



GENIE BYTES

Volume 6, Issue 4

Grand Strand Genealogy Club

November 2025

Message from the Editors

Bonnie Kishpaugh & Ann Hamilton

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

This issue was to be the last for Ann Hamilton's year long War Letter series concluding with the Vietnam War. Unfortunately, Ann did not make it. Our Club has suffered a great loss. I hope this last issue in Ann's War Letter Series passes muster with her!

In the future I will need all our members to be my assistant editors! Please consider writing about that unforgettable ancestor you found, sending article ideas, helpful books/websites, or tidbits you would like to share. You can send these to our club email address with *Newsletter* in the subject. Thank you all! ♦

Call for Genie Jar Donations

Members of the GSGC last met solely in person in March of 2020. Expenses such as maintenance of our website and Zoom subscriptions as well as payment of speakers and the *Ancestry* subscription for Chapin Library continue. Please help us. Mail your check or money order to Grand Strand Genealogy Club, 6529 Valene Court, Myrtle Beach, SC, 29572. Thank you, in advance, for continuing to support YOUR GSGC! ♦

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A EULOGY FOR ANN

Bonnie Kishpaugh

Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Member of the Board



My co-editor and friend, Ann Hamilton, lost her battle with cancer on September 6, 2025. Despite being ill for approximately nine months, she still made every effort to serve as co-editor of Genie Bytes wanting to see her War Letter series completed. She was so pleased with the August Issue that one of the last texts I received from Ann was – "Bonnie, just saw G. B. Best ever! Beautiful! You gave me an idea for Nov. Call when you have a minute."

When I first started the newsletter, I would send it to our Board for comments and Ann, who at that time was handling her Membership role, would always send me her edits which I appreciated. At one point she had offered to do it in the future if I wanted her. She didn't know that I would be taking her up on her offer very soon. I had hoped she would remember she volunteered when shortly thereafter I asked her to join me as my assistant/co-editor after Christine Davis moved out of

(continued on next page)

state. Ann was eager to help. It didn't take much arm twisting on my part for her to join my team of one!

In June 2020, Ann sent me an email saying "Here's a list of nitpicky edits to a terrific newsletter. I really enjoyed reading it and learned a lot! I've got a suggestion for a recurring feature. How about encouraging readers to write a piece about their *Most Unforgettable Ancestor*? I'd be happy to pen the first piece. I just met an interesting lady from 1595." This was the first time I became aware of Ann's gift for writing when she submitted her story for the January 2021 issue of *Genie Bytes*. "Introducing... Magdalene Voigtlander" who was Ann's maternal ancestor.

In the April 2021 issue of *Genie Bytes*, I welcomed Ann as my new assistant editor stating "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." I was so much more than fortunate. She was a life savior during her entire tenure.

She and I made a great team. We would proofread each other's work. I would correct her and she would correct me! I would trust and appreciate her edits. I would send her something I had written and she would make it sound so much better. I always referred to her as "my polisher." (AI will never replace my polisher!) Always the teacher she showed me how to go to the Merriam Webster, Thesaurus, and other websites to find synonyms and antonyms for different words, and how to use the correct punctuation, etc. She at one time suggested "we ought to have a style chart so we're consistent with frequently used terms and formatting. Short term memory loss you know!" She was so right.

I wish Ann was still here so I could share the irony that I found in the October 2025 issue of The American Legion Magazine. She would love it. So, I'll share it with you. "I hate when people mix up 'your' and 'you're.' There so stupid."

Ann may have been small in stature, but she was very powerful with her words and writings. Her contributions to our club were many. Ann was a very special person and her impact on our Club will be felt for many years to come. Her passing leaves an immense void.

Where's my "polisher?" ... in heaven polishing God's Word! ♦

A Personal Memory of Ann

Susan Perhala

Member, GSGC

Below is Ann's story as told to me during a phone conversation years ago. I asked Ann if she would type the story and send it to me.

When I was a sophomore in college, I participated in the interim abroad program. I studied theatre in London for six weeks. My professor was Mrs. Evelyn Anderson. She was in her 50s and sounded like Tallulah Bankhead. Her face was alternately a tragic/comic mask.

We flew Lufthansa to Luxembourg and took a bus to a ferry in France where we crossed the English Channel. Professor Anderson's questions began on the bus ride.

"Ann, Ann what do you see?" [Although my response is a paraphrase, those were her exact words.]

"Through a rain-streaked looking glass, I see a wonderland reality. Tiny, pastel-hued, tile-roofed cottages; basket-laden peasants; narrow, winding roads; grazing sheep in oh-so-green fields. That's what I see."

I asked Professor Anderson why she so questioned me. She said, "Ah Ann, I see the world anew through your eyes. You are in touch with your inner child. Because of you, I am with mine."

She continued to ask the same question in theatres, museums, art galleries and castles throughout the next six weeks. Eventually, I learned that she'd been chaperoning these trips for at least a decade. Each time, she selected a student to be her eyes. Mine were hers this time. Professor Anderson made me focus. She made a memorable trip more so. I'll never forget her.

Ann Hamilton

Afterword by Bonnie Kishpaugh

Like Ann and her teacher. I'll, never forget my teacher, Ann! ♦

Vietnam War (1964-1975)

Total U.S. Service Members (Worldwide) ⁶	8,744,000
Deployed to Southeast Asia ⁷	3,403,000
Battle Deaths ⁸	47,434
Other Deaths (In Theater) ⁸	10,786
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) ⁸	32,000
Non-mortal Woundings ⁹	153,303
Living Veterans ^{5,10}	6,262,002

NOTES:

5. Estimate based upon new population projection methodology.
6. Covers the period 8/5/64 - 1/27/73 (date of cease fire).
7. Department of Defense estimate.
8. Covers period 11/1/55 - 5/15/75.
9. Excludes 150,341 not requiring hospital care.
10. Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) estimate, as of 4/09, does not include those still on active duty and may include veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. – [America's Wars](#).

Communication During the Vietnam War

Bonnie Kishpaugh

Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Member of the Board

“There was a vast range of communication during the Vietnam War. It included: propaganda, letters, radio, aircraft, video and photojournalism, and protests. Some of these ideas were new, while others were older and used in previous wars. Either way, they were all extremely important when it came to keeping America unified during the war.”¹

How did soldiers stay in touch with their families during the Vietnam War? Letters were still the most popular form of communication. American soldiers sent countless letters to family members and friends back in the States.

“Available space on commercial airlines, military airlift, and chartered aircraft and ships meant postal cargo didn’t compete for space with people or supplies. Most mail reached Vietnam in as little as three days, thanks to innovations in cargo containers, automated location tracking, and prioritization of deliveries.”²

“**Just to Hear Your Voice:** The availability of affordable recording equipment made it possible for deployed personnel and their families to send voice messages regularly. Hearing the voice of a family member or friend on the other side of the world was the next best thing to having them at home.”³



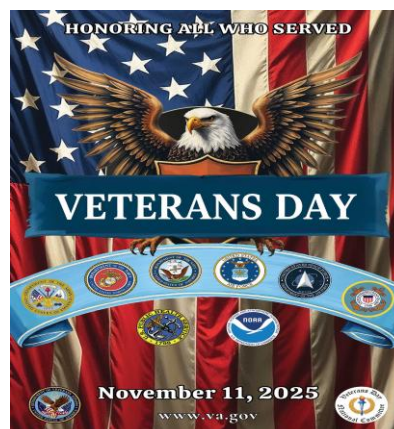
Personal tape recordings were encouraged. The American Red Cross ran a ‘Voices from Home’ program to assist families to record messages at small recording studios, and set up facilities in Vietnam and the Pacific for the use of service members. The relative simplicity and affordability of the equipment also meant that some families and servicemen had their own recording equipment, as was the case for Frank Kowalczyk. It was widely believed that the tapes helped boost morale, as separated families and servicemen often remarked that hearing a loved one’s voice was the closest thing to being reunited³.

Another way you could hear a loved one’s voice was through the telephone. I learned this from my husband who had called home to his family at least once. He only had time for a quick call due to the lines of soldiers wanting to make calls home. He said they had a way of patching a phone call through to the United States. After he told me this, I was able to find information about the United States MARS (Military Affiliate Radio Service) system and how HAM operators could apply for MARS membership to help service members call home. I found what my husband experienced in this article “[Calling home during the Vietnam War](#)” which explains the whole process of making phone calls back home. Be sure to read the first email at the end of the article the author received (11/11/21) from a former officer of one of the MARS stations with some history and a funny story. This is a very educational/informative website about the Vietnam War.

¹dphepner “[Communication During the Vietnam War.](#)” Online posting. April 9, 2014. Families@War-2014 Edition. A Group Blog of WVU Honors 293u.

² _____. [Mail Call History of America's Military Mail.](#) Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

³ _____. “[Vietnam War audio correspondence](#)” [Object Details](#) Smithsonian National Postal Museum. ♦



Honoring Veterans

Anne Laymon

Treasurer, GSGC Member of the Board

In recognition of veterans and current service members I want to mention two organizations that I recently was drawn to — “Wreaths Across America” and “Quilts of Valor.” Last December my office took part in **Wreaths Across America** and helped lay 11,000 wreaths in front of graves at the Florence National Cemetery. This event is held every year at multiple National Cemeteries across the United States. What started as a small way to remember the fallen, has turned into a foundation to Remember, Honor and Teach. Monies for wreaths are donated throughout the year and ordered for the cemeteries that participate. Wreaths are made by tree growers using the leftover cuttings and are boxed and shipped in refrigerator trucks across the country to be distributed in front of every grave by volunteers on the same day. This year it is Saturday, December 13th. My office will once again rent a bus and travel to Florence for the ceremony and help lay wreaths. It is a moving experience and amazing to watch. For more information or to donate go to [WreathsAcrossAmerica](http://WreathsAcrossAmerica.com).



Florence National Cemetery was established in 1865 and expanded across the street in the early 1980's, called the **Florence National Cemetery Annex**. The land for Florence National Cemetery was appropriated, and later purchased, from the estate of a local resident about a quarter-mile from the POW camp. Original interments were made in two separate burial grounds, one containing 416 remains and the other approximately 2,322 remains. Interments at the larger site were made in 16 trenches; in 1865, this site was designated a national cemetery and the remains from the smaller burial ground were dug up and reinterred there.



I have a few veterans in my office and one was recently honored by **Quilts of Valor** along with his wife, also a veteran. The local quilting group, Myrtle Beach Shore

Birds of Murrells Inlet, takes part in creating beautiful unique quilts for service members or living veterans that have been touched by war. These civilian awards are presented at ceremonies by the Quilts of Valor Foundation. A group of us were able to grab lunch at the Veterans Café, locally here in Myrtle Beach, and watch our co-worker and wife receive their quilts with 4 other veterans. To nominate, donate, or to learn more about this organization which was started in 2003, and their work, please go to the Quilts of Valor website. ♦



Quilts of Valor®
Creating a Legacy

Book Review

Linda Murphy

Secretary, GSGC Member of the Board

Passey, Cheri Hudson. *Genealogy in Reverse: Finding the Living. A Practical Guide for All Genealogists* Genealogical Publishing Company, Paperback, 2025.

Cheri has written a concise yet invaluable guidebook for genealogists interested in reverse genealogy, or tracing descendants rather than ancestors. At just 56 pages, this slim volume delivers practical, actionable advice to help researchers connect with living relatives who may hold the missing pieces of their family history puzzles.

The book is written in a clear, encouraging tone that makes it approachable for beginners, while still offering useful methodology for more seasoned genealogists. It includes strategies to locate and contact living descendants using online tools, public records, and thoughtful outreach. The inclusion of collateral line research — tracing siblings and extended family — is especially helpful for overcoming dead ends in traditional ancestor-focused searches.

What makes this book stand out is its step-by-step approach, offering both strategy and confidence for those looking to bridge the gap between past and present. Whether you're building a more complete family tree or hoping to connect with relatives who remember your great-grandmother firsthand, this guide provides the structure and motivation to begin the search.

Highly recommended as an addition to any genealogist's bookshelf — especially for those who feel their tree might grow best by looking forward as well as back. ♦

Featured Books

StoryRock, Inc. *Vietnam War 50th Commemoration: A Time to Honor: Stories of Service, Duty, and Sacrifice* (Includes Companion DVD Feature Documentary entitled *The Journey Home* affixed to the inner rear board). Remember My Service Productions, 2016. This book is a tribute to Vietnam War veterans, honoring their service and sacrifices through personal individual stories of the men and women from across the USA and how it changed their lives. In addition, each state book is prefaced with extra pages of state specific tributes, stories, and sponsors.

RMS partnered with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project to provide a searchable database archive of personal stories provided by Vietnam Veterans from each state. (Each veteran will receive an official Library of Congress certificate stating his or her story is archived in the LOC.)

The [Remember My Service](#) website explains how this national recognition project was produced. ♦

Knepp, Gary L. *Forgotten Warriors: Stories From The Korean War* Little Miami Publishing Company, Paperback, 2013. According to the publisher, Korea is America's Forgotten War. We were unprepared for war when North Korea invaded the South. Our men were outnumbered, outgunned, and untrained. Not only did they have to fight a ruthless, seasoned enemy, but had to contend with extreme weather conditions, and an unforgiving terrain. Of the 1.7 million Americans who served in the war, 33,686 were killed in action, 103,000 were wounded, and more than 7,900 are still missing in action. This is their story. ♦

Featured Websites

According to Wikipedia the [American Battle Monuments Commission](#) is an independent agency of the United States government that administers, operates, and maintains permanent U.S. military cemeteries, memorials, and monuments primarily outside the United States.

At their website, you can find gravesites and memorials and explore the stories of more than 200,000 Americans who died in the World Wars and are buried overseas.

Their database contains only the names of those interred or memorialized at ABMC cemeteries and

memorials. It does not contain the names of war dead returned to the United States for permanent interment at national or private cemeteries. ♦

You can find a wealth of information relative to researching military records at the [National Archives](#) including what military records they have, how military records help in your genealogy research, how to begin, how to search the military records and how to obtain copies of military service records. See what they have. It might help you to find that military ancestor. ♦

Did You Know?

According to the November 2025 issue of the *American Legion Magazine*, the famous battle cry "oorah" started during the Korean War, when Marines of the 1st Amphibious Reconnaissance Company imitated the "aarugha" sound of submarine dive horns as a motivational chant. It soon morphed into "oorah" and became popular among drill instructors. ♦

You can find burial locations in VA National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries or other US locations using the [Nationwide Gravesite Locator](#) website from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. ♦

At the [Family Search Wiki](#) (a free website), there is a wealth of information on researching your Korean War ancestor. ♦

How to care for your ancestor's military uniform? At the [Fold3](#) Blog they give you pointers on cleaning, storing and preserving your "precious artifact" with guidance from the World War II Museum. Also, read the comments at the end of the article to find out where you can donate a military uniform. ♦

The four ways to honor your military ancestors? They are 1) Visit Their Gravesites, 2) Create Online Memorials, 3) Search for Service and Pension Records and 4) Study Military History. ♦

There has been a relaunch by Veridian of the free newspaper search site known as [Elephind](#) version 2.0? It states on their website that for now it's free to use while in their experimental stage -- but it won't stay that way forever so be sure to look at it **now**. Check out their search tips so you learn how to get better search results and make the most of their AI Summary Assistant. ♦

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

State Guides

California

(Source: State Guide California by Hendrickson, N. Originally published in the Jul/Aug 2025/Vol.26, Issue 4, P. 33 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1850

First federal census: 1850

Birth and death records begin: varies (county); 1905 (state)

Marriage records begin: varies (county; 1905 (state)

Contact for vital records:

CA Dept. of Public Health. ♦

Ohio

(Source: State Guide Ohio by Bishop, S. Originally published in the Jul/Aug 2025/Vol.26, Issue 4, P.37 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1803

First federal census: 1800 (fragmented); 1820 (extant)

Birth and death records begin: 1867 (county); 1908 (state)

Marriage records begin: varies (county); 1949 (state)

Contact for vital records:

OH Dept. of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics. ♦

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 – Subject: “Miss Genie.” She would love to hear from you. **

SOUTH CAROLINA GRAND STRAND GENEALOGY CLUB (SCGSGC)

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

Lanyards (\$5 ID Badge Holder + 2 Ribbons. Additional Ribbons \$.25 each) – See Marie Peacock or email the Club at genieclub2002@gmail.com to order

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GSGC MONTHLY MEETINGS

PLACE: CHAPIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY/VIA ZOOM

TIME: 10 A.M.

PRESENTATIONS: (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- November 8: Stories in Military Letters — developed by Ann Hamilton
- December 13: End of Year Roundup
- January 10: Organizing Your Genealogy Files — Drew Smith

GENEALOGY MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

Finding Your Elusive Ancestors: The American Experience – January 24, 2026. The Manatee Genealogical Society invites you to join their virtual annual seminar, featuring four nationally recognized speakers. Check website for details. ♦

Roots Tech 2025 – March 5-7, 2026. The conference will be in person in Salt Lake City (\$129) and virtual (FREE!). Registration now open. Check website for details. ♦

National Genealogical Society 2026 Family History Conference – America at 250 – May 27-30, 2026. The conference will shine a light on the stories, communities, and research strategies to help you understand the nation's past. Held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, home to the renowned Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library. Registration opens in December. Check website for details. ♦

** 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 Memorial Library (*FamilySearch* Affiliate Library)
400 14th Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Meetings held both at Chapin Library and via ZOOM

Email - genieclub2002@gmail.com

Website - www.scgsgc.org

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