



LEGACY

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER OF

THE SOUTHERN GENEALOGIST'S
EXCHANGE SOCIETY, INC.

Library: 6215 Sauterne Drive, Jacksonville, FL • 904-778-1000 • www.sgesjax.com

From the President

It is so wonderful to request a special newsletter to share with you some of the exciting events transpiring at SGES.

First, I want to begin by saying how pleased I am with our monthly programs. On Saturday, August 8, Taryn Rodriguez from the Beaches Historical Museum spoke on the collection available at the Beach. Her direction and capabilities have added to the standard available resources. Taryn's personality added to the delight of our members. You left the meeting with the feeling you wanted to drive to the beach immediately to review the holdings.

In July, Miles Meyer from the Family History Center, Arlington, gave outstanding instruction on the pending release of information with Family Search.org. Miles encompasses so much knowledge in search functions via the computer, which he imparted in only our "speaker time" allotment. He is a definite source in Jacksonville.

The proverbial "Hats Off" to our vice president in charge of speakers, Bud Reed. He does an excellent job.

As a signal for next month, Terril Thompson is speaking regarding 15 families of North Florida, 1783-1821, who received Spanish Land Grants in this area. He has

completed extensive research and will reveal portions to us.

If you miss a meeting, you have missed an opportunity....

Note these meetings for the rest of the year:

October 10 Family History Month

"Our Ancestors Antiques Home Show."

Speaker: You!

This is an annual celebration of family. Bring something that communicates your own family history in some way: an antique, a photograph, a book, an oral history, an heirloom.

Be prepared to have a five-minute platform to share with others your very own family history.

November 14 Annual Business Meeting

Election of Officers for 2010. Although we conduct our business, we combine business with a "lunch on your own".

We will be meeting at Bono's Original Location on Beach Blvd for Bar-B-Que & Business.

This is an opportunity to gain insight as to the goals, efforts and successes of your society.

Speakers from the Board of Directors. Know who's running the

show.

December 5 Annual Christmas Social

We host a covered dish luncheon and hold the installation of officers.

This is a time we have an SGES "Has Talent! Show."

Our members entertain in a time of enjoyment for all. Genealogists have brains, talent and humor! And, it is all free; we just share.

December always boasts the largest meeting attendance of the year, so plan now to attend.

Garden & Bake Sale

Saturday, September 19 8 a.m

Non-profit organizations have always existed from the endowment of interested folk. We constantly look for ways to help our society exist and benefit you. We have held an annual garage sale in the past, normally in the summer. We have pushed this sale to September, mainly because of the heat. Some of our members have donated extra

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nice items, some heirlooms, to be sold on the above date. Here are the ways you can help:

Donate items

These items should be clean and priced. Please place in a box for transport. We do not have storage facilities. Bring the box ready to sell on

Friday, September 18 for volunteers to receive. Please let us know if you plan to donate. If you have a larger item and it needs to be moved, we have a member who has volunteered to use his pick-up truck, but we must know in advance. Call 904-778-1000 or 904-262-1948 to donate and for pick up as necessary.

Bake items

Bring these items any time Friday or Saturday at 7 a.m.

Grow plants

We will sell plants. Bring with same instructions as above.

Volunteer time

We need help on Friday to receive items and prepare for the sale and we need help all day on Saturday. We normally have hundreds of people come by. If you can work for a few hours only, that will help. Friday hours are: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday hours start at 6:30 a.m. to probably 4 p.m. We will end earlier but must clean up afterward, and our all day Friday and Saturday workers are "plumb tuckered" out by then.

This is our major fundraiser of the year and it all depends on us.

Join in on the success!

Announcements

We are blessed with a goodly membership spread throughout the United States. Therefore, many of you have not heard the announcements made over July and August.

City Cemetery Commission of Jacksonville

In 2004, the commission was assigned the mission of completing a report on the Jacksonville cemeteries with emphasis on abandoned and neglected properties. This assignment was directed by the Jacksonville City Council with Councilman Art Shad introducing the effort. Councilman Joel McEakin has been intently involved during the study. Eight people served on the commission headed by Jerry Spinks, president of the CCC. The final report concluded with a recommendation that a non-profit organization step into a position of organizing and training volunteers in clean-up efforts within the abandoned and neglected cemeteries commission. Another separate sphere regarded an entity available to complete cemetery reports and submit those reports to each individual city councilman for his specific region. I am pleased to report that by recommendation of the SGES board, we have accepted the position of completing the report.

Cemetery Restoration and Preservation Trust

Mrs. Shannon Palmer, Executive Director of CRPT, Jacksonville, has joined our ranks as a member of the SGES Board. Shannon moved to Jacksonville from New Orleans and immediately affiliated with the Old City Cemetery. Her

energies created CRPTjax (Cemetery Restoration and Preservation Trust) along with a website filled with information and sources with emphasis on the Old City Cemetery. We are absolutely thrilled to announce Shannon Palmer has come under the wing of the SGES and we will jointly, with more strength, move onward in beautification and preservation of our city cemeteries. The SGES website is under revision with the new additions of CRPT. Shannon has issued the following statement:

Perpetual care is the ongoing maintenance and care of cemeteries, and is something we expect from the caretakers of our cemeteries. However, it is not always guaranteed. Sometimes strangers step-up and become the caretakers of these lost cemeteries. Sometimes we do it alone, sometimes we do it in groups, but always we do it because we care; because we have perpetual care within ourselves. It is this kind of caring that motivated me to organize the Cemetery Recovery & Preservation Trust of Jacksonville (CRPTjax) in 2007.

The mission of CRPTjax is to record, preserve, maintain, and protect the historic cemeteries of Jacksonville, as well as increase public appreciation and awareness of the historical and cultural value cemeteries provide communities. This year, CRPTjax is changing the way it cares. Our mission isn't changing, but our organizational structure is undergoing a significant metamorphosis. We will be joining SGES in its cemetery initiatives. CRPTjax as a separate entity will dissolve and re-form as a committee under the board of SGES. This partnership will open doors that were previously closed to both organizations.

CRPTjax is excited to share with SGES its educational pro-

grams, cemetery survey protocols, scouting programs, cemetery tours and cemetery expertise. Together, we can continue to provide the needed perpetual care for our neglected and abandoned cemeteries.

105,000 obituaries

Enhancing the offering of cemetery information is the society's greatly expanded obituary collection. Visit the SGES Library to access in excess of 105,000 obituaries from Jacksonville and the surrounding areas. These obituaries start in the mid 1800s to present day, many with photos. From 2004 to 2009 we have every Jacksonville obituary. Visit the SGES library to view these sources, which are alphabetical, fully searchable by name, on our in house computer.

New Collection

The society collection is growing abundantly again with a donation from Mrs. Dennette.

Thorough the years, she has been involved with the Houston family and cemetery. One of our members, Pam Moore, pointed her our way. Mrs. Dennett's collection was large and diverse and we were able to share with other non-profits, within the city, that had direct interest in some items that were historically related rather than genealogically related. Thank you many times over to Mrs. Dennett for her contribution to our society.

Jacksonville Historical Society Purchase

"The Jacksonville Historical Society is growing to better serve Jacksonville" as stated in a news release on August 10, 2009. As you know, JHS restored the Old St. Andrews Church and the Merrill House Museum. Now a new opportunity has come its way. On JHS' 80th anniversary, it has purchased 1.2 acres containing the original Old St. Lukes Building in Downtown Jacksonville at Palmetto Avenue and Duval Street just west of the Veterans Memorial Arena.

These two buildings have about 21,000 square feet of useable space. The two buildings were erected in 1882 and 1878.

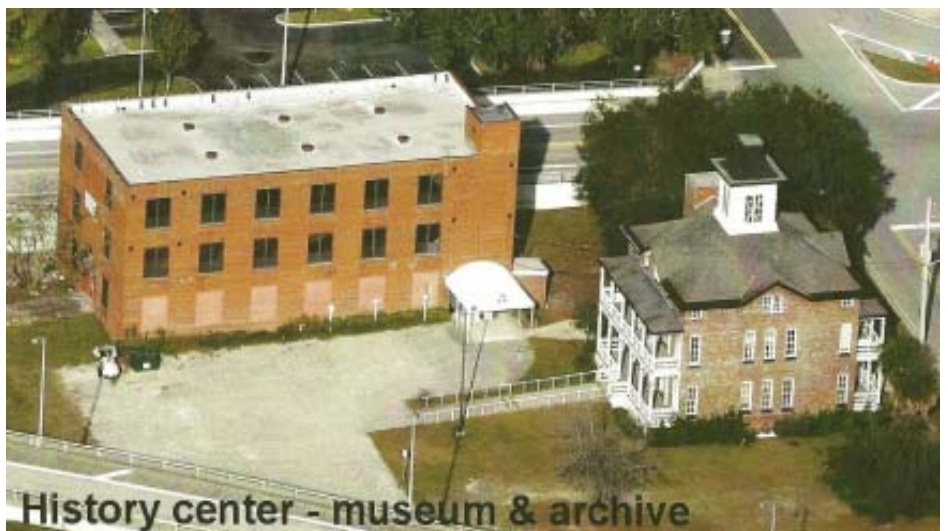
The property will become the Jacksonville History Center. As a history complex and drawing card for tourists, the plans are formidable. "The mission of the Society's new history center is to dramatically increase public awareness and appreciation of all aspects of Jacksonville history by providing one location for citizens and educators to access a wide range of local reference material and to receive instructions on proper preservation of public and private records. According to an Aug. 10 news

release from JHS, plans are to:

- Consolidate the Historical Society's extensive but scattered archive collections.
- Partner with the area's premier genealogy society, Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society.
- Present permanent and rotating exhibits on local history.
- Operate an on-site oral history program with a recording studio.
- Provide classes to the public on archiving family records.
- Interact with colleges for museum and archive internship programs.
- Act as a reference center for other collections to Jacksonville.
- Interact with local public and private schools to teach local history.
- Provide archive services and supplies to individuals and organizations.

The public is also invited to sponsor a room or area in these historical buildings to honor their family or organization.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly praise the JHS for the needed and worthy endeavor in preserving the past with the future of Jacksonville in mind. SGES applauds our sister organization in their worthy efforts of continuing a legacy for Jacksonville.



Off to Arkansas

Betty and Bud Reed will attend the Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, September 1-5. On the last evening, by special invitation, Ancestry.com will entertain society leaders from around the country and the Reeds are honored to represent SGES as guests of honor at the Ancestry gathering.

New Members

We welcome new members and they will be mentioned individually in our regular newsletter as is our normal procedure.

2009 Officers

Executive Officers

President: Elizabeth "Betty" Reed
1st VP: Weymouth "Bud" Reed
2nd VP: Carl "Skip" Brown
Treasurer: Marcus Leach
Recording Sec.: Mike Lawson
Corresponding Sec.: Carolyn Larder
Parliamentarian: Fay Doling
Historian: Karen Rhodes

Appointed Officers

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Computer Security: Keys Rhodes
Editor: Anne M. Johnson
Education: Jim Vearil
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Membership: Elizabeth Stoeffler
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Publicity: Nela Eberhardy
Policies & Procedures: Dick Cardell
Telephone: Shirley Douglas
Webmaster: John Johnson

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