



LEGACY

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
**THE SOUTHERN GENEALOGIST'S
 EXCHANGE SOCIETY, INC.**

Library: 6215 Sauterne Drive, Jacksonville, FL • 904-778-1000 • Web site <http://sgesjax.tripod.com>

Following the Paper Trail in an 1800s Bureaucracy

By Robert S. Davis Jr.

You might be looking for letters your ancestor wrote to the United States Secretary of the Treasury in 1843, or to the Freedman's Bureau in 1870. You have located the appropriate record at the National Archives or you have obtained the correct microfilm for the time period that you need. However, when you look at the inventory, you are not sure just what you are getting into.

During the mid- to late-nineteenth century, there were standard practices used by clerks, civil and military, Confederate and Union, that while confusing to us today, were an efficient and common sense means of keeping up with paper in those times. Within these records can be found at least abstracts of letters of great historical and genealogical value that are too often given up as lost. Below is what often happened to a letter received and answered in a government department in the 1800s. Frequently not all of the records described below will have survived for a particular department.

The letter would be received at the department and assigned a unique code designation. The designation would usually begin with the first letter of the surname of the letter's author. It would be followed by the letter's number and, sometimes, the year that the letter was received. For

example, a letter written by James G. Brown, dated December 3, 1863, arrives in the Treasury Department on February 12, 1864. The letter might be assigned a code that begins with "B" for Brown, a number "253" because it was the 253rd incoming correspondence under the letter "B" for that year, and the year 1864. The final code for Brown's letter might be B 253/1864. An abstract of the content of the letter would be written on the back of the letter. This abstract is called an endorsement.

All of the endorsements found on the letter would be copied into the department's endorsement book, under the letter's coded designation. The endorsement books were usually indexed. Frequently the contents of letters that were passed on to other persons or departments, or which have otherwise been lost, survive as abstracts in the endorsement books.

When the letter was answered or passed on, that information was also abstracted in the endorsement book, with a coded designation to indicate where a copy of the reply can be found. Some departments did not keep endorsement books, but instead used a "register of letters received" which listed each letter with its content, by code designation, with cross references to where a copy of the reply could be

found.

The letter would also be listed in an index to letters received. Some government agencies also had all incoming letters copied into indexed, letters received books. During the War Between the States, the Federal War Department also assigned each letter a code based upon which branch of the War Department received the letter. See the descriptive pamphlet that accompanies National Archives microfilm publications M495 Index to Letters Received by the Secretary of War.

A reply would be written to the letter, the reply would be copied in the department's letter books, and the original letter would finally be filed by its coded designation or sent to another person or department. The letter books, containing the copies of the replies sent, are usually indexed. These books each have code designations, such as "Book B," used for cross reference purposes in the previously mentioned endorsement books and registers of letters received.

Understanding this system can open a world of valuable information to a researcher seeking the reasons why an ancestor was writing to the Secretary of the Navy, or the Adjutant General or some other government agency in the 1800s.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED • VOLUNTEERS NEEDED • VOLUNTEERS NEEDED • VOLUNTEERS NEEDED • VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you want YOUR library to remain open and accessible on Saturdays, we need your help. We need volunteers to man the library, especially on Saturdays. You don't need expertise – just a willingness to help. Please call Fay Doling at 226-7617 or 384-2600 if you can help. You can sign up for as little as one day a month.



A Big

"Thank You"

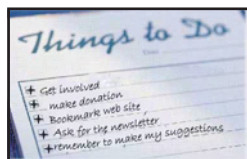
To Our Donors

Our members have graciously donated many new research materials to our library.

Recent donations were made by John Bond, Anne Johnson, Brad Glass, Blanche and Harry McKay, Mary Rudd, Anne Leyden, Jon Ferguson, Jon Barber, Carla Mellott, Dawn Euringer, Jackie Parks, Kathryn Huber estate, Leon Wynn, John Johnson, Paul Worthen, Jacksonville Chapter of DAR, and Genealogical Publishing Company.

SGES also received several acquisitions by exchange with Elmer's Genealogical Library in Madison, Fla.

THANK YOU to each of you who have made these materials available for everyone's research.



Get Involved

Here's a great opportunity for you to get involved. We are seeking a volunteer to add to the existing Joint By-Laws Committee. They have almost finished the proposed by-laws for a merged genealogy society. We need to have the Policies and Procedures written to coincide with the by-laws. One other person from Jacksonville Genealogical Society and one from SGES will join the six members. This shouldn't take but a few meetings together, then the committee will be dissolved.

Here is another opportunity: Fay Doling has asked to be replaced due to her failing health, etc. She will continue manning the library on set days. She is in charge of the library staffing and the Chairman of the Seminar. These responsibilities may be split.

Interested? See Jon Ferguson.

New Records Online

The following online records recently become available or were completed.

St. Louis Circuit Court Naturalization Index Cards, 1816-1906. <http://stlgs.org> <<http://stlgs.org>>

North Carolina State Archives. www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/archives/ead/state.htm. The search engine allows you to type in a surname and/or given name. It searches all the online documents and provides a list of hits and which papers the name appears. Clicking on a hit takes you directly to the name on the page in which it appears.

Canadian Census Index 1901 and 1906.

www.automatedgenealogy.com/index.html

Free and provided by Automated Genealogy. The volunteer compiled index is now complete. The index provides, name, occupation, date of birth and other information and a link to the actual census images. The site has more than 5.4 million lines

transcribed and about 40,000 links to other records. ,

Missing Friends.

infowanted.bc.edu

From October 1831 through October 1921, the Boston *Pilot* newspaper printed a "Missing Friends" column with advertisements from people looking for "lost" friends and relatives who had emigrated from Ireland to the United States. Every ad is reproduced on this Web site.

The **London Gazette** has scanned and posted its pages from the 1900's.

www.gazettes-online.co.uk/generalArchive.asp?webType=0

The **U.S. Census Bureau** has placed the 1790 Census online. It can be viewed or downloaded in PDF format.

www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/1790.htm.

The Florida State Archives has completed placing **Florida Spanish Land Grants Online.**

www.floridamemory.com/Collections/SpanishLandGrants.

Some of these grants are more than 50 ages. All are in PDF format.

New Submission Requirements

We appreciate all articles submitted for the newsletter, quarterly and *Pioneers of Florida's First Coast*, Vol. 2. To give us a better product, we are scanning documents or transferring them from disks or Emails. Scanning has some difficulties in translating therefore we prefer disks or Emails. We also are asking that you proofread your articles prior to our publication. You will hear more about this later. If possible, we hope to have the new book to the printer by the end of this year. Your cooperation and patience are greatly appreciated. We'll do our best to make the wait worthwhile.

For The Pioneers Book II

If you submitted an article for the upcoming *Pioneers* book, we need your help. If you are able, we need you to resubmit your information on a disk or via email. If you send a disk, please be sure to save it as "text only." Please call or e-mail Anne Johnson at 771-5222 or aofjax@bellsouth.net if you need assistance.

Those who are unable to re-send the data via email or on a disk will be asked to proofread their copy before the book goes to print.

Thanks for your help.

An Unsavory Page from a Georgia Census Past

A page from the census report for the inhabitants of Dade County, Ga., in 1850, lists each resident, his or her age, occupation and place of birth, and whether he or she is "deaf, dumb, blind, insane or idiotic." One page lists several farmers and their families, and four single women: Sarah and Mary Doyle, and Lucinda and Susan Killion. One may assume the census recorder did not approve of these women, or had a perverse sense of humor, or both. In a formal, flowery handwriting similar to that found on, say, the U.S. Constitution, all four women's occupations are listed as: "[F-word]ing."

Copied 08 Feb 2005 from http://www.intheagora.com/archives/2005/02/explicit_lyrics.html#more

Submitted by Mary Burke

Membership Report

Effective April 20, 2005, SGES had a total of 253 members. That number includes 50 members who have joined for the first time this year! Hurrah.

Please give a big welcome to:

Callahan: Jud Pate, Shelia Page

Jacksonville: Betty L. Rudd, Robert Bridger, Geri Godfrey, Gene E. Murray Jr., Ronald E. and Janice Deckard, Walter Rittleston and Judi Jones

Glen St. Mary: Tamara Groves

Tampa: Yevette and Lester Olson, Nancy Coderre



Upcoming Events

The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society will hold its joint meeting and program with the **Jacksonville Genealogical Society** May 21. The speaker will be Glenn Emory from the Jacksonville Public Library. He is a very entertaining speaker. His topic is "King Kong's River City Roots." The speaker for June will be Sherrie Harris, president of the Jacksonville Jewish Genealogy Society. Call or watch for announcements concerning location. Don't miss these exciting programs -- put both of them on your calendar now.

The **Jacksonville Genealogical Society** is presenting a genealogy class, "Researching in a Straight Line — Backwards." The five-session class, features research in the United States. All classes will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays in the auditorium of the Murray Hill Branch Library, 918 S. Edgewood Ave., Jacksonville. The dates are April 30; May 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2005. For more information and registration, go to: <http://jaxgen.home.comcast.net>

St. Augustine Genealogical Society's next meeting is June 11 and the topic is "Scanning." The society also has the following trips planned:

N. Carolina Archives July 25-30.

Birmingham, Ala. August.

LDS Research in Salt Lake City, Sept. 10-18.

Allen County Library, Fort Wayne, Ind. Oct. 16-23.

For additional information, contact Edie Mixon at 904 810-5187.

The **Ulster Historical Foundation** presents a weeklong program in Northern Ireland, "Ireland at War 1594-1945 - Searching for the Elusive Irish Ancestor". For more information on this Family History Conference, to be held Sept. 5-10, contact the foundation via email at enquiry@uhf.org.uk

The National Genealogical Society will hold its **27th Annual Conference** in the States and GENTECH 2005 on June 1-4. The event will be at the Nashville Convention Center, 601 Commerce St., Nashville, Tenn. More information is available at www.ngsgenealogy.org/

Encyclopedia of Genealogy



A new Web site, www.eogen.com, aims to be a free-content encyclopedia created by readers. It is envisioned to serve as a compendium of genealogical tools and techniques.

Think of it as a resource that provides everything except people. Topics would include explanations of genealogical terms found in research, obsolete medical terms and legal terms. It would also describe locations of records, and help on researching such ethnic groups as Polish, Indian, etc.

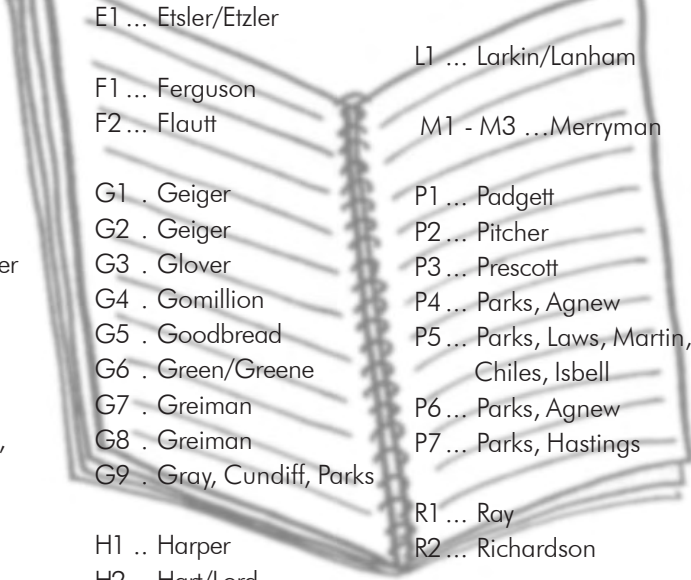
Dick Eastman writes that the site is envisioned as a clearing house of genealogy techniques.

And if you find information that is incorrect on the site, you have the ability to change it.

MAGNIFIERS For Sale

SGES recently received a new shipment of light-gathering magnifiers, which are excellent for reading small print in genealogical books and records. They come in three sizes, small, \$20; medium, \$25; and large, \$60. Wood stands for them can be purchased separately for \$5 each. They are for sale at the library.

Family Notebooks Containing Research Papers on the Subject Family(ies) in Our Library



A1 .. Allen	E1 ... Etsler/Etzler	L1 ... Larkin/Lanham
A2 .. Anderson	F1 ... Ferguson	M1 - M3 ...Merryman
A3 .. Austin	F2... Flautt	P1 ... Padgett
B1 ... Blood	G1 . Geiger	P2... Pitcher
B2... Brown	G2 . Geiger	P3... Prescott
B3... Brown	G3 . Glover	P4 ... Parks, Agnew
B4... Bowles/Crownover	G4 . Gomillion	P5... Parks, Laws, Martin, Chiles, Isbell
B5... Braly, Braswell, Cundiff	G5 . Goodbread	P6... Parks, Agnew
B6... Burnham, Cunningham, Halstead, Martin, Parks	G6 . Green/Greene	P7... Parks, Hastings
C1 .. Cook/Cooke	G7 . Greiman	R1 ... Ray
C2 .. Caldwell	G8 . Greiman	R2... Richardson
C3 .. Cunningham	G9 . Gray, Cundiff, Parks	S1 ... Smith
C4 .. Crownover	H1 .. Harper	S2 ... Stephens/Stevens
C5 .. Crownover	H2 .. Hart/Lord	S3 ... Scott
C6 .. Crownover/Cundiff	H3 .. Higginbotham	S4 ... Scott
C7 .. Cundiff/Jennings/ Crownover	H4 .. Higginbotham	S5 ... Scott/Hammon
C8 .. Crownover/Crafton/ Myers/Pinkley	H5 .. Howard	S6 ... Scott/Bennett
C9 .. Crownover/ Coleman/West	H6 .. Hayes	S7 ... Sutterfield/Davis
C10 Crownover/Crabtree	H7 .. Howell/Crownover	S8 ... Scott/Parks
C11 Cundiff, (Lewis/ Jackson),(Cundiff/ Murphy)	J1 ... Jernigan	S9 ... Scott
C12 Crownover	J2 ... Jernigan	T1 - T10 ...Terrell
C13 Cunningham/Parks	J3 ... Johnson	W1 - W3 ...Wages
C14 Crownover/Cundiff	J4 ... Jennings, Cundiff, Richardson	
C15 Cundiff	J5 ... Jordan	
D1 .. Davis		
D2 .. Doyle		



2005 Officers

President:	Jon R. Ferguson
1 st Vice President:	Dot Skinner
2 nd Vice President:	Fay Doling
Recording Secretary:	Pat Gallops-Smith
Corresponding Secretary:	Skip Brown
Treasurer:	Myra Thompson
Historian:	Dick Cardell

Wife Selling in Britain

www.ontalink.com/history/18th_century/regions/British/wife_selling.html, contains ads that appeared in British newspapers, including one from a publisher:

“As instances of the sales of wives have of late frequently occurred among the lower classes of people who consider such sale lawful, we think it right to inform them that, by a determination of the courts of law’ in a former reign, they were declared illegal and void and considered (a light in which religion must view them) as mere pretence to sanction the crime of adultery.”

Contributed by Mary Burke

New Magazine for Cemetery Nuts



By Jon R. Ferguson

Carolyn Brassell recently called my attention to the fact that a new magazine is expected to begin publication.

People who like to hang out in ancestral graveyards will soon get their own magazine from www.TheCemeteryClub.com.

“Epitaphs” the Magazine for Cemetery Lovers By Cemetery Lovers, will premiere this summer with featured cemeteries, a Q&A column, readers’ experiences, poetry, photography, artwork, resource listings, book reviews and a taphophile (or cemetery lover) of the month.

Editors are seeking submissions from anyone with an interest in cemeteries, regardless of writing experience. Final details are still being worked out. For more information, go to the website.

I’m expecting my interview momentarily.

By the way, did you see the article in The Florida Times-Union on Thursday, April 7 featuring various genealogists from this area? It is in the Prime Time section.

Seminar Being Planned

Our Board will sponsor a nationally known speaker for a seminar in October. We have been in contact with several potential speakers. We anticipate having one speaker for the whole day. If you have a special request, please advise one of your Board Members. Details will follow.

MERGER PROGRESS REPORT

Merger Committees from Jacksonville Genealogical Society and The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society, Inc. have completed their review of proposed by-laws for a combined society. Their proposed changes will now be referred back to the By-Laws Committee for revision. It is anticipated, also, that new Policies and Procedures will also be worked on.

We continue having joint programs

Continued from Page 1

However, tackling the pile of paper without first figuring out the system brings special meaning to the old government saying "no piece of paper is ever lost here; it just sometimes can not be found."

on a monthly basis, with responsibility for speaker, refreshments, etc., being alternated. Our meetings are presently being held in the Willowbranch Library on Park Street, but we will meet at the Webb Wesconnett Library on 103rd Street when remodeling is completed on that building.

Your cooperation and attendance is appreciated.

Robert Davis is director of the Family and Regional History Program, Wallace State Community College, Hanceville, Ala. He is the author of numerous books on genealogy.

The Southern Genealogist's
Exchange Society, Inc.
P.O. 2801
Jacksonville, FL
32203-2801



Yard Sale

Saturday, April 30

There will be a fund-raiser yard sale at our library on Saturday, April 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bring donated items to the library on Thursday afternoon or Friday prior to the sale.

We would appreciate it if you would tag the items with a suggested price.

If you wish unsold items returned, you must be here before the end of the sale.

We need a lot of volunteer labor. Can you help? Proceeds of this sale will be applied to the principal balance of our mortgage.

Call Skip Brown at 387-4953 to volunteer.

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