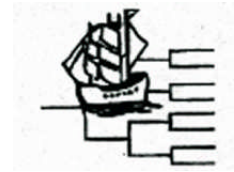




The Tracers



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Brandon Area Genealogical and Historical Society
PO Box 2635 Valrico, Fl. 33595-2635

Dear Members,

As most of you probably already know, our dear member Noreta Wells is facing some very serious health issues and is not going to be able to attend meetings for some time. We certainly do miss her as she took care of so many details we often took for granted. Currently Noreta is in rehabilitation and is undergoing kidney dialysis three times a week. She is not able to have visitors or phone calls, but certainly would welcome a card or note from you. Her address is 1607 Dogwood Lane, Brandon, 33510. Noreta kept a list of members and other interested persons in our Society whom she would notify every month before our meeting date. Reconstructing her list has been difficult as many of the email addresses have changed. Our Vice President and newsletter editor, David Boyett, has a list of current members with their email addresses and it is those members to whom the notice of meetings is being sent. If you have not paid your dues for the year 2011, you are not on the list. Please get your dues paid and list your contact information so you will not be left off our notification list. Also, when you attend a meeting be sure to sign in and give your address, phone number and email address as well.

Noreta also helped recruit speakers for our programs. We need your help in suggestions for programs and names of potential speakers. Please let David Boyett, Vice President and program chair, know if you have any ideas for future programs.

We are continuing to grow with new memberships and welcome visitors to any of our meetings. Don't

forget that every Tuesday Gus O'Dell provides free genealogical help in our special research room at the Bloomingdale Library. Please take advantage of this wonderful, free service. We truly do appreciate all Gus does for us as he sets up the meeting room before every meeting as well.

The popularity of genealogical research is growing because of several programs on TV, especially "Who Do You Think You Are?" and others which help with locating long-separated friends and relatives. We almost always find that visitors to our meetings are able to connect with distant relatives or with someone who is researching the same area of the country and can provide much-needed help, many times avoiding wasted time in researching records that may not be of help. Keep sharing and, by all means, thank the individual who has been helpful to you in your research.

Happy researching,

Scott L. Peeler, Jr., President

NOTICE: Membership Dues are payable on January 1 of each year and past due on January 31. Dues can be mailed to our address or paid at our meetings. Membership dues are \$25 for families, \$15 for individuals or \$10 for students. Membership forms are available on-line at:
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbags/BAGHS_application.pdf

Local L.D.S. Research Available
By: Dr. Monique Groulx



LDS Family History Center, 48 Bell Shoals Road

The Center has three rooms. As you enter, the first room you see has a large table at which you can sit with your own laptop and your documents. The code to their Wifi will be provided for you by the volunteer. A second room is a computer room with a few computers on which you can access the Salt Lake City site and get guidance from a volunteer if need be, especially if you are a beginner at using their site.

My Visit To The Family History Center:

On February 2, 2011, I drove to the Family History Center located at 48 Bell Shoals Road in Valrico, Florida. I wanted to know what was available at their site. The entire property at that site is considered a Stake of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The property itself is quite large. The Family History Center is only a small part of the entire complex. Standing in front of the facade of the property, the Family History Center has its own entrance on the right side of the building and a sign by the entrance door will lead you in.



LDS Computer Room

The third room is their microfilm viewing area where there are several microfilm viewers and other equipment. A few books and periodicals are available. Some of these books are general research and a few have actual names, dates, and place. These are catalogued in binders with green labels. At this Center, you can order and pay for a microfilm. When it arrives at the Center, a volunteer will call you so that you can go view it there. The cost is \$5.50 per

film for a day loan. For an additional \$5.50 it can stay there for 60 days and for a renewal at \$5.50, the film will stay at the Center forever. You can pay for copies you make at \$0.15 a page. They sell research logs, pedigree charts and you can get LDS family group records for free. They also sell supplies such as 3.5 disks and blank CD-ROMS.

Their hours of operation at this time are:

Monday 9am-4pm;

Tuesday 9am-1pm & 7pm-9pm;

Wednesday 9am-4pm & 7pm-9pm.

Their e-mail address is FL_Brandon@ldsmail.net and their phone number is: 813-684-2049.

The volunteer who gave me a tour was very friendly. She told me that the Center would be opened more often if they had more volunteers. In case you are interested, they are looking for volunteers. In conclusion, I had a pleasant experience.

Looking for an inexpensive search program for genealogy? How about FREE! If so try the newly improved Family Search web page at:

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start>

New Members Needed:

Reach out to your neighbors and friends who may have an interest in History or Genealogy and invite them to our next meeting. The application membership form is available on our web site.

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flbaghs/BAGHS_application.pdf

Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Bloomingdale Regional Library.



Michelle Frasier, Library Services

In January Michelle provided a program that included all of the on-line library services. By using your library card at www.hcplc.org users can get the Library Edition of Ancestry and Footnote. Both have excellent collections of census records, family trees, birth and death records and military records back to the revolutionary war.

In addition to family research, you can get the Florida Sanborn Maps, do keyword searches for any book, music or movies. You can view a listing of upcoming events, classes and even an on-line auto repair reference center.

Newsbank is another on-line resource that contains obits and death notices allowing you to create searches and even set up email alerts as new information is posted at Newsbank.

What are you waiting for, if you don't already have a library card, get one. They are free!

Hillsborough County Marriage Records:

For Hillsborough County Marriage Records, use the U.S.F. digital collection at: www.lib.usf.edu



Gus O'Dell (left) receives Hillsborough Co. Award from BAGHS President Scott L. Peeler Jr.

The Hillsborough County Board of County Commission (BOCC) has issued a Certificate of Commendation to BAGHS Member Gus O'Dell for

his outstanding volunteer work at the Bloomingdale Regional Library.

The volunteer work was for the great job that Gus has done staffing the genealogy research room at the library. Gus provides the “Ask the Genealogist” information and assistance table from 4-6 pm every Tuesday. Please drop by with your questions and stay for the 6:30 pm Society Meeting on the second Tuesday of each month,



Eloise Hurst, Branch Manager, Library Services

Eloise presented a program in February about how to research African/American genealogy in Pre-Civil War Records.

Both the 1850 and 1860 U.S. Census contains records known as Slave Census, but they only have the names of the slave owners. Information about the slaves is limited to age, sex and color.

On January 1, 1863 all slaves were declared free and many property records were recorded by 1865 that should assist in slave family research.

Other records include Plantation Records of which a large collection is maintained through the Lowcountry Africana Project at U.S. F.
http://www.africanaheritage.com/Lowcountry_Africana.asp



Melva Adams Kittrell

Melva gave a presentation in March about her experiences in family research and DNA testing. Her DNA results reported Asian ancestry on her mother’s side which was a surprise to her. One of her biggest surprises yet, would be a book that she discovered at the LDS Library in Salt Lake City.

The book entitled “Family Records of the African-American Pioneers of Tampa and Hillsborough County” published by the University of Tampa in 2003. The book contained generations of her family from early Bealsville (a black community near Plant City) to Ybor City near downtown Tampa.

President: Scott L. Peeler Jr. baghs@yahoo.com

Vice President: David Boyett

Secretary: Annette Lee

Treasurer: Karen Boyett

Directors: Noreta Wells, Gus O’Dell, Marilyn Martin

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Library: Gus O’Dell

Historian: Anna Jean Springer

Membership: Sandra Troublefield

Newsletter: David Boyett

Publicity: Noreta Wells

Webmaster/IT: Kent Akselsen