



# BETWEEN THE PAGES

*Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter*



## FAMILY HISTORY: A LEGACY

BY RICHARD LANE, REFERENCE

We think of a legacy as an inheritance, often of some monetary value. People show up on Antiques Roadshow hoping that great-aunt Martha's jewelry box is of great value. All too often, the appraisers will tell them that great-aunt Martha was undoubtedly a generous and kind woman, but the contents of her jewelry box was most likely purchased at a five and dime in the 1970s and is best consigned to a flea market. Worse yet, the appraiser tells a disheartened owner that great-aunt Martha's refinish job had destroyed the patina of the jewelry box and what would have been a valuable piece of mid-century craftsmanship is now of little value and should be returned to its proper place in the closet.

Unlike great-aunt Martha's trinkets, the knowledge and understanding of family history is a legacy to be shared with others and passed down to future generations. The question to be considered is this: "How do I make sure that the family's history I've worked so hard to write will be preserved?" Here are some useful tips:

- 1. Protect original documents, photos, and mementos.** Store the originals in acid-free boxes in a controlled environment. Avoid exposure to sunlight. Consider storing irreplaceable items in fireproof boxes. Give thought to the person who will someday take possession of the family records.
- 2. Duplicate documents.** Electronic scanners are no longer prohibitively expensive. Scan documents and photographs and save to a disk or thumb drive. Share the scans with other family members and encourage them to save them as well.
- 3. Make print copies of the original materials.** Do not rely on electronic devices for long-term storage. Electronic formats are changing. The 8-inch floppy disk from the 1970s is now of little use. Who knows what electronic storage will be like in 10, 15 or 20 years? We cannot imagine the advances in technology to be made over the next 100 years.



It is very possible that electronic devices in the future will be unable to "read" today's programs. And yes, family histories will be of interest to generations yet unborn.

**4. Consider having the family histories bound in book form.** Make several copies. At a minimum, organize family histories in an orderly way in a file folder.

**5. Donate the family history to local libraries and genealogical societies.** Ask these questions, "Will the materials be cataloged? Is your catalog a part of a consortium catalog?" The Huntsville Public Library and many other libraries upload their holdings to a consortium catalog known by the initials O.C.L.C. By accessing O.C.L.C. researchers can find catalog listings for family histories at the Huntsville Public Library and at other libraries throughout the nation.

Family histories are legacies to be shared. Below is sage advice:

"My charge, then, in putting down my pen, and giving over this work to posterity, is this: Take the time. Take the time to preserve the stories, the photographs, the small mementos that mean so much. This is your legacy to future generations. Give it the attention it deserves. Your children and your grandchildren will thank you for it." — **Laurence Overmire**, *One Immigrant's Legacy: The Overmyer Family in America, 1751-2009: A Biographical Record of Revolutionary War Veteran Capt. John George Overmire and His Descendants.*



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Monday-Friday    Saturday  
10am-7pm            12pm-4pm



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# NEW STICKERS ON BOOKS!

BY RACHEL MCPHAIL, CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR

You may have noticed new green stickers on the books in the children's room. Or you noticed staff and volunteers placing stickers on carts full of books. The Huntsville Public Library embarked on this project a few months ago with this goal in mind: we wanted to put Accelerated Reader (AR) stickers on every children's and teen book in the library.

Located on the top portion of the book spine, these stickers are a handy tool for parents, teachers, tutors, and children eager to participate in the AR program. AR is a computer-based program that schools use to monitor reading practice, progress, and comprehension. AR can help teachers and parents guide kids to books that are on the children's individual reading level. Children take short quizzes after reading a book to check for comprehension. Students earn AR points from successful completion of AR quizzes.

While the AR system doesn't specifically teach reading skills or strategies, it's intended to encourage children to read independently. Children enjoy reading more when they can select their own books. Websites like [arbookfind.com](http://arbookfind.com) show users how many points the book is worth. The number of points is based on a book's length and difficulty level. For example, a book with an AR score of 3 is likely to be an easier read than a book with an AR score of 10.

The library's purpose in placing the stickers with the AR scores on books is to help students who participate in the AR program find books. At the time of this article's printing, staff and volunteers have placed AR score stickers on the picture books, early readers, Spanish, Biographies, Graphic novels, and a significant portion of the Juvenile Fiction books.



## 5 THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR LIBRARY CARD

BY BELLA ABRIL, IT COORDINATOR

Ever wondered what else you can do with your library card besides check out books? With your Huntsville Public Library card, you get access to many useful and completely free resources! Check out these resources below:

### 1. Borrow ebooks and audiobooks.

With OverDrive, you have access to 14,000+ titles of ebooks, audiobooks, and even videos. You can either read/listen to the book online or download it to your Kindle-compatible device!

### 2. Learn a language.

Pronunciator is a fun and easy way to learn to speak, read, and write any 80 languages, including Spanish, Korean, Greek, and German. Once you register an account at the library, you will be able to use the application anywhere!

### 3. Prepare for a test.

LearningExpress Library features nearly 1,000 online tutorials, practice tests, and eBooks to help patrons of all ages. It offers skill building in reading, writing, math, and basic science, career certification and licensure exam prep, college and grad school entrance test prep (SAT and GRE), GED® test prep, and more.

### 4. Gain tools to get hired.

Whether you're looking to find a new job in your current field or pursue a career in an exciting new industry, Job & Career Accelerator™ has the powerful tools and expert guidance to help you through every step of the process. If you need help with building your resume or preparing for an interview, this resource is the right one for you!

### 5. Access legal forms.

Gale Legal Forms provides a wide selection of state-specific (and multi-state) legal forms across the most popular legal areas. Includes real estate contracts, wills, pre-marital agreements, bankruptcy, divorce, landlord tenant and many others. Also included is a comprehensive attorney state directory and a dictionary of legal definitions explained in layman's language.

You can access all of these and more by visiting our website at [myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://myhuntsvillelibrary.com).



# FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

BY *BIANCA SALDIERNA, HPL INTERN*

Given the increasingly competitive market and with the growing emphasis employers are placing on professional experience during the hiring process, internships have become an important source of preparation for college students. Naturally, college students are busy and college life can feel overwhelming. So, finding the perfect time to start seeking those opportunities can seem unmanageable. Many times, students wonder if it is even worth the hassle. To me, the answer is yes! As a former intern of Woodforest National Bank and a current intern at the Huntsville Public Library, I can say that internship programs enhance the skills and competencies needed in the professional community. Indeed, internships provide undergraduates the ability to network, build their resume, develop interviewing skills, gain professional experience, and ultimately initiate their career.



*Bianca Saldierna*

Graduating from college and receiving a diploma does not seem to guarantee a spot in the workforce anymore. In addition to merely learning theory in the classroom, putting it into practice is essential to becoming an effective professional. My internship experiences at Woodforest National Bank and at the Huntsville Public Library have helped me test drive my hard and soft skills before graduation. Although both internships are completely different and unrelated to my career path, both offered me insightful and valuable experiences that have helped shape my future—and soon to start—career. Moreover, the occupational skills acquired are transferable to a resume. Having previous work experience on your resume can be advantageous when applying for a job vacancy. Generally, recruiters look for candidates who already have some kind of experience, so internship experience can boost employment opportunities. Furthermore, building good relationships with employers, coworkers, and clients and establishing a good reputation for yourself can go a long way. Not only is your professional network expanded, but it can also help with requests for future references and recommendations.

Aside from creating a stronger resume and helping build a professional network, the process of getting an internship can benefit undergraduates in the long-term as well. Interviewing skills are oftentimes underestimated and forgotten about until needed. Even if a person has previous work experience, a lack of good interviewing skills will reduce their chances of getting hired. Certainly, job interviews can be intimidating and nerve-wracking, so taking advantage of internships to polish those skills and build confidence is key in the early stages of a student's career. For instance, prior to taking on both internships, I had never had a professional interview. Taking part in this process unquestionably improved my confidence and refined my skills. Internships also allow employers to assess a student's potential through the programs for a possible full-time job offer. Certainly, recruiters increasingly value work experiences prior to graduation. As for my own experience, after interning at Woodforest National Bank during the summer, I was provided the opportunity to transition into a full-time job with them upon graduation.

In short, internships provide young professionals the ability to network, build their resume, develop interviewing skills, acquire professional experience, and initiate their professional career. Both of my internships taught me that there is no better way to transition from the classroom into the "real world" than through college internships. Without a doubt, this source of experience is so essential that it could mean the difference between easily finding a job after college or not.



# Listing of Events

Find this information online at [myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://myhuntsvillelibrary.com).



## Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshop

Mondays starting April 23, 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

## Searching FamilySearch.Org Workshop

May 4 and 18, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

## Midday Movie Matinee

*Casablanca*

May 4, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

## Stephen King Online Book Club

Featuring *It*

## Play Texas 42

Mondays, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

## Sittercise

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 - 11:00 AM

## Free Cell Phone Classes

May 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 10:30 AM

## Free Canva Classes

May 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 5:00 PM

## Exploring Ancestry.com Workshop

May 10, 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM

## Book Club at the Huntsville Public Library

Featuring *What the Deaf-Mute Heard*

May 10, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM



## Mother Goose Lapsit

Mondays at 10:30 - 11:00 AM

## Story Time

Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:45 - 11:15 AM

## First Friday Book Club

Featuring *The Phantom Tollbooth*

May 4, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

## Coding for Girls Club

Featuring *Animation*

Thursdays at 5:15 PM

## Family Movie Night

Featuring *Ferdinand*

May 4, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

