



GENIE BYTES

Volume 2, Issue 2

Grand Strand Genealogy Club

April 2021

Message from the Editor

Bonnie Kishpaugh

Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Board

I would like to welcome Ann Hamilton as our new assistant editor. A former English teacher and librarian, she brings knowledge and skill to our Club's newsletter. I feel so fortunate she volunteered to assist me.

See Phyllis Hughes' article written in response to Lisa Lisson's presentation at our February meeting. Phyllis saw one of her sources anew from Lisa's perspective and so solved an ancestral conundrum. This is why it's so important for you to Zoom with us each month. Our presentations will inevitably aid YOUR research!

At the same meeting, Nancy Engle offered a tidbit we've included in this issue's Did You Know? section. Please send us your tips. We'll share them with our readers. They may just topple a brick wall or two! ♦

Featured Websites

New York Public Library is an iconic library. Check out its [Digital Collections page](#) with more than 880,000 prints, photos, maps, manuscripts, videos and more to explore. ♦

Zoom with GSGC (You Don't Know What You're Missing!!!)

Phyllis Hughes

2nd Vice President & Webmaster, GSGC Board

I'm so happy I tuned in for the February 13th presentation by Lisa Lisson! An engaging presenter, Lisa shared a treasure trove of resources for the researcher. One of those treasures is the [North Carolina Digital Collections website](#). I was familiar with this collection and had even used it in the past, but Lisa's perspective on the site made me look at the collection with a fresh set of eyes. Within 15 minutes after the conclusion of Lisa's presentation, I found the document I needed to verify my dad's attendance at a high school in Franklinton, NC! His high school had the same name, Albion Academy, as the school attended by his mother—my paternal grandmother. However, my grandmother's school was an historic Black private boarding school that closed in 1933. I have the diploma my dad was awarded as a 1951 graduate of Albion Academy, the school that, supposedly, ceased to exist after 1933! The document that I found in the *North Carolina Digital Collection* gave a detailed description of the closing of the first school and the opening of the second with the same name but under a different charter. Many years of research and frustration were resolved in 15 minutes. Thank you, Lisa! ♦

Mentoring Program

Sandie Houston

Mentoring Program, GSGC Board

To request a mentor, go to the club's website: www.scgsgc.org. Choose the "Membership" tab from the menu at the top of the "Home" page. Click "Would You Like to Have a Mentor?" page. Fill out and submit the "Membership Request" form. Remember, the more information you provide us, the better we can pair you with the perfect mentor. Expect an email to schedule an opportunity to assist.

Members, if you would like to share your expertise, go to the same page to declare your intent. ♦

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Will a Google Book Reveal YOUR Family's Past?

Bob Dahlin

Technical Support, GSGC Board

Have you ever wondered if others have researched your family? Published their findings? Was one of your ancestors involved in a noteworthy event? A battle? Might others' research provide valuable background for your narrative? Maybe *Google Books* is the resource you need!

Google Books is a collection of scanned books and periodicals stored in a searchable database. The database also provides some basic information on unscanned materials. Four display options are available:

- **Full View** – Books in the public domain show in full view and can be downloaded for free.
- **Preview** – Portions of books which are in print and for which permission has been granted are available for preview. The amount of text that is available depends on the permission granted by the copyright owner.
- **Snippet View** – Two or three lines of text surrounding the term that was searched for are provided when permission from the copyright owner has not been given.
- **No Preview** – For books that have not been scanned, no preview is available. However, some basic information may be provided about the book or periodical.

The late 1800s and early 1900s were the heyday for family history publication. Some families hired professional genealogists, while others relied on a family member to research and publish. Many of these family histories are available from *Google Books*. I've downloaded at least eight for various branches of my family.

Many specialized geographical history books are also available. Some record the history of a place; others, an event. *A History of Guilford, Connecticut* and the *Official Registry of the Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War* are two examples from my digital library.

Google Books are accessible in two ways. First, simply do a Google Search. Books will be one of Google's resources included in the results. Second, find a three-by-three grid of dots in the upper right corner of the screen. Click on it. Find "Books" among the application collection. Click the icon. See a page dedicated solely to searching *Google Books*.

Open the page for your chosen book. Select one of the display options described above. Is a Full View available? If so, look at the book online or download it to your digital library. If the book is unavailable for viewing or download, scroll down the page. A city, state or zip code search lists those libraries in which the book is available. Alternately, see listed venues where the book may be purchased.

If you would like additional information on *Google Books*, watch Lisa Louise Cooke's *10 Surprising Things You Can Find at Google Books for Genealogy on YouTube*.

Well, that's a basic introduction to Google Books. Give it a try! ♦

Did You Know?

At our February meeting, Nancy Engle informed us *The Hagley Museum and Library* located in Wilmington, Delaware, has an extensive collection of material regarding the Philadelphia & Reading RR and the Molly Maguire papers including stenographic trial reports.

Some other resources for members researching the area are:

- *Historical Society of Schuylkill County*, Pottsville, PA (Stenographic trial reports)
- *Free Library*, Pottsville, PA (Stenographic trial reports)
- *Historical Society of PA*, Philadelphia, PA
- *St. Charles of Borromeo Seminary*, Overbrook, PA (Molly Maguire Collection)

When reading a book for research, Nancy urges her fellow genealogists to check out the bibliography. It's a great resource for further exploration!

**Have a tip/tidbit you'd like to share? Please submit to genieclub2002@gmail.com – Subject: "Tip/Tidbit." Love to hear it. **

My Amazing Discovery!

Lorraine Kish

Member, GSGC

Here's how I recently discovered a distant cousin on my family tree. This was a real "Who knew?" moment for me.

Several weeks ago, I watched *Carolina AM*, a local talk show. Imagine my surprise when the host, Greg Rowles, mentioned that his late mother was a Chewning (as was my great-great-grandmother) from Spotsylvania County, Virginia. The Chewning family history is well known in that area. Well, I immediately took to my laptop to see how Greg and I connect. We are 4th cousins! We are both descended from William V. Chewning and, ultimately, from the Pilgrim, Robert Chowning!

I contacted the TV studio to let Greg know about our family ties. He invited me to come on the show and talk about genealogy and our new-found connection. Genealogy sure is a lot of fun!

In case you didn't know, Greg Rowles is quite a local celebrity and musical talent. In addition to hosting the talk show, he performs live at the Alabama Theatre. Greg's parents were also musicians.

Friday, October 9, 2020, was my guest appearance with my newly discovered 4th cousin. Here's the link to the show. You might get a kick out of it.

<https://www.wfxb.com/2020/10/09/genealogy-with-greg-rowles-and-lorraine-kish/>

Greg is the real thing. He and I just clicked. I'm sure we'll be close kin from this day forward. He promises I'll be invited to Chewning family reunions in the future Yes!!! My new-found cousin made my day! ♦

Writing and Publishing a Family Legacy – Phase 3

Cora Lee Palma

Member, GSGC

If you are working with *Ancestry.com* for your Family Trees, you'll find *Life Story* and *Gallery* most useful. I'm not familiar with the other Family Tree sites.

Life Story follows the lifeline of your ancestor with specific events and dates in time, not only about your

ancestor but what was occurring in the world at the time. It can be utilized as a reference for the story of each ancestor. I always like to add a little history to make my stories more interesting, as I did with both of my Ancestral volumes, *Web of Italian Intrigue* and *From the Pear Tree*.

You'll find *Life Story* useful as you progress with the telling of your story, incorporating it with other documentary information you have discovered, such as *Passenger Manifests*, *Census Records*, *Birth*, *Death*, and *Military Records*, etc. Perhaps these documents are stored in your *Gallery*?

The *Gallery* is a file system, where photos and documents are stored for reference. This will be useful when you get into the actual formatting of your ancestral legacy, and wish to include photos and verified documents.

Reach out to other family members if you are personalizing your ancestor's legacy. They may have some interesting stories to share. It's quite interesting to read old newspaper articles. Back then, explicit personal information regarding weddings, funerals and other significant events in an individual's life were written in detail. It's amazing what you might discover about a relative's past life, sometimes upsetting.

You might devote a section of a spiral notebook to each person, adding social information you've found through newspapers and other sources. This is a good way to save any "notes" you might make. Or – you could keep a separate file folder for each ancestor.

I utilize a spiral notebook and a 3-ring binder, where I keep all detailed information, including the *Family Unit* and *5-Generation Charts*, all organized for easy reference. I set up a different section for each family. Both will serve as great references as you begin your actual story writing.

As we all have our own way of being organized, I would suggest you use whatever system works best for you. Nothing is set in stone.

Before beginning the writing process take time to check all dates and other pertinent information. You can always go back, and add pertinent facts you may discover in the meantime. ♦

State Guides

Georgia

(Source: *State Guide Georgia* by Fryxell, D.A. Originally published in the Sep/Oct 2020/Vol.21, Issue 5, P. 33 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1788

First federal census: 1820

Statewide birth & death records begin: 1919

Statewide marriage records begin: 1952

State-land state

Counties: 159

Contact for vital records:

Georgia Department of Public Health, Vital Records, 1680 Phoenix Boulevard, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30349, (404) 679-4702

Website: [Georgia Vital Records](#) ♦

Nebraska

(Source: *State Guide Nebraska* by McCullough, D. Originally published in the Sep/Oct 2020/Vol.21, Issue 5, P.37 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1867

First federal census: 1854 (as Nebraska Territory)

Statewide birth & death records begin: 1904

Statewide marriage records begin: 1909

Public-land state

Counties: 93

Contact for vital records:

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Vital Records, Box 95065, Lincoln, NE 68509, (402) 471-2871

Website: [Nebraska Vital Records](#) ♦

Dear Miss Genie

Where do I look for a civil war military pension record?

Answer: A Google search for “civil war pension records” will reward you with a wealth of websites.

Here’s a sample:

- [Genealogy Branches](#)
- [National Archives Civil War](#)
- [National Archives Civil War Research Sources](#)
- [FamilySearch.org Wiki Union Pension Records](#)
- [Abraham Lincoln Online Civil War Websites](#)

The *FamilySearch* database is free and accessible from your home. If you don’t have an *Ancestry* account, visit Chapin Library. Remember to bring your library card and PIN. You’ll need them to access Chapin’s *Ancestry World* subscription. (Due to COVID protocols in place at the library, card holders are currently able to access *Ancestry* from their home. This policy is subject to change as restrictions ease.)

If you need additional assistance, please complete the

mentoring form found on our website. ♦

**Do you have a question for Miss Genie? Why not send it to her at genieclub2002@gmail.com – Subject: “Miss Genie.” She would love to hear from you. **

Organizing My Files Uncovered Forgotten Treasure

Nancy Engle

Member, GSGC

This year I decided to organize my files. I was overwhelmed with information and couldn’t remember where I put stuff and found myself duplicating my efforts. Was the needed information on my computer? Which computer program did I use? Did I make hard copies and store them in my file cabinet? In which drawer and folder?

I’ve been researching off and on since the 1980s and my paper file cabinet drawers were bulging with information. I had snail mail letters, printouts from electronic correspondence, photocopies of records, and a baggie full of mini tapes with recorded conversations with my parents and an aunt.

I settled on one computer program for sorting names I needed to research. “Excel” offers me the ability to add thoughts or ideas that come to mind relating to that individual. I also realized I needed to add DOB and DOD after each name to better identify the specific individual to which the notes referred. Every generation and every branch in my family uses the same group of given names!

I created a color-coded paper file folder system (blue, green, red, yellow) with name and Ahnentafel number. (The Ahnentafel number is a German method for displaying information about one’s ancestors. Germans capitalize all proper nouns.) Next, I generated matching digital files on my MAC. Now it was time to tackle those bulging paper files, one page at a time.

What I found as I sorted through each file was a gold mine of forgotten information I’d tucked away. It was like being on a treasure hunt! I was able to connect people with a specific branch. The correspondence I received from siblings of my grandparents often provided dates of birth and/or death. If I was lucky, the writer provided names of parents, spouses, and children. Some correspondence included photographs and anecdotes. After verifying the information, I added the data to my *Ancestry* tree.

So far, I’ve only worked on the paper files and I still have a lot more to go through. Next, I’ll review the electronic files, which include emails from DNA relatives all over the world. ♦

Featured Books

My History of a Family Tree ~ A Simplified Guide to Writing and Publishing Your Ancestors' Stories writes Cora Lee Palma-Hayden will take you step-by-step through the process of putting your ancestral family's story into print. This detailed "how-to" guide was inspired by my program to our members on helping you write your ancestor's story. I hope I've piqued your interest with my series *Writing and Publishing a Family Legacy*

I'm prepared to offer my stock of books at a special cost to our club members at \$12.00 which will include mailing. Amazon's regular price is \$15.00 plus sales tax and shipping. If interested in purchasing this detailed guide, please email me at clpalma35@gmail.com for further information. ♦

Empty Ink Cartridges?

Susan Perhala

Office Depot Rewards, GSGC Board

When you order online or purchase items in person at Office Depot or Office Max, please use the club's rewards number: 843-907-2534. The club treasury is supported by donations to the Genie Jar at club meetings, by rewards earned through purchases of any merchandise at the businesses referenced above and by recycling of ink cartridges. If you have empty ink cartridges for the club, please call me, Susan Perhala, at 843-907-2534. I'd love to hear from you! ♦

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GSGC MONTHLY MEETINGS

PLACE: VIA ZOOM

TIME: 10 AM

Presentations:

- April 10th: Researching on FamilySearch.org – Robin Foster
- May 8th: DNA Roundtable Discussion – Open Forum
- June 12th: African American Research and the IAAM – Toni Carrier
- July 10th: No Meeting – South Carolina Genealogical Workshop via online

(Due to the Coronavirus, Chapin Library has suspended use of their meeting room until further notice. We are now holding our monthly meetings via Zoom. Please access GSGC's website [www.scgsgc.org] and/or Chapin Library's website [<https://chapinlibrary.org/>] for updates.) ♦

GENEALOGY MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

2nd Annual 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon – Virtual & Free April 8-9, 2021 - <https://familytreewebinars.com/24> Scroll down & register for each webinar you wish to view. ♦

National Genealogical Society Annual Family History Conference Virginia--Deep Roots of a Nation – May 19-22, 2021 - <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org> ♦

**Due to the Coronavirus most – if not all – meetings/conferences are being held virtually. Please visit www.conferencekeeper.org 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. **

SOUTH CAROLINA GRAND STRAND GENEALOGY CLUB (SCGSGC)

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

MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of each Month 10:00 AM via Zoom

FAMILYSEARCH AFFILIATE LIBRARY:

Chapin Library

400 14th Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Email - genieclub2002@gmail.com

Website - www.scgsgc.org

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Note: Please send your questions/suggestions/feedback to genieclub2002@gmail.com - Subject: "Newsletter."

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

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