



Roots and Branches Genealogy Society of West Volusia County

130 E. Howry Avenue, DeLand, Florida 32724

July, August, September 2008
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flrbgs/



Here Comes Summer! Jerry is heading to Iowa—where are you going?

Actually, Jerry decided to stay at home this year because of the pain at the pump!!! **Jim Pardee** will be knee deep in tax returns, but will spend Saturdays at the Library.// **LaVerne Hardin** is planning on kicking up her heels at the Continental Congress (DAR National Convention) in Washington, DC in July followed by a trip to Montana with her daughter.// **Mary Lois Kelley** has research on her agenda at the DAR Library, if the Continental Congress meetings adjourn the Library closes.// **Donna Forsythe** is also attending the Continental Congress, and thinks having no research plan is the best research plan. Her theory is born out of an experience she had last year while meeting friends at the DAR Library for lunch. She passed a bookcase and spotted a book of news clips about both sides of her family—much to the chagrin of her friends who had been researching all morning.// **Bill and Nancy Morgan** are visiting their daughter in Wildwood, (north) Georgia, where they plan to hit the records, as there were some early Morgan settlers in the area, as evidenced by land marks and streets named Morgan.// **Mary Barham Rodnef** prefers delightful DeLand to all others.// **Linda & Sam Williamson** are going to their 50th High School Reunion in Mobile, Alabama. Was it *really* that long ago?! A couple of weeks later they plan to fly/drive via Buffalo to Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake (home of the Shaw Festival), then to Elmira, New York, to visit the grave of Sam's great grandfather at the Woodlawn National Cemetery (see the "Members Spotlight" on page 8.)// **Ruth Ann Fay**, the newly elected Regent of the DAR, will be traveling all summer starting with a trip to Germany and Denmark in May, Jordan in June, the Continental Congress in July, Israel then Petra and Victoria, BC, Canada in August. You go Girl!! As for research she says, "None of my travel is gene related."// **Harriet Bolin** will be spending a month at the beach with her family, where her daily activities will revolve around surf and sand.// **In May, Bill and Esther Gould** were headed to Saginaw County, Michigan, north of Detroit, with an ambitious plan to research and map land deeds of Bill's great grandfather, Albert Howard, a surveyor, and his great grandfather, Gardner Dyer Gould. Over the course of a week their plan was to research at the State History Library and Michigan State Archives at Lansing; the church in Saginaw, Michigan where Grandfather Gould was married; and graves of several children who died in early infancy.// **Pat Ritter** is traveling to Virginia in August for her granddaughter's wedding.// **Howard & Pat Fisher** made a research trip to the NARA Archives in Kansas City, MO, in May and have no other travel plans for the rest of the summer.// **Kay Jenkins** is going to a Propps' Family Reunion in October held in Hendersonville, NC. Other family names from VA and WV are Champe, Mason, McClung, Bell, Fullwider, Vanosdal, Walkup, Alderson, Hedrick, Adwell, and Withrow.// **Carolyn Bell** will be going to Binghamton, NY area for the 93rd Bell Family Reunion, including one day of research—then onto Pennsylvania for 3 to 4 days of research, primarily in Schuylkill County, PA.// **Jane West** is going to China in June.// **Have fun everyone!**



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Special points of interest:

Jerry has improvised a technique for research success and spells it out step by step.

Check out the many links to helpful research sites such as "Kimberly's Genealogy Blog", FamilySearch Labs and remote access to microfilm reader at the LSU Library.

Did your family name get changed at Ellis Island? Jerry has the answer.

Search for historic DeLand newspapers online (Jerry tells you how).

Read a unique and moving account of life during and after the Civil War in the unique Johns' Family autobiography online.

What Is Roots & Branches?

History & Mission:

Founded in 1986, the Roots & Branches Society of West Volusia County, serves the cities of DeLand, Deltona, DeBary, Enterprise, Osteen, Pierson, and Seville. The purpose of this Society is to stimulate and promote interest in genealogical and historical research; to provide instruction in the use of efficient mechanics and adherence to scientific principles of accuracy and thoroughness in research.

Society Projects & Lecture Subjects: Our meetings feature workshops and

speakers on such topics as early land, church, census and probate records; research documentation and organization; DNA testing and internet search. Society projects include staffing the Genealogy Room at the DeLand Public Library, digitizing the Brownell Collection for preservation and sharing with the Historical Society, maintaining the vertical files and an indexed collection of obituaries from the Beacon and News-Journal, and continuing the collection of pertinent information on West Volusia cities and pioneer families of the area.

With seventy-six members from all over the United States, the Society is a diverse group of all ages. We meet the third Sunday of each month, September through June, in the Auditorium of the DeLand Public Library for a Program at 2:00 PM. A 45 minute beginner's lesson is offered at 1:00 PM prior to the meeting in the Conference Room behind the Audio/Visual desk. Guests are always welcome. The Society's Board meeting is held the Friday prior to the General Meeting at 3:00 PM in the Conference Room. Members are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Officers & Committees

President: Jim Pardee

1st Vice President and Program Chairman: Carol Izzo

2nd Vice President and Membership Chairman: Mary Lois Kelley

Recording Secretary: Harriet Bolin

Treasurer: Judy Warensford

Corresponding Secretary: Jerry Hale

Past President ex officio: Rosemary Sutton

Publicity Chairman: Carol Izzo

Newsletter Distribution: Mary Lois Kelley

Newsletter Editor: Linda Williamson

Webmaster: John Woodard

Vertical File: Kay Jenkins



PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR GENEALOGY ROOM DUTY; WE NEED YOUR HELP!

A Message From Our President—Jim Pardee



Dear Members,

Well, we're almost to the middle of the year and some things have changed and others have stayed the same.

The membership has risen almost to par with last year with the addition of some new members to replace those who can't attend the meetings for one reason or another.

We want to wish all new members happy "rooting".

As president, I have found that this group, especially the board of directors, to be one of the most congenial to which I have ever been a member. Everyone arises to the occasion when something needs to be done.

The scanning of paper documents in our portion of the library took a big jump this month with the addition of a new scanner that will convert each scanned document into a PDF format which can be searched. Future plans might include furnishing this information to the entire world through one of the internet databases. West Volusia County history can be available to everyone.

If anyone else wishes to volunteer to help in this work, please speak to Jerry Hale or me about getting started. It's now MUCH more simple and gratifying.

Jim

Calendar—Carol Izzo



Sunday, June 22, 2008 "Problems & Solutions" Members will discuss how they overcame their genealogical problems and how they reached a solution. Hopefully, by hearing how our members have solved their genealogical problems, we can help one another overcome problems encountered in our research.

July 20 & August 17; No Planned Meetings.

Everyone is encouraged to meet in the Gen Room (2nd Floor), as there will be no formal meetings. See the new scanner in action, try it out yourself and learn what computer resources are available and how to use them.

Sunday, September 21, 2008 "Reading Old Handwriting" In her presentation, Shirley Mullins will explain the guidelines for reading old documents, how vowels, capital letters and numbers were used, and how numbers could look like another number. She will explain whether or not punctuation was used in old documents. She will tell us about abbreviations and give us examples of early American Handwriting. She will also give us examples of the German Alphabet. Ms. Mullins will also tell us about abbreviations commonly used and which symbols were used in German genealogy. She will also give us samples of different early American alphabets and handwriting styles.

Celebrate Family History Month in October with a Trip to Elmer's Genealogy Library in Madison, Florida

In observance of Family History month, Elmer Spew of Elmer's Genealogy Library in Madison, Florida, is planning an impressive line-up of speakers for a seminar October 1-5, 2008.

Events are as follows:

- Wed.- 10:00 AM– 4:00 PM Library research day with free soup and salad available.
 - Thursday 9:00 AM- 7:00 PM Research 7-9:00 PM Featured speaker: Melody Porter on “Georgia Research Locations: Not Just For Georgia Researchers.”
 - Friday 9:00 AM- 7:00 PM Research 7-9 PM Featured speaker: Ann Osisek on “Ins and Outs of Courthouse Research” and “Dead Men and Women Do Talk— Effective Cemetery Research.”
 - Sat.- 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM Featured speaker: John Colletta on varied topics throughout the day. Sat.- 9:00 PM Library open until 9:00 PM Includes a free Bar-B-Q lunch.
 - Sun.- 11:00AM- 4:00 PM Library open for last minute researching
- All five days for library members \$30.00 per person ; all five days for non-members \$60.00 per person. Food and lodging not included. (However, it does include soup and salad Wednesday evening and a Bar-B-Q lunch on Saturday.)
- Check out Elmer's Library Web Site at <http://www.elmerslibrary.com>, pick up a brochure in the Genealogy Room or call Elmer at 1-850-973-3282



Correction and Additions to the 2008 Roots & Branches Directory —Mary Lois Kelley

Mary Lois welcomes new and returning members and calculates that we have seventy-six members to date. Please make these corrections and additions to your membership directory:

Page 3

Drennen bnjdrennen@bellsouth.net
 Ferrara wferrara@stetson.edu
 Fay 386-738-3563

Page 7

Kittrell howardsnancy@yahoo.com
 Little poppoal@aol.com

Page 8

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 Nutall nutall1@cfl.rr.com

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 67 Elmwood Trail puiffin21@bellsouth.net
 DeLand, FL 32724-1354

Page 12

James Hugh Gordon Jr. 386-734-0620
 1624 Hazen Road hughgordonjr@yahoo.com
 DeLand, FL 32720-2502

VOLUSIA—FLAGLER COUNCIL OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES 2009 GENEALOGY SEMINAR

HOSTED BY

The Volusia County Genealogy Society

Aha! Seminars, Inc. Speakers George G. Morgan and Drew Smith

George G. Morgan is an internationally recognized genealogist and author of five books, several online columns, and hundreds of articles for genealogical publications. He is president of Aha! Seminars, Inc., which conducts seminars for libraries and for genealogists. He is past president of ISFHWE, a director of the Florida Genealogical Society, and co-host of "The Genealogy Guys™ Podcast."

Drew Smith, MLS, is a librarian at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He is co-host of "The Genealogy Guys™ Podcast," and regularly contributes to *Digital Genealogist* and the NGS *News Magazine*. He is a Director for the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and President of the Florida Genealogical Society in Tampa. He is a frequent speaker at local, state, and national conferences.

Topics

- **The Genealogist as CSI** George G. Morgan
- **Where Is the Book with My Family in It?** Drew Smith
- **The U.S. Naturalization Process and Documents: 1790 to 1954** George G. Morgan
- **"The Genealogy Guys™ Podcast" Live** George G. Morgan and Drew Smith

Date : Saturday January 24, 2009 8:00am to 4:00pm. Doors Open 7:00am

Location Palmetto Club 1000 South Beach Street Daytona Beach Fl. 32114

Directions: Go East US-92, cross US-1, turn south on Beach Street 1.4 miles

Cost: \$30.00 pp paid by November 30, 2008 and \$35.00 paid by Dec. 31, 2008

Registration Starts 7:00am with continental breakfast.

Program starts 8:00am. Hot Buffet Lunch Stuffed Chicken, Beef Tips w/Mushrooms, Stuffed Shells Marinara (Vegetarian), Vegetable, Mashed Potato, Gravy, Rolls w/Butter and Cake for dessert. Coffee, tea and iced tea available all day.

Lots of great Prize Drawings - Genealogy Book Vendors - Handicapped Restroom Available

Registration Form

\$30.00 pp Registrations
received by Nov 30. 2008

NAME/s _____

\$35.00 pp December Registration
Must be received by Dec 31, 2008

Address: _____

Mail form with Check to:
VCGS - 2009 Seminar
PO Box 2039
Daytona Bch , FL, 32115

Phone: _____ Society _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make Check Payable to VCGS, Inc

Jerry's Tips—A Technique that Has Really Born Fruit, plus Links to Online Help by Jerry Hale



I've been working on my Hale family which originates in the Royal Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, England. Eighty percent of the people were coal miners. The privilege of mining iron and coal in the Forest was earned by the families of the Forest in return for assisting the king in undermining various strongholds during their many wars. The king would ask for help and the "Free Miner's Association" would designate a leader and so many men, with all of their equipment, to travel to wherever they were needed and work for as long as it took.

Hales in the Forest are legion and, as always, the names were used over and over. In the course of attempting to sort out all of the Aaron/Aron Hales I've been using Family Tree Maker to keep track of the various families, hoping to have a clear picture after all of my work. I'm very fortunate in that almost all of the parish records from the 106 parishes there have been transcribed and placed online FOR FREE! Hundreds of volunteers have donated their time and effort to this project and it has been completed in about one quarter of the time expected.

Even though parish records are at my fingertips I've been having trouble figuring it all out because many of the records have minimal information. Last week I discovered a technique that has really borne fruit and I'd like to tell you about it:

Using Ancestry at the library I searched out all of the Hales in the 1841 British Census for the county of Gloucester and "cut and pasted" them into Notepad, the basic text editor available on the online computer. I saved the file to my thumb drive. Starting at the top of the file I arranged each family into their proper chronological order. Here is an example:

Where born: Gloucestershire, England; Civil Parish: Dean Forest; Hundred: St Briavells
County/Island: Gloucestershire Country: England; Registration district: Ross; Sub
registration district: Ross

| Name | Age | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|----------------------------|
| Edward Hale | 55 | [b. ~ 1786] | [m. ~ 1809] |
| Mary Hale | 45 | [b. ~ 1796] | [m. ~ 1816] |
| Samuel Hale | 20 | [b. ~ 1821] | [m. ~ 1820] |
| Mary Hale | 20 | | <<==== MAY BE A DAU-IN-LAW |
| Susan Hale | 15 | [b. ~ 1826] | |
| Amelia Hale | 10 | [b. ~ 1831] | <<==== NO AMELIAS |
| Sophia Hale | 7 | [b. ~ 1834] | |

Source Citation: Class: HO107; Piece 364; Book: 8; Civil Parish: Dean Forest; County: Gloucestershire; Enumeration District: 12; Folio: 24; Page: 14; Line: 10; GSU roll: 288776.

Next I used the calculator to estimate the birth years. Then comes the "magic." I calculate the year that Edward and Mary probably married. I use Edward's birth year plus 23 years and use Mary's birth year plus 20 years because a close estimate is that men were 23 and women were 20 when they married in England in those days. That is something I've learned as I have worked on this family, it may not hold true for other times and places but is probably a good rule of thumb. I also subtract one year from the estimated birth year of the oldest child.

Those calculations give me a range of from 1809 to 1820. I believe I will find that Edward and Mary were married during those years. Going to the search box of the parish records at www.ForestOfDean.net I enter HALE, EDWARD; (checking the box for SOUNDINDEX search); Year: 1817 +/- 5 years; marriages; all parishes. I get the following result:

| Year | Surname | First Name | Event | Parish/Chapel | More detail |
|------|---------|------------|----------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1814 | HALE | Edward | Marriage | Littledean | More detail |

Clicking on "More detail" results in the following information:

Transcript Details

Record_ID: 8572
 Entry Number: 12
 Year: 1814
 Month: Apr
 Day: 12
 Groom Surname: HALE
 Groom Forenames: Edward
 Groom condition: Bachelor
 Bride Surname: DREW
 Bride Forenames: Mary
 Bride Condition: Spinster <<== MEANS NOT PREVIOUSLY MARRIED
 Licence or Banns: Banns
 Signature or Mark: He signs she marks
 Witness 1: Jos[ep]h Mountjoy
 Witness 2: George Morgan
 Officiating Minister: Henry Prowse Jones
 Event type: Marriage
 Register Reference: P110 IN 1/9
 Page No: 4
 Parish_Chapel: Littledean

If I had not gotten a hit I would have opened the window to +/- 10 years. If I had gotten too many hits I would have broken the window into smaller sections and looked at +/- 2 years. I'll often find the person listed as Edward Hayle or Hail or Halle.

I'm pretty sure I've got the right people, Mary's maiden name was Drew. I then start searching for their children using a window which begins in the year of their marriage and goes out as far as required until I stop finding their children.

Combining the 1841 census with the wonderful parish records search I am putting Hale families together as never before. It is not quick or easy but it is possible and that is something that would have taken a LONG LABORIOUS search at the FHC and years of looking at microfilm.—
Jerry Hale.

Kimberly's Genealogy Blog from Kimberly Powell:

<http://genealogy.about.com/b/2008/05/09/the-magic-of-genealogy.htm?nl=1>

“The Magic of Genealogy” A neat article by travel writer Jan Burak Schwert appeared in the Seattle Times earlier this week recounting her husband's unusual meeting with his third cousin Franz - a man who looked so much like him, he could have been his brother. The article had already caught my attention when she described her husband as "grinning from ear to ear" upon finding several Schwert graves after 30 minutes of searching a cemetery in the tiny ancestral German village of Binningen in the pouring rain. How many of you can't help but smile when you read that? Just about any genealogist knows exactly how he must have felt at that moment...but I digress. The story gets even better when Jan and her husband Ron stop in a small pub (gaustaus) before leaving Binningen, only to have the locals immediately recognize the resemblance that Ron shared with Schwert, living in the area. A more complete version of the story, entitled “Finding Franz”, shares a little more of the magic behind that special genealogy encounter, and her conversion from a "genealogy widow" to a believer.

New Records at FamilySearch Labs

<http://genealogy.about.com/b/2008/05/13/new-records-at-familysearch-labs.htm>

Several new groups of genealogy records have made their debut on FamilySearch Labs this past week, including Civil War Pension Index Cards, Philadelphia Death Records (1803-1915) with digitized images, and an index to the 1860 U.S Census (no images). The free Records Search at FamilySearch Labs also no longer requires registration to access. I've blogged about FamilySearch Labs before, but if you haven't checked it out for a while, you're in for a pleasant surprise.

Holocaust Archives Now Open to the Public

<http://genealogy.about.com/b/2008/05/10/holocaust-archives-now-open-to-the-public.htm?nl=1>

An employee of the ITS (International Tracing Service) researches docu-

ments at the Holocaust Archive in Bad Arolsen, Germany. Photo by Ralph Orlowski/Getty Images. The archives at the International Tracing Service formally opened to the public on April 30 and genealogists are already beginning to take note. An organized group of 42 genealogists from the USA, Australia, Israel and Great Britain made the trip last week to the ITS archives in Bad Arolsen to research in the rich collection of records relating to victims of the holocaust -- including more than 6 million Jewish individuals who disappeared without a trace.

Our Name was Changed at Ellis Island

<http://genealogy.about.com/b/2008/04/30/our-name-was-changed-at-ellis-island.htm>

Have you ever heard the story that your family's name was changed at Ellis Island? The United States' most famous port of immigration is also, unfortunately, the source of one of the many popular myths of genealogy - one that is still perpetuated with regularity in the media. In actuality, inspection agents and Ellis Island rarely changed immigrants' names. That's not to say that mistakes weren't made, but there is no known documented case of a name change occurring at Ellis Island, according to Marion Smith, senior historian for the immigration service.

Vatican Orders Catholic Parish Registers Off-Limits to LDS Church

<http://genealogy.about.com/b/2008/05/05/vatican-orders-catholic-parish-registers-off-limits-to-lds-church.htm>

A recent letter issued by the Vatican Congregation for Clergy directs Roman Catholic dioceses worldwide to keep The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from "microfilming and digitizing information" contained in Catholic sacramental registers, according to a report in the Catholic News Service. The reason given for the move is to prevent LDS Church members from using the records to posthumously baptize Catholic ancestors by proxy.

Remote Access to Microfilm - How Cool!

<http://genealogy.about.com/b/2008/05/04/remote-access-to-microfilm-how-cool.htm>

Genealogist Claire Bettag recently learned that the LSU library has a digital microfilm reader that offers remote access over the Internet and graciously shared her discovery on the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG-L) mail list. I'm big on keeping up on the latest technology, but this cool option was new to me!

These ST200 digital microfilm readers not only allow patrons to burn images to a CD or save them to a flash drive, but they can also email an image to themselves or, best of all, log on remotely to gain access from home. Staff at the library or repository using these machines still has to physically load the microfilm for you, but once that's done you can view, scan, zoom, email and print from the microfilm remotely. This makes it easier for library staff to serve more patrons as scanning through microfilm can be a time-consuming process, as I'm sure most of you know.

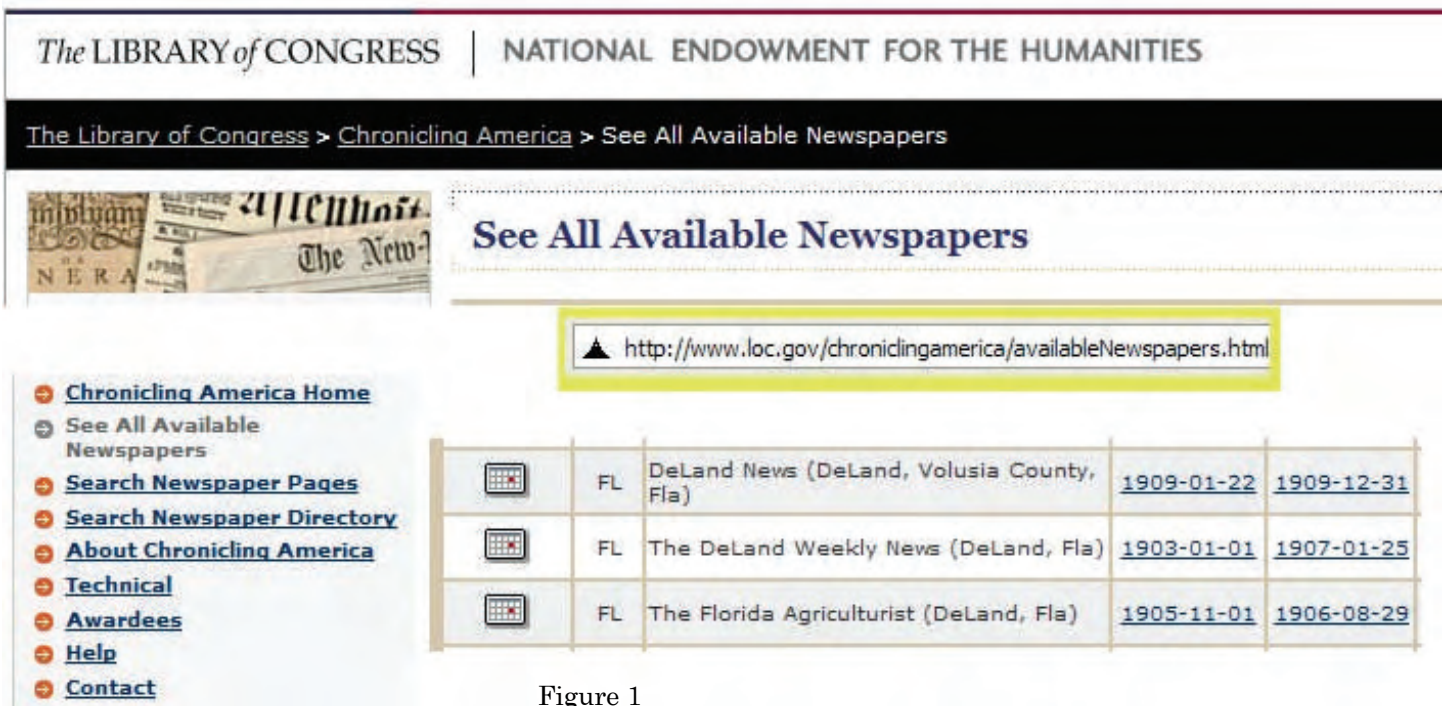
Be a Genealogy Room Volunteer!

Historic DeLand Newspapers Are Now Online:

<http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/availableNewspapers.html>

The Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities are cooperating on a project to bring historic newspapers to the internet. They have created a web site entitled: *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. The site is a BETA site, meaning it is still in the development and testing stage.

Three DeLand newspapers from the 1903-1909 time frame are presently available on the site (Figure 1). Although loathe to complain when such a valuable resource has been made available, I found the size of the viewable screen a little restrictive after zooming in enough to make the page easily readable.



The screenshot shows the website header with "The LIBRARY of CONGRESS" and "NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES". Below the header is a navigation bar with "The Library of Congress > Chronicling America > See All Available Newspapers". A main heading reads "See All Available Newspapers". A search bar contains the URL "http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/availableNewspapers.html". A sidebar on the left lists navigation options: "Chronicling America Home", "See All Available Newspapers", "Search Newspaper Pages", "Search Newspaper Directory", "About Chronicling America", "Technical", "Awardees", "Help", and "Contact". The main content area features a table of available newspapers:




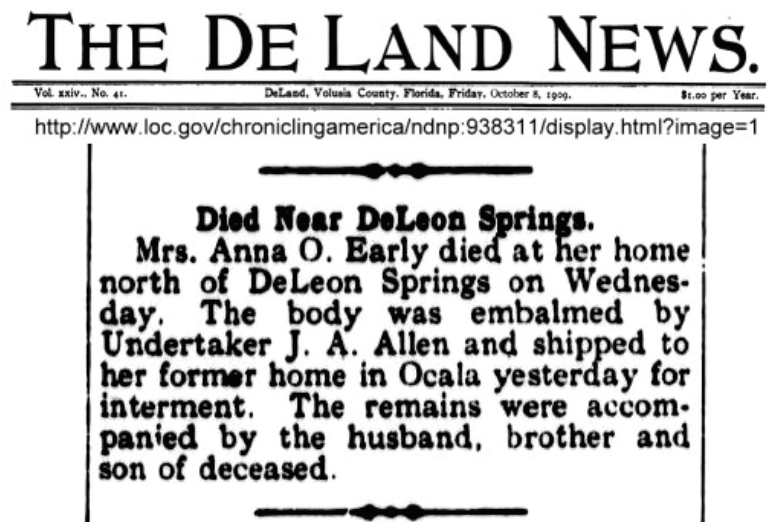
| | | | | |
|---|----|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|  | FL | DeLand News (DeLand, Volusia County, Fla) | 1909-01-22 | 1909-12-31 |
|  | FL | The DeLand Weekly News (DeLand, Fla) | 1903-01-01 | 1907-01-25 |
|  | FL | The Florida Agriculturist (DeLand, Fla) | 1905-11-01 | 1906-08-29 |

Figure 1

After a few minutes, I learned that I could hold the left mouse button down to drag the viewable window around the digital page until I could read the paper column by column.

I used Windows "screen capture" feature to save the above obituary for Anna O. Early who died on October 6, 1909 (Figure 2).

Figure 2



THE DE LAND NEWS.
Vol. xxiv., No. 41. DeLand, Volusia County, Florida, Friday, October 8, 1909. \$1.00 per Year.
<http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/ndnp:938311/display.html?image=1>

Died Near DeLeon Springs.
Mrs. Anna O. Early died at her home north of DeLeon Springs on Wednesday. The body was embalmed by Undertaker J. A. Allen and shipped to her former home in Ocala yesterday for interment. The remains were accompanied by the husband, brother and son of deceased.

Genealogical Secrets Revealed—Ellen Goodman, Washington Writers Group

BOSTON - I always thought that genealogy was for people whose blood ran blue. It was for folks who traced their ancestry to the Mayflower or the American Revolution, not those who came over in steerage one step ahead of the Cossacks. So when the New England Historic Genealogical Society published the family connections between presidential candidates and celebrities, I was an amused bystander.

John McCain is the sixth cousin of Laura Bush? Hillary Clinton is the ninth cousin twice removed of Angelina Jolie? Barack Obama is related to everyone from the Bushes to Brad Pitt? How American, I thought, to search an entire family tree to connect with the rich and famous who live, twice removed, on some distant branch.

On a lark, I went to visit D. Brenton Simons, the genial head of NEHGS, the society founded in 1845. Simons has so many American presidents in his own ancestry that he stops counting after Washington, Adams, Van Buren and FDR. But what he finds most fascinating are the everyday ordinary searches through the 200,000 books and the 28 million manuscripts, papers and diaries that fill the building in Boston's Back Bay.

"You can be related to a king or a horse thief," says Simons, who shows no favoritism for either lineage. "We all make

“But what we really want from the generations past are not just the facts or the DNA. We want the stories. Love, passion, success, disappointment, humanity.”

discoveries that surprise and enlighten us."

There are other bits of paper in my genealogical binder. It's moving to see the name of the actual ship that brought my family to America and the naturalization papers that required them to "renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity" to Czar Nicholas II -- which they must have done with pleasure.

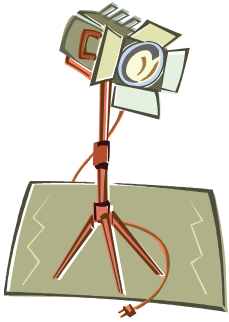
But what we really want from the generations past are not just the facts or the DNA. We want the stories. Love, passion, success, disappointment, humanity. There may be no way to know -- really know -- their interior life. But how many of us would

trade in the data for one good diary? Will we remember that in our own "estate planning"?

Maybe you read about the Connecticut teenager, Addie Avery, who searched her lineage back to a 17th century ancestor hanged for witchcraft. She's petitioning the state to exonerate her foremother. Recently, David A. Wilson, a black journalist, and David B. Wilson, a white restaurant owner, found their connection through a slave-owning ancestor. One generation's shame becomes another's rich tapestry. One generation's secret becomes another's source of wonder.

"We all have tens of thousands of cousins," says Simons, whose researchers connected Clinton with Jolie, Obama with Bush. "You can walk down the street right past a third or fourth cousin and not know it."

But how I wish I could stop one couple on the street for just a question or two. The couple who were married on Feb. 3, 1914.



Member Spotlight—Linda Williamson

A Family Story and A Confession

Sam, my husband, is so fortunate to have an autobiography from his maternal grandfather, Enoch Jefferson Johns, Jr. of Washington County, Florida. It was written down by Marion Johns, another grandson of Enoch, Sr., in shorthand (a required subject in high school), from Enoch's narrative in 1942. Marion typed it and distributed copies to the family. Read the biography in its entirety online at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/flrbgs/index.htm>.

In his autobiography, Enoch, Jr. says, "My father was a very energetic, industrious, and high-tempered man, and did not hesitate to defend himself in anything he thought was right. I cannot remember my father very well, and I learned more about him from my relatives and friends who know him well. He was conscripted into a home guard company for duty during the Civil War and was taken away from us in 1864.

I remember seeing him on his big red horse riding away from home, while my mother was grieving with my youngest brother in her arms. I remember asking mother why she was crying and her telling me that my father was leaving and that he would never return to us. Her prediction came true, as we never saw him again."

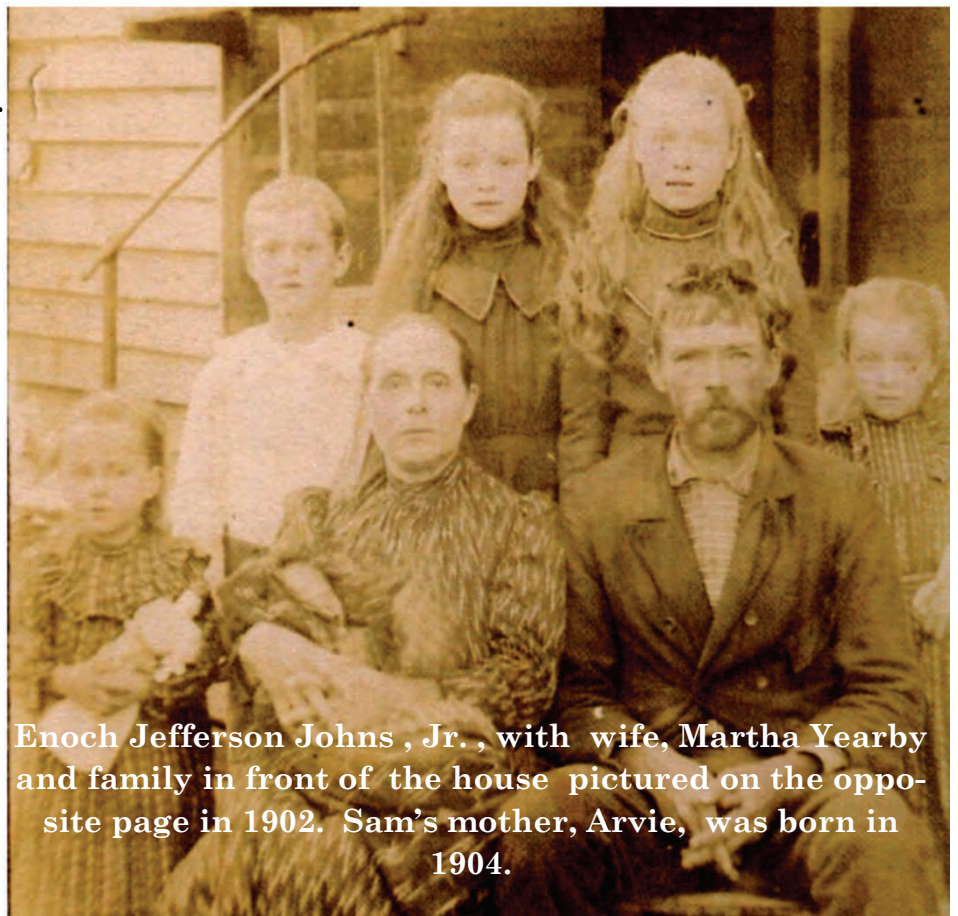
THE WEST FLORIDA WAR
— A NEW LOOK AT THE
1864 RAID ON MARIANNA,
Part Four, THE "BATTLE" OF

VERNON, by David Cox

**"I remember seeing
him on his big red
horse riding away
from home, ..."**

gives an account of the fate
of Sam's great grandfather:

"The story of the Washington Countians is perhaps the most tragic of the raid. Those taken away as prisoners eventually wound up in a disease-ridden p.o.w. camp at Elmira, New York. Cary Taylor and Enoch Johns died there of smallpox on December 27, 1864." Enoch, Sr.



Enoch Jefferson Johns, Jr., with wife, Martha Yearby and family in front of the house pictured on the opposite page in 1902. Sam's mother, Arvie, was born in 1904.

is buried in Plot CSA 01290, at Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira.

The tragedy of the war didn't stop there. In his biography, Enoch, Jr. gives a poignant account of the hardships that his family endured following the loss of his father.

In 1895, Enoch, Jr. homesteaded 160.19 acres of land in Washington County, Florida (Document 18099). The first three or four children were born in a small one room house with dirt floors. He built the existing house beside it.

It is there that Sam's mother was born. The house was filled with many pieces of his original hand made furniture, until looters stole most of it a few years ago.

When the children were small, Sam and I would drive from Birmingham, Alabama to meet there with his mother and dad and spend a few days in the old house.

Sam and his mother loved being around the old homestead, cooking on the wood stove, chopping wood for the fireplace and pumping water from the well, just off the back porch.

At that time, I did not have a full appreciation of the history—I just loved to go to the beach at Panama City.—*Linda Williamson. Please click on the rootsweb address in the heading of this article to read more of Enoch, Sr.'s autobiography.*



Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira, New York where Enoch, Sr. is buried in Plot CSA 01290, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, in October, 2004.



This house, built in 1898, sits on 160.19 acres homesteaded by Enoch Johns, Jr., on Johns Way, ten miles west of Chipley, Washington County, Florida. It was built beside the original one room house with dirt floor. The small building out back is the smoke house (not the outhouse).



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Missouri Death Certificates Now Online

Mar 21st, 2008 • Category: Repository—The Missouri Death Certificate Database containing over 2.1 million death certificates was placed online one year before its scheduled completion, according to Secretary of State Robin Carnahan's office.

Researchers have immediate, free access to online images of Missouri death certificates over 50 years old, including those of famous Missourians

like author Laura Ingalls Wilder, musician and composer John William "Blind" Boone, outlaw Frank James and political boss Tom Pendergast.

Family historians, biographers, and other researchers can use these death certificates to discover key information about an ancestor or important historical figure, including occupation, burial site, birthplace, and the

names of an individual's parents and spouse.

Over 600 students and volunteers from across the United States and other countries spent 32,810 hours preparing certificates for scanning and entering data into the index. Certificates are available online for 1910-1957. [The web site is http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/). —John & Carol Izzo