



# GENIE BYTES

Volume 4, Issue 3

Grand Strand Genealogy Club

August 2023

## Message from the Editors

**Bonnie Kishpaugh & Ann Hamilton**

Editor & Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Members of the Board

Thank you, Nancy and April, for sharing your amazing ancestors with us. We're looking forward to the finale of April's three-part series in our next issue. Who else has a tale to tell? Ann, Gail, Bob, Chris, and Pat have all shared sagas of famous, infamous, and just plain eccentric ancestors. By our count, that leaves about 95 of you who haven't. We want to hear from every one of you!

Not all ancestors are amazing. Some are elusive. Unearthing them is just plain problematic. Club members can help. October is Problem Ancestor Month. So, gather together all the facts you've found about your forebearer. Include a clear and concise statement of the problem. Count on a Club member to accept your challenge. Then, consider accepting someone else's.

We try our best to find websites and books that will be of value to our Club members. Have you? No matter how narrow the focus is, one of our hundred members will benefit from your web and print discoveries. Submit them! ♦

## OBITUARY

**Grand Strand Genealogy Club**

2002 – 2023

MYRTLE BEACH—GSGC, 21, of Myrtle Beach, died on 9 Dec 2023. Cause of death was member apathy.

The brainchild of Lee Brown and Gail Reynolds, the Grand Strand Genealogy Club was born in 2002 and met at Uncle John's Breakfast Café for a year or two before making Chapin Library its permanent home.

The once vibrant group of genealogists—boasting a roster of 181 at its peak--struggled in recent years to find members willing to serve on its Board of Directors.

Services celebrating the Club's two-decades-long commitment to greater Grand Strand genealogists, to the 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue *FamilySearch* Center, and to the acquisition of genealogy resources for Chapin Library will be held in the Library's Shirley Boone Research Room on 13 Jan 2024 at 10:00 AM with disposition of the Club's records to follow.

Dear Friends,

This could be the obituary for our dear Club. Unless different members come forward to take over the positions needed to keep everything operating, we may well be forced to significantly reduce the Club activities or to disband the GSGC entirely.

Please consider working alongside current Officers and Board Members to learn their roles and assume their responsibilities in 2024. GSGC is recognized along the Grand Strand as a club that welcomes and helps one and all, regardless of genealogy experience, and offers a wide variety of programs to its members.

Help. Volunteer. Make sure this Obituary doesn't need to be published for MANY years to come.

Looking forward to working with you!

Charlene Carson, President, GSGC 2017-2018 ♦

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## Your GSGC Needs YOU!

### **Ann Hamilton**

Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, Membership, and GSGC Member of the Board

If the paragraphs below sound familiar, it's because they are. The Members of the Board and Officers who requested shadows or replacements last August do so again this August.

### **Pat Bernschein~~1 year as Membership Registrar.**

If you can't remember names, there's no better remedy than sitting at the meet and greet desk at GSGC meetings each month. Matching names on sign-in sheets with the faces in front of you and fielding members' questions begins the process. It's reinforced by entering members' contact information on an Excel spreadsheet and transferring it to GSGC's Gmail account. This much-needed shadow must also be comfortable with Word, printer-equipped, and available as back-up at the meeting's desk.

### **Lois Butler~~15 years as Historian.**

If you're a scrapbooker and a shutterbug, you'll love shadowing our long-serving Historian and stepping into her shoes whenever she's ready to step down. The Historian has her cell phone with her at meetings and recognizes a photo op when she sees one. She scours local publications for news of the Club and reaches out when the Club's newsworthy. Finally, she compiles photos, clippings, and memorabilia into scrapbooks.

### **Dennis Fitzgerald~~6 years as Secretary.**

If Word is installed on your computer, if you're a regular attendee at the Club's meetings, and if you've got four to five additional hours to spare each month, consider shadowing and then replacing Dennis. The Club provides a template to assist with note-taking.

### **Susan Hayes-Hatcher~~13 years as Awards/Certificate Distributor.**

Is thanking people part of your DNA? Then you'll want to express our appreciation to those who've shared their expertise or shown a special kindness to the GSGC. You'll need a computer with Publisher, a color printer, a supply of manila envelopes, stamps, and an hour or two each month.

### **Bonnie Kishpaugh~~4 years as Genie Bytes Editor.**

Do you have a nose for news? Do you want its presentation to be accurate and attractive? Have you created text boxes in Microsoft Word? Bonnie's template with preset styles is easy to use. Highlight your text. Select your style. Voila! You're the perfect person to shadow Bonnie and assume the helm of Genie Bytes when she steps down.

### **Susan Perhala~~10 years as Office Depot Rewards Coordinator.**

Handling our rewards program is an easy and fun way to help the Club. Susan spends less than an hour a month on this task. It involves gathering the empty cartridges from Club members and turning them in to Office Depot. Creating a personal rewards account on line allows you to keep an eye on things and print out the rewards certificates when they appear.

### **Judy Phillips~~4 years as Webmaster**

Have you created a text box in Word? Have you entered text in the box? If so, you can be the MASTER of GSGC's software-free, web-based website! NO CODING NECESSARY! Shadow Judy as she updates the site and searches Google for valuable links for GSGC's members.

### **Danny Sullivan~~1 year as Technical Support Supervisor.**

Danny's learned a lot since he replaced Bob Dahlin a year ago. He'd like to share what he's learned with someone who's willing to shadow and support him at both Board and General meetings for approximately 5 hours a month.

Willing to volunteer? All positions are gender-neutral. So, follow this link: <https://www.scqsgc.org/board-position-descriptions>. Scroll down the page to find detailed position descriptions. ♦

## **What's That Room Again?**

What's the full name of the room at Chapin where we can access all of the library's genealogical resources? It's The Shirley Walker Boone Family History Collection. For those of you who've visited, you'll remember the FHC call numbers. We abbreviated the moniker in the "Obituary" due to lack of space. ♦

## A Seer, a Faith Healer, and a Magician cum Fortune Teller

**April Havens**

Member, GSGC

### Part 2: A Faith Healer

As you read in the May issue, my husband's family boasts a seer. My maternal line, as you'll learn in this issue and the next, claims both a faith healer and a fortune teller/magician. My mother, grandfather, and aunt all told stories about faith healer "ole Mac Hamm" who resided in the Appalachian Mountains of Patrick County, Virginia.

All across the southern Appalachian Mountains there are people who claim they can heal by faith. These healers are particularly skilled in curing burns, non-natural bleeding, and the fungal disease called thrash or thrush. Because they are faithful, God gives their words weight and works through them to cure the afflicted. These healers work with neighbors to whom they respond with gestures of friendship and concern.<sup>1</sup>

My mother's people resided in the hollers or small, sheltered, stream-fed valleys of Patrick County. My great-grandfather Thomas Mack Hamm -- who others said could take the fire out of a burn -- married Cora Elizabeth Hall. Their daughter and my grandmother Hattie Hamm McCormick, so my mom said, also knew how to heal by faith but forgot the words as she got older.

Cora's brother, Dennis Howard Hall, spoke to a member of the Patrick County Oral History Project about Old Mac Hamm. [H=Hall, W=wife, T=Joanne Thomas, interviewer].

**T:** You know any, uh, anything like taking the fire out of a burn, you ever know anybody could do that?

**H:** I've heard that old man Mack Hamm said he could.

**T:** Who?

**H:** Old man Mack Hamm, lived out the other side of where we lived a year or two.

**T:** Mack Hamm?

**H:** Yeah. He was Alvis Hamm's daddy and all them Hamm's.

**T:** Oh, Hamm, Mack Hamm. Like H-A-M-M, Hamm. (**W:** mm-HM) How did he do it?

**H:** I don't know. He says he told us he's going to tell her how to, show her how.

**W:** He was going to learn me to, wouldn't learn none of the rest of them. I never did want to, I didn't believe it.

**H:** But he never did. I don't know how he could do it, but he said he could.

**T:** And you don't know, he never did do it to you all?

**W:** No, he never did. Told him I didn't care nothing about it. Sometimes I wish now I had. Been a few rough --

**H:** He claimed he could take it out. I don't know whether he could or not.

**T:** I've heard, uh, I heard that, uh, I believe it was Uncle Alfred Fain could take the fire out of a burn and that he did it for my grandmother and she said that it really he really could.

**W:** They say it really work.

**H:** Old man Mack Hamm said he could.<sup>2</sup>

As Beth Ward writes in *Atlas Obscura*, "They didn't call it a spell. It was just the words you said if somebody had a bad burn, and then the burn got better."<sup>3</sup> To be continued... ♦

<sup>1</sup>The Foxfire Book, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1972. Page 347

<sup>2</sup>Patrick County Project "Patrick County: Continuity and Change In A Rural Community", Oral History Transcripts F-Ha. Interview with Dennis Howard Hall of Rt. 3, Stuart, Va. July 7, 1981-July 31-1981. Page 29. Tape 1, Side 2.

<sup>3</sup><https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/southern-appalachia-folk-healers-granny-women-neighbor-ladies>

## Featured Websites

**GENUKI** short for "GENealogy for the United Kingdom and Ireland," is a comprehensive virtual reference library of genealogical information. It now contains over 110,000 specially-produced information pages. With the help of volunteers, GENUKI continues to grow. ♦

**Genealogy Trails** is a free all-volunteer website started in 2000 for transcribing Illinois genealogical and historical data. It was expanded in 2006 to include other states organized by region. Some data additions include Revolutionary War veterans' obituaries, Native American data, a genealogy dictionary, famous events in history and so much more. Their hosts are required to keep their data updated. There's probably something here for everyone. ♦

# Thomas Munley and the Molly Maguires

**Nancy Engle**

Member, GSGC

## Part II: Murder, Executions, and a Happy Ending

On 1 Sep 1875, the agreed-upon date for the “disposal” of Thomas Sanger, Thomas Munley, Charles and James O’Donnell, James McAllister, and Michael Doyle stationed themselves near Sanger’s home in Raven Run. When he left for work, the men attacked and killed their target. William Uren’s efforts to save Sanger resulted in his death.

Testimony from James McParlan, the Pinkerton undercover agent, convinced law enforcement that an alleged member of the Molly Maguires was the murderer. Accordingly, at 6 a.m. on 10 Feb 1876, the Coal and Iron Police arrested Thomas Munley in Gilberton.

In June of 1876 the trial of Thomas Munley, charged with the murders of mine bosses Thomas Sanger and William Uren, opened with Judge D. B. Green presiding. Fueled by the press, the atmosphere was one of religious and social bigotry. On 19 Jun 1877, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* printed a physical description of Thomas Munley. “Thomas Munley’s face is the meanest, slyest, and wickedest in expression of the whole gang. He is 5 feet 6<sup>1/2</sup> inches tall, has a bull neck, and has been stout, but prison life has thinned him down somewhat and now he simply looks strong. His body is long and his legs are short, an adjustment of parts popularly believed to ensure longevity, but likely to fail in doing so in this case. His forehead is as low as is consistent with its having a decided bulge. His hair is dark brown, commences a good way up from the forehead, and is scanty. His eyes are small and dark blue. He wears a mustache of medium size and light brown color, that but half conceals his thick, protruding, sensuous lips. His lower jaw in (is) heavy.”

The district attorney didn’t have much of a case. Undercover Pinkerton detective James McParlan testified that Munley boasted about killing Sanger and Uren and Jeanette Williams from Raven Run said she saw Munley at the scene holding a gun. Prosecution witnesses were coerced or bribed. Most prosecutors worked for railroads and mining companies and were vested in convicting the accused.

Jury selection did not include Catholics or Irish. Many jurors were German immigrants who spoke little or no English and were anti-Irish. There were accusations that any persons attempting to testify in Munley’s defense would be blacklisted and evicted from their homes.

The Pinkertons were a new agency out to prove themselves. They were in the employ of Gowan and under pressure to get convictions. As a result, there were accusations of evidence tampering and manufacturing.

Thomas was found guilty within one hour. He was sentenced to death. Signing Thomas Munley’s death warrant on 1 May 1877 was John Frederick Hartranft, governor of Pennsylvania from 1873-1879. Hartranft would sign 19 more such warrants for Mollie Maguires that same year.

The execution day for Thomas and his four co-conspirators, 21 Jun 1877, was dull and drizzly. Nonetheless, spectators from around the county gathered outside the Pottsville jail.

At 7:30 a.m., Fr. Gately said Mass for Thomas and two other prisoners. All received Communion. Thomas’s father, Edward, who was in poor health and unable to pay for transportation to Pottsville, walked the thirteen miles from Gilberton to see his son one last time.

At 1:11 p.m., Thomas climbed the thirteen steps to the gallows and his fate. His last words were, “it’s too late now.” At 1:20, the floor dropped. He was pronounced dead and buried in Saint Patrick’s Cemetery #3, Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

At the time of his death, Thomas was 32. His wife Mary was 29. Their children Thomas, Anna, and Elizabeth, were four, three, and one.

## Addendum

In recent years I had a conversation with my husband’s first cousin, who was researching the Engle branch of their family. Her father and my husband’s father were brothers.

She called to tell me about a discovery regarding a distant Engle relative who was a Civil War general. She went on to tell me he read the death warrants for four individuals who conspired to assassinate President Lincoln. They were George Atzerodt, David Herold, Lewis Powell, and Mary Surratt. Surratt was the first

(continued on next page)

woman to be executed by the U. S. Federal Government. This general was also governor of Pennsylvania.

As we chatted, I asked her the relative's name.

She said, "John Frederick Hartranft."

After taking a few seconds to process what she said, I asked, "Is this the same John Hartranft who signed the death warrants for 20 Molly Maguires in 1877?"

"Yes!" she said.

Shocked, I related my part of the story. Hartranft—this John Frederick Hartranft--signed the death warrant for my relative, Thomas Munley.

And so, 145 years after the event, we amateur genealogists found a connection between my husband and me we hadn't sought.

Our two families crossed paths as enemies 145 years ago. Today, we two distant descendants of those adversaries live together as husband and wife in harmony and love. Our union confirms what I've always believed: WE'RE ALL CONNECTED! ♦

## Did You Know?

Dick Temple informs us that Chapin Memorial Library patrons receive a running tab on their savings each time they check out a book from the library. The savings in this case is the retail cost of the book had it been purchased at a bookstore, instead of borrowing it from the library. One local family that makes good use of Chapin Memorial Library has already saved more than \$17,000 this year alone by checking out books instead of purchasing them! ♦

The long-awaited [International African American Museum](#) in Charleston, SC finally opened its doors on June 27th. The Museum contains a Center for Family History supported by FamilySearch International of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 2019, the Church of Jesus Christ donated \$2 million to help build the Center. Their opening week sold out. Plan to book your tickets in advance. ♦

Have a tip/tidbit you'd like to share? Please submit it to [genieclub2002@gmail.com](mailto:genieclub2002@gmail.com) – Subject: "Tip/Tidbit." We'd love to hear from you. \*\*

## Featured Books

Gail Reynolds recommends three must-have books for your genealogy research as follows.

1. Dollarhide, William. *The Census Book: Facts, Schedules & Worksheets For The U.S. Federal Censuses*. Family Roots Publishing Co., 2019. Written specifically for genealogists and family historians, this book includes new details about the census schedules for 1790 through 1950.
2. Dollarhide, William. *Substitutes for the Lost 1890 U.S. Federal Census*. Family Roots Publishing Co., 2019. This is the first comprehensive compilation of substitutes for the lost 1890 U.S. Federal Census.
3. Smith, Drew. *Generation by Generation: A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy*. Genealogical Publishing Co., 2023. This guide is organized according to the actual process used in genealogical research.

These books may be purchased on Amazon or read in Chapin Library's Family History Collection. The Dollarhide titles are available now. The Smith title is in process. ♦

Additionally, Charlene Carson tells us about another recent acquisition at Chapin.

Jacobson, Judy. *History for Genealogists: Using Chronological Time Lines to Find and Understand Your Ancestors*. Clearfield., 2015. If you want to include the ways in which historical events impacted your ancestors' stories, this is the book for you.

Laura Fazekas, a reference librarian at Chapin also notes that Chapin recently added approximately 100 new South Carolina-specific books from Arcadia Publishing. ♦

Baxter, Angus. *In Search of Your German Roots: A Complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in the Germanic Areas of Europe*. Genealogical Publishing Company., 2015. Not only does this latest edition help trace your ancestry in Germany, but in all the German-speaking areas of Europe. It gives you a history of Germany, resources (including those provided by LDS Church), phrasing, websites, genealogical associations, and family archives in the old country. ♦

## State Guides

### Montana

(Source: State Guide Montana by Koch, A. Originally published in the Jul/Aug 2023/Vol.24, Issue 4, P. 33 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1889

First federal census: 1860 (as Nebraska/Washington);  
1870 (as Montana)

Birth and death records begin: 1895 (local); 1907 (state)

Marriage records begin: From county formation

Contact for vital records:

MT Dept of Health and Human Services, Office of Vital  
Statistics. ♦

### Vermont

(Source: State Guide Vermont by Watson, A. D. Originally published in the Jul/Aug 2023/Vol.24, Issue 4, P.37 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1791

First federal census: 1790 (actually enumerated in  
1791)

Birth and death records begin: 1857 by state law; earlier  
in some towns

Marriage records begin: 1857 by state law; earlier in  
some towns

Contact for vital records:

VT Department of Health. ♦

## Dear Miss Genie

No questions received this quarter. ♦

\*\*Do you have a question for Miss Genie? Why not send it to her at [genieclub2002@gmail.com](mailto:genieclub2002@gmail.com) – Subject: "Miss Genie." She would love to hear from you. \*\*

## SOUTH CAROLINA GRAND STRAND GENEALOGY CLUB (SCGSGC)

### OFFICERS

President: Dick Temple

Vice President: Charlene Carson

Secretary: Dennis Fitzgerald

Treasurer: Anne Laymon

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Historian: Lois Butler

Membership: Pat Bernschein/Ann Hamilton

Newsletter: Bonnie Kishpaugh, Ann Hamilton

Past President: Darla Williams

Programs: Cheri Passey

Technical Support: Danny Sullivan

Webmaster: Judy Phillips

► Become involved. Shadow a Board member. We welcome you. ◀

\*\*Club T-Shirts (\$10) – See Darla Williams or email the Club at [genieclub2002@gmail.com](mailto:genieclub2002@gmail.com) to order\*\*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### GSGC MONTHLY MEETINGS

PLACE: CHAPIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY/VIA ZOOM

TIME: 10 A.M.

Presentations:

- August 12: Photo Angel Project – Kate Kelley
- September 9: No More Excuses: Ten Family Tips for Procrastinators Project – Lisa Alzo
- October 14: Problem Ancestor

### GENEALOGY MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

**AAHGS (Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society) 2023 Virtual Conference** – Hiding in Plain Sight: Recovering the Erased Stories of our Ancestors in the United States and the Caribbean – October 18-21, 2023. Check their website for registration dates. ♦

**New York State Family History Conference 2023: Navigating New York: From Queens to the Queen City** – November 2-4, 2023. The State's largest family history event featuring 30 sessions. Participate in-person or online. Check website for details. ♦

**Salt Lake City Research Trip** – November 13-18, 2023. Largest library of its kind with a staggering worldwide collection of records and help by Ancestor Seekers consultants. Check website for details/future research trips. ♦

\*\*Due to the Coronavirus most – if not all – meetings/conferences are being held virtually. Please visit **ConferenceKeeper** for the most complete "Calendar and Collection of Genealogy Events" on the Internet. This is your chance to attend a meeting virtually you may have been unable to attend onsite because of its distance or cost. \*\*

### MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at:

Chapin Library (*FamilySearch* Affiliate Library)

400 14th Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

\*Due to Coronavirus check website for meeting location\*

**Email - [genieclub2002@gmail.com](mailto:genieclub2002@gmail.com)**

**Website - [www.scgsgc.org](http://www.scgsgc.org)**

### GENIE BYTES NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bonnie Kishpaugh

Assistant Editor: Ann Hamilton

Published: Quarterly (February, May, August, November)

**Note:** Please send your questions/suggestions/feedback to [genieclub2002@gmail.com](mailto:genieclub2002@gmail.com) - Subject: "Newsletter."

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