



Past and Present

The Newsletter of
The North Florida Genealogical Society

August/September 2026

nfgen.org

Upcoming Program Information

Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am
at Watson Realty, 4194 San Juan Ave., Jacksonville



NORTH FLORIDA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY PROGRAM

**FREE
& OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC!**

Getting to Know the GENEALOGY CENTER:

Researching from Home

Discover the amazing collections, databases, digital resources, and expert tools available through one of the nation's finest genealogy libraries—right from your own home computer!





PRESENTED BY
Allison DePrey Singleton
Genealogy Services Manager
Allen County Public Library
Genealogy Department
Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center is considered one of the best in the country!



**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026**



10:00 – 11:30 A.M. (ET)

Allison DePrey Singleton will demonstrate the many free research tools, databases, digital collections, and expert resources available online.

Perfect for beginners and experienced family historians alike!



CAN'T TRAVEL TO FORT WAYNE?
Learn how to access one of America's premier genealogy libraries and collections—right from your home computer!



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
Admission is FREE.



VIRTUAL PROGRAM
Enjoy the comfort and convenience of viewing with other members!



PROGRAM LOCATION:
Watson Realty Office
4194 San Juan Avenue



BRING A FRIEND!
All are welcome to attend this informative program.



Visit www.nfgen.org for more information about programs, membership, and our library.



Promoting family history through education, research, and preservation since 1964.

Saturday, October 10, 2026 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am
at Watson Realty, 4194 San Juan Ave., Jacksonville

NORTH FLORIDA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



OCTOBER PROGRAM

FAMILY TREE MAKER

*Getting More from Your
Family Tree with Filters*

Presented by Gary English



October 10, 2026



10:00 AM



Watson Realty Office

4194 San Juan Avenue
Jacksonville, FL



ABOUT GARY ENGLISH

Gary is an experienced FTM user since the program was available on 3.5 inch disks. He also facilitates the Bartram Trail Genealogy Club.



All are welcome—whether you are new to *Family Tree Maker* or a long-time user.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Do you use *Family Tree Maker* for your genealogy research—or would you like to learn more about what it can do?

Join Gary English for a practical presentation focusing on the use of *filters* in *Family Tree Maker*.

Learn how filters can help you organize your work in FTM, ask questions about your data and enhance publishing reports.

Gary will demonstrate useful filtering techniques and share tips for getting more from your *Family Tree Maker* software.



HAVE A FAMILY TREE MAKER QUESTION?

Bring it with you!

General questions about *Family Tree Maker* are welcome, and there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

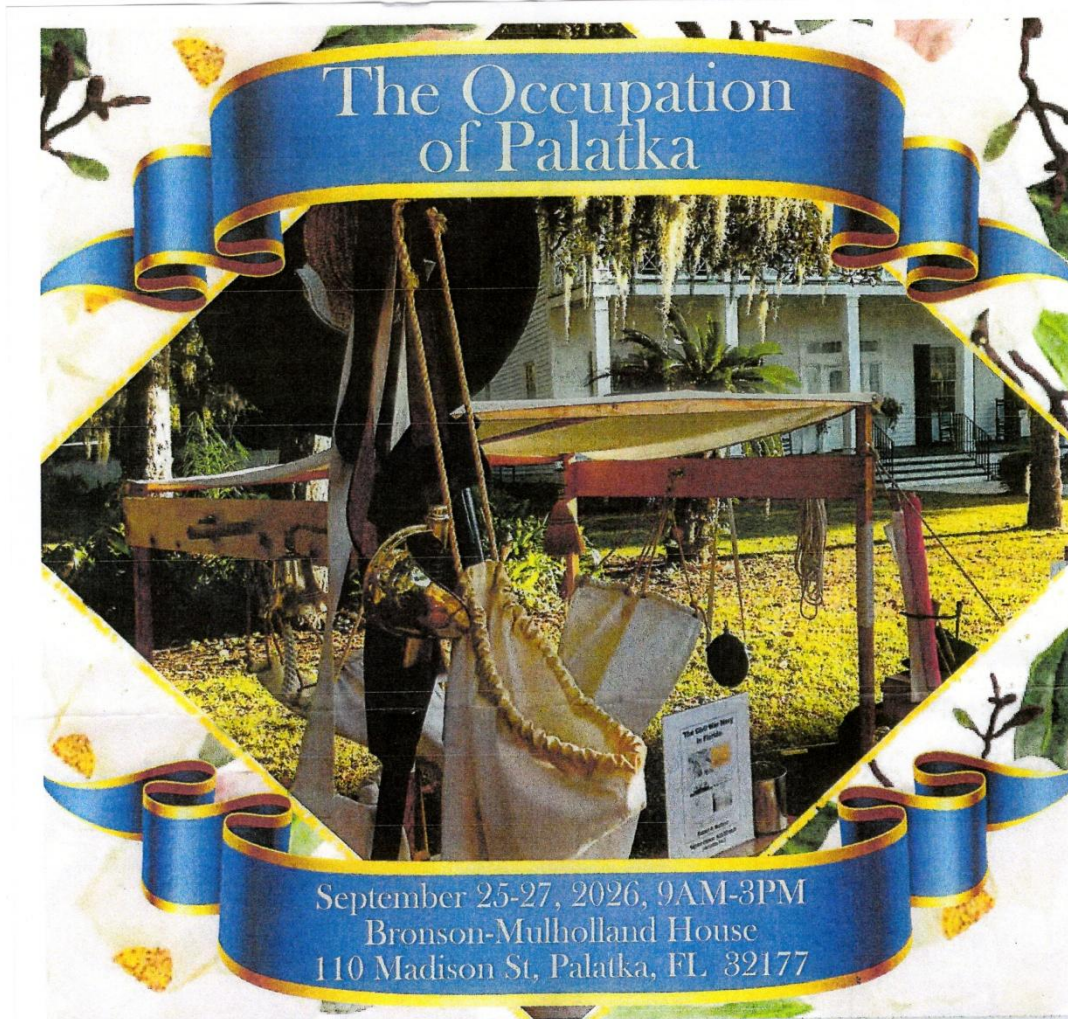


*Helping you discover,
preserve, and share
your family history.*

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
For more information, visit nfgen.org

September 25-27, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

For those of you who visited the Bronson-Mulholland House back in February, and those who couldn't make it, here's another chance to visit and learn about Palatka during the Civil War.



Step back to a time when Union soldiers drilled in the yard and the citizens of Palatka watched and worried about their men off fighting the war for the south. The Union Occupation of Palatka presents a slice of daily life during the chaos of the Civil War. This family friendly educational event is open to the public and free of charge. Find us online at facebook.com/PutnamCountyHistoricalSociety



FLORIDA'S
Putnam County
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CITY OF
Palatka
FLORIDA



VISIT
Putnam County
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

PC S
Putnam County Library System

August Program Highlights

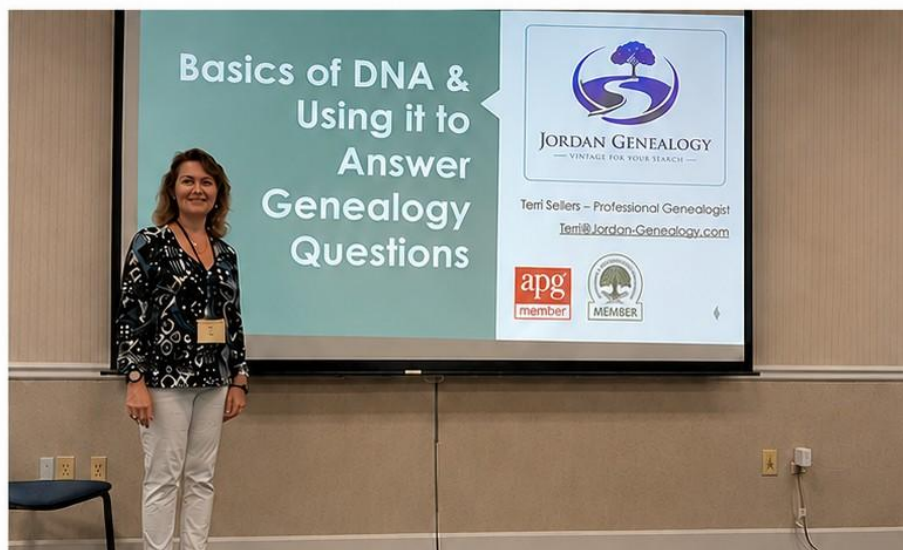
A CONVERSATION ABOUT DNA with Terri Sellers

The North Florida Genealogical Society's August program featured **Terri Sellers**, owner of Jordan Genealogy and an experienced genealogical researcher.

Terri presented an informative and relaxed introduction to DNA and its use in genealogy. She explained the basics of DNA testing and how test results can help researchers discover relatives, confirm family relationships, and break through genealogical "brick walls."

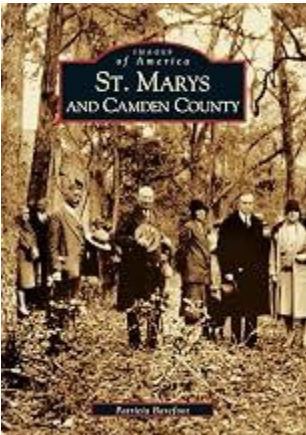
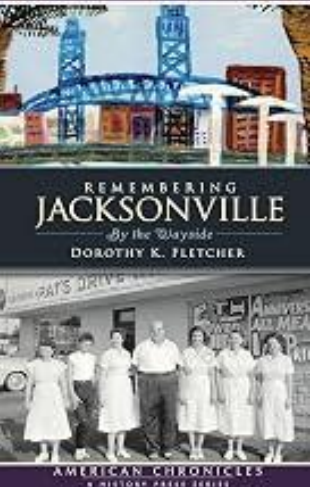
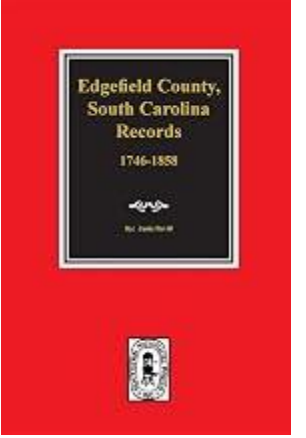
She helped make what can seem like a complicated subject easier to understand and demonstrated how DNA can become another valuable tool in researching family history.

Thank you, Terri, for a great program and for sharing your knowledge with our members!
Georgia



NFGS New to the Library Materials

August 2026 | by Joan Hakala

	St. Marys and Camden County (Images of America) <i>by Patricia Barefoot</i> Call Number: GA34 Dating from a 1766 land grant, port of St. Marys and Camden County have faced a challenging past, present, and future. Camden's growth and development have been driven by businessmen, adventurers and opportunists, determined "wild swamp Crackers," and hardy, self-reliant, God-fearing men and women.
	Remembering Jacksonville: by the wayside <i>By Dorothy K. Fletcher</i> Call Number: FL689 After thirty-five years of teaching English in Jacksonville, Florida, Dorothy K. Fletcher began enjoying life as a writer. For almost four years, she wrote "By the Wayside," a nostalgia column for the Florida Times-Union. This culminated in her book Remembering Jacksonville: By the Wayside. She continues to freelance even as she travels with her husband, Hardy, plays with her grandchildren and tutors at her old elementary school.
	Edgefield County, South Carolina Records, 1746-1858 <i>By Janie Revill</i> Call Number: SC268 These abstracts are a panorama of available records such as jury lists, wills estate records, deeds, plats, tombstone, etc... of a particular surname in Edgefield County.

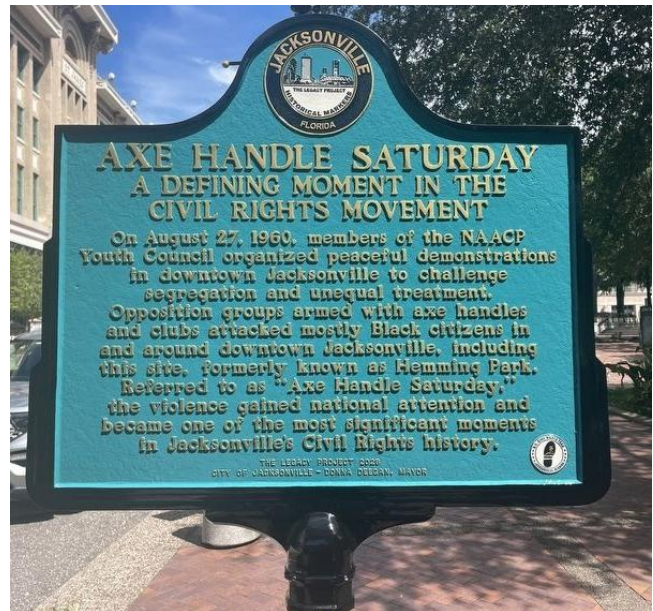
From our members:

Latest JAX Historical Markers

by Georgia Pribanic



Anna Kingsley Grave Marker



Axe Handle Saturday Marker

In the July newsletter of Old Arlington, Inc., it was mentioned that City Council Member Ken Amaro was working on the installation of a cemetery marker honoring Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley, believed to be buried in the Clifton Cemetery. The marker has now been installed chronicling Anna's life.

Anna, along with her daughters Mary and Martha, also ran plantation operations in the Arlington area and served as protectors of the free Black community they helped create. (OAI July 2026 newsletter)

The newest marker is titled **"Axe Handle Saturday — A Defining Moment in the Civil Rights Movement."** It stands at the **northwest corner of James Weldon Johnson Park, at West Duval and North Hogan Streets**. It was unveiled on **August 27, 2026**, the 66th anniversary of Axe Handle Saturday.

From Cemeteries to Kindergartens: A Month of Research at NFGEN Library

by Georgia Pribanic

One of the pleasures—and challenges—of genealogical research is never knowing where a question may lead. During the past month, several research projects undertaken through the North Florida Genealogical Society have taken us from an almost-forgotten private cemetery to the early history of the Woman's Club of Jacksonville, the free kindergarten movement, and the development of Jacksonville's charitable organizations.

Each project began with a question. Each led to another piece of our community's history.

Finding an Almost-Forgotten Cemetery



One recent search began with an effort to identify a small cemetery in Jacksonville's Arlington area, north of Fort Caroline Road near Hermitage Road. With only a few old grave markers remaining hidden behind a fence, the cemetery could easily be overlooked.

Research eventually identified it as **Parsons Cemetery**, a cemetery associated with the Parsons family now maintained by OAI. Locating and documenting small family burial grounds such as this is an important part of genealogical research. These sites may contain information unavailable in traditional records and can provide clues to the families who lived, worked, and owned property in an area generations ago.

The search was also a reminder that sometimes-genealogical research takes us out of libraries and databases and into the landscape itself.



Researching the First President of the Woman's Club

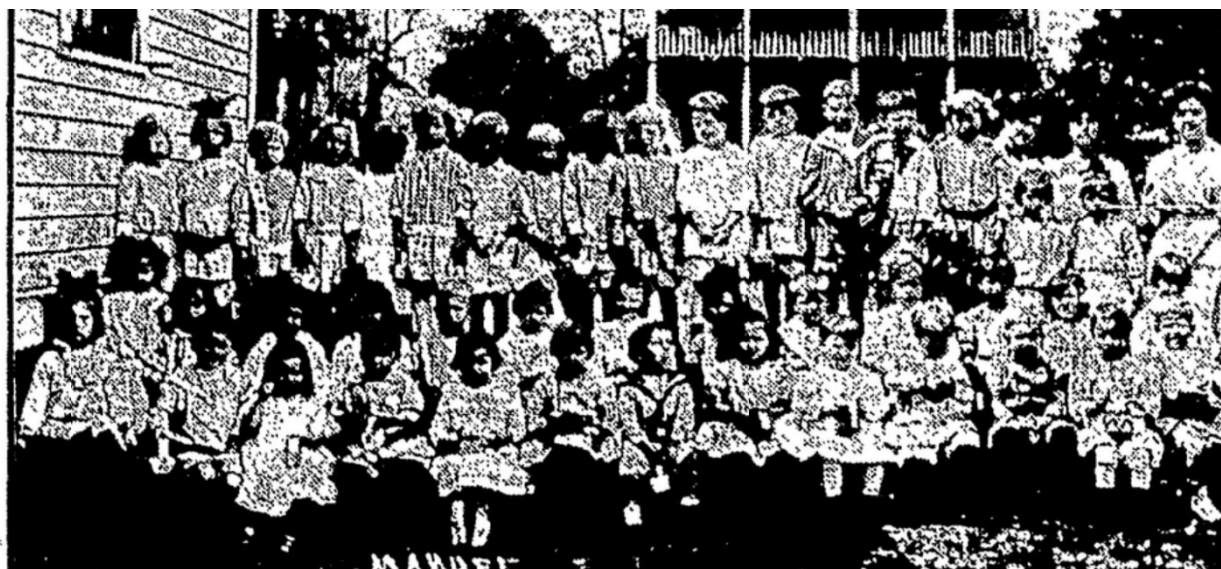


Another project involved researching the early history of **The Woman's Club of Jacksonville** and its first president, Mrs. Fairhead.

What began as biographical research quickly expanded beyond one individual. Newspaper accounts, organizational histories, city directories, and other historical sources can reveal not only the dates and names associated with a person but also the social and civic world in which that person lived.

Researching Jacksonville's early clubwomen demonstrates how women's organizations provided opportunities for leadership and civic involvement at a time when women had far fewer formal avenues for participating in public life.

Jacksonville and the Free Kindergarten Movement (Metropolis, March 27, 1913)



Research into Jacksonville's early free kindergartens opened yet another window into the city's social history.

The free kindergarten movement developed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as reformers sought to make early childhood education available to children whose families could not afford private kindergarten. Jacksonville became part of this broader movement, with local women and civic organizations helping establish and support kindergarten programs.

The research also led to the **Cummer family**, whose members were involved in Jacksonville civic and philanthropic activities. Examining their participation helps place the family within a larger story of education, philanthropy, and community improvement during Jacksonville's years of rapid growth.

This project illustrates why genealogists often need to look beyond birth, marriage, death, and census records. Understanding the schools, charities, churches, clubs, businesses, surrounding our ancestors can tell us much more about how they lived.

From Associated Charities to Modern Philanthropy

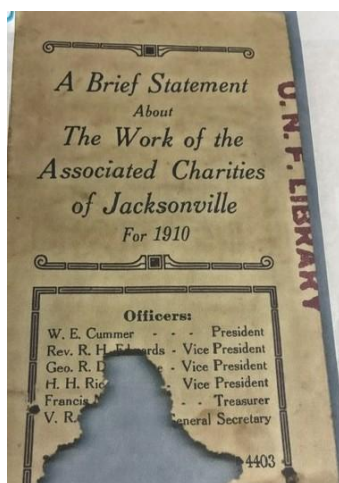
A final research trail began with Jacksonville's **Associated Charities** in the early 1900s.

Organizations such as Associated Charities represented an early effort to coordinate charitable work rather than have numerous organizations working independently. As Jacksonville grew, its methods of addressing community needs changed as well.

Tracing the organization through succeeding decades led to later coordinated community fundraising and welfare efforts, including the **Community Chest** model and eventually to organizations that became part of Jacksonville's modern philanthropic structure.

Following those organizational changes can be surprisingly similar to tracing a family. Names change, organizations merge, responsibilities shift, and records become scattered among

newspapers, archives, libraries, and successor organizations. Establishing the connections requires the same kind of evidence gathering that genealogists use to follow individuals through generations.



(UNF Carpenter Library Digital Commons, Eartha White Collection)

Research Is Rarely a Straight Line

What do an old cemetery, a Woman's Club president, a kindergarten, the Cummer family, and Jacksonville's charitable organizations have in common?

At first glance, perhaps very little. But each demonstrates how genealogy and local history intersect. That is the adventure of research: **one question almost always leads to another.**

Would you like to see your story in one of our future newsletters? Then please submit your article to:

By email: nfgenjax@gmail.com – Subject Line: Newsletter

By snail mail: PO Box 7728, Jacksonville, FL 32238-7728

In person: Library is open on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.