

A detailed botanical illustration in a muted greenish-brown tone, set against a light beige background. The illustration features a variety of tropical plants. On the left, there is a large, broad-leafed plant, possibly a banana or a similar species, with several long, pointed leaves. To its right, there are smaller, more delicate plants with thin stems and small, heart-shaped leaves. In the foreground, there are several long, narrow, pointed leaves, possibly from a palm or a similar plant. The overall style is that of a classic botanical engraving or drawing.

Ancient City Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Augustine Genealogical Society

July 2018

ANCIENT CITY BULLETIN

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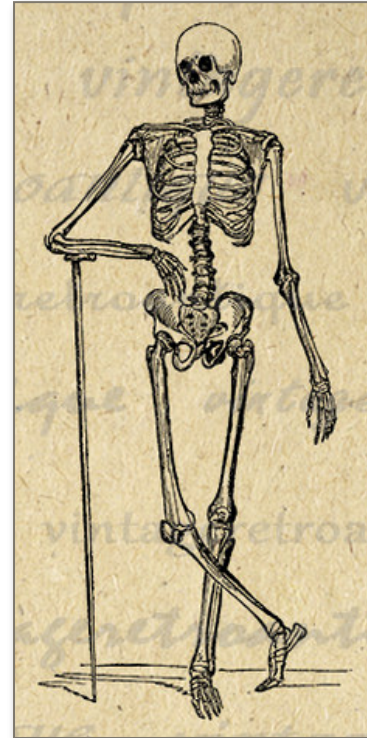
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Out of the Closet

A lightning strike took out two televisions, our phones and even the truck's computer system. Fortunately the computers, data and mobile devices survived. Thank goodness for surge protectors and off-site storage!



My McClellan ancestors were constantly changing their name from McClellan to McClelland and back. What's up with that?

Share your eureka moments, interesting discoveries or even a skeleton. Send them to sags.publications@yahoo.com and we'll publish them in the next Bulletin.

The Society Page

We are making some changes to the *Ancient City Bulletin*. Beginning this month, the *Bulletin* becomes a quarterly journal rather than a monthly. As a quarterly, we will have more time to develop in-depth articles on genealogical research support and resources, storytelling and technology. You will also notice a change in the design and layout for the *Bulletin*. The new layout makes it possible to publish an affordable print edition along with the digital edition. All members will receive the digital edition while a print edition will be posted in the library.

We have added a new section in the Bulletin. *Out of the Closet* is a place where members can share their eureka moments, interesting discoveries, a research tip or even a skeleton. When you have something to share, just send us a note at sags.publications@yahoo.com and we'll get it posted in the next issue.

Our weekly *Research Notes* newsletter has expanded to keep up with society meetings, upcoming events and webinars along with genealogy news, special offers and discounts. If you are not already a *Research Notes* subscriber, email us at sags.publications@yahoo.com and we will get you set up.

Don't forget our Facebook page and research support group!

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When History Gets Personal

Editorial Notes

How I wish I could have asked Aunt Mary about the handsome Soldiers in this photograph . . .



Mary Barker and unknown Soldiers on the St. Augustine Bayfront in the 1940s.

We all regret missed opportunities and unasked questions. Then, almost in the same breath, we complain about the lack of interest our young relatives have about their own history.

Why is it the younger generation's responsibility to know what questions to ask let alone ask them? Aren't the older generations responsible for their children's education? Family history should be a priority in that effort. By including family history, those extraordinary ordinary people who were our ancestors will make learning history a personal experience and encourage them to learn more.

My history books taught me that the Civil War battles at Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee, were the death knell of the Confederacy. At the time my main interest was passing the test. Then I learned that my great grandfather fought and was captured at Franklin, spent the rest of the war as a POW at Camp Douglas, Illinois, and then walked home to Georgia. Once I had a family connection to the war, I wanted to know more and to understand how it affected their lives. It then became personal.

Although my mother, aunts and grandmother made sure we kids knew this great grandfather fought in the war, it would have been easy to expand our knowledge and interest. We spent many summers on the family farm in Georgia just a few miles from the Chickamauga battlefield. My great grandfather's unit fought there too. It would have been a great adventure to wander around the battlefield, discover the many monuments honoring his unit and learn about his unit's actions during the battle. With a little more encouragement, we may have gone on to learn about the other battles and his capture.

My point here is that it is our responsibility to share our family history and make history personal for the generations following us.

How can we do this? Here are some ideas.

Visit battlefields, home towns and places where your ancestors lived. During a recent visit to the Chickamauga battlefield, a ranger looked up my great grandfather's unit and then provided us with a map showing where each monument and marker for that unit was located. My husband and I spent a delightful afternoon tracking down those markers. It would have been even more fun if the grandkids had been with us.

We did have the grandkids with us on a day trip to Spaceport at Cape Canaveral. I told them about watching the Apollo 11 launch from the beach in St. Augustine and their mother told them about when we went to the Cape to watch a shuttle launch. Now the exhibits became even more real to them.

Do your kids like to read? Historical novels are even more fascinating when there's a connection to an ancestor. The same is true for movies. All it takes is a little comment mentioning the connection to spark an interest.

Blog the stories your research discovers. My nephew never met his paternal grandparents so he enjoys the photos and stories I've posted about them.

Use Famicity to create online photo albums and scrapbooks with lots of captions, ephemera and short stories. It's quite easy and affordable these days to "publish" small, customized histories as gifts.

Develop research challenges/contests to encourage the kids to learn on their own.

It doesn't have to be a momentous event to add a personal perspective. Something as simple as watching History Detectives and commenting on how you found one of your ancestors using similar research techniques could inspire them to discover how fascinating family history can be.

Resources

Famicity

Famicity is part social network, part scrapbook, part photo album and all about family. It provides a free, private online network that you control. There's even an in-house messaging system making it easy to ask/answer questions. (<https://famicity.com>)

History Detectives

History Detectives is a documentary television series on PBS that follows their research team as they search for the answers to specific questions brought to them - usually associated with a particular artifact. These shows are also available on demand at <https://www.pbs.org/show/history-detectives/>.

Misers make great ancestors.

~ David Brenner

Where Families Live Forever

Research Toolbox

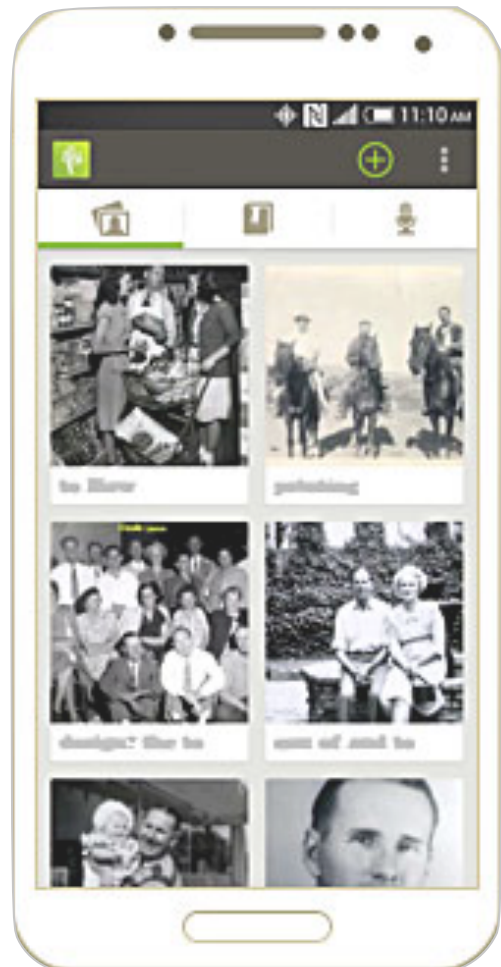
What will happen to your genealogy research once you are gone? Do you have a plan?

There is a simple and affordable way to protect your research and insure it will still be accessible after you are gone. Even better, this resource will help you grow your family tree and it costs you nothing! All you need to do is import your family tree into [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org).

The LDS Church has made family history a mission. For more than a century, they have collected, preserved and shared genealogy records and resources worldwide. We can thank the church members who have collected and digitized an amazing archive of records from around the world and made them available to all of us at no cost.

Their Family Tree component gives you a view of your family, but that's only a small part of it. Keep in mind that anyone can change the data in any tree on the FamilySearch website. Instead of creating a tree for each user, FamilySearch is building one amazing tree while sharing your part of it with you.

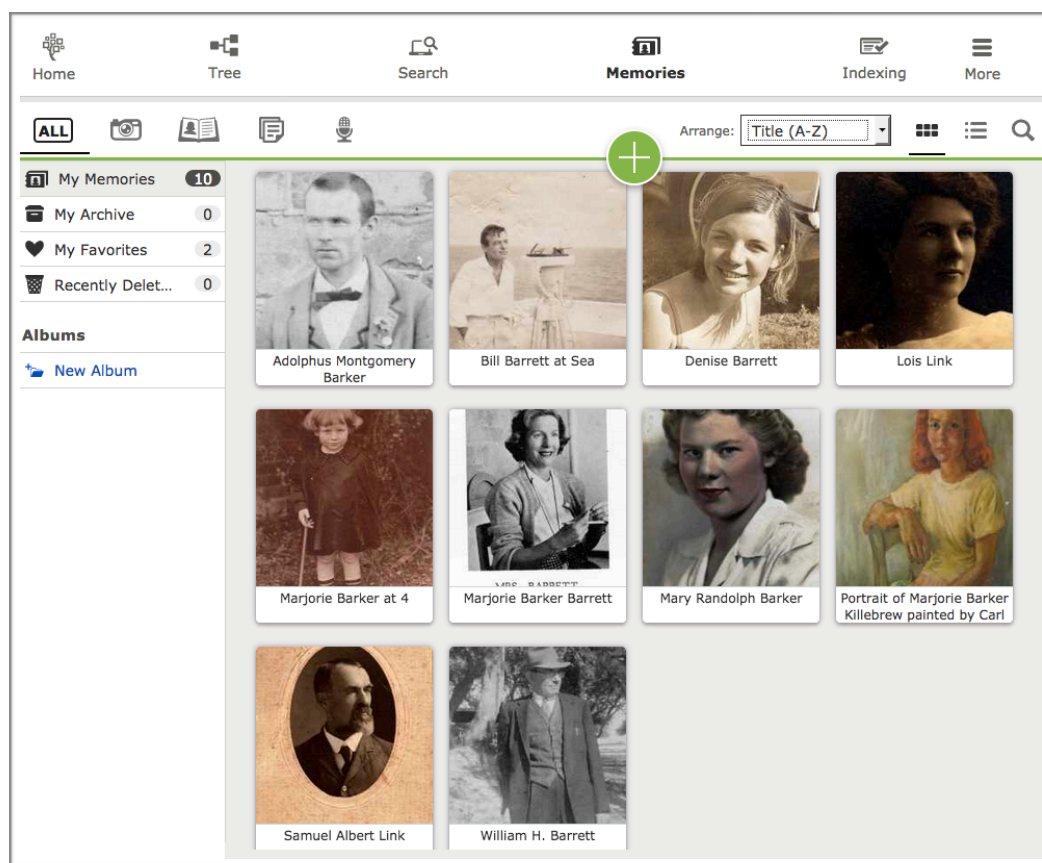
This has research advantages for you. You will meet cousins you never knew existed and often they have research to share. There are also elements which make it possible to add photos and memories to help bring your ancestors to life. If you choose to post photos, letters, diaries and other ephemera to an



FamilySearch Memories app

ancestor's Memories, those memories will be insured a long and fruitful life. Along the way, your research cousins will have added their own memories which adds even more to your research too.

But that's just the beginning. FamilySearch offers free apps for desktop and mobile devices to build your trees. The Memories app can be used to record interviews, take photos, scan documents and include stories. In addition to documenting the information you have about your ancestors, FamilySearch continuously searches their massive archives and posts hints to records that look like they relate to one of your ancestors.



The Memories section on [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)

Put the collaborative elements to work to make connections with research cousins. Since your tree is part of a much larger tree, you can expect to find others working on the same ancestors you are. It may take time to get used to others adding information to your tree, but it can lead to amazing discoveries.

Along with that, there's also an impressive amount of research support. There's something for everyone – from beginner to experienced family historians. The

Help menu on the desktop apps includes the Help Center, Learning Center, Research Wiki and even consultants if you need them.

It's not unusual to open [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) and find a known or unknown relative waiting to make your acquaintance. Just as interesting as the new relative is the research cousin who posted the photo. Notice there's a link so you can connect to that cousin and share research.

There are even more advantages to using FamilySearch . . . It costs you nothing. There are no subscriptions or record purchases. The Family Tree, Help Center, Learning Center and Research Wiki are all freely accessible. The mobile apps - FamilySearch Tree and FamilySearch Memories - are also free and available for both iOS and Android devices. You can download them in your device's app store.

FamilySearch is an amazing service offering a broad range of tools to help you discover your family history while insuring that it is the place "where families live forever".



Digital Public Library of America

In the Archives

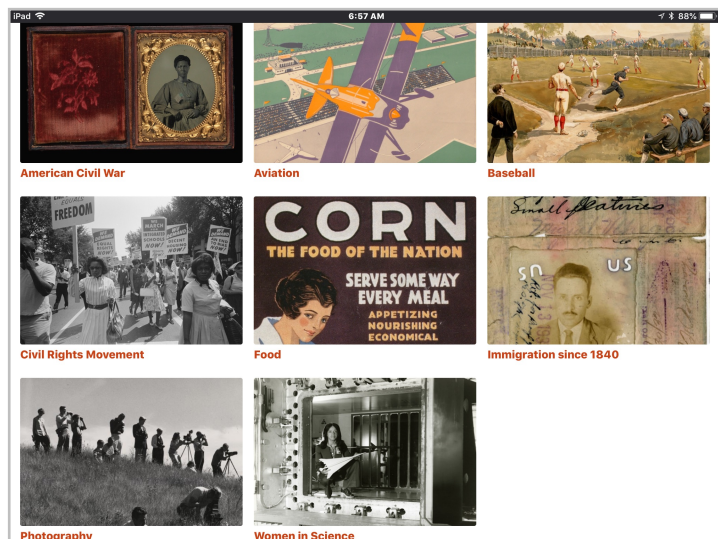
The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) is totally free to use and open to everyone. You don't need a library card, subscription or even a sign-in to access it. It is also an impressive research resource for genealogists and family historians. This library is totally digital and isn't just limited to books. You can find photographs, audio and video files, manuscripts and even books from America's libraries, museums and archives. Florida's Sunshine State Digital Network (SSDN) has contributed more than 148,000 records to DPLA including a recent contribution of 62,000 new records from Florida Memory.

A good place to start is the [Family Research Guide](#). It offers information on what kind of data is available (photographs, family Bibles, maps, correspondence, oral histories and more) and has a search box to get you started. There are even links to several recorded webinars on using DPLA.

It is likely that the actual records, photos, etc. you find using DPLA don't actually reside in the DPLA. Your search results will send you to the institution that does hold the resource you want. Don't be surprised if a search delivers the same item at multiple locations.

You will also find "exhibits" like those shown here. Called topics, they pull together items from libraries, archives and museums across the country. This is a relatively new feature at DPLA but it has already become quite popular.

Using the Baseball topic as an example, selecting it will present another screen with interesting baseball-related articles. It may not help your research efforts, but you will find it quite fascinating.

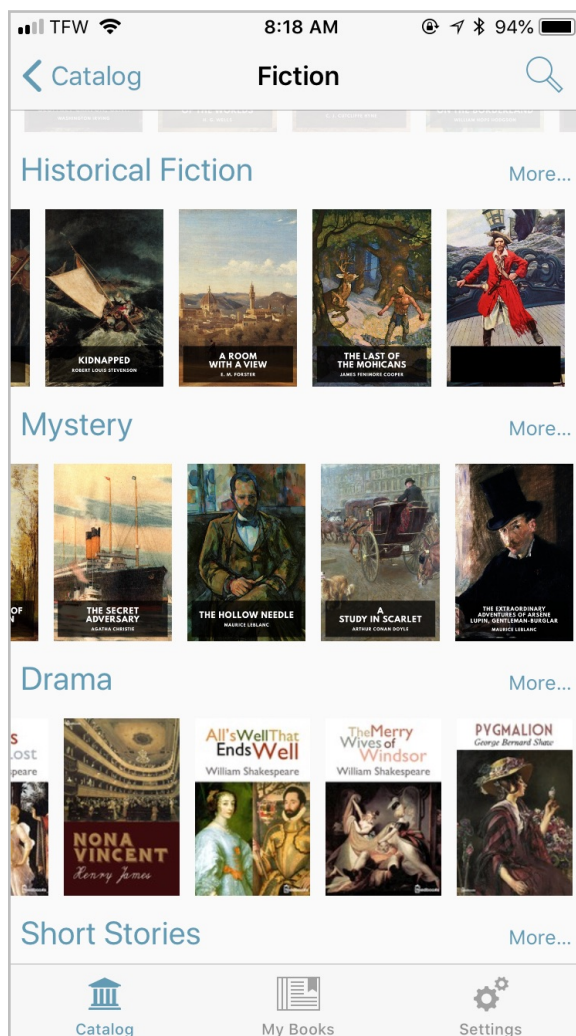


Make sure you visit The Family Research Guide to DPLA (<https://dp.la/guides/the-family-research-guide-to-dpla>). The search tips page is full of information on how to refine and narrow your searches to find what you are looking for. You will also find a number of collections - like family photographs, family Bibles and even family history/genealogy books.

On the Workshops page there is an hour-long webinar on using DPLA for genealogy and family history. It includes tips on searching for family names and exploring resources in your ancestor's hometown. The speakers also walk you through some of the collections that have family research potential. This is a saved workshop but it includes links to the collections discussed in the webinar.

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The Digital Public Library of America is an impressive resource for family historians but it is also a lot more. Spend some time getting acquainted with the broad range of resources it provides. You will soon find it an important tool in your research toolbox.



The Huguenot Cemetery

Denise Olson



In 1821, control of Florida changed yet again - this time the Spanish flag was replaced with the American flag as Florida became a United States territory. How this came about is a story in itself, but that's not what we're discussing today. Instead, we are here to discuss the history of the Huguenot Cemetery located just outside the city walls in St. Augustine.

Although there was a transfer of government in early July of 1821, not much else changed right away. St. Augustine was still a very Spanish and very Catholic town. While Americans had been migrating to Florida during the years of negotiations, there were no civil systems to support them. Land ownership

issues had not yet been addressed and the only religious institution - and cemetery - in town belonged to the Catholic Church. When a yellow fever epidemic hit in September, no one was prepared.

During Spanish rule, Protestants had been buried on Anastasia Island. This was no longer an option. A committee was appointed to find a suitable location for a Protestant burial ground. They selected a location just outside the city gate in an area that in earlier days served as a cleared no-mans land just outside the towns defensive walls. It was assumed that because of its original purpose, it was owned by the Spanish crown therefore was now government land.

The city council agreed and plans went forward to quickly turn this land into a burial ground to handle the growing number of epidemic victims. Unconfirmed stories described fever victims buried in mass graves. This is quite possibly true based on confirmed stories of the large number of deaths. Rev. Andrew Fowler, an Episcopalian minister from Charleston, spent most of October and November in St. Augustine ministering to the sick and dying. He reported conducting 95 funerals during that period.

Four years later, the commission established to handle disputes over land ownership was presented a claim by Lorenzo Capella that he had title of the land being used for the graveyard. Before the commission could rule on the claim, Capella sold the property. It took another seven years of negotiations and resolutions to finalize ownership with the Presbyterian Church.

The graveyard remained open for burials until 1884. Local residents began petitioning the city council to close both the Protestant and the Catholic graveyards located nearby, complaining about possible health issues resulting



*Dr. Simons - the Huguenot
in the Huguenot Cemetery*

from the cemeteries being located so close to residential areas. A resolution passed to close the cemeteries with the last burial on August 13th.

Throughout its time of active burials, no known Huguenot was ever buried in this graveyard. However, it is possible there is a grave belonging to a parishioner of the Huguenot Church in Charleston, South Carolina. To the local population it was known as the Public Burying Ground, the Protestant Ground and the Old Protestant Graveyard. It appears that the name Huguenot Cemetery was more a result of the increase in tourism in the 1870s. One can see references to the Huguenot Cemetery in various travel articles and books about the area, but Florence Mitchell, in her history of the cemetery, states:

Legal documents, throughout the cemetery's history, have prefaced the name of the cemetery with the expression, "known as," whether describing the Protestant or Huguenot Cemetery. It seems that no one ever bestowed a formal name on the cemetery.

After the graveyard was closed it saw a long period of neglect. Several short-lived projects made attempts to clean and repair the site but it wasn't until 1979 that a project began which worked to restore and protect this historical site.

Today the Friends of the Huguenot Cemetery, Inc. provide the oversight to insure the graveyard receives the care it deserves. To learn more about the Friends, contact the Memorial Presbyterian Church office, 36 Sevilla Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084.



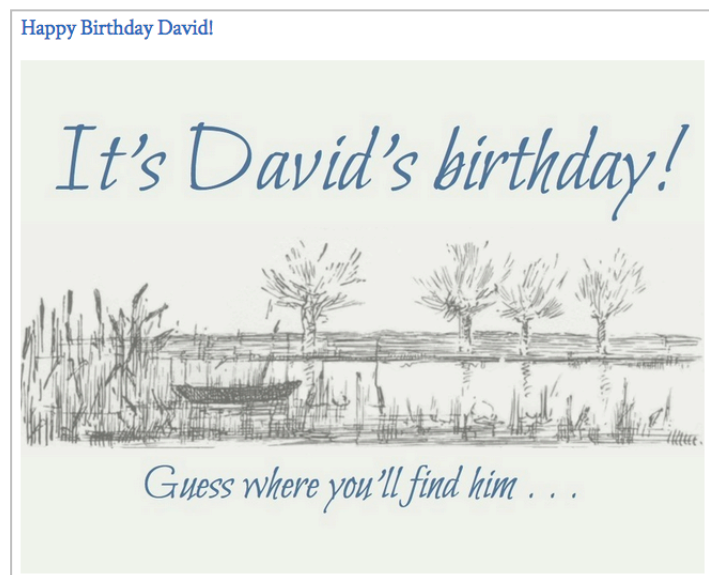
The Family News Center

Storytellers Studio

Are you looking for an easy, affordable and private way to share news, photos and family history in your family? The Posthaven blog platform may be just the thing. Posthaven doesn't have the whistles and bells offered by the the major blog sites, but it does provide a simple service for posting and delivering content. Posting is as simple as sending an email message. That message is automatically posted to the blog site and delivered via email to everyone subscribed to the blog. And, when subscribers receive the post, they can add their comments to the post by simply replying to the message.

Posthaven isn't free. It will cost you \$5.00 a month, but that gives you ten blogs to use however you wish. Don't think you need ten blogs? Probably not, but that doesn't mean they can't be put to good use. More on that later. I suggest you begin with two blogs - one public and one private. The private one allows your family to share news that isn't appropriate for public access. This could include vacation pictures or announcing a new arrival. Posting this kind of information on a public blog or social network can result in identity theft, burglaries and other unpleasant incidents.

The beauty of Posthaven for family networks is how easy it is. Subscribers don't need to remember passwords to see the latest post from a private blog. It's delivered to their inbox. When others comment on a post, those comments are also sent to all. In our family, we post a "birthday card" - a scrapbook style graphic created just for that person. Once posted and delivered, family members can reply with their own greetings.



Sample birthday announcement

Take advantage of a public blog to post family history stories. This serves several purposes. First, it's a way to share your family's history with your family. Stories posted on public blogs are very search-friendly and it's not unusual to meet a research cousin (someone researching the same family you are) through your blog.

Here are some ideas to put those other eight blogs to work . . .

- Create an heirloom blog to document the stories associated with family artifacts.
- Posthaven makes a great travel blog. Take pictures with your smart phone and email them with supporting descriptions to your blog. Within minutes, those photos will be delivered to all subscribers.
- Tired of all those round-robin emails as you organize a large family event like Thanksgiving dinner, a wedding or a family reunion? Task assignments, who's bringing what dishes and other details are delivered to each person via email while the "master list" is always available at the blog.
- Give the kids in the family a blog and challenge them to learn about their family history - documenting what they've learned on the blog. As site owner, you can oversee their efforts and the adult subscribers can offer encouragement and support.

Want to learn more? Download a copy of the Posthaven Primer (PDF) for details on how to get up and running.

Society Services

The Research committee supports our members with research assistance either at meetings or via our Facebook group. Our Research Committee chair is available before and after our monthly meetings. Members are encouraged to join our members-only Facebook group - [SAGS Community Research Center](#). This group makes it possible for members to stay connected between meetings. You are encouraged to ask questions, share tips or just chat. Society staff are also posting news items, deals and resources that can help us all improve our research efforts.

Additional ways SAGS members can connect online 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.
- [Research Notes](#) - Our weekly email update for genealogy news and deals along with links to useful resources and other articles. Research Notes arrives in your Inbox every Monday morning and past editions are available online at SAGS Support.
- In addition to the SAGS Community Research Center, the society also maintains a public Facebook page providing information about the society and upcoming meetings.

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