



Coastal Georgia Genealogical Society

News & Reviews

1058 Whisper Ridge Loop, Waynesville, GA 31566

March-April 2006

Important Information

Contacts
Web addresses
&
Emails

April Meeting has yet to be decided. Will be announced on the CGGS

Information webpage at:

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual membership to the CGGS is only **\$15** for one person or **\$18** for a family. Membership extends from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006.

Remit payment to our treasurer:

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

Important Addresses & Links

Bill Smith, President

wsmith1@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.glynnen.com/cggs.htm>

Glynn County Genealogy & History

<http://www.glynnen.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 2 p.m. until 3 or 3:30 p.m.

ELEGANT IMPASSE

By Margaret B. Jones

11 February 2006

Every family researcher knows the frustrations of the "brick wall," that aggravating situation when one's ancestor cannot be traced beyond a certain point. My impasse occurred at the elegant old St. Andrew's Parish Church, located on Ashley River Road in Charleston, S.C. Newly restored in keeping with its 1706 establishment, Old Saint Andrew's Parish Church is the oldest church in the Carolinas and is celebrating its 300th birthday this year (2006).

I arrived at this birthday celebration on Sunday, November 20, 2005 for the first of many services and events planned for the church's birthday year. What brought me was my search for the antecedents of Martin Palmer, my 4th great grandfather and an early settler of Glynn County in the Post-Revolutionary state of Georgia. Granted "protection" by the Georgia Assembly on December 31, 1784, Martin Palmer had spent 18 years in British East Florida, (1) living two miles from the town of St Augustine with a wife, 3 children, 1 slave, and 20 horses. Listed as a "labrador," or farmer on the 1784 "List of all English residents at the time of change of Flag" (the Spanish Census of the English Colonists of East Florida) (2), Martin Palmer and the other colonists of British East Florida had spent the Revolutionary War years as British subjects.

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Upcoming Events

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Friday, March 24 Book Discussion Group
The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory.
10:30am. Brunswick Public Library, 208
Gloucester St., Bwk. 267-1212.

Saturday, March 25 Bloody Marsh Musket
Program Join a British soldier from the 42nd
Regiment of Foot as he describes the July 7,
1742 Battle of Bloody Marsh.. Musket
demonstration included. 2pm. Bloody Marsh,
off Demere Rd, SSI. 638-3639.

Saturday, March 25 Fort King George
Historic Site in Darien will host the 6th
annual Scottish Heritage Day festival at 10
am - 5 pm. The day's festivities will include
Scottish music and dance, traditional
Highland games, weapons of the
Highlanders, colonial cooking, colonial crafts
and arts, artillery firings, colonial nautical
skills, a battle reenactment at 2 pm, and much
more. \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for youth. Call
912-437-4770.

Originally attracted by Governor James Grant's Proclamation Act of October 31, 1764, to "obtain Grants of Lands in the said Province of East Florida," (3) these colonists had made new lives for themselves and their families with the protection and approval of King George. Joining this group in the last years of British East Florida were Loyalists from South Carolina and Georgia who evacuated to Florida in 1782. Upon the return of East Florida to the Spanish by the British government in 1784, Palmer and most Anglo-Floridians left East Florida, fearing enforced Catholicism and uncertainty under Spanish rule. Mary Stout, a settler to Florida before the Revolutionary War, wrote that the pending evacuation was "the worst thing that could have happened . . . we know not what to do nor whear to go all our property being hear and very litell of it can be moved . . . Nobody here but what are dissatisfied to the Last digree." (4)

After researching Palmer's descendants through a voluminous paper trail into the 20th century, I was stymied by the lack of information on Martin Palmer prior to the 1784 Spanish Census. Local Georgia researchers such as Margaret Davis Cate and Folks Huxford have published as fact that Martin Palmer was the son of one of Oglethorpe's soldiers. I always liked that idea, and still do, but have found NO DOCUMENTATION to prove this assertion.

However, one fact about Martin Palmer from the Spanish Census led me to South Carolina—"Natural al Carolina del Sur." MARTIN PALMER WAS BORN IN SOUTH CAROLINA! (5) Like Georgia, South Carolina of colonial times was divided into parishes which were bureaucratic as well as religious in nature. Searches through existing parish records of colonial South Carolina found a "Martin Palmor" born and christened in the Parish of St Andrews in the mid-1700's. Could this be my illusive Martin Palmer?

Martin's birth date is illegible, but appears in the Parish Register between births of two others in the years 1761 and 1758. Two pages later, Martin Palmor's christening date is clear: "Baptzd June ye 2d 1761." These dates place his immigration to British East Florida in 1766 at around age 8, if he is indeed the Martin Palmer of Glynn County, Georgia. Also he is listed in the Parish Register next to a brother named Rodger, who is born in 1758 and christened on the same day as Martin with a father named Rodger (the mother's name is illegible). (6) The significance of the name Rodger is that Martin Palmer had a son named Rodger, mentioned in his will, dated July 17, 1822. (7)

This coincidence of names, though not conclusive proof of a relationship, was sufficient to lead me to old Saint Andrews Parish Church. Founded on the feast day of St Andrew on November 30, 1706, this Anglican Church served the wealthy planters of the Ashley River and their dependents. Names such as Drayton and Middleton appear on the Church Register and survive today in South Carolina history books. The church prospered as Charleston prospered and declined during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

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New Members

William & Julia Keltner

Dot Donahoo

Marilyn M. & Robert H. Lear

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In more contemporary times, the Episcopal congregation, no longer from the wealthy and aristocratic plantation class of the past, has unified and expanded the church. In the 1950's, an uneducated house painter donated \$9,000.00, his life savings, to install electricity in the Church. (8) In this century a million dollar restoration project has returned the Church to its former elegance and grace displaying the Royal Arms of George I on the west gallery and an engraving of Queen Anne in the narthex. The wooden pews, brick walls, stone floors, glass panes, and black cypress reredos have been restored and most are original to the 1700's.

The service was stirring and worthy of the historic event. The Rectors, the Deacon, and many of the parishioners were dressed in period costumes. I tried to imagine how Martin Palmer and his family fit into the 18th Century congregation. Were they sitting in the crowded gallery with the poor and the servants or sitting below with the gentry in their personal pews? I don't know.

So far, research into the early days of South Carolina yields no Martins or Rodgers as tax payers, landowners, heirs, or criminals. Coastal South Carolina had 2 prominent Palmer families, but as yet there is no connection. So for now, at least, Old St Andrews Parish Church is my "elegant impasse" for Martin Palmer, former South Carolinian, early Floridian, and Glynn County settler.

P.S. All research into the life, descendants, and antecedents of Martin Palmer have been made in conjunction with my cousin, Kathryn Browne Auman.

MY LINE: Margaret Bensel Jones > Lois McNab Bensel > Margaret Simpson McNab > Julia Palmer Simpson > William Brunswick Davis Palmer > Martin Palmer, Jr. > Martin Palmer, Sr.

SOURCES:

- (1) *The Revolutionary Records of Ga, Book II*, p.774.
- (2) *List of All English residents at the time of change of Flag*, 1784, p. 6, Original at Library of Congress.
- (3) *Supplement to the South-Carolina Gazette*, December 3, 1764.
- (4) *Florida Historical Quarterly*, XXXIII, October 1954, p. 102.
- (5) *List of All English residents at the time of change of Flag*, 1784, p. 6, Original at Library of Congress.
- (6) "Register of St. Andrew's Parish, Berkely County," *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, October 1913, p. 215 and 217.
- (7) *Our Today's and Yesterdays* by Margaret Davis Cate, p. 262. (Transcribed from Glynn County Inferior Court Records.)
- (8) Sermon by Rev George J. Tompkins, III, Rector of Old St. Andrews Parish Church, November 20, 2005.

Publications

John English, son of Thomas & Jane English, married Sinai Ballew in Louisiana. To them were born 6 children, Louisa, Thomas B., Albert G., Elizabeth, Myra and Agness. All were living in Cape Girardeau Co., Louisiana.

Many families from Georgia removed to Louisiana after the purchase, those families covered in this publication are English, Mathews, Renfroe, Sheppard, Tennille, Wicker, Wilkinson. John English was most likely born in Columbia Co., Georgia, and this publication deals with him, and one of his sons, Thomas, who married Jane Wicker.

After John's death, his widow, Sinai, married at least twice, received a Mexican Land Grant in Texas, and named only her Nugent children [from a second marriage] in her will causing a lawsuit between the English and Nugent families.

For more information on "Are You English?" contact Patricia Shivley Elmore at welmore@dexter.net or by mail at 200 Maple Lane; Bloomfield, MO 63825.

Soft cover; 128 pages; notes; appendix; photos; bibliography; everypname index; price \$19 plus \$3 shipping. Allow 4-6 weeks delivery.

Upcoming Events

May 2006 Glynn County Historic Courthouse--Glynn County's historic courthouse was selected as one of four venues for a traveling courthouse exhibit for the month of May 2006. Georgia DNR/Historic Preservation Division (HPD) received a grant thru Georgia Humanities Council to do this traveling exhibit. This is quite an honor for our community; one of four within 159 counties to have this here. Dr. W. Ray Luce, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and Division Head of HPD will be here for a kick-off event and the exhibit will remain in the courthouse for the month of May for viewing. There is great need for millions of dollars to do the restoration work for our courthouses statewide. We are very fortunate in this community to have had use of SPLOST tax funding to restore this impressive example of Beaux Arts architecture.

24 May 2006 -- 8:00am -- 5:00pm -- Old City Hall corner of Mansfield & Newcastle Streets -- Program, free to the public for May 24, 2006—"Archaeological Perspectives on Coastal Georgia" It looks as if this one-day symposium will run from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Dr. Dave Crass, State Archaeologist; Dan Elliott of The Lamar Institute; Rita Folse Elliott of Savannah History Museum; Tom Gresham, T. Whitley, Carolyn Rock, et al. We'll host this in the AM at CGRDC; in the PM at Old City Hall, located at Mansfield & Newcastle Streets.

Contact:

Patricia Barefoot
Historic Preservation Planner
Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center
P.O. Box 1917
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 264-7363, ext. 218

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Wednesday, April 19th 10:00am; Celebration of Anniversary of Frederica Naval Action; Fort Frederica National Monument, St. Simons Island - Coastal Georgia Historical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Fort Frederica National Monument, Sons of the American Revolution will sponsor the Memorial Ceremony which will be conducted near the Fort Frederica Magazine ruins on the bank of the Frederica River. The focus will be to honor Colonel Samuel Elbert and the Georgia sailors and soldiers who captured three British ships on April 19, 1778. Descendants will be given special recognition. The Ceremony will include Musical Selections, Bagpipe and Musket Salutes, and Wreath Presentations. Public is invited and no admission charged to participants.

We welcome wreaths by Organizations as well as Descendants of Frederica Naval Action Soldiers & Sailors. If you would like to participate, please send your Wreath Presentation Request to: Marshes of Glynn SAR Chapter, Greg Hollis; email address:

<<ghollis_ccf@bellsouth.net>> telephone 912- 638-8683. Deadline April 1, 2006

Name of Society/Chapter/Descendant Group _____

Presenter _____ Honoring _____

Contact info: Name, Address, Telephone and Email _____

We hope that you and your members can join us at this Celebration of the Anniversary of the Frederica Naval Action -- which we are calling Georgia Patriots Day (since the date coincides with the Battle of Lexington in 1775.) It promises to be a great way to honor our Patriot ancestors as well as an enjoyable and fun experience.

Bill Ramsaur, Marshes of Glynn SAR Chapter