

North Georgia Family History Bulletin

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Ranking Georgia Web Sites: Our Top Five

With the increasing development of web pages and digital research, it occurred to me that more attention ought to be given to important or relevant websites for research. We all understand that many popular magazines list the top national pages. It seems as though everyone is familiar with Footnote.com, or Genealogybank.com, or Ancestry.com. But on the state level, what about Georgia? What sites, within the state, may be most valuable to researchers? I decided to create a list of websites that offer scanned images and research tools for Genealogy and Family History.

Here is my list of five websites valuable to Georgia Family History and Genealogy research. The list is in no particular order. This is simply listed as they came to mind.

1-The Georgia Virtual Vault at the Georgia Dept of Archives and History webpage certainly must rank as one of the significant and valuable resources for Genealogists and Family Historians in the state. Located at <http://content.sos.state.ga.us/index.php> this website offers an abundance of resources, scanned images and information for ancestral research. The records include death certificates up to 1930, marriage records scanned from microfilm, Confederate Pension Applications and a huge assortment of other records. This page certainly must rank at the top of anyone's list of Georgia web based resources.

2-The Georgia Digital Newspaper Project, although only beginning to develop, already contains some wonderful resources for Family History research. Newspaper pages from the *Columbus Enquirer* dating back to 1828 and various Atlanta newspapers dating from 1857 are searchable on this web site at <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers.html?Welcome>. The down side to this page is that viewing the pages requires a DjVu browser plug-in. It is an easy download but to some users it has been troublesome. But access to major newspapers in Georgia is an exciting opportunity for many Family Historians.

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Websites:

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3-Although this webpage, www.southerncampaigns.org, is not exclusive to Georgia, it is a very fascinating resource that may be valuable to anyone researching Revolutionary War ancestors. This page offers an opportunity to search for pension applications and rosters for the American Revolution in the South. According to the website, the search engine currently has over 8,000 pension transcriptions on the database.

4-The Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Georgia is always an exciting research center to visit. The webpage that includes many scanned images from their collections enhances the thrill of researching collections at UGA. The webpage for the Hargrett Library is <http://www.libs.uga.edu/hargrett/index.shtml>. Although, the scanned images for the collection are limited, the finding aids and information available makes this site exciting and an interesting prospect for the future.

5-The Atlanta History Center provides many interesting resources for research. Before we develop this any further, a disclaimer is appropriate: My day job is at the James G. Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center. In spite of this possible conflict of interest, there are some fine resources for consideration on the Research Center web pages. An index to the Franklin Garrett's Necrology is a fine source for

researching Atlanta. During his lifetime, Mr. Garrett surveyed cemeteries within a 25 mile radius of downtown Atlanta. He also abstracted obituaries from city newspapers up until 1933.

Unfortunately, Mr. Garrett gave attention only to white males over 21 years of age. Franklin Garrett's Necrology index is somewhat limited yet still a valuable resource at

<http://garrett.atlantahistorycenter.com>.

In addition to Garrett's Necrology, the James G. Kenan Research Center has also scanned a number of photographic images and made them available on the website. The specific page title is "album" and can be found at

<http://album.atlantahistorycenter.com>.

Some fine resources can be gleaned from these two web pages on the site.

A final caveat is appropriate at this particular time: the web does not contain all of the answers. Although these pages may be very valuable resources, more information is available in archives and libraries around the state. Be sure to utilize all of these sources. Simply visiting websites is a disservice to your research.

Although this was not intended as a critique of web pages and websites for Genealogy and Family History research in North Georgia, it seems to have evolved into exactly that. I am always willing to receive new information about resources. If you have any webpages to share, please let me know. I would look forward to new content. Contact me at:

rnbrubaker@att.net

Announcements and Events

Cost of Vital Records Go Up

Effective July 1, the price of birth certificates and death certificates will increase to \$25. The Department of Community Health announced the increase several weeks ago as part of the budget process for Georgia. According to news reports, the price of vital records has not increased for several years. Yet, surrounding states have managed to keep to costs to below \$15.

Oakland Restoration Plans

Friends of the Georgia Archives present as part of their Lunch and Learn series “Thinking Outside The Coffin” the 10 phase restoration plan of Historic Oakland Cemetery. David Moore, Executive Director at Oakland, Kevin Kuharic, Director of Restoration and Landscapes, and Mary Woodlan, Director of Volunteers and Special Events, will all participate in the discussion to outline plans for the cemetery. The program is free to the public, at the Georgia Archives at 5800 Jonesboro Rd, from 12 noon to 1 pm. Contact the Georgia Archives for more information at: www.GeorgiaArchives.org.

Getting Started With Genealogy

The Heritage Room at the Athens-Clarke County Library is offering an informal session on beginning your genealogy search. On July 15, from 6 pm to 8:30 pm, staff members in the Heritage Room will offer basic tips for researching your family history. Even if you are not doing Georgia research this program promises to be helpful. The session is free and open to the public, registration is required. To register call the Heritage Room at 706-613-3650, ext. 350.

History of the SAR

Bob Faith, vice President of the Cherokee Chapter of the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, will come dressed in colonial uniform to discuss the history of the Sons of the American Revolution at the Bartow History Museum, Cartersville, Ga. As part of the Lunch and Learn series, the program lasts from 12 noon to 1 pm, on Wednesday, July 21. Contact the Bartow History Museum for more details at: 770-382-3818

Digital Scrapbooking Hands-on Workshop at NARA

Linda Woodward Geiger and Gin Shaw will conduct a workshop on organizing and preserving family records through digital scrapbooking on Saturday, 31 July from 9:30

am to 4 pm. Sponsored by the Friends of the National Archives Southeast, the day long program promises to provide interesting information about the latest tools in scrapbooking and document digitization. The cost of the workshop is \$25 and pre-registration is required. Contact the Friends of the National Archives Southeast at: <http://www.friendsnas.org> for more information.

Another Day At Sandy Springs

Yours truly, Mike Brubaker, will be speaking at Heritage Sandy Springs on August 5, from 7 to 8 pm. "Using City and County Records in Family History Research" will explore the variety of records available in the city offices or county courthouse that will aid your family history research. Cost is \$10, pre-registration is suggested. Contact www.heritagesandysprings.org for more information.

This information sheet is designed to serve as a resource, to provide ideas and information to researchers, genealogists and family historians. This is my own attempt at improving lines of communication within the genealogy community. I hope to share ideas, new information about resources, and events of interest to genealogists and family historians. My goal is to publish the *NGFH Bulletin* the end of each month. For more timely information please visit my blog at: www.historybybrubaker.blogspot.com I post on a weekly basis.

If you find this newsletter of some value and would like to receive it in the future, send me an e-mail at: ngfbulletin@gmail.com or rmbrubaker@att.net and I will be happy to add you to the mailing list. If you would like to receive this newsletter by regular mail, send me \$10 to cover postage and handling to: Mike Brubaker 8860 Glen Ferry Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30022. Or, if you would like to contribute any type of article or announcement, feel free to forward that information as well. Queries will also be accepted and published.

The *North Georgia Family History Bulletin* is edited and published by Michael Brubaker, copyrighted 2009. Any comments, questions, or concerns should be directed to his attention at the e-mail account: rmbrubaker@att.net