



# The Tracers



Volume 11, Number 1

July-September 2006

Brandon Area Genealogical and Historical Society  
PO Box 2635; Valrico, FL 33595-2635

## President's Message

Our society is growing every month as you will see elsewhere in the newsletter where new members are listed. We are delighted to have you as a part of our organization and urge you to get involved in any way you can.

Some disappointing news to share is that our Vice President/program chair Jim McKay has resigned. He and his wife will be moving to Warner Robins, Georgia, to be nearer their daughter and her family. Jim has done an excellent job in putting together the very interesting programs we have had over the past several months. We wish him the best and know that one of the genealogical societies in middle Georgia will put his talents to good use. Sue Bogard was unanimously elected by the board to fill the vacant spot. Sue has already gotten busy putting together programs for us. If you have any ideas or requests for particular programs, please let Sue or any other officer know so we can meet your research needs.

A special thanks also go to the different members who volunteer to bring refreshments to each of our meetings. We certainly appreciate the time of visiting and sharing information that we have while enjoying a snack. Please sign up to bring something one month. We normally have about three people provide something each month.

Those of you who were in attendance for our special, old fashioned "4th of July" picnic which was held in place of our regular July meeting on the 11th enjoyed a very special time of good food and fellowship. BAGHS provided the fried chicken and members brought covered dishes to complement our main course. We had George Morgan and Drew Smith as special guests and each brought us news of their

activities in the realm of genealogy. Try to attend the September 16th all day workshop which Florida Genealogical Society is sponsoring at the Dale Mabry campus of Hillsborough Community College in Tampa. Detailed information can be obtained through our website. George also shared with us plans for a research trip to England which will be held in the summer of 2007.

Our own Marilyn Martin will present our August program concerning videotaping interviews with family members. She has recently had newspaper coverage about her project and I am sure we will find her program very interesting. A copy of the article is on our website.

The September meeting will be brought by Toni Carrier of the Africana Studies Program at the University of South Florida in Tampa. I believe information about the program is also available on our website and I urge you to read about their interests and accomplishments before the meeting. I also want to remind members that although you may not be of African American background you may very well have records in your family that would be invaluable to those researching African American families. Some documents might include wills, slave receipts, property records, personal correspondence and other materials that might give the name of a slave or details about their family. Please consider sharing copies of these items as information before emancipation at the end of the War Between the States (Civil War) is very difficult to find. Although Ms. Carrier is not of African American ancestry, she has done a tremendous job in preserving records and helping others connect their families to Africa.

- Scott L. Peeler, Jr.

## Welcome to our New Members!

Joined December 2005  
138 Margaret Cooper

Joined January 2006  
139 Jack & June Bolen  
140 Janet A. Cole  
141 Roland & Vicki Tucker  
142 Eleanor McBride  
143 Sue & G.W. Littell

Joined February 2006  
144 Barbara Peeler Johnson

Joined March 2006  
145 Barbara Anderson  
146 Paula Roberts  
147 Melissa & Bradley Scharp  
148 Carol Tate  
149 Deborah Connett  
150 Beverly Bolivar

Joined April 2006  
151 Mary A. Randall  
152 Phil DeLong  
153 Miriam & Karen Curlin Hosack  
154 Carol Judge

Joined May 2006  
155 Thomas & Sharon Tate

Joined June 2006  
156 Alan Dignan  
157 Anthony Constanti  
158 Marilyn Martin

This issue of *The Tracers* was edited by Kent Akselsen, who graciously agreed to serve on an emergency, one-time basis. Send materials for future issues to Noretta Wells, NCW1937@aol.com, who will pass them on to the editor for the next issue.

## Executive Board

The elected officers of the Society are the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and three elected Directors.

President ..... Scott L Peeler, Jr.  
Vice President ..... Sue Bogard  
Recording Secretary ..... Maxine Strohmeyer  
Treasurer ..... Linda Soloski  
Directors ..... Noretta Wells  
Bob Rooke  
Dot Smelt

The Standing committees of the Society are Library/Historical, Membership, Newsletter, Publicity, and Webmaster/Information Technology. They are appointed by the President.

Library liaison ..... Dot Smelt  
Historian ..... Dot Smelt  
Membership chairman ... Sandra Troublefield  
Newsletter chairman ..... (vacant)  
Publicity chairman ..... Noretta Wells  
Webmaster/Information Technology chairman  
..... Kent Akselsen

## Newsletter Editor Needed!

The Brandon Area Genealogical and Historical Society needs a volunteer to edit our quarterly newsletter. This is your opportunity to win the respect and adulation of your fellow genealogists!

It is not a lot of work, but requires a few specific qualifications.

- 1) You need to be able to read and write a coherent paragraph from time to time.
- 2) You need to be able to work to a deadline.
- 3) You should be capable enough with a computer to send and receive email and to cut and paste the items you receive into a word processor or page layout program.

If you think you may be interested in this post, contact our President, Scott Peeler, at 813-685-2544 or [speelerjr@yahoo.com](mailto:speelerjr@yahoo.com)

## Upcoming BAGHS Meetings

### August 8

Marilyn Martin will give a program on using video to record family history and other genealogical information for future generations. The Brandon News ran a story about her business on July 19, 2006. If you missed it, a scanned copy of the article is available on the BAGHS website at [www.BAGHS.org/Marilyn\\_Martin\\_page\\_1.jpg](http://www.BAGHS.org/Marilyn_Martin_page_1.jpg) and [www.BAGHS.org/Marilyn\\_Martin\\_page\\_2.jpg](http://www.BAGHS.org/Marilyn_Martin_page_2.jpg)

### September 12

Toni Carrier of the University of South Florida will talk about the USF Africana Heritage Project. The project is sponsored by the Africana Studies department at USF. It is dedicated to rediscovering records that document the names and lives of slaves, freedpersons and their descendants, and sharing those records on a free Internet site at <http://www.africanaheritage.com/>

USF Africana Heritage Project. Rediscovering Records of African American Genealogy and History The project website has been live for two years. Our searchable database contains more than 4,000 transcriptions and images of primary documents. The project's large database makes it a valuable resource for anyone researching their family history.

Readers are encouraged to share will, deed and other records that name slaves, from their own family research. We treat every submission as the precious historical document that it is, and we cherish our volunteers.

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## FGS Fall Seminar

Dear Members of the Florida Genealogical Society,

In just over six weeks, FGS will be hosting its Second Annual Fall Seminar, again at the Dale Mabry campus of Hillsborough Community College. We are very excited that nationally-recognized genealogy expert, author, and actor/singer Henry Z. "Hank" Jones will be our featured speaker. The date of the seminar is Saturday, 16 September 2006. You will find full

details, a registration form, and a map to the HCC campus at our Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flfgs/>. If you have not registered yet, I urge you to do so. We have sent invitations to genealogical societies as far away as Citrus County to the north, Lee County to the south, Polk County and Orlando to the east, and to heritage and lineage societies in the area. We're already had feedback from these organizations and are expecting a very large turnout. We certainly don't want you to miss the excitement!

I am writing to you today to ask for any donations of new genealogy books, software, and supplies that you can make that can be used as door prizes. I have contacted a large number of companies for freebie items and products, and I have already received books and two software titles, with more promised to arrive before the seminar. However, YOU can help make the seminar more exciting for our members and our guests by contributing materials as door prizes. If you can donate something for our seminar, please send me an e-mail at [rabidgeologist@hotmail.com](mailto:rabidgeologist@hotmail.com) to tell me what you will donate. I can add that to our list and your name will be published in the seminar program. You simply have to bring the item(s) to the seminar on 16 September.

In addition, if you have older, used items that you would like to donate for a freebies table, we would appreciate your bringing those on the day of the seminar. These items can include used genealogy books and magazines, genealogy software and CD-ROMs, and anything else you think that fellow genealogists might want or could use.

This will be a real banner event for our Florida Genealogical Society, and we want to put our best foot forward for everyone who attends. You can do your part to help make our society shine at this year's seminar.

Thank you very much. I'll look forward to hearing from you soon!

George G. Morgan, FGS Publicity Director  
[rabidgeologist@hotmail.com](mailto:rabidgeologist@hotmail.com)

## March Meeting

by Kent Akselsen

At our March 14, 2006 meeting, Drew Smith, MLS presented a very interesting program on "Online Surname Search Strategies."

The methods used when searching for a particular surname depend on how common it is. Drew breaks surnames into four classes:

Very unusual (less than 1 in 100,000): 1,500,000 names.

Unusual (more than 1 in 100,000): 17,542 names

Common (more than 1 in 10,000): 1222 names

Very common (more than 1 in 1000 people): 75 names

Very unusual names can be easily researched on the internet using search engines and message boards or mailing lists. Unusual names usually require combining the surname with the first name, general location, or time period. Message board and mailing lists still work. Common names require combining at least two factors to narrow searches. Very common surnames require additional information such as middle name and combining several limits such as first name, location, and time period.

Drew provided a handout and described a list of 17 internet links for researching surnames, finding alternate spellings, locating national origins, finding message boards and mailing lists, and a variety of other related information.

There was a good amount of audience participation. Those attending seemed to particularly enjoy the live internet searches for their surname frequencies.

*Drew Smith is Vice President of the Florida Genealogical Society of Tampa and Instructor of several genealogical classes at the University of South Florida. He also Co-hosts the weekly 60-minute "Genealogy Guys Podcast".*

*<http://genealogyguys.com/> He can be contacted at [genealogyguys@gmail.com](mailto:genealogyguys@gmail.com).*

## April Meeting

by Kent Akselsen

At our April 11, 2006 meeting, George G. Morgan presented "Organizing a Very Effective Genealogical Trip."

This very interesting and thorough program covered the entire process of planning a trip, including the following general principles, which were discussed in considerable detail and supplemented with a four page handout.

Define the scope of your research.

Make a plan.

Do your advance research.

Obtain and pack the right tools for the trip.

Make contacts and appointments in advance.

Organize your mini-trips/stops.

Record the information effectively and efficiently.

Reevaluate and regroup daily.

Several points struck me as particularly important but not obvious to a genealogy beginner.

- Make sure that the persons and facilities you plan to visit will be open and available at times that match your schedule.
- Check online library catalogs to locate reference materials.
- Contact religious institutions in advance by letter to make appointments. They often have small staffs and are difficult to contact by phone.
- Make lists of books and documents you want to see or purchase so that you can simply hand a list to the appropriate person and get to work as quickly as possible.

*George Morgan is a nationally recognized Genealogical expert and is president of [ahaseminars.com](http://ahaseminars.com) and the International Society of Family History Writers and Educators. He is also a director of the Genealogical Speakers Guild, and the Florida Genealogical Society Inc. He also Co-hosts the weekly 60-minute "Genealogy Guys Podcast". <http://genealogyguys.com/> He can be contacted at [genealogyguys@gmail.com](mailto:genealogyguys@gmail.com).*

## Florida Websites

This is the US Gen Web for Florida. This page lists all the counties in the state. Each county site is different but some of the best ones are Levy County, DeSoto County, Volusia County, and Washington County.

DeSoto County has their marriage records and most of the census records online. Volusia has their marriage records and a lot of their cemetery records online.

Levy County is one of the best. Alachua County has a great many of their ancient records online. Leon County has their marriage records online almost from day one to current. Baker County is right up there at the top. Marion County has the best volunteer researcher.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgenweb/counties/>

The Southern Edge site for Florida Military Records Seminole Indian Wars - FL Militia Muster Rolls - Index

<http://www.thesouthernedge.com/gen/flmilit.htm>

Florida Confederate Pension Application Files.

You can download images of each page of the application. Some I know were 22 pages long.

<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/barm/PensionFiles.html>

Civilian Draft Registration Database

This includes other states but mostly the southeastern states but not the two states that Ancestry.com offers.

<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/ww1/draft/search.cgi>

Florida Newspapers including College papers plus TV and Radio stations.

A lot of the newspapers have their obits online for the past few years some as far back as 1997.

<http://www.usnpl.com/flnews.html>

This is the site I use to determine what place the zip code represents. It gives size and location data that is interesting for the particular place.

<http://www.placesnamed.com/default.asp>

This site tells about some of Florida's ghost towns

<http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/fl/fl.html>

Civil War Military Units in Florida

<http://www.psy.fsu.edu/~thompson/cw/units.html>

A link to Florida's Marriages and Deaths (as well as other states)

<http://bmdproject.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/search.cgi>

Gives a partial list of cemeteries and address. There is a link to a map and written directions [http://www.funeralnet.com/search/search\\_cem.cgi](http://www.funeralnet.com/search/search_cem.cgi)

Obituary General includes some Florida Counties

<http://www.picosearch.com/cgi-bin/ts.pl>

TOMBSTONE TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT-Florida Obituary Links Page-Florida Historical &

Genealogical Societies Florida Cemeteries -WebWide Surname Locator- Alachua County Cemetery Search

<http://www.obitcentral.com/cemsearch/fl-cem.htm>

University of South Florida - Tampa Campus Library - Special Collections Department.

<http://www.lib.usf.edu//spccoll/index2.html>

1895 U.S. Atlas Shows cities on the map, some cities that no longer exist

<http://www.livgenmi.com/1895.htm>

Florida National Cemetery Bushnell

[www.interment.net/data/us/fl/sumter/flornat/index.htm](http://www.interment.net/data/us/fl/sumter/flornat/index.htm)

Spanish American War, The First Regiment, Florida Volunteer Infantry,

<http://www.spanamwar.com/1floridacoc.htm>

<http://www.spanamwar.com/1floridaCocRoster.htm>

Tour of the Florida Territory during the Seminole (Florida) Wars, 1792 1859

<http://seminolewar.freesevers.com/index.html> Florida

*Research information from the files of Jenny Lind in Tampa, Florida.*

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*We have heard "rave" reviews about  
[www.linkpendium.com](http://www.linkpendium.com).*

*Check it out and let us know what you think!*

# Updates To Surname List On The BAGHS Website

[www.baghs.org/surnames.htm](http://www.baghs.org/surnames.htm)

Over the next few months, we will be reorganizing the surname page on the website to show who is researching each surname.

Members of BAGHS can email their contact information (name, preferred email address, BAGHS member number, or other contact information) and the surnames and geographic areas which they are researching to the BAGHS webmaster, Kent Akselsen, at **kakselsen@aol.com**.

Please do not include any information that you do not want published on the website. If you do not want your name or email address listed on the web site, you can list your BAGHS Member number and our

membership officer will serve as the contact person.

**Please alphabetize the names and format the information in your email as shown in the examples below:**

bobsmith@aol.com or BAGHS #224  
Adams - New England  
Buscaglia - Italy, Florence Region  
Connor - California  
MacDaniel - Scotland  
Payne - Iowa, Fort Dodge  
Reynolds - Florida, Hillsborough County  
Smith - Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina

Email your list to **kakselsen@aol.com**.

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First Class Mail