



Coastal Georgia Genealogical Society

News & Reviews

1058 Whisper Ridge Loop, Waynesville, GA 31566

Amy Hedrick, Editor

May 2005

17 July 2005 Meeting will be held at 3 p.m. at the College Place United Methodist Church on Altama Avenue.

17 April 2005 Meeting had a low attendance, but was interesting non-the-less, as new members shared their finds, and old members shared their new finds as well.

Federal Records & Genealogy

What are federal records, and how do they pertain to your research? The most widely used records would be the U.S. Census, then military, and land patent records. Although the government didn't have family history research in mind when compiling such data, they can be a wealth of information for the genealogist.

One thing to keep in mind while using these records, is to not take them as factual. Remember, humans compiled this data, and we all make mistakes, in spelling, in remembering, etc. The census is one of the prime documents that researchers use in building family units. However, many of us make the mistake of assuming that everyone in a household is father, mother, children. You can not assume this to be true unless it is noted, and sometimes, not even then!

Other federal records that many of us want to find, are military pension files. Whether your ancestor served in the Revolutionary War or World War II, we all have the desire to know what our ancestor went through. Many of these pension files contain absolutely no genealogical data. My fourth great-grandfather, Jeremiah Harrell, filed for a Rev. War pension in the 1830s, he died a year after he got the pension. His file is a story of battles that he was in, and where he moved to afterwards. The only genealogical data was the listing of where he was born, and that he married in Virginia, no wife's name, no children mentioned.

The exact opposite for my Civil War veteran, George Washington Hedrick. His file was LARGE! He was wounded in combat, his file contains numerous medical documents on his physical and mental condition. It even lists his wife and children, and the next of kin alive at various times when he filed papers.

Another recent resource to online researchers is the Bureau of Land Management records, located at <www.gloreCORDS.blm>. Here you will find land patents filed by your ancestors with a legal description of the land and its location. From there, you can take

Important Information

Contacts
Web addresses
&
Emails

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

Important Addresses & Links

Bill Smith, President

wssmith1@adelphia.net

Newsletter Editor

cgsnews@hotmail.com

Send articles for submission, or share info about a meeting or event.

Mailing List Website

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cggs/>

Group Information Page

<http://www.glynngen.com/cggs.htm>

Glynn County Genealogy & History

<http://www.glynngen.com/>

Brunswick Public Library

208 Gloucester Street
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912)267-1212

Meeting Information

Meetings are generally held the last Sunday every other month at the College Place United Methodist Church located at 3890 Altama Ave. in Brunswick. Meeting time 3 p.m. until 4 or 4:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

7 May 2005 Saturday Restore America: Communities at Crossroads. Speaker Tom Lewis & the National Trust for Historic Preservation celebrate Historic Preservation Month. 7:30 p.m. at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel 371 Riverview Dr. For reservations call (912)635-2600.

8 May 2005 Sunday Annual Blessing of the fleet starts at 3 p.m. at Mary Ross Waterfront Park.

10 May 2005 Tuesday Rebecca Couper of SSI, portrayed by Tricia Buie, wife of a planter on SSI in the early 1800s. 7:30 p.m. at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel. Reservations (912)635-2600.

11 May 2005 Wednesday Gen. Oglethorpe of Ft. Frederica, portrayed by Scott Hodges. Conveys the challenges and triumphs of Oglethorpe in the 1730s. 7:30 p.m. at the JICH. Reservations (912) 635-2600.

17 June 2005 Friday The 2005 Annual Georgia Sea Islands Festival. Celebrating the life, history & culture of the African people-young and old- on St. Simons Island. Village Creek Landing 526 S. Harrington Rd., in a historic African-American community.

Ongoing Events

Ghostly Tales every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday on the Jekyll Island beach starting at 9 p.m. Call (912)571-2334 or meet at the Jekyll Oceanfront Resort.

A Civil War Diary from April 1 to Sept. Wed.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.; Thurs. & Sat. 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 call (912)571-2334.

the certificate number from the database and request the land entry file from the National Archives [NARA] in Washington, D.C. This file may contain more information such as a former residence, clues to finding other relatives, and you may even get to see their signature.

But, if you don't know much about your ancestor, how do you find out if he served in the military, what state to look for them in, etc.? Many indices are online, and even at the subscription sites, you can do a search in many of their indices for free. There are also numerous census projects online accessible for free, like at Rootsweb.com, or census-online.com. From the census, you can find out if your ancestor was in the military.

The 1840 census lists Revolutionary War pensioners by name, even if they were not the head of household. The great thing about this, too, is that if your veteran wasn't the head of household, you will know who he was living with because he would be listed under that person's name. As you know the 1840 census only lists the head of household and how many people of a certain age, sex, and race are living there. If a veteran is living with them, it gives the name of that veteran.

The 1890 census, which was almost completely lost, listed information on Union Civil War veterans and their widows. The 1910 census identifies Civil War Veterans. The 1930 census lists war veterans, and what war they served during.

Most military records are available on microfilm, American Revolution [1776-1783], the years 1784-1811, the War of 1812, the Mexican War [1845-1848], the Indian wars, Civil War [1861-1865], Spanish-American War [1898]. Although many of you swear off of Ancestry.com because of their commercialism, there is a lot of information to be found there, and most public libraries have free access to Ancestry, so you can avoid paying high subscription fees.

The most recent tool in tracing your ancestors are ship's passenger lists. I have one ancestor that came to America just after the Civil War. He landed at the Port of New York, and came directly to Indiana. From the passenger list, I have learned the correct spelling of his German name, and where he originated from. Many of the passenger lists found, were formed from the port of embarkation, meaning where they left from. So you will most likely have an accurate spelling of foreign names due to the person filing the manifest spoke the language of your ancestor.

Upon arrival in the new port, the list was finished by adding deaths and births, etc. and then filed at the new port of arrival. So the list you find, say in New York, is as accurate a list as you will find because it was not written after the landing, but before leaving the home country.

Another neat item to add to this passenger arrival, is to check the local newspaper for the time period, look under the nautical reports, or shipping news. Many papers listed ships coming in and leaving, and sometimes a short description of that ship's passage from point A to point B.

Delving into Federal records sounds like a frightening exploration, but it can be a very enlightening one as well. There are many people out there who can help, some charge a small fee, others volunteer. The biggest obstacle is knowing where to look for these records and how to get copies. Start with the National Archives Records Administration [NARA] in Washington, D.C. From there, helpful people can lead you to other sources of exploration.

Ancestral Passports

If you are like millions of Americans, at one point or another, someone in your family had to travel abroad, and needed a passport to do this. Early passports, however, may not exist as they were not required by law until after 1941. The only time they were required before that year was during times of war, from 19 August 1861 to 17 March 1862, and 22 May 1918 to 1921.

Some Americans obtained passports though as a measure of security, sort of the equivalent of our driver's licenses today. The Department of the state <www.state.gov> issued passports then, and still do today. From 1791 to 1925, passport records are available at NARA:

<www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/research_topics/passport_applications.html>

The LDS Library has these passport microfilms available, so check with your local family history library, or go online to <www.familysearch.org>.

Passports issued before 1906 will contain little, if any

genealogical information, you would find more on your prospective ancestors between 1906-1925. Items such as their given name, birth date and place, where they lived at the time, occupation, physical description, where they are traveling, and, hope of all hopes, a photograph. Some will even list the names, birth dates and places of the spouse and children.

Passports issued to naturalized citizens may even contain their immigration information and the date of their naturalization.

Just as with birth records, if the applicant is still living, you will not be able to obtain a copy of their passport. To obtain a passport of someone who has already died, you will need proof of that death and your relationship unless they were born more than 100 years ago.

Write to:

Department of State
Passport Services
Research & Liaison Section Room 500
1111 19th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20524

Internet

<http://www.abebooks.com> Find new, used, rare, and out of print books from new & used book dealers around the world.

<http://www.alibris.com/> Same type of site, only read the fine print, many of these books are Xerox copies for way more than the original cost of the book. Check ABE first.

<http://www.heritagebooks.com/> Genealogical and historical reference books, and more!

<http://www.genealogical.com> One of the largest publishers of genealogical books and materials.

Family Tree Software

There are many different software programs on the market to help contain your family history research. Some are modestly priced, others may be completely free of charge. No one program is any better than the other. It is all up to personal preference. The following information was taken from May 2005

issue of "Trace Your Family History; a beginner's guide to genealogy" by Family Tree Magazine.

Ancestral Quest 11 by Incline Software <www.ancquest.com> \$34.95 download or \$37.95 CD. Windows 95 or higher. Easy navigation and terrific reporting capabilities. Automatically searches online

at Ancestry.com, sold in stores as Heritage Family Tree Deluxe.

Ancestry Family Tree MyFamily.com <www.ancestry.com/aftexec> Free download for Windows 95 or higher. Easy to use software companion to Ancestry.com's online databases.

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Embla Family Treasures Embla <www.embla.com> Free download or \$10 CD, plus \$5-\$15 for add-on features. Windows 98 or higher. Novel navigation system, plus a handy drag-and-drop feature. The free base program has all the basic functions, but for better multimedia, organization and charting buy the add-ons called Genealogy Extension Modules (GEMs).

Family Historian 2.3 Calico Pie <www.family-historian.co.uk> 44.90 pounds [about \$84]. Windows 95 or higher. Attractive, customizable family tree charts-you can even edit your family information right in the charts.

Family Tree Legends 4.0 Pearl Street Software <www.familytreelegends.com> \$29.95 Standard Edition or \$49.95 Deluxe, or \$79.95 Premium. Windows 95 or higher. Attractive and easy-to-use. Automatically backs up your data on secure servers, and searches for your names in Pearl Streets GenCircles <www.gencircles.com> pedigree database. Lets you chat and file swap with other users.

Family Tree Maker 2005 MyFamily.com <www.familytreemaker.com> \$29.95, \$2 per minute for phone support. Windows 98 or higher. Produces terrific charts, books, and scrapbooks. Automatically searches Ancestry.com databases for names in your files.

Family Trees Quick & Easy 6.0 Individual Software <www.individualsoftware.com> \$19.95. Windows 95 or higher. Similar to Ancestry Family Tree, with extra timesaving features such as source and repository merging.

GEDitCOM 3.60 RSAC Software <www.geditcom.com> \$49.99 or free as a file browser. Mac OS 8 or higher. Creates and reads GEDCOM files so you don't lose data when you download or share files.

Genbox Family History 3.3 Thoughtful Creations <www.genbox.com> \$59, Windows 95 or higher. Combines great graphical charting with solid organizational tool.

Heredis BSD Concept <www.myheredis.com> free windows standard edition, \$29.90 Premium, or \$69 Mac X version. Windows 98 or higher, Mac OS 9.1 or higher. Beautiful family tree charts. Windows users should try the free version before

investing in the premium edition.

Heritage Family Tree Deluxe 4.0 Individual Software <www.individualsoftware.com> \$29.95 Windows 98 or higher. Identical to Ancestral Quest, but includes Progeny Software's Charting Companion and free three month access to selected Ancestry.com databases.

Legacy Family Tree 5.0 Millennia Corp. <www.legacyfamilytree.com> Free Standard Edition, \$19.95 download Deluxe Ed., or \$29.95 CD. Windows 95 or higher. Strong source citing and photo-editing capabilities. Offers a variety of printed reports and a handy to-do list.

The Master Genealogist 6.0 Wholly Genes <www.whollygenes.com> \$34 Silver Ed. download or \$39.95 CD. \$59 Gold Ed. download or \$79.95 CD. Windows 98 or higher. Lets you record every family detail and properly cite sources. Has a steeper learning curve than most programs.

Parentele 3.1 Alsyd Multimedia <us.parentele.com> \$59.95 Classic Ed. or \$79.95 Prestige Ed. Windows 95 or higher. Easily publish your family tree on your website or CD. Weak on source documentation.

Personal Ancestral File (PAF) 5.2 FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org> Free download or \$8.25 CD with PAF Companion. Windows 95 or higher. User-friendly; good for computer novices. PAF Companion expands the core program's limited chart options.

Reunion 8 Liester Productions <www.leisterpro.com> \$99.95 for Mac OS 8.5 or higher. Straight forward interface, excellent multimedia capabilities.

RootsMagic 2 RootsMagic <www.rootsmagic.com> \$29.95 or \$39.95 with printed manual. Windows 95 or higher. Easy to use, extremely well-rounded. Features a utility for creating wall charts. Outstanding reporting options and photo-editing tools.