

June/July 2012  
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Jerry Bloom,  
Journal Editor

# Genealogy Journal

A quarterly publication of the  
**Martin County Genealogical Society, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 275, Stuart, FL 34996 <http://mcgensociety.org>

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“Insanity  
doesn't run  
in my family.  
It gallops.”  
-Cary Grant

[Thanks to Eva Waylett for  
this quote she uses with  
her Email signature.]

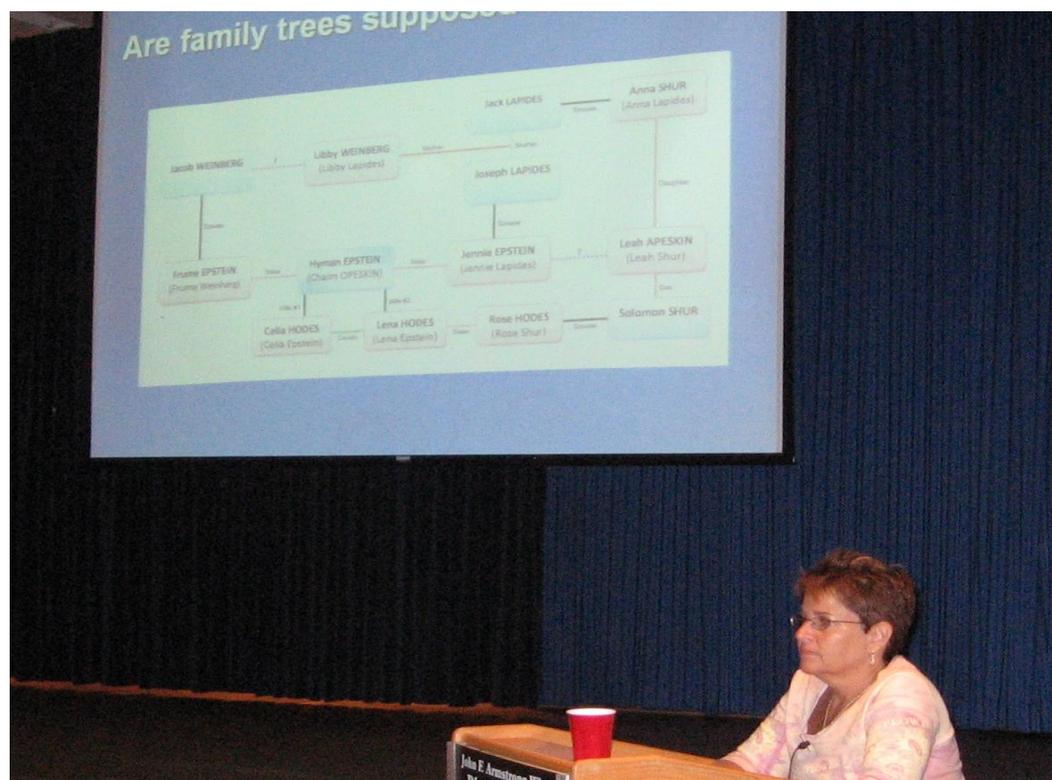
## Jewish Genealogy

by Linda Epstein

On Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Blake Library in Stuart, MCGS prospective member Linda Epstein gave a presentation entitled “Jewish Genealogy”. Linda showed members and guests why Jewish genealogy is different and presents problems not normally seen in genealogical research. Problems ranged from Americanized first and last names to issues with national borders. But all is not lost! There are various websites and tools at our disposal to help, plus a larger Jewish genealogical community ready, willing and able to help. Due to the tremendous interest in the lecture, Linda has agreed to start a Jewish Special Interest Group (SIG) within MCGS in the Fall.

Pearl Dougherty stated, “We had a fantastic response to our Jewish Research program. We had 24 guests attend.” This program was sponsored by the Martin County Genealogical Society. Photo provided by Dan Dougherty.

Web sites for your references: [library.martin.fl.us](http://library.martin.fl.us) and [mcgensociety.org](http://mcgensociety.org)



## Calendar of Events

### June

- **15 - FRIDAY - MCGS Monthly Members Meeting** - 1 - 3 PM at the **John F. Armstrong Wing** of the **Blake Library**. Program: "Jewish Genealogy": by Linda Epstein. See the article of this presentation the front page of this issue.

### July

- **7 - SATURDAY – MCGS and Daughters of the American Revolution - Halpatiokee Chapter**– 10 AM to 12 Noon. MCGS and the DAR-Halatiokee Chapter members will be in the Genealogy Room at the **Blake Library** to assist people researching ancestors who were American Revolutionary War patriots.
- **13 - FRIDAY - Civil War Series** by Josh Liller. 3 PM at the **Cummins Library** in Palm City. Topic: Second Manassas / Second Bull Run.

### August

- **4 - SATURDAY – MCGS and Daughters of the American Revolution - Halpatiokee Chapter**– 10 AM to 12 Noon. MCGS and the DAR-Halatiokee Chapter members will be in the Genealogy Room at the **Blake Library** to assist people researching ancestors who were American Revolutionary War patriots.
- **10 - FRIDAY - History Series** by Josh Liller. 3 PM at the **Cummins Library** in Palm City. Topic: The Atomic Bombs & The End of the War Against Japan.
- **29 - WEDNESDAY thru SUNDAY September 2 - FGS Annual Conference - Birmingham, Alabama.** Genealogists from around the USA will gather in Birmingham, Alabama for the 2012 Federation of Genealogical Societies annual conference. The booklet, giving the programs schedule and all other details, is available in the Genealogy Room of the Blake Library.

### September

- **1 - SATURDAY – MCGS and Daughters of the American Revolution - Halpatiokee Chapter**– 10 AM to 12 Noon. MCGS and the DAR-Halatiokee Chapter members will be in the Genealogy Room at the **Blake Library** to assist people researching ancestors who were American Revolutionary War patriots.
- **14 - FRIDAY - Civil War Series** by Josh Liller. 3 PM at the **Cummins Library** in Palm City. Topic: Antietam. This is the final presentation for his summer series.
- **15 - SATURDAY - Workshop - Location to be determined**, 5851 SE Community Dr., Stuart (off Salerno Road, west of US 1). The workshop is TBD. Send an E-mail to [mcsf@gmail.com](mailto:mcsf@gmail.com) to sign up for this class. Please put XXXX in the Subject Box.

Walk-ins are most welcome, as the room is large. A donation of \$3-5 will be appreciated.

- **21 FRIDAY - MCGS Monthly Members Meeting** - 1 - 3 PM at the **Cummings Library** in Palm City, **Donahue Room**. Program: "DNA and Genealogical Research" by MCGS Member Walt Bruetsch.

### October

- **6 - SATURDAY – MCGS and Daughters of the American Revolution - Halpatiokee Chapter**– 10 AM to 12 Noon. MCGS and the DAR-Halatiokee Chapter members will be in the Genealogy Room at the **Blake Library** to assist people researching ancestors who were American Revolutionary War patriots.
- **17 - FRIDAY - MCGS Monthly Members Meeting** - 1 - 3 PM at the **John F. Armstrong Wing** of the **Blake Library**. Program: "Thinking Outside The Box, or Using Your Genealogy Library Without the Computer" by experienced genealogist Shirley Pizziferri. Shirley will point out the multitude of sources in our library that are under utilized and give examples of things researchers could use besides depending on the Internet. Guests are most welcome to attend MCGS' meetings, which are free, and light refreshments will be available between the business meeting and the program.
- **20 - SATURDAY - Workshop** - 10 AM to 12 Noon - **Location to be determined**. Topic: TBD. Send email to [mcsf@gmail.com](mailto:mcsf@gmail.com) to sign up for the class. Please put XXXX in the Subject box.

### November

- **3 - SATURDAY – MCGS and Daughters of the American Revolution - Halpatiokee Chapter**– 10 AM to 12 Noon. MCGS and the DAR-Halatiokee Chapter members will be in the Genealogy Room at the **Blake Library** to assist people researching ancestors who were American Revolutionary War patriots.
- **8 - THURSDAY thru SATURDAY** - Florida State Genealogical Society's Annual Conference at **Hilton Deerfield/Boca Raton in Deerfield Beach, FL**. The theme of the conference is "The Best of Times: Family History + Technology". Details on the place and speakers is on their website. Mark your calendars now for the above dates. Friday and Saturday are the usual full program days. Website: [www.flsgs.org](http://www.flsgs.org)
- **16 - FRIDAY - MCGS Monthly Members Meeting** - 1-3PM at the **Robert Morgade Library**, 5851 SE Community Dr., Stuart (off Salerno Road, west of US 1). Election of 2012's Board of Directors: We need a quorum, so members PLEASE ATTEND! The program is "Founding Mothers" by George M. Kleine, who has presented this to DAR societies.

## **MCGS – My Perspective of It's Birth and Early Years**

by Lloyd M. Welker, Sr.

Having reached an age where my “forgetter” is often better than my “rememberer”, nonetheless, I shall attempt to comply with [our MCGS President's] request for some words about the early days of the Society. Early meetings of the Society were held in the multi-purpose room of the old library structure accessed from Osceola Street. This site was purchased by All Saint's Episcopal Church and renovated for their use.

In the early days a group of persons interested in genealogy simply met informally for camaraderie and genealogical fellowship. Someone would be responsible for reserving the room and then would have to get there to hold the reservation. If no one was there at the time scheduled, the room would be in use for some other purpose. Most of the ladies at that time were also DAR members. There weren't many males, but I don't recall being the only one. Later, a committee was formed to decide whether we should continue as an “afternoon tea club” or organize. The committee recommended organizing. Martha York Clements was the first president.

Incorporation came much later. Initially, no dues were assessed. Board meetings were held at members' homes. At one meeting, it has been alleged that I asked if this was a DAR meeting or a Genealogy Society board meeting. My “forgetter” is in play about this allegation.

The collection, maybe 100 books, plus or minus, was housed in an obscure corner of the library. It was expanded when the DAR moved its books from the Elliott Museum. Several of these “one of a kind” books are still available in the Special Collections (Genealogy) Room. At that time it was reported that the Library introduced, at the insistence of the DAR, a detection system to protect their books.

In those days, computers and printers for patron use might have been just coming into use

in libraries. I don't remember any. Ancestry (Library Edition), Heritage Quest, genealogy blogs and websites were still to come.

If some remember things somewhat differently, check paragraph one. [Editor's note: This article was written a few years back, but the message is still relevant today. J. Bloom]

### **Use with caution –**

**\*\* Much of Find-A-Grave is still  
secondary evidence \*\***

Reba Shepard shares with us the following: Florida Find-A-Grave Index, 1819 - 2011, is Added to Ancestry Service. The "Find-A-Grave" database contains an index to cemetery and final disposition records posted by 800,000 third-party contributors worldwide. In some cases, "Find-A-Grave" provides users a virtual cemetery experience, with more than 79 million records and images of grave markers from around the world, as well as photos, biographies and other information uploaded by volunteers.

"Ancestry.com," and its "Ancestry Library Edition" educational service, have obtained access to "Find-A-Grave" and are loading the records into its databases for public access. One of the data files now searchable in "Ancestry Library Edition" is the "Florida Find-A-Grave Index, 1819 - 2011." The "Find-A-Grave" search engine includes name, event, family member and keyword options.

If your record is a tombstone picture, lucky you. If it is merely the information that would appear on a tombstone or other information, use with, or better yet, find another proof. Some have had luck by writing the person who posted and asking if they indeed have a photo of the stone.

As you've probably noticed by now, our library is full of new books from a donation by Mr. Lawrence Platt of Hobe Sound. This is a wonderful gift and has enhanced our collection immensely.



## Technology and Genealogy

On Wednesday, June 20th, at the Cummings Library in Palm City, MCGS member Walt Bruetsch gave a presentation titled "Genealogy and Technology". Walt showed how we use the technology of the computer, its software and the Internet to do genealogical research. He featured the Martin Co. Library website and its Research database, Ancestry Library Plus Edition, paid for by Martin Co. taxpayers. Other web-sites featured were RootsWeb.com and Family Search.org. Software featured were the browser, word and spreadsheet programs.

This program was co-sponsored by the Martin Co. Library System and the Martin Co. Genealogical Society. This talk was a continuation of the Cummings Library Digital Literacy Lab Series. In late July, 2012, the

Cummings Library will be opening a Digital Lab area, in the new addition, where patrons can experiment with various equipment and work with others as a team to creating new products, solve old problems, etc. So be sure to stop by the Cummings Library in the future. This photo was provided by Emma Castle.

Web sites for your references: [library.martin.fl.us](http://library.martin.fl.us) and [mcgensociety.org](http://mcgensociety.org)

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## History of Martin County Genealogical Society (Part 2)

By Reba E. Shepard, President, 1995 and 1996  
Digested March 2012

The following article is a continuation of the submission from our last issue, March 2012. Reba continues:

In addition to raising funds through Beginner's Kits and Beginner's Classes, the MCGS voted to develop a cookbook of member recipes. This project was complete and a \$900.00 profit was made in 1997. The books contained the names of those submitting the recipe, the names of all the 123 (at time of ordering) members of MCGS, and 150 recipes of member's favorite foods. The book sold at the pre-publication price for \$7.00, and sold out.

New and better speakers were obtained for the meetings. Attendance rose substantially. Membership increased between January, 1994 and October, 1996 by 266%, from 47 to 125 members. The new

projects brought an increase in the funds on for genealogy books, and was renamed the "gift fund". It was the hope of the society to build the book fund so they could possibly purchase a piece of equipment for the new Genealogy Room in the new Martin County Library when it opened later in that decade.

A motion passed at the October, 1996 meeting to raise the dues, which a survey showed were the lowest in the East Central Florida area. The dues had been raised only once since the organization started in 1988. Dues were \$7.50 for individuals and \$12.00 per family of 2. New dues became \$12.00 per person, \$18.00 per family of 2. The increase in dues and increased membership was estimated to bring in about \$1200.00 in 1997.

Most exciting of all, Corporate Status became a reality. The Board of Directors approved going corporate, and the members voted to retain an attorney, member Debra Kline, to draw up the Articles of Incorporation. On 26 December, 1996, Martin County Genealogical Society became Martin County Genealogical Society, Inc., a nonprofit (501c3) corporation. Then nonprofit status was achieved.

This became our Mission Statement: We are an organization of citizens who are interested learning about their ancestry, and in preserving their past. We invite anyone who wishes to know more about this subject to attend as a guest, and if they like, to join us.

Planned activities included:

- Finishing the Cemetery project and publishing and distributing a book on the *Martin County Florida Cemeteries Tombstone Legends*.
- Cataloguing about 50 boxes of old land records currently held by Stuart Heritage and publishing a catalogue, and possibly an index - *Martin County Land Records Supplement*
- Organizing, Indexing and Publishing *Martin County Genealogical Society Members Five Generations Pedigree Charts*
- Indexing Early Members Surname Cards - *MCGS Early Members Surnames and Lineage*
- Cataloguing Family Histories added to Martin County Library since March, 1986 and Cataloguing Family Histories in the Family History Center in Palm City, and in the Indian River Community College Library and providing them to ECFG Coop for publication - *Supplement to 4572 Family Histories in Nine East Central Florida County Libraries*.
- Publish a book of Bible Records furnished by members, properly indexed - *Bible Records from Members of Martin County Genealogical Society, Inc.*
- Collecting and making a book from Obituaries in the Stuart News for 1995 and earlier - *Obituaries from the News of Stuart, Florida*
- Collecting records on people born before 1910 - *Persons born before 1910*.
- Collecting and publishing records on people who have celebrated their 50th or more wedding anniversary - *Wedding Announcements of Couples Married Over 50 Years* -

We will continue to:

- Encourage members to contribute books on genealogy and family history to the Martin County Library, and act as a clearing house for contributions.
- Train anyone who wishes to research his family history, and to provide assistance in that research.

- Encourage researchers to write their history, and to provide a copy of same for the Martin County and other Libraries.
- Train volunteers to assist researchers, with the ultimate goal of manning the genealogy room at the new library with volunteers when that facility is completed.
- Serve the community, mainly by assisting in the education of its membership and the preservation of its member's past.

Submitted by Reba Masterson Shepard, 1996 President or Lawrence I. (Larry) Shepard 1997 President

## Connecticut Vital Records to 1870 (The Barbour Collection)

Newly added to Connecticut Vital Records to 1870 (The Barbour Collection): Derby (1665–1852), Suffield (1674–1850), Wallingford (1670–1850) and Woodbury (1674 –1850), birth, marriage, and death records.

Compiled from an original Lucius Barnes Barbour typescript in the NEHGS Special Collections, this database currently contains records for the towns of Derby, Fairfield, Farmington, Greenwich, Guilford, Haddam, Hartford, Killingworth, Lyme, Middletown, Milford, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Saybrook, Simsbury, Stamford, Stratford, Stonington, Suffield, Wallingford, Wethersfield, Windsor, and Woodbury.

The complete Barbour collection contains information on 137 Connecticut towns. The remaining towns will be added to the database over the next year. The collection contains records of marriages, births, and deaths from the 1640s to about 1850; some towns include records through 1870. These records were collected, transcribed, and abstracted by Lucius Barnes Barbour (Connecticut Examiner of Public Records, 1911–1934) and his team of researchers between 1918 and 1928.

Mr. Barbour was a member of NEHGS from 1907 until his death in 1934. This set of typescripts was donated to NEHGS by Mr. Barbour's wife and children in 1938. *[This article is from the NEHGS Newsletter and brought to us through MCGS Member Shirley Pizziferri.]*

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## Genealogy Room -

### Blake Library

**Monday - Friday** - 10 AM to 4 PM

MCGS volunteers are available for free assistance.

- **DNA SIG\*** and **Germanic SIG\***  
Persons with a question can contact Walt Bruetsch, **772-220-1638** or **waltbruetsch@usa.net**. Help is on a one-on-one basis.
- **New England SIG\*** and **Irish SIG\*** Persons with a question can contact Lee Vought at **eleevought@aol.com**.

All these events are always **FREE** and **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**.

Everyone is welcome! Visit the MCGS Web site

<http://mcgensociety.org> for more information.

\* **SIG** - Special Interest Group made up of MCGS members and guests who meet to discuss ways of improving their personal genealogical search methods, and to find new helpful tools and resources. They also provide help to NON-MEMBERS who have an interest in learning how to research their genealogy.

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## 1940 Census Indexing Update

To date, we have six (6) MCGS members who are volunteering their extra time to the FamilySearch.org project of indexing the 1940 Federal Census that was released April 1, 2012. These people are Jane Lewis, Colleen Kimble, Jerry Bloom, Doris Alexander, Karen Paterson and one of our newest MCGS members, Eva Waylett.

We appreciate their efforts and are amazed at the rapid progress that has been made with the thousands of volunteers these past 3 months. The project is almost 75% complete already!

Jane has been the most active with indexing, while Jerry does both indexing and arbitrating.

Want to join them? Contact Jerry Bloom at [jbbloom@charter.net](mailto:jbbloom@charter.net) for details.

## House of Refuge - Genealogical Research for a Museum's Historic Exhibit

by Alice L. Luckhardt

(continued from March 2012)

These keepers came from all over: some were born in Florida, others came from New York, Georgia, North Carolina, Illinois, and Ohio, and several came from Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Bermuda. Working with any known information on each keeper, I could trace who they married and the children each couple had. The keepers were encouraged to have a wife and children to assist at the station, so by tracing a child's name further details could be gathered. One aspect learned was that any keeper that signed on as a bachelor soon married within a few years.

The use of the US Federal census records was invaluable in tracing each family before and after their service. The Florida state censuses of 1885, 1935, and 1945 were also of great help in filling in the gaps. For the sons of keepers, the World War I Draft Registrations assisted in where they were living in 1917-1918, their occu-



pations, and birth dates. Many keepers had married and died in Florida, as did their children, so Florida marriage and death records helped locate families and add to the timeline.

Along with any official records, I checked family trees listed in FamilySearch.com and Rootsweb.com to compare what other researchers had on certain families with the information I was locating. Being these life-saving stations were such an important aspect to the history of Florida, there are several books which also assisted in providing some information about a few of the keepers. The books *A Tropical Frontier—Pioneers, Settlers of Southeast Florida 1800-1890*, by Tim Robinson, and *Biscayne Country 1870-1920*, by Thelma Peters, were two excellent sources for several of the families. However, much of the family lineage had to be pieced together and only after I had done some prior research.

It all came together after about five months with a 24-page final report on the lives and times of the many keepers, and especially their families, for the museum exhibit. Of special interest was tracing the children and what twists and turns their lives took over the years. One fascinating segment centered on Kate Quarterman, the young daughter of keeper Orlando Quarterman of the Chester Shoals House of Refuge. Kate had helped rescue a Norwegian cabin boy, Axel Hagbait Johansen, after his ship sank in the early 1880s off the coast of Brevard County. Johansen returned to that station in the 1890s and fell in love with Kate. The couple married on 6 June 1898 and together they later served as keepers at Martin County's Gilbert's House of Refuge beginning in 1901.

Now preserved are the stories and the family lineage information for most of the keepers and their families who served along the isolated Atlantic coastline of Florida for decades.

Martin County Genealogical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 275  
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**WEB ADDRESS:**

<http://mcgensociety.org>

### **MCGS Board of Directors - 2011**

President	Tom Lewis
Vice-President/Programs	Reba Shepard
Treasurer	Walt Bruetsch
Membership	Jerry Bloom
Secretary	Donna Markowitz
Library Acquisitions	Shirley Pizziferri
Members-at-Large	Virginia Streader
Committees:	
Sunshine Chair	Jane Lewis
Education	Reba Shepard
Public Relations	Shirley Pizziferri
Volunteer Coordinator	Donna Markowitz
Co-Library Chair	Shirley Pizziferri and Donna Markowitz
Calling Tree	Pearl Dougherty
Hospitality	Donna Markowitz
Journal Editor	Jerry Bloom
Website Administrator	Walt Bruetsch

**Martin County Genealogical Society membership meetings are held the third Friday of each month at 1 p.m. Guests are welcome. There is a short business meeting preceding a program.**

**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

<http://mcgensociety.org>

### **Welcome New MCGS Members:**

We hope you take the time to seek out our newest MCGS member the next time you are at a monthly GMM or see her in the Genealogy Room.

Warm welcome to:

Judy Browning

Annual Membership Dues are \$20 for individuals and \$25 for a family or organization.

The Genealogy Journal is usually printed four times a year and distributed at the March, June, September and December MCGS meetings. Suggestions and contributions are always welcomed.