



# Imperial Polk Genealogical Society

Newsletter Spring 2025

*Please note upcoming programs on the following pages*

## *From the President: Outreach is fun and fruitful*

How important is records preservation? Think of recent fires in



California, floods in North Carolina, and hurricanes here at home in Central Florida. This concern helped us join forces recently with a local museum and caring historians.

Last month four members of the Imperial Polk Genealogical Society participated in the annual L.B. Brown Heritage Festival held in Bartow, FL. The Festival took place on the 8th and 9th of February.

IPGS members participating were John Laurent, Gale Pinkston, Marcia Ford, and Marilyn Tucker. The outdoor event took place in fabulous weather and was well attended by regional residents.

*In front of the gingerbread-clad Historic L.B. Brown House and Museum, IPGS Pres. Gale Pinkston and member John Laurent display member benefits. Laurent is vice-president of the Florida State Genealogical Society.*

The gathering of food vendors, church choirs, Buffalo Soldier reenactors, and spectators of all

ages offered the perfect opportunity for IPGS to distribute information regarding our Society and the benefits membership offers. Several festival attendees stopped by our table to share stories of their family histories and ask questions.

At one point IPGS President Gale Pinkston J.D., CG addressed the audience to extend an invitation to stop by our IPGS table. Officers are reaching out the same way at other venues coming up this year. If you'd like to sit with us, each experience promises new stories and enjoyable company.

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## Programs \* Programs \* Programs

### March 8 – **A Florida Family Homesteader During Times of Social, Racial, and Political Unrest**

Family lineage involves a group of people descended from a common ancestor. An ascending lineage begins with a younger person and traces ancestors upward to parents, grand-parents, and as high as one can climb the family tree. A descending lineage begins with a known elder ancestor and traces the family tree downward to the youngest known descendant. This is important for heritage societies, such as the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution. They require proof of direct lineage for membership.

Come be inspired by a story about Gale Pinkston's paternal, second-great-grandfather. It illustrates the kinship-proving process not only for heritage societies but sparks the fascination underlying all valid family histories.



### April 12 – **Genealogical Traps and Escapes Wisdom Unleashed: Our Panelists' Expertise Shines**

If you haven't encountered pitfalls, you haven't done much genealogy, have you? Our local panel has stories to share ranging from hiccups to nightmares.

This is an interactive session about would-be disasters and lessons learned to overcome problems in that quest for the certain family tree. Bring your puzzles, and we will draw on these experiences to eke out those elusive answers.

### May 10 – **A Grave Story**

Peter DuFresne will share his expertise on the history of grave-stones and discuss what can be found when you look inside the grave rather than just at the stone itself.



## June 12 – **Journey Through Family Search.org**

Our June program will feature Steven Danderson, volunteer and expert extraordinaire on the topic of the intricacies and features of LDS Family Search website. Steven also serves as the technical specialist for the Lakeland LDS stake (ward). He will describe the resources available to the public at the Lakeland LDS Family Search center including 15 subscription based genealogical sites and organizations. For those more digital minded, he will talk about the Android and Apple apps available.

## July 12 – **DAR Dimensions: Legacy, Yes. Research Too!**

Our July program will feature past IPGS historian Gayle Londeree, who is registrar of the Lakeland Chapter of The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. She will enlighten us as to the membership requirements of the DAR and describe some of the resources available. These include the Genealogical Research System (GRS), a genealogical database available to the general public.

Gayle also serves as a volunteer genealogist with the Florida organization of DAR. How does qualifying work? What does it cost? What are member benefits? We look forward to knowing more about this legacy genealogical organization.

## August 9 – **More Genealogy Legacy Organizations**

Are you ready to take the next step in your family history journey by applying for membership in a legacy organization?



Neil Brown, our IPGS vice president and program chair, will present on genealogy legacy groups, with special emphasis on the Mayflower Society.

Neil will detail the various types of organizations and membership requirements. He will also tell about levels and types of documentation to make your case.

Already had some success? Bring your certificates and pins to show off your heritage.

### **Join Us!**

Meetings are 1-2:30 p.m. EST each second Saturday.

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In addition to programs, each monthly get-together will include time for research questions, success stories, problem-solving help by the group, and friendly sharing.

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All programs are both in person and online. (Request a link from [news@ipgs.org](mailto:news@ipgs.org).) Join us at the Lakeland History & Culture Center, at the Lakeland Public Library, [100 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland, FL 33801](#). (Ph: [863.834.4280](tel:863.834.4280)).

## Not an expert? You can still share your interests

IPGS is accepting online requests for research assistance. This could be through our web pages or from other organizations. You may be more able to help than you realize.

Even if you don't have an area of special expertise, we all have interests serious enough to make us persist together in this genealogical journey! Please consider what you would enjoy examining: a special geographic area? Slicing and dicing vital documents and census reports? How to find vertical files? Your favorite software?

Requests could be from potential members, both local and afar. They could be about records waiting to be found in Polk County, or from some other neck of the woods you could have in common with the searcher. Or from someone just like you who could use a hand to get over that stump.

Pres. Gale is introducing time to share at each meeting. "I'd hate to think we had members who couldn't point to something they'd gained personally over the course of the year," she said in setting goals for 2025. The Membership Committee would like to list your interests so we can be responsive to each other and to our fellow searchers and future friends.

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## Brochures, business cards

IPGS is distributing brochures throughout the county. We invite you to suggest and/or deliver them to places they can reach those with potential interest in our society. Also, you are invited to carry business cards for



that easy outreach opportunity. You never know who might be enticed to help swell our ranks and bring new opportunities.

### Our Mission

*The Imperial Polk Genealogical Society's mission is to encourage and promote the study of genealogy and to bring together people who have an interest in family history.*

