

# ***Ancient City Bulletin***

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Augustine Genealogical Society

December 2016

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## The President's Line

Bob Burns

As my second year as your President nears its end, I am heartened by the growing strength of our volunteer Board (Executive Committee), and I anticipate a smooth transition to President-elect Bernie Patruno.

Being away this fall for family commitments, I haven't been able to comment on this succession. Bernie has been a consistent and tireless Board member for many years and she knows a high percentage of the members of our Society. She has brought up many valuable ideas and suggestions during my two years, and has provided meaningful feedback from members in her role as Communications Chair. Bernie has also worn the hat of Refreshment Coordinator for a long time as well. I plan to provide as much support as she needs or wants in my new role as Immediate Past President (IPP).

Speaking of the IPP, Dave Flemings is returning to the general membership, and I want to personally thank him for his excellent ideas, advice and counsel during my two-year term. He will be missed by all on the Board.

I want to congratulate the other elected Officers as well: Judy Parrino (1st VP-Programs), Sue DiDomenico (2nd VP-Membership), Pat Tanner (Secretary), and Neda Makin (Treasurer).

We did lose a true pioneer recently as our founder, Virginia Hassenflu, passed away. We all honor her for her splendid life and what she created for all of us, the St. Augustine Genealogical Society. I do genealogy to honor my ancestors, understand how their lives meshed with history, and to leave a record for future generations. Virginia played a major part in helping us accomplish our individual goals and enjoy our social interactions.



Finally, I am looking forward to reconnecting with all of you at our Christmas Party at noon on Dec. 10th at Amici's (deadline for reservations is Nov. 30th). I hope you are looking forward to 2017 as I am. We have a lot of speakers, activities and ideas in store. Enjoy the holiday season!

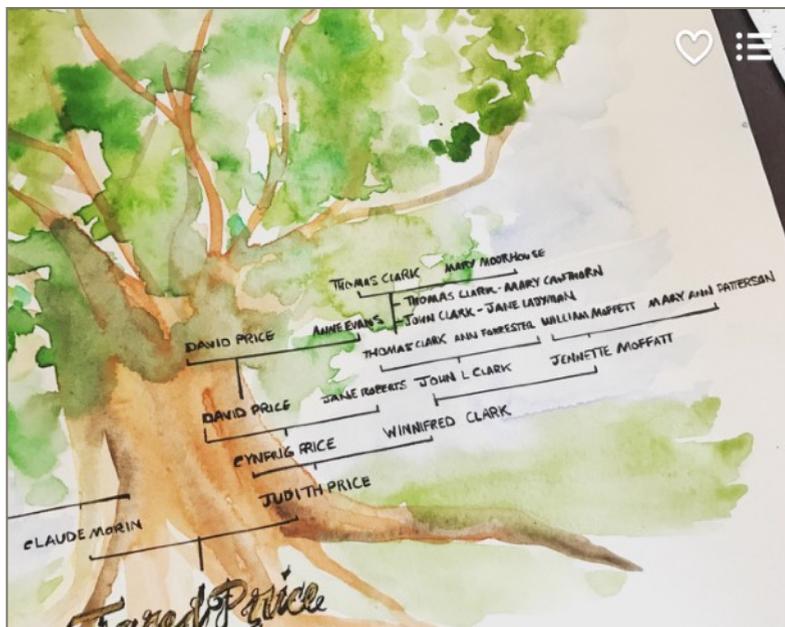
# New Years Resolutions

## Editorial Notes

The idea of having a "show and tell" meeting to kick off the new year is brilliant! Not only does it give all of us a chance to share the stories of our ancestors along with the research effort it took to find them, it is also an opportunity to gather ideas from each other on how to present these stories in creative and eye-catching ways.

Why is this important? While finding a census record or probate document is a delight to genealogists, for many others . . . not so much. In order to get the rest of our families interested in their history, we need to wow them first. My interest was generated by stories - some true, some not - from older family members. Old photos always fascinated us as kids. Many had stories connected to them and we enjoyed creating our own stories for the mystery photos.

Today we have scanners and smart phones that can beautifully duplicate a priceless document, letter or photo to share with others. The digital age offers a number of affordable options that can turn those treasures into eye-catching slideshows, books, works of art and even movies. You can find lots of inspiration online at sites like Pinterest and Etsy. This beautiful



family tree is from an Etsy store that offers to paint custom family trees. I may

not be able to draw a straight line, but I can photograph an interesting tree, have it enlarged and printed, then layout my own family on it.

Want to learn more? Come see what other members have on display at the Faire. Ask questions, take pictures and gather ideas that will work for you. Don't wait for next year's Faire to show offer your creations. Put them where they can help generate new genealogists in your own family.



# FTM End-of-Year Update

## Research Toolbox



*This month's edition of Research Toolbox is focused on the latest news from Family Tree Maker and what will happen as the end of the year approaches. This information comes from the latest FTM newsletter.*

As it gets closer to the end of 2016, we're understandably hearing this question a lot. That's because Ancestry initially said they'd only support FTM through the end of December 2016. But that was last year back in December 2015 when they also announced the brand

wouldn't continue at all. All that changed 7 weeks later on February 2nd — the day Ancestry announced that they'd decided after all to sell this wonderful old brand to us. And that together we would be building on what Ancestry had started, including building a new sync technology together.

So relax. TreeSync® is not ending at the stroke of midnight this December 31st. And though it will be retired at some point, before that happens, there will be new syncing technology available to replace it. It's already well into development and we will be starting outside beta testing before the end of the year. And that means syncing as we know it for FTM is going to live on into 2017 and beyond. So if you have been worried about what happens at the end of the

year, well you can just stop worrying. Syncing, Ancestry search, and shaky leaf hints are all here to stay.

Software MacKiev is now happily supporting all versions of Family Tree Maker for both Mac and Windows, though Ancestry will continue to assist us through the end of 2016 and beyond.

## Where to Get Technical Support

**Companion Guide.** The first stop for learning how to use features of Family Tree Maker is the Companion Guide which contains step by step instructions for everything you might want to do. You can open the guide from the Help menu while running Family Tree Maker.

**Knowledge Base.** We have hundreds of helpful articles posted on our support site on a variety of topics that will be of interest to all users, and can help solve problems. To get to the knowledge base, just go to [support.familytreemaker.com](http://support.familytreemaker.com).

**Support Requests.** If you don't find what you need in the Knowledge Base articles (at [support.familytreemaker.com](http://support.familytreemaker.com)) just click the link for "additional support" at the bottom of the page and you will see the Technical Support request form. Typically we get back to you in 2 days or less.

**Live Chat.** When you file a Support Request (see above) between the hours of 9am and 6pm EST, 7 days a week, you will have an option to have a live chat with an experienced support agent. This can be very helpful for urgent issues or those that require a discussion rather than a single email.

**Facebook Group.** There is an excellent unofficial but very active Facebook group called "Family Tree Maker® Users" which you might want to consider joining. They have many very experienced users who are very generous with sharing their time and wisdom to help other users solve issues.

For any users needing a replacement for FTM 2014 or Mac 3, we have set up a completely automated online Replacement Center. Whether you've had a hard drive crash, are moving to a new computer, or just need to reinstall FTM but your activation code doesn't work anymore, you can use the Replacement Center 24 hours a day to get a fresh copy. Here's how:

## Getting a Replacement Download

1. Go to [support.familytreemaker.com](http://support.familytreemaker.com).
2. Click "for additional assistance" at the bottom of the page.
3. Click the Replacement Center tile.

The Replacement Center checks that you have a copy of FTM 2014 or Mac 3 registered with Ancestry and then provides you with a free fresh link by email. You will also be given an option to purchase a backup disc for \$10 or our new natural wood USB backup drive for \$14. Note that what you get will be a full free-standing installer, so it won't be looking for your old copy, a disc, or anything else.

You will also notice that the replacement copy installer doesn't ask you for an activation code. That's because we don't use them. Why? Well, we don't like them ourselves, so we decided a long time ago we weren't going to torment our customers with them. Instead, we use this old-fashioned thing called the honor system. It's been working pretty well for us for more than two decades now, so don't expect us to be changing that any time soon.

## What about that free update?

When we happily rescued FTM earlier this year, we set out to create free updates that we could wholeheartedly recommend to all current users of FTM 2014 and Mac 3. That work is still in progress, but if you'd like to get your hands

on a copy and you're OK with a near-final build, then you can have one any time. Even right now.

That's because a couple of months ago we started making the latest interim builds of FTM 2014.1 and Mac 3.1 available for free from our Replacement Center for any registered FTM 2014 or Mac 3 user. And since then, when anyone has come to us with a serious issue that's fixed in the new editions, we have sent them there to get a copy right away.

Why so cautious? Well, because this is a very complex product. And because we feel an awesome responsibility in dealing with what often enough is literally decades of a user's work. So we are taking the time to get it right - to ensure that when we release final builds of Family Tree Maker 2014 and Mac 3 they're as ready as they can be to meet that high standard.

So, should you get the latest build right now then? Well, it depends. The improvements we're made are mostly in stability and performance. So if FTM is crashing or has slowed to a crawl with large trees, then have at it. Same if the waiting is driving you crazy, or you usually download interim updates anyway.

But if, like most users of FTM 2014 and Mac 3, your copy is working just fine, and you like being conservative about installing updates, we still suggest waiting for the final build. This is, after all, not a new version. It's a patch. That's why it's free. And if you don't think you need it right away, then you probably don't.

Having said all that, by all accounts, the builds we have placed on the Replacement Center are stable and safe to install. They have already been downloaded by a few thousand FTM 2014 and Mac 3 users, and – so far so good. Most are reporting that crashes have all but disappeared and actions with really large trees that previously took minutes, now take just a few seconds.

So if you prefer to wait, we'll notify you and everyone else on the mailing list as soon as the final build is ready. But if you'd like to try out the latest build of FTM 2014.1 or Mac 3.1 right now, here's how:

1. Go to [support.familytreemaker.com](http://support.familytreemaker.com).

2. Click "for further assistance" at the bottom of the page.
3. Select the Replacement Center tile.

If you have questions for us, please first read our FAQ as we've tried to answer the most common ones there. If you don't find the answer you are looking for there, please send your question through our Feedback Form which you'll find on our FTM Home Page (<http://www.familytreemaker.com>).

# American Ancestors

## In the Archives

American Ancestors (<http://www.americanancestors.org/index.aspx>) is the online archive at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. It is the most-used genealogical society website in the world. This archive provides access to more than one billion records. Included in their collections are early American records including England, New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia materials. They also maintain the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines.

A free Guest account gives web visitors access to a limited number of databases and occasionally offers access to selected databases for a limited time. The free databases include:

- Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850
- Worcester County, MA: Index to Probate Records, 1731-1881
- Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati
- Gloucester, MA: Burials in Gloucester Cemeteries
- Social Security Death Index
- Irish Immigrant Advertisements, 1831-1920
- New York Wills, 1626-1836
- Index of Revolutionary War Pensioners
- Middlesex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1648-1871
- Rhode Island Roots journal
- Mass Historical Data Relating to Cities and Towns

- American Jewish Historical Society - New England Archives: Jewish Cemeteries in Massachusetts
- Sharon, MA: Sharon Memorial Park Cemetery
- Ware, MA Families, Genealogies of
- Weymouth Revolutionary War Soldiers and Sailors
- Essex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1638-1881
- Plymouth County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686-1881
- Worcester County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1731-1881
- Suffolk County Court of Common Pleas - Index to Cases, 1756-1776
- Norfolk County, MA: Index to Probate records, 1793-1900
- Armenian Immigrant Births, Deaths and Marriages in Massachusetts - 1880-1915
- Boston, MA: Taking Records, 1800
- Family Tree Samplers

There are three levels of membership offering different services. The Individual membership (\$89.95/year) offers research benefits for one individual while the Friend level (\$150/year) includes discounts on consultations and research-for-hire with a 15-minute complimentary consultation. The Associate level (\$250/year) includes the same discounts along with a 45-minute complimentary consultation. Some of the Friend and Associate membership fees are tax deductible.

The society also publishes the Vita Brevis blog (<http://vita-brevis.org>) which is available to all. It spotlights items from their collections, offers tips, announces special offers and other useful information. If you are researching ancestors in the New England region, this blog offers an good preview of what American Ancestors has available.

# Twinkle Lights

Denise Olson

One Christmas while I was still in the Air Force, I came home for what I expected would be a quiet holiday.

There were no young children in the family at that time so our custom was to go to midnight mass at Trinity Church on Christmas Eve then come home and open our presents after the service. That way we could all sleep in on Christmas day.

Midnight mass had become such a huge service at our church that on this particular year they had decided to also include a family service earlier in the evening. We chose to attend the early service and enjoyed one of the most joyful celebrations of Christmas we'd ever experienced.

The normal procession was replaced with a telling of the Christmas story frequently interrupted with everyone singing appropriate carols. The first carol was "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" and as the congregation sang, the angels – a small mob of pre-schoolers dressed as angels – marched down the aisle. Marching is what they were supposed to be doing, but that was forgotten as soon as they saw mommy or daddy and had to wave or say hi. Once they were all "settled" at the front of the church, the story continued and the next carol brought a group of slightly older children dressed as shepherds. More carols were sung as the oldest children performed the roles



*The Episcopal Church on King Street  
H. S. Wyllie*

of the major characters and the pageant was complete. The actual service then began and the normal rituals were expedited somewhat as the children fidgeted up front. At the appropriate point, they all marched out to change from their costumes and have refreshments while the adults took communion. There was a joyful reunion of parents and children in the churchyard after the service.

As we walked back to our car we noticed a small group of people across the street chatting. One young man stood out because he wore a beret with holes punched through the felt and a strand of small twinkle lights poked through the holes. He had some source of power and was standing there casually twinkling away. We all found this quite amusing.

Back home, we all relaxed around the tree and began opening gifts.

Christmas day was always full of visitors. Neighbors would drop by with gifts – usually delicious baked goods – and we shared bags of citrus fruit from our trees. Christmas dinner was a group effort and always a relaxed and enjoyable experience. We found time to stop and visit whenever a neighbor or friend dropped by. Our big meal was late afternoon and things were normally cleaned and put away by sunset.

This particular Christmas evening, we were all semi-comatose in front of the evening news when a car pulled into the driveway. It was several young adults Mom had befriended – she was always adopting strays – including the young man with the twinkle lights beret from the night before. Once everyone was introduced and settled, he plugged himself in and was twinkling once again. It was most festive! Twinkle Lights was actually quite articulate and an interesting addition to the conversation. We were so engrossed that we didn't notice another car pulling into the driveway until the occupants stepped onto the porch. I looked up to see one of Mom's friends with her husband and another couple I didn't recognize. She was staring at Twinkle Lights through the glass front door and I could see the shocked look on her face. Her expressions showed she was considering a quick retreat. Fortunately, that didn't happen and

the group soon found Twinkle Lights and his friends as fun and fascinating as we did.

Mom had a gift for bringing disparate groups together and this Christmas evening was just another example. Although this was not a "Big Christmas" in the sense of large family gatherings or large events, it was very special. Forty years later the images of those little angels marching down the aisle and the young man with the twinkling beret are still vivid memories.



## The Society Page

Beginning with the January meeting, we are moving back to afternoon meetings. For 2017 meetings will be held on the **third** Saturday, beginning at 1:00pm, at the Southeast Branch Library, 6670 US 1 South. This change will give us extra time which we can use for special interest groups and other helpful services.

The January 2017 meeting is scheduled for January 21st at 1:00pm. Our members are the program with our Family History Faire! Members are encouraged to share their past in a creative way. This could include showing off a heritage photo album, presenting a beautiful family tree or spotlighting an interesting ancestor. Other possible ideas are posted on Research Notes at the members-only SAGS Support website. If you aren't already subscribed to have it delivered to your inbox, now's the time. Email your request to [sags.publications@yahoo.com](mailto:sags.publications@yahoo.com) and your invitation to join will be on its way.

## Research Notes

The Southern California Genealogical Society has announced its schedule for the 2016 Jamboree Extension Webinar Series. These webinars are open to anyone at no charge, but you must register to attend. Visit the [SCGS webinar page](#) for schedule and registration information. Registration is now open.



SCGS isn't the only source for useful webinars. Check out the online calendar of GeneaWebinars, Hangouts and other online events at [GeneaWebinars.com](#).



Learn more at the conference website (<https://nfgenealogyconference.org>). You can also subscribe to the site - see the "Conference News Delivered" box in the sidebar - and have the latest news items delivered to your inbox.

## 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](mailto: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 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.
- **SAGS Mailing List** - The mailing list is used to keep members informed on upcoming meetings, announcement and other activities. To join, send an email message to [SAGS-L-request@rootsweb.com](mailto:SAGS-L-request@rootsweb.com) with the word **subscribe** in the subject line and in the message body. You will receive a return message asking you to confirm your subscription. Follow the link included in the message. Once you confirm you will receive a welcome message providing instructions for using it.
- [SAGS Publications Library](#) - This online library is open 24/7. Here you will find current and past issues of the Ancient City Bulletin along with other society publications.
- [SAGS Writers Group](#) - This blog supports our writers group.

## 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](mailto: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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