

Ancient City Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Augustine Genealogical Society

ST. AUGUSTINE
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY



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Genealogy in the Digital Age

Editorial Notes

I have a treasured genealogy that took three generations to complete. My maternal grandmother, her sisters and cousins kicked things off in the days when even a phone was a novelty. One cousin worked for the FBI in Washington, DC, and I would not be surprised if she spent a great deal of her spare time in the National Archives and Library of Congress. The second generation - which included my mother, her sisters and cousins - took on the challenge to compile and write the family story.

The genealogy was “published” in a copy center. The photo-copied photos are terrible. The text was compressed as much as possible to reduce the number of pages - and the price - of each copy. There is no index or even a table of contents. Fortunately for me, my favorite Tennessee cousin is also carrying on the genealogy tradition. She helped get the final copy ready for the copy center - and spent hours plugging all that information into her genealogy program. Along with my copy of the printed genealogy, she sent me a GEDCOM file so I could import it to my program.

GEDCOM (GEnealogical Data COMmunication) was first developed in 1984 by the LDS Church. The latest update was 1994. The problem now is that each genealogy program on the market today is competing for your money and offering all kinds of whistles and bells to get your attention. These programs do a lot to help us manage our family tree, but they also make it difficult to create a standard that will work for everyone. This is why Ancestry’s announcement that they were dumping FTM generated such a panic.

Fortunately the MacKiev group saw this as an opportunity and did an amazing job of rebuilding FTM to keep up with today’s technology. Yes, there will be a learning curve but I don’t doubt the effort spent learning the new whistles and bells will be rewarded.

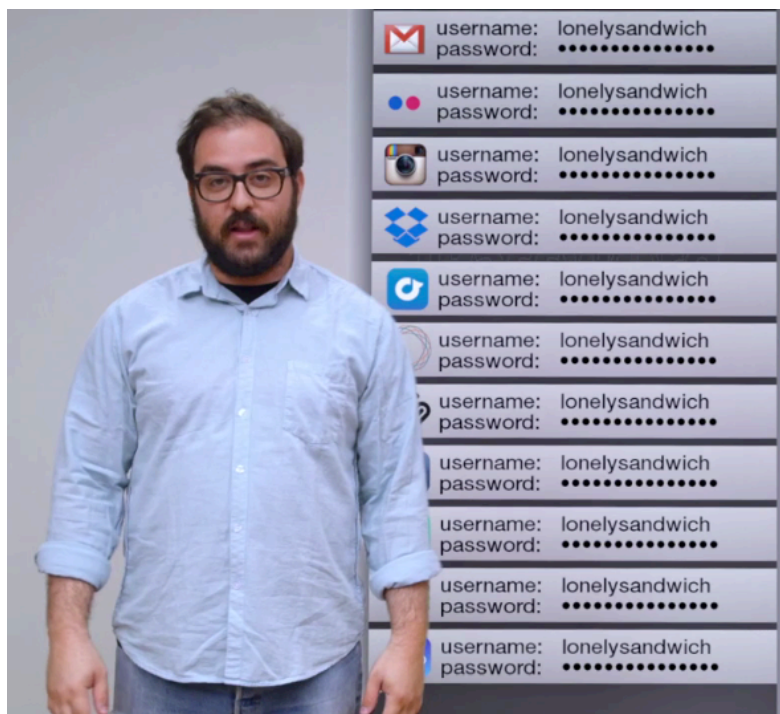
Managing Passwords

Research Toolbox

We all use dozens of online sites that require a password to access. Many of these sites contain personal information that needs to be protected. Do you use the same password to access every site requiring a login? If so, you are a data thief's dream come true. Every compromised site – IRS, US government employees' records, Target customers, etc. – provides the infiltrators with login information that they will use to test on other sites. So, if you use the same password for every login and one of those sites is compromised, then you better believe they are checking other sites (Facebook, Gmail, Twitter, banks, etc.) to see if your login works there too.

How do you deal with this? Use a password manager. These apps will help you build unique, complex and secure passwords for every site requiring a login. They maintain your password collection securely and automatically enter the appropriate login information for each site you visit. All you need to remember is the single password needed to access the password manager.

Because researching requires access to a number of sites



maintaining personal information, a password manager is a priority tool in your genealogy research toolbox. It helps you keep your research world separate from your personal world. Here are some very good password manager options.

[1Password](#) [\$49.99 desktop] supports Mac, Windows, Android and iOS computers and devices and will securely synch the password database between your desktop and mobile devices. A single license for an operating system will support multiple devices. For example, in our household we have one Mac license and one iOS license. The Mac license supports both my big Mac and my husband's MacBook. The single iOS license supports both of our iPhones and iPads. Each of us has our own personal database as well as a shared one.

[Lastpass](#) [free & premium \$12/year] supports Mac, Windows, Linux, iOS and Android systems. You can use the free app on any of your devices, but you will need a premium account to sync your data between all your devices.

[Dashlane](#) [free & premium \$40/year per user] supports Mac, Windows, iOS and Android systems and is the only service (so far) that offers an automatic password changer. It also requires a premium account to backup your password database and to have web access to your password data.

Choosing a password manager is the first step. The next one is spending time learning how to use it. Most have browser extensions that will insert appropriate login information at the click of a button. You'll be using this feature a lot so make sure you know how it works. Not only are these apps great for managing passwords, they are also the perfect place to include personal information like the answers to security questions, PINs and other private stuff. I use 1Password's Software License section to store software license keys and purchase dates. It's much faster than trying to find the receipt.

Yes, it will take some effort to move from your manual password system but once you're done you will have a secure system and easy access to all your online accounts. Your security is well worth both the time and money.

Want to learn more? Here's a [demonstration video for 1Password](#).

Spanish Land Grants

In the Archives

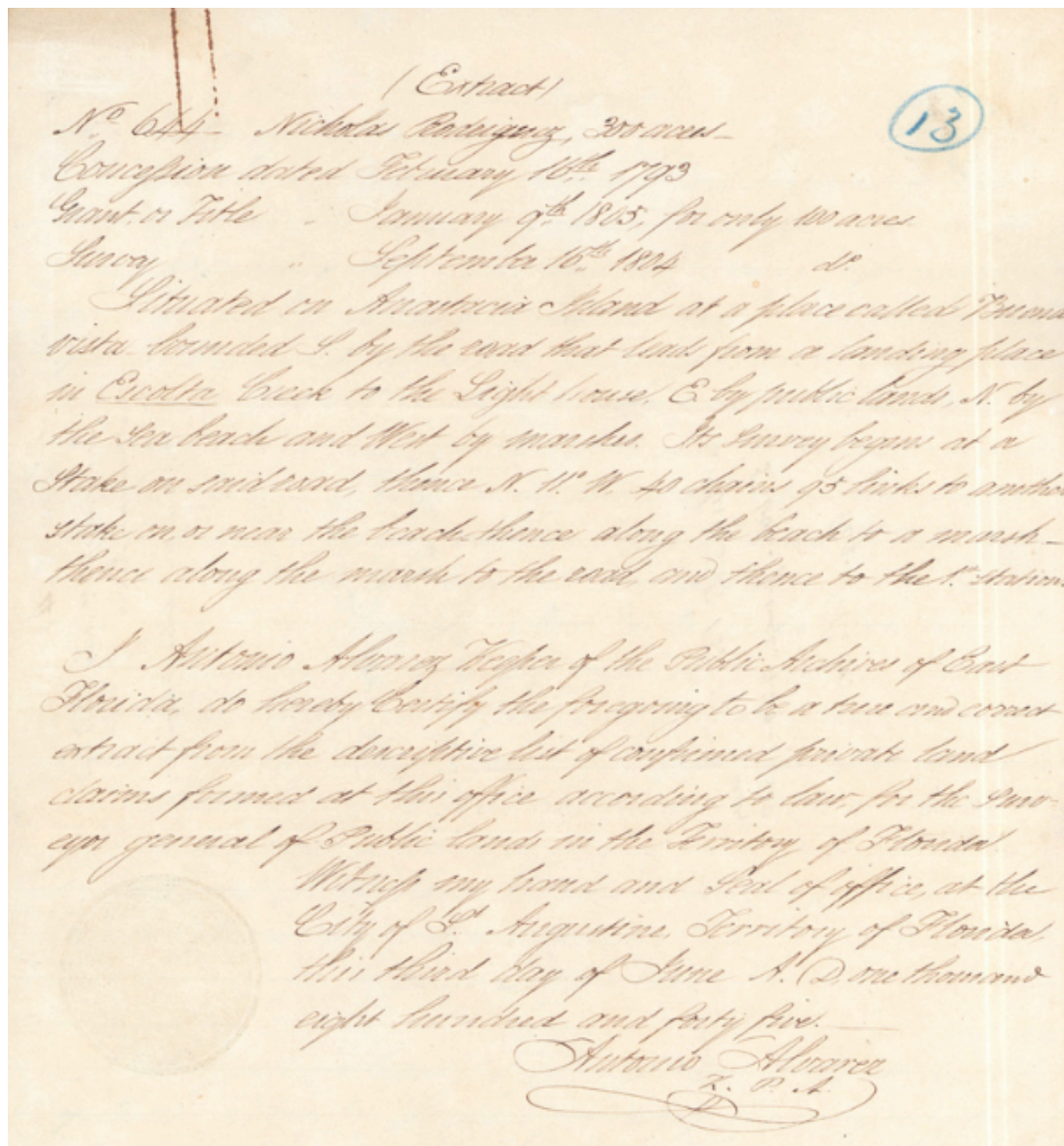


Map of the Rodriguez grant on Anastasia Island

In 1790, during Florida's second Spanish period, Spain began to offer land grants to encourage settlement in the colony of Florida. When Florida became a territory of the United States in 1821, the United States agreed to honor any valid grants. As a result, family researchers now have access to those records

which offer a fascinating look at the history of our area and the families who settled here.

Florida Memory has published their collection of [Spanish Land Grants](#) including scanned copies of the original grant documents - often in both Spanish and English. The collection is searchable by name or location.



Rodriguez grant description in English

The [St. Johns County GenWeb site](#) has a list of "confirmed" land grants in St. Johns County. In addition, on page 18 of the Florida Memory land grant collection, the "unconfirmed" grants are listed. Note also that the place names and descriptions have changed over time so the GenWeb list may have missed grants in those areas.

The Society Page

The January meeting will be held on Saturday, January 21st, beginning at 1:00pm, at the Southeast Branch Library, 6670 US 1 South. Our members are the program for this month is our Family History Faire! Each member is encouraged to share a research success story, show off a heritage photo album or spotlight an interesting ancestor as we share our past.

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Joan Lucian

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Debbie Bateman

Archivist/Historian

Rosemarie Quintero

Facebook

Sue Gill

The Society Calendar

Jan 21 - Family History Faire

Feb 18 - Researching Land Records

Mar 18 - More Family Tree Maker

Apr 15 - Picture This: Family Photos



Research Notes

Did you know the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org>) is an amazing resource for local histories, regimental histories and other background information? I just stumbled onto an issue of *The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* published in 1922. It included a compilation of the St. Helena's Parish Register (Beaufort) with records dating back to 1752.

Go to the American Libraries collection and search for "genealogical". You will discover an amazing number of society quarterlies and published records from across the country. Both the National Genealogical Society and the New England Historical and Genealogical Society are very well represented.

A search for "regimental" delivered more than 1800 publications.

The beauty of these histories and periodicals is it gives us a personal view of the people and places discussed in each article. The time and effort used to discover these treasures will be time well-spent.



Registration is now open for the North Florida Genealogy Conference (<https://nfgenealogyconference.org>)! You can register online or by mail. Check out the schedule page and register early. Popular sessions will fill up fast.

North Florida Genealogy Conference
March 4, 2017

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 Writers Group](#) - This virtual special interest group supports members looking for creative ways to document and share their family history.
- [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.

If you aren't getting the Monday morning Research Notes update, you are missing the latest genealogy news, deals, webinars and other useful information. We can fix that in a flash. Just drop a note to sags.publications@yahoo.com asking to be added to the SAGS Support mailing list. We'll take care of the rest.

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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