Ancient City Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Augustine Genealogical Society

June 2016

Contents

Genealogy - Past, Present and the Future

The President's Line

While Bob Burns is enjoying the summer in New England, other board members are writing for the President's Line. This month we welcome Bernadette Patruno.

> **Genealogy:** *A record or account of the ancestry and descent of a person, family, group, etc. That is the study of family ancestries and histories.*

Record-keeping has historically been done by hand through written documentation on ledgers as far back as biblical times including keeping records of one's historic family blood line which was considered paramount.

Much documentation has been done by road trips to local libraries, court houses, town halls and even the repository at Salt Lake City, Utah, where publications such as census, phone books and immigration records were researched for any possible link to one's relatives.

As travel became more affordable and convenient, it was possible to journey to distant lands to conduct research, discover, locate, and connect to the places of ancestors lived and newly discovered relatives.

Today computers allow the researcher to explore a wealth of information. Searching for one's ancestors is easier as the information is "online"! No need to travel to cities, towns or countries for research since more written records are being converted to digital every day and can now be obtained on line.

Also DNA has become the "in thing". A simple cheek swab sent to a lab and blood cousins are contacting each other to find out how they are related!

The future of Genealogy is through television programs like "Who Do You Think You Are", focused web sites like "One-Name Studies" and genealogy webinars, offering training programs accessible through various web sites. You can be anywhere and partake of these informational programs via any number of digital devices.

From the GeneaDictionary . . .

GPS : Genealogists positioning system.
Used by widowers to find lost genies in archives, cemeteries, libraries etc.
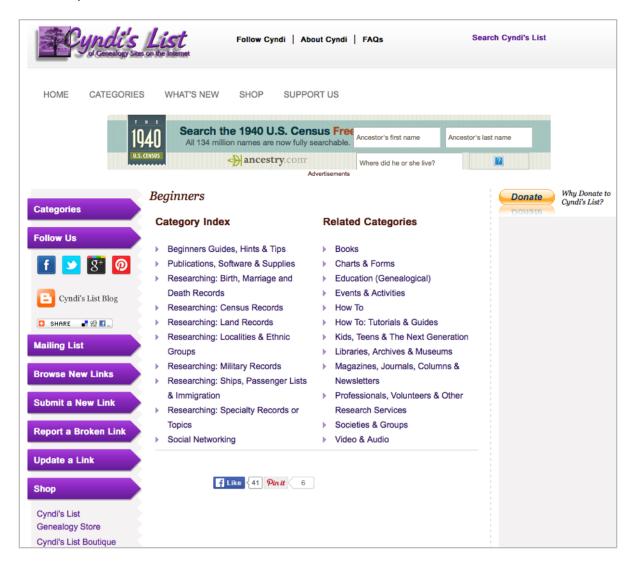
Widower. Husband of a female genealogist

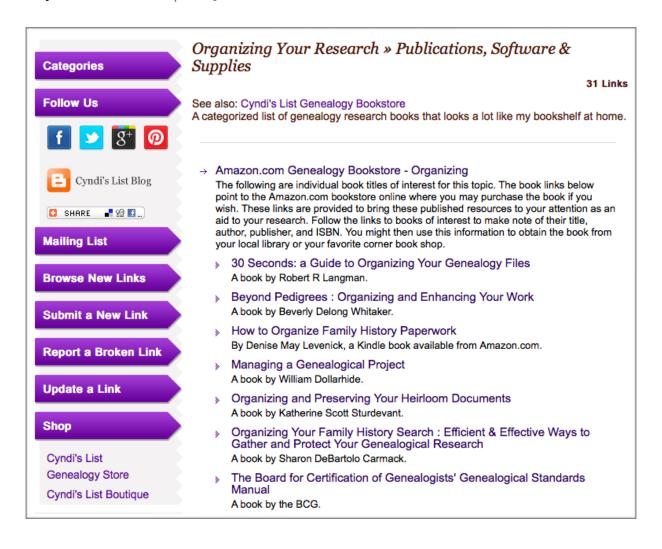**Genies.** Individuals who pursue genealogy

Cyndi's List

Editoral Notes

Cyndi's List has been a mainstay of the genealogical community for more than 20 years. It is the place we all go to find out if the information we need can be found online and, if so, where to find it. It is an amazing directory pointing us to more than 330,000 sites offering all kinds of genealogy-related information. Why is this so amazing? For the most part, Cyndi's List is a one-woman show. Yes, she has had helpers over the years, but most of the work has been hers alone.

She recently completed an update of the site. At first glance it doesn't look any different, but you'll quickly notice that navigating the site is much faster. It's also easier to move through categories, recommend new links or report broken links. As you can imagine, this upgrade was not cheap. Cyndi pays for the site with advertising, her Amazon storefront and contributions from the genealogy community. If you are one of the many people who have found this a valuable resource and would like to see it continue, hit the donate button or buy your next genealogy reference book through her bookstore.

Here's a tiny example of some of the resources you'll find. To see for yourself, visit Cyndi's List at http://cyndislist.com.
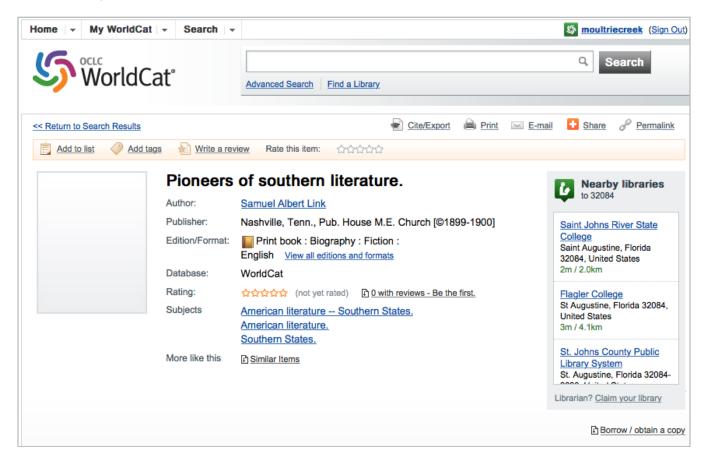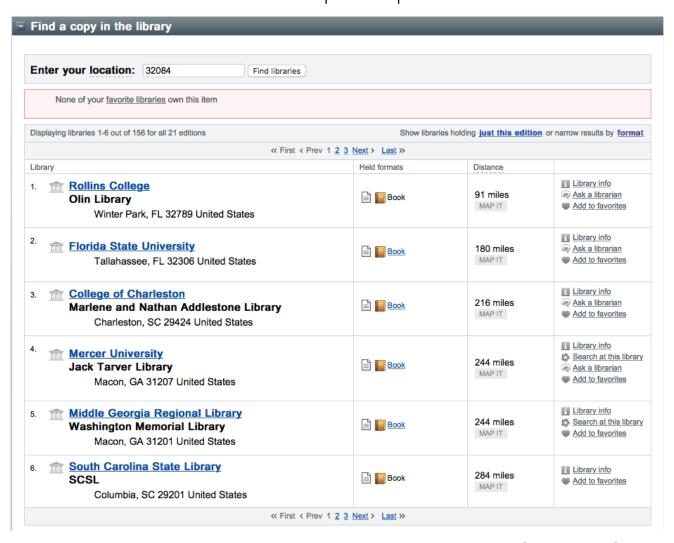
WorldCat

Research Toolbox

Have you ever wished there was a way to search library card catalogs all over the world? Your wish has come true . . . thanks to WorldCat! WorldCat (https://www.worldcat.org) is an online "master catalog" of library materials operated by the Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC), a nonprofit organization supporting easy and inexpensive access to the world's information.

Using WorldCat, you can search for books, music CDs and videos by title or author. Your search will not only display the title and other information about each item, it shows which libraries have it.
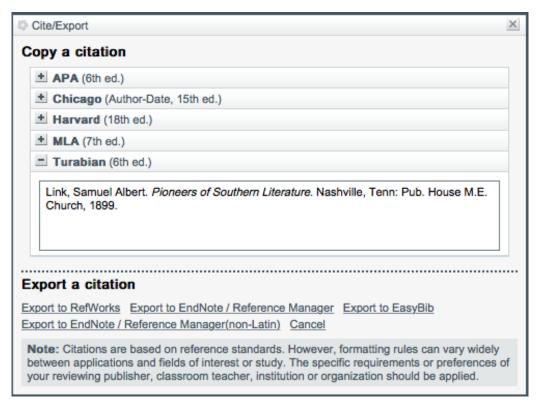
Once you find the book you want, select it in the search results and then scroll down the screen to display the list of libraries having it. Enter your zip code and click the **Find libraries** button at the top of this panel.

Now the list narrows and is displayed with the closest libraries first. Even if you can't find the book in a nearby library, you can use the list to help you arrange an intra-library loan.

Set up an account with WorldCat - it's free - and you have even more options. You can build lists (public or private) of books or other items found in WorldCat. You can also save, bookmark or share searches and identify favorite libraries. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City is one of WorldCat's member libraries.

Add it as one of your favorites and it will appear as a "nearby" library if it has the book you are searching for. When that happens, visit your nearest Family History Center to order it.

One last goodie . . . just above each book's detail panel you will find a **Cite/Export** link. Click it to display this panel. From here you can easily capture the source citation for this book in the format of your choice or export the information to a number of source management services.

It won't take long to realize that WorldCat is an important addition to your research toolbox.

Periodical Source Index - PERSI

In the Archives

PERSI has been a mainstay of genealogical research for decades. It is the largest index of periodical articles related to genealogical and local history in the world. This fabulous resource was created by the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The problem with PERSI is that it is only an index. Once a researcher finds an article in the index, they then must find the actual article.
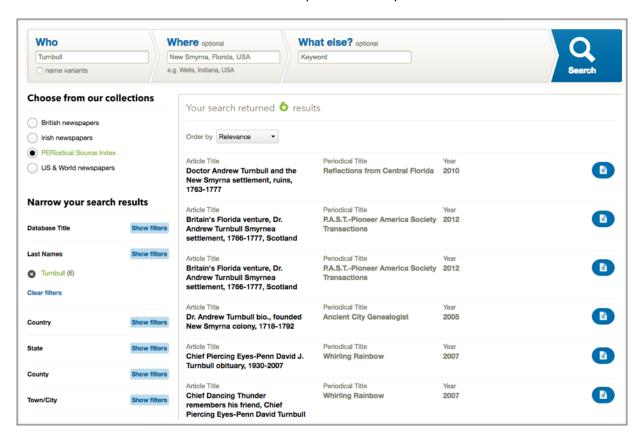
That is now changing.

The Allen County Public Library and Findmypast have teamed up to digitize as many of these periodicals as possible and make them available online. This is a massive effort and will take time to complete, but there are already a good number of digitized articles available.

You can access PERSI at Findmypast (http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index). You will also find a very useful article at the Findmypast blog (https://blog.findmypast.com/ho-1771212661.html) discussing tips for searching the index.

I recently used PERSI to look for articles related to Andrew Turnbull and New Smyrna. The results of that search appear in the screenshot on the next page. The icon to the right of each item is a link to that article's metadata. It will provide you with source information along with a list of repositories holding that publication. You may be lucky enough to see a camera icon next to an article. Click it and you will see the digitized article.

Anyone can access and search PERSI, but you will need a Findmypast user account to view the metadata/digitized images. Findmypast has a 14-day trial

period and offers one month, six month and annual subscriptions along with Pay As You Go credits that can be used to purchase specific records.

Findmypast has been focused on United Kingdom records (England, Ireland, Scotland, Canada and Australia) for many years. It is now expanding to include U.S. records too. If you are researching UK ancestors, a subscription could be worthwhile. If all you want to do is search PERSI, the Pay As You Go option might be a better choice. It's nice to have options.
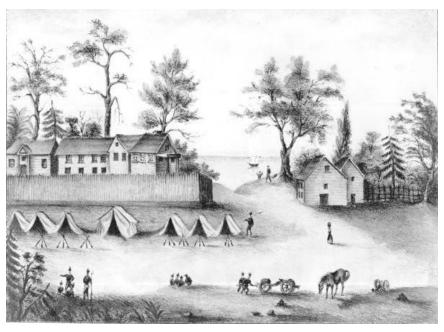
The Periodical Source Index has long been a valuable resource for genealogical research. This effort makes it even more valuable. It will be interesting to watch it grow.

The Strange Story of the Picolata Cemetery

Denise Barrett Olson

Today, Picolata is little more than the intersection of State Road 208 and State Road 13, but throughout Florida's history, Picolata has been a strategic military and transportation location. The name is derived from the Spanish terms describing a "broad bluff" that looks out across the St. Johns river. From the early Spanish period, this area was used as both a crossing point and a defensive location. Many military operations took place here, from early raids by the British to later battles with the Seminoles.

It was during the Seminole Wars that yet another fort and military cemetery were established here. At the end of the Second Seminole War, General William J. Worth had the U.S. Army collect all the war's casualties from throughout the territory and move them to the post cemetery (now national cemetery) in St. Augustine (see web article

Lithograph of Fort Picolata (1837) courtesy of the Florida Archives

on The Dade Monument). This included the casualties interred at the post cemetery at Picolata.

Sometime later, a group of people requested and received military markers from the U.S. government, placed them at the old Picolata cemetery and re-dedicated the site as a cemetery. A small piece in the St. Augustine Record, dated May 23, 1937 states:
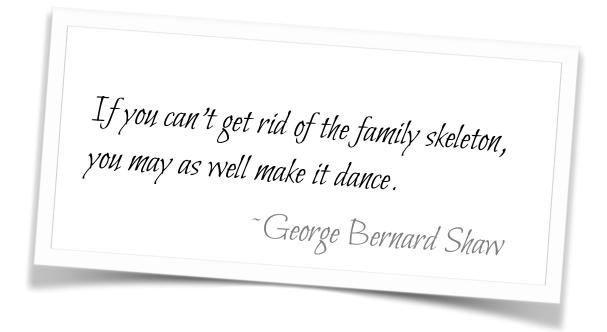
Most impressive were the services conducted yesterday morning at the Picolata National Cemetery, by the St. Augustine Post No. 2391, Veterans of Foreign Wars, paying tribute to the memory of those who fell in battle at Picolata.

Thanks to events like this, there is confusion regarding the original cemetery and the recreated cemetery. Recent development along the St. Johns River focuses again on the issue. A recent "Homes" feature story on jacksonville.com states:

Perhaps the most important and touching part of the estate is the Indian War Memorial of Picolata, erected in the early 1900s to commemorate those who lost their lives during the Second Seminole War. Restored by the Taylors, its wrought ironwork surrounds 50 headstones inscribed with the names of those soldiers, although they are buried in the St. Augustine National Cemetery.

Because it is now on private property, there is no longer public access to the cemetery site. Even local historians have been denied access. While it is private property and there are often hard feelings related to development around historic cemeteries, it is regrettable that this historic site is off limits to both historians and the descendants of the people who died there – regardless of where their remains are now located.

This article was originally published at The Graveyard Rabbit of Moultrie Creek and is reprinted here with permission of the author.

If you can't get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance.

~George Bernard Shaw

The Society Page

The June meeting will be held on Saturday, June 11th, beginning at 10:30am, at the Southeast Branch Library, 6670 US 1 South. Our speaker is Jack Butler presenting *How to Turn Google Into a Genealogy Search Engine*. This presentation addresses using a wide variety of Google tools and capabilities to improve your search for your ancestors.

In July we will celebrate the society's anniversary on July 9th beginning at 1:00pm. Get ready to party!

Research Notes

The Southern California Genealogical Society has announced its schedule for the 2016 Jamboree Extension Webinar Series. These webinars are open to anyone at no charge, but you must register to attend. Visit the SCGS webinar page for schedule and registration information. Registration is now open.

SCGS isn't the only source for useful webinars. Check out the online calendar of GeneaWebinars, Hangouts and other online events at GeneaWebinars.com.

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Society Services

The Research Help Desk supports our members with research assistance either at meetings or via email. Members can complete a research help request form at any meeting or email your request to Sue Gill at suecarl@aol.com. The Research Committee will respond with suggestions on search options and sources.

Members with research experience are encouraged to volunteer on the Research Committee.

There are a number of ways SAGS members can connect online. These include:

- SAGS Online - The society's public web site and records archive.

- SAGS Facebook Group - This is a public group and once you join, you can set it to notify you when items are posted to the group. It's a great place to share useful research resources, ask questions or share a success story.

- **SAGS Mailing List** - The mailing list is used to keep members informed on upcoming meetings, announcement and other activities. To join, send an email message to SAGS-L-request@rootsweb.com with the word **subscribe** in the subject line and in the message body. You will receive a return message asking you to confirm your subscription. Follow the link included in the message. Once you confirm you will receive a welcome message providing instructions for using it.

- SAGS Publications Library - This online library is open 24/7. Here you will find current and past issues of the Ancient City Bulletin along with other society publications.

- SAGS Writers Group - This blog serves as a virtual community center supporting our writers group.

Publishing Guidelines

We accept articles related to genealogy, family history and research methodology from our members for publication in the Ancient City Bulletin.

Submissions should be sent as an electronic file in either rich text format (.rtf) or MS Word (.docx) format via email to sags.publications@gmail.com. Please keep formatting to a minimum as the article will need to be styled to match the Bulletin's design. The article title should be on a separate line at the top of the page with the author's name listed immediately below. Photos included as part of the article are welcome, but please also send a copy of each photo as a separate file. Captions are always welcome and please include the photographer's name for proper credit. Including a list of sources is also encouraged.

Articles will be edited for grammar and style and any edits will be reviewed with the author prior to publication.

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