

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 in the upper right, and a large palm frond at the bottom. A small butterfly is depicted in flight near the center. The overall tone is light and naturalistic.

Ancient City Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Augustine Genealogical Society

ST. AUGUSTINE
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY
PUBLICATIONS



May 2018

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The Society Page

Our society functions thanks to the efforts of our officers, committees and volunteers. In November we will hold elections for society leadership positions. In addition, our committees need volunteers to provide our membership with the tools and support needed to help their research efforts. Here are the committees needing volunteers:

Library Liaison serves as the liaison with the Southeast Branch Library. In addition, this volunteer solicits genealogy-related book donations to add to the library's genealogy section.

Communications Chair prepares, publishes and distributes press releases in digital and print formats to the public and to our membership.

Research Chair functions as a research consultant for our members, manages the society's Community Research Support group on Facebook and provides research-related content for inclusion in the society's monthly *Ancient City Bulletin* and weekly *Research Notes* newsletter.

If you are interested, contact President Bernie Patruno at sags.president@yahoo.com.

The May member meeting is Saturday, May 19th. Check-in begins at 12:45pm and the meeting opens at 1:00pm. Ginny Barrs presents *Organizing a State-by-State, County-by-County Genealogy Search of Courthouses, Libraries, Cemeteries and Archives*.

Officers

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1st Vice President

Judy Parrino

2nd Vice President

Randy McDavid

Secretary

Pat Tanner

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Denise Olson

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Open

Archivist/Historian

Rosemarie Quintero

Research on the Road

Editorial Notes

The summer vacation season is on us. Vacations are also great opportunities to learn more about your family history. Fortunately, today's technology makes it easy to take our research with us. Gone are the days when boxes of research notebooks, printed family trees and other papers are dragged from one place to another. Thanks to today's technology, we can take all our research with us in a "package" weighing less than a pound.

Today smart phones and digital tablets give us almost instant access to our research notes, genealogy data, photos and reference material from anywhere we have access to a wi-fi or cellular signal. Impressive search features can find that piece of information you need in the blink of an eye. Affordable cloud storage not only provides off-site backup in case of disaster but also makes all that information available to you wherever you are.

A basic mobile research package includes:

- A smart phone and/or tablet
- A Bluetooth keyboard
- Appropriate genealogy apps
- A scanner app (Scannable, CamScanner, Office Lens, etc.)
- An Internet-based notes management service account (Evernote, OneNote, Simplenote, Apple Notes, etc.)
- A cloud-based data storage account (Dropbox, iCloud, Google Drive, etc.)

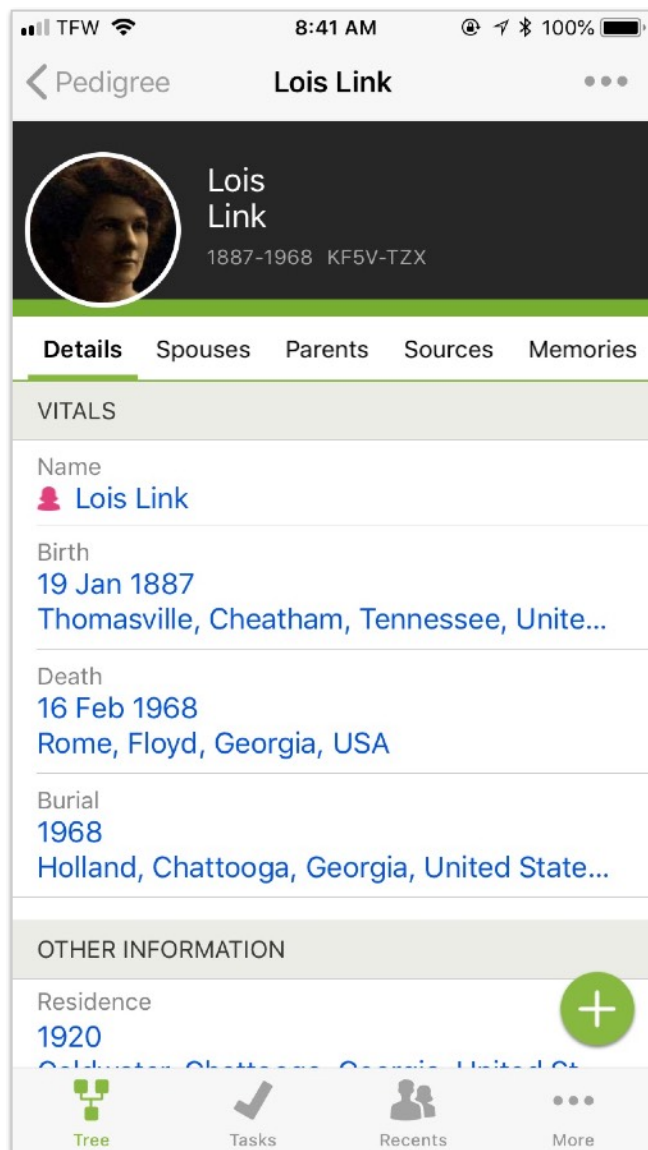
Even if you don't "go mobile" with your research, your mobile devices can still be quite useful. A scanner app on your phone can easily capture information from books, periodicals and even microfilm readers - saving copy costs.

Ancestry, FamilySearch and MyHeritage offer free mobile apps. This gives us the ability to add and update information on our tree wherever we are. For example, using these apps along with MobileFamilyTree (iOS - \$14.99), Evernote and iCloud, I can take ALL my research with me just about anywhere. Mobile Family Tree saves my data in iCloud but once a database has been opened on my iPhone, I have access to that data even when there is no Wi-Fi or cellular signal. Any changes and additions will be automatically uploaded to the cloud-based database once a connection is again available.

Notes management also offers many mobile features you will find useful. It's easy to import files and photos within the notes app and your device's search feature can find all notes for a specific person or family in seconds. Several include a built-in scanner so you can capture pages into your notes in seconds.

Does going mobile mean you should dump your desktop apps?

Absolutely not! Your desktop computer is the research equivalent of your own private family history center while your mobile apps and services are much like that load of books you've checked out to see what you can learn. One big difference . . . You won't break your back carrying all that information on your mobile device.



MobileFamilyTree on iPhone

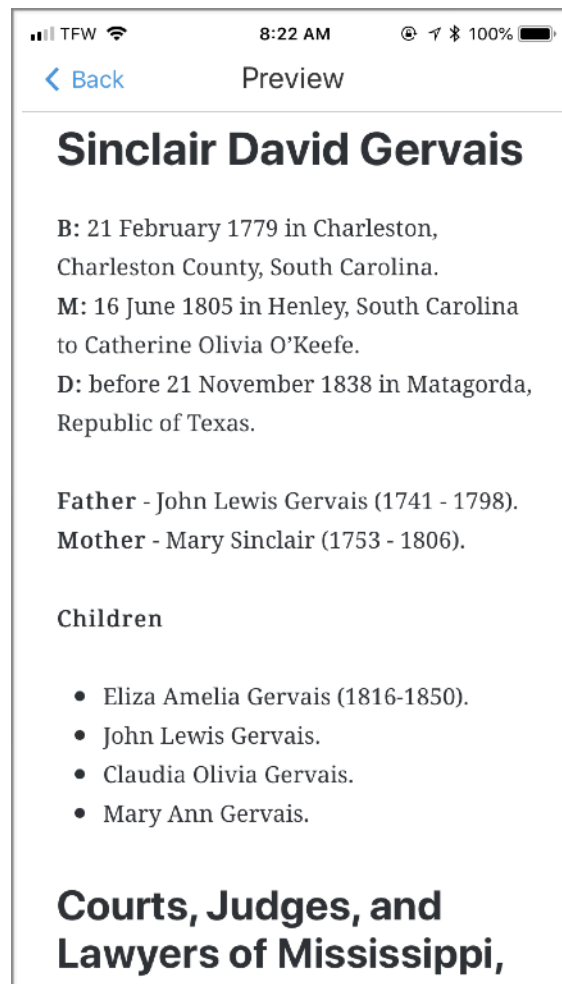
Organize Your Research With Simplenote

Research Toolbox

Simplenote (<https://simplenote.com>) is exactly what its name says it is . . . a simple way to create and share notes. Even better, it is free. Automattic, the company that created the WordPress blog platform, also created Simplenote. It can be used just about anywhere on just about any device. There are apps for Windows, Mac and Linux computers along with iOS and Android devices. Each note you create or edit is instantly updated on all your computers and devices that have Simplenote installed.

Notes are organized using tags. Tags are keywords used to define each note's content. A bar across the bottom of each note is where those keywords are entered. Enter a tag for each surname included in the note. Add tags for topic, location or any other keyword that will help you find that note when you need it.

To find a note, tap the tag's icon at the top left corner of Simplenote's note list screen. A sidebar slides in from the left side of the screen displaying your tags. Tap any tag and all notes tagged with that tag appear on your screen. Now, tap the note you want to view and you are ready to edit.



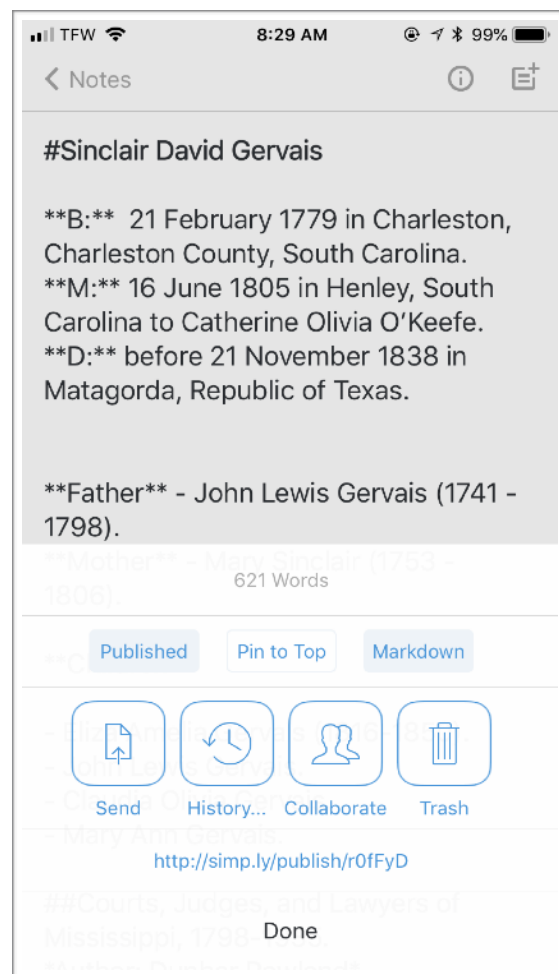
Simplenote on iPhone

Using Simplenote to work with others is just as easy. To share a note with another Simplenote user, all you need to do is tag your note with that user's email address and Simplenote will take care of the rest. Each of you can make changes and see them almost instantly. On iOS and Android devices, the **Collaborate** button shown here is used to connect with others.

Your notes are written in "plain text". There are no formatting options like bold, italics, fonts, etc. If you want to format your text, you can take advantage of the Markdown feature to add a broad range of format elements. In this example the two asterisks define the beginning and ending of a bolded word or phrase. Swipe from right to left and you will see what the formatted note looks like. Not familiar with Markdown? See [Writing for the Future](#) in the September 2016 *Ancient City Bulletin* for more information.

When you tap the Information icon at the top of the screen, your command buttons appear at the bottom of the screen. In this example, the note has been published to the Web. You can see the link to this note just above the **Done** command. If you want to use Markdown to create your note, tap the **Markdown** button. You can also send your note to others, review the editing history of this note, share the note with someone else or trash it. Note that when you trash a note it is moved to the **Trash** area. It can be restored until the Trash is emptied.

Simplenote is free, easy and quite impressive. It doesn't have the whistles and bells of the pricey services, but you will find its simplicity quite attractive. See for yourself!



Markdown text and command buttons

Are You A Collaborator?

In the Archives

Are you taking advantage of the collaboration features offered by a growing number of online archives? Connecting with research cousins is a great way to share the “personal” resources that are seldom available from a genealogy archive. Instead of moaning when Ancestry’s shaky leaf leads you to another user’s family tree, take a look at that tree to see if that user is researching the same family you are and then check to see if that tree’s owner is a serious researcher or just someone collecting names. If a serious researcher, tap/click the person’s username and Ancestry will take you to a screen giving you basic information about that person. You’ll also see a Send Message icon that opens an in-house message panel so you can contact that user.

It’s surprising how much help a research cousin can be. Some time back, a shaky leaf led me to a portrait of my third great grandmother, Frances. I followed that source to the researcher to ask if I could download a copy of the portrait. We chatted for a while to determine how we were related. I descend from Frances’ youngest child, William, while she descends from Frances’ only daughter, Georgiana. Then the bomb dropped. Georgiana kept a diary most of her adult life. My new cousin not only had the diary, but she had transcribed it and published it as a Kindle book on Amazon. It has a goldmine of information about this family and explained several things that would never be found in an archive.

Ancestry isn’t the only service offering collaboration features. FamilySearch is collaborative by design. Your tree is not your own and you will quickly find other researchers posting information on your ancestors. There is an internal messaging system to connect and collaborate with them. I’ve reconnected with

cousins I haven't seen in years thanks to FamilySearch. Not only are we catching up with each other, we are comparing notes on our shared ancestors.

When reviewing matches in MyHeritage, you will find other users sharing your ancestors. There's a contact button with each confirmed match allowing you to connect with that user. They just announced a new Inbox feature on their mobile apps which works like an in-house email service making it possible to communicate with other MyHeritage members.

Connecting with Research cousins not only helps your research effort. It gives you access to others who are just as passionate about their family research as you are.



A Diary for the Digital Age

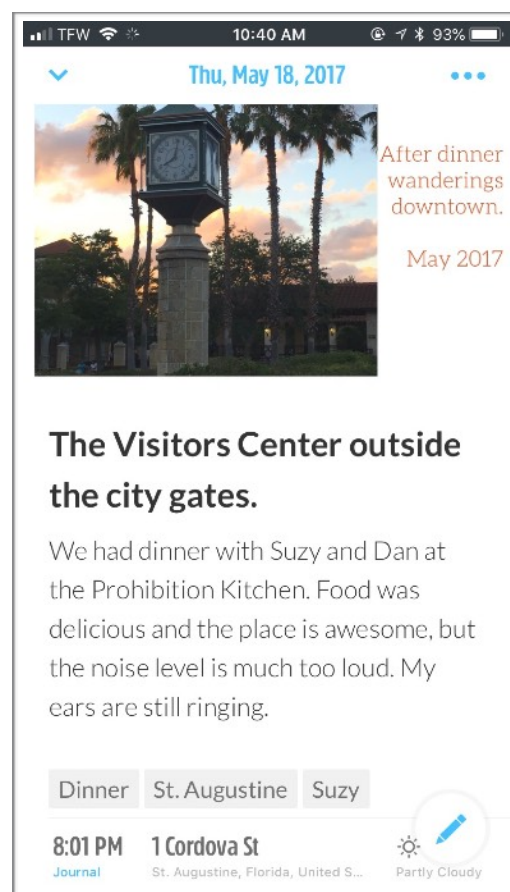
Storytellers Studio

Do you still have your baby book? I have mine and it's full of the most delightful information. It reminds me who my God-parents were, what gifts I received and who gave them. It documents things like my first smile, first tooth and first words. It is a beautiful book full of illustrations created in the style of the 1950s.

While it does have a lot of interesting information about my early days, it's still quite sparse. New moms - even the stay-at-home ones - are much too busy to spend their days focused on a baby book (or multiple baby books as the family grows). What new moms need these days are smart phones with cameras - something that is handy at all times to capture the magic moments of babyhood. Combine that with some amazing apps and it's easy to capture and share all kinds of family events.

That's all fine and dandy, but how do you keep all of this information for future generations to enjoy?

This is where a digital journal can shine. Apps like [Day One](#) [Mac, iOS and Android - free and premium subscription] make it easy to capture, organize and share entries. These apps automatically add date, time and location to each entry along with tags to keep them organized. Want pictures in your journal entry? No problem! You can take your pics from the app or import them from your photos app.



Journal entries like this one can be easily shared with others via email, text message or posted to a Tumblr blog.


The Day One app has a very useful advantage over most other journaling apps. It takes advantage of the Markdown standard for formatting. This means that your journal entries are "future proof". Long after this program is obsolete, the journal entries you created will still be readable.

You can learn more about Markdown in the *Writing for the Future* article in the [September 2016 Ancient City Bulletin](#).

A baby or family blog is another great way to capture and share special moments. Platforms like [Posthaven](#) (\$5.00/mo) and [Tumblr](#) (free) make it easy to post photos, video and journal entries from your phone or desktop - usually it's as simple as sending an email. Tumblr offers free apps for iOS and Android devices to post content, follow and read content from other Tumblrs and comment on interesting posts. With Posthaven, the not-so-techie members of the family's can be set up as email subscribers to receive new posts via email. Commenting is as easy as replying to the email message. Because they are so user friendly, these blog platforms are great ways for all members of the family to participate - both as commenters and as contributors.

These aren't the only options available either. Visit your App Store and see for yourself that there's more than one way to capture, save and share those special family moments. You will be pleasantly surprised.

Note: Journals and blogs are a great way to share your family history at our Family History Faire in October.



I seek dead people.
I do genealogy.

Society Services

The Research committee supports our members with research assistance both 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. Here you will find past issues of the Bulletin along with a digital library listing useful research resources online.
- [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 encourage 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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