A detailed botanical illustration in a light, sketchy style serves as the background. It features various plants, including a large, broad-leafed plant on the left, a fern frond extending across the top, and a butterfly in the center. In the bottom left, there is a small, ornate seal with a blue ribbon draped over it.

Ancient City Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Augustine Genealogical Society

**St. Augustine
Genealogical
Society
Publications**

November 2017

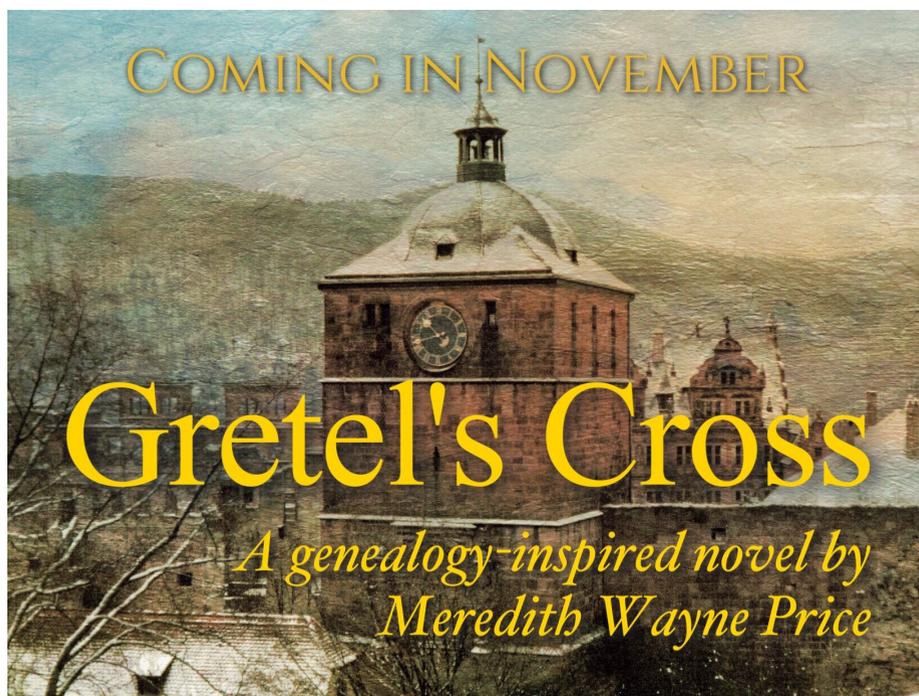
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The Society Page

Our November meeting will be held on Saturday, November 10th, at the Southeast Branch Library, 6670 US 1 South. The program begins at 1:00pm and we are delighted to have Meredith Wayne Price as our speaker. He is the author of *Gretel's Cross*, a novel portraying a German family's life through World Wars I and II. In *Gretel's Cross*, Meredith created a family tree for the Forner family, as well as a family crest. While this is a fictional novel, much of the story is based on the real life of Gretel Forner. Meredith's presentation will include a Power Point presentation about the family's history placing a concentration on the genealogy aspect and how it shaped the writing of the book.



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Meredith Wayne Price was born April 27, 1944, in Clinton County, Indiana, to Marjorie and Paul Price. Meredith Price's early childhood on a farm and neighboring fields engendered a love of family, exploration, and adventure. Meredith has a BA in History from Franklin College, which led to a career in teaching. As a young adult Meredith taught for many years in Germany where he learned the German language and experienced the culture.

In *Gretel's Cross* (2016) Meredith used oral histories and his knowledge of Germany to capture the essence of how Gretel and her hard working extended family faced tragedy, romance, and death between and during the World Wars. Some items in the portrait picture below were included in the book. The picture in the author's hand, for instance, shows Gretel with her friends before their ride around Uberauen in 1926.

Website: gretelcross.com



Instead of a short course this month, our Research Chair, Denise Olson, will help members connect to our new Facebook group and answer any questions regarding this group or Facebook in general. Bring your phone or tablet and we'll make sure you are hooked up.

SAGS Community Research Center

Editorial Notes

As you all know, we lost Sue Gill this year. Her contributions to this society helped many of us and her Facebook group was quite active. Unfortunately, we did not have a backup administrator for the group so when Sue passed away it meant that no one could step in and take on the management of the group site. In order to continue the work Sue began, the society has created a new group site on Facebook and Sue's group site will remain on Facebook as a memorial to her efforts.

Society members are invited to join the new SAGS Community Research Center group. You can find the group by using Facebook's search box and enter "SAGS Community Research Center", then click the link that takes you to the group. You can also access it by pasting this address into your web browser - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1085094354926211>. This group has been set up as a "closed" group. One reason we chose a closed group is to keep unwanted spammers out. In addition, it is designed to be one of the benefits of membership in the St. Augustine Genealogical Society. When you first visit the site you will see a Join Group icon. Click it to request access to the group. A group administrator will accept your request and Facebook will notify you that you are now a group member.

The SAGS Facebook group serves several purposes. It is a social network where society members can share their research successes, ask for help and offer tips. We will regularly post interesting articles, news from the archives and other useful information. Members are also encouraged to pass on links to resources they find useful.

We look forward to "seeing" our members more often thanks to Facebook's group feature.

Journaling in the 21st Century

Research Toolbox

Having even a transcription of an ancestor's personal journal is a blessing to any family historian. It gives us a picture of the person and the world surrounding him that no amount of vital records can provide. Should we also have letters and photos along with the journal, ecstasy ensues.

Considering how precious we find these gifts from the past, what are you doing to leave your mark for future generations? Today's technology allows us to easily capture not only words and photos, but also audio and video. And, since so many of us are carrying camera phones with us at all times, there's no reason to miss capturing the magic moments in our family's lives. The iPhone, iPod Touch and many Android phones include cameras that shoot both photos and video and there are many journaling apps available to capture and preserve the events of our lives – both the normal, everyday things and the very special ones.

We are already sharing much of these events as status updates, photos and videos posted to Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites. This may be a great way to keep in touch with family and friends, but not the best place to document your world for future generations. Fortunately apps coming on the market today do just that – capture your social networking content into a personal journal. One good example is the Momento app for iPhone. It not only gives you a platform to enter your thoughts and photos, but you can also connect it to your favorite social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Goodreads, YouTube and even blogs) to automatically pull in your status/activity there. Your content can be set for automatic backup to iCloud. My first thought was this app was carrying things a bit far, but I quickly realized the merits of the idea. In today's busy world, the less duplication of effort involved in

documenting our days, the more likely it is we'll actually do it. And, having an app like this on a small device that's always nearby means we'll be able to capture the sights and sounds of those moments.

Another iOS app - Day One - is a more traditional journaling app although it does include features to automatically date stamp each entry and even add location and weather at the time the entry is created. You can take photos within the app or pull them in from your photo library. Like Momento it also backs up your entries to iCloud and will keep your journal entries synched between your devices. The Day One apps are free and there is a Premium subscription which provides additional features and services. These include end-to-end encryption, unlimited journals, unlimited photo storage and up to 30 photos per entry. Day One is working on an Android version and is expected to release it later this year.



For Android users who don't want to wait for Day One, you will find Daybook offers the basic features found in Day One.

Finding the journal app that suits you is the first step. Once you get comfortable with your journal and how to use it, it's time to start capturing your world. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Inventory your treasures. Instead of just a photo and the dollar value of the item, include information on how you got it, who it came from and why it's so special.
- Take photos of the Thanksgiving table and write the stories of the family customs - and recipes - that make your family get-togethers so special.

- Do you have heirloom Christmas ornaments and decorations? Tell the stories associated with them.
- Capture the everyday things too. Take photos in your favorite cafe or restaurant.
- Tell stories about the people - especially family - who are/were part of your life. This could include favorite sayings, unusual quirks or habits. You had the good luck to know them when they were living and you can document them so younger generations will see them as more than a face in a photograph.
- Use your journal to document vacations, graduations, wedding showers, baby showers, birthdays and anniversaries.

Give journal apps to new moms in your family. Day One is a great choice because it also offers a publishing service. Today's mom has little time to maintain a baby book, but her phone is seldom out of reach. Use it and Day One to capture all those special moments as they happen. Add a few quick notes and soon she will have plenty of content to export to the publishing service for printing. The book may not have all the cute graphics found in the fill-in-the-blanks baby books, but it will have plenty of photos and stories to enjoy. And, she can order additional copies to send to you and other family members.

Because it creates digital documents, you may be concerned about the longevity of the content you create. Day One takes advantage of Markdown, a plain text standard that uses existing characters like asterisks and hashtags to identify formatting elements such as bold, italics and bullet points. These codes make it possible to turn your journal into a print book, e-book, PDF document and more using conversion routines included with the app. When new technology replaces today's document formats, new routines are created to convert your Markdown text to that new format.

Thanks to elegantly simple resources like Markdown, journal apps like Day One can insure our journaling efforts will survive long after we are gone.

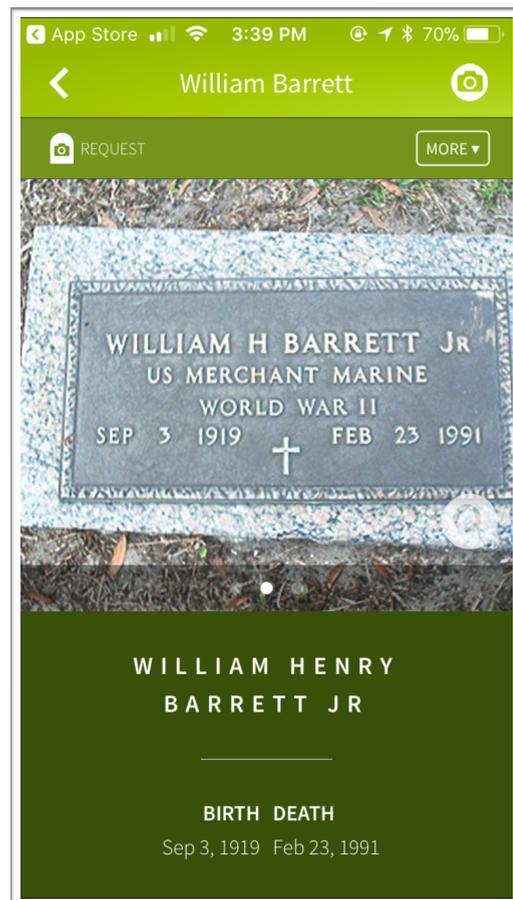
Find A Grave Update

In the Archives

Find A Grave has just released its long-awaited update. This update improves performance, security and usability. It also supports portable devices and other languages. Looks like BillionGraves' popularity convinced them it was time for a change.

Whatever the reason, the new Find A Grave is a pleasure to use. The home page puts searching front and center, making it easier to get started. As before, you can search for a memorial or a cemetery. When searching for a cemetery, your results can be displayed in either a map view or a list view. The map view points to the cemetery's location with color-coded markers that identifies each known cemetery to show where there are open requests at that cemetery. The list view describes what percentage of the cemetery has been photographed and the number of open requests.

There is also a section - My Virtual Cemeteries - where you can organize the memorials you follow. Use a virtual cemetery to pull together family members or a specific collection of people who are buried in different cemeteries. A virtual cemetery can be either private or public.

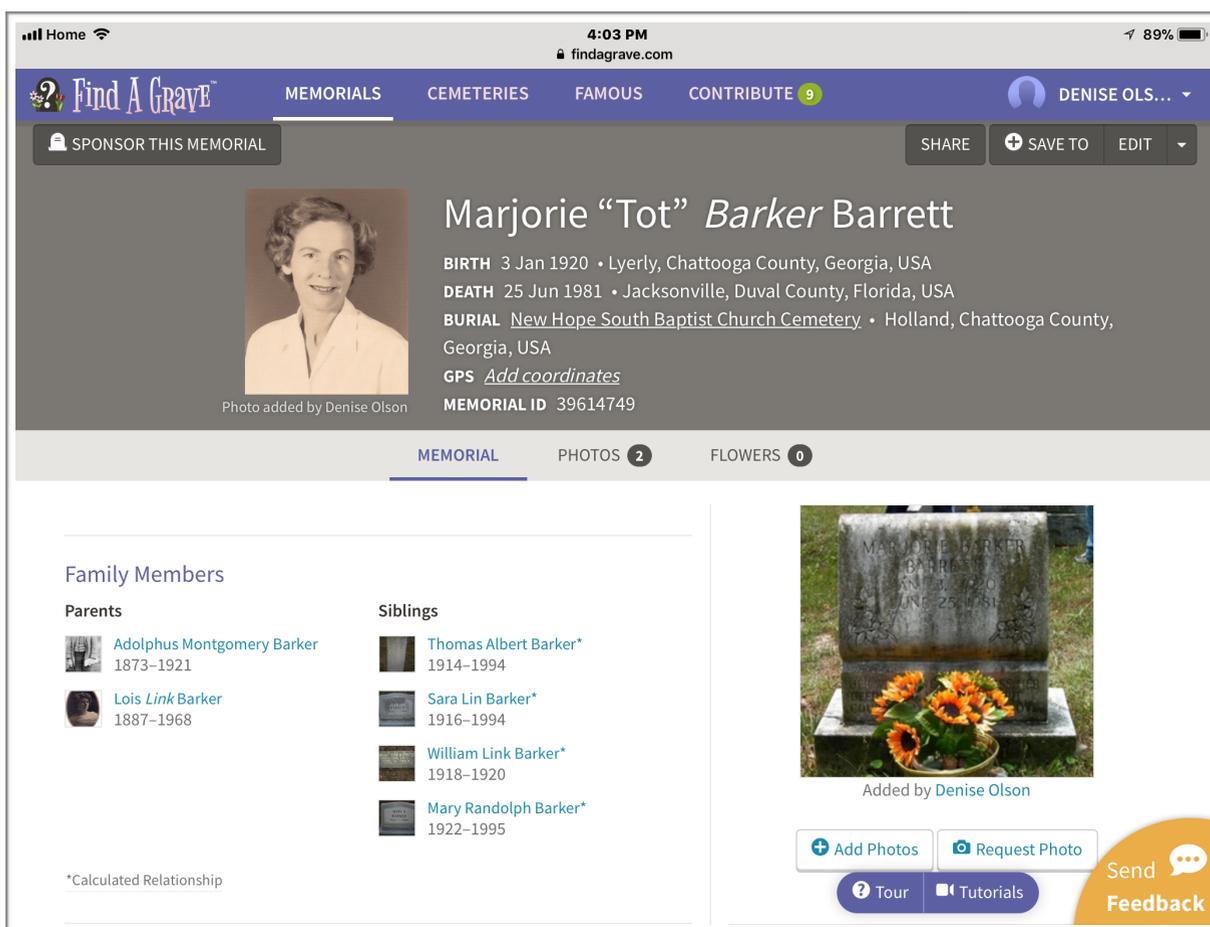


Find A Grave memorial as viewed on an iPhone

That's not all. Check out the Interesting Monuments section. It focuses on unique, beautiful or artistic monuments. For example, the USS Corvina Monument which memorializes a submarine that was destroyed by a Japanese sub on its maiden war patrol in 1943. You'll find the information about the monument and the story behind it included in this section.

I also found the help section well organized with plenty of details. There is also a floating Tutorials button at the bottom of the screen which takes you to a series of video tutorials demonstrating various features and how to use them.

The web version of the new Find A Grave is quite responsive and looks just as good on a tablet as it does on the larger desktop screen. There are also free apps for both iOS and Android phones that are very easy to use. While you can edit existing memorials, it is not yet possible to create new memorials via the app.



Find A Grave memorial as viewed in a web browser.

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 Support](#) - The society's members-only site offers weekly news updates, research support, 24/7 access to our publications library along with social networking features making it easy for members to stay connected between meetings.
- [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.

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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