



# The Geneline

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

**Amelia Island Genealogical Society**

February 2010 - ISSUE 2

**COMING UP!**

**AIGS General Meeting**

**Tuesday February 16, 2010 at 7:00 pm**

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

## **Gravestone Iconology and Iconography**

**SPEAKER: TARA FIELDS**

**A Powerpoint presentation of pictures of  
Puritan-styled and Victorian-era headstones together  
with information about the meanings behind the  
images found on the headstones.**

### **About Tara Fields**

Our speaker for the February 16, 2010 meeting of the Amelia Island Society is Tara Fields from Camden County, Georgia.

She was born and raised in California. Her father was a historian and her mother a historian/genealogist. So Tara has been interested and involved in both history and genealogy for many years.

She has lived in Camden County since 1990. In 1995 she "discovered" Burnt Forge Cemetery there. This piqued her interest in local history and cemeteries - she has surveyed over 10,000 graves in southeast Georgia since then. She also started a web-site in 1995, "The Crypt", as a place to showcase local history.

During a trip to Boston and Plymouth, Mass. in 2004, Tara became fascinated with gravestone art and, as a result, developed a presentation highlighting interesting gravestone art and its meaning. She has given this presentation at historical societies in 3 states so far. She is currently in college working toward a degree in History and hopes to teach college-level history courses in the future.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



We are putting the final touches on this year's **Beginning Genealogy Course** and by the time you read this, we will have started the course with a class of twenty-two or more people. This tells me that the desire to learn more about one's family history is as strong as it has ever been. There are even some who have decided to take the course as a "refresher," even though they have been working on their genealogy for some time. This brings me to the theme of this month's message: The successful pursuit of genealogy is a life-long continuing education process.

**This has always been the case; we would learn the basic techniques from someone knowledgeable and begin our search.** Those who sought additional knowledge and honed their techniques were successful; those who were satisfied with the basics ran up against brick walls and frustration took over. You should take every advantage offered to you to learn more about the techniques of genealogical research and new sources of information available to you - especially in this every-changing internet environment.

**You learn by attending your genealogical society meetings.** We do our best to provide you with programs that will help you. The meetings also present you with an opportunity to be with others who share your interest and are willing to share their knowledge. Interact with each other; share your problems; and offer your solutions to your fellow genealogists. From time-to-time, you will hear about half-day or full-day seminars and conferences. These educational opportunities expose you to two or four genealogical topics in a single day. You meet many more people who may be able to offer you a solution to your own research issues. You also most likely will learn of new sources that may lead you to the records you have been searching for.

**More and more digitized original sources are making their way to the internet,** thanks in part to volunteers who enter the data from the original sources, making them available to you. Keeping up with "what's on-line" is also part of your continuing education. Genealogy Newsletters (e.g. The Geneline) and Genealogy magazines often contain information about new websites, or new databases on old websites. Family Tree Magazine and Internet Genealogy are two or several magazines that could prove helpful.

**Wishing you success in your family history search,  
MARIE SANTRY**

# Genealogical New Year Resolutions

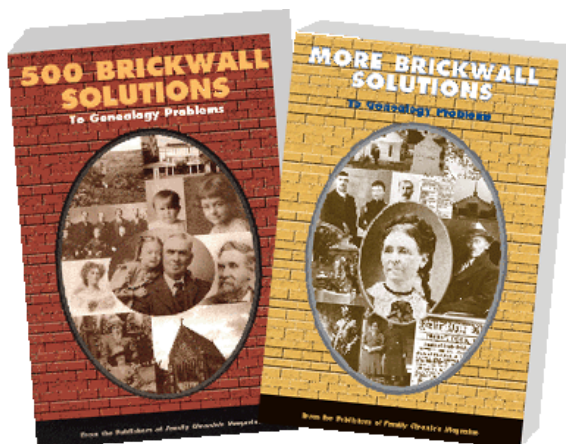
LORI SMITH MIRANDA

The New Year is as good a time as any to take a good look at where I am in my genealogical projects and consider where I'd like to be before the next January. I'm easily side-tracked. There's nothing like a request from a friend to solve a decades-old brick wall to put me off my own search and switch to a newer, fresher project.

So a couple of years ago I decided to start setting long-term goals at which I could whittle away over the months to follow. Last year my goal was to begin putting all my paper records into a GEDCOM that I could share with family. And so I did -begin, that is. Shortly after, I heard from a paternal first cousin that she'd started a tree on Geni.com - a cross between pedigree software and a social networking site.

I decided to switch gears and focus my energy on entering my branches of the family there. It was a fortuitous move. Within the next couple of months, I had uploaded dozens of ancestors and their siblings, and photos that I'd scanned from the family stash.

Making these available to maternal cousins newly linked to the site was a reward in itself, but I was thrilled when viewing photos uploaded by my father's family. Here were portraits of grand and great grandparents...people I'd never heard of before a cou



**So forget all the standard resolutions – what would YOU LIKE TO HAVE DONE, genealogically-speaking, next year at this time?**

1. Tackled a brick wall?
2. Traced the rumor of a family bible?
3. Labeled all the family photos? Filed all the paperwork you've created?
4. Volunteered for a local project?
5. Helped get a friend started?

ple of years ago. Of special interest was a snapshot of my dad and his sister taken in the mid 1950s, one of the decades of my father's life that has only recently begun coming to light. Seeing him in something other than the standard khaki work uniform I remember from childhood was a revelation in itself, but the crowning glory was his crowning glory - Dad had a full head of hair!

While I did not completely fulfill my 2009 goal, I made good progress on an acceptable substitute. And the spirit of it - being able to share my research without having to continually update with photocopies or individual emails - was definitely met. This year my goal is to both jump into all the correspondence I've put off and track down an arm's-length of books I've identified as likely to yield clues.

If you break the task into small bites and sprinkle them throughout the year, chances are you'll be more productive in the long run. Don't forget to reward yourself for reaching a goal. A month's subscription to a specialty genealogical database like *Footnote.com* or *Newspaper Archive.com* is an economical way to break new ground. Or go all out and attend a state or national genealogy conference to broaden your horizons. Don't wait; write that list today, and have a productive and Happy New Year!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

There are several projects that your genealogical society has taken on for 2010.

**The first project:** Newspaper Obit Project, is on-going. AIGS is extracting information from each obituary, legal notice, and news item published in Fernandina and Nassau County Newspapers on microfilm at the Fernandina Branch of the Nassau County Library System. Newspapers date from the 1870s to the present. We have extracted through the year 1954, but there is much yet

to be done. We need many more volunteers to help with this project. We will train you in the extraction, data entry, or checking required. You work on your own schedule. *Please call or email Mike Toomey at (904) 491-3275, matoomey@comcast.net to volunteer.* Some of you may remember the Bosque Bello Cemetery Tour and the St. Peter's Cemetery Tour produced by AIGS in 2004 and 2005. After much request by the public, AIGS is planning to produce a Bosque

Bello Cemetery Tour II in the fall of this year.

### **We also need volunteers in the following areas:**

Researchers, Publicity, Program Development, Sponsor/Advertiser Solicitation, Tour Guides (Docents), First-Person Costumed Presenters, and Logistics Coordinator.

**Please call or email Marie Santry** at 904-321-3460 or [mcsantry@comcast.net](mailto:mcsantry@comcast.net) to volunteer.

## NET NEWS

### **Searching Canada**

Indexed transcriptions of Canadian Census Records for 1851, 1861, 1871, and 1891 are on-line and FREE at <http://pilot.familysearch.org>. Click on "Browse our record collection" on the homepage and then click on the area of North America on the map. Scroll down to "Canada" to see the list of census databases. These records are searchable by First name, Last name, census year, or Province. A FREE search of the 1881 Canadian census is part of the FamilySearch website at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Use the search feature on the homepage; enter surname and type in "Canada" in the "Country or Region" box.

### **New at Family Search Pilot Website**

Other interesting databases at <http://pilot.familysearch.org> include:

Civil War Pension Index Cards (Transcribed - No images)

Freedman Bank Records 1865 - 1874

Freedmen's Bureau Virginia Marriages ca. 1815 - 1866

Louisiana War of 1812 Pension Lists (Browse images - not indexed)

South Dakota State Censuses 1905, 1915, 1925

Vermont Probate Files 1791 - 1919

Wisconsin State Censuses 1855, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905.

US Colored Troops

**[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) and [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com)** has added the muster rolls for 180,000 African-Americans that served the Union in Civil War Regiments referred to as US Colored Troops. These two websites are subscription sites (\$\$). However, Ancestry Library Edition is accessible for FREE at any Nassau County Library.



# 2010 Spring Genealogical Seminar

**Jacksonville Genealogical Society, Inc.**  
PO Box 60756  
Jacksonville, FL 32236  
<http://jaxgen.home.comcast.net>  
Email: [jaxgen@comcast.net](mailto:jaxgen@comcast.net)  
Phone: 904-264-0743

Date: 27 February 2010

Time: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Place:

Crown Point Baptist Church  
10153 Old St. Augustine Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32257  
-free parking  
-handicap accessible

Directions: Take I-295 to Old St. Augustine Road, Exit 3. Turn North and go 3 miles (go past Hartley/Hood Rd). Watch for church sign on right-hand side. Turn into driveway and go to the back of the church. The church is next to Tillman's Meat Market.

Cost:

JGS Member \$30.00

Non-member: \$35.00

Price includes lunch if registration is postmarked by 16 Feb 2010.

After 16 Feb 2010, no refunds; however, a syllabus will be given.

## Drew Smith, MLS

Genealogy lecturer, author, and researcher

Drew Smith, MLS, is a librarian with the University of South Florida Tampa Library. He is Secretary of the Association of Professional Genealogists (beginning in 2010), a Director of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and President of the Florida Genealogical Society of Tampa. He is author of the book *Social Networking for Genealogists*, editor of the Federation's newsletter *FGS Voice*, and co-host of The Genealogy Guys Podcast.



### Topics:

- **The Family History in Your Cells: Using DNA for Genealogical Research** – Afraid to try DNA as a research tool because the science seems intimidating? This overview will explain how DNA relates to genealogy, what kinds of DNA tests are available, and how researchers can share test results with each other.
- **Where is the Book with My Family in It?** – Before beginning their own research, good researchers seek out the research already done by others. Find out how to do an exhaustive search for books, periodicals, and other printed research material that may save you time in your own research
- **Social Networking for Genealogical Researchers** - New technology tools provide exciting new ways to connect with other researchers. From blogs to wikis, Flickr to YouTube, Delicious to LibraryThing, and Facebook to Genealogy Wise, this presentation will provide a grand tour of many different categories of social networking tools that can add power and fun to research.
- **Beyond Database Programs: Technology Tools to Help Manage Your Research** - Software such as Family Tree Maker or RootsMagic can keep track of the facts you've discovered, but that's only part of the research process. Learn about software tools that can give you research suggestions, keep your notes organized, synchronize your working files across multiple computers, or provide automatic backups for peace of mind.

### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Registration must be postmarked by 16 Feb 2010 to have lunch included. Lunch cannot be guaranteed after that date.*

*Make check payable to JGS, Inc.*

*Mail registration form and check to:  
Jacksonville Genealogical Society, Inc.  
Attn: Seminar Registration  
P. O. Box 60756  
Jacksonville, FL 32236-0756*

**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/>