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# Past and Present

Newsletter of The Southern Genealogist’s Exchange Society

February 2019

## **Quote of the month**

“Without a research question, genealogical evidence does not exist.” Thomas W Jones

“You must take your place in the Circle of Life.” From Walt Disney’s The Lion King

We are all different, but we need each other.

**Genealogy detectives at the SGES Library**

SR-136 Nick Names Past and Present 5th Ed Expanded by Christine Rose

This is a great little reference book if you are wondering what a nickname might have been for one of your relatives! It also gives you a list of what the truncated and superscripted names, which will help you figure out those short names on the census lists and other documents!!

PS. See upcoming March issue for partial list of abbreviated names.

**Announcements**

The 9th Annual North Florida Genealogy Conference will be held Saturday, March 9 at The Church of Christ Latter-Day Saints Church, 461 Blanding Blvd, Orange Park. Staring at

8:30 am, a total of 20 classes will be offered in 5 different presentations each hour. Midday break for lunch. If registration received by 1 March 2019 lunch will be guaranteed. Go to https://nfgenealogyconference.org/ to review class details and

register. Cost: $25.00 by March 1st, $30.00 after March 1st. This conference will be

**in lieu** of the SGES regular meeting at Kori Rd. Library.

Anne Calhoun Lomax Billy, Life Member of SGES since 1994, passed away December 20, 2018. Born in Jacksonville, January 22, 1929, Anne was proud of her Southern heritage and enjoyed genealogical research and going on “bones trips” with her family. Anne was a valuable member of SGES, giving of her time and financial support.

The Society has been advised of the passing of another Life Member (2003), Tonya Layne Massie in December 2018.

**Story of the month**

By Darrell Dean Kathman

The woman behind the Southern Genealogist's Exchange Quarterly and Society.

Known as Aurora C Shaw; she was the third of four children, born; Maria Aurora Casteleiro on 13 February1913 in Tampa, Hillsborough, Florida. Her parents where Aurelio Casteleiro of Redes, La Coruna, Galicia, Spain and Neta Gertrude Merriman of Jefferson, Florida. More about them later. She was involved in genealogy at an early age, in an article about her in the Jacksonville Journal dated Friday, 31 December 1965, she said her mother collected information about her family and had Aurora make a death bed promise to continue the research after she, Neta, died. Aurora as editor and Trixie Davis as associate editor started the SGE Quarterly with Volume 1 sent out in the Spring of 1957. This Quarterly lead to the formation of The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society on 5 October 1964 at 2525 Oak Street (the home of Aurora) in Jacksonville, Florida, the forming of which was announced in a letter to the subscribers of the SGE Quarterly dated 20 September 1964. (Invitation - page 1) The first meeting of the Society was 26 October 1964 at the Blue Flame Room of the Florida Gas Company, located at 29 East Adams Street, and was attended by 11 persons. The meeting consisted of the election of officers and the discussion and adoption of the Constitution and By Laws. (History File – Presidents Report – Page 2)

The first few years of the SGES was given to procuring genealogical materials for and assisting in the genealogy section of The Jacksonville Public Library which had just opened to the public. A Certified Genealogist and member of the Mormon Church (The Latter Day Saints). Aurora also maintained research material at her home where people could gather to do research. On 21 January 1980 a house was rented at 2246 Oak Street from Mr. James Hutto where a Library was maintained for the Society and where meeting were held. On 20 June 1982 the society moved into a converted 2 car garage at 1580 Blanding Blvd, the home and office, rented from Dr Robert L Phillips; Optometrist, and finally on 13 Jun 2000 they purchased the current location at 6215 Sauterne Drive. In 2012 the then President of the society, decided to start a fund raiser to pay off the mortgage, this occurred and a “Burn the Mortgage” celebration was held on 19 January 2013 at the SGES Library where the mortgage was instead, clearer heads prevailing, shredded, vice burning a copy of the mortgage.

Maria Aurora's father, Aurelio, was born, 21 October 1885, he was a sailor, coming to the United States in 1905. He and Neta were married 2 August 1909 in Tampa, Hillsborough, Florida. He owned a restaurant in Tampa and continued as a sailor until 1941, he died in Jacksonville, Duval, Florida on 5 September 1950 and is buried in the Old Centro Espanol Cemetery in Hillsborough, Florida. Neta Gertrude Merriman was born 15 August 1888 in Ashville, Jefferson, Florida and died 30 November 1942 in Tampa, Hillsborough, Florida and is also buried in the Old Centro Espanol Cemetery. They had four children.

Aurora married George Tinney Shaw on 14 November 1937 in Tampa and after having three children they divorced in February 1951 and she moved to Jacksonville. Of her many works of genealogical endeavors The John Lastinger Family of America was published in 1960 with updates into 1980. Her family in covered on pages 30, 31 and 32. Can be found online

She continued her work with the SGES and was President again in 1972. She was still living at the home in Jacksonville in 1984 and in late 1886 moved to Littleton, Arapahoe, Colorado to be near a daughter (Sheila) and where she died on 9 February 1999. She is buried in the Littleton Cemetery.

In 1999 the SGES dedicated their Quarterlies to her memory and published the attached pages in the respective quarterlies: Volume 40 - Numbers 169 thru 172.

Pages 3 and 4 – 169; page 5 – 170; page 6 – 17; pages 7 & 8 – 172.

In the September Issue – Volume 41 – Number 175 is found the notice of moving into the new library and the posting of the address in the Quarterly, pages 9 & 10

**Website**

Noted Genealogist researcher/author Thomas MacEntee has made available to the public, free access to his “Genealogy Do-Over” program. This is a project-based initiative to improve genealogy research skills while having fun too. Although started in 2018, it is still applicable in 2019. Each month we’ll give you an overview of that month’s topics. For those that want to know more, we will include link. Hope it helps you.

**Genealogy Do-Over, Month 2**

**Topics**: 1) Establishing Base Practices and Guidelines and 2) Setting Research Goals

This month you are back at square one. **Back where you started**. But you have more knowledge and access to more tools than that first time. And you’re going to heed the same advice you would give any other newcomer to genealogy: **start with yourself.**

Sit down and record what you know about your own history (birth, marriage, children, religious rites and sacraments, etc.). Then move on to your parents and siblings. And once you’ve recorded information, you’ll set your initial research goals based on that information.

Very often people set goals such as “trace my family’s Irish roots” that are too broad or are based on family lore or assumptions.

Create a simple list such as “verify birth location for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” or “determine parents of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

See <http://abundantgenealogy.com/genealogy-month-2-february-2018/>

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**New additions to the SGES Library**

Cleveland County Heritage—North Carolina

Catawba County Heritage—North Carolina

Henderson County—North Carolina

Interested in South Carolina? We have been gifted with many books for this state.

Included are cemetery records for Cherokee, Pickens, Anderson, Abbeville, Spartanburg, Union, Greenville, Lexington, Laurens & Cleveland counties.