

Ancient City Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Augustine Genealogical Society

January 2016

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Introducing the Bulletin

Editorial Notes

The new year is a good time to kick off a new name, new design and new content for the society's monthly newsletter. Yes, it will still keep us informed on society news along with interesting events in the area and other opportunities supporting our research efforts. It will also provide a platform where members can share the stories their research discovers.

The Ancient City Bulletin is a digital document. This means it is a lot more affordable to produce. It also means color photos, working hyperlinks and the ability to search publications. We have created a digital library to make it easy for members to download copies. You'll find the [SAGS Publications Library](#) at Scribd, an online digital library. This library is open 24/7 so you will have access to SAGS publications at any time.

Each issue will include a **Research Toolbox** column discussing the technical tools that can help you find and organize your family history. And, since online archives seem to be cropping up everywhere, the **In the Archive** column visits a different one each month. Of course we'd love to include stories from our membership. You will find publishing guidelines at the end of each issue.

This Month's Title

The President's Line

Information from the society's president.

The Importance of a Research Email Account

Research Toolbox

Email has all but replaced postal mail as the medium of choice for business and personal correspondence. For family researchers, email provides a way to connect and share genealogical data, photos, historical documents and so much more. Although more and more research - as well as personal and business information - now resides in our inbox, many of us know little about the email systems we use and the software available to manage them.

Most of us use the email service provided by our Internet Service Provider (ISP). This is not your only email option and, especially for family research, not the best option. People move and ISPs come and go. Each event forces a change in your email address. In the 15 years we've lived in our house, our ISP has changed four times. And, I'm still finding posts on genealogy bulletin boards from even older addresses. No wonder I'm not getting any responses!



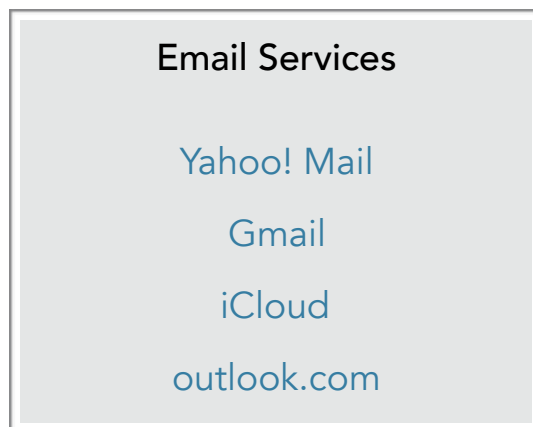
A good option for researchers is one of the large portal services like Google, Yahoo, iCloud or Microsoft. Using one of these services will give you a personal address that will not change. And, because you are posting your email address in many "public" locations - bulletin boards, online family trees, etc. - which could attract spammers, it's a good idea to have separate email accounts for your personal mail and your research mail.

If you are using any Google or Yahoo services (Google Reader, Google Books, Flickr, Tumblr, etc.), you already have an email account with that service. They, along with Microsoft's Outlook.com and Apple's iCloud, offer free email services and affordable premium upgrades. For example, Yahoo Mail provides unlimited space to storing your messages but the free service only works as webmail or with Yahoo Mail apps. Google's Gmail offers desktop delivery, but you'll need to pay for online storage above their (7+GB) limit.

When you have multiple email accounts, having to visit several different webmail sites can be tedious. That's where an email client comes in handy. Windows users have the Outlook app and Apple users have Mail. Once you set up your various accounts in your email app, all your mail will be delivered to it. They offer many features to help organize and manage your messages. Sure, it will take some effort to learn how to use it, but it will be well worth the time.

From a security perspective, it's a good idea to keep your research world separate from your personal world. Have a separate email account for each. That way, if some online pirate hacks your research email account they won't find any details about your private world - like bank accounts, place of work, etc. Use your research email address to set up online accounts at social networks and research archives. Make sure all accounts have strong passwords and change your passwords regularly.

Email graphic courtesy [Tamera Clark via Flickr](#).



Internet Archive

In the Archives

Have you discovered the Internet Archive yet? If not, you are in for a real treat. The Internet Archive (<https://archive.org>) is a non-profit organization that is building a free, online library. It's goal is to offer permanent access to historical collections to everyone. It's doing this by digitizing just about anything.

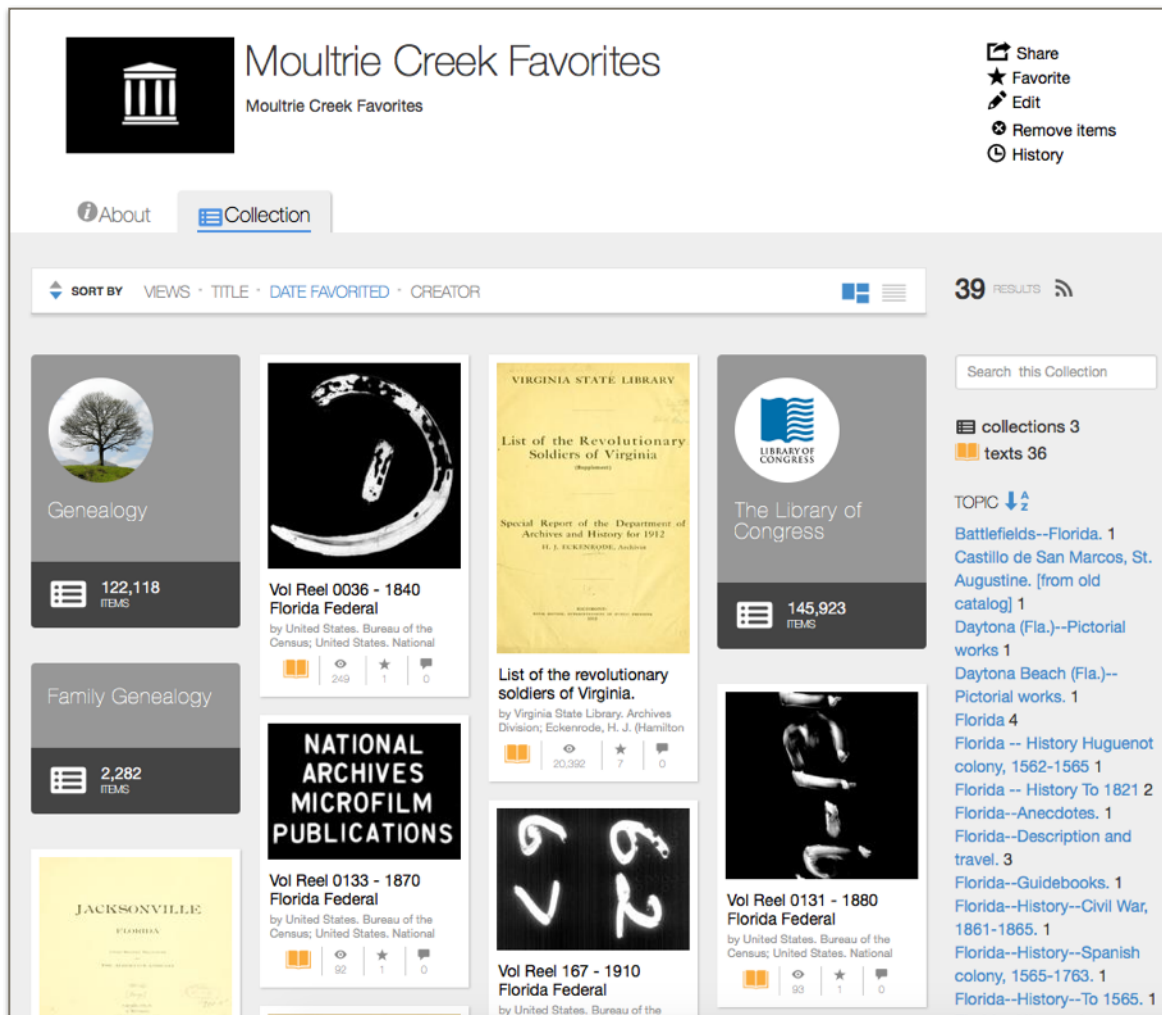
Their collections include books, music, movies, images, software and much more. The Genealogy Collection contains more than 122,000 text items from a number of impressive sources. Here is their description of this collection:

The Archive's ever-expanding collection of genealogy resources includes items from the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Robarts Library at the University of Toronto; the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Library; Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah; the National Library of Scotland, the Indianapolis City Library's Indianapolis City Directory and Yearbooks Collection, The Leo Baeck Institute Archives of German-speaking Jewry Leo Baeck Institute Archives, and the Boston Public Library.

Resources include books on surname origins, vital statistics, parish records, census records, passenger lists of vessels, and other historical and biographical documents.

It costs you nothing to use Internet Archive. You don't have to create an account to use the archive or download items, but having an account allows you to build your own library. Log in and start favoriting things you like. They not only show up in your library, but Internet Archive even indexes all the things you've

collected so you can easily find them when you need them. See a view of my personal library in the example below. The topic index is on the right.



An example of a personal library.

For text items, you can read the item online or download a copy in the format you prefer. The example below shows the 1884 edition of *Bloomfield's Illustrated Historical Guide*. Click the four arrow icon at the upper right side of the reader to increase the viewing area. The quality of any document depends on a number of factors including the condition of the original publication and the scanning process used. Often a downloaded PDF copy is the best reading option. One big advantage of the online reader is its search feature. Click the magnifying glass icon to build and activate your search. A timeline appears at

the bottom of the reader with bookmarks for each find matching your search. Hover your mouse over a bookmark to display the found text.

Bloomfield's illustrated historical guide, embracing an account of the antiquities of St. Augustine, Florida (with map) : to which is added a condensed guide of the St. John's, Ocklawaha, Halifax, and Indian rivers.
by Bloomfield, Max.

Published 1884,c1882
Topics [Saint Augustine \(Fla.\)--Guidebooks](#), [Florida--Description and travel](#).

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110 p. : ill., 2 folded maps -- Distance table to points on the above-mentioned rivers, and principal cities north, east, and west ...

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A sample book page with reader and download options.


The genealogy collections include a surprising number of local and regimental histories along with periodicals from genealogical and historical societies.

The Internet Archive is enormous, but don't let that intimidate you. Start by visiting the [Genealogy Collection](#). The [Help section](#) offers lots of useful tips. It won't take long to learn how to take advantage of this amazing resource. And, it's not just for research either. Internet Archive also hosts the [Open Library](#) of free public domain ebooks too.

The Society Page

While monthly meetings will continue to be held on the second Saturday of the month (with a few exceptions), meeting time has changed to 10:30 am.

The January meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16th, beginning at 10:30am, at the Southeast Branch Library, 6670 US 1 South. Our members are the program this month! Each member is encouraged to share a research success story, show off a heritage photo album or spotlight an interesting ancestor as we enjoy our own Heritage Fair.



SAGS kicked off a new special interest group at the December meeting. The Writers Group offers members support, encouragement and resources to help them tell the stories their research discovers. Denise Olson is the group leader. She has been blogging her family history at [Moultrie Creek](#) for more than a dozen years and has been recognized multiple times by Family Tree Magazine as one of the top [Geneabloggers](#).




Mark your calendar now for the North Florida Genealogy Conference. It will be held on Saturday, March 19th at the Orange Park Family History Center on Blanding Boulevard. Registration begins in January. Visit the [conference site](#) for details.

NGS is bringing their annual conference to Florida in May. The theme is ***Exploring the Centuries: Footprints in Time*** and the place is the convention center in Ft. Lauderdale. Registration is open now and hotel rooms are going fast. See the [conference site](#) for registration and session information.


Research Notes

By now just about everyone has heard that Ancestry.com is discontinuing sales of their Family Tree Maker desktop software. Sales end as of December 31st, but the software will be supported throughout 2016. It will still sync with Ancestry's family trees and the company will continue to provide compatibility updates and fix bugs. They will also continue to provide user support during this period.

What should FTM users do now? Relax. First of all, you've got plenty of time so take advantage of it to check out and test drive the alternatives. You can bet that they will go out of their way to help you make the transition as painless as possible. [Roots Magic](#) (Win) has already announced discounts and transition support. [Heredis](#) (Win, Mac & iOS) is offering a 50% discount along with a free mobile app that is fully functional and syncs with the desktop version. Watch the [SAGS Facebook group](#) and *The Bulletin* for updates on the latest deals and options.



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.



Check out the online calendar of GeneaWebinars, Hangouts and other online events at [GeneaWebinars.com](#).

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 at 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 Tumblr blog supports 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 reviewed for grammar and style and any edits will be reviewed with the author prior to publication.

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