

#### Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc

PO Box 536309, Orlando, FL 32853-6309 Email:cfgs@cfgs.org Website: www.cfgs.org

The Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. (formerly known as the Central Florida Genealogical & Historical Society) was formed in 1969 and incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1981. The Society welcomes everyone with an interest in genealogy, the history of Florida and the United States as well as our ancestral nations, to further our objectives through education and publications.

**Meetings** - Regular monthly meetings are held September through May at the **LDS CULTURAL HALL** on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. at 45 E. Par St (the corner of Par and Formosa). A Daytime Group meets bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday afternoon of odd-numbered months. A Computer Special Interest Group meets bi-monthly (even-numbered months) on Saturday morning. The Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the LDS Cultural Center. The President designates exceptions to the date and place for meetings. All meetings are open to the public. Visitors are welcome and members are encouraged to bring guests.

#### Membership:

Individual -	Year \$20	Life - \$200
Family -	Year \$25	Life - \$300

Membership begins the first day of September, extends for one full year and includes a subscription to the following Society publications.

*Buried Treasures*, a quarterly publication, features 24 pages of articles, book reviews, Bible records, old letters, wills, etc. submitted by members. Gina Simmons Herbert designed the cover for *Buried Treasures* in 1989.

*Treasure Chest News*, a newsletter published nine times a year features 10-12 pages of Society news, library acquisitions, genealogy tips, announcements of workshops, conferences, meetings, etc. *Note: Beginning with the Aug/Sept 2010, the newsletter will be delivered electronically to those who have an email address.* 

Permission is granted to quote or reprint any article or other material [unless stated otherwise], either in whole or in part, provided credit is given to the Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. citing author, volume & date.

The Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. disclaims responsibility for statements, whether in fact or of opinion, made by contributors.

<b>Publications of the Central Florida Genealogical Society</b> Unless otherwise noted, books are soft cover, 8 ½ x 11" and include an every-name index. #Available through Amazon.com
Culinary Treasures Cookbook \$6
[180 p., soft cover, spiral bound, 6 x 9"]
<b>#Early Settlers of Orange County, Florida</b> - a reprint of the
1915 book by C. E. Howard [indexed, 80 p.] Rev ed. 2015 . \$15 #Greenwood Cemetery Historic Hike: a visit with over
425 Orlandoans at their final resting place by Steve Rajtar
[220 p., indexed, photos]
Hawthorne Funeral Home Records Vol 1 (1954-1961) [220 p.,
3 indices] \$20
Marriages of Orange County, Florida
#Vol 1: 1869-1909 [indexed, 196 p.] \$17
#Vol 2: 1910-1924 [indexed, 165 p.] \$17
#Vol 3: 1925-1934 [indexed, 180 p.] \$17
<i>Orlando Births 1910-1922.</i> [180 p., every name & geographical index]
Orlando Deaths 1910-1922. [190 p., every name & geographical index] \$17
#Orlando Deaths 1922-Apr 1929 [190 p., every name index].
Orange County, Florida Cemeteries:
#Vol I: Smaller Cemeteries of SW Orange Co (13 small
cemeteries). [indexed, 124 p.] \$14
<i>Vol II: Larger Cemeteries of SW Orange Co - Washington</i> <i>Park &amp; Winter Garden</i> [indexed, 213 p.] \$20
<i>Glen Haven Cemetery (Winter Park) - Vol I (Sect A-H).</i> [indexed, 162 p.] \$17
#Greenwood Cemetery (Orlando) - Vol. 1 (Sections A-J). [indexed, 270 p.]
#Greenwood Cemetery (Orlando) - Vol 2 (Sections K-W).
[indexed, 320 p.] \$22
<i>Miller's Orlando City Directory 1907 - A reprint of the 1907 city directory with added index.</i> [indexed, 115 p] \$15
<i>Orlando City Directory 1912.</i> [215 p., index of names, locales, streets & occupations]
Orange County Gazetteer and Business Directory -
A reprint of the 1887 directory with added index. Orange County included parts of Lake, Seminole & Osceola Counties in 1887 [300 p. directory; 66 p. index.] \$25
<b>#Powell Cemetery in Orange County, FL.</b> [134 p, full color cover, perfect binding, fully indexed] \$12
Where Did They Put Wakulla? A Genealogist's Guide to the
in here Dia They I at it and an General Sist 5 Guide to the
<i>Library</i> A listing of library call numbers (Dewey) for every state, county and major genealogical topic. [42 p. booklet, soft
Library A listing of library call numbers (Dewey) for every

*World War I Discharge Papers - Orange County, Florida,* [indexed, 97 p].....\$14 To order any of these publications, send check or money order to the Society address (above)

Please add \$2.50 per book for shipping plus applicable taxes.

# **Buried Treasures**

Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. P. O. Box 536309, Orlando, FL 32853-6309 Web Site: http://www.cfgs.org Email: cfgs@cfgs.org Editor: Betty Jo Stockton (407) 876-1688 Email: bjstock@cfl.rr.com

The Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. meets monthly, September through May. Meetings are held at the Cultural Hall, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The LDS Cultural Hall is located at 45 E. Par, Orlando, FL (at the corner of Par St & Formosa Ave) The Daytime Group meets bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday afternoon of odd-numbered months at the Winter Park University Club. The Computer Special Interest Group meets bimonthly on the first Saturday of even-numbered months. The Board meets year-round on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at

# January - March 2015

the LDS Cultural Hall. All are welcome to attend.

# **Table of contents**

Thoughts from your editor 2
Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc - Overview of activities 3
First Methodist Church of Orlando 1916 4
Writ of Fieri Facias George & Barnard Sigman - Bucks Co, PA 1768 7
Livret de Famille - Family of John Vasgan Avakian 1913 - 1975
Huffman Prairie - Cradle of Aviation 11
Central Florida's Historical Treasures at the Regional History Center 14
Irish Research Tips 16
Online resources for Irish research
Index

# Contributors to this issue

Patricia Allen	Marcelle Hobbs
Sallie Belperche	Betty Jo Stockton
Deborah Harris	



#### **THOUGHTS FROM YOUR EDITOR**

We, at CFGS, are always looking for Central Florida historical items that we can include in *Buried Treasures* or that might make another book for our collection. How about you local folks going though your boxes of memorabilia to see what you might have. Were your folks members of a club, church or organization that had publications, yearbooks, directories or photographs? How about sharing those - we'll copy and return. Or if they're items you're not sure what to do with, consider donating them (after you've shared with us) to Orlando Memory, the Regional History Center or the Florida Archives. As an example, Carrie Boswell, one of our long-time members who is currently housebound due to health concerns, is going through boxes left by her mother and aunt. Among the items she found were the Mont Verde Academy yearbook that was extracted in the previous issue of this publication. Her latest find was a cabinet card featuring the Conway Polo Team [See the photo on the back cover of this issue.]. Research dates it to about 1890. Of course, none of the 6 players are named - that would be too easy - but it's a great find. So what's in the boxes in your attic or closets?

If you're not from Central Florida, we'd still like to have items for our publications and will consider donating items that you don't need to an archives or museum in your locale of interest. I've sent my step-great grandmother's autograph book to the Clermont Co, OH museum and photos of the Seagraves Fire Engine Manufacturers to the Columbus, OH local library. Always check before you send items, but you may be surprised what local archives might appreciate.

Another possible find in your boxes of memorabilia may be funeral or memorial cards. These were given to those attending a funeral and usually included birth and death information and sometimes a photo or information about the deceased. The EPOCH program, through the Genealogy Center, would love to have those to scan and add to their collection. The next scanning session at the library will be in September, but if you'd like to bring yours to one of our board members, we will be glad to get them to the library for you. If you want them returned, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope.

So what is EPOCH, you ask? EPOCH is ELECTRONICALLY PRESERVING OBITUARIES AS CULTURAL HERITAGE, a program to gather and preserve obituaries. If you've checked the *Sentinel* lately for placing an obituary, you've discovered that they charge by the word - and a fortune at that. The starting fee is \$75 for about 10 words. The obit I'd planned to place for my brother, Bob Kieser, would have been over \$400, plus a large additional fee for a photo. Instead, I placed it on EPOCH without cost - and could include up to 15 photos, videos, etc. Tributes - as EPOCH calls them - can be for anyone - local or not, recent or not, relative or not. In fact, I was told that if I wanted to write a tribute for all 3000+ names on my family tree, they'd be thrilled. What a great place to preserve more of our family history. If you'd like to check it out, go to <<u>www.epochlegacies.org</u>>

Have you been watching the great genealogical webinars that have been presented recently? Some of the presentations are a one-time deal, but many are recorded and available for some time afterwards. Some, too, are available on demand to members of the sponsoring organization. As an example, this week I've watched a webinar on *German Naming Patterns*, sponsored by the GA Genealogical Society, the RootsTech talks on *Finding Your Family On Newspapers.com* and *Finding the Living Among the Dead: Using the Internet to Find Your Living Cousins* <<u>https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/rootstech-2015-videos/1174</u>> and Lisa Louise Cooke's talk on *Genealogical Cold Cases* <<u>www.genealogygems.com</u>>. Legacy Family Tree <<u>www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com</u>> offers at least one free webinar per week, with most available for a week or more after the original presentation. Many, but not all, of the webinars are listed on the calendar at Geneawebinars <<u>http://blog.geneawebinars.com/p/calendar.html</u>>. How else can you take a class at home in your jammies or flipflops?

At a recent board meeting, we were pleased to have a visit from several dignitaries of the LDS church, who have been so generous in allowing CFGS to use their facilities without cost. To give our guests an idea of what we do as a Society, we prepared an overview of our activities. Since a few of our board members later commented "I didn't know we did all that..", we decided to share that overview with all our members. Perhaps there are activities that you didn't know about, as well. Feel free to join us for any of them - or ask for more information. Check the website <<u>www.cfgs.org</u> > or ask any board member.

#### CENTRAL FLORIDA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

#### **MEETINGS:**

- **General meetings** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month; September through May LDS Family History Center 7:30 p.m.
  - Programs on a variety of genealogical topics, to include research, technology, local history, etc. Preceded by Mini-session at 7:00 p.m. - informal discussion group
- **Daytime meetings** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of odd-numbered months, year round University Club of Winter Park 2 p.m.
- Programs on a variety of genealogical topics, to include research, technology, local history, etc. **Computer Special Interest Group** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of even-numbered month year-round
- Casselberry Public Library 10:00 a.m. Discussions of technology for genealogy
- **Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month year-round LDS Family History Center 10:00 a.m.

Instruction and discussion of Family Tree Maker genealogical software

Yearly full-day seminar with nationally known speakers - dates and locations vary

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

- Ask Granny program to assist seniors in compiling family histories. Sessions presented without cost at assisted living facilities, senior centers, churches, etc. Volunteers work one-on-one with seniors, who complete a 4- generation pedigree chart and family group sheet.
- Central Florida Fair Information booth
- Pine Castle Pioneer Days Information booth

**Genealogy classes** on a variety of topics and various settings - library, churches, schools, senior centers **SeniorsNow** - Work with SeniorsNow to offer 5-week class in Computer Genealogy for seniors

- Genealogy Center Work with Orange County Public Library's West Oaks Genealogy Center,
- offering classes, volunteer help, donation of books, etc.
- Family History Center A number of our members volunteer regularly at the FHC
- Family History Conference CFGS members offer classes & volunteer at the South Orlando Stake's Annual Family History Conference

#### **PUBLICATIONS:**

- Treasure Chest News Monthly digital newsletter, sent to all members
- **Buried Treasures** -, A digital & print quarterly journal, sent to members and genealogical libraries; indexed in Periodical Source Index to give world-wide distribution
- **Compiled Books** on local history and genealogy: 21 books in print, ranging from cemetery compilations, reprints of out-of-copyright local histories & directories; local marriages; birth and death records; etc. Currently working on survey of newer sections of Greenwood Cemetery.
- **Possible future publications**: In discussion with Orange County Courthouse & Regional History Center to publish older, less accessible information

### WEBSITE:

Digital presence <<u>www.cfgs.org</u>> on Internet, to include: Calendar of events Genealogical news Local cemeteries Forum Tips & "How tos" Local resources - early marriages of Orange County; cemetery surveys Back issues of *Buried Treasures* Members only section with current publications; membership lists; community blog

# FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF ORLANDO -1916

## extracted from Souvenir Directory & Year Book - First Methodist Church - Orlando, Florida 1916

by Rev. John B. Ley

(975.924 Ley - Florida Collection, Orlando Public Library)

The Methodists came to Central Florida with its first settlers. Leroy B. Giles held services during the 1850-60s; Rev. J. C. Ley also conducted services during that time. His district extended from the Georgia border southward and from the Atlantic to the Gulf. In 1874, Rev G. W. Ransome was assigned to the Orlando Circuit, which at that time included most of Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. At this time, Orlando was a village of about 450 residents. Rev. T. Bishop followed Rev Ransome; there was no church building and meetings were held in the Court House. The first church building was begun in 1881-2, at the corner of Main & Jackson (where the church still is) under the direction of Rev Anderson Peeler, M.D., at a cost of \$1000. In 1884, a new building - about 50 x 90 feet - was built, with cheesecloth tacked in the windows. The first official records of the church began in 1885.

#### Early Pastors of the First Methodist Church

Rev. A. Peeler	1881-2	2 years
Rev. C. E. Pelot	1883-5	3 years
Rev. J. Anderson	1896	1 year
Rev W. M. Poage	1887-90	4 years
Rev. J. F. Marshall	1891	1 year
Rev. B. K. Thrower	1892-5	4 years
Rev. W. J. Carpenter	1896-8	3 years
Rev. W. M. Poage	1899	1 year
Rev. F. R. Bridges	1900	1 year

Rev. L. R. Moore	.1901	1 year
Rev. H. E. Partridge	1902	1 year
Rev. R. V. Atkinson	1903.6	4 years
Rev. J. ·B. Mitchell	1907-10	4 years
Rev. J. S. Chapman	1911-12	2 years
Rev. J. E. Wray	1913.14	2 years
Rev. J. B. Ley	1915	ln his 2nd
		year

### **Official Directory**

### **Officials**:

Bishop, Collins P. Denny, D. D Richmond, VA
Presiding Elder, Smith Harden 308 E. Jackson
Pastor, John B. Ley 14 E. Jackson
Supernumerary, VA Conf., A. E. Potts
114 E. Jackson
Local Preachers, T. J. Higgs Macy & Hughey

### Trustees

Jas. L. Giles, President	Lucerne Circle
H. H. Dickson, Treas Yowell	-Duckworth Co
T. J. Watkins	. Watkins Bldg
Jas. A. Knox 106	Lucerne Circle
J. L. Guernsey Hardware Sto	ore, Orange Ave
F. A. Curtis	Curtis & O'Neal
E. A. Duckworth Yowell	-Duckworth Co

#### Stewards

Jos. L. Guernsey, President
F. Gray Rush, Secty Ford Auto Co
H. H. Dickson, Tres Dickson & Ives
Frank A. Smith, Asst Treas Watkins Bldg
W. E. Martin Court House
E. H. Walker
H. S. Aths Cooper & Aths, S. Orange
Jas. L. Giles Giles Real Estate, S. Orange
F. A. Curtis Curtis & O'Neal, Stationers
C. E. Howard Photographer, S. Orange
Jas. A. Knox Insurance, Watkins Bldg
E. G. Duckworth Yowell-Duckworth Co
Geo E. Nolan Orlando Gank & Trust Co
A. A. Patch Gulf Refining Co
T. J. Watkins Watkins Bldg
Z. W. Evans Photographer, N. Main
Jno. D. Durden Rouoth & Caldwell

100 E Charach
Acree, Miss Minnie 108 E. Church
Akers, Dr. E. F S. Delaney
Akers, Mrs. E. F 707 S. Delaney
Adams, Mrs. C. M W. Church
Adams, Miss Kate W. Church
Adkins, Miss Mex City
Adkins, Miss Bess City
Ammann, G Country
Amick, Nora City
Amold, Roland Jacksonville
Amold, Charles W E. Robinson
Ammons, Albert City
Ange, J. F Lake Ivanhoe
Ange, Mrs. J. F Lake Ivanhoe
Ange, Sallie Lake Ivanhoe
Ange, Wyman Lake Ivanhoe
Ange, Herman Lake Ivanhoe
Ange, Fenner Lake Ivanhoe
Arthur, A. E
Arthur, MrsA. E 400 E. Concord
Atha, H S. Main
Atha, Mrs H. S
Bacon, Mrs. F. L E. Washington
Ball, W. A
Bandy, Lee Country
Bandy, Mrs Lee Country
Bandy, Julian Country
Banner, Ralph 604 Lexington Ave
Banschbach, George Boone
Banschbach, Mrs. George Boone
Barber, J. W
Barber, trs. J. W 5 E Jackson
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge 104 Gould
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge 104 Gould Barlow, Mrs. Milton 606 Hughey
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge 104 Gould Barlow, Mrs. Milton 606 Hughey Barlow, Mrs. Nanie E 414 S. Lake
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge 104 Gould Barlow, Mrs. Milton 606 Hughey Barlow, Mrs. Nanie E 414 S. Lake
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge104 GouldBarlow, Mrs. Milton606 HugheyBarlow, Mrs. Nanie E414 S. LakeBarman, S. T.301 E. LivingstonBarman, Mrs. S. T.301 E. LivingstonBartlett, HenryAtlantaBartlett, Mrs. HenryAtlanta
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge104 GouldBarlow, Mrs. Milton606 HugheyBarlow, Mrs. Nanie E414 S. LakeBarman, S. T301 E. LivingstonBarman, Mrs. S. T301 E. LivingstonBartlett, HenryAtlantaBartlett, Mrs. HenryAtlantaBaxter, Mrs. LauraW. Pine St
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge104 GouldBarlow, Mrs. Milton606 HugheyBarlow, Mrs. Nanie E414 S. LakeBarman, S. T.301 E. LivingstonBarman, Mrs. S. T.301 E. LivingstonBartlett, HenryAtlantaBartlett, Mrs. HenryAtlantaBaxter, Mrs. LauraW. Pine StBarton, Mrs. J. H.E. Jackson
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge104 GouldBarlow, Mrs. Milton606 HugheyBarlow, Mrs. Nanie E414 S. LakeBarman, S. T301 E. LivingstonBarman, Mrs. S. T301 E. LivingstonBartlett, HenryAtlantaBartlett, Mrs. HenryAtlantaBaxter, Mrs. LauraW. Pine St
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge104 GouldBarlow, Mrs. Milton606 HugheyBarlow, Mrs. Nanie E414 S. LakeBarman, S. T.301 E. LivingstonBarman, Mrs. S. T.301 E. LivingstonBartlett, HenryAtlantaBartlett, Mrs. HenryAtlantaBaxter, Mrs. LauraW. Pine StBarton, Mrs. J. H.E. Jackson
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge104 GouldBarlow, Mrs. Milton606 HugheyBarlow, Mrs. Nanie E414 S. LakeBarman, S. T.301 E. LivingstonBartlett, Henry301 E. LivingstonBartlett, HenryAtlantaBartlett, Mrs. HenryAtlantaBarton, Mrs. J. H.E. JacksonBarton, EssieE. JacksonBarton, EarlE. JacksonBaumwart, Mrs. A. L.203 America
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge104 GouldBarlow, Mrs. Milton606 HugheyBarlow, Mrs. Nanie E414 S. LakeBarman, S. T.301 E. LivingstonBarman, Mrs. S. T.301 E. LivingstonBartlett, HenryAtlantaBartlett, Mrs. HenryAtlantaBarton, Mrs. J. H.E. JacksonBarton, EssieE. JacksonBarton, Earl.203 AmericaBeachman, Braxton109 N. Orange
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge104 GouldBarlow, Mrs. Milton606 HugheyBarlow, Mrs. Nanie E414 S. LakeBarman, S. T.301 E. LivingstonBarman, Mrs. S. T.301 E. LivingstonBartlett, HenryAtlantaBartlett, Mrs. HenryAtlantaBarton, Mrs. J. H.E. JacksonBarton, EssieE. JacksonBarton, Earl.E. JacksonBaumwart, Mrs. A. L.203 AmericaBeachman, Braxton109 N. OrangeBelch, S.1100 S. Delaney
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge104 GouldBarlow, Mrs. Milton606 HugheyBarlow, Mrs. Nanie E414 S. LakeBarman, S. T.301 E. LivingstonBarman, Mrs. S. T.301 E. LivingstonBartlett, HenryAtlantaBartlett, Mrs. HenryAtlantaBarton, Mrs. J. H.E. JacksonBarton, EssieE. JacksonBarton, Earl.203 AmericaBaumwart, Mrs. A. L.203 AmericaBeachman, Braxton109 N. OrangeBelch, S.1100 S. DelaneyBelch, Mrs. S.1100 S. Delaney
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge104 GouldBarlow, Mrs. Milton606 HugheyBarlow, Mrs. Nanie E414 S. LakeBarman, S. T.301 E. LivingstonBarman, Mrs. S. T.301 E. LivingstonBartlett, HenryAtlantaBartlett, Mrs. HenryAtlantaBarton, Mrs. J. H.E. JacksonBarton, EssieE. JacksonBarton, Earl.203 AmericaBeachman, Braxton109 N. OrangeBelch, S.1100 S. DelaneyBentley, A. L10 E. Amelia
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge104 GouldBarlow, Mrs. Milton606 HugheyBarlow, Mrs. Nanie E.414 S. LakeBarman, S. T.301 E. LivingstonBarman, Mrs. S. T.301 E. LivingstonBartlett, HenryAtlantaBartlett, Mrs. HenryAtlantaBarton, Mrs. J. H.E. JacksonBarton, EssieE. JacksonBarton, Earl.203 AmericaBeachman, Braxton109 N. OrangeBelch, S.1100 S. DelaneyBentley, A. L10 E. Amelia
Barlow, Mrs. Eldridge104 GouldBarlow, Mrs. Milton606 HugheyBarlow, Mrs. Nanie E414 S. LakeBarman, S. T.301 E. LivingstonBarman, Mrs. S. T.301 E. LivingstonBartlett, HenryAtlantaBartlett, Mrs. HenryAtlantaBarton, Mrs. J. H.E. JacksonBarton, EssieE. JacksonBarton, Earl.203 AmericaBeachman, Braxton109 N. OrangeBelch, S.1100 S. DelaneyBentley, A. L10 E. Amelia

Berry, G. W	209 S. Main
Berry, Miss Nettie	209 S. Main
Berry, Miss Fannie	
Blair, Mrs. Bert	300 E. Livingston
Blair, Herman.	
Blair, Emma May	
Blair, Luther.	
Dian, Lumer	10 E. Laskaan
Bogart, Mrs. N. M	
Boone, C. A	
Boone, John.	
Boone, Dr Cassius	
Boone, Mrs. Cassius	
Boring, Mrs. S. E	
Bortree, Mrs. James A	215 S. Main
Boylan, Lorraine	1111 Kuhl
Boylan, Louise.	1111 Kuhl
Boylan, Donovan.	1111 Kuhl
Brachen, L. R	
Bradley, Mrs. E. B	
Broom, Mrs. M. C.	
Broom, Miss Odessa.	
Broom, Arthur.	-
Broom, Evelyn	
Brenner, Ruth.	
Brossiere, Mrs. Ethel	
Brown, W. E	-
Brown, Mrs. W. E	
Bruce, Mrs. Eva M.	
Bruce, Miss Helen	
Bruce, Miss Annie E	
Bruce, Mildred	City
Brundage, Lucia	S. West
Brunson, Leroy F.	209 Irvine
Brunson, Mrs. Mary H	
Bryerly, Miss Ruth	
Buckmaster, Dr. R. P	S. West
Buckmaster, Mrs. R. P.	
Burden, J. D	
Burden, Mrs. J. D	
Burden, Miss Minnie.	
Burden, J. N.	
	-
Burden, Mrs. Emma.	
Burkhardt, Mrs. Jake.	•
Burnett, Mrs. I. M	
Butt, Arthur	
Butt, E. W	
Bynum, Mr. G. E	
Bynum, Mrs. G. E	-
Caldwell, John J.	
Caldwell, J. H	408 Osceola

**Buried Treasures** 

Central FL Genealogical Society 5

Vol. 47, No. 1

Caldwell, Mrs. Ella	
Carroll, Mrs. M. L.	
Carper, T. E Lal	ke & Anderson
Carper, Mrs. T. E Lal	ke & Anderson
Carr, Mrs. Martha Palmer	N, Orange
Carter, C	
Carter, Julia	
Carter, Maude	
Carter, George.	512 Carter
Caruthers, J. M	
Caruthers, Mrs. Lena.	
Caruthers, Dave.	
Caruthers, Mrs. Dave.	
Chapman, W. T.	
Chapman, Mrs. W. T	
Chapman, Charlie	
Chapman, Louise.	•
Chapman, Willie	
Chapman, Mattie	
Chapman, B. S.	City
Chapman, Mrs. B. S	
Chandler, Mrs. Nellie	
Clayton, Ben W.	
Coan, Mrs. Ellen Wind	
Coan, Miss Mabel Wind	
Cobb, W. M	City
Coffee, Mrs. T. T.	
Connell, Mrs. G. F.	
Connell, Miss Lysle	
Cook, John M.	
Cornell, Mrs. A. D 92	
Crawford, J. E.	
Criner, Mrs. B. L.	
Cummings, Miss M. E	
Curry, Linly O Curry & Smith	
Curry, Mrs. Alfred	
Curry, Miss Alma	
Curtis, F. A 2	
Curtis, Mrs. F. A 2	
Dann, Carl H	
Dann, Mrs. Carl H	
Davenport, A. W Orlando	
Davis, Jos. R	
Davis, Mrs. Jos. R 92	
Davis, Sumpter	
Davis, Mrs. Sumpter	
Davis, Daisy	
Davis, Mrs. Gerturde	
Davis, Marjorie.	
Davis, G. H 10	
Davis, Mrs. G. H 10	3 E. Robinson

Davis, Dan	103 F. Robinson
Dean, Mrs. S.	
Dean, Wm	
Dean, Willie May	
DeWitt, W. S.	
DeWitt, Mrs. W. S.	
DeWitt, Thelma G	
DeWitt, Wm. G.	
DeWitt, Peter B	
DeWitt, Bernard.	
Diamond, Miss Mattie	Winter Park
Diamond, Ruby B	Winter Park
Dickson, H. H	
Dickson, Mrs. H. H	÷
Dickson, Harry N	
Dollins, L. J.	728 W. Central
Dollins, Mrs. Alice J	728 W. Central
Dominick, Mrs. J. J	
Douglas, Mrs. Elizabeth	
Doyle, Mrs. Carrie	N. Orange at Jail
Doyle, Eason.	
Drennen, Mrs. Elizabeth M	Lucerne Court
Drennen, Walter	
Drew, Mrs. Benj	405 E. Central
Drew, Hellen Usner	405 E. Central
Driver, A. J. C	408 E. Central
Duckworth, Eugene G	6 Lake
Duckworth, Mrs. Eugene G	6 Lake
Duckworth, Mrs. Emily	6 Lake
Duckworth, Robert.	6 Lake
Duckworth, Manly	6 Lake
Durham, Miss Mabel	
Durham, Miss Eulie	. 112 E. Washington
Durham, Miss Lee	. 112 E. Washington
Durham, Miss Dilala.	
Dyett, Ralf J	÷
Echols, Miss Annie	
Ellerby, Douglas R	
Ellerby, Mrs. D. R	N. Orange
Else, Miss Gertrude	
Estes, Vernon	-
Estes, Mrs. Judith	
Estes, Lillian.	211 S. Main
Evans, Z. W.	13 F Washington
Evans, Mrs. Z. W.	
	_
Evans, Mrs. A. E	
Evans, H. A.	
Evans, Mrs. H. A.	
Ewing, Mrs. Willie	•
to be cont	inued in next issue

**Buried Treasures** 

Central FL Genealogical Society 6

submitted by Sallie Belperche

# SIGMAN, GEORGE & BARNARD WRIT OF *FIERI FACIAS* Bucks County, Pennsylvania 14 September 1768 / 15 March 1785

To all People to whom these Presents shall come, I William Buckman Esqr. high sheriff of the County of Bucks send Greeting Whereas by a Certain Writ of *Fieri Facias*<sup>11</sup> to me directed Tested at Newtown the Seventeenth Day of March last past I was Commanded that of the Goods & Chattles Lands & Tenements which were of George Sigman & Barnard Sigman both late of the County aforesaid Yeomen in my Baylierch should cause to be levied as well a Certain Debt of two thousand Pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania which John Briggs, John Winder & Crosdelle Warner lately in the County Court of Common Pleas before the Justices at Newtown Recovered against them as also one hundred and forty six shillings & Eleven pence which to the said Briggs, Warner & Winder in the same Court were adjudged for their Damages which they had Sustained by Occasion of the Detention of that Debt & that I should have those Monies before the said Justices at Newtown at the County Court of Common Pleas there to be held the fourteenth Day of June then next ensuing to Bind us unto the said Briggs, Warner & Winder for their Debt & Damages aforesaid and that I should have them -----that Writ. And whereas I the said Sheriff that same Day Returned before the said Justices Returned that by Virtue of the said Writ is to me directed I had levied upon & taken in Execution All the right & title of the said George & Barnard Sigman of in & to a Certain Tract of Land situate in the Township of Tinecum bounded by Land of Bryan, George Fox, widow Ramsey, George Hillpot et al. Containing two hundred & twelve acres with the appurtenances to satisfy the Debt & Damages in the said writ mentioned which remained in my hands unsold for want of Buyers Wherefore by a Certain Writ of Venditioni Exponas<sup>2</sup> to me Directed Tested at Newtown the sixteenth Day of June last past I was Commanded that the said Tract of Land with the appurtenances so by me Seized & taken in Execution as aforesaid I should Expose to sale & have that Money before the Justices at Newtown afsd. at a Court of Common Pleas there to be held the thirteenth Day of September then next ensuing to Render to the said Briggs Warner & Winder for their Debt and Damages aforesaid & that I should have then there that Writ as in & by the Records & Proceedings of the said Court may appear Now Know ye that I the said Sheriff for & in Consideration of the Sum of One hundred & five Pounds lawful money of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>A **fieri facias**, usually abbreviated **fi. fa.** (Latin for *that you cause to be made*) is a <u>writ of execution</u> after judgment obtained in a legal action for debt or damages for the sheriff to levy on goods of the judgment debtor. The term is used in English law for such a writ issued in the High Court. It is addressed to the sheriff or High Court enforcement officer, and commands him to make good the amount out of the goods of the person against whom judgment has been obtained. <<u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fieri\_facias></u> [accessed 3 June 2015]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Venditioni exponas – a writ. Where it appears upon the return of a writ of fieri facias that the sheriff has seized goods of the judgment debtor that he has not sold or that he has been unable to sell for want of buyers, the judgment creditor may apply for a writ of venditioni exponas, direting the sheriff to "sell for the best price obtainable.< <u>http://law.academic.ru/10649/venditioni exponas</u>> [accessed 3 June 2015]

Pennsylvania to me in hand paid at & before the Ensealing & delivery hereof by Alexander Mitchel of the Township of Tinicum aforesaid Yeoman (he being the highest bidder at a Public Vendue or Auction by me held of the Premises after due and Public Notice thereof given according to Law) the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowedge & forever acquitt exonerate & discharge the said Alexr. Mitchel his heirs & assigns by these Presents have granted Bargained sold and Delivered & by the Direction of the last Recited Writ & by force and Virtue thereof & of the laws & Constitution of the Province of Pennsylvania in ----- case made & provided do grant Bargain Sell and Deliver unto the said Alexr. Mitchel & to his Heirs and Assigns all the Right & Title of the said George and Barnard Sigman of in & to the above mentioned Tract of Land, be the same more or less with the appurtenances **To have and** to hold the said Tract of two hundred & tweve acres of Land and Premises hereby granted or mentioned so to be with the appurtenances unto the said Alexander Mitchel his heirs and assigns as fully and amply to all intents & purposes as the same was or ought to be held by the said Barnard & George Sigman according to the laws & Constitution of the Province of Pennsylvania in such Case made & provided, In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal the fourteenth Day of September in the Eighth Year of his Majesties Rign & in the year of Our Lord one thousand Seven hundred & sixty Eight 1768

Sealed & delivered in the presence of }		}	William Buckman Shf (Seal)
Samuel Biles	Samuel Kinsey Jr.	}	

Recd. On the Day of the Date hereof of the above Named Alexander Mitchel One Hundred & five Pounds, being the full Consideration Money above mentioned\_\_\_\_\_

Bucks. William Buckman Esqr. High Sheriff of the County of Bucks aforesd. Acknowledged this Deed in open Court, at a Court of Common Pleas held at Newtown for the said County in the Term of September in the Eighth Year of his Majesties Reign Witness my hand & the Seal of the said County Anno Dominis 1768 Gilbert Hicks (Seal)

Recorded 15<sup>th</sup> March 1785

From Bucks County deed book 20, pp. 212-213 (on microfilm), accessed at Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Pennsylvania, on 11 July 2015

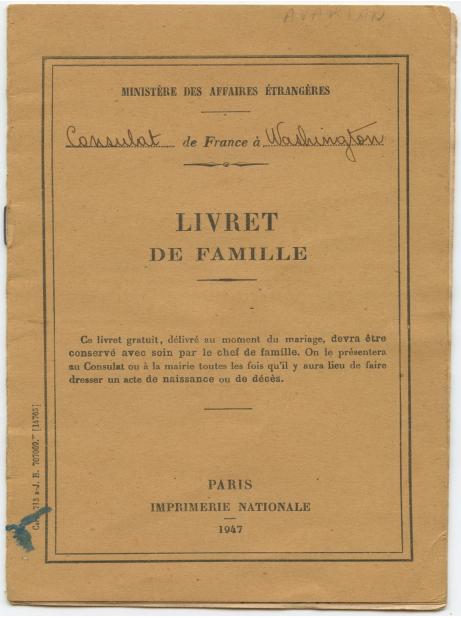
Submitted by Sallie Belperche: "Barnard/Bernhard/Barnet Sigman was my 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, son of Johannes Sigmon and Maria Barbara Mann. He was born in Huffenhardt, Baden [Germany], 24 April 1723. The parents and 3 sons arrived in Philadelphia on 9 November 1738 aboard ship Charming Nancy. They settled in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, for a time, then relocated to Lincoln county, North Carolina, about 1767."

### LIVRET DE FAMILLE - FAMILY OF JOHN VASGAN AVAKIAN 1913 - 1975

#### by Marcelle Avakian Hobbs

Livret de famille is the French term for a family registry. This soft covered book is automatically issued to spouses at the end of their marriage ceremony or at the birth of an unmarried couple's first born child. It is later supplemented by extracts of births of other children, marriage, legal separation, divorce and/or the death of parents. Each family has the legal obligation of keeping his family book up to date under penalty of the law.

The *livret de famille* came into existence after the 1871 fires in Paris in 1877. Most of the civil registrations were lost. The Chairman and Minister of the Interior stated that family registries constituted another source of valuable information in case of another catastrophe. For those genealogists doing French research, these books can be invaluable. Contact the local town hall and for those doing research in Paris, go to the town hall in the appropriate arrondissement.



*livret de famille* - Family of John Vasgan Avakian [from the family papers of Marcelle Avakian Hobbs]

#### AVIS IMPORTANT.

Le livret de famille permettra d'éviter, dans la rédaction des actes postérieurs au mariage, des erreurs qui ne pourraient être rectifiées que par jugement et en occasionnant aux familles des frais et des pertes de temps.

Les familles devront donc, dans leur propre intérêt, présenter ce livret toutes les fois qu'il y aura lieu de faire dresser un acte de l'état civil ou même un acte notarié.

Mari.

Femme.

Nom :

Décédée le

Prénoms :

Décédé le .....

Acte nº 56 à Washington, D.C. F.U.A. Le trente et un decembre mil neuf cent trente neul a été célébré dans le Conste de Melleer, état de la geocaie, toto-Noris d'Amérique. INTRE: JOHN KODOAN AVAKIAN No 10 Mai 1913 à Baltimore Maryland, State-Manie d'Amérique Profession : Domicilié à Redanda Beach, Californie, E.U.A. Fils de Jasgan, A. AVAKIAN mariés Et de Ammar E. Bates Veuf de-Vent de ET Suranne Juonne REYNOUD Née le J Ferhin 1915 à Paris (13 eme) Arrond' d\_\_\_\_\_\_ dép' de la Seine Profession : Sans Domiciliée à Redando Beach, Califannie, E.V.A Fille de Maurice Jugéne REYNOUD Et de Jeanne Manguerte Adrienne mariés Veuve de\_\_\_\_\_ Veuve de\_\_\_\_\_ Contrat de mariage-Délivré le 28 Aout 500. Le Consul de France de Netat civil. Sinn 112-J. H. 707069. [14763] Transcrit Consulat de France à Los Angeles année 1964, no. 118.-NAISSANCE ET DÉCÈS DES ENFANTS DÉCÈS DES ÉPOUX. ISSUS DU MARIAGE. 10 Nom : AVAKIAN Prénoms : Marcelle, Yvonne n° Née le 10 octobre 1948 , Officier de l'état civil, TORRANCE (Californie), E.U.A. Le Consul Général , Officier de Tetal civil Louis de Cabrol Consul Général de France Dècédé le. ..... nº... , Officier de l'état civil, L....., Officier de l'état civil,

Année 1950

Consulat de France

Nom : Prénoms :

## HUFFMAN PRAIRIE - CRADLE OF AVIATION

by Patricia Patterson Allen

Huffman Prairie in Greene County, just outside of Dayton, Ohio, became the world's first airport. The 100 acres was owned by my great-uncle, Torrence Huffman, a Dayton banker. In the spring of 1904, the Wright Brothers



decided that there would be no more trips to the isolated Outer Banks. They wanted to continue to work closer to home without the expense of extended stays at Kitty Hawk.

The brothers chose Huffman Prairie as their flying field. Its location along an interurban rail line from their hometown of Dayton provided them with easy access. They would ride a trolley back and forth between the Prairie and West Dayton. After inspecting the cow pasture eight miles northeast of town, their chief concerns were the cows and horses surrounded by barbed wire fencing. Since the field was not used most of the time, Huffman, who knew the Wrights, consented to their using it rent-free, asking only that they drive the cows and horses pastured there outside the fence before doing any flying.

The brothers set to work cutting the tall grass on the rough pasture land and then built a wooden shed in a far corner. They then proceeded to spend most of their time inside the shed assembling the strange, winged contraption that was to become the 1904 airplane. They added a few alterations to the machine, a virtual replica of their 1903 model. However, their changes proved to be mistakes so their 1905 Flyer more closely resembled the 1903 model. The exception was the engine, about the size of a waste paper basket, which had been improved. They considered the 1905 Flyer to be the first practical airplane.

At first, the Wrights had great difficulty in getting sufficient initial velocity to get the ship airborne. Their answer was a catapult launch system. First put into operation in September 1904, it enabled the brothers to reliably take off in light winds. They had also modified their aircraft with upright seating and a control system that did not require shifting the hips from side to side.

Many early aircraft records were set by the Wrights at Huffman Prairie. At first, the Wrights timed their experiments to avoid the passing trains but eventually the flights became longer and the trains would stop at Simms station to watch Wilbur circle the field.

The brothers hesitated to publicize their invention without revealing their secret of flight. The American government was wary of contracting with them because of previous failures of other flying

Buried	Treasures
--------	-----------

machines. Consequently, the Wrights attempted to attract European interest in their aircraft. In 1906, however, when they received their patent, the United States military decided to take a chance on the Wright Flyer.

In 1910 the brothers established their Wright Flying School on the Huffman site. Through the flying school, the Wright Company trained more than 100 pilots, including Henry H. "Hap" Arnold. The aviators later formed the Wright Exhibition team. A. Roy Knabenshue, experienced in the exhibition business, assisted in the organization of their flying team. He would handle bookings, logistics, the pilots and their problems. Orville accepted the responsibility for selecting the team members and teaching them to fly. Their new lucrative contract flight training program included Army and Navy officers and wealthy civilian enthusiasts who could afford the program.

A new and larger hangar was constructed. On March 24, 1910, a new airplane and five student pilots arrived. For the rest of the year, Orville was kept busy, making 250 training flights. His students later flew in air exhibitions, bringing attention to the Wright Brothers Flying School on Huffman Prairie. Wright's rules included no drinking, no gambling, and no flying on Sundays. The company received \$1,000 for each day the student pilots flew in a meet or state fair plus prize money. 1910 was a very good year for the Wright Brothers netting them \$50,000.

Ironically, no one believed an airplane could really fly and the exhibitions were first met with skepticism. "They thought we were fakes," said one of the aviators. "Flight was generally looked upon as an impossibility and scarcely anyone believed in it until he had actually seen it with his own eyes," Orville recalled. Crowds were so in awe of the pilots that they carried them off the field like a football hero.

After several fatal crashes, the team was dissolved in 1911. However, activity on Huffman Prairie did not cease. Orville made hundreds of test flights from the old field between 1911 and 1915. During this time, the brothers built the world's first airplane factory in Dayton to produce additional aircraft, manufacturing approximately two a month.

Other "inventors" tried to copy the Wright flying machine. Glenn Curtiss was one violator the Wrights sued for violation of patent rights. A conflict arose when the United States Army bought gliders from the Wrights but the United States Navy purchased Curtiss's aircrafts. TWO years after Wilbur's death on January 13, 1914, the judge of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals of New York issued a final ruling in favor of the Wright Company.

The United States Army Signal Corps purchased Huffman Prairie in 1917 and renamed it, along with 2,000 adjacent acres, Wilbur Wright Field. It was named in honor of Wilbur who had died five years earlier. The flying school offered a six to eight week primary flight training course, an armorer's school and, during the winter lull in the flying season, a three-week course in aircraft mechanics. Many of the graduates of these schools arrived in Europe in time to take part in one or more of the last three major battles of World War I.

In the 1930's, Dayton sold its two most historic buildings to Henry Ford who relocated them in his Greenfield Village in Detroit – the Wright home and their bicycle shop. Orville Wright was still alive

and consented to these moves although there was controversy among the townspeople about losing these historic memorials.

However, Dayton did eventually get its first monument. The only monument to the Wrights erected up to that time was in France. It stands on a high bluff overlooking Huffman Prairie, two miles to the east. Officially dedicated on August 19, 1940, Orville Wright's 69th birthday, attended by the Wright family and high ranking dignitaries, it stands in the middle of a 27 acre wooded park, called Wright Brothers Hill on a 100 foot bluff over- looking the one time Huffman Prairie Flying Field. The statue consists of a simple soaring shaft of pink marble quarried near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina and is surrounded by a stone terrace enclosed by a low stone wall. In 1978, the property was transferred to the United States Air Force and is now part of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The original Huffman Prairie is also located within the Air Force Base, with a separate entrance and fencing between it and an adjacent runway.

In 1990, Huffman Prairie Flying Field was designated as a National Historic Landmark. In 2003, while attending a Daedalian Convention in Dayton, I visited Huffman Prairie on the 100th Anniversary of the Wrights' first flight at Kitty Hawk. I am sure it looked very much the same as it did in the early 20th Century. The 1905 hangar and catapult had been replaced with reproductions and some "old" pilots demonstrated a replica of the 1905 flyer with short flights around the field.

Huffman Prairie remains a world center of aeronautical achievement.

There is an interesting short film "Wright Brothers on Huffman Prairie" dated March 7, 1988 available for free download th e following internet a t archive: <a href="https://archive.org/details.gov.dod.dimoc.604273">https://archive.org/details.gov.dod.dimoc.604273</a>. If the video does not appear, click on "give it a try".

## World War I Draft Registration

Several years ago, we began publication of Central Florida World War I Draft Registration records in this publication. Since progress has struck again, we will discontinue the transcriptions in this publication,. When we began the project, the WW I Draft Registrations were not easily accessible. Now, those records are available free from FamilySearch.org, so we have decided to use this space for less accessible records. They are also on Ancestry.com, which you can use without cost at the local Family History Center and many public libraries. If you cannot access these, or simply need a quick lookup, you may contact your editor for look ups.

# **CENTRAL FLORIDA'S HISTORICAL TREASURES AT THE REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER** by Betty Jo Stockton

There is a treasure trove for Central Florida genealogists that few folks know about.

I recently spent an afternoon with Garrett Kremler-Wright, librarian at the Central Florida Regional History Center in downtown Orlando. The Joseph L. Brechner Research Center is located on the fifth floor of the History Center, which is on the corner of Magnolia and Central, across the street from the downtown library.

There is a wealth of information on Orange County's history in the collection there. Among these are ledgers of registered voters from 1870-1931; a listing of every



auto license tag issued in from 1912-1918; Dr Beardall's records of all the babies he delivered from about 1920-1939; scrapbooks of articles on local men serving in World War II, the ledger of the Bumby Hardware store in the 1880-90s - and much more.

Unfortunately, the records are not easy to access. A visit requires an appointment, which may be made by email or phone. They request that you let them know what you're researching when you make the appointment, so they can have materials ready for you. The stacks are closed, so you cannot just browse the shelves, as genealogists love to do. Despite these limitations, it's worth the effort if you have Central Florida ancestors - or interest in Central Florida history.

A listing of records that they feel would interest genealogists can be found at: <u>http://thehistorycenter.org/sites/default/files/page/OCRHC Genealogy Resources 0.pdf</u>. It also includes highlights of the photographic collection and the vertical files. This pdf document may be downloaded and printed.

Many records of the center are also cataloged at: http://thehistorycenter.pastperfect-online.com/. The catalog is not complete, but gives an overview of materials held by the Center.

Featured materials are:

Sanborn fire insurance maps; building permits; city directories; architectural and real estate resources; and genealogy resources.

Local history reference books; directories of local organizations dating from the 1800s; and high school yearbooks

Clipping files on thousands of subjects, including local individuals and families, businesses, and significant events

Personal papers of notable individuals including civic and government leaders

Records of local organizations and businesses

Central Florida maps from the 1840s to the present

**Buried Treasures** 

Central FL Genealogical Society

We hope to work with the History Center to make some of these materials more accessible to genealogists. You'll be hearing more about these records in future CFGS publications.

The Research Center is open Monday - Friday; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. by appointment only. To make an appointment to visit the Center, contact Garret Kremer-Wright at 407-836-8584 or <u>Garret.Kremer-Wright@ocfl.net.</u> The address is 65 East Central Blvd, Orlando, FL 32801.

So what? You folks who aren't lucky enough to be from Central Florida may say. If you're interested in the history of your house - or a landmark in your neighborhood, you might be able to find answers here.

If not, check to see if there is a similar history center/archive or other repository of local history for the areas you're interested in exploring. Most areas have something at the city, county or regional level – and every state has an archive and/or library. Check to see if the facilities in your area of interest has an online catalog, but be aware that catalogs aren't really specific and many are not complete. Find a contact number or email address for the facility in your locale, then check to see what they might have. When you think you've checked everything, be sure to ask the librarian/archivist for other suggestions. There are usually items of interest that only the librarian knows about.

For example, here in Central Florida, you can find:

Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science in Cocoa.

https://myfloridahistory.org/brevardmuseum

- Libary of Florida History in Cocoa Village https://myfloridahistory.org/library
- Winter Garden Heritage Foundation in Winter Garden

http://wghf.org/

- Museum of Seminole County History in Sanford <u>http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/parks-recreation/</u> <u>museum-of-seminole-county-history/</u>
- Polk County Historical Association in Bartow http://www.polkcountyhistory.org/

University Archives, University of Central Florida in East Orlando <u>http://library.ucf.edu/SpecialCollections/Archives/</u>

Central Florida Railroad Museum in Winter Garden http://www.cfrhs.org/museum.htm# =\_\_\_\_

St. Cloud Heritage Museum (military history) in St Cloud http://www.stcloudheritagemuseum.com/

We've probably missed a number of local history libraries / museums / archives in this list. Feel free to submit your favorites for inclusion in future publications.

Buried	Treasures

## **IRISH RESEARCH TIPS**

#### by Deborah Harris

As you know, searching Irish genealogy is like looking for the leprechaun or as my grandmother would say, "a pig in a poke".

My first word of advice is to remain hopeful, keep checking places you thought you exhausted, and never, ever give up. It took over 30 years before I even had a breakthrough, but the reward was more than I could ask.

After my grandmother(Nora O'Rourke)passed away in 1969, all communication with her family in Gneeveguilla, County Kerry, was lost. Unable to deal with the grief, my aunt had boxed letters, photos, trinkets and other treasured clues. She placed them in a closet, but forgot to tell anyone else in the family about them.

It was a year or two later, that I began my search. The only information I had was:

1. Grandma's name was Nora (maybe Hanora) O'Rourke

2. Her family was from either County Kerry or Cork

3. She wouldn't tell her age (she didn't want others to know she was older than Grandpa), but she was born about 1905.

4. Her parents were Timothy O'Rourke and Kathleen Sheehan

5. She traveled to the US with her best friend, Nora Shaunessy

6. Her brother, Tom, lived in New York

7. She worked as a nanny in New York, before meeting & marrying my grandfather.

Although this is a good amount of information, it wasn't enough to make connections. Even if computers had been available, the clues were limited. Never-the-less, I continued to ask questions (rephrased many times), conduct taped oral history sessions with my Mom and Aunt. I kept hoping that something would click. As the years passed, bits of information were revealed. It was like drinking water from an eye dropper -- each drop refreshing and renewing, but never enough.

As time went on, I learned:

1. Grandma's village in Ireland was Gneeveguilla -- Maybe -- and if it was, no one was sure how it was pronounced or spelled, only that it began with "gn".

2. Her brother, Tom, died young (as did all her siblings - from massive heart attacks), but had a daughter named Diane who lived in New York

3. Grandma had 4 brothers and 1 sister (who married a Murphy)

4. My Mom had heard of a cousin named Finbar and had corresponded (as a girl) with one named Deirdre (but she died when she was about 17)

5. Grandma's brother, Denis, was a postman in Gneeveguilla

6. Kathleen Murphy (one of my grandmother's nieces) was a nurse in the war and now lived in London

I spent a lot of time searching physical maps (still no internet) trying to find Gneeveguilla, believing the location would at least let me know what county to search. But it was no use, Gneeveguilla didn't exist. If it did, it was simply too small to be documented. In addition, I kept prodding Mom and Aunt Norene trying to piece bits of information together. Every now and then, some tidbit would rise -- "near Rathmore", "an Uncle's wife named Bessie", "family in Massachusetts

sponsored Grandma when she arrived in the US"; etc. By the late 1990's, my Aunt remembered the box of grandma's things that had been placed in her closet. She never showed us the box or its contents, but would occasionally share items it contained - Grandma's compact with a picture of Blarney Castle on the top, a letter from Bessie (with an address), a pink rosary, Grandma's passport, a postcard from Kathleen Murphy (also with an address), Grandma's wedding and engagement rings, Grandma's autograph book. These were treasures that held all kinds of clues.

Once I saw the addresses, I sent letters in hope that someone from the family still lived there. At last, I received a letter from Kathleen Murphy. She was living in London and excited about hearing from us. She knew she had cousins in America. Although her knowledge of the family was limited to mostly her branch, she was able to confirm some of what we knew about Ireland and the family.

In 2002, my mother was retiring. She had always dreamed of going to Ireland, so my brother's and I decided to take her. About that same time, we got a computer. As the family travel planner, it was my job to make all the arrangements. I thought I'd give it one more try to locate Gneeveguilla. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw it on the computer map. What a beautiful sight! I remembered that my great Uncle Denis was a postman there, although he was no longer living. So, I looked up the phone number (online) for the Gneeveguilla Post Office. I was trembling with nervousness as I dialed the number. The conversation went like this:

Me: "Hello, I'm trying to locate the family of Denis O'Rourke"

Postman: "Ah, well, I know them quite well, I do. They live just down the lane. Let me get them for you. Can you call me back in ten minutes?"

Unbelievable, the next thing I knew, I was laughing and crying with a cousin I had never met. It's overwhelming to connect with family you knew about, but never met. This was only the beginning.

We did make that trip to Ireland. My Mom even sat in a chair built by her great grandfather and surely used by her own mother. We shared photos (such fun to see photos of my Mom's family on their mantle), stories, and created wonderful family ties. As a result, we have been back two more times and each time reconnecting other lost branches with each other. Some of the family have even visited us in the US.

Using the website: https://www.irishgenealogy.ie, I found the 1910 & 1900 census. In them, I learned the birth place of my great grandfather and the name of my 2x's great grandfather -- all living in the same house where we first met my second cousin. I'm still using the original clues as new resources become available. Most of my ancestry on this branch is still a mystery, but I will keep plugging along.

Lessons learned:

- 1. Don't be shy -- send those query letters and make those calls. The worst thing that can happen the receiver will think you're some kind of a nut. It's worth it, you just might find your missing family.
- 2. Don't take what you're told at face value. As it turns out, my grandmother's name was really Hanoria Teresa O'Rourke, she wanted it Americanized to Nora Rourke. Her mother's name was really Catherine Sheehan, but she was always called Kate or Katie.
- 3. Always check, recheck, and check again. Clues may not exist the first time, but as technology and resources improve, they may become relevant. Tenacity is the name of the game.

#### **ONLINE RESOURCES FOR IRISH RESEARCH**

#### compiled by Betty Jo Stockton

WEB SITES:

Ancestry.com [international edition available at FHC]

The Armchair Genealogist - www.thearmchairgenealogist.com

Articles: Irish Genealogy - Step One- Determining Where Your Ancestors Lived; Finding Your Irish Ancestor, the Poor Tenant Farmer!; Irish Census Records - What Exists and Where to Find Them?

Ask About Ireland - http://www.askaboutireland.ie/

Family Search - <u>www.familysearch.org</u>

Quick Research Links - Ireland - [click on "learn", "Ireland"]

Genealogy Branches - http://www.genealogybranches.com/irishresearch.html

Articles: Finding Your Irish Immigrant Ancestor's Place of Birth in Ireland

Irish Passenger Lists Research Guide

Online Irish Census Indexes & Records - Ireland Census Records by County: A Genealogy Guide for Irish-Americans -

Genuki [Genealogy UK and Ireland] - www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl/

Great Books for Irish Genealogy and Irish History Research

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~irlmayo2/irish genealogy books.html

Heritage database - Libraries & archives - databases.dublincity.ie

Irish Ancestors - http://www.irishancestors.ie/

Irish BMD - rootsireland.ie [subscription site - search for free, pay to get records]

Irish Family History Foundation - <u>http://www.rootsireland.ie/index.php?id=home</u>

Irish Genealogy Records - findmypast.com [free at FHC]

Ireland Genealogy Records - www.genealogyintime.com/records/Ireland-genealogy-records.html

The Irish Genealogy Toolkit - http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/

top 10 free Irish genealogy databases online

Irish Origins - http://www.irishorigins.com/

Ireland Old News - http://www.irelandoldnews.com/

Irish Newspaper Archives - http://www.irishnewsarchive.com/

Irish Roots Café - http://www.irishroots.com/

IreAtlas Townland Database - http://www.thecore.com/seanruad/

Irish Times - http://www.irishtimes.com/

Irish Workhouses - www.workhouses.org.uk/Ireland/

Library Ireland - http://www.libraryireland.com/

National Archives of Ireland - http://www.nationalarchives.ie/

Free census 1901 & 1911

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) - http://www.proni.gov.uk/

**NEWS!** Nearly 400,000 Irish Catholic parish records will be made publically accessible via a new genealogy resource website due to be launched this summer. People researching their Irish family tree from all corners of the globe will be able to search the records – which date from the 1740s to the 1880s – for free, thanks to a new National Gallery of Ireland initiative.

After three years digitising the documents, the library's entire 390,000 collection of Irish catholic parish register records will be made available to the public for free from July 8. National Library of Ireland http://www.nli.ie/

DIGITAL MAGAZINE: Irish Life Remembered (free) - http://www.irishlivesremembered.com/

HANDOUTS:

**Tracing Your Irish Ancestors on the Internet:** 

www.timeline.ie/book shop/secure/Tracing your Irish Ancestors on the Internet.pdf Surname Distribution Maps - familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Surname Distribution Maps Wiki - Ireland - www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ireland

Ireland Research Outline - pdf -

http://files.lib.byu.edu/family-history-library/research-outlines/Europe/Ireland.pdf

VIDEOS & WEBINARS:

5 Great Video Tips for Searching for Your Irish Ancestors www.familysearch.org/blog/en/genealogy-matters-cgo-blog/

Resources for Irish Family History Research - http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/ 2015/05/02/expert-series-donna-moughty-discusses-resources-for-irish-family-history-research/

Building The Bridge Back To Ireland - LIVE Instructional Video for Irish Genealogy www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuYzGSIxF-c

Variety of youtube videos on Irish genealogy https://www.youtube.com/results?search guery=irish+research Family search videos - www.familysearch.org/learningcenter/ [8 videos on Irish research]

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY OUR MEMBERS:

A Guide to Irish Parish Registers (Mitchell) A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland (Mitchell) Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape (Aalen, et al) **Directory of Irish Archives** From Ulster to Carolina - by NC office of archives & history In Search of Your British & Irish Roots (Baxter) Irish Civil Registration - Where do I start? Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors [Ulster] (Roulson) Tracing your Ancestors in Ireland [pamphlet] Tracing your Irish Ancestors (Grenham)

Acree 5	Boylan 5	Dann6	Huffman11
Adams 5	Brachen 5	Davis 6	Kieser 2
Adkins 5	Bradley5	Dean6	Kinsey 8
Akers 5	Brechner 14	Denny 4	Knabenshue 11
Allen11	Bridges 4	DeWitt 6	Knox 4
Ammann5	Briggs7	Diamond6	Kremer-Wright14-15
Amold 5	Broom 5	Dickson 6	Ley
Anderson 4	Brossiere 5	Dollins 6	Mann 8
Arnold 11	Brown	Dominick 6	Marshall4
Aths 4	Bruce 5	Douglas 6	Martin 4
Atkinson4	Brunson 5	Doyle 6	Mitchel 7, 8
Avakian	Bryan 7	Drennen 6	Murphy 17
Bacon5	Buckman 7, 8	Drew	O'Rourke 16, 17
Bandy5	Buckmaster 5	Driver	Partridge4
Banner 5	Burden 5	Duckworth 4, 6	Patch
Barber	Burkhardt5	Durden 4	Peeler 4
Barlow 5	Burnett 5	Durham 6	Pelot 4
Barman5	Butt5	Dyett6	Poage 4
Bartlett 5	Bynum 5	Echols	Potts 4
Barton	Caldwell 5, 6	Ellerby 6	Ransome 4
Baumwart5	Carpenter 4	Else 6	Rush 4
Baxter	Carper	Estes 6	Shaunessy16
Beachman5	Chandler6	Evans 4, 6	Sheehan 16
Beardall 14	Chapman 4	Ford 12	Sigman/Sigmon .7, 8
Belperche7	Clayton6	Fox7	Smith 4
Bentley5	Coan	Giles 4	Stockton14
Berry 5	Cobb6	Guernsey 4	Thrower 4
Biles 8	Coffee	Harden 4	Walker 4
Bishop 4	Connell	Harris16	Watkins 4
Blair5	Cornell 6	Hicks 8	Wigfall 4
Bogart	Crawford 6	Higgs 4	Winder 7
Boone	Criner	Hillpot 7	Wray 4
Bortree 5	Cummings 6	Hobbs	Wright 12, 13
Boswell 2	Curtis 4, 6	Howard 4	

#### Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc

PO Box 536309, Orlando, FL 32853-6309 Email:cfgs@cfgs.org Website: www.cfgs.org

The Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. (formerly known as the Central Florida Genealogical & Historical Society) was formed in 1969 and incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1981. The Society welcomes everyone with an interest in genealogy, the history of Florida and the United States as well as our ancestral nations, to further our objectives through education and publications.

**Meetings** - Regular monthly meetings are held September through May at the **LDS CULTURAL HALL** on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. at 45 E. Par St (the corner of Par and Formosa). A Daytime Group meets bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday afternoon of odd-numbered months. A Computer Special Interest Group meets bi-monthly (even-numbered months) on Saturday morning. The Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the LDS Cultural Center. The President designates exceptions to the date and place for meetings. All meetings are open to the public. Visitors are welcome and members are encouraged to bring guests.

#### Membership:

Individual -	Year \$20	Life - \$200
Family -	Year \$25	Life - \$300

Membership begins the first day of September, extends for one full year and includes a subscription to the following Society publications.

*Buried Treasures*, a quarterly publication, features 24 pages of articles, book reviews, Bible records, old letters, wills, etc. submitted by members. Gina Simmons Herbert designed the cover for *Buried Treasures* in 1989.

*Treasure Chest News*, a newsletter published nine times a year features 10-12 pages of Society news, library acquisitions, genealogy tips, announcements of workshops, conferences, meetings, etc. *Note: Beginning with the Aug/Sept 2010, the newsletter will be delivered electronically to those who have an email address.* 

Permission is granted to quote or reprint any article or other material [unless stated otherwise], either in whole or in part, provided credit is given to the Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. citing author, volume & date.

The Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. disclaims responsibility for statements, whether in fact or of opinion, made by contributors.

<b>Publications of the Central Florida Genealogical Society</b> Unless otherwise noted, books are soft cover, 8 ½ x 11" and include an everyname index. #Available through Amazon.com
Culinary Treasures Cookbook \$6
[180 p., soft cover, spiral bound, 6 x 9"]
<b>#Early Settlers of Orange County, Florida</b> - a reprint of the
1915 book by C. E. Howard [indexed, 80 p.] Rev ed. 2015 . \$15 #Greenwood Cemetery Historic Hike: a visit with over
425 Orlandoans at their final resting place by Steve Rajtar
[220 p., indexed, photos]
Hawthorne Funeral Home Records Vol 1 (1954-1961) [220 p.,
3 indices] \$20
Marriages of Orange County, Florida
#Vol 1: 1869-1909 [indexed, 196 p.] \$17
#Vol 2: 1910-1924 [indexed, 165 p.] \$17
#Vol 3: 1925-1934 [indexed, 180 p.] \$17
<i>Orlando Births 1910-1922.</i> [180 p., every name & geographical index]
Orlando Deaths 1910-1922. [190 p., every name & geographical index] \$17
#Orlando Deaths 1922-Apr 1929 [190 p., every name index].
Orange County, Florida Cemeteries:
#Vol I: Smaller Cemeteries of SW Orange Co (13 small
cemeteries). [indexed, 124 p.] \$14
Vol II: Larger Cemeteries of SW Orange Co - Washington Park & Winter Garden [indexed, 213 p.] \$20
<i>Glen Haven Cemetery (Winter Park) - Vol I (Sect A-H).</i> [indexed, 162 p.] \$17
#Greenwood Cemetery (Orlando) - Vol. 1 (Sections A-J). [indexed, 270 p.]
#Greenwood Cemetery (Orlando) - Vol 2 (Sections K-W).
[indexed, 320 p.] \$22
<i>Miller's Orlando City Directory 1907 - A reprint of the 1907 city directory with added index.</i> [indexed, 115 p] \$15
<i>Orlando City Directory 1912.</i> [215 p., index of names, locales, streets & occupations] \$20
Orange County Gazetteer and Business Directory -
A reprint of the 1887 directory with added index. Orange County included parts of Lake, Seminole & Osceola Counties in 1887 [300 p. directory; 66 p. index.]
<b>#Powell Cemetery in Orange County, FL.</b> [134 p, full color cover, perfect binding, fully indexed] \$12
Where Did They Put Wakulla? A Genealogist's Guide to the
<i>Library</i> A listing of library call numbers (Dewey) for every state, county and major genealogical topic. [42 p. booklet, soft
Library A listing of library call numbers (Dewey) for every

*World War I Discharge Papers - Orange County, Florida,* [indexed, 97 p].....\$14 To order any of these publications, send check or money order to the Society address (above)

Please add \$2.50 per book for shipping plus applicable taxes.



Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. *Buried Treasures* P. O. Box 536309 Orlando, FL 32853-6309

## Current Resident or





Cabinet card - Conway Polo Team abt 1890-95



Back of card