

A Quarterly Publication of the Florida Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists
Expertise You Can Trust
apgflorida.org

Who we are

We are a professional group of newcomers to seasoned pros. Our members must also be members of the [parent organization](#).

For further information, contact [Debbe Hagner, AG](#).

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Indian wars is topic for Oct. 7 meeting

History enthusiast Mitch Brown will speak on "Researching the Indian Wars of the Southeast, 1813-1858" at the chapter meeting on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006.

The meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the [Leesburg Public library](#), 204 N. 5th St., Leesburg, Florida 34748 (352-728-9790). A board meeting will precede it at 9 a.m.

Members and guests are welcome to attend both meetings as well as lunch, says Program Chair [Yolanda Campbell Lifter](#).

Lunch will be at [Bob Evans Restaurant](#), 1205 N. 14th St., Leesburg. [Mitch Brown](#),

a member of the chapter, is proprietor of [Southeastern Roots](#), based in High Springs.

Election of 2 officers to start

Nominating Committee Chair [Cindy Hineman Davis](#) is now accepting nominations for two positions on the chapter board of directors. The two-year terms of the secretary, held by [Ann Mohr Osisek](#) of Maitland, and chapter representative (to our parent organization), held by [Alvie L. Davidson](#), CG of Lakeland, expire at the end of 2006.

Members who attend the Oct. 7 meeting will start the voting for candidates, whose names were not available at press time. Ballots will be mailed to members not present. Election results will be announced at the annual meeting Nov. 10.

At the FSGS conference Chapter sets 3rd annual meeting, road show

The Florida Chapter of APG will complete its third year of operation when it holds its annual meeting at the [Florida State Genealogical Society](#) (FSGS) conference at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Melbourne Nov. 10-11, 2006.

Our annual meeting will be at noon on Nov. 10, during which election results will be announced. Details on the room and lunch availability will be at our vendor's booth.

The FSGS conference will

feature the chapter's first "Ancestors Road Show" where conference goers receive free help with research problems from chapter volunteers.

Attendees will "get some good ideas to solve one of their 'brick wall' problems," says Vice President [Ken Macomber](#), CG, Road Show chair. Each consultation appointment will be 15 minutes between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Nov. 11.

Participants must sign up by e-mailing a request to Ken by noon Nov. 3. They

may bring materials related to their problem and will receive an appointment time at the APG Road Show table. Contact Ken to volunteer.

This year our vendor booth will sport a 5-by-1½ foot banner, donated by [Alvie L. Davidson](#), CG. Booth Chair [Holly Timm](#) will ask for volunteers to staff the booth.

Two chapter members, Macomber and [C. Ann Staley](#), CG, are among the conference's seven speakers. Ann is also conference chair.

Dress for success: a professional look

By [Jean Foster Kelley](#)
and [Ann Mohr Osisek](#)

“...A well groomed appearance and proper demeanor can only enhance our personal and professional stature....”

There was an intriguing story on one of the morning network shows recently about an 11-year-old boy from Minneapolis with the ubiquitous summertime lemonade stand in his grandparents' front yard.

In the beginning he wasn't making a lot of money, \$5 or so a week. Then he started wearing a suit and tie and *voilà*, he was making \$30 to \$40 a week! Now that clearly says, “dress for success and you will profit!” Business Opportunities weblog actually featured this story.¹

Most genealogists work from home, and it can become easy to fail to maintain a proper wardrobe, or to use it.² A colleague developed a bad habit of going to her home office in her pajamas. The day she was caught when a client

dropped by unannounced caused her to rethink her ways.

“I decided it was time to dress and act like the professional I considered myself,” she said. “I reviewed my wardrobe, and committed myself to *daily* dressing just as though I had to leave the house. That was the hardest part since my office was just down the hall.” Once committed she followed through and discovered an amazing thing – her self-esteem grew, as did her productivity, and ultimately her income increased.

A professional, well-groomed appearance doesn't require expensive clothes.

Another colleague loves to shop in resale stores. Not Goodwill or Salvation Army, but the upscale kind of consignment shop. She has found wonderful things at very affordable prices. Keep in mind, the

classic, tailored look is never wrong, and can be dressed up, dressed down, even given a tropical flair. The Washington State University website has some excellent suggestions.³

What about the tropical dress code? Living in Florida, with year-round warm weather, attire can easily become too casual. While shorts, tee shirts, and sandals can be comfortable at home, this style does not give the professional appearance appropriate for conferences, seminars, and research facilities.

As representatives of the profession of genealogy and the Association of Professional Genealogists, presenting a professional, well groomed appearance and proper demeanor can only enhance our personal and professional stature, and ultimately our income.

¹Business Opportunities Weblog (<http://www.business-opportunities.biz/2006/07/12/lemonade-stand-casual-attire-was-a-disaster/>; accessed 18 September 2006).

²Pioneer Thinking (http://www.pioneerthinking.com/gd_dress.html; accessed 18 September 2006).

³Dress to Impress (<http://amdt.wsu.edu/research/dti/index.htm>; accessed 18 September 2006).

President's corner

We are honored to host the 'Road Show'

By [Jean Foster Kelley](#)

The 2006 Ancestor's Road Show (see Chapter sets 3rd annual meeting, page 1) is the first event we have hosted for the genealogy public.

In response to 2005 FSGS conference attendees request for such an event, APG Florida Chapter was asked by FSGS to undertake this. This is quite an honor and we are pleased

to be able to host such an event.

The genealogy public will have a chance to meet and see how professional genealogists work, and hopefully give them avenues of research they have not considered before, and will help them to break down their "brick walls."

Please vote in our annual election of some officers. Members at the Oct. 7

meeting will vote; others will be mailed ballots.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Oct. 7 for Mitch Brown's presentation. He is passionate about history and genealogy and conveys those feelings in his talks. It will be another excellent opportunity to invite another APG member who has not yet joined the Florida Chapter. It will be a busy and fun-filled day in Leesburg.



Jean Foster Kelley

U.S. public records laws eroding

But they are still strong in Florida

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is a shorter version of an article that appeared in FSGS's [Florida Lines](#), September 2006.

By [Dick Robinson](#), CG
FSGS Legislative Chair &
FGS & NGS Florida Liaison,
Records Preservation &
Access Committee

Have you ever had trouble obtaining public genealogical records in Florida or elsewhere? Each state has its own laws governing public records—and many governments are now intent on limiting who can see these documents as a way to help prevent identity theft or terrorism.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, all 50 states have created a total of 616 new laws restricting access to government records and public information, according to a survey by news organizations. Just this year, we saw stories where South Dakota restricted vital record indexes, Vermont banned publishing vital records, and Indiana, Colorado, and Massachusetts planned to close or limit access to vital records.

Florida's public records law, covering vital records and land, probate and court records, are among the oldest and strongest in the nation. But in Florida, access to vital records and others that genealogists use are not in danger now of changing.

Florida passed the Public Records Law, Chapter 119 of the Florida States" in

1909. It provides that any records made or received by any public agency in the course of its official business are available for inspection, unless specifically exempted by the Legislature."

Public records now include, in addition to written records, tapes, photographs, film, sound recordings, and records stored in computers. The major records used by genealogists are public records, including vital records (births, marriages, and deaths), and land, probate, and court records.

The big problem today in Florida, though, is that some 42 percent of government workers consistently violate the public records law, according to an audit organized by the Tallahassee-based First Amendment.

When asked by audit volunteers for such records as e-mails and

police logs (not involving genealogical records), office personnel often asked for their name, a written request, all of which are not required by the law, or simply refused to provide the requested documents, some after long delays.

Have you faced similar hassles while you were at a courthouse or in other governmental offices looking for genealogical records? If so, you may want to take with you a form to make written requests (not required by law) that is available at the FAF website. Its Record Request form informs the office worker of your rights under Florida's Public Records Law.

But, in the end, it is up to genealogists, perhaps in partnership with the media, to educate legislators that restricting vital records just hampers researchers and others and will not help curb ID theft or prevent terrorism.

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What members have been doing

This summer the chapter was well represented at many events, including FGS, NGS, IGHR, and IAJGS. About 5% of the pre-registrants for the APG Professional Management Conference (PMC) at the FGS conference in Boston were chapter members.

The PMC was chaired by our **Donna Moughty**, who was praised for her first-

year work.

Meanwhile, **Pam Cooper** was recently in the news on the need to safeguard historical data in case of hurricanes.... **Dick Robinson** was interviewed on Internet radio on searching online for genealogy data.... **C. Ann Staley** reports she will miss the Oct. 7 meeting because she is in SLC. "Guess what I'll be doing," she asks.



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INFORMATION**

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**Deadline for the January
2007 issue**

Dec. 12, 2006

**-- [Dick Robinson](#),
Editor**