



Past and Present

Newsletter of
The North Florida Genealogical Society

May 2026

nfgen.org

Upcoming Meeting Information

Saturday, May 9, 2026 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

at the Mandarin Branch Library



NFGEN MAY 9TH 2026 PROGRAM:

**FAMILY SEARCH: IT'S MORE
THAN JUST A TREE!**

Speaker: Joel Warner has lived in Jax for 35 years and is a longtime member of the NFGEN Society, formerly SGES . He has had an interest in Family History since he was a boy. This was due to **his mother and grandparents, who did family research and shared stories of how his ancestors came to America, the problems they faced and what they left behind.** He finds working with others is enriching and fulfilling.

TIME: 10:00 - 11:00 am

TOPIC: He will explore many aspects of family search! Their tools are free and available to all.

- Go beyond the FamilySearch family tree
- Explore powerful free research tools
- Improve your record keeping
- Discover features you may not be using yet

LOCATION: Mandarin Branch Library, 3330 Kori Road, Mandarin, FL

FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Saturday, June 13, 2026 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

at the Mandarin Branch Library



The STITCHES of TIME

A SOCIAL HISTORY OF QUILTING

in honor of our country's
★ **250TH ANNIVERSARY** ★
and the Surprising Stories that Shaped It!

From **ancient Egypt** to **outer space**, Alison will piece together the history of quilting and the unexpected stories that shaped it into the slice of Americana we know today.

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF THE USA!

Honoring the quilts our families made, saved, and passed down—powerful **heritage pieces** that tell our stories, connect us to our past, and preserve our American legacy.

If you have never heard about quilting's connections to the CIA (and more!) or you are just curious to learn more about a family heirloom, join us for this special presentation on **June 13th!**

with
ALISON McCONOUGHY

- ♥ President, Jacksonville Modern Quilt Guild
- ♥ Board Member, Jacksonville QuiltFest
- ♥ Member, Quilt Alliance
- ♥ Member, American Quilt Study Group

QUILTS CONNECT US ACROSS TIME—FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

JUNE 2026 PROGRAM

FAMILY HEIRLOOMS: STORIES STITCHED IN TIME

QUILTS: FACTS VS FICTION

AMISH QUILTS: CIAS UNEXPLAINED IMPACT

SATURDAY
JUNE 13 2026

PROGRAM BEGINS 10:00 AM
PROGRAM ENDS 11:30 AM

LOCATION
Mandarin Branch Library
3330 Kori Road
Jacksonville, FL 32257

250 YEARS 1776 ★ 2026
AMERICA'S STORY.
OUR QUILTS.
OUR LEGACY.

★ OUR QUILTS. OUR HISTORY. OUR AMERICA. ★

Richard Bruce “Dick” Cardell

14 September 1936 – 11 April 2026

By Carol Clay



“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.” – Erma Bombeck

This quote adequately describes Dick Cardell. He was a valuable member and volunteer for the Southern Genealogist’s Exchange Society for many years. He joined SGES in 1980. His service spanned 46 years.

Dick used his genealogy expertise in performing research for many people over the numerous years that he was involved with SGES. He was instrumental in starting beginning genealogy classes in the early years of his service. Many of our older members were his students.

Dick served as President of SGES in 1988, 1990, 1998, 1999.

He served on the Education Committee and was Chair of a Genealogy Beginner’s Class. He served as Historian in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011.

He served as Parliamentarian in 2010, 2014, 2017, 2020.

As well as serving on the Board of Directors he supported SGES financially. He made a large contribution to help pay off the mortgage of the library building.

Dick's involvement extended to many other societies and organizations. He was a member of the SAR serving as President of that organization as well as being a member of the color guard.

He belonged to the Camera Club of Jacksonville and was awarded honors for his photography.

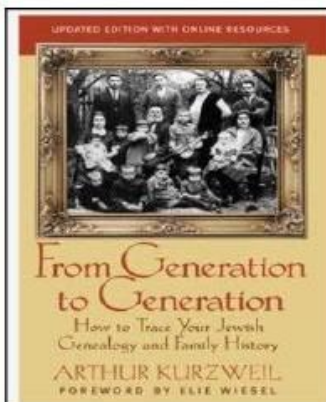
At his recent memorial service many friends and cousins spoke of his generosity. A 1st cousin spoke of Dick giving her and her husband a car when they were in need of one. A companion stated how he had taken her on trips, bought her special pieces of jewelry.

These testimonies emphasized Dick's giving heart.

Dick was a quiet man with a sweet smile. He was greatly admired for his listening ear and wise advice. He will be missed by SGES members and many others whose lives he touched.

NFGEN New Library Materials APRIL 2026

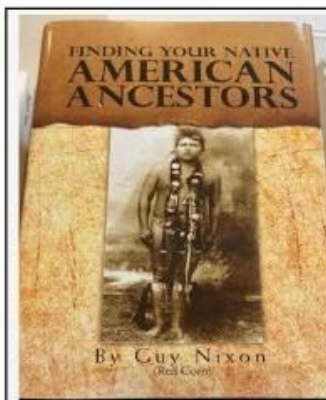
by Georgia Pribanic



From Generation to Generation : How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History

by *Arthur Kurzweil*
Call Number JWR5

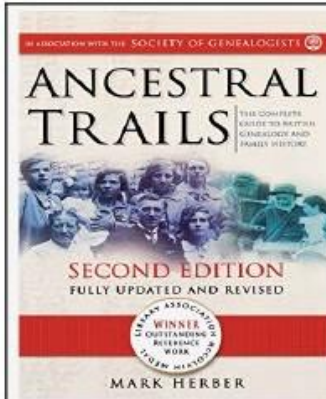
This is a comprehensive guide to Jewish genealogical research that combines practical tools and techniques with personal family history highlighting archives and internet resource.



Finding Your Native American Ancestors

by *Guy Nixon*
Call Number: AI27

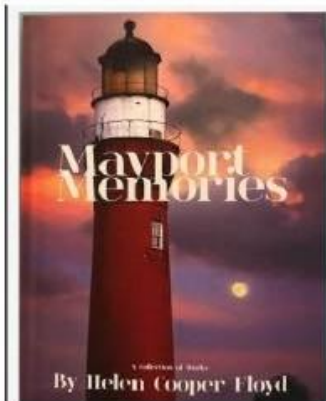
This is a practical guide to researching Native American ancestry, including the use of tribal records, historical sources, and research strategies. The author uses his family as an example.



Ancestral Trails

by *Mark Herber*
Call Number: HT111

This book has been called the Bible of British genealogy. It enables the researcher to form a coherent picture of past generations by describing virtually every class of record in every repository and library in Britain. The early chapters help beginners starting research in the records of birth, marriage, and death, or in census records. Later chapters guide researchers to the records that are more difficult to find and use, such as wills, parish records, civil and ecclesiastical court records, poll books, and property records. So the book is ideal for the beginner and the experienced researcher alike, and will enable those who are persistent enough to trace their ancestry back to the Middle Ages.



Mayport Memories

by *Helen Floyd*
Call Number: FL321

This book is a compilation of 3 titles that were initially published as separate titles. It includes: Mayport Remembered People & Places -- Mayport Remembered Along the Waterfront -- In the Shadow of the Lighthouse.

From our members:

Managing Social Media Accounts After Death: A Guide for Genealogists and Families

by Georgia Pribanic

In memory of **Dick Cardell**, a 4-year President of SGES and active member for numerous years.

In today's digital age, a person's life story is no longer preserved only in letters, photographs, and official records—it also lives online. Social media accounts often contain years of memories, relationships, and personal expression. When someone passes away, these digital assets raise new questions: What should be done with their accounts? Who has the authority? And how can these platforms serve genealogical research?

Why Social Media Matters in Genealogy

Social media platforms can be rich sources of information. They may include:

- Photographs with dates and locations
- Family connections and relationships
- Personal stories, milestones, and daily life details
- Comments from relatives and friends that provide context and memory

For genealogists, these accounts can function almost like modern-day scrapbooks—offering insights that traditional records may not capture.

Immediate Considerations After a Death

Families often face emotional and practical decisions regarding a loved one's online presence. Common options include:

- Leaving the account unchanged
- Memorializing the account
- Deleting the account

Each choice depends on the wishes of the deceased (if known), family preferences, and platform policies.

Platform Policies to Know

Most major platforms have established procedures:

Facebook allows accounts to be memorialized, preserving content while preventing new logins. A designated “legacy contact” can manage limited aspects of the page.

- **Instagram** also offers memorialization, keeping the account visible but inactive.

- **X (formerly Twitter)** allows for account deactivation upon request by a verified family member.
- **LinkedIn** provides a process to remove profiles of deceased individuals.

It is important to review each platform's requirements, which typically include proof of death and documentation of relationship.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

Accessing a deceased person's account is not always straightforward. Password sharing may violate terms of service, and laws regarding digital assets vary by state. Families should:

- Check for any digital estate plans or instructions
- Consult legal guidance if needed
- Respect privacy, especially in sensitive communications

Ethically, consider how the individual would have wanted their digital life handled.

Best Practices for Genealogists

When using social media for research:

- **Document carefully:** Capture screenshots or download content where permitted
- **Cite appropriately:** Treat posts and images as you would other sources
- **Verify information:** Social media content may contain errors or informal details
- **Respect boundaries:** Be mindful when contacting living relatives or using personal material

Planning Ahead: A Genealogist's Advice

Encourage individuals to include digital assets in their estate planning. This might involve:

- Naming a digital executor
- Recording account information securely
- Stating preferences for memorialization or deletion

Such preparation can ease the burden on families and preserve valuable historical information.

Conclusion

Social media has become an integral part of the historical record. For genealogists, it offers a unique window into the lives of recent generations. Handling these accounts with care—balancing preservation, privacy, and respect—ensures that digital legacies are treated with the same dignity as traditional records.

FamilySearch Catalog Access Change – What Members Need to Know

By Georgia Pribanic

A recent update from FamilySearch may have caused some confusion, so here's a quick explanation of what's changed—and what it means for your research.

What's new?

Beginning April 30, 2026, users must be **signed in to their free FamilySearch account** to view the online Catalog. Previously, the Catalog could be browsed without logging in.

What has *not* changed?

- Access to FamilySearch remains **completely free**
- Catalog content (books, microfilm listings, and descriptions) is still available
- No subscription or payment is required

Why the change?

While FamilySearch has not given a detailed public explanation, this update likely reflects:

- The need to manage **record access agreements** with archives and partners
- Efforts to reduce automated data scraping
- A broader move toward **personalized research tools** tied to user accounts

What does this mean for you?

For most researchers, the impact is minimal—simply sign in before using the Catalog. In fact, being logged in can enhance your experience by allowing you to:

- Save and organize records
- Track your research activity
- Receive tailored hints and suggestions

Bottom line

This is a **procedural change, not a restriction**. The Catalog is still a valuable and freely available research tool, just now part of a more account-based system.

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.