



**Ford Genealogy Club
Volume 17 Number 2**

2nd Quarter June 2012

Message from the President

Well, Spring has been enjoyed and Summer is here! Now is the time to follow up on those genealogy trips we have been planning in the Winter and finalizing this Spring. What are your plans this Summer? Are you making genealogy-only trips, or are your trips combined with visits to family and/or tourist attractions?

Have you been watching the two genealogy programs, *Who Do You Think You Are* (*WDYTYA*, NBC Friday nights, 8:00 pm), and *Finding Your Roots* (*FYR*, PBS, Sunday nights, 8:00 pm)? If you missed any episodes both have videos online for streaming: <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/> and <http://video.pbs.org/program/finding-your-roots/>. So what are your thoughts on these two genealogy and history shows?

These shows have two different approaches to researching our own families. *WDYTYA* shows the subjects using ancestry.com and visiting places (churches, libraries, museums, government offices) where records might be found. Of course on the show, only the successful finding of records is shown; still we see what we all must do: search online (Ancestry is a wonderful tool, but not the only one), visit the places where documentary traces of our ancestors might be. And as we know,

some of those visits yield no useful information. But sometimes each show ties the subject's genealogy to significant events in history, both here and abroad. Also, *FYR* uses DNA testing to tell something (often surprising) about the subject's ancestry and background. So *FYR* shows a way for us to tie our family stories into history.

Diane and I have used some of the methods in researching our families. We have visited places (cemeteries, churches, county clerk offices, etc) where our families were and talked to both relatives and strangers confirming things we already knew and learning new information in the process. And we both had ancestors who were involved in significant historical events – the mass immigration from Europe, the Civil War, the Revolutionary War. For Diane and I, perhaps our next step should be DNA testing to learn more (and convincing some cousins to test also). Have you done any DNA testing? Have you found distant cousins? Have you learned about new places to look for ancestors? What DNA-testing companies have you used?

So there are several questions or thought starters here. Please bring your comments to a club meeting or just e-mail me and I will share with the club with your permission.

Chuck Oslund, chuck@dianesgenealogy.com

The Ford Genealogy Club

Serving Ford Motor Company Employees and Family since 1995.

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Meetings: 2nd Thursday each month

5:00pm Regular Meeting

Location:

Ford WHQ Conference Room 5A-East

1 American Rd

Dearborn, MI 48126-2701

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Member Club of FERA

(Ford Employees Recreation Association)

Ford Genealogy Club

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Queries Free For Members

Dues \$12 per year, includes our newsletter

Genealogy Blogs – Three Good Reasons You Should Read Them

So much of today's learning comes to us by way of the electronic age, and it seems that genealogy is no exception to that. Genealogy blogs can be and usually are a great way to learn more about genealogy. It used to be that you had to go to a class or order a magazine subscription to keep on top of what was going

on in the world of genealogy. Those days are long gone. Let me introduce you to a new way to keep up in the world of genealogy – The genealogy blog!

Blogs are a type of online diary, some bloggers blog about their research, others keep tabs on what is going on in the world of genealogy. Some blogs are region or locality specific, others focus on a given certain surname. Many libraries and genealogy societies are also blogging about their activities as well. The types of genealogy blogs seem almost endless these days. Regardless, it's a win-win situation for you. Let me share with you the three main reasons I think YOU should take a few minutes and check out some genealogy blogs.

#1 – Family History - After all, that's what we are most interested in correct? Believe it or not there is probably someone out in blog world who is blogging about your ancestors. There are thousands of genealogy blogs out there, and many of them are blogging about their ancestors, or in this case YOUR ancestors. With the original documents and information that these bloggers are posting it's a real win win situation for you! So many bloggers include original photo's, old documents and family stories on their blogs. Imagine finding things like that on your ancestors. Last year I was contacted by a young lady who wanted to know why "HER" grandfather's headstone photo was on my blog. The reason was simple, he was my great uncle, sister to my grandmother! Turns out she was the daughter of a cousin I had not seen in 40 years! We've since gotten together and are enjoying time together again! That could be YOUR story!

#2 – What's Happening? - Want to know what genealogy conferences are coming to a city near you? Want to know about the latest in technology or maybe read a review on that new genealogy book that you were thinking about buying? Then check out some blogs. Many bloggers are out there, trying the new technology, reading the newest books on

genealogy. Why not let them be the tester and you reap the benefits? Many of today's genealogy societies and libraries have gotten on the bandwagon and are blogging about the speakers they have coming, the topics they are presenting and much more. A great opportunity for you!

#3 Learn Baby Learn! - Many bloggers today are teachers at heart – and the blogs they write are the chalkboards they use to teach those lessons. Teaching everything from sourcing to research methodology, it's a real winning combination for you. The techniques that they use to break down their brick walls can be yours. Applying the tried and tested methods that these bloggers use in their blogs just may be an avenue unexplored by you. Be ready to be inspired.

With today's technology many blogs can be viewed right in your email, or at least be notified by email when the blog is putting out a new issue or column. There is just so much to be learned, and all at no cost to you. A great opportunity to learn, perhaps find new information on your ancestors, and stay updated on what's going on in the world of genealogy.

There are just so many great blogs, it's difficult to limit my list – the first url I share is a listing of over 2500 blogs, all loaded with great information for you! Take a few minutes and browse the list! You'll be glad you did.

<http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blogs/>
<http://2338washingtonblvd.blogspot.com/>
<http://afewnutsfromthetree.wordpress.com/>
<http://georgiablackcrackers.blogspot.com/>
<http://graveyardrabbithgrey.blogspot.com/>
<http://jewishgenealogyjourney.blogspot.com/>
<http://ohiohistory.wordpress.com/>
<http://scandiamusings.blogspot.com/>
<http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/2012/05/using-familysearch-trees-to-preserve.html>
<http://www.thegraveyardrabbith.com/>

<http://www.macgenealogy.org/>
<http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/photodetectiveblog/>
<http://ewgs-spokane.blogspot.com/>
<http://theancestorfiles.blogspot.com/>
<http://longlostrelatives-smp.blogspot.com/>
<http://www.geneamusings.com/>
<http://blog.eogn.com/>
<http://blog.fold3.com/>
<http://genealogyframeofmind.blogspot.com>
<http://geneanotes.blogspot.com/>
<http://ancestoriess.blogspot.com/>

Yes, Some Genealogy Can Be Free!

Usually when I hear people rattle off how ALL genealogy should be free I get a bit scruffy and irate. After all records do need temp controls and such to stay viable.

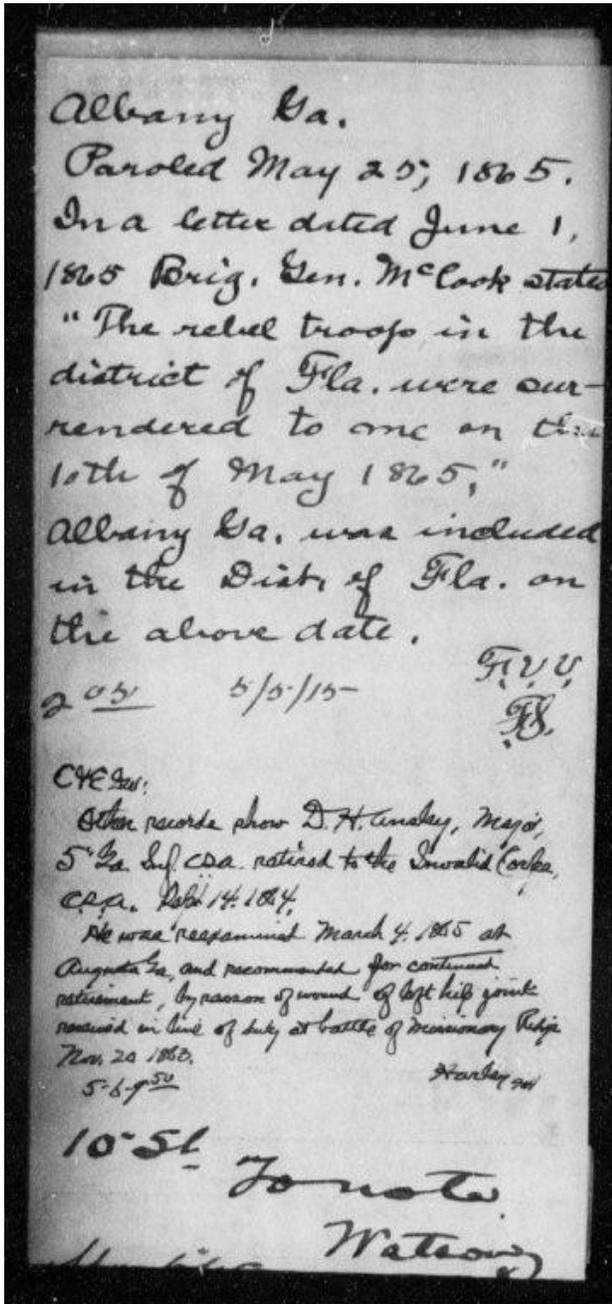
There are a lot of free records available, and not all of them are on free sites. By using your search engine (google, yahoo or Mocavo) a lot of times you'll find things that maybe aren't on free sites. Many states are putting up their own records on library & state archive sites that maybe you should search out and make use of.

A couple of good examples of what I am referring to would be the Georgia Virtual Vault and the Missouri Archives Vital Records. The Missouri link has an additional link on that site that leads to death certificates thru the late 1950's. All for free. Vital records, military records and more, all free simply by using your brain and your search engine.

Remember the old ad for the telephone books that used to mention something about letting your fingers do the walking? Well instead of walking thru the phone book maybe its time you let your fingers take a stroll across your keyboard and see just how much free stuff for genealogy is really available out there...

Civil War Records From The Confederate Realm

I know the last issue or two that has been done covered some civil war articles so I thought I would attempt to keep the ball rolling by including some Confederate record images.



David H. Ansley, Confederate

At the time of this writing I have still not figured out exactly who this David H. Ansley belongs to. I do know he belongs to the Georgia Ansley's (my line), but how he fits in is still a mystery to me. David was a very popular name in the Ansley line so he could be any one of several I have found.

The transcription shown was done by me, however there were spots that I could not be positive that my transcription was on the mark.

Albany, Georgia –

Paroled May 25, 1865. In a letter dated June 1, 1865 Brig. Gen. McCook states “The rebel troops in the district of Fla. Were surrendered to me on the 10 of May 1865.”

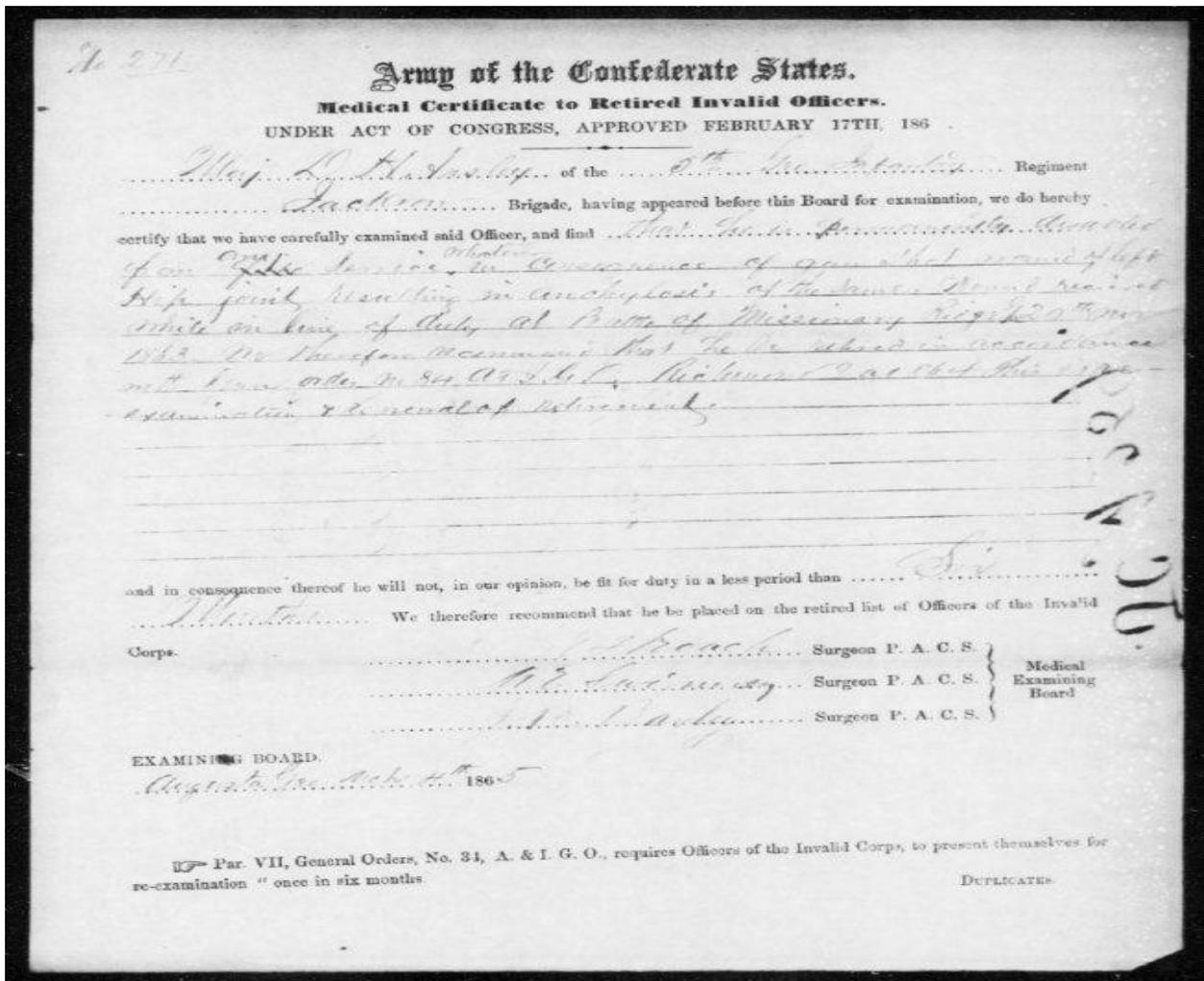
Albany Ga. Was included in the Dist. Of Fla. On the above date.

Other records show D.H. Ansley, Major 5th Ga Su? CSA retired to the Invalid Corps CSA Sept. 14, 1864.

He was re-examined March 4, 1865 at Augusta, Ga., and recommended for continued retirement, by reason of wound of left hip joint received in line of duty at battle of Missionary Ridge Nov. 20, 1863.

See the Surgeon's Report on the next page.





Surgeon's Report on the Hip Joint of David H. Ansley

Evidently they had quite a time convincing Mr. Ansley that he really needed to leave his position and retire!

This image is a surgeon's report done on the hip joint injury suffered by Major David H. Ansley while involved in the fighting at the Battle of Missionary Ridge in 1863.

Personally I had not seen one of these reports before so finding one was quite a treat.

I am not going to attempt to transcribe this document, however you should be able to click on the image and have it enlarged in your viewer – IF you are viewing it online.

Basically the document covers the location of the injury and how the musket ball pierced the hip joint etc etc...



Form 1.

For Widows' Heretofore Allowed Pensions.

STATE OF GEORGIA, County of Baldwin

Personally Comes Mrs. Georgia Clay

who being sworn, says on oath, that she is a bona fide resident of said county of Baldwin State of Georgia, and that she has resided in said State continuously ever since July 7th 1864. That she is the Widow of Adam Clay who was a Soldier in Company Co of the 49th Regiment of Georgia Volunteers, that he enlisted in said Regiment on or about the month of March 1st 1862 and served in the Army up to June 29th 1862. That he lost his life on the 29th day of June 1862. (State here full particulars of the husband's death, when, where and from what cause.)

Mr Clay died with Typhoid Pneumonia at Richmond in the State of Va on the 29th of June 1862.

Widow's Pension Application

The above image is from the Pension file of Adam Clay who died, 29 JUN 1862 in Richmond, Virginia. Adam was a Confederate soldier, enlisting at the start of the civil war.

He was married to Georgia Ann Robinson, and together they were the parents of two daughters. The paper you see above was done when Georgia, who was living in Baldwin County, Georgia at the time, filed for a pension on Adam's service. As you can see the pension record very clearly states that "Mr. Clay died with Typhoid Pneumonia at Richmond in the State of Virginia on the 29th of June 1862." There were several other pages in the file that I did not include here.

The pension was approved and she was given financial support. The Confederate pension laws required widows to reapply each year for their pensions.



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Looking Backward To Our Past