Dan and I are sharing information particularly on the Edmunds side.

**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](mailto: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/>