



Coastal Georgia

Genealogical Society

News & Reviews

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Amy Hedrick, Editor

29 August 2004 Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the College Place United Methodist Church on Altama Avenue. At this meeting we would like for you to pick one person or family that you are having trouble with in your research, make a list of records you have checked, and what your obstacles are. Or, you can share your never fail research or computer tip that helps you overcome those brick walls. This meeting will be learning while you teach. You are teaching us about your family, and you may learn some interesting tips!

18 APRIL 2004 Guest speaker **Patricia Barefoot** lectured on her family research of the Burney family and other families along the Old Post Road that runs between Glynn & Wayne Counties. One of her goals is to find the final resting place of **James Stafford**. According to an early 1800s map, **Margaret Davis Cate** marked the gravesite, which today would be located at what is known as the Burney/Popwell Cemetery. His grave has yet to be found.



The Adventures of Pat & Amy

--by Amy Hedrick

“Pat” is Patricia Barefoot, local author and historian. “Amy” is your editor and aspiring historian. Together, we form a dynamic genealogical duo, leaping brick walls in single bounds, combing forest floors for ancient graves, culling records from dusty repositories, and eating at any roadside diner!

This month, Pat & Amy toured part of Coastal Georgia and traveled north on Highway 17 from Brunswick to Savannah. Our mission, to visit the Liberty County Court House, the Georgia Historical Society, and Bonaventure Cemetery all in one day!

Our mission was a failure. Once we got to the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah, all other goals went out the window.

This was my first visit to the Society’s Library

located at 501 Whitaker Street in Savannah, Chatham Co., Georgia. And boy what an experience. I jokingly told Patricia, that I never want to come back again. There is just too much to take in even after several trips. Patricia has been there numerous times, and today discovered a reference that she has yet heard about.

Anyone studying Georgia history and genealogy will benefit from a trip to the library. Here is what you need to know before going.

One, the library hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Ladies, and backpackers, you will have to check your bags at the counter. Admission is \$5 for non-members, free for members. If this is your first time there, tell the staff, and you will get a one time free trip to browse the library, plus a tour of their holdings, and proper library etiquette. Laptops are allowed.

You do not have to become a member to use the facilities, but membership has it’s advantages, for instance normal Xerox copies cost 30 cents, but for members it is only 13 cents. Free admission, invitations to lectures and seminars, monthly newsletters and magazines, discounts on merchandise, and more depending on the type of membership you choose.

For students, it is a yearly \$25. Individuals \$45, Family \$55, Sponsor \$100, Corporate \$300, Sustainer \$500, John Macpherson Berrien Circle \$1,000, William Brown Hodgson Circle \$2,500. Of course, the more you spend, the more you get.

Microfilm machines are available, with printers. However, you have to pay as you go, so bring quarters. Also, be sure to have your article, or document lined up, before you put in the quarter, as it will print as soon as you deposit your coin.

Now, what is available at the library? Basically, everything you ever wanted to learn about Georgia and her people. Census microfilm, newspapers dating back to 1763! City directories dating back to 1858, marriage records from 1748, divorce records, death records, some dating as early as 1763. Cemetery records for some of the oldest and largest cemeteries in the area. Birth records, tax records, wills, and estates. A large clipping file, maps, and an extensive manuscript collection, all at your fingertips!

Your first step, before even going to the library is

to pick a topic and plan of attack. I had about four in mind, one would only take a few minutes, the others would take longer depending on how involved I got. I never made it out of the newspapers! I love newspapers, and their collection goes back before the Revolutionary War!

Many of the records are Chatham County specific, but there are numerous families from the surrounding counties that were in Savannah at one time or another, as that was the center of business during Colonial times.

So, to recap, eat a large breakfast, bring pencil and paper, lots of change, energy, and an idea on what you want to accomplish, and maybe you will get half of your goal achieved.



THE BRICK WALL

--by Amy Hedrick

This month's brick wall comes to us from the family file of Mr. Meril A. May of St. Simons Island. Recently Mr. May asked me to take all of his family history and see where it would lead me.

The first brick wall was overcome in two hours of research. What was Robert L. May's wife's maiden name. Meril May's family is from all over the United States. From Meril we go back to Grayson County, Texas to his father, Meril A. May, Sr. who was from Texas but lived in many places. Meril Jr.'s grandfather was Robert Walter May who lived and died in Grayson Co., Texas.

Then we come to the great grandfather, Robert L. May who married a woman by the name of Martha C., maiden name unknown. From online resources I found her maiden name to be Dennis. And have traced her family back to, of all places, Troup County, Georgia.

Meril was quite surprised that a line of his family originated here. Most of them were from Missouri, Tennessee, and Kentucky [the Mays anyway]. Martha's father was Hiram Dennis born 23 October 1826 in Lincoln County, Georgia. He married Rachel Evaline Christler on 13 November 1851 in Troup County, Georgia. According to census records they had about 11 children.

Now, who is Hiram's father? Researchers on the internet of this family, are at an impasse. We have two eligible men, and no proof of their relationship. One is a Hiram Dennis who married Nancy Howard on 24 August 1825 in Lincoln Co., Georgia.

Hiram was born 20 November 1804 in South Carolina and died in Troup County, Georgia on 11 May 1887. According to census records, he and Nancy had 7 children. But, in 1850 our younger Hiram was already on

his own, so we can not prove a parentage by census, and in the 1850 census, Hiram & Nancy have a four year old son named Hiram L. Dennis living with them, so most likely they aren't the parents.

The next eligible man is Allen Dennis. Is he related to Hiram [born 1804]? Could they be brothers? Allen is living just six houses away from Henry in the 1850 Troup Co., Georgia census, and he is only 5 years older. He too, was born in South Carolina. And according to this census, he and his wife were very busy, with possibly 11 children!

Right now I am waiting on copies of deed records that may shed some more light on this connection. Do any of you have some Dennis kinfolk? Maybe you are related to one of the wives?



INTERNET

<http://www.digitalarkivet.no> This digital archives is a public service of the National Archives of Norway. You can search in transcribed source material there for free. At the site choose the English version (for instructions) if our Norwegian language skills are rusty or lacking.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~dutilleul/> ENGLAND. Wiltshire newspapers. There are now more than 15,000 surname references; index linked to a selection of transcripts of early 19th-century newspapers with a Wiltshire bias. One copy of the "Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette" and 30-plus of "The Salisbury and Winchester Journal" (1813) as well as a couple from 1819 have been added. The index can be accessed by clicking on "Local Newspaper Index" text link near the top of the page.

<http://www.walesontheweb.org/> "Wales on the Web." This is an access point for a great deal of Wales-related information.



Risley/Colored Memorial Memorialized

On 2 July 2004, the Colored Memorial School and Risley High School was honored with an historical marker

commemorating its historical significance to this community.

The original Risley School was known as the Freedmen’s school and was opened in the 1870s as the first public school for African-Americans, the name later changed to Risley in honor of Captain Douglas Gilbert Risley who raised funds for the school’s construction.

The original school building has been lost to time, the current building now standing on Albany Street is a large brick structure that was built in 1955 and is the Risley High School of today. Now this can be confusing to most locals, as there are two sites of historical significance here, and both are on Albany Street.

The first school house, the Freedman’s School in 1870 was supposedly located at the corner of Albany and H Streets. And in 1923 the Colored Memorial Building was built there and named in honor of African-American veterans of World War I. Then in 1936 a new High School was built on this site along side of the Memorial building.

Around 1955, though, further north on Albany street a brand new high school was built, that is now used and known as Risley today.

The way schooling worked for young African-Americans in Glynn County was for the first through 6th to 8th grades, they attended school either at home, or one of the local one-room school houses, like many of the white children did. Many of these school houses were located in the Brookman Community off of Hwy. 82. Two of these school houses still stands today, the Union School off of Galilee Road, and the old Glynn Academy building in Sterling.

After this schooling the children came to town, if they didn’t already live there and went to Risley, later Colored Memorial, to get their High School learning, then they went on to the Seldon Institute located off of Hwy. 341 today.

Later, Colored Memorial expanded their services so that going to Seldon was not necessary in finishing your high school learning. Seldon became a means of learning a trade, like teaching, or preparing for other professional careers. In 1955, when the new Risley High School was built further down the road, these building were abandoned for a time. Up until recently they were used as an alternative school for troubled youths. The Colored Memorial building is not being used right now.

*Risley High School Alma Mater
Hail to thee our Dear Old Risley,
Crimson and the Gold
To thy high and noble precepts,
We shall ever hold.*

*Dear old Risley we love thee;
True we’ll ever be,
Loyalty shall ever be our watchword,
Risley we love thee.*

*Hail to thee our
Dear Old Risley,
We shall ever be
Loyal to our Alma Mater;
Friends of Liberty.*

*We shall keep our standards high,
As the days go by,
We shall never, never fail thee,
Dear Old Risley High.*



PUBLICATIONS

“The Hornet’s Nest” by Jimmy Carter, published by Simon & Schuster 2003; 465 pages. When you think of historical fiction, Jimmy Carter does not come into your mind. And, in my opinion, he isn’t very good at writing it either. But, his idea, the plot to this story, is a masterpiece, that was very well thought out and researched. The writing of the story is simplistic, but the history is complex, and for any Revolutionary War researcher, this is a must read, especially for us Georgians. Mr. Carter has included such folks as the McIntosh Clan, early Georgia notables, one of my ancestors Col. John Dooly, “Mad” Anthony Wayne of our very own Wayne County fame.

The story centers around the Pratt family, and their start in Pennsylvania. Two brothers decide to make a move to North Carolina, where things just don’t work out and one moves with the Quakers down to Georgia as the hostilities start to brew up. Then we move over to Thomas Brown, British Spy and his public humiliation and vow to seek vengeance on the evil rebels by forming the Florida Rangers. This is one of the few historical novels that has ever captured coastal Georgia and Florida’s role in the Revolutionary War.



GlynnGen.com is Online!

--by Amy Hedrick

In my last little news blurb, I mentioned the start of a new website for the Glynn County Genealogy & History Website. A local “fan” of mine donated funds to purchase

a brand new server for the website. The server is basically a computer that people can access to view the website. Whenever you go to a website, you are going to someone's computer. Now, when you go to the Glynn County web site, you are going to the computer at my house, not some computer who knows where.

A very kind gentleman has put thousands of dollars worth of software on this server, and got it up and running for me, for free. Many thanks go out to these generous people!

Now for the history of this website, and this may be a bit confusing. Back in April of 2003, Susan Gay Peterson asked me if I would take over the Glynn County Georgia GenWeb site that was part of the US GenWeb Project. This is a volunteer project, a world wide project comprised of folks everywhere around the world donating their time to free genealogy. Rootsweb.com, and other places even provided free space to build these websites, which is where the Glynn County site that I had was maintained.

Earlier this year, the folks at the Georgia GenWeb decided they couldn't just be volunteers anymore, everyone had to have a higher purpose. They had to start accusing others of misdeeds and wrong doings. Things got political, things got ugly. I decided I no longer wanted to be a part of the GAGenWeb project. While my website stayed at Rootsweb, my affiliation changed to the American History & Genealogy Project [AHGP].

This group has no voting policies, no one is elected to anything. Also, more than one person can have a county or state site. At GAGenWeb only one person could have a county site, and there had to be a state coordinator, a regional coordinator, some assistants, some subcommittees, and other things, everyone wanted something to do.

Well, recently all of the top coordinators were removed from the GAGenWeb project for "perceived" wrongdoings. By this I mean, others in the group had some kind of persecution complexes and things got out of hand, and some people got ousted, that shouldn't have been. Rootsweb themselves actually had to get involved. Keep in mind this is a VOLUNTEER project.

Well, now the controversy comes up that yes it's great that Rootsweb.com gives you unlimited free space for your website, but did you know that by law, they own everything that you put on their servers [computers]? That's not good. I have a lot of work on the web, and I mean A LOT of work.

So, I have bought my own domain name [web site], and a server [computer], and now only I own my data. I am still a member of the volunteer project AHGP and the American Local History Network [ALHN]. These are all volunteer projects that help others find your websites.

Is everyone confused now? I know it's hard to follow, but the only thing we need to know is that all of your Glynn County genealogy and history needs are located at:

www.glynngen.com



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual membership to the CGGS is only **\$15** for one person or **\$18** for a family. Membership extends from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004.

Remit payment to our treasurer:

Barbara Baethke
119 Bayberry Circle
St. Simons Is. , GA 31522