

WORK MANUAL
HISTORICAL DOCUMENT SECTION
ARCHIVES DIVISION

INDEX

1. HISTORIC DOCUMENT SECTION
2. ESCAMBIA COUNTY RECORDS
3. HISTORIC CIRCUIT COURT CASES
4. MARRIAGE RECORDS
5. HOW TO LOCATE WILLS
6. HOW OLD IS MY BUILDING?
7. RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR TRACING INDIAN HERITAGE IN ESCAMBIA COUNTY
8. BOOKS FOUND IN THE HISTORICAL SECTION OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE
9. HOW TO USE INDEXES FOR HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
10. SOURCES OF GENERAL PENSACOLA HISTORY THAT RELATES TO COURT RECORDS
11. SENSITIVITY TO PENSACOLA HISTORY AS IT RELATES TO COURT DOCUMENTS
12. SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO HISTORICAL RESEARCHERS
13. HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PENSACOLA
14. HISTORICAL GROUPS OF PENSACOLA
15. PROJECTS OF THE PENSACOLA HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY
16. DATES AND ERAS THAT MUST BE LEARNED - IMPORTANT DATES
17. SPEECH TO THE WEST FLORIDA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, 1983 - THE COURT HOUSE, A TOOL FOR HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
18. RESOURCES FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH AT THE COURT HOUSE
19. FIVE-MINUTE SPEECH GIVEN BY MRS. SUTTON AT THE PENSACOLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING, APRIL 18, 1983 - MONDAY
20. SPEECH GIVEN BY MRS. SUTTON AT THE WEST FLORIDA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, January, 1988
21. COURTHOUSE TREASURES
22. SPEECH GIVEN AT THE OKALOOSA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, January 9, 1988

HISTORIC DOCUMENT SECTION

- I. At the front desk telephone:
 - A. When someone asks for anything old (1915 or before), ask the Historical Researcher.
 - B. When someone is asking about adoption records, ask Rita Fox. Mrs. Sutton has been able to help with locating the biological parent.

 - II. Learn to use the:
 - A. Marriage index, 1821-1900
 - B. Court case index, 1821-1948, and where to locate the files.
 - C. Probate index for O- Dockets, 1821-1915.

.LATER:
Cross reference index
Subject index

THEN LATER:
Chronological CC index
Index for Bell collection, Judges court, etc.

 - III. Learn the form for typing:
 - Letters
 - Indexes
 - Notes
 - Memos, etc.

 - IV. Learn where to find addresses & phone numbers. Learn different organizations, who to contact for what, and the function of each organization:
 - Pensacola Historical Society (Seville Square)
 - Historic Pensacola Preservation Board (State)
 - University of West Florida
 - West Florida Geneological Society
 - Pensacola Historic Preservation Society(Quina House) - Private
- For Archeological questions:
PLTP - Panton-Leslie John Forbes Company (Some may call this, Panton-Leslie Trading Post)(*Sutton's Book, Block's 5 & 11*)
Council of Historic Organizations (CHO)
North Hill Preservation Society
East Hill Preservation Society

Questions about court house, Judicial Building, deeds, abstracts, maps, Spanish,-British land grants, homestead information, etc.

When one learns the things listed on Page #1, they will be ready for learning the following:

- V. How to use index and find marriates, probates, and court cases.
- VI. Coordinate index, document, and interpret according to user. LEARN DATES and historical events that relate to documents. Learn to transcribe old writing and where to find translations, and the difference between them.
 - A. Read newspapers. Anticipate future questions (Pitt Slip, East Hill Preservation district, genealogical questions).
 - B. Learn names of people or families that are frequently asked for and how they relate to time frame in Pensacola history. Read Sutton's books that relate to the historic documents in our files. Read books that relate to general history of Pensacola that would be parallel to our documents (1821-1915). Learn which books cover particular subjects that relate to our documents, (lumbering, brickmaking, families, etc.) and where these books can be located. (The Case of the Branded Hand, etc.) Choose your own family, or subject; make your own card index, rough draft, write your own article and footnote it. You will then have a better comprehension of what our "customers" want, what they need, and what we have that they need.
- VII. Start attending Historical meetings, or attend SPECIAL classes on Pensacola history --- or attend West Florida Geneological meetings. Make your own family tree. Visit (with Mrs. Sutton) the different museums and libraries. (The Pensacola Public Library has very limited Pensacola History and Geneology material.)
- VIII. Know what the Panton-Leslie John Forbes Company is and the history of the courthouse and Judicial Building is -- or where it can be located. Be articulate enough to answer News-Journal or TV commentators about the display in lobby and the Doll House.
- IX. Do you know Pensacola history and are you alert to future questions (even fifty years from now) to judge what should be reviewed, indexed and preserved? Do you know how to index, to follow that which has already been started, and the reasons for following the pattern of indexing that which has already been started, (provenence)?
- X. Do you have knowledge of library techniques to set up an indexing system? To know the best methods of preserving century-old documents and to capably suggest methods and budgets for same?

- X1. Do you REALLY KNOW the people you are serving? Do you comprehend the "politics" of inter-city and inter-governmental bodies? Are you diplomatic enough to handle "Indian Affairs", or racial questions, or ticklish adoptees searching for biological parents?

BOOKS FOUND IN THE HISTORICAL SECTION OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. British Development of West Florida by C. Howard
2. Blocks Three and Eleven, Old City Plat of Pensacola
The excavations of Pantan-Leslie/Forbes Company (Judicial Building)
3. Doyle & Hambley, Indian Traders for the House of Forbes
4. Limbaugh's Dilemma
5. Blacks and Slavery in Pensacola 1780 - 1880
6. Pensacola Merchants during the 1827 era
7. Mariana Bonifay, founder of Bonifay brickyards on Scenic Highway
8. Gonzalia, story of Don Manuel Gonzalez, husband of Maria L. Gonzalez
9. The Quina House, family of Desiderio Quina and the area around Seville Square
10. Pedro de Alba, husband of Victoria Lassassier, Rocheblave family also
11. The Walton House, George Walton, signer of the Declaration of Independence; Dorothy Walton, his widow & George Walton, Jr., acting Governor of West Florida; Don Francisco Moreno's family; James Gonzalez and his family.
12. Beelersville, 1821 - 1829, a community located just east of the eastern entrance to the University of West Florida.
13. Barbet, the story of one woman's life in Pensacola from 1830 through 1890.
14. The Fighting Irishmen, the divorce of Henrietta and Thomas Conlin
15. The Wreck of the Mutter Schultz
16. Waterfront of Old Pensacola, businesses and dives along the waterfront, quarantine lists, fights, rates of wharfage, bath houses, thefts aboard ships, shipping documents, wharfs, ballast, icehouses, under-water land claims.
17. Daggers and Pistols, Swords and Brickbats, murders along the waterfront, etc.
18. Apple Pie and Motherhood (LePoidevant)
19. Burial Customs
20. The Waterfront
21. The Barkley House
22. Sierra
23. Women in Pensacola, 1765 to 1965 - Rebecca Durnford, Mariana Bonifay, Sophia Durant, Euphrasine Hinnard, Barbet, Angela Mallory, Occie Clubb

24. 1821 - 1885 Misc., Arbona, Quina, Evans maps.
25. Block 12, Waterfront owners, 1817 thru 1917 for Anderson
26. Anderson's New World Landing; De Luna, Galvez, Johnston, Bowles, DeVillier, Pintado, Lafitte, Chase, Le Baron and Geronimo
27. Bay Hotel and Liberty Street; John Dunn, Daisy Armentrout, Molly McCoy, Lizzie and San Carlos Hotel (RESTRICTED)
28. Pensacola Personalities, 1781 - 1881, Volume 4, Bonifay descendants
29. The Court House and Related Data; courthouse, jails, clock and elected officials
30. Instruction Manuel for Employee
31. Christian Usthrop Theisen
32. Caro-Palmas
33. Comyns - McVoy & LeBaron
34. Pensacola Lighthouse at the Navy Yard

HOW TO USE INDEXES FOR HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

There are a number of different indexes compiled for the use of the serious researcher. The main ones are those that were made for general use and are heavy enough that they cannot be carried out of the building without someone noticing their disappearance. Those that are located in the Historical Document Section are the marriage indexes and the circuit court indexes. We also have a couple of Court of Record indexes. These large indexes were compiled by the Works Progress Administration workers in the 1930's. If a file was missing at that time, an astericks was placed in the right hand column of the page.

Most researchers using the historic document section fall into five categories:

HISTORY as it relates to buildings and sites, especially in the four historical districts.

ARCHEOLOGY to verify a possible site and to find maps.

GENEALOGY to verify family tradition and to make out their family charts.

THESIS WORK OR TERM PAPERS by students. Many times the inquiry will be about government buildings in the downtown area.

THE PANTON LESLIE-JOHN FORBES SITE and the archeological display on the main floor, or the "Doll House" on Main Street. Also the McGillivary marker.

If the information is in the Court Archives, one could start by looking in the LARGE indexes of:

Marriages 1821-present
Probate files 1821-present
Will books start in 1821
Circuit Court 1821-present
Court of Record 1911-1972
(Deeds at old court house)
Naturalization

Books and documents that date prior to 1920 may be found in the Historic Document Section.

The Historic Document Section was started in 1971 when the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Joe Flowers, was faced with a serious lack of storage space for the old records. Realizing that there was an awakening interest in the history of our community, and that there must be a wealth of interesting data in the old records, he asked Leora M. Sutton to "See what's down there." Shortly thereafter the Circuit Court files dating from 1821 through 1885 had been reviewed, indexed and preserved. The "0" dockets of the probate court were also in a deplorable condition. When the

duties of the court system and the administrative section were divided, Mr. Flowers chose to be the comptroller and Mr. Ernie Lee Magaha was elected to be the Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts in 1972. Mr. Magaha kept the Historic Document Section and the fragile probate documents were added to the "endangered" list. The Seville Square historical district had its start and questions needed answers.

Our records start in 1821, at the Change of Flags with Spain. They have been entrusted by law, to the Clerk of the Court. Probate records were hidden in clay jars at Barrancas and court papers were transferred by canvas covered wagons to Bluff Springs, then to Evergreen, Alabama during the Civil War, when our city and county government was in exile. County Clerk, Filomena de La Rua saw them housed in the Victorian style Court House located at Chase and Palafox. They were later in the charge of M. Langley Bell and Mr. Flowers in the Court House on Palafox and Government before the new Judicial Building was built. There was a law passed in 197 that forbid the disposition of county archives without clearance from the State Archives in Tallahassee. Escambia County was created in 1821 and extended from the Perdido River to the Appalachianicola River, thus making it one of the two oldest counties in the state. The original documents in our Historic Document Section relate to Spanish West Florida, and are irreplaceable to the researcher who wants original source material.

As the court cases and probate files were being reviewed, and the questions were being asked, it became apparent that certain sites and names were repetitious. The INDEX TO CIRCUIT COURT CASES by chronological date with brief review of the case and the SUBJECT INDEX of cases in the Historic Document Section were compiled. Many times it was not necessary to pull the files listed in the LARGE INDEX as the case did not pertain to what the searcher was interested in.

We have small handy indexes for the files in the Historic Document Section. These include:

Chronological index to Circuit Court Cases
Subject index
0 docket index (for probate files)
Index for the Bell Collection, Judges Court,
and Court of Record files located in the
Historic Document Section.

There was a microfilming project started in 1982 when the fifth floor of the Judicial Building was transformed into additional Judges chambers. Mr. Buford Mayberry, head of Archives, died and the responsibility for the project fell on the shoulders of Ms. Mary Odom and Mrs. Rita Fox. The Bell Collection was found at that time and the most important papers were placed in the Historic Document Section. Judges Court papers and Court of Record files were spotted and added to the collection.

1. Marriage Records

From 1821 through current date are indexed by name of bride and by the name of the groom. All marriages have been microfilmed. The readers have copiers. Original licenses and marriage books are in the Historical Document Section.

The older marriage records give only the name of the bride and groom, date of marriage, presiding official and witnesses. After 1919, the application for marriage shows birth, place and date, age, married before?, divorced and where, and if divorced, previous name of bride.

The marriage license shows proof of marriage. Pre-nuptial contracts, at present, are filed in recorder's office. Wedding dowers of Spanish ladies in the Historic Document Section.

2. Wills and Probate Documents

From 1821 through current date are indexed by name of deceased. A will controls the disposition of an individual's property and the validity of the will must be proved in probate court. If there is no will a person has died intestate and the deceased's heirs must be found. To probate the estate an administrator is appointed by the court to act in accordance with probate law. In Escambia County, the original probate records and will books from 1821 through 1915 are in the Historic Document Section.

When genealogists abstract a will they are interested in:

Name of the testator (deceased).
Children (legitimate and otherwise).
Executor (or administrator of probate).
Witnesses.
Date of will
Date of probate of will
Where the will is located (Will book no. & page).

Old Spanish wills usually has the name of spouse or name of "live-in" who has been remembered for her "special services." Children are legitimate or named as being otherwise. Religion is designated by mentioning preference of service and interment, with so many bells, so many prayers and so many candles. Usually the will was witnessed by a county official, such as a judge or clerk of the court.

Genealogical abstracts of wills and notes from probate records are filled with romance and pathos, interwoven on background of war, neglect, family progress and shot with questions.

When opening a probate file, the genealogist will find answers in the documents labeled:

Will and codicil (Henry Flagler's had seven codicils).
(Don Francisco Moreno had one made
two hours after signing his will.)
Oath of executor (usually the spouse or oldest child).
Petition to divide or sell real estate (including
slaves).
Unpaid bills (funeral, doctor and hospital, pharmacy,
grocer, dry goods, buggy works, etc.)

Probate records of Spanish families have marriage dowers and slave records.

The probate section has guardianship and commitment records which reveal the name of family members. Usually commitment records are restricted. Guardianship records are open to public, usually.

Adoption records are in the court records, but in other court houses may be found in the probate section.

3. County and Circuit Court Cases

From 1821 through present date. Historic Court cases, some dating from 1804, are in the Archives Historic Document Section, indexed by name of plaintiff and defendant, and subject. There are chronological abstracts of the first 10,000 and all others in the historic document section, as well as cross-references. These include Circuit Court, County Court, Judges Court, Court of Record documents dating from 1911 through 1972 and United States District and Superior Court of Territory of West Florida from 1821 through 1845. (These are not to be confused with City and Federal Courts.)

Each county has their own system of administration in the court system, but court cases usually fall into 12 steps from the time a summons is given until the time a case is settled. The documents genealogists are interested in are:

The bill of complaint, of bill of particulars, the declaration or praecipis.	
Copy of publication of action.	
Evidence	deeds, land grants, agreements, notes,
or	pictures, maps, invoices, newspapers,
Witnesses	letters and testimonies which can be in
Deposition	a separate thick book, a treasure chest of genealogy of those who want the "nitty-gritty" facts.

Also found in court cases are copies of land grants or Certificates of Homestead, naturalization papers, deeds, abstracts, children with spouses names, divorces, lifestyles, greeting cards, pictures, or anything that is made of paper. (No three-dimensionals or motorcycles.)

The Historic Document Section has first naturalization records for Escambia County from 1885-1903. The Federal Court has those from 1903 on.

4. Deed Room (OFFICIAL RECORDS)

The deed room has deeds recorded from 1821 through present day. A genealogist will find the indexes for the grantor and grantee by name, date of transaction and location of property with book and page number to find more information. A quick abstract of deeds would show name, year of transaction, description of property (real estate and slaves), how much remuneration.

A recorder's work is primarily for recording deeds, mortgages, liens, and contracts. They keep tax records, maps, slave records, maritime transactions, some marriage dowers and marriage contracts. Articles of incorporation and building contracts are also in the comptroller's and recorder's office. Their maps start as early as 1825. Present-day maps are in the engineer's office. Older ones are in the historic document section of the Court Archives, as are pictures of county sites.

5. Voters Registration ARCHIVES & ALSO CHECK IN OLD COURTHOUSE & OFFICIAL RECORDS & VOTERS' REGISTRATION

Starts 1912. One list of eligible male voters for the year of 1833 is in the Historic Document Section, as well as lists of candidates for office and county officials.

When doing research on genealogy or historic sites the archivist on duty should be able to ask a few questions:

- What is the name you are researching? Our files are indexed by name.
- What is the site you are interested in? Do you have the abstract for your house?
- What is the approximate date you are searching for? Our files are indexed by name and year.
- What is the subject you have been assigned?

For the genealogist the archivist can start with the marriages, then the probate files and/or will books. The court indexes give many useful facts. If there may be a naturalization paper try that next, then send them to the Comptroller's office for deeds, mortgages, slave records, etc. We have some maps, the comptroller and engineers office have more. Sometimes these maps show the location of the old homestead. If the dates they give you for grandpa's whereabouts are from 1868 look in the Judges Court index as well as the others. If the dates fall between 1911 through 1972 look in the Court of Records index.

For additional information to complete the search for quick information send the researcher to the Pensacola Historical Museum for the census records on microfilm. Census records and church records dating from 1782 through 1820, during the LAST SPANISH ERA, are in book form, published in 1781, by Dr. William Coker. Suggest that the researcher glance at the UNDOCUMENTED Genealogical charts by Foster, or the vertical files on the subject, or the picture files.

If the researcher, or archivist, wish to obtain the results of the research, it would be helpful to put the information and source of the information, along with book and page number, on either a 3 x 5 card or SEPARATE SHEETS of paper in a loose leaf notebook. From the courthouse they could have:

- Marriage of grandpa and grandma
- Date of death, and children of deceased, with property and debts at the time of death.
- Court cases give details of the person's life; real-estate claims, agreements, business records, debts, trials involved in, etc.
- Naturalization will tell where the person came from and age at time of petition.
- Deeds tell about the old homestead, how much they paid for it, etc., as well as slaves.
- Many of the files will contain the signatures of grandpa and grandma. Some of the later files have pictures and maps.

Add this data to that at the Museum and a pretty good profile emerges.

The Index for Historic Circuit Court Cases consists of the file number (1821-1), name of the plaintiff and defendant, and a quick review of the case. A related index was made for the NAME of the plaintiff and defendant and a subject index was made for quick reference. (I need to write a paper on stage coaches.)

The "Probate Index, 0-1 through 0-1335" assists the researcher for names of relatives. The probate index is not cross-referenced nor does it include reviews. Some probate files contain the original will but don't depend on it. Better to look in the index which accompanies the WILL BOOK.

Wills are recorded in a number of will books. It was discovered that there are three indexes, each consecutively older than the preceding one. These old will books start in 1821, many referring to the old Spanish settlers and the immigrants arriving during Territorial days.

Newspapers have been indexed by name of newspaper and date, in the Subject Index under Pensacola Imprints. They have not been cross-referenced, nor reviewed, as of 1983.

OUR BOOKS ARE FROM THE SUTTON COLLECTION and are based on the information obtained from documents in the Historic Document Section. THEY MAY NOT BE COPIED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE AUTHOR. They are copyrighted, and the older ones have had the copyright re-submitted. A few of these books contain sensitive material to those still living, and they should not be released in order to prevent embarrassment, and possible court action, against the clerk of the court. The archivist must, by law, show the original files to the public when called upon by name and file number. The books written by Mrs. Sutton are NOT public documents, but were placed in the Historic Document Section only as information and as an expedient for the archivist who has the same questions asked over and over.

WE HAVE NO OTHER BOOKS. THIS IS THE DEPOSITORY for archives from the Court system, not a public library. As of 1983, we do not keep the archives for the other county offices.

The oldest WILL BOOKS are unbound and located in a box placed in the lower drawer of the 0 probate files. The oldest bound Will Book (3) is also located in the lower drawer of the "0" probate file of the Historic Document Section.

It is my understanding that Modeste Hargis was one of the two W.P.A. workers assigned the task of indexing the Circuit Court Cases. One took half of the cases, the other worker took her half. Celia Myrover Robinson was a society reporter working on the local newspaper. Mr. . . . Fillingjim was a special reporter on the same paper. Robinson was a close friend of Modeste Hargis and used some of the material that was found in

the "newly discovered" records being indexed in a three volume set of books now catalogued in the libraries as fiction. Mr. Fillingim used the same material for a genealogical serialization in the newspaper. When the two were through with their work, the indexers added the files to the indexes. We now carry the file numbers 1821-1 to 1866-2385 for the first part of the Index to the Circuit Court cases that one indexer compiled, and we carry 1821-2395 to 1886-8446 on the files the other indexer worked on. Much later another small group of miscellaneous files were found for the dates of 1821 through 18 inserted with those dating 1917. The names of the latter correspond with information used in the Robinson books.

SOURCES OF GENERAL PENSACOLA HISTORY
THAT RELATES TO COURT RECORDS

1. The Florida Historical Quarterly, Pensacola Quadricentennial Issue, Volume XXXVII, Numbers 3 and 4, referred to as the Quadri
2. Florida Historical Quarterly Series
3. Pensacola Historical Quarterly Series, published by the Pensacola Historical Society, now known as The Echo, Jenny Parks, Editor
4. University of West Florida Series, published as a result of the Gulf Coast Conferences
5. Pensacola Home and Savings Historical Series by John Appleyard
6. Fiesta of Five Flags Booklet, 1930 era
7. Census Reports, starts 1784
8. Sanborn Insurance Maps begins in 1885
9. Pensacola City Directory begins in 1885, information by name
10. Memoirs of Florida, Volumes 1 and 2 by Rerick, 1895 circa, History and Biography, with pictures
11. Historic of Escambia County by H. Clay Armstrong, 1930 History and Biography
12. FICTION, Celia Myrover Robeson, three booklets on Old Pensacola, 1930 era
13. Always consult Pensacola Historical Society Museum and University of West Florida Library, Special Collections
14. Pensacola News Journal Library has articles relating to court cases, filed by name
15. T. T. Wentworth Picture Series, check information for accuracy
16. Leora M. Sutton Series, 1783 era
17. 1905 Pensacola, Florida Illustrated

SENSITIVITY TO PENSACOLA HISTORY
AS IT RELATES TO COURT DOCUMENTS

As Clerk of the Circuit Court of Escambia County, Mr. Magaha has been invested with the sacred trust to protect the legal documents which represent the history and sacraments in the lives of the citizens of Escambia County.

In order to protect and make these documents available to the public, he appointed Mr. Mayberry as the keeper of the Archives. Mr. Mayberry has been charged with the following:

1. Secure storage for the books and files, with capacity for immediate retrieval for current use.
2. Conduct a microfilm program in order to reduce the bulk of material accumulated over 160 years.

The third facet of the Archives is the Historical Document Section. It was started in 1971 to retain original documents of a historical nature that are requested by historical researchers.

Our storage area is now needed for new court facilities. Mr. Spence is charged with moving the unnecessary - while keeping a sensitive eye out for the historical.

Mr. Magaha has asked Mrs. Sutton to help the personnel to develop a sensitivity to the Pensacola history of Escambia County that is found in court related documents. Why now? Space is a priority and we have no funds for a thorough, paper by paper study. Though the written word is photographed, it is necessary to retain the most important original documents for the archivists of the future. Therefore, it has become a necessity to spot check all documents while being microfilmed.

What is history? The latin word historia means knowledge or a search for knowledge or meaning to life. History is a story of the past; an account, or narrative, of an event that has taken place in Escambia County; an account of an individual or family; a recitation, or account of an event.

As a child, history meant a story of the past, such as Joan of Arc, Davy Crockett, etc. In high school, it meant dates centering around wars, politics. In college, it represents documented events in certain

areas. Today's events are tomorrow's history. Dates do not ascertain history. Everything that is old is not a determination for retention.

What do we mean by sensitivity? Sensitivity is an awareness, a feeling. This is developed by:

1. Being alert
2. Having a natural desire to learn (being nosy, curious)
3. Having an interest in a specific area of history (the seedier side of town, if that is your thing, is as good a place to develop sensitivity as any)
4. By acquiring a knowledge of the contents of the legal documents you are working with

Court of Record Civil files are now being microfilmed. The following are examples you should be aware of:

Divorce: pictures of clothes; besides a collection of pornography we find an evolution of social mores. How did people feel? React? Express themselves? What are the living conditions? Where did they do for entertainment. What kind of stationery did they use? Migration from England; Asia.

Accidents: Pictures of cars; neighborhood in background

Lawsuits (Damages): Business accounts, ball park, printing

Ephemeral means lasting a day. Ephemeride is a collective name for pamphlets, periodic literature, post cards, tickets, etc.

Develop a sense for who will use these documents in the future, and what a person really wants. Know your community and requests. Anticipate their needs. We have found the following to be most requested:

1. Genealogy - skeletal family tree, stories document tradition
2. Treasure hunters - archaeologists
3. Architecture - history of buildings, pictures, description Lives of people who lived/worked there.
4. History of a section of town or county (Seville, North Hill, Waterfront, red light district)
5. Ethnic groups - blacks, equal rights, Indians, what happened to them?
6. News media - official, News Journal, Galvez, family TV, PLTP
7. Social Mores - theologians, psychologists
8. Womens rights

page 3

Anticipate tomorrow's research - Wilhoit, Crowell, etc. Study the indexes for related or continuing stories. Lay aside/or jot down numbers for historical researchers to pass on - don't separate we need story. Provenance means to keep in its original order.

1/29/81
LMS

SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO HISTORICAL RESEARCHERS

Escambia County - Jails
Personal Papers of Judiciary (Judges, Attorneys, etc.)
Individual Proceedings for Escambia County Elected Officials
Integration, Segregation
Property in Seville Square Historical District
Property in North Hill Historical District
Property in Downtown Improvement Board District
Property in Governmental Center Authority
Buildings
Furniture
Clothes & Seamstresses
Churches, Fraternal Organizations, Music
Theatre especially Saengar, Moving Pictures, School of Dance
Mail
Education
Pensacola Imprints (pamphlets, newspapers, brochures, etc.)
Unusual Marriage Records
Orphanages
Bigamy, Cohabitation, Divorce, Disorderly House
Bastards, Rape, Incest
Ten Pin Alley, Gaming Houses, Billiards & Cards, Lottery
Liquor, Saloons, Taverns, etc.
Duels
Unusual Murder Cases
Banks, Insolvency, Counterfeiting, Flim-Flam Artists, Con Men,
etc.
Hotels, Boarding Houses, Rooming Houses, Motels, Unusual Living
Accommodations
Baker, Butchers, Mercantile Companies, Merchants, etc.
Beef Suppliers - Blacksmiths
Doctors, Hospitals, Health, Yellow Fever, Medicine
Storms, Pensacola Waterfront, Schooners, Barges, Ships, Fishing
Industries
Wharfs, Wharfage, Stevedors, Pilot, Quarantines, Piracy
Navy Yard, Naval Air Station, Air Force, Outlying Fields such
as Whiting, Ellyson, etc; Army facilities such as Barrancas
during World War II
Land Claims involving Land Grants
Former Plantations and present day Farming such as Truck Gardening
Cattle Industry
Lumber Industry, Saw Mills, *HAWKSHAM Community*
Any Reference to Former Brickyards in this Community
Roads, Railroads
Pornography, Love Letters, Titilation
Ephemera, including Soveniers, Tickets

ESCAMBIA COUNTY RECORDS

MARRIAGE RECORDS start in 1821. The original marriage applications and licenses, and the two, tiny leather-bound index books, are in the Historic Document Section. All marriages from 1821 through the present are registered in large index books and microfilmed.

PROBATE OFFICE has probate dockets, will books, administrator accounts and guardianship records. The index runs consecutively from 1821 through 1914 and original will books, many written in Spanish and French, are in the Historic Document Section. Some refer back to 1804.

NATURALIZATION PAPERS. Original applications starting in 1885 through 1903 will be found in the Historic Document Section. Naturalization cases after 1903 were handled by the Clerk of the Federal Court, 100 North Palafox Street, 32501. Please contact Mr. Keller at 433-2107 who will give information but not in writing.

COURT CASES start in 1821 and are indexed through the present date. These include land claims, divorces, broken agreements, debts, information on lumbering, manufacturing, plantations, most waterfront activities, health, mercantile companies, red light district and others. Court cases referred to court activities as early as 1804.

BLACKS AND SLAVE RECORDS from the court cases are in typescript, interpreted by Leora M. Sutton in Blacks and Slavery in Pensacola, 1780-1880.

RECORDS FOR GENEALOGISTS will be found in the marriage records, probate, court cases and deed records.

INDIAN RECORDS can be found by name of individual, the same as genealogical records. Indian records for court cases are listed in the subject index for the court cases under Indians. The Indian tribes that we would have any records of would be for the upper Creek, lower Creek, and Choctaw nations.

THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT destroyed all ARREST RECORDS prior to 1958. A researcher needs the Sheriff's Department indexes rather than taking time to look up the arrest.

There were four JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS AND A COUNTY JUDGE'S COURT. There were three docket books per year.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISPLAY OR PANTON LESLIE-JOHN FORBES COMPANY material relating to the Judicial Building site can be found in Blocks Three & Eleven Old City Plat of Pensacola, by Leora M. Sutton.

DEED RECORDS AND MAPS are located in the Comptroller's Office. Deeds run consecutively from 1821 through the present day. They include not only land transactions, but countless slave records, household effects that were secured by the dower-rights of the Spanish ladies, building contracts, and maritime records. Maps start as early as 1825. Spanish grants are also listed here for present-day Escambia County.

TAX ROLLS start around 1900 and may be viewed in the Comptroller's Office. The original tax book for the year of 1868 survived and hundreds of individual tax receipts were found in the old probate records. Some start as early as 1830.

VOTER REGISTRATION lists start in 1912. One list of eligible male voters who paid their poll tax in 1833 is in the Historic Document Section.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL RECORDS start in 1917. These include city and county schools, but not private schools. From 1919 to 1964, the schools were segregated, and so were the records. Records are kept at the Myrtle Grove Center for Educational Services. The telephone number is 456-8631. The University of West Florida has the attendance records, 1947-1951, with a list of teachers and principals in Escambia County for 1929 and 1930. These are in the University of West Florida, John Pace Library, Special Collections.

BIRTH RECORDS are at the Escambia County Health Department located at 2251 North Palafox Street and start in 1891. These were recorded in the Old City Ledger; the original ledger is now located at the State Board of Vital Statistics in Jacksonville, but one may view the photocopies at the Health Department. Probate has guardianship papers. DEATH CERTIFICATES start in 1919.

Some ADOPTION RECORDS are located in the Archives of the Judicial Building. Some records prior to 1950 are not sealed.

BRITISH RECORDS for land in west Florida can be found in British Development of West Florida, by Clinton Howard. If the information is not in Howard, suggest that the inquirer write to Public Records Office, Chancery Lane, London, WC2.

STUDENTS AND THESIS WRITERS can be helped by reviewing the subject index for court cases, and consulting the Historical Researcher, or Mr. Norman Simons, Pensacola Historical Society, 433-1559.

SANTA ROSA COUNTY RECORDS can be had by contacting Edith L. Geiger, Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court, P.O. Box 472, Milton, Florida 32570, 994-5234; or Warren Weeks, Accountant for Board of County Commissioners, address same as above.

OKALOOSA AND WALTON COUNTIES RECORDS can be had by contacting Mrs. J. N. (Chris) LaRoche, 428 Marian Drive, Niceville, Florida 32578.

PENSACOLA JUNIOR COLLEGE RECORDS were microfilmed by Mr. Jesse Barfield. The 1948 through 1969 records from Washington Junior College and Adult High School are located at the Pensacola Junior College Registrar's Office.

AGE OF BUILDINGS can sometimes be found by reviewing the abstract, searching the deed books, probate files, and court cases. Court cases may contain lawsuits for buildings and sometimes includes maps of the property.

HISTORIC CIRCUIT COURT CASES

When a court case is chosen to remain in the Historic Document Section, it is taken out of its folder or envelope and the papers are flattened. These papers are placed in a manila folder which is labeled with year, case number, name of plaintiff and defendant; ie: 1853-1400 State vs. Piper. They are filed by case number and not by year or name.

The papers in the case are placed in the manila folder in the following order:

- First - The old envelope
- Second - Bill of Complaint
- Third - Declaration or bill of particulars
- Fourth - Main piece of interest to historian or geneologist.

This saves time and unnecessary handling of documents.

Everything worth keeping must be easily found. Court cases are first indexed by name in the cross reference index. This enables the researcher to find names in the cases that are not listed on the envelope. Then a brief review of the case is given in the chronological index and subject index.

The case is now ready to be filed in the Circuit Court Case filing cabinet.

If you've been hunting in vain for an ancestor's marriage record, don't just give up and say, "I can't find it." A number of sources establish evidence of a marriage.

Of course, the certified copy of the marriage record from the office of the custodian of the vital records is the official record and is recognized as evidence in court proceedings. When it comes to genealogy, the certified copy does not prove the marriage. The marriage could have been denied by adverse parties (perhaps children of a first wife or someone else with an interest in a possible inheritance).

Look for:

- Church marriage registers.
 - Family records, such as the listings in a family Bible, diaries, journals or letters.
 - Affidavits or declarations. There are some cases when a man and woman filed a document swearing under oath that they were man and wife. Many county recorders kept a volume for miscellaneous records that didn't fit into other categories.
 - Probate court records such as wills, petitions or settlements of estates.
 - Civil court records which might be lawsuits filed by executors, civil actions by creditors and any number of actions.
 - Criminal court records.
 - Land records such as deeds, mortgages, and leases.
 - Military records. Pension applications are a valuable source to establish a marriage because a widow had to prove to pension officials that she was legally married before she could qualify for a widow's pension based on her late husband's military service.
 - The Federal Census Records of 1850, 1860 and 1870. The man listed first was presumed to be the head of the household. The woman listed next was generally his wife. Beginning on the Federal Census of 1880, the relationship of the individuals listed to the head of the house is spelled out.
 - Cemetery records.
 - Birth and death records of a couple's children offer circumstantial evidence that the parents of the child were married.
 - Newspaper clippings (especially if the clippings are more than 30 years old).
 - City directories.
 - Voting registers.
 - Photographs.
 - Genealogical samplers or quilts.
 - Records and publications of fraternal lodges.
- Any genealogical documents "weigh" more as evidence if they are in the proper custody. Did the marriage record come from the county clerk's office? Who had the family Bible? When was the Bible published — before the marriage or 50 years after the marriage?

Before you accept a marriage as fact, try to find at least three good pieces of evidence to support your claim.

If you want to know more about genealogical proof, read "Genealogical Evidence" by Noel C. Stevenson.

If you have a question about your ancestors, write: Family quest, The Pensacola Journal, P. O. Box 12710, Pensacola, Fla. 32574.

HOW TO LOCATE WILLS

- 1 - Probate Index
- 2 - Will Books
- 3 - Court Cases
- 4 - Deed Office or Abstract Office

When looking for a will, check the probate index. These start with "0" and cover the era from 1821 to 1915. Those after 1915 may be found in probate. Some probate files have wills, but most do not. If the deceased owned property, their remaining possessions had to be processed through due course of law.

Next, check the six available will books. These have small indexes in the front of each book.

Check court cases. If unsuccessful, call Mes. Sutton.

Also check the deed office or abstract offices.

Inquire as to what the will must be used for and is the request from a geneologist or a researcher. It may be that we can help them further.

How Old is My Building?

In so far as historic document section is concerned, there would be records that would help in ascertaining the date of a building in the court cases. Perhaps there was a first mortgage or lien on the property. With good fortune, perhaps the building contractor had to sue the property owner and in the testimony giving the date of construction along with revealing the contracts specialifications and supplies. (Invoices paid).

Probates are helpful. Perhaps either the builder or property owner died while under construction or still outstanding bills to pay. Heirs sometimes have disputes over property settlements and thus reveal ownership and dates of construction.

Tax records, deeds, and mortgage records located in the Comptroller's Office are good sources for information. Maps sometimes show buildings being on property.

The Pensacola Historical Society has Sanburn Insurance Map, starting in 1885, to the present, which not only shows location of the house on the lot but also some interior for fire and hurricane damage. They also have Pensacola city directories and with a little time one can find names of people who previously resided in the building. They also have several other guides that are helpful. With names from the city directory and old newspapers the Historical Section can find data through our indexes. The West Florida Regional Library has many files on families which might have a picture of the building. The John Pace Library at University of West Florida, Special Collections has files and books on Pensacola architect, newspapers, etc. The Historical Pensacola Preservation Board specializes in ascertaining the dates of buildings in the Seville Square present district, the downtown improvement board, which is a historic district, the northhill historic district, the east hill historic district, and the Bagdad, Milton, historic district.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR TRACING INDIAN HERITAGE IN ESCAMBIA CO.

Woodward's Reminiscences of the Creek, or Muscogee Indians, 1859
The Southern Indians, The story of the Civilized Tribes, Cotterill
The Cherokee Frontier, Conflict and Survival, 1740-62, Corkran
The Creek Frontier, 1540-1783, David H. Corkran, index of names.
Adairs, History of the American Indians, first published, 1775.
William Augustus Bowles, Dir Gen of Creek Nation, J. Leitch Wright
History of Alabama, Pickett.
Colonial Florida, Campbell
Colonial Mobile, Hamilton
Horseshoe Bend, Palmer and Giles, Good fiction based on research.
McGillivray of the Creeks, John Walton Caughey
Memoirs of Milfort, by Leclerc Milfort, pub. in France.
British Development of West Fla., Howard.
Florida Historical Quarterly, indexes
Alabama Historical Quarterly, indexes
Dr. Wm. Coker at Univ of W. Fla. probably has the best collection
of data relating to the Panton-Leslie-John Forbes Trading empire
that there is in existence. One could glean Indian heritage
by consulting with him for appropriate indexes.

HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PENSACOLA

T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Foundation

Primary function is maintaining collection of T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Museum. Museum started in early 1930's.

Pensacola Historical Society

Also started in early 1930's but disbanded during World War II. Primary function then to discuss history and mark Pensacola landmarks with signs. Pensacola Historical Museum started in 1959 under the auspices of Pensacola Historical Society.

Pensacola Historic Preservation Society

Organized in 1959. Chief function is preserving old houses owned by the Society and providing hostesses for Dorothy Walton House Museum.

Civil War Round Table

Active during 1962-1968 period. Primary activities to study and travel around the areas of Civil War activity in Mobile and greater Pensacola area. Numerous articles published.

Seville Square Settlers

Organized for development of the Seville Square area and to assist Seville Square merchants. Started around 1963.

University of West Florida - John C. Pace Library

Collections of Pensacola history, bibliographies, and publications. Center of accumulations of Panton Leslie - John Forbes papers. Depository for Pensacola ephemeral.

Pensacola Heritage Foundation

Purchased Dorr house. Acted as catalyst for historical development in Seville Square area and preserving Pensacola downtown area. Later sold Dorr house.

Pensacola Historical Advisory Board

Groups of selected members from each of the historical groups, acted as advisors

Historic Organizations

Page 2

to the Pensacola City Council. This group was abandoned after the Historical Pensacola Preservation Board was officially announced.

Historic Pensacola Preservation Board

This is a State of Florida Board under the Department of State and managed by a professional director.

North Hill Preservation District

District set aside for the preservation of the North Hill Section

There is a group of architects and private investors who have purchased and preserved older homes in the East Hill Section but not wishing the restrictions of a formal historical preservation society.

The Historical Document Section of the Clerk of Circuit Court was started in February, 1971 for the purpose of documenting the history of Escambia County, documenting the date of old homes, and assisting genealogical societies.

THE HISTORICAL GROUPS OF PENSACOLA

by
Leora M. Sutton

How many historical organizations are there in Pensacola? What are their purposes, when were they organized and what have they accomplished?

Perhaps the first group to organize in Pensacola for the perpetuation of an historic occasion was the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1889. "The Ladies Memorial Association" was formed at a meeting held on the 15th of August 1890 after an appeal was published by Colonel Chipley to provide a special slab to the memory of General Perry, who had first called to the attention of the local citizens the fact that Escambia County was one of the few counties of the State that had not erected a memorial to it's heroes of the Civil War. On the 17th of June, 1891 the monument was dedicated. The group dissolved in 1903, but the present chapter of the U.D.C. lived on.

A chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Sons of the American Revolution was established in Pensacola, and was active from 1922 until present. They stress historical education and patriotism. The Sons of the American Revolution joined with the Pensacola Historical Society in the 1960's.

The Pensacola Historical Society was founded in 1933 by T. T. Wentworth, Jr., Mayor H. C. Armstrong, Ben R. Smith and T. D. Fillinjim with others. Bill Barr, T. T. Wentworth, Jr., and Ben Smith was appointed as a committee of the society to start a museum and Wentworth furnished the house. The museum was called the Dorothy Walton Museum. The collection was Wentworths augmented by Ben R. Smith and others. The Historical Society was abandoned during the war years but was reorganized for visiting sites and historical studies during the 1940's, with Mr. Wentworth being president, followed by Miss O. C. Clubbs, Mr. Stewart Milner, Admiral Mason and Mr. Al Mortenson. During Mason and Mortenson terms there was talk first, then the decision of using the Old Christ Church as a Pensacola Historical Museum. Collection of documents, pictures, maps and old items of historical Pensacola were collected. Miss Lelia Abercrombie, who along with her sister, had replaced the roof on Old Christ Church many years before, was appointed the first curator. The museum received funds from the City of Pensacola. Later the Pensacola Historic Preservation and Restoration was put in charge of the funds and the museum was administrated by the Pensacola Historical Society.

The T. T. Wentworth Jr. Museum's corner stone was laid in 1957, at Ensley, a short distance from Mr. Wentworth's home. The T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Museum Foundation was chartered in the 1960's to perpetuate his large collection of old items, documents, pictures and maps. Many people have contributed to the collection.

Pensacola Historic Preservation Society, organized in January 1960 to preserve HISTORIC structures and landmarks, with emphasis on documenting history, recording history, and preserving houses of historical and architectural merit. Archeology was used to determine the exact location of the Panton Leslie Trading Post, and the British Guard House in Seville Square, as well as exploratory trenches at the Quina House, Tivoli and British-Spanish Governors Mansion (pre 1775 site), and Lots 8 and 9. Gonzalez House partially restored when burned in 1963, Quina houses purchased in 1965 and operation of Walton House in 1968-69.

Civil War Round Table, a local unit of the National organization for Civil War buffs commemorating the centennial of the War Between the States. The Quadri-centennial of Pensacola's founding in 1559 resulted in the replica of the Spanish Village on Pensacola Beach, many miles to the east of the original site of the "Third City" of Pensacola which is at Fort Pickens State Park and was excavated by Florida State University in 1964.

Pensacola Heritage Foundation organized in 1963-64. This organization grew out of a proposal to eliminate Lee Square by building a road through it, and also because the Spanish style fountain was removed from Plaza Ferdinand. The Confederate Monument Association was re-activated in 1963 and a combined effort of many citizens facing the City Council saved Lee Square and the monument. At the same time so much pressure was being put on City Hall for historical preservation, the Pensacola Historic Preservation Society representatives suggested a Historical Advisory Committee being formed, which was done. The Pensacola Historic Heritage Foundation was formed to preserve buildings and preserve Pensacola's history. They spear-headed the drive for state legislation, purchased the Dorr House on Seville Square and used it for headquarters. They, with the help of the Junior Service League, planned the first Night in Old Seville as a money making project. It was such an overwhelming success that it has been a yearly fall highlight. They are currently active with helping save the Santa Rosa Seashore.

Pensacola Historical Advisory Committee to the City Council lasted two years. Mr. Earle Bowden was its chairman. The exact duties and lack of authorized funds served to push a more active historical preservation group. A demand that St. Michael's Cemetery be cleaned and the fence repaired was pushed. Action to have Seville Square beautified was heard. A monument to Mariana Bonifay was considered.

Dorothy Walton Foundation formed, to save the rotting Dorothy Walton House from complete deterioration in 1965. House deeded from city to this group, moved at city expense and restoration started. Group disbanded in 1968 when house was restored.

Pensacola Historic Preservation and Restoration Commission replaced the City Council Historical Advisory Committee. It is a Florida State Agency created by the state legislature in 1967. It has control of St. Michael's Cemetery, Seville Square, helped create a historical district in the older section of Pensacola, purchased and moved the Lee House, provided funds for the archeological excavations of the Tivoli House and British Guard House, with Preservation Society furnishing volunteers, and purchased a warehouse to be used as a museum.

Seville Square Settlers organized as a group of land holders and interested business people around the square, to co-ordinate efforts with the commissions ideas for their neighborhood, and to promote business in the area for the benefit of all. Weekly band concerts, open houses, brochures showing directions of the businesses in the area are among their first projects.

The History of Naval Aviation is depicted at the Naval Air Station sponsored by the U. S. Navy and interested, contributing members.

A small museum is at the Fort Pickens State Park through the efforts of the park superintendent.

"WHAT HAVE THE PROJECTS BEEN OF THE PENSACOLA HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY?"

At the same time the Pensacola Historical Society was starting the museum in Old Christ Church, there were three houses of city and national historical interest facing destruction. We decided the preserving of the Walton and Gonzalez House was the IMMEDIATE NEED OF THE COMMUNITY. The Isaac Hulse has already been removed for a parking lot.

FIRST PROJECT: After the Organizational meeting and applying for a charter, was renting the Dorothy Walton House. A congenial, energetic committee removed wall-paper and redecorated the interior to conform with the 1810 to 1860 occupation of the dwelling, emphasizing the Walton and Moreno families. It was our first OPEN HOUSE. The original membership of 15 grew to 150. It gave us courage, knowing there were others who could help. We planned to purchase the house but being a fledgling group was unable to raise the purchase price of \$15,000.00. The owner, Mr. T. T. Wentworth, Jr., wishing to save the house and assist the Preservation Society, deeded the house to the City, TO BE MOVED. It was understood that our organization would furnish, landscape and operate the house AFTER IT WAS RESTORED.

SECOND PROJECT: At the same time, we were renting the Walton House, the Jim Jennings were building a new home, and they gave the old James Gonzalez house to our organization with the understanding that it be moved nearby. Miss Pearl Murphy deeded property to us and we still own, on Palafox Highway, #29. The house was moved, reassembled, porch with hand-turned SPINDLED, railing fitted into position and the roof was on. A Research Committee was appointed to determine, through records, how to restore, furnish, document and present to the public through publications, a history that was as accurate as possible. A worthy by-product was the book, "GONZALIA" which told the story of not only the house, but the present-day Cantonment-Gonzalez area consisting of the Don Manuel Gonzalez grant. It was well that this was recorded for the house was reduced to ashes by an arsonist.

THIRD PROJECT: Securing an archeologist to excavate the PANTON-LESLIE SITE during the summer of 1964. This originated as a result of the research committee's study of bricks that were found in both the Walton and Gonzalez houses. Bricks imprinted with "M. Bonifay" and "J. Gonzalez" and others of different sizes and textures helped to verify the dates the houses were built.

FOURTH PROJECT: The urge to enjoy the warmth of a spring Sunday afternoon and constructive curiosity to see old houses and how the modern generation utilizes their heirlooms with purchased antiques instigated our HOUSE TOURS held each year. At these tours, we were able to present our two booklets for sale: PENSACOLA HISTORIC LANDMARKS, and CURES, REMEDIES AND POTIONS. The first was in rough draft form which we were asked to have published for the AMERICAN LANDMARKS CELEBRATION WEEK, October 1964. It has been eagerly received and a second edition is out. The CURES, REMEDIES AND POTIONS was a joyous 32 page booklet printed after our organization purchased the QUINA HOUSE, the home of Desiderio Quina, Jr., an apothecary of old Pensacola.

FIFTH PROJECT: Research Committee expanded into archaeology and was responsible for the preliminary excavations of the Panton-Leslie Trading Post, the present site of the Walton House, the British Guard House, Seville Square and the Quina House. Our members have co-operated with the other historical groups and some wear four of five "caps" at the same time. This is confusing to others, but when each of the historical organizations is thought of as a separate business, and most are CHARTERED non-profit organizations, it is as simple as thinking of shopping at many stores for groceries. One has a good meat, one better vegetables, and one is for baked goods.

SIXTH PROJECT: The furnishing, operation and maintenance of furnishings for the Dorothy Walton House. A book of six chapters has been published to document and record the history of this historical Pensacola home. A hostess class consisting of ten hours instruction is given for each hostess. This includes the history, purposes and individuals connected with the different historical organizations in Pensacola, a workable knowledge of the historical sites and businesses in the historical district, and an education of the antiques and costumes used in the Walton House Museum as well as the history of the lives of the occupants of the building and the times in which they lived.

SEVENTH PROJECT: A research library and archeological laboratory for the use of the Preservation Society, though privately owned. It has been used by many university students for historical and social science thesis and historical data for archeological thesis.

EIGHTH PROJECT: Cooperation with community projects such as Night in Old Seville, American Landmarks Celebration, Fiesta of Five Flags, Memorial Day, Pensacola City Library, University of West Florida Library, Florida State Anthropological Department, Research Committee of the Pensacola Historic Preservation and Restoration Commission, Florida State Historical Convention, and the Southeastern Museum Convention, as well as the Escarosa Humanities Center, etc.

Dates and Eras that must be learned

- 1763 - 1781 British Period Archeology of PLTP - Judicial Bldg. Site
Alexander McGillivray - William Panton - John Inzerarity
- 1781 - British lost Pensacola and the last Spanish period
We have court cases from this period. This is also the
era when our Spanish settlers came, many of them from
New Orleans and of French background.
- 1803 - U.S. purchased the Louisiana Territory and when the U. S.
moved in, the Spaniards and French people left New Orleans
and came to Pensacola which was still Spanish.
Pensacola was a Spanish Military Outpost.

First Governor of Florida - "Andrew Jackson"

For History on the Spanish Era, read:

Gonzales	LeSassier	Sierra
Quina House	Moreno	Pintado
Touarts	Pedro DeAlba	
Rosique	Carlos LeBaron	

For History on Territorial Era - 1821 - 1842 (State admitted - 1845)
Read:

The Walton House Dorothy Walton was the widow of the signer of
the Declaration of Independence. ~~whom~~ George
Walton, Jr. came here as the secretary for
Governor Andrew Jackson.

Garnier - Barkley House Part of the Territorial Era

Building of the Navy Yard - Started 1828/1830
Beginning of Lumber Industry
Days of slavery. Slavery went from 1650 to 1864 - freed.

Books to read - Blacks and Slavery

ANTE-BELLUM - Meaning before war - This era was prior to 1861
This was the beginning of the expansion of the down-
town area from Old City Plat.

-
- 1861-1864 War between the States
1868 Florida was readmitted to the Union on a temporary basis.
1885 Fla. State Constitution and all present laws accepted
- 1864-1885 RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD - Largest lumber boom, North Hill
1870-1952 Red Light District, Red Snapper Industry, Judicial area
and water front.
1917 End of World War I (Last Hill Preservation). Pensacola
City limits expanded - - - - Naval Aviation
1941-1945 World War II
- 1959 Beginning of Historical Restoration

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1559 - Don Tristan de Luna sponsored a settlement presumed to be near the present Naval Air Station. The settlement was abandoned after 2 years occupation.
- 1719 - Fort built by the Santa Rosa Island near the present site of Fort Pickens. During this year the flag changed hands between the Spanish and French four times in six months, and the French Era is not to be confused with the Spanish-French Settlers that arrived from 1781 through 1830.
- 1722 - Spain repossessed Pensacola. "The third city in Pensacola" was established on Santa Rosa Island within Fort Pickens State Park.
- 1750 - A small fort was erected between Palafox Street and Alcaniz on the bay and called San Miguel. This was for the protection to local mission Indians who lived at Jacent to the fort.
- 1752 - Third city on the Island was destroyed by a hurricane.
- 1763 - Pensacola received by the British after the signing of the Treaty of Paris. Pensacola was the capital of West Florida which extended from the Chattahoochee River to the Mississippi River.
- 1763-1781 - Period of British Occupation present downtown Pensacola surveyed and platted by Elias Durnford.
- 1781 - The British lost Pensacola through siege to the Spanish, who in turn evacuated the British soldiers and colonists after the surrender. An infantry Regiment of Louisiana was assigned to Garrison West Florida.
- 1783 - Spain holds legal title to Pensacola and Florida after the Peace Treaty of 1783.
- 1784-1785 - Creek Chief, Alexander McGillivray pleaded with Spanish Governor Arturo O'Neill on the behalf of Panton, Leslie, and Company to establish their trading house in Pensacola. Shortly after the 1784 Indian Congress, Panton moved his headquarters to Pensacola on Main Street.
- 1803 - After the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France, the Spanish in Pensacola established Pensacola as the new capitol of West Florida and the government along with the troops were transferred from New Orleans to

Pensacola. The commandant took over the title and functions formerly exercised by the governor of Louisiana and West Florida.

1814-1818-1821 - Three invasions by Andrew Jackson terminated in the Change of Flags July 17, 1821 when the United States received both East and West Florida through the Treaty of Onis. Our records start on this date. Escambia County extended from Chattahoochee River on the East to the Perdido River on the West and was also known as West Florida. Pensacola was the capital. After the treacherous journey to Tallahassee for a session of the Legislative Counsel it was decided to move the capital to Tallahassee.

1845 - Florida admitted to Union.

1861-1866 - Civil War (WAR BETWEEN the STATES) Pensacola was evacuated. A few of the residents lived at Barrancas. City government was in exile; first at Bluff Springs, then to Evergreen, Alabama. Florida's government was not accepted as being an entity by the national government

1865-1868 - Reconstruction Period.

1868 - Florida re-admitted to Union.

1870-1900 - Reconstruction Era and lumber boom. Pensacola City limits on the north at present Fairfield Drive, as designated by Andrew Jackson. Buildings extended from Garden Street to North Hill and Bayview Park.

1914 - Beginning of Naval Aviation at Navy Yard

1917 - End of World War I.

1870-1950 - Red light district prominent.

1930 - Prohibition (Bootleg Era).

1944 - World War II.

THE COURT HOUSE, A TOOL FOR HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

I am the historical researcher in the Historical Document Section of the Archives Division of Ernie Lee Magaha, Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts. We are located on the second floor of the Judicial Building on Government Street, one block west of Palafox.

My job description is to set up and maintain a Historical Document Section, review, index and preserve original court documents and answer questions of genealogical, archeological and historical nature that our legal documents pertain to.

We are not a library, nor do we collect. Our collection is strictly original, legal court documents and some county administrative papers we thought worthy of preservation.

We have 237 cubic ft. of vertical files, of which 35,000 are circuit court cases and 20,000 are probate files. All of our marriage records and Court of Records are in 80,000 microfilm jackets and we have been assured of three-year funding for a continuing microfilming project. It is my job to try and rescue the original documents worthy of preservation.

It occurred to several of the board members that those of you who have mastered the use of census rolls, and feel at ease with library index cards, are still in need of basic information on what is available at the court house and how to find it. Secondly, we have heard this remark several times, "I'm afraid of a court house," or "I hope to stay away from that place." To many, a court house represents a place to pay taxes, traffic court, jury duty, a frightening court case or traumatic divorce case that entailed a

labrynth of incomprehensible legal red-tape.

Let us take another look. I am reminded of the thought of how many tracks a person leaves for perpetuity. Some of the happiest days of a person's life were recorded at a court house:

- First car (and first fender-bender)
- First marriage (divorce and child support)
- First home (mortgage and taxes)
- First child adopted.
- Registration of camper, vacation home and boat, and the hunting and fishing license, not to mention the occupational license.
- And the lovely surprise bequest of Aunt Carrie Mae when we fell heir to her Haviland china that we didn't want, and of the check for \$20,000 we gladly deposited as our own.

All of these momentos of the past that are recorded in the court house are geneological tools.

Our records start in 1821, at the change of flags from Spain. They have been kept through Territorial days. Probate records were hidden in clay jars at Barrancas and court papers were transferred to Bluff Springs, and later to Evergreen, Alabama during the War between the States. Filomena de la Rua saved the County Records. Francisco Bobe saved the City Records. Joe Flowers and Ernie Lee Magaha saved original court records when space was at a premium eleven years ago. Now microfilming is the thing.

RESOURCES FOR
GENEEOLOGICAL RESEARCH
AT COURT HOUSE

The items most requested by geneologists at the court house are:

1. Marriage records.
2. Wills and probate records.
3. Court cases (Divorce-child support)
(adoption)
(land claims)
4. Naturalization.
5. Deeds tax records, mortgages,
corporation agreements,
slave records,
partnerships,
maps.

In the Archives of the Clerk of the County and Circuit Court of Escambia County, Florida, at the Judicial Building, you will find Marriage Records, Wills and Probate Records, Naturalization papers and Court Cases. Those prior to 1915 are located in the Historical Document Section of the Archives, as well as some of the older administrative records, and the originals of pertinent court cases dating from 1915 through 1975.

1. Marriage Records

From 1821 through current date are indexed by name of bride and by the name of the groom. All marriages have been microfilmed. The readers have copiers. Original licenses and marriage books are in the Historical Document Section.

The older marriage records give only the name of bride and groom, date of marriage, presiding official and witnesses. After 1919, the application for marriage shows birth, place and date, age, married before?, divorced and where, and if divorced, previous name of bride.

The marriage license shows proof of marriage. Pre-nuptial contracts, at present, are filed in recorder's office. Wedding dowers of Spanish ladies are in Historic Document Section.

2. Wills and Probate Documents

From 1821 through current date are indexed by name of deceased. A will controls the disposition of an individual's property and the validity of the will must be proved in probate court. If there is no will a person has died intestate and the deceased's heirs must be found. To probate the estate an administrator is appointed by the court to act in accordance with probate law. In Escambia County, the original probate records and will books from 1821 through 1915 are in the Historic Document Section.

When genealogist abstract a will they are interested in:

- Name of testator (deceased).
- Children (legitimate and otherwise).
- Executor (or administrator of probation).
- Witnesses.
- Date of will
- Date of probation of will
- Where the will is located (Will book no. & page).

Old Spanish wills usually has name of spouse or name of "live-in" who has been remembered for her "special services." Children are legitimate or named as being otherwise. Religion is designated by mentioning preference of service and internment, with so many bells, so many prayers and so many candles. Usually the will was witnessed by a county official, such as a judge or clerk of the court.

Geneological abstracts of wills and notes from probate records are filled with romance and pathos, interwoven on background of war, neglect, family progress and shot with questions.

When opening a probate file, the geneologist will find answers in the documents labeled:

- Will and codicil (Henry Flagler's had seven codicils).
(Don Francisco Moreno had one made two hours after signing his will.)
- Oath of executor (usually the spouse or oldest child)
- Inventory of estate

Petition to divide or sell real estate (including slaves).
Unpaid bills (funeral, doctor and hospital, pharmacy, grocer, dry goods, buggy works, etc.)

Probate records of Spanish families have marriage dower and slave records.

The probate section has guardianship and commitment records which reveal the name of family members. Usually commitment records are restricted. Guardianship records are open to public, usually. Adoption records are in the court records, but in other court houses may be found in the probate section.

3. County and Circuit Court Cases

From 1821 through present date. Historic Court cases, some dating from 1804, are in the Archives Historic Document Section, indexed by name of plaintiff and defendant, and subject. There are chronological abstracts of the first 10,000 and all others in the historic document section, as well as cross references. These include Circuit Court, County Court, Judges Court, Court of Record documents dating from 1911 through 1972 and United States District and Superior Court of Territory of West Florida from 1821 through 1845. (These are not to be confused with City and Federal Courts.)

Each county has their own system of administration in the court system, but court cases usually fall into 12 steps from the time a summons is given until the time a case is settled. The documents geneologists are interested in are:

The bill of complaint, or bill of particulars, the declaration or praecipes.
Copy of publication of action.
Evidence deeds, land grants, agreements, notes, or pictures, maps, invoices, newspapers, Witness letters and testimonies which can be in a Deposition separate thick book, a treasure chest of geneology of those who want the nitty-gritty.

Also found in court cases are copies of land grants or Certificates of Homestead, naturalization papers, deeds, abstracts, children with spouses names, divorces, lifestyles, greeting cards, pictures or anything that is made of paper. (No three-dimensionals or motorcycles.)

The Historic Document Section has first naturalization records for Escambia County from 1885-1903. The Federal Court has those from 1903 on.

4. Deed Room

The deed room has deeds recorded from 1821 through present day. A geneologists will find the indexes for the grantor and grantee by name, date of transaction and location of property with book and page number to find more information. A quick abstract of deeds would show name, year of transaction, description of property (real estate and slaves), how much remuneration.

A recorder's works is primarily for recording deeds, mortgages, liens, and contracts. They keep tax records, maps, slave records, maritime transactions, some marriage dowers and marriage contracts. Articles of incorporation and building contracts are also in the comptroller's and recorder's office. Their maps starts as early as 1825. Present-day maps are in the engineers office. Older ones are in the Historic Document Section of the Court Archives, as are pictures of county sites.

5. Voters Registration

Starts 1912. One lists of eligible male voters for the year of 1833 is in the Historic Document Section, as well as lists of candidates for office and county officials.

6. Escambia County School Records

Start 1917 for city and county schools, not private schools. Kept at Myrtle Grove Center. University of West Florida has attendance records for 1947-1951, with lists of teachers and principals, 1929-1930. Schools were segregated until early 1960's.

7. Naturalization Records

The Historic Document Section has first naturalization records for Escambia County from 1885-1903. The Federal Court has those from 1903 on. Call Mr. Keller who will answer by telephone but gives no information through writing. Telephone: 433-2107.

8. Historic Document Section of Archives also has the Bell Collection of administrative papers from the old courthouse located at Chase & Palafox from 1875 on. These include miscellaneous family papers, abstracts of property, liens, temperance pledges, adoption, guardianship, and other papers of historical interest. They have been reviewed, abstracted, and indexed by name and subject.

9. Our books are from the SUTTON COLLECTION which has been written from the primary source documents found at the court house.

Genealogists will find information for the following:

The Walton House-Signers family and Morenos
The Barkley House
Gonzalia-Don Manuel Gonzalez Family
Bonifay Brickyards-Mariana Bonifay Family
Pensacola Personalities Vol.4 has:
 Mariana Bonifay, Joseph Bonifay, Juan de la Rua,
 Filomena de la Rua and Pedro Yniestra.
Beelersville-Charles Beeler Family
Barbet-Families of Horsler, Bell and Langley
The Quina House-Families of Quina, Bobe, Tourt and Maura
Pedro de Alba-Alba, Noriega and Lessassier families and
 touches on Wilkins
Sierra-Families of Sierra, Brosnahan, Renshaw, Morrison
 and includes Abraham and family of Ignatio Serra
Women in Pensacola-Sophia Durant, sister of Alex Mcg.,
 Rebecca Durnford, Angela Mallory, OCclubbs
Pensacola Personalities Vol. 5-Family of Carlos LeBaron
 through four generations, Wm. McVoy, Thomas,
 Francisco and Florencio Comyns and Josephine
 Rocheblave.

Pensacola Personalities, Block 12, Waterfront has:
Don Vincente Pintado, William and Peter Knowles,
Conrad Kupfrian, Henry Pfieffer, Geo. Wilson
and Seward Cobb & Lewis Boley.

The Waterfront has the Michelet and John Dunn Families
as well as Arthur Quina and Charles Evans.

Blacks and Slavery-a storehouse of antebellum slave
holders.

10. We are asked frequently about the records of the city and of
the sheriff department. Sheriff department destroyed records prior
to 1958. Some city records are at City Hall and date from 1920.
Some in County Archives Historic Document Section.

11. Escambia County Health Department is located at 2251 North
Palafox and their records start in 1891 for birth records which
were recorded in the Old City Ledger, the original is now in
Jacksonville at the State Board of Vital Statistics. Death
certificates start 1919.

The records for the Old Pensacola Maternity Home are medical records
(patient gave birth to a child-no names, strictly medical records).
These were turned over to the present University Hospital and
stored in a back building, moved and lost. The birth certificates
were registered with the Health Department by Dr. Mock at the time
the Maternity Hospital was closed. Some adoption records are
located in the Archives of the Judicial building, mostly sealed.
Many before 1950 are open for research. University Hospital
received records from Escambia General Hospital.

12. Indentured servants records can be found in the records of the
Judges Court dating from 1868 through 1900. Also find Temperance
Oaths, delivery of bastard children and bills of co-habitation.

Have noticed requests for information in the Family Quest for
families of Caro, Wilkins, Campbell, Roche, Arbona, and Barrow.

With the exception of Barrow, there are large files in the Historic Document Section on these families.

13. All documents, except sealed adoption records and a few restricted papers, are open to the public. Copies of papers are usually \$1.00 per page, \$2.00 if certified.

14. Some of the oldest court cases, such as the Cavalla-Jackson case, and the Jonathan Walker case were transferred to the Federal courts and are now in the National Archives.

Florida state law does not permit the Clerk of the Courts to show original legal documents outside of the Judicial Building, however, I have brought copies of original marriage, wills, probates, court cases, passport and deeds.

QUESTIONS

SPEECH GIVEN BY LEORA M. SUTTON TO THE WEST FLORIDA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY AT PENSACOLA JUNIOR COLLEGE, March 19, 1983.

FIVE-MINUTE SPEECH THAT MRS. LEORA M. SUTTON PRESENTED
AT THE PENSACOLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING, APRIL 18, 1983-MONDAY

We received a lot of letters at the place I work. May I read you a fictitious, but typical, letter.

Dear Mrs. Sutton,
Can you help me? I turned 60 last week and if I don't start now I'll never know about my family. My mother is in her 90's, still lucid, but will not talk about her family's past. They lived on a farm north of Pensacola.

Her mother, my grandmother, married as a child-bride to "Old Jonas" whom she claimed was killed during the Civil War. The only name I ever heard for her second husband was "Big Hogg." He had a brother known as "Little Hogg" that lived on part of the farm.

When I asked how "Old Jonas" was killed, I was told, "He was a fine man, that's all you need to know." The neighbors lied at the trial. Grandma found the box under the corn crib right where Old Jonas said it would be, but it didn't do us any good. When I asked mother why her first husband left Denmark in 1890, and what his name was, she said the less said about her marriages, the better, though we all profited from them. Mother always worked, but she must have had "her ship come in" from somewhere because she put five kids through college.

Please check the marriage records and send everything you can find especially on mother and the Hoggs.

Ima Mess

And this is the way we could have answered the request.

Dear Miss Mess,
The marriage records confirm the marriage of your grandma to Old Jonas and to Zeke Hogg. The first record for the Hoggs is dated 1822. Circuit Court Records indicate Old Jonas was murdered by a neighbor. They were involved in stealing a Confederate pay-roll. Deeds found in the Comptroller's office show that Old Jonas purchased property near Bluff Springs in 1840. Zeke Hogg purchased the same tract from the heirs of Old Jonas. The conveyance mentions a house, barn and other out-buildings. It is possible the corn-crib was one of the out-buildings.

The marriage records reveal that your mother married three times in Escambia County. Probate records of her first husband show that he owned a saloon on Palafox, a fourteen-room house on South Baylen, and an office building, which your mother fell heir to. She also faced the task of finishing the administration of her first husband's first wife's estate which consisted of profitable stocks and some jewelry. Census records at the Pensacola Historical Museum confirm

that they were man and wife, he was listed as being a saloon keeper from Denmark. The Museum also has City Directories that give the address of the house and saloon and the Insurance maps show the outline of the buildings. Articles in the Pensacola Journal gives his obituary and shows advertisements for the saloon.

Mortgage records at the Recorder's office show that your mother ran a rooming house on Palafox Street which she mortgaged, along with her diamonds, to a prosperous business man whom she later married. Court cases show they were divorced within the year, with your mother receiving a substantial settlement. His business papers and ledgers, along with a picture of the business man and your mother, is in the Special Collections at the University of West Florida. There was also a Spanish Land Grant with his papers. If you wish to verify that the grant was retained by his family, you may check the American State Papers and the microfilm at the same library.

You may be able to find out further information on the activities of Old Jonas by glancing at the Roll of Confederate Veterans at the State Archives in Tallahassee, or writing to the National Archives.

The Pensacola Public Library has books on "How to get started in Geneology," and it may be that your family has already been written about.

If I can be of further assistance, please call.

SPEECH GIVEN AT WEST FLORIDA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - January, 1988

SUBJECT: What you can expect to find in a courthouse of value to a genealogists.

I am Leora M. Sutton.

I am the Historical Researcher for the Honorable Ernie Lee Magaha, Clerk of the County and Circuit Courts of Escambia County.

My job description for the past seventeen years has been:

Review, index & preserve court records and answer questions relating to them.

This includes acting as liaison to various historical and civic groups, writing articles on various subjects found in our files, display work, and for the first fifteen years figuratively and literally active in the spade work of the Panton Leslie-John Forbes Company site in Pensacola where the Judicial Building is now located.

One of our members asked if I could give her an idea of the difference courts in the various states.

FIRST OFF: I am not an attorney nor lawyer. I'm just a HISTORICAL researcher that the dear Lord has allowed to puttsy around in the Escambia County records, but it may help to know (in the simplest terms possible) that there are four main classes of courts in each state:

1. Courts that have jurisdiction over simple criminal and minor offenses.
2. Courts of general jurisdiction where the more important cases are tried. If the defendant or plaintiff feels the verdict was unjust, it may be taken to
3. The appellate Court (Appeals Court) And if still not satisfied it may go to
4. The Supreme Court (Court of Last resort--the buck stops here.)

There is one County Court in each county in a state. Usually, there are three judges in the Circuit Court, and they may sit in any court at any time. Following the Circuit Court is the State Appellate Court, and at the top is the State Supreme Court.

There are three classes of FEDERAL COURTS:

1. The lowest is the District Court (serious moonshinin', illegal aliens, etc.)

Then U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and then the United States Supreme Court.

(Evidence is brought to substantiate a precipice.)

1. All means by which the truth of an ALLEGED FACT is established or disproved.
2. Circumstantial evidence is a chain of facts or chain of circumstances all tending, when established, that a fact truly existed.)

It has been my experience while doing research in the courthouses of the Southwest and Midwest, the COUNTY COURTHOUSES are set up similar to ours: The deed (or recorders) office is usually on the first floor. There will be grantor-grantee indexes and property maps there. Usually, the surveyor's office is set apart. Mortgage and current tax records will be available. Corporation papers will be in a separate book. In courthouses with records dating before 1862, there should be dower & slaves records in the deed room. The tax appraiser and the tax collector's office will be somewhere nearby.

The Clerk's office will contain:

1. Marriage records by name of bride & of the groom.
2. Probate Records (Wills & guardianships)
3. Circuit & County Court case records
Old county history book or newspaper files.

There will be a courtroom and usually a County Commissioners meeting room. The commission in larger counties will have their own clerk who is responsible for their records. It would be rare indeed for a genealogist to ask for these books.

One of our members asked for information on the ORPHANS COURTS in Fla., Ala. & Ga.

Over the years, different states have established various designations for their probate court activities. Many years ago, the main business of a probate court was naming a guardian for orphans leagacies. In a few states, the name

of Orphans Court remains. SURROGATE COURT IS THE SAME. (Surrogate mother) One who acts for another. Similar names such as COURT OF CONSCIENCE AND COURT OF CHIVALRY, my favorite, will be found in some of the older British courts. They are all Probate court.

Anyone wanting to know the meaning of a term used in law, I suggest Ballentine's Law Dictionary. For those who want to know more about laws and court procedures in various states, I would suggest Redfearns Wills & Administration, 5th edition, by Edwin O. Simons. The footnotes will answer most questions we would have.

QUESTION FROM A MEMBER: We find the will of grandpa in a Will Book located in a Probate office. How can we verify what is in the will?

WHAT ONE FINDS IN A PROBATE CASE OF INTEREST TO A GENEALOGIST:

The jacket of the file gives a court filing number and name of deceased. Sometimes the year that the case was probated. (rather than date of deceased.)

Inside the jacket one should find:

A will, signed at an earlier date by the deceased in the presence of two witnesses.

In case of intestate (no will), the court will appoint a personal representative.

Petition for probate of will (date of deceased & heirs.) formerly administrator

Order appointing an executor executor

Order for admission to open proceedings

Oath of Executor

Letters Testamentary

Inventory of appraisers

All of the goodies! Hospital bills, pharmacy bills, dry goods bill, cemetery lot receipt, digging graves, embalmers, mortuary, flowers, other unpaid bills.

Inventory of business and household effects, list of property, unpaid & paid tax bills, slaves and tax receipt for slaves, etc.

Proof of will

Proof of Codicil (Dn Francisco Moreno made lengthy codicil two hours afterwards)

Petition to divide or sell real estate (and court related papers of heirs fussing over the eligibility of heirs)

Final accounting report and any additional notes on estate.

Serious

Genealogists want to be sure of their descent and verification for their beliefs. One educated gentleman from California searched our records for several days; then came to me with a defeated look asking, "HOW CAN I BE SURE OF WHO MY REAL grandfather was?" Sometimes you're balled. There are certain members of our community who can trace their lineage only on their maternal side. This gentleman was referred to the deed records in hopes that the father may have owned a small farm or small house in town. He found his gr--grandfather owning a small house on lower Baylen Street in 1869, as well as the man's emancipation records, with name of the slave's mother--and there the record stopped for the paternal lineage. (Souchet-Wyer)

Still on the subject of Probate records: What happened to the family fortune?) It is difficult to accurately determine how much a legatee truly received from an estate, except for real-estate recorded in the deeds. For instance, prior to 1865, real-estate included not only land, but slaves. A wife's dower was to be set aside, but the income that her husband had earned from her estate would be included in his estate! The accounts filed by the administrator in the probate files may go over a period of years, and the first dividends paid to the legatee would be spent before the bulk of the estate would be divided. (Education for a child, repairs pty, etc.) One must also take into account any private agreements made that would be carried out after the probate was closed. (For instance, an uncle could advance money for starting a business or education that a parent could not pay for--but they had land and slaves.)

The inventory in the probate file often mentions family portraits and furniture that MAY STILL BE IN EXISTENCE.

QUESTION FROM MEMBER: Can one verify a statement, or item, in a will in another part of the courthouse? A probate can be verified by deed & tax records, NATURALIZATION records & marriage records. Family tradition can be verified--often in COURT CASES. INSIDE THE JACKET OF A COURT CASE ONE WILL FIND:

A Declaration (or Precipes) (Bill of particulars) (Bill of complaint)
Precipes of Summons

Summons to appear in court

Appearance of Plaintiff or Defendant

Publication--(Sale of property)

Pleas (guilty or not)

Answer to declaration (Reply to charge) (Crossclaim)

Evidence--exhibits, (deeds, land grant, agreement, pictures, maps, invoices,
etc., letters, newspapers, etc.)

Witnesses: depositions or testimony

Instructions to jury

Final decree or judgment (Writ of Execution)

If not in jacket, look in Progress dockets--available in most courthouses
long after the files have been disposed of. (Minute Books)

Bill of costs.

(U.S. District & Superior Court of West Florida, 1821-1845)

TRADITIONS VERIFIED OR DISCREDITED:

Walton House: No deed with Walton name--rented house? Will--many slaves.
Rened out.

Mortgaged furniture to pay debt of son. 100 yrs. later,
Geeker case tells of another house on corner of lot. Abstract
shows rental pty at time of Waltons existence in Pensacola.
Bonifay brick in pier.

Bonifay will & probate file had Brickyard accounts from 1807 through 1830.
Bonifay-Lavalle a business association family told. Will
verifies. Slaves buried on hill and remains there today. Court
testimony verifies. Tradition-brickyards location in yard
of her house. Map in deed room.

(Hall-Vickery murder) Grandpa was murdered while sitting in the pig-pen by
a stepson. Money was supposed to be buried under the log shed.
A stagecoach road ran by the place. Indexes for murder cases
will be Territory or State vs. name of killer. Land claims
to grandpa's property told of his murder. Thirty years later,
another member of the family was found guilty of murder. A
subject index of Escambia County Circuit Court cases found
the stagecoach between Pensacola & Mobile was 5-10 miles south
of the family homestead.

(Villar) Mother told me one of my uncles was stabbed to death on Palafox pier, and he left this world in an unsightly manner. We found that the murder took place in 1882. Testimony at the trial left vivid accounts of how the uncle staggered from a barroom and fell to the sidewalk clutching his "belly" that was more in than out." Too weak to be carried home; he was taken to a "ladies" house where he died.

MORENO Had 27 kids and never asked for a mortgage. He believed a man's word was his bond. "When the Yankees burned McVoy Mill is sunk." Not so-Moreno had many mortgages recorded in mortgage books and one of them was the McVoy Mill. Moreno DID have 27 children--by three wives and yes, the last one was sixteen years old when he married during mid-life.

Uncle Robert dies without issue.

On the Alabama, Georgia & South Carolins plantations, there were separate families, families not recognized by the main family living in the big-house. Many times, Uncle Robert provided for his unmentioned off-spring by deeding them forty or fifty acres of his share of the ole plantation and descendants are still proudly occupying the land. Many are well educated and holding responsible positions, and now speak willingly and openly (should we say--of their colorful past.)

In Louisiana and Florida during the Spanish & Territorial days researchers find military and public figures living openly with "seamstress & washer-women" who are the mothers of anywhere from two to seven children. Some were married later. Many, many were recognized in a man's will. Pensacola census records from 1820 through 1850.

Let us not be too quick to condemn such liaisons. When delving into the court cases, one finds Spanish law dictating which "class" can marry and to whom. Choices of partners were limited.

COURTHOUSE TREASURES that add to bare-skeletal genealogy on charts:

Divorce cases may be a sensitive issue for the older generation, but they yield bountiful returns in the way of evidence. Pictures of the "other woman" or the defendant are not uncommon after 1900. Greeting cards and love letters through the years show the evolution of industrial graphics and also, the changing morals and the finer techniques of courtship. Familiar seasonal cards sent during World War I & II from England, Germany & France, as well as the Pacific, along with letters will be of interest to future genealogist. Many tell of abandoned children that are not listed on the paternal family tree.

One series of love letters that come to mind are the love letters written in French during the latter part of 1820's from Victoria Lesassier, widow of the Spanish Acalde, Joseph Noriega, to her second husband, Pedro Alba. Some were written from the Noriega brickyard where she fled from her husband to stay with her son until her marital difficulties were worked out. In this case, we found her husband was accused of lacing her fresh morning milk with poison. Circumstantial evidence painted a grim picture, but the love letters show a bitter-sweet relationship. One of our members was over-joyed to find this family treasure.

We have railroad tickets for a pullman compartment used as a lovers trysting place as they moved from Defuniak to New Orleans. It was secret until the careless husband left the tickets in his pocket. The husband boarded the train in Chipley, she boarded in Defuniak. The divorce was granted in Pensacola.

Jo Linn gave a delightful after-dinner speech at her last conference when she showed jewelry and told how family heirlooms added to genealogical research. We found gold and jeweled jewelry in one of our probate cases. The heirs were never located. The deceased couple had lived on the site of the present Judicial Center. We had the court release the jewels for display in the case with the other PTLP artifacts found on the site in 1977.

I will conclude this part by saying that I have found courthouses are usually set up in much the same manner as ours. Santa Rosa Courthouse burned after the Civil War in 1869. The recorder had as many deeds dating before that date re-recorded. All other records start in 1870. Those from 1947 are microfilmed. To protect the original papers, they have an index card for each case, as well as the standard progress dockets and minute books. Warren Weeks is of a great help to the public. The courthouse is open 8-4:30 daily except holidays.

Pat Price, who works in the courthouse in Defuniak, told me their courthouse was moved from Euchee Valley in 1845 where it had been since 1824. The courthouse burned in 1885. The courthouse was then moved to Defuniak in February, 1886. Their probate records start in 1882, marriage start in 1885, Circuit civil 1892 and Circuit criminal in 1885. They have an old book listing the cemeteries in the area and bound volumes of newspapers starting in 1889.

The courthouse in Crestview started in 1915. All records are intact.

All courthouses have the standard system of indexing, and all court cases are still in the small drawers in standard envelopes. All records, except guardianship or adoptions, are open to the public by law. Guardianship and adoptions can be unsealed by court order only.

In ESCAMBIA COUNTY

We have one more year to go on a five year program of micro-filming the older records. The Courts Historic Documents Section, located in the Archives on the second floor of the Archives in the Judicial Building. We are open from 8 till 5, Monday through Friday except holidays.

All files have been flattened, placed in order by date, microfilmed and indexed in five ways:

1. Standard court indexes: Plaintiff vs. defendant-grantee-grantor, etc.
2. Cross reference (names or places in cases other than Plaintiff-Def.)
3. Chronological short review of each case in Hist. Doc. Sec.
4. Subject index for all subject matters found in Hist. Doc. Sec.
5. Miscellaneous court files (Court of Record, Judge's Court, Naturalization, Probate indexes and old will books & marriages are in the Hist. Doc. Sec.)

A number of books relating to the court cases including typed transcripts are also in the Hist. Doc. Sec.

SPEECH GIVEN AT OKALOOSA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - JANUARY 9, 1988

SUBJECT: Escambia County court cases that relate to Okaloosa and Walton Counties relative to the first families, land settlements and one stage driver that drove through the area.

One may wonder why Escambia County would have original court records pertaining to Okaloosa County which originated in 1915 by taking a part of Santa Rosa County and a part from Walton County. Several reasons: During the Spanish and the British era of West Florida, Escambia County extended from the Mississippi River on the west to the Suwannee River on the east. During the last Spanish era West Florida extended only from the Perdido River on the west to the Suwannee River. After the United States took possession of Florida, Escambia County retained the former boundaries of West Florida. In 1824 Walton County was formed and in 1842 Santa Rosa County became an entity. Each of the counties started their records the year the county originated, leaving the old records in Escambia County. In the old days when roads were wide paths filled with stumps or travel meant going by man-powered rowboat, it was more convenient for a court judge to travel a circuit that was made up of several neighboring counties. The circuit riders records for Okaloosa and Walton are in Escambia County. If a trial was controversial, it could have been heard in a neighboring county where the defendant could get a fair trial. Often a wealthy man would have property in more than one county and his probate papers would be in each of the counties where he owned property.

For those of you who are not familiar with the lay-out and function of a courthouse, let me quickly give a tour of a typical southern or mid-west courthouse to help you find your genealogical information. If your ancestor owned property, it would be recorded in the deed room along with the mortgage on the property and the slaves that were in the family. A person cannot own property without it being surveyed. Close to the deed room there will be a county engineers' office where a plat of the property, roads, creeks and rivers can be found. With luck, you may find a symbol for the plantation house.

Down the hall from the deed room, you will find the office of the Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts. Marriage records indexed by the family name will also be found. If your ancestor had property at the time of his death there will be a probate file and if there was a will, the original should be with the file. If not, look in the will book for the person who died prior to 1900. Any court case that an ancestor was involved in would also be in the same office as the marriage and probates. Court cases, marriages, deeds and probate cases are indexed by the family name.

The County Commissioners office will be upstairs and their minute books will be available in the Clerks Office. But it is rare that a genealogist would want to spend the time reading them (except for those researching landmarks such as Coffee Pot Road.)

When genealogists start to seriously hunt for ancestors in a courthouse, they usually start in the Clerks Office documenting marriages to compare with Bible records. When in the office they check the will book, they leave thinking that is all the information they need to fill in a chart. But then they get stuck on the date of birth. Where did the family reside before migrating to Florida? It is not uncommon to become confused when they find three John Does in the same area at the same time. More information is needed. Save yourself a trip back by asking for probate files and court cases while you are in the Clerks Office. Friendly land partitions or family disputes could give you the county and state of origin, the relationship of family members, description of the property owned at the time of death, where each son settled on the land, divorces and heretofore unknown children and their heirs. When compared with a census record, church and cemetery records and the family bible, one can catch a glimmer of an accurate documented record.

Examples of what is available in the Escambia County Courthouse could be useful for those who are researching the first families residing in Walton and Okaloosa County.

In the case dated 1834 involving the heirs of **EDWARD CAMPBELL** vs. **DANIEL CAMPBELL** we find **DANIEL CAMPBELL** being appointed by the court to administer his father's estate. The appointment was challenged by **ELIJAH GAYLER**, who claimed he was speaking for **MARY CAMPBELL** who married **JOHN**

McCALL, CHRISTIAN CAMPBELL who married **JAMES SPILLMAN** and **NANCY McLANGLAN CAMPBELL**, widow of **CHARLES CAMPBELL**, a wealthy planter who migrated to Florida from South Carolina before the 1820 Escambia County Census was taken. The court upheld the appointment of **DANIEL CAMPBELL** as administrator.

DANIEL CAMPBELL felt that five of the sixteen slaves owned by his father were rightfully his. The court called witnesses that had known both **DANIEL** and his father. **JOHN McARTHUR** testified that **EDWARD** has asked him to write to **DANIEL** who was still in South Carolina with his brother **DUNCAN**. **WILLIAM GAINES** who had known **EDWARD** since 1821 and saw him at election. **PETER WILKINSON** related that **EDWARD** told **DANIEL** that if he would leave South Carolina he would give most of his property to him. He had already given **MRS. McCALL** four slaves and provided for her family for several years after she married **McCall**. He had given **CHRISTIAN SPILLMAN** slaves and she had them spinning in the evenings. **DANIEL** and two of his children had lived with **EDWARD**, his father, two years before he was asked to leave. **EDWARD CAMPBELL** had signed an agreement regarding the slaves that **DANIEL** should have and the agreement was drawn and signed at the **WILKINSON** home. **HUGH McCALL** knew the slaves that were to be **DANIELS**. He had heard **EDWARD** tell **DANIEL** he would have to leave his home. When asked how old **EDWARD CAMPBELL** was at the time, **HUGH McCALL** answered, "Edward was between 75 and 80 when he died, and that the old man liked a dram or two." **JOHN SUNDAY** tried to settle the disagreement over the slaves after **EDWARD** had several glasses of refreshment, but, said **DANIEL** was sober at the time of discussion. **WILLIAM WILLIAMS** sold his property to **DANIEL** after his father asked him to move, taking his slaves to his new home. He built a house for them down a hill away from the main house. Seven years later the issue of ownership of the five slaves was still in court. **JESSE MIMMS** had replaced **DANIEL** as administrator of the estate still in litigation. **MALCOLM McLELLAN** and **JOHN McCARTHY** testified that **EDWARD** had asked **DANIEL** to come to Florida after the death of **EDWARD'S** son, **CHARLES**, in South Carolina in 1829. Both of the witnesses knew the slaves of **MRS. SPILLMAN** and **MRS. McCALL** as well as two slaves given to **FLORA JANE CAMPBELL**, daughter of **DANIEL**.

ELIJAH GAYLOR already had experience with the court system three years before what the **CAMPBELL** case eluded to. In 1831 **ELIJAH** was wondering

what was happening to the estate that was put in trust for himself and his sister. Their father, **JOHN GAYLOR**, had written an agreement according to the laws of Georgia before leaving that state in 1802. He had given his two infants, **ELIJAH** and **MARIA**, 407 head of hogs, 75 head of cattle, 1 horse, 1 rifle, 507 acres of land near Beaufort, along with household and kitchen furniture. At that time **ELIJAH** and **MARIA** were his only children. (It is most likely that his wife had died and her dower was passed on to their two children with their father named as trustee.) Later their father, **JOHN GAYLOR**, moved from Georgia to Tennessee and encountered troublesome Indians on the Flint River in the Creek Nation. He was robbed of the money he had received from the sale of his children's inheritance and was reduced to common labor in Tennessee. He saved enough to move his family to Louisiana where he lived for 15 years, accumulating a few cattle and slaves that enabled him to start anew. **JOHN** remarried and had a younger son, **ROSWELL GAYLOR**, to whom he entrusted his cattle. The family had moved to Escambia County by the time **ELIJAH** and his sister were entitled to their inheritance. **ELIJAH** felt **ROSWELL** was an extravagant young man who was squandering the family wealth. He had his father appear in court. **JOHN** acknowledged the agreement and assured **ELIJAH** that the recent cattle sale to **WILLIAM McVOY** would be credited to his account and that as long as he was alive nothing would change the agreement made in 1802 in favor of **ELIJAH** and his sister, **MRS. STEVEN PILCHER**.

At the same time that **ELIJAH GAYLOR** and **DANIEL CAMPBELL** were in court in Pensacola there was another **DANIEL CAMPBELL** moving into his home with his wife, **NANCY McLEAN**, at Euchee Valley in Walton County. Fourteen children were born to this couple between the years 1828 and 1854. **NANCY GUNN McLEAN**, wife of **DANIEL CAMPBELL**, was the sister of **DANIEL GUNN McLEAN**, the Clerk of Court at Walton County Courthouse in 1845. Court documents in Escambia County bear their signatures that were signed at the Walton County Courthouse in 1845, several years before it moved to Defuniak Springs.

The land settlement between **NEIL McLELLAN** and **F. McCASKILL** related to

property located southeast of Euchee Valley Church. The sixty acres was once owned by **ALEXANDER BRIGHT** who mortgaged his part of a larger tract that was owned by **JOHN CAMERON and WALKER ANDERSON** of Pensacola. The case was heard at Euchee Anna in 1845 where **DANIEL GUNN McLEAN** and his first cousin, **DANIEL GUNN**, both testified that they acted as agents for the owners when they rented the property to **ENNIS PIPPIN** in the year 1841. A portion of the land was at Mushy Bend and valued at \$3.00 per acre. The two men thought it was worth nothing. When **PIPPIN** rented the property he asked if he could make allowances for repairing a mill located thereon. **JOHN McKINNON** knew the property and **PETER K. McDONALD** said everything was now in a dilapidated condition. **LACHLIN McKINNON** thought **DAVID JONES** was overseer in 1844. **DANIEL GUNN McLEAN** traveled eight miles to deliver summons to appear at the hearing.

There was a divorce case heard in the Walton County Courthouse at Euchee Anna in 1839. **ELIZABETH McLELLAN** had one of her male relatives plead her case as she had been so badly beaten by her husband she was unable to appear in court. He had deprived her of her livelihood when he took her slaves with him when he left. The slaves were in litigation and she asked that they be released. A pitiful case but it documented who her husband and her relatives were.

The four cases cited are samples of what one can find in the neighboring counties where your ancestors lived and information that one can find in the Clerks Office. After one has obtained marriage and probate data and made notes on the court case, you should go to the deed office for the location of property and maps. Many times there will be a cemetery within three miles of the home place. Schools and churches will also be noted on maps. These would serve as further clues in your geneological search. When all the primary source material has been obtained from the courthouse and added to cemetery records, and census information, one should get a fairly accurate outline of the subject being investigated. By having the month and year of an event a researcher can perhaps find newspaper accounts of deaths and marriages. These are accepted records that reliable acknowledged geneologists and historians base their work on rather than folklore and secondary material.

While glancing over the index for court cases pertaining to this area, I found this interesting tidbit under the heading of roads and mail routes. When the stagecoach that carried the mail from Pensacola to Euchee Valley reached Escambia River, the driver would wait for **SAMUEL KEYSER**, the ferry keeper. The ferry flat crossed the river twice a day leaving the east side of the river at 6:00 AM or 1:00PM. Two horses and carriage cost \$1.00. The flat was propelled by poling the four miles distance and took four hours. A different crew would have to be used for the afternoon trip as the morning crew would be exhausted. The ferry landed at Floridatown on the northern side where a stage stop was located.

DANIEL ANDERSON was the stage driver from Pensacola to Euchee Anna in the 1840's. **ANDERSON** was known around Pensacola as a drinking man in his off duty hours. One evening when he was at the Florida House he was talking to **MR. PRITCHETT** about purchasing a lot in Floridatown for a new stage stop. **ANDERSON**, in his chips, signed a purchase bill for \$300.00. Next morning, **ANDERSON** arrived at the town Market House at sunrise, sober. He told **PRITCHETT** he would have to leave early or he would not be able to get the mail through on time. **PRITCHETT** had the mortgage and note already for **ANDERSON** to sign. In daylight the deal didn't look as good to **ANDERSON** as it had the night before. He realized he had been grossly overcharged. **ANDERSON** excused himself, saying he would miss the ferry, and left town. Upon his return he met with his lawyer and sued **PRITCHETT**. **ANDERSON** freely admitted to the judge that he had, "unfortunately gave way to the intoxicating barrel and that he was drawn into a bargain by **JESSE PRITCHETT** for the purchase of a house and lot in Floridatown for \$300.00. He pleaded that his mental facilities were suspended and absorbed by inebriation at the time of signing the contract, but, he could remember **PRITCHETT** following him around that evening. There were three or four that heard the verbal exchanges that evening. **W. H. BAKER** of Legragne in Walton County heard **PRITCHETT** offer the land for \$300.00 - \$400.00. He heard **ANDERSON** say that as soon as his money arrived from Washington for carrying the mail he would close the deal. He noticed **ANDERSON** badly drunk that night but cold sober next morning at sunrise, ready for his trip, but always sober while driving. He paid his bills at the stores when he first arrived from a trip then would go into a "walking drunk." The judge read the law on making contracts while in a state of debauchery and the

jury decided in favor of **ANDERSON**. There had been no money passed.

These are a few examples of court cases that could help genealogists in search of their ancestors in courthouses in every county of the United States.