Ancient City Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the St. Augustine Genealogical Society

June 2017

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The Society Page

Our June meeting will be held on Saturday, June 17th, at the Southeast Branch Library, 6670 US 1 South. Check-in begins at 12:45pm and the meeting begins at 1:00pm. This month Jack Butler returns with more DNA goodness. Members are encouraged to bring their DNA questions.

Since our research chair is traveling, there will not be a "short course" this month.

The Society Calendar

June 17 - DNA101 Continues
July 15 - Tribute to Virginia Hassenflu
August - Summer Break
September 16 - Hands-On Training
October 21 - More Family Tree Maker
November 18 - Gretel's Cross
December 16 - Christmas Party

Officers

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1st Vice President
  Judy Parrino
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  Bob Burns
Programs
  Judy Parrino
Communications
  Meredeth Mann
Publications
  Denise Olson
Library Liaison
  Joan Lucian
Archivist/Historian
  Rosemarie Quintero
Facebook
  Sue Gill

Going Mobile

Research Toolbox

While you are enjoying the sea breeze and afternoon showers, I'm wandering through the great southwest on our way to the California Bay Area. On the way, we paid a visit to places in Mississippi and Texas where my ancestors lived some time back. Thanks to today's technology, I am able to carry all my research with me in the palm of my hand. With my iPhone and iPad I have my genealogy software and easy access to all my notes, scanned documents, photos and records.

FamilySearch, Ancestry and MyHeritage all have mobile apps for both iOS and Android devices. The number of fully-functional genealogy applications are growing - mostly on the Apple platform.
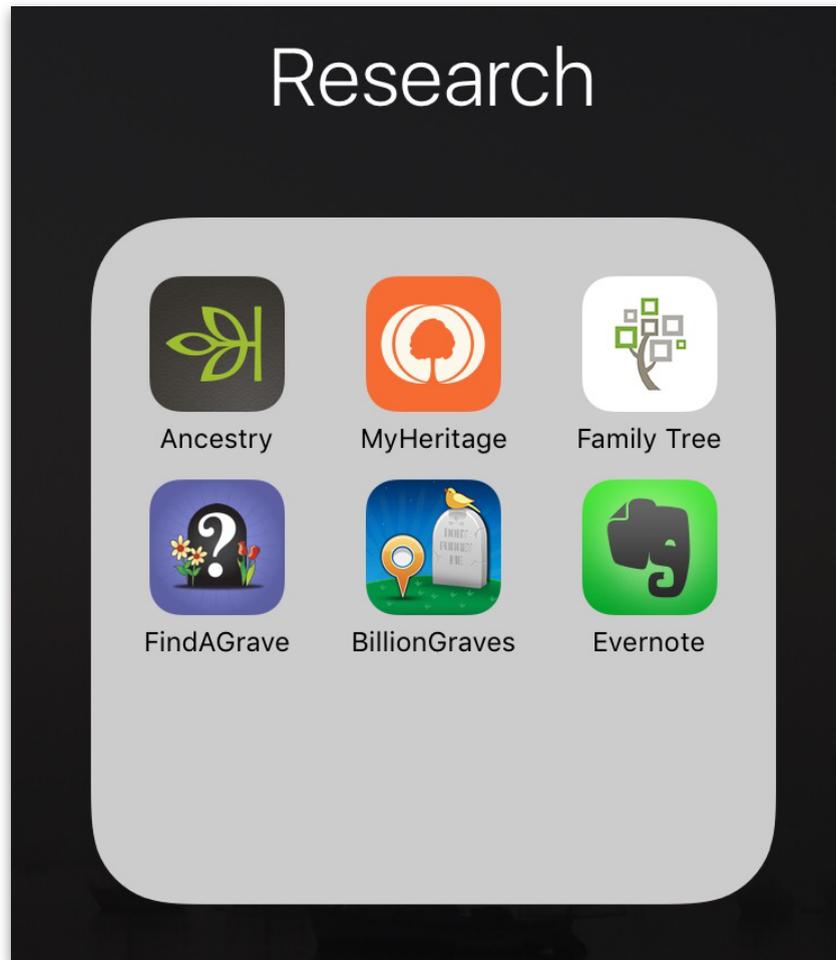
At the top of that list is MobileFamilyTree ($17.99). It maintains your database in the cloud so that you can easily access your data from your iPad or iPhone and automatically syncs additions and changes with the companion MacFamilyTree ($59.99). Both versions support searching the major genealogy databases from inside the apps.

Heredis offers both an iOS and Android app (free) along with companion desktop apps for Mac and Windows ($49.99). It also takes advantage of cloud storage so my data is available on my phone, tablet or desktop.

Another interesting element for these two platforms is that the mobile apps are fully operational. You don't have to have a companion desktop app for them to function.

Research on the road is one good reason to have a mobile option for all your research stuff. Today's notes management apps like Evernote and OneNote
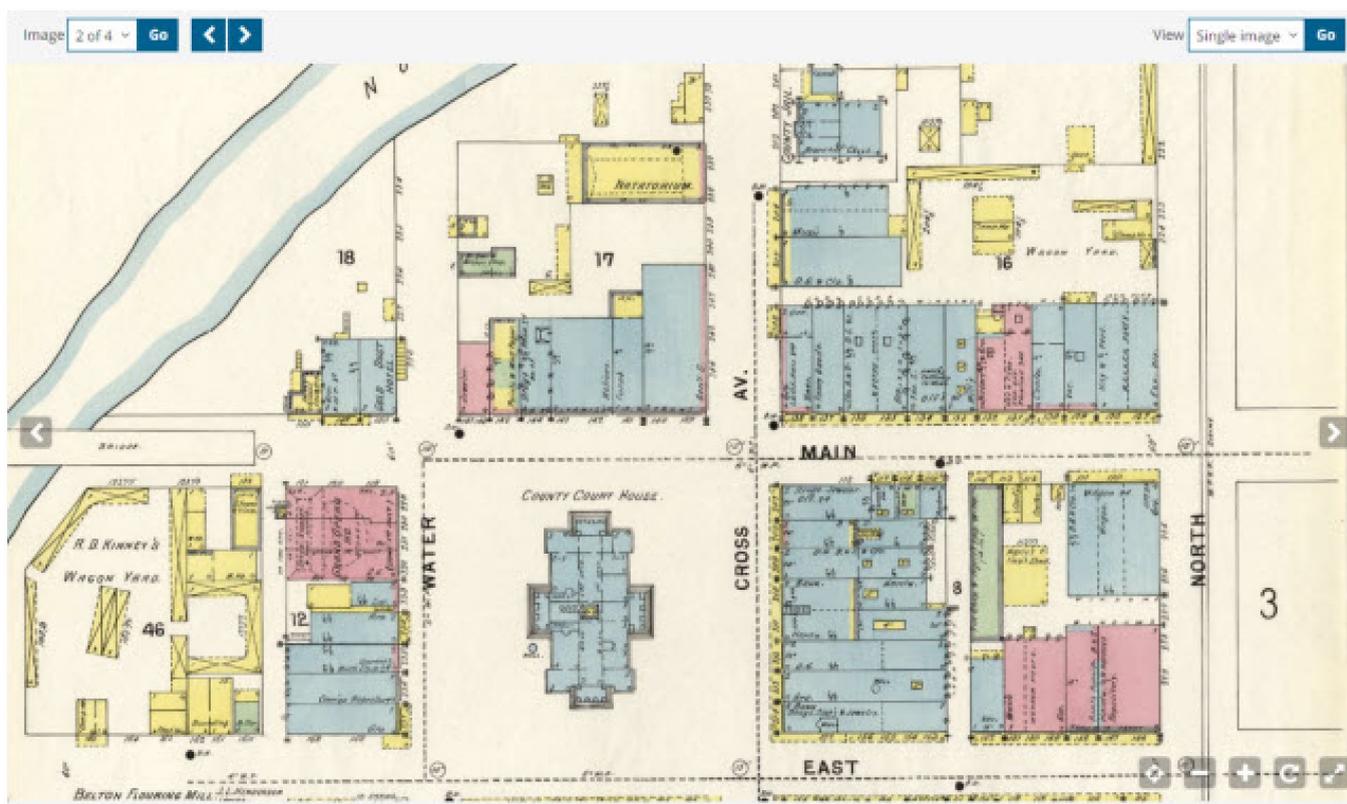
make it possible to take ALL your research with you while apps like Documents for iOS gives you easy access to reference books, local histories and other publications. With companion scanning apps like Evernote's Scannable (iOS - free) and Microsoft's Office Lens (Windows Phone, Android and iOS) you can quickly scan documents and records into your notebooks, saving copy charges in the process.

A sample set of apps to support
mobile research
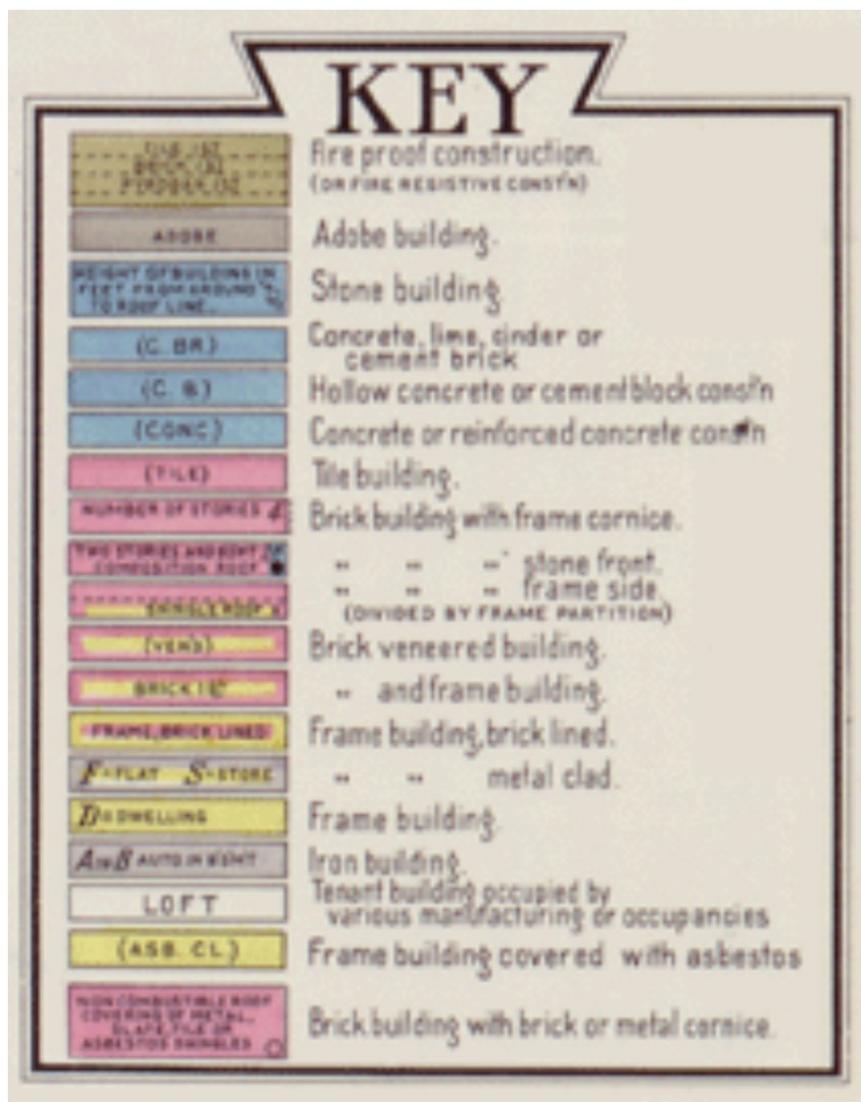
Sanborn Fire Maps

In the Archives

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps collection at the Library of Congress provide a searchable database of the fire insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company. The maps are arranged by state, then city and release data. Currently there are over 25,000 sheets from over 3000 city sets online.

The maps are distinctive in that they use a set of symbols to clearly represent the information presented on the maps. The insurance industry dictated the information to be mapped and the way that information was portrayed. Take

some time to review these keys and colors so you will understand the information found on the maps.

Take advantage of the street index to find the map for the area where your ancestors lived. Street names are listed alphabetically, including numbered streets and avenues. Numbered streets are spelled out - Second Avenue rather than 2nd Avenue. It is not unusual that street names and building numbering systems change over time. You may want to use a current map to compare locations with the fire map.

The maps use a series of lines, abbreviations and symbols to represent information in the maps. For example, a solid line indicated a solid wall while a break in a line showed doorways and other passages. Abbreviations identified how a structure was used. For example, "D" or "Dwg" identified a dwelling, "F" a flat or apartment, "S" a store and "Sal" a saloon. In some instances, symbols and abbreviations were combined with text to describe a specific use. The symbols evolved over time. To make using these maps easier, a series of keys or legends have been reproduced from reference manuals that the Sanborn Map Company produced for its employees.

City directories give you an address and the Sanborn maps give you a detailed look at what kind of building was at that location. You can also see what the neighborhood looked like at a particular time. Don't stop there. Use the maps to find where they worked, where their church was and other details that will give you a broader picture of where and how they lived.

Society Services

The Research Help Desk supports our members with research assistance either at meetings or via email. Members can complete a research help request form at any meeting or email your request to Sue Gill at suecarl@aol.com. The Research Committee will respond with suggestions on search options and sources.

Members with research experience are encouraged to volunteer on the Research Committee.

There are a number of ways SAGS members can connect online. These include:

- SAGS Online - The society's public web site and records archive.

- SAGS Support - The society's members-only site offers weekly news updates, research support, 24/7 access to our publications library along with social networking features making it easy for members to stay connected between meetings

- SAGS Facebook Page - This virtual special interest group supports members looking for creative ways to document and share their family history.

- SAGS Facebook Group - This is a public group and once you join, you can set it to notify you when items are posted to the group. It's a great place to share useful research resources, ask questions or share a success story.

Publishing Guidelines

We accept articles related to genealogy, family history and research methodology from our members for publication in the Ancient City Bulletin.

Submissions should be sent as an electronic file in either rich text format (.rtf) or MS Word (.docx) format via email to sags.publications@gmail.com. Please keep formatting to a minimum as the article will need to be styled to match the Bulletin's design. The article title should be on a separate line at the top of the page with the author's name listed immediately below. Photos included as part of the article are welcome, but please also send a copy of each photo as a separate file. Captions are always welcome and please include the photographer's name for proper credit. Including a list of sources is also encouraged.

Articles will be edited for grammar and style and any edits will be reviewed with the author prior to publication.

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