



Start Here. Go Anywhere.

[Home](#) / [Catalog](#) / [Contact Us](#)

Having trouble viewing this newsletter? [Click Here](#)

September 2008 Jacksonville Public Library Genealogy Newsletter

"Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one." -- **Jane Howard**

In This Issue

- [When Grandma Won't Talk](#)
- [New Materials](#)
- [Spotlight on the Collection](#)
- [Genealogy Trivia of the Month](#)

Events

September 13

On Saturday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m. The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society, Inc., will meet at the Jacksonville Downtown Library, 303 North Laura Street, Jacksonville, FL, in the Electronic Classroom on the First floor. Librarian David White of the JPL Genealogy Collection, will instruct attendees on the use of "Ancestry Library Edition." This is a hands-on computer workshop. Ancestry Library Edition is available in all public libraries in Jacksonville. No charge, open to everyone. The Library opens at 9:00 a.m. For more information call 778-1000.

September 20

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society monthly meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., September 20, 2008 at the Webb Wesconnett Branch Library, 6889 103rd Street, Jacksonville, FL. History, mystery, and genealogy in true story form from the book, "The Lost German Slave Girl," is what Barbara Kiersh, our speaker, brings to our meeting. It should be an interesting meeting; please plan to attend. For additional information please contact Mary Chauncey at 781-9300.

October 11

On October 11, Jacksonville Public Library and the Southern Genealogists' Exchange Society, Inc. co-present an all-day genealogy seminar, "Celebrating Family History." The seminar is on the conference level of the Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street, Jacksonville, FL. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The morning session is from 9:30 a.m. - noon and the afternoon session

is from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Lunch is on your own. Optional tours of the Library's Genealogy Collection will be given during lunch and after the seminar. The speakers are:

Jon Ferguson: "Where Might My Family Be Hiding In The Courthouse?"

Karen Rhodes: "Quirks of the Florida Census"

Jim Vearil: "The War and Its Hardship: Using Social History to Understand the Impact of the Civil War on a Florida Family."

Dick Cardell: "Documentation: Proving The Old Family Stories."

The event is free of charge. Pre-register to avoid the line and receive forward seating in the seminar. You can pre-register at the SGEN website (<http://www.sgesjax.com/>) or by calling 778-100.

When Grandma Won't Talk

by David Fuller

As most genealogists will attest, one of the best resources for launching your genealogy quest is your family. Family records, such as birth certificates, diaries, letters, baby books, report cards, bibles, and photographs are stellar sources for information that may save you a tremendous amount of time and energy. For those who are fortunate enough to have family such as parents, grandparents and even great-grand parents in some cases, this can be a good beginning. What makes it a great beginning, however, is having parents and relatives who will talk. If we take it a step further, what makes it a super beginning is having family members with excellent memories, documents as evidence, and a gift for gab.

Unfortunately, not everyone who pursues their family ancestry has or will have the super beginning. Most have enough information to trace successfully their forefathers to a certain point. Then the research truly begins. However, some are starting off with the barest amount of information, and sometimes even that information is suspect.

For example, Donald knows a little bit of information about his father. He knows the county, state, and year his father was born. Donald knows nothing of his mother - only hearsay that she and his father may have been divorced; and he doesn't know whether they divorced before or after he was born. His father died when he was about three and he was raised by his grandmother who does not like to talk about her family or the past. Donald has spoken with his grandmother on several occasions, inquiring of any family records she may have in her possession. She said that she has no records pertaining to his father due to a house fire that destroyed most of the family records, which she never bothered to replace. Although his grandmother is 70 years old and is not in the best of health, her mind and memory remain sharp. Donald calls it "selective memory." She remembers what she wants to remember. However, he also understands that a lot of folks (old and young) do not like to remember their past or at least certain parts of it. There could be a number of reasons for this - trauma, abuse, family secrets, wrong side of the tracks, witness protection program, adoption, and so on. Whatever the reason, she isn't talking. So, what are his options?

As it turns out, Donald has several options. Option one is to locate another family member who considers himself/herself to be the "family historian." Usually, every family has one. You know-- that person who makes it a point to know their family history inside and out. That knowledge will be mental most of the time, and will be built upon years of curious accumulation or just plain "gettin' in folk's business." Some folks call it being "nosey." On the other hand, the historian can be a loving relative. They take pride in their family heritage, and they possess a strong commitment and dedication to passing that history onto the following generations. Not only do they share this knowledge verbally, but they also maintain family documents which are meticulously kept and preserved to support their information. Stories are great, and evidence to substantiate those stories is supreme.

Another avenue for Donald is to talk with his grandmother's neighbors or individuals in which he kept in touch from his youth. If his grandmother was a "nester," and lived in the same house or same community for fifteen to twenty-five years, her neighbors may know much. If living and still in the area, they may remember his father and the woman he married. They may remember when Donald's grandparents moved into the neighborhood. They may recall Donald's father & his siblings and the schools they attended. They also may recollect having conversations with Donald's mother as part of getting acquainted with the newest addition to the community. They may recollect where she said that she was from, who her people were, what they did for a living, where they settled, and how she met her husband. These are just a few gems Donald could pick up. In addition, this may lead Donald to other valuable resources, such as vital records, court documents, city directories, and newspapers to name a few.

Although Donald's grandmother is not as forthcoming as he would like, there are avenues around his road block. Other family members, neighbors, official records, and even genealogists who specialized in ancestral research may prove invaluable. Road blocks or hurdles are a natural part of the family history research process. Most of the time it is a matter of "when" and not a matter of "if." However, as Donald found out, there usually is a way around them, and sometimes they can take time and a lot of ground work and research.

New Materials

***Pioneer families of the Midwest : Volumes 1-111* - by Blanche L. Walden**

Publisher: Clearfield Co.

[Check Library Catalog](#) **Pub Date:** 12/1/1939

ISBN: 9780806347912

ISBN-10: 0806347910



***Tombstone Inscriptions of King George County, Virginia* - Klein, Margaret C.**

Publisher: Genealogical Pub Co

[Check Library Catalog](#) **Pub Date:** 7/30/1979

ISBN: 9780806314518

ISBN-10: 0806314516

Spotlight on the Collection

Named for the long wiregrass savannahs of coastal Georgia and Florida, ***Pioneers of Wiregrass, Georgia*** is an excellent source of information for anyone researching genealogy in the southeast Georgia and northeast Florida regions prior to the 1880's. Published by the Huxford Genealogy Society, it was originally a seven volume set written by Folks Huxford, founder of the society, based on his notes and files. *Pioneers of Wiregrass, Georgia* has expanded into a twelve volume set containing over 5,000 biographical sketches that are fully indexed, as well as corrections and additions made to previous volumes.

Genealogy Trivia of the Month

Each month, we ask a genealogy-related puzzler. If you are the first to respond with the correct answer, you will

receive a special gift. Please email your answer to genealogy@coj.net.

This month's question: What is the soundex code for the surname PUDLICK?

Last month's question: If your ancestor lived and owned land in Duval County in 1822 and later moved to Clay County in 1860, where would you find deed records to his land?

Answer: Duval County

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward to a friend](#) | [Update settings](#) | [View HTML newsletter](#)

Funding for this Service was provided by the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation

If you are having trouble unsubscribing to this newsletter, please contact NextReads at 919-489-3713, 3710
Mayfair Street, Durham, NC 27707

© 2008 EBSCO Publishing, Powered by The Title Source TM