



# Past and Present

Newsletter of The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society  
April 2019

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## Quote of the month

"What we absolutely, positively should not try is the shotgun approach—looking willy-nilly, hither and yon, for somebody, anybody, of the "right" name." Elizabeth Shown Mills  
"The seaweed is always greener in somebody else's lake." From Walt Disney's "The Little Mermaid". You'll always want more, so appreciate what you have.

## Genealogy Detectives at the Library

"North Carolina Troops 1861-1865 Vol. XII"---NC-106

This book covers the following regiments in NC: 49<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 50<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 51<sup>st</sup> Regiment, 52<sup>nd</sup> Regiment.

Wealth of information is available on the members of these Civil War troops.

## Announcements

The SGES Library is staffed by volunteers. It is our intent to be open the specified days and times indicated in this newsletter. Issues do occasional arise, so we ask that you call ahead 904-778-1000 to make sure library will be open the specific day you wish to visit.

Have you paid your 2019 SGES dues? Single membership is \$30.00 per year and family is \$35.00. Make checks payable to SGES, can bring to monthly meeting, drop by library or mail to PO Box 7728, Jacksonville FL 32238.

The Huxford Genealogical Society will be hosting an all-day seminar on Saturday, April 27 at their library 20 S College St, Homerville, GA. Genealogist Melody K. Porter will have 3 presentations: Census First, Genealogy Documentation "I won't do it and you can't make me" and Ancestry.com—Card Catalog—Hiding in Plain Sight. Pre-registration is \$35.00 and includes sweet rolls & coffee in morning and a sack lunch at midday. Late registration will be \$40.00. For more information, contact Huxford at 912-487-2310 or [Huxford.com](http://Huxford.com). The day's activities begin at 9:00 am.

## Story of the month

SGES Comes to the Rescue

By José I. Ramírez

A great deal of research had taken place as I was writing my most recently published book *Cuba and the "Last" Baseball Season*.

The focus of the book was the period of time (1960-61) when the Fidel Castro regime announced that, at the end of that season, professional baseball in Cuba would be prohibited, thus the word "Last" is shown in quotes. The significant impact of this policy was that players had to decide whether to stay in Cuba with their family and friends and forgo their dream and careers as professionals or leave everyone behind in order to pursue their professional career

elsewhere, namely the United States. It was a heart-wrenching decision for these very young men generally between 17-25 years old.

My research led me to learn much about the ninety six players who were in the Cuban baseball league at that time, but soon learned of many other players who were playing in the U.S. Minors and were also faced with the same decision. Ultimately I would do research on 150 players, all featured in the book.

The 1960 Palatka Redlegs who won the Florida State League Level D championship that season had a number of Cuban players on the roster including Elio Ribet a young pitcher of which little was known.

I was fortunate to find a member of the team who, during our interview, shared the fact that Elio Ribet had died tragically in a drowning accident that very season, but unfortunately the team member did not remember any other information.

Regularly available sources were of no help and I felt it was important to learn details of what had taken place. Researching the files of the Palatka Daily News by Mike Phelps, a high school classmate and friend of mine who lives in Palatka or communicating with the newspaper's Sports Editor led me nowhere as information simply did not appear to exist. Going back to the former player who had provided the information, he assured me that it was indeed a true story as he would never forget the tragic death of a former teammate.

Stepping back, I remembered the valuable assistance and advice from The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society by Jon Ferguson and Mike Lawson when writing my family's history *Huellas and Footprints*. I donated a copy of the book which is kept at the SGES Library.

I contacted Mike Lawson to ask whether any help he or the Society could provide. His response was immediate and very supportive. Referred to Society member and Research Assistant Darrell D. Kathman I explained my dilemma. Information in other newspapers in Florida, but interestingly not in Palatka, had been published previously. In no time Mr. Kathman responded within a matter of days with information about Ribet. Later on he followed up with other information about Cuban Players coming to the U.S. during that time. Although the information available was limited, it opened the door that allowed me to complete the information needed for the book. The story about Elio Ribet is featured on page 285 and the assistance by SGES and Mr. Kathman is acknowledged on page 286.

The Jacksonville Historic Society will be hosting my presentation and book signing on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Old St. Andrews Church, 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd, Jacksonville. This is next door to the Jacksonville Ballgrounds and across street from Veterans' Arena. Social Hour begins at 6:30 pm and presentation will follow at 7:00 pm.

At that time I will acknowledge the assistance provided by the Society as the Elio Ribet story is unique among the 150 stories that are shared in the book. My book is also available at Amazon.com.

I will always be grateful for the invaluable resource SGES represents for those of us doing research for a variety of reasons.

## 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

SGES Library Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays and first and third Saturdays - 10am to 3pm  
Location: 6215 Sauterne Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32210 · Phone: 904-778-1000  
Mailing address: PO Box 7728, Jacksonville, FL 32238-7728 · Website: [www.sgesjax.org](http://www.sgesjax.org)

genealogy research skills while having fun too. Although started in 2018, it is still applicable in 2019.

Topics: 1) Tracking Research and 2) Conducting Research

With Month 4 of The Genealogy Do-Over, this is where, as genealogists, we “come home” to our favorite place: research. We get to actually take the information from our self-interviews and family group sheets and use it to find evidence to prove or disprove relationships and what I call “data points.”

Do you remember returning home for the first time after a long absence, such as your first semester of college or on your first military leave? Things changed, didn't they? Maybe your mother converted your room into a sewing room or your father claimed it as his den or “man cave?” I hate to tell you this . . . but with The Genealogy Do-Over, coming back to research will never be the same. This is how genealogy success is made. Most of you are part of The Genealogy Do-Over to change old research habits and to improve skills. What was is gone; long live the new research methods. And long live success!

Besides, haven't you heard that you can never go home again?

<https://abundantgenealogy.com/genealogy-do-over-month-4-april-2018/>

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SOUTHERN  
GENEALOGIST'S  
EXCHANGE SOCIETY

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2019  
ANNUAL  
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April 1 – May 31



We will receive donations during April and May of this year. Total donations collected up to \$10,000 will be matched by an anonymous donor.

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You may donate from \$5.00 to \$50.00 or more. All donations are tax deductible and will be used to fund the operating expenses of the Society.

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Mail your donation to:  
SGES  
P.O. Box 7728  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

You may also drop off your donation at our Genealogy Library during normal business hours.