



# The Geneline

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

**Amelia Island Genealogical Society**  
**January 2012 - ISSUE 1**

**COMING UP!**

**AIGS General Meeting**

**Tuesday January 17th 2012 at 7:00 pm**

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



**Speaker: Ann Stanley**

**Topic: The Family Search Website -  
Demystified**

**The Family Search Website** has undergone many changes in the last several years and, in fact, is still being modified. It is made up of many parts and each one is essential to the

research of a genealogist. If you have not used every part of it join us as we explore the wonderful possibilities! Ann will bring us up to date on the changes and among the topics she will explore, discuss, and show examples of are the following:

1. **Family Search** - The History and Why
2. **What is being done to Family Search now in the evolving computer age**
3. **What you can do on the Family Search Website**
  - A. The Library Catalog - A misunderstood and underused piece of greatness!
  - B. Historical Books - Tap into the Family History Archives digital collections
  - C. Records - Millions of records (indexes and digital images) going on line for Free
  - D. Searching the Research Wiki - Free advice for the genealogical community
  - E. Finding Articles, Guidance, and Online Classes

## **About Our Speaker: Ann Stanley**

Our speaker for the January 17, 2012 meeting of the Amelia Genealogical Society is Ann Staley from Jacksonville. She is an instructor, consultant, trip leader, and frequent lecturer at local, state, and national genealogical conferences and has given many programs in recent years for various groups interested in genealogy including AIGS.

Ann was raised in Mobile, Alabama and has been researching her family since 1980 from Alabama, Mississippi, and Virginia to France, England, and Germany. She is currently the Education Chairman and Webmaster for the Jacksonville Genealogical Society; Vice-President of the Genealogical Speakers Guild; on the faculty of The National Institute for Genealogical Studies; and has been an associate of the Board of Certification of Genealogists since 2000. Her enthusiasm for genealogy is contagious and her programs are always both very stimulating and informative. Her specialties include: Methodology, Research Sources, Computer Resources, Vital Records and their Sources, Conference Planning, and Assisted Research Trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

2012 AIGS  
BOARD MEMBERS

**Michael S. Toomey**  
*President*

**Bert Swearingen**  
*Vice-President*

**Gloria Toomey**  
*Secretary*

**Royce A. Reinwald**  
*Treasurer*

**Marie Santry**  
*Past-President*

**Charles Finnigan**  
*Director*

**Bob Keane**  
*Director*

**Fred Sanders**  
*Director*

**Kay Watt**  
*Director*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS  
& EDITORS

**Bob Keane**  
*Program*

**Charles Finnigan**  
*Membership*

**Lori Miranda**  
*Publicity/Historian*

**Kay Watt**  
*Librarian*

**Kathy Nematic**  
*Research Coordinator*

**Frances Bartelt**  
*Editor Geneline*

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Michael A. Toomey**

### Ancestry.com Search Improvements

Amazingly enough, the year of 2012 is about to arrive (I am writing this while it is still December 2011). I have been using both ancestry.com and familysearch.org a lot over the holidays, and I found both had made some changes in their search systems. This always frustrates me, as I just get used to one system and a change requires some adaptation to their system. In this case though, one of these is positive (ancestry) and one negative (FamilySearch).

Now, if you do a search on Ancestry, and you locate one pertinent record, other records which might apply appear in a column to the right of the pertinent record. For example if I searched for a George Brough, born in 1824 in Yorkshire, who lived in Utah and was married to Elizabeth, the first record I find bring up another ten "Suggested Records" nine of which are for the right family! *You can see this in the image on pg 3.* Amazingly, one of these records for a John Bacon is the prior husband, the man I am looking for, (and I don't know how they did that).

The quality of these "Suggested Records" is consistently good I find, and using them saves a lot of time going back and forth to the record list.

Ancestry has also added the ability to connect with a friend or a relative by send them a copy of an individual record. Look under Page Tools, just the left of the search data. You can do this with Email, Facebook and Twitter.

I emailed a few documents to myself. They come in an ancestry format with a link to that single file only. The quality is very good, and the recipient can save the document to their own files. So, both of these improvements are helpful in your genealogy work.

The changes to FamilySearch.org's search system are not so positive. They have gone to a process where you add primary data and then limit it with ten other topics: Collections (meaning their collections), Birthplace, Birth Year, Marriage Place, Resident Place Residence Year, Death Place, Death Year, Gender and Other Year. These limiting fields are quite general, and they don't seem to shrink the scope of your search. I tried the same search for George Brough, and I could only find two of the ancestry records easily, and had to redo the search several times to find them all. I predict they will change this system and go back to a more traditional search system.

I hope you all had a great 2011, and particularly a great Christmas and New Year Holiday. Look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings in 2012 and at the special 20th anniversary event seminar next November.

**Michael A. Toomey**  
**AIGS President**

1880 United States Federal Census about George Brough











Name:	<b>George Brough</b>										
Age:	56										
Birth Year:	abt 1824										
Birthplace:	England										
Home in 1880:	Spring, Sanpete, Utah										
Race:	White										
Gender:	Male										
Relation to Head of House:	Self ( <i>Head</i> )										
Marital Status:	Married										
Spouse's Name:	Elizabeth Brough										
Father's Birthplace:	England										
Mother's Birthplace:	England										
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>										
Occupation:	Post Master										
Cannot read/write:	} <a href="#">View image</a>										
Blind:											
Deaf and dumb:											
Otherwise disabled:											
Idiotic or insane:											
Household Members:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><a href="#">George Brough</a></td> <td>56</td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">Elizabeth Brough</a></td> <td>58</td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">Robert A. Brough</a></td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">Elizabeth A. Brough</a></td> <td>19</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Age	<a href="#">George Brough</a>	56	<a href="#">Elizabeth Brough</a>	58	<a href="#">Robert A. Brough</a>	21	<a href="#">Elizabeth A. Brough</a>	19
Name	Age										
<a href="#">George Brough</a>	56										
<a href="#">Elizabeth Brough</a>	58										
<a href="#">Robert A. Brough</a>	21										
<a href="#">Elizabeth A. Brough</a>	19										



[View original image](#)  
[View blank form](#)

Suggested Records

These records may also be relevant to **George Brough**:

-  [George Brough 1900 United States Federal Census](#)
-  [Geore Brough Utah Death Registers 1847-1966](#)
-  [George Brough 1851 England Census](#)
-  [George Brough 1870 United States Federal Census](#)
-  [William Brough 1881 England Census](#)
-  [George W Brough 1861 England Census](#)
-  [Elizabeth Hudson England & Wales Marriages, 1538-1940](#)
-  [John Bacon England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index: 1837-1915](#)
-  [Elizebeth Brough 1900 United States Federal Census](#)
-  [George Brough 1851 England Census](#)

[Save This Record](#)

Page Tools

-  [Save record to someone in my tree](#)
-  [Save record to my shoebox](#)
-  [Add Alternate Information](#)
-  [Report Image Problem](#)
-  [View printer-friendly](#)

Share this record

-  [Facebook](#)
-  [Twitter](#)
-  [Email](#)

# Visit This NEW Genealogy Search Engine

**Mocavo.com**

*by Dick Eastman*

I suggest you remember this web site: Mocavo.com. I bet you are going to hear a lot about it in the next few weeks and months. In fact, I'd suggest you try it right now. I've been using the site for a while during its testing and have been very impressed. This thing actually works! Today,

Mocavo.com went public and is now available to everyone. Mocavo.com is a genealogy search engine that is available to you at no charge. It searches hundreds of thousands of genealogy web sites, looking for the words that you specify. Web sites searched include thousands of genealogy message boards, society web pages, genealogy pages uploaded by individuals, state historical societies, family societies, Find-A-Grave, the Internet Archive (mostly scanned genealogy books from the Allen County Public Library), the Library of Congress, several sites containing scanned images of old photographs, and tens of thousands of distinct sites that contain various transcribed records of genealogical interest.

Unlike other search engines, Mocavo.com limits its searches solely to genealogy sites. That makes a big difference to many of us who are searching for names that also are common

words or corporate names. For instance, if I search for my own surname, Eastman, on most any other search engine, I receive hundreds of thousands of "hits" from photography sites and other sites that have nothing to do with genealogy. Performing a search for "Eastman" on Mocavo.com returns thousands of "hits," all of them from genealogy sites and with very few references to photography. Even the few that refer to the Eastman Kodak Company were references found on genealogy sites. A search for my own surname did return a "hit" for one page about the "Eastman Sea Rover airplane," something I had never heard of previously. Even that one "hit" was from a genealogy message board, providing information about the ancestry of the airplane's designer. Regardless of your search terms, Mocavo.com always returns information found on web sites that contain significant genealogy information.

I suspect you will always have better luck searching for your own surnames of interest on Mocavo.com than on any other search engine.

As an example of how Mocavo.com works, I'd suggest you first go to the site and perform a search for Amos Shaw who was married to Sarah Maxey.

I found the couple by a search of: "amos shaw" "sarah maxey" (Include the quote marks.) That search found 41 "hits," but the one that was really productive was the fifth "hit" on the first

page. That fifth "hit" may change up or down in the future, but you can always return to the correct page if you go to <http://www.mocavo.com/visit?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.findagrave.com%2Fcgi-bin%2Ffg.cgi%3Fpage%3Dgr%26GRid%3D9525960>. It is a FindAGrave result with an amazing photograph of a lady who was born in 1793 and died in 1868. You can find a photograph of her husband (who died in 1859) one click away. Those are old photos! It is rare to find a photograph of someone born in the 1700s. You will find it much more difficult to find old photographs like this using Google searches for genealogy!

Now try a few searches on Mocavo.com with your own names of interest.

Of course, searches on Mocavo.com are not limited to names. As with any other search engine, you can search for towns, states, occupations, relatives, or any other text information you think might be included with an ancestor's name. Whatever you specify, the search will be limited to pages on genealogy web sites. For instance, I have long been looking for the origins of Washington Harvey Eastman who lived his adult life in Corinth, Maine.

**I performed the following search on Mocavo.com:**  
"Washington Harvey Eastman"  
Corinth This returned only two results, both referring to the specific person I have been looking for (Continued on pg.5)

(although they only provided information I had already seen previously). Searching for the same person without his town of residence produces many more "hits," most of them for other men with the same or similar names. Adding the town of reference quickly produces focused results. With the exception of the sites being searched, Mocavo.com operates in much the same manner as Google and most other search engines. Mocavo always displays the full URL of the web site(s) found, along with a line of text from the site that contains the words you searched for. Clicking on the URL displays the original web site. Mocavo.com never "hides" anything; the original web site is always displayed in its entirety.

According to Cliff Shaw, the creator of Mocavo.com: "Genealogy has always had the problem of information and potential clues being spread across thousands of disparate web sites and sources. Imagine a world where you have all of the Web's free genealogy content at your fingertips within seconds. That is Mocavo.com. "Mocavo.com has the capacity to index every single piece of free genealogy content found anywhere on the web, and will be growing by leaps and bounds in the coming months. We expect Mocavo.com to shortly offer all of the web's free genealogy information, searchable and accessible to all - something that has never been done before. It's set to become the go-to

search engine for every family history enthusiast." At this time, Mocavo.com finds mostly North American genealogy information. I suspect that will expand in the future as the site grows "by leaps and bounds every day." Cliff Shaw has created a great genealogy search engine, the best I have seen. Try it. I suspect you'll be as pleased with Mocavo.com as I am. Go to <http://www.Mocavo.com> I still plan on using other search engines for a lot for my other web searches. However, all my future genealogy searches will start on Mocavo.com. I've been using the site



### Two Citizens of Note From the Past

When you visit the James S. Page Government Complex in Yulee you will see some old pictures of previous tax assessors. The names under two of these pictures may be familiar. They were of Samuel and Leota Swearingen.

Samuel Harrison Swearingen, known as "Mr. Sam," was a native of Nassau County, Florida. He was born in 1883 to Samuel and Eugenia Mott Swearingen.

In 1910 he married Leota Pelham Higginbotham. She was born in Italia, FL and lived in Fernandina all her life. Leota and Sam lived at 606 Date Street. They had one daughter named Freida who married Clarke W. Cooper, Jr.

Sam listed his work experience as a sawmill worker (1903-1904), circular sawyer (1904-1914), and a mill operator (1915-1917). From 1917 to 1953 he served as the Nassau County Tax Assessor. When he died Leota became

the Nassau County Tax Assessor. Mr. Sam was a member and Past Master of the local Masonic Lodge. He was elected to the Democratic Executive Committee in 1930, 1932 and 1934. Sam died in 1953. Leota died at age 98 in 1990. At that time she was the oldest member of First Baptist Church of Fernandina. Sam, Leota and Freida are buried in Bosque Bello Cemetery.

One of our present AIGS member, Bert C. Swearingen, is a first cousin twice removed to Samuel Harrison Swearingen. Bert's great grandfather, William Swearingen, and Sam's father, Samuel Swearingen, were brothers.

*Contributed by Barbara H. Swearingen*

**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/>