

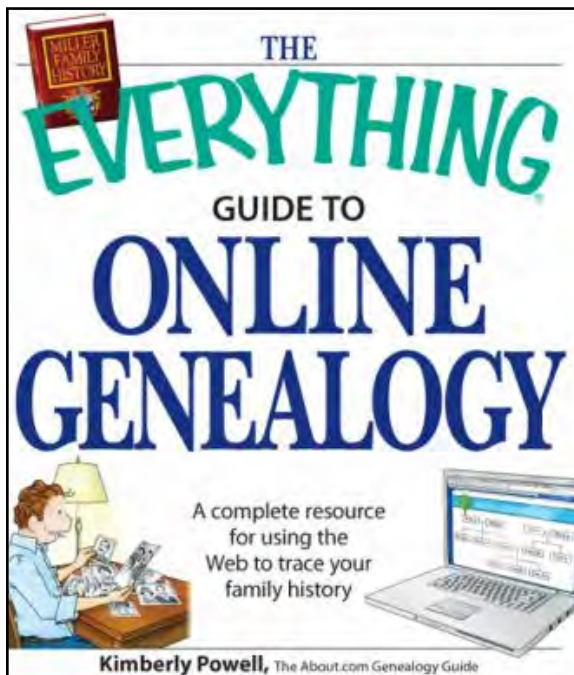


# The Geneline

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

**Amelia Island Genealogical Society**

**May 2010 - ISSUE 5**



## **COMING UP!**

### **AIGS General Meeting**

**Tuesday- May 18, 2010 at 7:00 PM**

**HELD: FERNANDINA BEACH POLICE DEPT.**

**COMMUNITY ROOM**

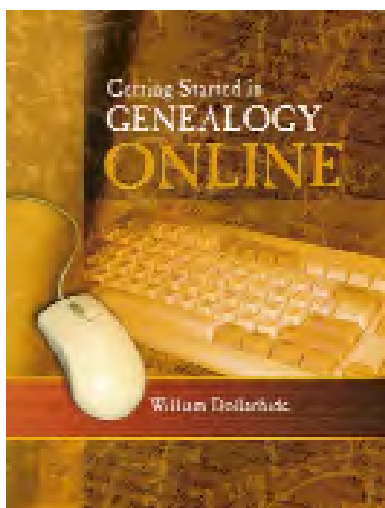
**Speaker: Michael Toomey**

**Topic: Electronic Tools and Software  
for Genealogical Search**

**M**odern computers and other electronic tools can provide easy access to the enormous amount of online genealogy now available. This can make your job of searching, recording, accessing, and sharing your genealogy data easier and faster. Mike's talk will be a discussion of these technological advances bringing you up-to-date information about improvements in computer operating systems and hardware, genealogy software programs, new internet browsers, free software, tools to "snip" genealogy images, data backup, and other techniques and how they can assist you in your genealogy work.

#### **About Michael Toomey**

Our speaker for the May 18, 2010 meeting of the Amelia Island Genealogical Society is Michael Toomey. Mike and his wife, Gloria, have lived on Amelia Island for eleven years. He is a retired business executive who developed his interest in computer technology when he was responsible for telecommunications at a major chemical company. Being a technologist by education and inclination, he has continued to develop his interest in these systems and their continuing evolution. Mike has 15 years experience in genealogy work and both Mike and Gloria are very active in the Amelia Island Genealogical Society where Mike currently serves as Vice-President and Webmaster.



## Message from the President

### 2010 AIGS BOARD MEMBERS

**Marie Santry**  
*President*

**Michael Toomey**  
*Vice-President*

**Lori Miranda**  
*Secretary*

**Royce "Gus" Reinwald**  
*Treasurer*

**Bob Loveless**  
*Past-President*

**Charles Finnigan**  
*Director*

**Bob Keane**  
*Director*

**Pam Manley**  
*Director*

**Kay Watt**  
*Director*

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS & EDITORS

**Bob Keane**  
*Program*

**Charles Finnigan**  
*Membership*

**Gloria Toomey**  
*Publicity/Historian*

**Pam Manley**  
*Library*

**Kathy Nemaric**  
*Research Coordinator*

**Frances Bartelt**  
*Editor Geneline*

**Jean Mann**  
*Editor Nassau County  
Genealogist*

**A**t a recent meeting, I had the privilege of presenting Nancy Sturges with a token of appreciation for her service to AIGS as Librarian for our Genealogy Collection housed at the Fernandina Beach branch of the Nassau County Library System. Nancy took on that responsibility in 1996 and stepped down at the end of 2009, after 14 years of dedicated service. Over the years she had managed that collection and built it up to almost 1000 volumes. We wanted to let her know how much we appreciate the time and effort that she devoted to that endeavor.

**On a sad note, I must report the passing of our friend and member, Pam Donovan.** Pam put up a valiant fight to remain with us as long as she could. Through everything she faced, she was positive, cheerful, and never lost her sense of humor. Our hearts and prayers go out to Paul and the family.

**I have just returned from a trip to Orlando** where I attended a meeting of the Florida State Genealogical Society's (FSGS) Florida Pioneer Committee. I had volunteered to review the applications and corresponding documentation that proves a pioneer's residency in the Florida Territory before statehood and proves an applicant's lineage from that pioneer. So, I have two applications that I must review for the FSGS pioneer program, with many more expected by the deadline of June 30th. If an application is approved, the descendant receives a Pioneer Descendant Certificate at the annual FSGS Conference in November.



*Early Settlers of  
Sanford FL*

**If you haven't considered applying to a pioneer or early settler recognition program, think about doing so.** Some genealogists apply because of an interest in the area where the ancestor settled or because they still live in that same area today. Some want their ancestors to be remembered. Others use these programs to document their lineage for posterity. Such programs also help us re-energize our genealogical interest and keep us focused on a particular family line in our research. Florida is not the only state with pioneer/settler recognition programs. In a short Google search, I found state programs for Connecticut, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Arizona and North Dakota. I know there are others out there. And, if your state does not have a comparable program, many counties and townships have programs. I found such programs for various townships/counties in Alabama, Michigan, Minnesota, and South Carolina, to name a few. The descendant/applicant does not have to currently live in the state to which they apply.

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

# Packing for a Research Trip

*The following article was written by Dick Eastman and appeared in Eastman's Online Newsletter. It is reprinted here with his permission.*

Over the years, I have made many trips to libraries, courthouses, and genealogy societies. Once I arrive at my destination, I often have found that I should have carried "one more thing" with me. I have now created a checklist of those "things that I may need." I always verify the genealogy trip packing list when packing my suitcase. Most of the time, I can squeeze all of these items into one carry-on suitcase that easily fits in an airliner's overhead baggage compartment plus an "over the shoulder" bag or a backpack that fits under the seat in front of me. With the recent price gouging by airlines for checked luggage, use of carry-on luggage can save a lot of money.

## **I thought I would share my packing list and also ask if you have further suggestions.**

The following is a list of things I might take on a genealogy research trip. I don't take every item on every trip; the exact list will depend upon where I am headed. For instance, a trip to a cemetery might end up with different items to be packed than a trip to a genealogy library. However, here is my complete list of things that I might take on a trip:

- 1. Laptop computer.** I use the computer for multiple purposes, including recording notes of my new discoveries. I also have my entire genealogy database on the laptop, in case I want to look something up. Of course, I also want to be able to access email and the Web while traveling.
- 2. Cell phone.** Actually, I never leave the house without my cell phone. There are too many uses to list here, but I will point out that I keep my entire genealogy database on the cell phone as well. It is very convenient to use and, unlike Windows or Macintosh laptops, does not require a long time to boot up and become ready for use.
- 3. GPS –** This is one of the handiest gadgets I own. If jumping into a rental car in a strange city, the GPS guides me to the hotel or to the convention center. (Hint: enter the destination address[es] into the GPS before leaving home to save time and confusion in the rental car company's garage.) I also take the GPS with me to every cemetery I visit in order to record the exact location of tombstones.
- 4. Wireless 3G modem.** I admit to being a geek, but I hate to be isolated from the Internet. There is email to check, and I may want to look up something online as well. Many libraries now offer free wi-fi Internet connections, but not all of them do. Some hotels also charge \$10 a day or more for online access. Airport waiting lounges also offer wi-fi networking with prices ranging from free to as much as \$20 a day. For anyone who travels frequently, a wireless 3G Internet connection can be a money saver.
- 5. Portable scanner.** I take the portable scanner only when I suspect I will have an opportunity to use it. However, there have been a few occasions where it has proven useful. Admittedly, I do leave it at home most of the time.
- 6. Copies of my "to do" list, research notes, lists of questions to answer, and sources to check.** Most of these items are on my computer, but I still find that a printed list on paper is easier to use. *(Continued on pg.4)*

**7. A Jump Drive** (also known as a thumb drive or flash-drive or any of a number of other names). In many libraries, you can copy images of microfilm or download material from the computers. The charges for downloading to a jump drive are always cheaper than making photocopies, and sometimes the charge is zero. In addition, you end up with a higher-quality image than those made by typical photocopy machines as found in libraries. Having a digital image also makes it easy to later import that image into your favorite genealogy program or into an email message you are creating. Ideally, the jump drive should be empty when you embark on your journey. Some libraries have software protection that look for viruses and other problems stored on jump drives. If your jump drive has an .EXE file stored on it or any other files that the library's computers do not like, you might not be able to store their data on the jump drive. Starting with an empty jump drive solves the problem.

**8. Pens, pencils, and notepaper.** I have recently switched to a Pulse Smartpen and its matching tablets of paper that automatically save my handwritten notes into the computer when I return home. However, the old-fashioned pens and paper will suffice for most purposes.

**9. Camera.** I find lots of situations for use of cameras, both indoors and out.

**10. An extension cord** with a triple outlet on the end for plugging in multiple devices. Many libraries have power outlets in the strangest places! That is especially true for older courthouses and other buildings that were built before the days of electricity. Hopefully, your laptop battery will suffice; but, most laptop batteries will not last through an entire day's research at the library. The same extension cord may also come in handy in your hotel room where power outlets often are found only under the bed or behind the television set.

**11. Money,** preferably in quarters and one-dollar bills. Many libraries still use coin-operated photocopy machines, and having a roll of quarters can be a big help as well as a time saver. Of course, on longer trips, I also use those quarters at the local laundromat. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City and a few other libraries have switched to a "debit card" system in which you purchase payment cards. However, many smaller libraries and courthouses still use coin-operated photocopy machines.

**12. For trips to a cemetery, I always take water, a camera, sunscreen, and bug repellent.** In some areas of the country, a snakebite kit would also be recommended. If it is a rural cemetery, possibly outside of cell phone range, I also take two FRS walkie-talkies (assuming that I will have a companion with me when visiting the cemetery). "Emergencies" can happen, whether it is a twisted ankle, a bee sting, or some other annoyance. Being able to communicate with someone else can be critical in some situations.

**13. Carry a large purse. For men, purchase a "messenger bag"** which performs the same function as a lady's purse but gives a macho appearance. Whatever you call it, you'll need a large carrying case for your electronics, camera, cell phone, notepad, lunch, and more. I also use it as a carry-on bag for travel on the airlines.

**14. Suitable clothing.** I follow the rule of "always dress in layers." I find wearing two or three layers of lightweight clothing (a lightweight shirt plus a heavier shirt plus a light sweater plus a windbreaker, etc.) works better than wearing a heavy jacket and also requires less space in a suitcase. If traveling to another part of the country, you might not be prepared for local weather conditions. Pack clothing in layers. I also take only one pair of shoes; namely, the shoes that I am wearing. I then pack clothes to match those shoes. Carrying an extra pair of shoes consumes a lot of space in your suitcase! You only need one pair. Make sure they are comfortable and suitable for extended walks. *(Continued on pg.5)*

**15. Umbrella.** Again, the weather may be different than you expected. Walking from a hotel to a library can be unpleasant if you are drenched with cold rain. Of course, cemetery trips can be equally unpleasant in bad weather. Conversely, an umbrella can also keep the hot sun from burning your face and neck. Purchase one of the compact umbrellas that easily fits into a suitcase or even into a large purse.

**16. Lunch.** You might not get a lunch break, or you may become so engrossed in research tasks that you skip the lunch hour. You can pack whatever food you prefer, but keep in mind that refrigeration may be a problem. Don't pack any lunches that are perishable. I usually pack trail mix. It tastes good, is easy to pack, lasts days or weeks without refrigeration if stored properly, and is much healthier than candy bars or some other snacks.

**17. Duct tape.** You can fix anything with duct tape. I found a small roll of duct tape at a local drug store and now keep it in my suitcase at all times. I have used it to patch suitcases that were damaged by the airlines, to hold a clothesline over the hotel room shower, to hold a balcony door open on a cruise ship, and for a number of other purposes. Try to find the small rolls; carrying a full-sized roll of duct tape takes up a lot of room in a suitcase.

**18. Itinerary:** E-ticket printouts for airlines, rental cars, and hotel reservations. Again, this is typically stored on the laptop computer, but I find it easier to have printouts when standing in front of the check-in counter.

The above is my list of "don't leave home without it." Admittedly, the list varies, depending on my planned destination. I don't take every item with me on every trip. However, all the above are "candidates" of possible items to pack.

## **Free or Low-Cost Online Backup for All Your Files**

*This article was published in February 2010 in Dick Eastman's On-Line Newsletter and is reprinted here with permission. Google Docs is a great way to share your genealogy with others without too much effort. I have uploaded all of my HASKELL documents into a single folder that I share with invited Haskell descendents. I have uploaded HAILIG documents into a different folder that I share with invited Hailig descendents, etc. I don't have to gather up bits and pieces of Hailig documents and email files to them when a new Hailig descendent contacts me. I just add the new person's email address to the "invited guests" list for the Hailig folder and they can go look for themselves. And so far, it hasn't cost me a dime. - MARIE SANTRY*

Google recently announced that any file type can now be uploaded to Google Docs storage. This means that you can backup genealogy databases, family photographs, or any other kind of file. Google gives away 1 gigabyte of file space free of charge and will also sell you more space for the modest charge of \$0.25 US per gigabyte per year.

A single file upload is limited to 250 megabytes, however. That should be big enough for any file with the possible exception of some of the largest uncompressed video files.

You may optionally share any folders on Google Docs with others. This makes a great method of sending large video files and other material to a friend or relative. For example, if you are in a club or PTA working on large graphic files for posters or a newsletter, you can upload them to a shared folder for collaborators to view, download, and print. It certainly beats trying to send large attached files in email!

In order to use the new Google file storage, you must have a free Google account. If you use Gmail, then you already have an account. Next, you need to wait until Google updates your account to use the new feature. Google will be rolling this out to its thousands of servers over the next few weeks. You might already have access. Then again, you may have to wait several more weeks.

Once you have access, click the Upload button near the top left of the Docs list homepage at <http://docs.google.com>. If you don't yet have access, you won't have an Upload button.

**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/>