



## Past and Present

Newsletter of The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society  
June 2025  
[sgesjax.org](http://sgesjax.org)

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### Upcoming Meeting Information

#### **July 2025 Meeting Information**

We will be meeting at the SGES Library on Saturday, July 12 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Come see our amazing collection of genealogy books, family histories, genealogical journals, and much more! Participate in a book Scavenger Hunt and win a prize!

#### **Climbing that Brick Wall**

In preparation for our meeting in September, our President, Alana Masters, would like to know one of the "brick walls" in your US family research. Please challenge Alana and see what she can accomplish. Results will be revealed at the September meeting. Please send all requests to [sgesjax@att.net](mailto:sgesjax@att.net) with the Subject line: Brick Wall.

The Jacksonville History Center


### 3rd Annual History Fair

Dozens of history organizations and cars from the First Coast Region  
Model A Club on display!

**Saturday, June 14**  
**10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
Tickets \$10/person  
Includes 1 raffle ticket

**SAVE THE DATE**

314 Palmetto Street  
Free onsite parking

 The JACKSONVILLE History Center  
One City, Many Stories  
[www.jaxhistory.org](http://www.jaxhistory.org)

No advance sales  
Purchase at door

**Support SGES by attending**  
**Hope to see you!**

Thank you to all who supported our fundraiser bus tour of old Riverside, Avondale and San Marco with Gary Sass! It was an incredible tour highlighting the mover and shakers of early Jax! We raised little under \$700 net which will help pay our escalating bills and program costs!



## Library News



## Highlights from the SGES Reference Desk

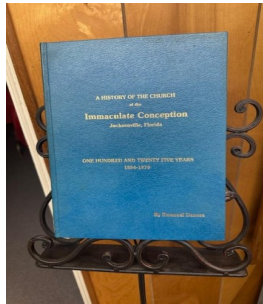
By Georgia Pribanic

Selection of June donated books:

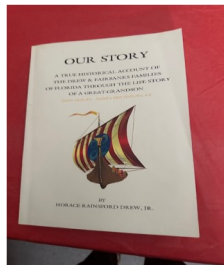
The Library has been fortunate in receiving 3 separate donations of books to be added to the collection in the last 2 months. Two were 12 or more boxes each and the third

had 46 titles. The downside is that space is getting critical, and we have had to think out of the box to find room for them. A librarians dream!

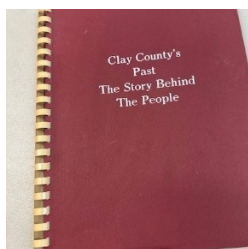
**Thank you to the donors for sharing your family's treasures so that others could benefit: FL, JC, and PW! And to the various library volunteers who processed them, moved other books to create space, and shelved them: MJH, JH, GP, CC.**



**One hundred and twenty-five years, 1854-1979: A history of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Jacksonville, Florida (FL626).** On December 8, 1854, the Immaculate Conception Church, graduating from the role of a mission church, was formally established as a parish. Fr. William J. Hamilton, a priest from the Diocese of Savannah, was sent to Jacksonville to dedicate the church and become its spiritual leader.



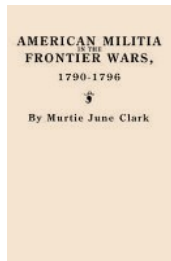
**Our story: a true historical account of the Drew & Fairbanks families of Florida throughout the life story of a great grandson: eighth century - twenty-first century, A.D. (FL627)** The author, a fourth generation Floridian, documents the saga of the Drew and Fairbanks families in Florida in the 1920's, 1930's and the World War II era. Includes a history of the H. & W.B. Drew Company, founded in 1855 in Jax.



**Clay County's Past, the story behind the people written by Mrs. Horn's gifted 8<sup>th</sup> grade American History classes, Lakeside Junior High School, December 1995. (FL628)**



**Our Mayflower ancestors and their descendants: 10 generations from Howland-Tilley to Henderson-Howell by Jocelyn Hart Faux (FH)**



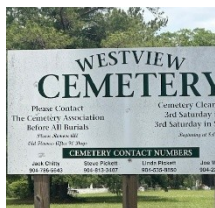
This book is a transcription of the muster rolls and pay rolls of the state militia troops who were paid to protect the frontier or who fought alongside federal troops in the various frontier campaigns (GM127)



### **Reference Assistance**

We were busy with requests varying in scope and topic. They included a request for an obituary of a deceased employer to a query on the history of the Florida Yacht Club. Books and vertical files on local historical topics provide valuable context, background information, and insights. The SGES vertical file collection houses published and unpublished materials and is added to regularly.

**HIGHLIGHT: A requestor had a deed to a burial plot at Westview Cemetery but wasn't sure how many spaces were still available. Who could advise? SGES has a strong cemetery collection with in-depth information collected over many years.**



A visit to the cemetery which was a tale of twisting turns, and dead-end streets was helpful. The official sign noted contacts. In addition, a search of property records indicated the owners of this site with contact information. We were delighted to be able to assist this lovely lady!

## **Genealogy Tips**

### **FamilySearch Full-Text Search**

Did you know that *FamilySearch* now has the ability to search their records by using AI-created transcripts of records. This is important because it allows you to search records from unindexed collections.

Want to try this out?

- 1) Logon to your FamilySearch account – FamilySearch.org
- 2) Don't have an account? You can easily sign up for one free.
- 3) On the right side of the home page you will see "Search for an Ancestor".
- 4) Fill in your ancestors information and click Search.
- 5) On the left side of the results page are the filters. From this you can choose Full-Text Search to see those results only.

**Have Fun Searching!**

### **From our members:**

#### **Saluting US Veterans-- Honor Flight Network**

by Valerie Bennett, FCHF volunteer



Are you a veteran who served during the WWII, Korea or Vietnam conflict? Do you know a veteran from those eras? Then you need to check out the Honor Flight Network ([honorflight.org](http://honorflight.org)), a nationwide organization, based in Virginia. The group sponsors "A Trip of a Lifetime" to Washington, DC.

The Honor Flight (HF) web site states: "Our mission is one of gratitude, for their service,



sacrifice and selflessness. Join us as we proudly celebrate America's veterans with a day of honor in our nation's capital".

With hundreds of "hubs" across the nation, there is most likely one near you. Each hub needs funding as well as hands-on-volunteers to be able to sponsor successful trips. The length of the trips depends on the hub's distance to DC. Costs include, but are not limited to airfare, ground transportation, hotels (if trip longer than one day), food, snacks, drinks, T-shirts, backpacks, name tags, mementos, etc.

There is no cost to the veteran to be included. Guardians are needed for each traveling veteran. As a buddy for the day, guardians stay within arm reach of their service person the entire trip. Wheelchairs are provided. These are 2 ways to ensure safety for all. Guardians must make a (tax-free) contribution to the organization to help with expenses. This amount varies by hub. Guardians can be a friend or family member (other than spouse). Married couples can fly together only if both are qualified veterans. There are volunteer guardians available for those that request one.

The HF events/schedule also vary by hub. In Jacksonville, FL, the First Coast Honor Flight (FCHF) starts with Orientation Day, about 2 weeks out. Prequalified veterans and their guardians learn what's ahead. Among activities: sign-off from the Medical Team, an interview with the hub's video photographer, learning dos & don'ts for the flight day, etc.

Start time for Flight Day will depend on the hub's individual needs. For the FCHF this usually means about 3:00 am arrival time for the veterans, guardians and support staff. After greetings and last-minute instructions, participants board the bus for the motorcade led ride to the airport. As always, there's the TSA procedures, then wait at the gate for plane boarding and departure.

Arriving in DC, the group is OFF! to a grand day. Stops may include, if time warrants, National Mall (WWII, Korea, Vietnam Memorials), a front row seat for the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown and others. There are little opportunities for participants to go hungry during HF activities as all meals plus snacks and drinks are provided.

Working in reverse of the morning activities, the return home can be early evening or late. Sleeping on the plane is always an option and many honorees are still pumped up at the end of the day, no matter what the hour. They ALL arrive with BIG grins on their faces!

Three weeks later, Reunion Day: FCHF's participants recall the fun & excitement and get a DVD video to remember the day.

In Florida, the First Coast is consists roughly of the counties abutting Jacksonville: Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau and St Johns. One doesn't have to live in the

above counties to request flying with FCHF. Applications for veterans, guardians and volunteers can be found at [firstcoasthonorflight.org](http://firstcoasthonorflight.org).

To qualify, the veteran did not have to be "in country" during the era. Know someone that lives outside Jacksonville? They can check at [honorflight.org](http://honorflight.org) to determine if there is a hub near them.

I first got involved in May 2022 when I was a guardian for a Vietnam Vet. The experience was so rewarding, I have volunteered since. I do this in memory of my grandfather, Andrew B Westbrook, WWI and my dad, William H Westbrook, WWII.



## **Dora Malkoff Rubinstein's Story – Part 2**

By Dora Malkoff Rubinstein

They were making movies in Jacksonville. Charlie Chaplin was there, became friends of my father and mother. He asked them to go into the business with him. My father said "who would pay five cents to see a movie?" No way! The movie machine held a packet of prints and when you turned the handle, looked into the glass window, the figures appeared to move.

The movie company made a picture using our street. Mama was on the porch watching the show. She was in the movie. The street was rubbed off at the corner, a man ran up against the ropes and as we ---the red paint on the rose, came off on his neck.

Coca-Cola came on the market a bottle had the Hoople shape like the skirt style women were wearing. Stock was selling for practically nothing. Papa was offered a

substantial amount. He could not see anyone paying five cents a bottle for Coke when they could drink tea! He did not invest.

Papa was strictly a city man. Once he decided to plant corn in the backyard. He had his man dig a trench 1 foot deep, then he dropped corn, kernel by kernel, in the trench, had the man replaced the earth and then stomped it down while we all waited. He had the man water it down daily. Nothing ever came up. That ended my father's farming efforts.

But my father did know business. He taught us the fundamentals.

1. Money (dollars) round: they can roll towards you and can roll away from you. Be prepared for either roll.

2. There are two kinds of money: money you need to live on, money that is capital. That money works for you. Put it to work.

3. I'm buying property: "don't buy any property till you stand on the four corners of the land". He saw lots that were underwater at high tide.

4. Buy the center of town for immediate return, or on the edge of town. There development will come to you.

5. On one of the main street buy property when it becomes acreage instead of lots. The acreage will become lots.

6. "Get it in writing." "There is nothing like land."

Balloon mortgages. Came the land boom crash. The \$100 checks stopped coming in. Lots were repossessed. - you could not give the land away. I think that is when my father had his first heart attack. - when we came with mama to the store and found him lying on the floor behind the counter.

When the doctor told Papa that he had to move north (Papa had a heart condition and diabetes.) Bertha was a problem. She wanted to come with us. Papa finally told her that he could not take her up north with us. But that if she came to us up north of her own free will, he would take care of her.

Papa, left Florida, went to New York. Their papa leased a jewelry store in the Bowery. It had a wrought iron grill across the glass windows and door. Business was good the first month. Then one night Papa came home with a big box which he sat on the dining room table."open it!" Mom did and took out a pair of magnificent fox skins. The first reached down to mamas knees.

A man had brought them in and asked to sell them. The price was unbelievably low. Mama and Papa looked at each other. Mama took off the furs, put them back in the



box, Papa took them back the next morning told the man that he was a jeweler he would not deal in furs.

A short time later, another man came in, put a blue tissue packet on the counter - the tissue was the kind the diamonds were wrapped in. He opened the packet. It held a number of unset diamonds. Papa recognized that they had been set before He told the man that he had his own wholesaler and could not use the diamonds. The man told Papa to think it over, left, came back the next day, Papa returned the unset diamonds.

The following day, a man stood by the door of the store, stopped customers from entering. Papa called the police. When the police came, the man melted into the people on the street. No one was at the entrance to the store! The Police could or would do nothing. Not another customer walked through that door. At the end of the year when the lease expired Papa closed up the store which had been used as a fence by the former owner. Papa lost \$25,000 that year. Those were gold dollars.

Then we moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We were growing up.

One time I complained to my father, that he loved brother Max more than the rest of us. He looked hard at me, held up his hand, extended his fingers and said "my children are like the fingers of my hand: each one is different yet I love all of my fingers equally; my children are equally important, each one is equally loved - never forget that."

I can never forget his eyes. They were Hazel colored, but his right eye had a quarter wedge of blue in it. At times he would try to scold me, but, as I looked at him, the corners of his eyes with crinkle up, and the next thing I knew, his arms were fully enfolding me.

At adolescence, my father decided it was time to teach me about sex and marriage. He ended up explaining the totality of marriage. I sat in the chair besides him at his work bench in their bedroom. He took an apple, cut it in half. 1/2 of the apple was all green, the other half is all red. "Look at these, daughter. One would think they were two different apples, but when you put them together, they become one. That is marriage."

In Pittsburgh, we lived in a three-story brownstone house: 258 Dinwiddie Street. One day, mama was sweeping down the three steps at the entrance when Bertha walked up to her and said "now Mrs. Malkoff. You know that you should not be doing that." Took the broom from her hands and took up her old job of caring for us. she was

with us when I went to college. She liked Maxie. "He has such blue eyes!" she was with us until she died. Papa took care of her as he promised.

She washed her clothes by hand. I can still remember the fresh smell of them. They were perfumed by the soap, the sun, the fresh air. One day she was putting my clothes away. I noticed her hands were crinkled and pink from the bleach. I took some cold cream and rubbed her hands until some of the color came back. She made sure that I never washed a dish or a handkerchief until I was married.

Anne Greenberg, who lived a few doors away, was taking ballet lessons. My father watched her dance "that is not for you" no ballet lessons for me! I felt resentful but forgave him.

When in college (Pitt) my date took me to dinner and a floor show in the Pittsburgher Hotel. We had a table right next to the small dance floor. One of the features was a belly dancer. She was beautiful. Her jewels, sheer pants, cuffed at the ankles, spangled bra. The pearls that hang down on her forehead between her eyes. - I was entranced as she danced before us around the small square. As we watched, drops of perspiration, started to drip down between her breast, came out on her forehead "Oh my God! That is hard work!" I felt so sorry for her.

When I came home, my father was waiting up for me as usual. I went into the bedroom, kissed him and thanked him for not letting me try to be a dancer. He did not want me to work that hard! Now I understood.

When I had a date, Papa would always talk to my date while my date waited for me! Asked about his family background, his prospects, himself, if my date did not receive papa's approval, I was not permitted to go out with him and that did happen! So easy for me. I never had a problem.

My mother used to "Quvel" when some of my dates came for me in expensive cars. One in a chauffeur driven car. The neighbors watched. Mama was so proud.

Maxie was the only poor man I ever dated. I met him in college, fell in love. He told my father that he would meet me outside our house if he could not meet me at home. After we were married and Papa saw how happy I was, he said "didn't pick a good husband for you?" He was just plain precious!

**Story to be continued in our next newsletter...**