



LEGACY

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE SOUTHERN GENEALOGIST'S
EXCHANGE SOCIETY, INC.

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

From the President

Changes in Officers for 2010

Shortly after being installed, both Betty and Bud Reed resigned as officers. According to the SGEs By-laws, the first Vice President automatically moves up to fill the President's vacancy and other positions may be filled by appointment from the Board until the next election. The Board met on January 7, 2010 and filled in the vacant slots and made the following slate:

President: Jon R. Ferguson
1st Vice President: Mike Lawson
2nd Vice President: Bud Reed
Rec. Secretary: Becky Frisbee
Cor. Secretary: Carolyn Larder
Treasurer: Marcus Leach
Historian: Richard Cardell

The new president has appointed the following
Chairs of Standing Committees (they are also Board Members):

Librarian: Carla Mellott
Publicity: Nela Eberhardy
Library Manager: Jon Ferguson*
Cemetery Liaison: Mike Lawson
and Jon Ferguson*
Parliamentarian: Dick Cardell*
Education: Jim Vearil

*Officers, so not counted twice.
Total Board Members = 10

Any of the officers will be happy to respond to any questions you may have, and they will be expecting your continued splendid cooperation. We plan to all work together in harmony for the good of the society. Let us know any suggestion you have to better serve you.

Update on Ancestry.com

The contract to sell over 7,500 of our collection of digitized obituaries from early on through 2003 to Ancestry.com has been signed and sent to them. We will send them a set of our digitized obits and they will give us \$7,500.00 plus Ancestry.com World Edition to use as long as any of our obits appear anywhere on Ancestry. It is expected that all of this will be finalized within about 30 days. We anticipate having the Ancestry program on our laptop computer for use in the library. A time limit will be set if others are waiting.

Jon Ferguson began making hard copies of current obituaries in August 2002, as well as the older ones connected to his research. George and Esther Thomas noticed that we had about run out of room in our files so they offered to digitize them. This was a massive job. George also began digitizing the daily obituaries from the local paper and those in surrounding area. He retired from that on December 31, 2008. Carla Mellott began saving the obituaries until someone could work on them. Mike Lawson then took the bull by the horns and trained under George. Becky Frisbee did some scanning of the hard copies also, so you see this was not a one-person project. It has

(continued on Page 2)

(continued from Page 1)

been determined to discontinue this project on December 31, 2009. Obituaries are becoming much more available on the Internet now and our efforts can be put to better use in other projects. However, we still have boxes of hard copies that should be added to our collection if anyone is interested to digitizing them for us. Volunteers are always welcome.

Repair and Improvements Pending

It is important that we deter the water coming through the walls of the library. This only seems to occur when the water level is high or the rain is accompanied by heavy winds. It is anticipated that a gutter, or gutters will be put up directing the water down the driveway and toward the street.

A leak in the roof is again making its presence known. It was thought that the roof was in fair shape, but the water is finding its way through the ceiling in the locked room. The window facings in there are also damaged from excessive water. An investigation as to the proposed solution to this problem is underway.

We anticipate some change in the alignment of furniture in the front room when we install a scanner/copier and have the laptop computer ready for use.

Watch for these and other changes and be careful. We don't want anyone falling, etc.

Interested in working in library?

We will soon be conducting training sessions for those of you who have indicated an interest in becoming a host or hostess in our library. Please call 778-1000 and let us know the best time for you so that we can schedule hours to fit the majority.

Local Grave Stone Symbols

By Jon R. Ferguson and Michael E. Lawson

Much data may be found in cemeteries. We are collecting various items to help intrigue others who may follow in our footsteps. We have found bird feeders, birdbaths, squirrel feeders, post office boxes on tall poles, replicas of animals of many sorts, etc.

Symbols are prevalent and may be of assistance in research of your ancestor. We spent several minutes in the Dixie Pythian portion of the Greenlawn Cemetery at 4300 Beach Boulevard looking for special symbols. We found several different ones for the Knights of Pythian members: One is a crest inside a circle with the letters F C B, another one with the same letters was a circle with triangles and fire axes inside. We discovered that the letters stand for: Friendship, Charity and Benevolence. Others used F F C that represents Freedom, Friendship and Charity. The Pythian Sisters use P L E F that signifies: Purity, Love, Equality and Fidelity. We also found a marker with a circle with an Indian head in it, with T O T E below it. We discovered this to be the symbol of the Improved Order of Red Men and stands for "Totem of the Eagle." This cemetery was established in 1918 by the Dixie Pythian Lodge and was called Pythian Cemetery. The Pythian area is near the front on Beach Boulevard. The cemetery is now part of the Service Corporation International who acquired it in 1986.

We also learned the three links of a chain with F L T in them indicates a member of the Oddfellows and represents: Friendship, Love and Truth.

In the St. Nicholas Cemetery at 3811 Beach Boulevard, we found four markers, two male, two female,

with a circle including a shell-shaped outline with crossed oars and M. T. A. 3 V's inside. This symbol indicates membership in the Mosaic Templars of America. The three Vs stand for: "Veni, Vidi, Vici" spoken by Julius Caesar in 47 BC which is interpreted, "I came, I saw, I conquered." The Mosaic Templars of America was an organization of black men while the Woodmen of the World was for white men. Both of these organizations offered a decent funeral with a grave marker. They later offered full life insurance, included the spouses and family. Both continue in business today with a much wider range of offerings.

W. O. W. markers vary greatly. Many of them depict a stump, log, or limb. There is one an entire tree in Evergreen Cemetery. There is one entire tree in Evergreen Cemetery with each stub of a limb listing the name of a child of the deceased.

Also to be found in the Evergreen Cemetery is a plot of members of the Order of Hermann Sons. Their markers include O. D. H. S. that is abbreviations of the German name.

Many Masonic and Order of Eastern Star symbols are present. One marker in the St. Nicholas Cemetery on Olive and Linden Streets contains the "secret" for the Masonic Order. That secret is now published on the Internet.

You may begin to see how and why we have so much fun doing our work in evaluating the condition of the cemeteries to be reported to the City Council.

Book Review

"A History of Florida; A Play in Three Acts Revealed in The Old St. Nicholas Cemetery"
by Kay Ellen Gilmour, M.D.

Cemetery books normally list the data transcribed from grave markers. A few show relationship, occupations, residences, etc. from research done by the surveyor. Only one is known to show all the data found in this 8 ½ x 11" spiral bound, soft cover book containing 215 pages.

Dr. Gilmour has outdone herself with research. The format for this book is unusual (That's an understatement). The "How-to section" in "Before the Curtain" is a must read in order to understand the way names are capitalized. In "Act One" you are led into the discovery and settlement during the period 1513-1763. During the "first intermission" you are introduced to the first cemetarians, a word created by the author to indicate those interred in the Historic St. Nicholas Cemetery. "Act Two" takes you through 1763-1821.

This is truly a history book. A special interest in medicine is naturally present due to the author's field as an M. D. The "Second Intermission" covers this subject well and then you are introduced to the "Age of Steamboats."

"Act Three" covers the territorial period beginning in 1821 into statehood and forward to current times. Finally in "Curtain Call" you are given much more data about normal occupations, origin and a listing of those buried in the cemetery, together with grave location, if known.

Much more data is in "After Party" including data nice to know as well as interesting to read. The final pages contain poems collected by the author with relevance to the contents of the book.

This book is a "Must Have" for history buff, cemetery nut, or lover of fine literature. It is available from the author for a mere \$30. All net proceeds go toward maintenance of the cemetery. You may contact Dr. Gilmour via e-mail at: stnicholascemetery@gmail.com, or Dr. Kay Gilmour, 1347 Morier Street, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

Membership Renewal & Change of Address

Many of you have already renewed your membership for 2010. We thank you. We need each other. Please encourage your friends who are interested in family history to come with you to see what our library has to offer. Perhaps they will want to be a member. The Post Office is getting more particular about having correct addresses. Bulk-rated mail is neither forwarded nor returned, it is destroyed. We are charged for notification of change by the Post Office. If you move or your mailing address is changed, please advise us at: SGES, P. O. Box 2801, Jacksonville, FL 32203. By the way, we have had that same mailing address for a very long time!

If you have questions concerning membership dues or how you can help us recruit more members, etc., please phone us during hours of operation: 10-3 Wednesday, Thursday and the 1st and 3rd Saturday each week. Our phone number is 904 778-1000.

Wonderful Resources

Mike Lawson

When was the last time that you took time or even thought about spending some time browsing the wonderful collection at your SGES library? The library is open 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Wednesday and Thursday and the first and third Saturday of each month. If these hours are not convenient, give us a call at 778-1000 and one of our volunteers will schedule additional time in the library.

There are over 6,000 volumes of information that is at your fingertips and you can schedule time slots so someone will be there to help you find information about your ancestors.

Transcriptions of many cemeteries with accurate information that answers many questions can be explored at the SGES library.

Our library has over 106,000 obits that have been digitized for easy access. Obits have many clues that help you over many brick walls.

Bring your laptop and use our wireless Internet connection as you explore Google and Yahoo.

Many of the folks at the recent SGES meeting asked for the recipe for the dessert Mike Lawson brought. For your epicurean enjoyment.

This is the first cousin, once removed of a Pineapple/Blueberry Crunch Cake

- 3/4 cup of butter
- 1/2 cup dark chocolate chips (melt the chocolate and butter together on low heat)
- 1 20 oz. can of blueberry pie crust filling
- 1 20 oz can of crushed pineapple
- 1 18.25 box of yellow cake mix
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 small package of coconut

Coat bottom of 9 x 13 aluminum baking pan with butter
Pour crushed pineapple with juice into the pan
Pour in blueberry pie crust filling and mix with pineapple
Layer in coconut
Spread cake mix on top of coconut
Sprinkle pecans on top of cake mix
Drizzle the chocolate and butter mix as the last step on top
350 degree oven temp — 35 - 40 minutes cooking

2010 Officers

Executive Officers

President: Jon R. Ferguson
1st Vice President: Mike Lawson
2nd Vice President: Bud Reed
Rec. Secretary: Becky Frisbee
Cor. Secretary: Carolyn Larder
Treasurer: Marcus Leach
Historian: Richard Cardell

Appointed Officers

Librarian: Carla Mellott
Publicity: Nela Eberhardy
Library Manager: Jon Ferguson
Cemetery Liaison: Mike Lawson and Jon Ferguson
Parliamentarian: Dick Cardell
Education: Jim Vearil

26 new members
100 renewals
15 lifetimes
1 honorary member

**The Southern Genealogist's
Exchange Society
P.O. Box 2801
Jacksonville, FL 32201-2801**