Ancient City Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Augustine Genealogical Society

April 2018

Contents

The Society Page

Join us on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at the Southeast Branch Library for our May member meeting. Our speaker is Michael Ports and his presentation is **Robert Franklin Thomas (1834-1922): A Case Study in Climbing Over Southern Brick Walls**.

Michael Ports is a practicing civil engineer with more than 47 years of professional experience. His interest in his own family history began at a very young age, when at family gatherings, her preferred to sit with the adults and listen to the old family stories rather than play with the other kids. When in graduate school, the genealogy bug bit him hard, and he's been researching his own family lines since 1972. Starting in the 1990s, he published more than 90 articles in various genealogical magazines, journals, and bulletins, mostly on his own lines. He's also self-published five genealogies on the web, available at www.scribd.com. Finally, he published 40 books with the Genealogical Publishing Company, most of which are transcriptions of various Georgia county records. You can get a feel for the subjects covered by going to their website at www.genealogical.com and searching for his surname under authors. His latest book is titled *Indian Wars of the American South, 1612-1858: A Guide for Genealogists and Historians*.

This month's short course - **The Research Plan** - begins after the meeting is adjourned. All attendees are welcome.

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Going Social

Editoral Notes

Facebook has been on the hot seat recently for their part in the data collection efforts of Cambridge Analytica to influence the 2016 election. This isn't the only instance. Many of the games, quizzes and other elements in the Facebook platform are designed to gather personal information. This isn't new. Facebook has been doing this for years. Everything you post or do on the site is used to serve you with relevant advertising. There was no security breach. This is how Facebook operates.

What can we do? One place to start is the *Protect Yourself of Facebook* topic at WikiHow (https://m.wikihow.com/Protect-Yourself-on-Facebook). This guide will show you how to update your security, privacy, timeline and tagging settings along with tips to keep you personal information private.

Another option is to move to another network. This month's *Bulletin* takes a look at three alternatives - Famicity, WeRelate and MeWe. Each is focused on family. The society's Facebook page and the SAGS Community Research group will remain on Facebook.
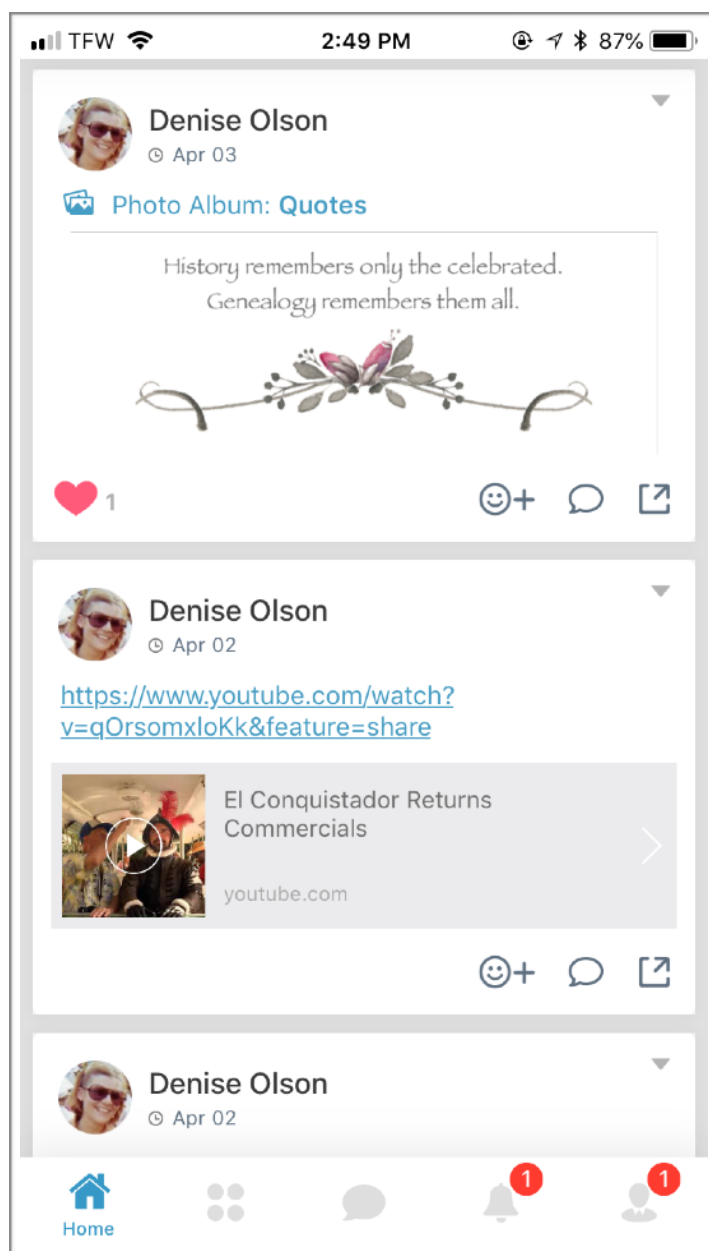
MeWe Social Network

Research Toolbox

MeWe is a relatively new social network and the first one built with privacy by design for its members. The MeWe network has no advertising and no tracking. It is free for members with features that includes voice and video messaging, encrypted chat along with both private and open groups. While the network basics are open to all members at no cost, there are optional features that do require payment. For example, all members have 8GB of storage for photos, videos and files at no charge. If you want more space, you can add it for a small monthly fee. Other "premium" features include encrypted chat and an emoji store.

You can access MeWe in your web browser at https://mewe.com. The view on the previous page shows the home page for a MeWe member. From the home page, you can participate in online chats, groups and events. There is also a page called MyCloud displaying all the photos, videos, files and posts you share in your account. Not only can you post photos, you can create albums to keep them organized.

MeWe supports mobile devices too. Check your app store for the free MeWe apps - for both phones and tablets. If you connect your address book to MeWe, the app will tell you if any of your contacts are also MeWe members, making it easier to find family and friends. Within an hour of installing the app on my iPhone and connecting my address book, my cousin - and fellow genealogist - sent me a contact request. Within seconds of accepting her request, she was calling me for a video chat via MeWe.

It's not just timelines and chats either. MeWe supports groups and events too. Groups can be Private, Selective or Open. The Storytellers Studio group has been moved from Facebook to MeWe as has Genealogy 101.

Here is a look at the Storytellers Studio group on MeWe. Notice the group chat box to the lower right. We've got plans to put it to good use beginning next month with ideas to help our members get ready for the Family History Faire in October.

Take a look at WeMe (https://weme.com) and see if you don't find it delightful alternative to Facebook.
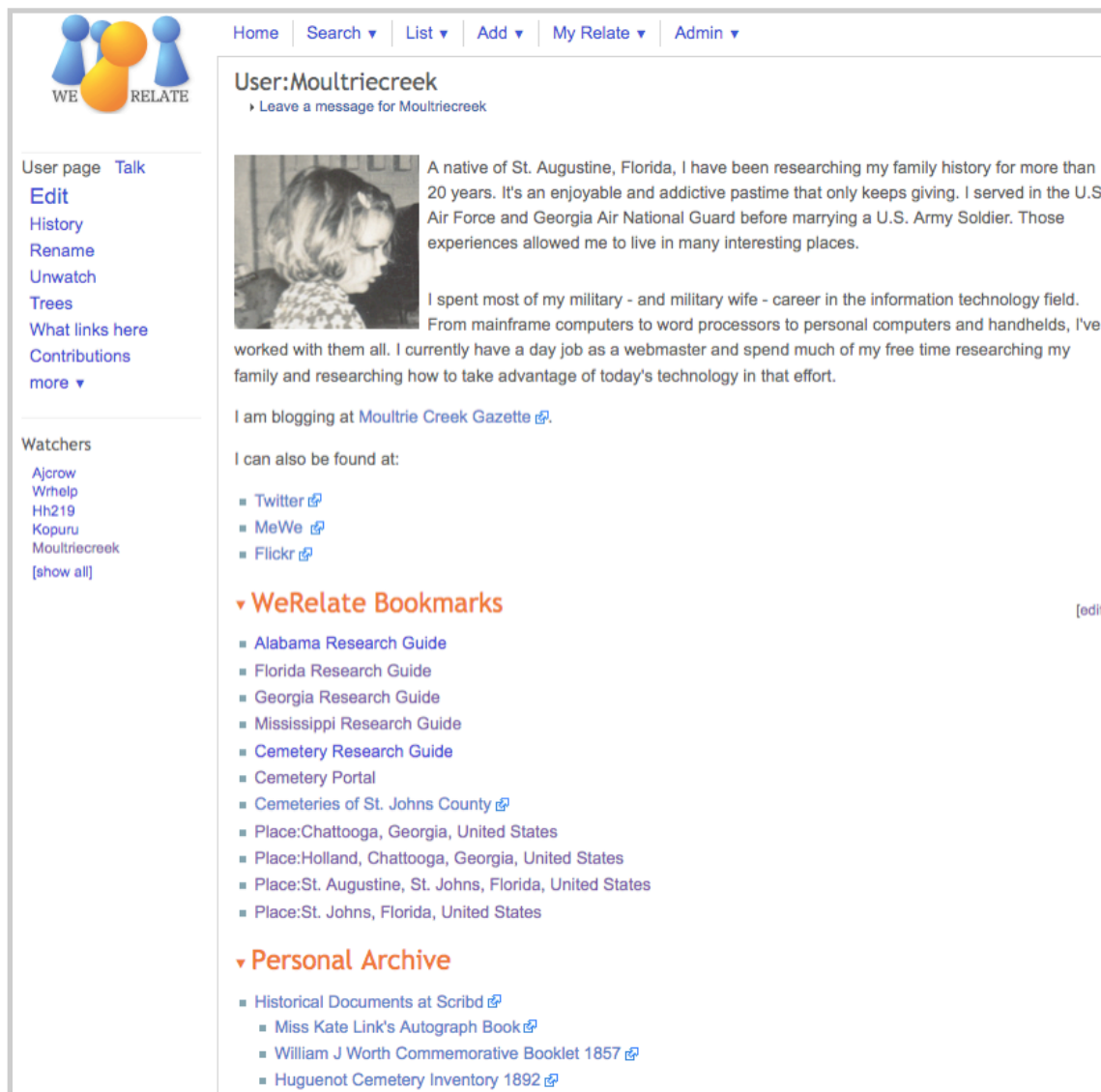
We Relate

In the Archives

The latest news from Ancestry.com about RootsWeb is not good. Restoring the many elements of that platform will take months – at best. There is another option, one that is properly maintained and has a dedicated group of users who regularly post new content covering a broad range of genealogical information. Even better, it's freely-accessible. I'm talking about WeRelate.

WeRelate.org is "a free public-service wiki for genealogy sponsored by the Foundation for On-Line Genealogy and the Allen County Public Library." Their aim is to provide free, open access to genealogical data and the evidence that supports that data. Anyone can build their family tree at WeRelate – at no cost.

Even more impressive, the community has been building a broad range of research support documents that helps all of us.

Each WeRelate user has their own user page. It is a good place to post information about yourself and your research efforts. In the example above, my user page describes the surnames and locations I'm researching, how I can be reached on social media and bookmarks to research content related to the people and places I am researching. My bookmarks also link to other sections within WeRelate that I visit frequently. Notice the state research guides,

cemetery and place pages listed there. These are all crowd-sourced sections and pages and they are full of useful information.

Portals

Some of the most fascinating information at WeRelate can be found in the portals. Portal pages are designed to serve as an overview for a section or topic.

Let's start with the Community Portal. This is probably the closest thing to a table of contents you'll find on the site. Here you see links to other portals, WeRelate projects and discussions, administrative information and lots of tutorials.

Every namespace in WeRelate has its own portal. You'll find links to them at the top of every portal page. In the exhibit above you see links to the primary portals.

The Family Portal includes pages designed to contain information about a family. Each family page has a companion "talk page" which serves as a message board for anyone researching that family.

The Cemetery Portal discusses how to set up your own cemetery page on WeRelate and link it to the portal. The cemetery portal has a growing number of cemeteries listed with history, photos and contact information. Like much of

WeRelate, it is a fabulous source of information for researchers which will only increase in value as more of us add our own information.

Other portals include Ethnic American, Middle Ages, Sources, Surnames, Places, Repositories and more. The state research guides are quite useful. In addition to providing a timeline of the state's history, you'll also find links to a broad range of research resources.

Cemetery Portal

WeRelate contains a large number of pages representing cemeteries. Each cemetery has a wiki page, where you can find out and contribute information about that cemetery. The page also contains preferred and alternate names, latitude and longitude (for displaying on maps), a map of the area, and an area for textual comments such as historical information and research tips.

Primary Portals

Community · Maintenance · Person · Family · Article · Place · Repository · Source · MySource · Image

Why Visit Cemeteries?

Cemeteries are living lessons in history. People who buried their dead said as much about themselves as the loved ones they buried. While not considered a primary information source, gravestones and cemetery records are an excellent source of dates, birthplaces, maiden names, spouses' names and parents' names. They can also provide evidence of military service, membership in a fraternal organization, and their religious affiliation.

For many people, cemeteries are the one place where they can be the closest to their ancestors and deceased relatives, both physically and spiritually. While it is always a thrill to find your ancestors' names in historical documents, finding their names carved on a tombstone, and knowing that your ancestors are just six feet below your feet or inches beyond a granite mausoleum partition can be especially rewarding. Here you have physical evidence of your ancestor's existence.

Featured Cemetery Page

Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Horton, Osceola, Iowa

Past featured cemetery pages (most recent to oldest):
1. Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, California
2. Mount Holly Cemetery in Little Rock, Arkansas

The research guides section of WeRelate continues to grow. It includes general information like how to get started in genealogy research and useful research sources. There's a huge selection of location pages and outside sources such as the USGenWeb and the FamilySearch Wiki. And there are a growing list of

topical guides ranging from the Cemetery Research Guide (one of my favorites) to DNA Research and Genealogy.

If you have any research resources from an area or topic you are researching, you are encouraged to add them to those research pages. Every little bit adds value to everyone's research efforts. There is also a section at the bottom of many research pages encouraging users who are researching that location or topic to include a link to their WeRelate user page. What a great idea!

FamilySearch Wiki ⊞ is an extensive and growing wiki of family history research guides. Consider using it to find helpful resources to aid in your research. The **FSW** ⊞ link take you to the corresponding page at the FamilySearch Wiki ⊞.

USGenWeb ⊞ also maintains an excellent compilation of user-contributed resources related to conducting genealogical research in the United States. The **USGW** ⊞ link take you to the corresponding state page at the USGenWeb ⊞, which may provide gateways to the counties.

▾ **General Research Guides**   [edit]

1. Genealogy & Family History
2. How to get started
3. The EASY way to get started
4. U.S. Research Sources Checklist
5. Writing your family history

▾ **Location Research Guides**   [edit]
(North America)

UNITED STATES

1. US GenWeb ⊞ main site
2. United States: Research Sources Checklist - **FSW** ⊞
3. Alabama - **FSW** ⊞ **USGW** ⊞
4. Alaska - **FSW** ⊞ **USGW** ⊞
5. Arizona - **FSW** ⊞ **USGW** ⊞
6. Arkansas - **FSW** ⊞ **USGW** ⊞
7. California - **FSW** ⊞ **USGW** ⊞
8. Colorado - - **FSW** ⊞ **USGW** ⊞
9. Connecticut - **FSW** ⊞ **USGW** ⊞
10. Delaware - **FSW** ⊞ **USGW** ⊞
11. Dist. of Columbia - **FSW** ⊞ **USGW** ⊞
12. Florida - **FSW** ⊞ **USGW** ⊞
13. Georgia - **FSW** ⊞ **USGW** ⊞
14. Hawaii - **FSW** ⊞ **USGW** ⊞

▾ **Location Research Guides**   [edit]
(Europe)

1. Albania
2. Austria
3. Belgium
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina
5. Bulgaria
6. Croatia
7. Cyprus
8. Czech Republic
9. Denmark
10. England - **FSW** ⊞
11. Finland
12. France - **FSW** ⊞
13. Frome Registration District
14. Georgia
15. Germany - **FSW** ⊞
16. Greece
17. Holland
18. Iceland
19. Ireland
20. Italy: Italian Records - **FSW** ⊞
21. Italy: Italians in Italy
22. Latvia
23. Liechtenstein
24. Lithuania

▾ **Location Research**   [edit]
Guides (Asia)

Central Asia:

1. Kazakhstan
2. Kyrgyzstan
3. Tajikistan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Uzbekistan

Eastern Asia:

1. People's Republic of China - **FSW** ⊞
2. Japan - **FSW** ⊞
3. North Korea
4. South Korea
5. Mongolia
6. Republic of China (Taiwan)

Northern Asia:

1. Russia

Southeastern Asia:

1. Brunei
2. Burma (Myanmar)
3. Cambodia

Link to - Research Guides Index at WeRelate

WeRelate is an amazing resource. It will take a bit of time and effort to get comfortable navigating the site, but that effort returns a lot of useful research support.

Famicity

Denise Olson

Famicity is a private social network designed to "preserve the most beautiful moments of your life". It is part scrapbook, part photo album, part conversations and even part family history. All of this family goodness is presented in a beautiful timeline that can be viewed on a PC, Mac, smartphone and tablet.
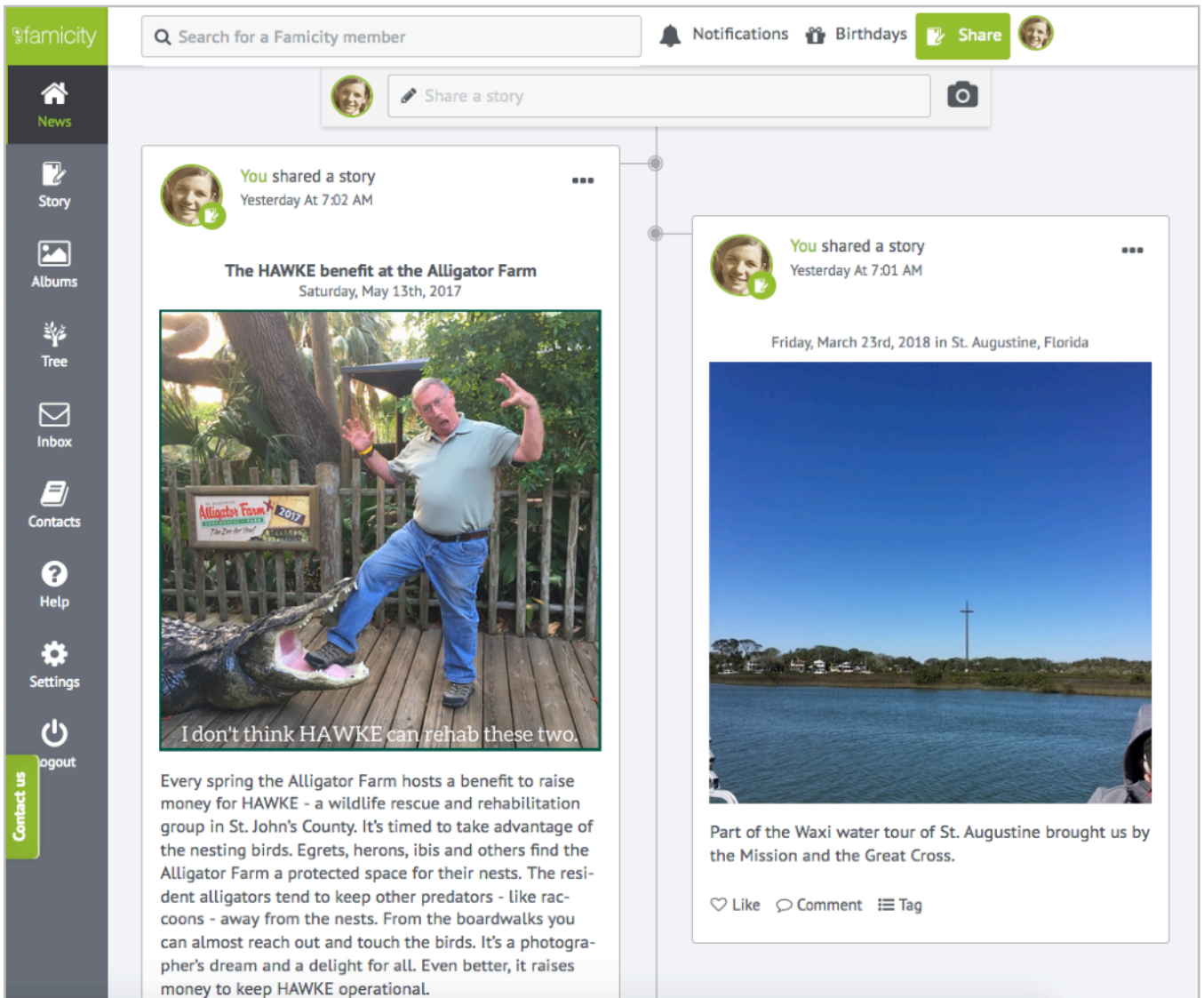
The News timeline in Famicity

The News timeline works like other social networks in that members can add photos, movies, albums, and stories. Viewers can like an item, comment on it or add tags to it. The three dots in the top right corner of each item allows the item's creator to edit or delete that item.

The toolbar located down the left side will take you to your profile page containing all the stories, albums and information you have posted, along with your family tree. The toolbar also moves you quickly to the Albums section, Tree section, Inbox and Contacts. The Inbox is your message center on Famicity. You can start a conversation with one or more of your relatives by sending them a message. The Contacts center not only shows you who is currently a Famicity member, it also allows you to invite others to your newtork and to create groups. You can quickly contact several members by using Groups and they can be used to give and/or restrict access to certain content.

While the Tree screen is organized like any online family tree, it is not set up as a research tree. When you click on an individual in the Tree, you will be presented with options to add a relative, see this relative's stories, see his/her tree and update that person's profile. The profile contains just basic information - name, date/place of birth and date/place of death. It is this information that Famicity uses to remind us on upcoming birthdays.

Famicity is focused on family, but you can invite friends to your group if you wish. It costs nothing to use and it not only offers you and your family privacy, it's a delightful way to share those special moments. And, it wouldn't hurt to include a story about an interesting ancestor now and again. It could help generate a new generation of genealogists in the family.

History remembers only the celebrated.
Genealogy remembers them all.

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.

Publishing Guidelines

We ecourage our members to submit articles related to genealogy, family history and research methodology 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@yahoo.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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