



Past and Present

Newsletter of
The North Florida Genealogical Society

February 2026 sgesjax.org

Upcoming Meeting Information

Saturday, February 14, 2026 starting at 10:00 am

When: Saturday, February 14, 2026 from 10:00-11:30 am

Where: Mandarin Branch Library, 3330 Kori Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257

Speaker: Peggy Jude



Peggy Jude has been conducting genealogical research for family and clients for over 40 years. She specializes in and teaches five areas of genealogical interest: DNA, genealogical technology, genealogical methodology, Swedish genealogy, and preserving family history and family heirlooms.

Topic: **What Can I Do With My DNA? 13 Things You Can Do With Your DNA**

So you took a test, and you know your ethnicity. You are related to who you expected. Now what? Explore all the things you can do with your DNA from the basics to more advanced options.

Saturday March 14, 2026

from 1:00 to 2:30 pm at the NFGS Library



LET'S CELEBRATE
IRISH GENEALOGY

WITH JOHN GRENHAM –
DISCOVER YOUR IRISH ROOTS WITH ONE
OF THE WORLD'S LEADING EXPERTS!

**YOU'RE JUST STARTING
YOUR IRISH RESEARCH OR
HAVE HIT A BRICK WALL:**

DATE: MARCH 14, 2026

🕒 TIME: 1:00 – 2:30 PM

📍 LOCATION: NFGS LIBRARY

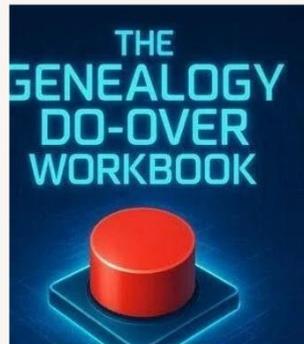
**John Grenham
will join us to
discuss Ireland's
records including
his website IRISH
ANCESTORS!**

The poster features a light yellow background with a pattern of small, faint shamrocks. It is decorated with several large, colorful illustrations: a green leprechaun hat with a gold buckle and a shamrock on the side (top left), a large green shamrock (top right), a gold horseshoe (middle right), a stack of gold coins (middle left), a brown pot of gold overflowing with gold coins (bottom left), and a leprechaun's head with a green beard and a green hat with a shamrock (bottom right).

February 2026 by Georgia Pribanic

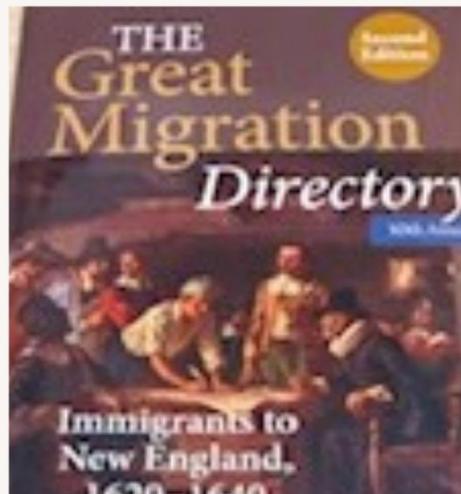
NEW BOOKS AT NFGS

**HT 109
2026**



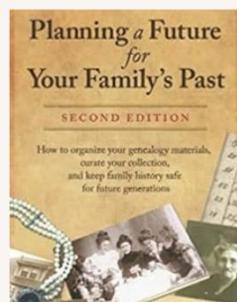
In this updated (2026) edition, renowned educator Thomas MacEntee guides you through a 12 step program designed to transform your genealogy.

**AA
104.3
2ND
ED.
2025**



Eighty-nine immigrants have been added to this most important genealogical and historical source ever published for New England.

**HT 110
2ND
ED.
2021**



Have no obvious heirs? You can take steps to protect & share info & items from your family history. Learn the

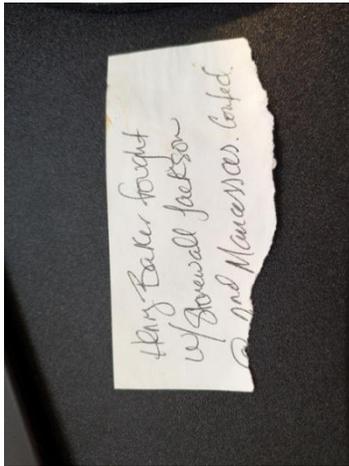
PASS Process! Includes how to approach museums about artifact donations & genealogical “wills”

From our members:

Walt Disney said it all started with a Mouse. For me it all started with a family story and a scrap of paper.

By Terri Sellers

I was attending my cousin's wedding in 1997, and my 2nd cousin mentioned to me that his great-grandfather, my 2x great-grandfather had fought with Stonewall Jackson at the battle of Second Manassas with the Confederate army. This is how my interest in my ancestor's Civil War service began.



The note that started it all



Henry Baker and Maggie Holder Dennis, taken soon after their wedding in 1886

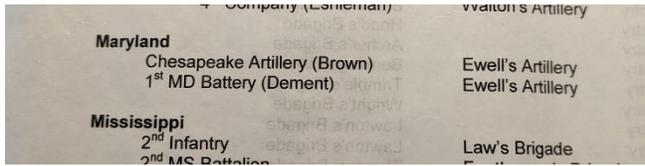
I began my family tree research about 32 years ago in March 1994 as a 23-year-old, recently graduated marine biologist, looking to get her first real "career" job. I had won tickets to a college basketball tournament in Salt Lake City, UT and I wasn't sure what I was going to do during the days, because the games were played in the evenings. My mother told me that I could go and find out more information about her father, my maternal grandfather. Now this totally confused me as her dad died when she was five, and she knew very little about him and his family, but I knew he was from St. Louis, Missouri and was buried there. She told me that the world's largest genealogical library was in Salt Lake City. So, we called my aunt and wrote down everything they could remember about their dad and his family.

While I was in Salt Lake City, in addition to researching mom's dad's family (and I did find out a bunch of information), I also found out information about my mom's maternal line. I discovered my 2x great-grandfather's name was Henry Baker and his marriage took place in Bourbon County, Kansas in 1886. And that was about as far as I took this research for years.

So, four years later, when my cousin told me that Henry Baker fought with Stonewall Jackson, my interest was piqued again. As the daughter of two St. Louis, Missouri natives who was raised overseas as a military child, the Civil War was never high on my interest list, and I had limited exposure to it other than high school American history class. I don't remember either parent ever saying anything about ancestors serving during the Civil War. I began my research, and my first mistake was assuming that all the soldiers that fought in the Army of Northern Virginia were from Virginia. And as a result, I assumed Henry was from Virginia, so I searched for men named Henry Baker from Virginia who fought under Stonewall Jackson – and there were 7,103 Henry Bakers in the Confederate army from Virginia (based on a search in the National

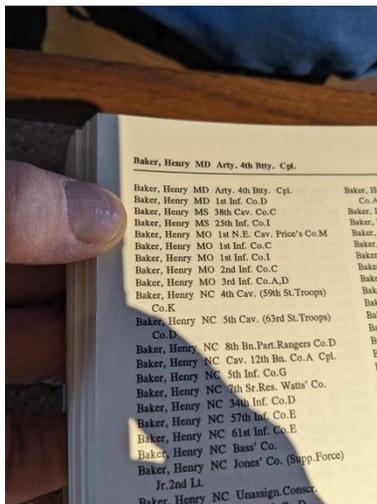
Park Service's Soldiers and Sailors database)! I immediately knew that I was in over my head, and I stopped researching.

Years went by and I found out a few more things about Henry – I found out that he was born in Maryland in 1836 (1900 federal census; 1895 Kansas census). He died in May 1906 in St. Louis, Missouri and his death certificate listed his parent's names – David Baker and Sallie Bausley. I was able to find a marriage between David Baker and Sarah Ann (Sallie) Bosley on 6 Dec 1825 in Baltimore, Maryland. And I was able to find census records in 1850 and 1860 for the family in Baltimore. During COVID I had the time to go back through many of my old genealogy notebooks from when I first began research, scan printouts and enter the data into Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.com and Reunion. And that is when I rediscovered that small slip of paper.



My husband, Chris, and I have been visiting all 63 National Parks around the country, and in May 2023, we were visiting Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. On our drive to the park, we passed a sign for the Manassas

National Battlefield Park. I looked at Chris and asked if we could stop and let me just see if I could find out any information. We went to the visitor's center, and I talked to a volunteer behind the desk. I explained what I was trying to find out and he went into a back room and brought out a book of the



names of every soldier who served in the Confederacy. He opened it to the B's and looked for Henry Bakers from Maryland. There were only two, one in the 4th MD Artillery and one in the 1st MD Infantry. Then he looked at a list of the Maryland units at 2nd Manassas – the 1st MD Battery and the Chesapeake Artillery, also known as the 4th MD Artillery. So, I had my answer. Henry Baker was in the 4th MD Artillery, AKA "the Chesapeake Artillery" at 2nd Manassas as part of General Ewell's Brigade, under General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. He also told me that the unit had been at the Brawner farm, not far from where we were, and that the interpretive center at the farm was open. I asked Chris if we could continue our detour and he said of course. We drove to the farm and met with the ranger there. He looked at another document to see where the 4th MD was located during the battle, and he said it was right up the trail, near the top of

the hill and to look for the green cannons, not the black cannons. We also met a gentleman whose 3x great-grandfather fought at Brawner farm for the Union during the battle and the ranger took a photo of us and posted it to the Park's Facebook page. Then Chris and I set out on a hike to find the green cannons. Short story – we got lost in the rain and couldn't find them. And we didn't have much time to spare, because we still had to get to Shenandoah and check into the lodge for the evening. So, we left the park and I commented that someday I wanted to come back, spend some time and find those cannons. Later that evening, I managed to find the green cannons on Google Earth and noted the GPS coordinates so that I would have them in the future.



After we returned home, I found a book that detailed the 4th MD's service throughout the war called "Three Cheers for the Chesapeake: History of the 4th Maryland Light Artillery Battery in the Civil War". Henry Baker is named twice in the book, and I made a list of all the unit's battles and locations at each battle, if noted. Chris noted my interest and told me that we should plan a trip for that summer to follow Henry Baker's service throughout the war. I planned a trip for that July and decided to follow him geographically so that we would be more efficient in our travels. During the trip we visited Gettysburg, PA;

Antietam, MD; Manassas, VA; Fredericksburg, VA; Chancellorsville, VA (Salem Church); Petersburg, VA; Richmond, VA - Cold Harbor and Totopotomoy Creek. I should say that I have stood where Henry's unit was deployed at Gettysburg, 2nd Manassas (I found the green cannons), Fredericksburg (both battles), Cold Harbor and Totopotomoy Creek. In a few cases, the location has been developed and cannot be fully identified (Richmond and Petersburg), which has also made me more aware of the need for battlefield preservation and education.



4th MD Artillery Battlefield Locations (L-R): Gettysburg, Manassas and 2nd Fredericksburg

Since we finished the trip, I have mapped out the Civil War service locations for more of my ancestors and some of my husband's ancestors as well, and in the future, we plan to visit some of those battlefields including Murfreesboro (Stone's River), Chattanooga, and Atlanta. Learning about Henry Baker and his Civil War service has really opened my eyes to that period in the history of our country and how we personally are touched by it.

And it all started with a little scrap of paper.

Submitted by Terri Sellers, Jacksonville, FL.

Terri Sellers is the owner of Jordan Genealogy and can be reached at DrDolphin70@gmail.com or Terri@Jordan-Genealogy.com

Sources – in order of accession

- Marriage license, Henry Baker and Mrs. Maggie Dennis. July 1, 1886. Bourbon Co, KS. Accessed March 1994, Family History Library, Salt Lake City.
- National Park Service, Soldiers and Sailors database. <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-soldiers.htm#>
- Henry Baker death certificate, citing death of 29 May 1906 at City of St. Louis, Missouri; Wagstaff family records, privately held by Terri Sellers, Digital Copy of official record. Certificate purchased from the City of St. Louis Bureau of Vital Statistics.
- 1900 U.S. census, Butler County, Kansas, population schedule, Rosia, enumeration district (ED) 20, sheet 2, dwelling 35, family 35, Henry Baker; imaged, "1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line].," *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7602/images/4120136_00171?pId=4574925).
- 1895 Kansas state census, Bulter County, population schedule, Rosalia, page 8, family 48, for Henry Baker; imaged in "Online publication - Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009.Original data - 1855 Kansas Territory Census. Microfilm reel K-1. Kansas State Historical Society.1856, 1857, and 1858 Kansas Territory Censuses. Microfilm reel K-1. Kansas State History," *Kansas State Census Collection, 1855-1925* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1088/images/ksv115_14-0432?pId=6028552; citing Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.
- Maryland, Marriages, 1666-1970", database, FamilySearch <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F4JN-CV3>: 16 January 2020), Sarah Bosley in entry for David Baker, 1825.
- 1850 U.S. census, Baltimore County, Maryland, population schedule, Baltimore, page 22b, dwelling 243, family 278, line 28, Henry Baker; National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 282.
- 1860 U.S. census, Baltimore County, Maryland, population schedule, Baltimore, page 501, dwelling 3053, family 3532, line 13, Henry Baker; National Archives microfilm publication M653, roll M653_462.
- "Three Cheers for the Chesapeake: History of the 4th Maryland Light Artillery Battery in the Civil War". Rick Richter, 2017. Schiffer Publishing, Ltd.



Montford Point Marines: A Genealogical Guide

By Georgia Pribanic

Black Americans have served with distinction in nearly every U.S. war. From the **Revolutionary War** and **War of 1812** to the **Civil War**, thousands fought for freedom and country. Nearly 180,000 served in the **United States Colored Troops**, playing a crucial role in Union victories. These men fought in major battles, guarded supply lines, and endured unequal pay and difficult treatment. This long tradition of service set the foundation for later generations such as the Montford Point Marines of **World War II**, who carried forward a legacy of courage and perseverance that began in America's earliest wars and that continues to this day. They proved their skill and courage in combat support roles with some in direct combat in the Pacific breaking barriers that helped lead to the eventual integration of the Marine Corps. Their service is a testament to the determination, patriotism, and sacrifice of Black service members across generations and conflicts. Today, Black service members serve in all branches and at all levels. In 2012, surviving Montford Point Marines were recognized with a Congressional Gold Medal.

For genealogists, researching these veterans can be especially meaningful and rewarding as they mark a turning point in both family and national history. Some of the more important research websites are listed below:

National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc <https://montfordpointmarines.org/>

This is the primary organization preserving the history, records, photographs and legacy of these Marines. Chapter contacts are included.

Montford Point Marine Museum (Camp Gilbert H. Johnson, NC)
<https://montfordpointmarines.org/Museum>

Museum site with info about artifacts, photos, and historical material.

National Archives – Military & Veterans Research (guides for service records)
<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans>

Guides to requesting service records and related resources from National Archives (NARA).

<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/ompf-background>

The Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) are primarily an administrative record, containing information about the service history such as: date and type of enlistment/appointment; duty stations and assignments; training, qualifications, performance etc.

Fold3 (military records database) <https://www.fold3.com>

A subscription-based resource with millions of U.S. military service records, draft cards, photos, and documents useful for tracing veterans and their service history.

Montford Pointers (community & outreach site)

<https://montfordpointers.com>

Focused on community engagement and highlighting stories of the Marines.

Jacksonville has a chapter whose activities include local efforts to honor survivors and to host the 2027 national convention. Thank you for your service!

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

By email: sgesjax@att.net – 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.