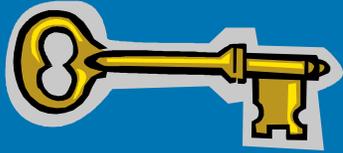


CRACKER CRUMBS



Unlocking the Past
Towards the Future

May 2008
Volume 29, Issue 4

Manasota Genealogical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flmgs>

2007-2008

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Don't forget that the MGS Board meets the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00 at the Manatee History Records Library in Bradenton (October-May). All members are invited to attend.

PUBLICATION NOTICE: Every effort is made to publish accurate information. However, the Society assumes NO RESPONSIBILITY for the accuracy of any published materials. Established errors will be corrected in the next issue.

GENEALOGY & COMPUTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

(written by Edward H. Gaulin)

Genealogists are always enthusiastic when learning more about how to find, collect, organize and distribute their research data. During one or two of our Computer SIG meetings this season have been spent in discussing alternative educational resources related to our field of interest. Some of these were purely genealogical in nature while others had possibly broader application in our lives. In any case I thought this might be a good subject of general interest for those Society members who haven't been able to attend our SIG meetings.

Those new to genealogy can always find quality "how-to" instruction from their local genealogical society. Our Society has just completed two of these seminars and another is now underway presented by a longtime member of our neighboring society at the Senior Learning Center at New College located near the airport. Check the local society web pages for instructional opportunities:

Charlotte Co. Gen Soc: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flccgs

Englewood Gen Soc: www.rootsweb.com/~flegsf/

Florida Gen Soc: <http://fgstampa.org>

Gen Soc Sarasota: www.rootsweb.com/~flgss

Jewish Gen Soc/Cen Fl: www.rootsweb.com/~fljgscf

Lakewood Ranch Gen Club: contact Donna Moughty at moughty@mac.com

Lee Co. Gen Soc: www.leecountygenealogy.org

Manasota Gen Soc: www.rootsweb.com/~flmgs

Pinellas Co. Gen Soc: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flpgs

South Bay Gen Soc: www.rootsweb.com/~flsbgs



Our members enjoying a
Pizza party at our
April 08 Meeting!

Introductory computer instruction is also available locally from several sources. The public libraries in Manatee and neighboring counties offer convenient computer workshops which are free to local residents.

(continued on page 6)



JOTS FROM JEAN!



Nazi Archive will help save lot Holocaust names. When Bill Connelly heard that the heirs of a collector of Jewish memorial books were cleaning out his library, he rushed to New York and saved dozens of Yiddish-language volumes out of a municipal trash bin. With their lists of residents from long vanished European communities - sometimes recorded street by street - the books often are all that is left of entire towns or neighborhoods which were consumed in the Nazi genocide of World War II. To rescue a name is to rescue a life from oblivion. The yizkor books, from the Hebrew word remember, are now on the shelves, along with hundreds of other volumes, at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum where Connelly works. The museum is now gaining access to millions more names, it is the largest registry of Holocaust victims existing anywhere. You can read more about this story in an article written by Arthur Max and published in the *Associated Press*. You can find it by visiting the following website at: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i3Dy4KVqcVA8dtFs12wDs81uHomQD8T85KK00> [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter & W.Pa.Genealogical Society newsletter Vol. 34 Apr/May 2008].

Using RootsWeb's "Search Thingy." RootsWeb users have created millions of websites, about ten million. Some were created by individuals, others by historical or genealogical societies, or groups. Some are hosted by RootsWeb (freepages), and some are hosted elsewhere but linked to RootsWeb (registered websites) so that RootsWeb users can locate them more easily. They contain everything from info on a particular family to cemetery indexes, to instructions on how to create your own freepage. One of these pages just may have the information you searching for, but how do you find it?

In the early days of RootsWeb, *Search Thingy* was developed to search all of the websites and freepages hosted by and linked to RootsWeb. Because of a lack of hardware and server space, it was not possible to keep *Search Thingy* up to date with the thousands of websites constantly being added to RootsWeb, and it has been out of date for some time. That has now changed, thanks to a special RootsWeb developer. *Search Thingy* is now up and running again - and it indexes 10 million websites. So, if someone out there has put info you need on a RootsWeb website, chances are better than ever that you will find it.

To find *Search Thingy* go to the RootsWeb Home Page. Locate the "Search Engines and Databases." Click on the "Index of All Search Engines and Databases" link below this heading. Then click on "Search Thingy" it is the 2nd database listed under "Our Most Popular Searchable Indexes." Besides using *Search Thingy* to search all of the RootsWeb freepages and registered websites, you can also browse them by categories such as locality, surnames, and major projects hosted by RootsWeb. To browse through the millions of RootsWeb websites by topic, click "Web Sites" on the RootsWeb header (at the very top of RootsWeb.com) You will be taken to the "Registry of Websites at RootsWeb."

I hope each of you will take 15 minutes right now to try *Search Thingy* out for yourself.

[RootWeb Review, Vol. 1 No. 8, 27 Jan 2008. The Generations Network and its subdivisions.] And in the Feb. issue, 1st week issue Jana Lloyd, writer, who states that *Search Thingy* will NOT search the entire RootsWeb site such as mailing lists, message boards, WorldConnect, etc.]

The Allen County Public Library [Fort Wayne] now offers a live tour on a two part video which you can watch from your own computer before making a trip to Indiana. Go to www.YouTube.com and type in Allen County Public Library in the search window. [RootsWeb, Vol. 11 No. 5, 30 Jan 2008].

Homestead [Pittsburgh] City Directories have been reprinted and digitized and are available for public access. The volumes date from 1876 to 1945 and contain over 10,000 pages of residents and businesses in this south side section of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. Call the Carnegie Library of Homestead and ask for the archives room. [portal to the Past, Vol. 7 No. 15 Dec 2007 publ by Mifflin Twp. Historical Society].

Pennsylvania Vital Records of Birth and Death. The Keystone State has put another kink in retrieving these records by researchers, requiring that these records from 1906 can only be acquired by next of kin regardless of how long the person has been deceased. Visit their website: <http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm>. The fee is now \$9. and the wait is 5 weeks or longer for each request. Make only ONE request at a time. An obit helps.

(continued on next page)

JOTS FROM JEAN (continued)

Finding Lost Cemeteries. Try fire department's records; funeral directors; go to a local coffee shop and after chatting with the 'regulars' tell them what you are looking for. I had an experience several years ago in Little Washington Pa. (as opposed to Washington D.C.), where a client and myself were photographing cemetery stones in about 15 small family plots, some with little luck. It was a messy muddy Jan. morning and we had just spent 1/2 an hour hiking to the top of a high hill which had only the day before been plowed for spring planting - guess where the plot was, at the top of the hill with a little fence around it, surrounded by barbed wire and untrimmed weeds. We were covered in mud, me because I slid down one side of hill. We stopped at a local fast food place whose parking lot was filled with trucks and old beat up cars, a local stop. The coffee counter was jammed, we stood in line, and kidded with the guys for awhile and then asked if they knew of a Roberts Cemetery nearby - one of the men was a surveyor, and they had been cutting down a woodland in the area, and had found a Roberts Family Plot with 10 stones, and they were most upset because the logging operation had to stop while they tried to find out about this plot and who owned it. Client and I hopped into his rental Jeep and got our photographs, and he then stopped at the Historical Society and made arrangements for the 10 stones to be moved to the Roberts Family plot in another Graveyard down the road. It can and does happen. Another place to try is a Utility Company that strings aerial or underground lines in an area.

My Family Health Portrait: The Surgeon General's Family History Initiative. This web site allows you to create a personalized family health history report from any computer with an Internet connection and on an up-to-date Web browser. View a sample report (PDF) at [www.ask.hrsa.gov/>HRSA Information Center. >HRS00360 download or www.hhs.gov.familyhistory/](http://www.ask.hrsa.gov/>HRSA%20Information%20Center.>HRS00360%20download%20or%20www.hhs.gov.familyhistory/)

From the home page go to the bottom and in orange print is: hard copy paper form; click on this to open; choose: Health Portrait in English PDF; be sure to print in landscape for some of these forms to fit onto a page of computer paper.

Create your own History online, it is easy, by just answering a few family related questions. Then save it to your computer, [desktop] so you can print them out, send them to another family member to get their info or just to help them out with their family history. You can go in and edit at any time or remove someone from the original list that you made. Create one for your spouse's side too...add Aunts, Uncles and Cousins, branch out if you wish.

Health Portrait automatically keeps track of six medical conditions because they are common and have very good information about how to avoid them. Health Portrait allows you to add your own family diseases/health problems by a click of a key. You are in control of the info that is entered.

[Timelines...Jan. 2008 page 6].

Google Maps has an exciting feature called "Street View" which provides photographs of the actual locations you are viewing on their maps. There are 23 US cities now available, including New York, Denver, Houston, Dallas, Detroit, Indianapolis, Fort Worth, Boston, Minneapolis, St. Paul,

MyHeritage.com called MyHeritage Research. Look at this unique genealogy search engine. It is perfect for finding ancestors and advancing your family research. There is nothing quite like it on the Internet. It is free at www.myheritage.com/FP/Company/myheritage-research.php.

Medical and Health: Genetics, Genealogy & History. Explore this site when you have a bit of time. There is an amazing amount of material, cemeteries from AK, AR, CO, FL, IA, Id, IN, KY, MA, MO, MS, NY, OH and PA. For CO, KY, NY and OH there is a large collection of cemeteries. It links to the St. Louis Archdiocese for Catholic cemeteries. www.searchablecemeteries.com/default.aspx.

KY Ancestors? MGS receives copies of the *Kentucky Family Records* published by the West Central Kentucky Family Research Assn., Box 1932 Owensboro KY 42302 quarterly, and they are on our shelves at the library for you to read. Vol. 32 contains articles on McLean County, Hancock County and Butler County; and a number of other fine articles.

Tennessee Families? MGS also receives quarterly copies of the *Midwest Tennessee Genealogical Society Quarterly* published by that Society, Box 3343, Jackson TN 38303. Vol. XL No. 1 2008 contains articles about Madison County, Madison College 1856-57, and Haywood County.

Michigan Ancestors? MGS receives quarterly newsletters from The Livingston County [MI] Genealogical Society, 1041 West Grand River Ave., Howell MI 48844. Vol. 22 No. 4 Spring 2008 contains abstracts of Obits and Death Notices from early Livingston County newspapers 1843-1846.

MGS Membership (From Jim McHugh)

Our membership year is June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008, and our new membership year begins June 1st 2008. If you have not paid your dues, you have until November 2008 to maintain your MGS Membership status. Dues are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family couple. Dues can be paid at any regular membership meeting, or mailed to the Manasota Genealogical Society, 6023 26th Street West PMB 269, Bradenton, FL 34207. If you are not sure of your "Dues" status, check the MGS Membership Roster that is available at all of our regular Membership Meetings. Please include with your payment (whether at a meeting, or mailed), the following information: name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and your research interests (surnames and geographical locations of interests).



Titles added to Genealogy Collection at the Manatee County Library (Main) since October 1, 2007. ("-" indicates item was a gift)

Call No.	Titles added to Genealogy Collection
TBD	Erin's sons : Irish arrivals in Atlantic Canada, 1761-1853 / Terrence M. Punch.
TBD	Settlers of the Beekman Patent, Dutchess County, New York : an historical and genealogical study of all the 18th century settlers ... / by Frank J. Doherty.
TBD	A student's guide to Native American genealogy / by E. Barrie Kavasch.
907.2 Mil	Evidence explained : citing history sources from artifacts to cyberspace / Elizabeth Shown Mills.
929.1 Dir	Directory of genealogical and historical societies, libraries and periodicals in the US and Canada. Vol. 1
929.1 Dir	Directory of genealogical and historical societies, libraries and periodicals in the US and Canada. Vol. 2
929.1 Dir	Directory of genealogical and historical society libraries, archives, and collections in the US and Canada.
929.1 Fow	Tracing your army ancestors / Simon Fowler.
929.1 Gal	The genealogy handbook : the complete guide to tracing your family tree / Ellen Galford.
929.1 Nat	Virginia, where a nation began : program syllabus, 12-15 May, 1999, Richmond / The National Genealogical Society ; Virginia Genealogical Society. 1988
929.1 Nat	Virginia, where a nation began : program syllabus, 12-15 May, 1999, Richmond / The National Genealogical Society ; Virginia Genealogical Society. 1996
929.1 Nat	Virginia, where a nation began : program syllabus, 12-15 May, 1999, Richmond / The National Genealogical Society ; Virginia Genealogical Society. 1999
929.1072 Uni	Guide to genealogical research in the National Archives of the United States / edited by Anne Bruner Eales and Robert M. Kvasnicka.
929.2 Doo	Kings, Lairds, and related families of Walton County, Florida / by Marla Drake Dooley.
929.2 Mcm	McMullen [family record]
929.2 Sma	A history of the Smasheys in Maryland, New Jersey, Missouri, Illinois and Florida, 1770-1972 compiled by Philip C. Smashey.
929.2 Zeb	Southern shoots from northern roots: a family history concerning northern Americans who migrated to frontier Florida after 1870-Helen Terwilleger Zebly.
929.3 Bai	Early Massachusetts marriages prior to 1800 / edited by Frederic W. Bailey.
929.342 Emi	Emigration from the United Kingdom to America : lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports / edited by Ira A. Glazier.

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- 929.342 Emi Emigration from the United Kingdom to America : lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports / edited by Ira A. Glazier.
- 929.343 Bax In search of your German roots : a complete guide to tracing your ancestors in the Germanic areas of Europe / Angus Baxter.
- 929.343 Dob Scottish-German links, 1550-1850 / by David Dobson.
- 929.345 Ita Italians to America : lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports, 1880-1899 / edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Vol. 14
- 929.345 Ita Italians to America : lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports, 1880-1899 / edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Vol. 15
- 929.345 Ita Italians to America : lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports, 1880-1899 / edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Vol. 17
- 929.345 Ita Italians to America : lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports, 1880-1899 / edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Vol. 16
- 929.345 Ita Italians to America : lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports, 1880-1899 / edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Vol. 17
- 929.345 Ita Italians to America : lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports, 1880-1899 / edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Vol. 18
- 929.345 Ita Italians to America : lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports, 1880-1899 / edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Vol. 19
- 929.345 Ita Italians to America : lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports, 1880-1899 / edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Vol. 20
- 929.345 Ita Italians to America : lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports, 1880-1899 / edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Vol. 21
- 929.345 Ita Italians to America : lists of passengers arriving at U.S. ports, 1880-1899 / edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Vol. 22
- 929.3493 Goe Searching for Flemish (Belgian) ancestors / Jozef J. Goethals in collaboration with Karel Denys.
- 929.373 Boc Bounty and donation land grants in British colonial America / Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck.
- 929.373 Rol A student's guide to Polish American genealogy / by Carl Sokolnicki Rollyson and Lisa Olson Paddock.
- 929.374 And The great migration : immigrants to New England, 1634-1635. Volume IV, I-L / Robert Charles Anderson.
- 929.374 And The great migration : immigrants to New England, 1634-1635. Volume IV, I-L / Robert Charles Anderson.
- 929.3758 Dav Records of Elbert County, Georgia / published under the auspices of the Lucy Cook Peel Memorial Committee ; compiled 1929 by Grace Gillam Davidson.
- 929.3759 Col Colonization and Conquest: British Florida in the Eighteenth Century / [compiled by] Lawrence H. Feldman..
- 929.3772 Sel Jay County cemetery locations / compiled by Kathy Selman.
- 929.473 Hug American ancestry : giving the name and descent, in the male line, of Americans whose ancestors settled in the United States previous to the Declaration of Independence, A.D. 1776.

GENEALOGY & COMPUTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES by Edward H. Gaulin
(continued)

Charlotte Country Library System: <http://charlottecountyfl.com/library>

Lee County Library System: <http://www.lee-county.com/LIBRARY>

Manatee County Library System: <http://library.co.manatee.fl.us>

Pinellas County Library System: <http://www.pplc.us>

Sarasota County Library System: <http://suncat.co.sarasota.fl.us>

Tampa/Hillsborough County Library System: <http://www.thpl.org>

Then there are computer user's groups that provide both introductory and specific software courses for their members.

Manatee PC User's Group - www.manateepcug.org

Sarasota PC User's Group - www.spcug.org

Along these lines you might also want to learn more about your digital camera and there are a number of camera clubs in the area. One of the largest, DIMAGE, meets monthly in Sarasota. See their web site at <http://www.dimage.org>.

Other computer instruction is available in adult learning workshops sponsored by local government and institutions. If a new user desires computer instruction the opportunities are widely available – check with your local school system, area colleges and universities, and local, county and state offices.

Unfortunately not all of us have the time or the ability to attend these formal classroom sessions but are still eager to learn. There are numerous educational alternatives still available that you so let's look at some instructional resources accessible by you right in your own home via the World Wide Web. Many of these are free and self-paced but are frequently available only for a limited period of time. Here are a few examples and places to look:

- **COMPUTER MANUFACTURERS** frequently have active learning centers on their web sites which are open to all. A variety of topics are usually available from introductory computer use to using computers for hobbies and crafts. Hewlett-Packard has a number of Online Classes in their Learning Center which are periodically changed. See <http://www.hp.com> and click on Free Online Courses.
- **SOFTWARE PRODUCERS** also provide instructional services to their users. These tend to be directly related to the software they sell. Some examples are Microsoft (Windows, Office, etc.), Adobe (Photoshop), Avery (labels), Garmin (GPS), Family Tree Maker (genealogy), Wholly Genes - Master Genealogist (genealogy), Roots Magic (genealogy), Legacy Family Tree (genealogy), and Ancestral Quest (genealogy). Use one of the search engines, like GOOGLE, to find these web sites.
- **OFFICE MATERIAL SUPPLIERS** is probably not a large category but has at least one excellent provider of free instructional aides for a very wide variety of interests. I've have personally used the materials provided by PENDAFLEX, makers of office filing systems and supplies, for several years and heartily recommend them. They offer courses on using software like Word, Excel & PowerPoint. Their offerings also include classes on Building Your First Web Site, Touch-up Your Digital Photos using Photoshop Elements, How to Give a Great Presentation, Search Engines 101 and Starting Your Own Business. Don't miss this one. See their site: <http://www.pendaflexlearningcenter.com/index.jsp>.

(continued on next page)

- MAJOR GENEALOGY WEB SITES also provide instructional opportunities to varying degrees.
 - ANCESTRY.COM (www.ancestry.com) has an excellent new Learning Center which offers short video how-to clips designed primarily for beginners.
 - FAMILY SEARCH (www.familysearch.org), the Mormon web site, has a large number of Research Helps, organized by locality, designed to provide specific research assistance. All these guides are FREE and downloadable. At this site you will also find FREE, downloadable blank forms available for each US Federal Census, US Census Mortality Schedules, Canada & UK census forms, foreign language word lists & letter writing guides, outline maps, and other aides.
 - ROOTSWEB (www.rootsweb.com) is the original FREE genealogy web site and although now owned by Ancestry.com is still free! Under RootsWeb's Guide To Tracing Family Trees there are numerous instruction sheets on Getting Started, then on specifics subjects like ADOPTION, CITY DIRECTORIES, HERALDRY, LAND RECORDS, MILITARY RECORDS, PASSENGER LISTS, etc. In addition they have a section of instruction sheets on nationalities: ACADIAN, DUTCH, GERMANS, IRISH, JEWISH, POLISH, SCOTS, WELCH, etc. These materials are all downloadable.
- DNA TESTING SUPPLIERS know how important it is that you understand what the test results can do to advance your genealogical research and most have gone to great lengths to provide that instruction for you in a simple, but useable, non-technical form. An incomplete list of their web sites follows:
 - Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation: www.smgf.org.
 - Family Tree DNA: www.familytreeDNA.com.
 - DNA Ancestry: <http://dna.ancestry.com>.
 - DNA Heritage: <http://www.dnaheritage.com>.
 - National Geographic Society: <https://www3.nationalgeographic.com/genographic>.

To summarize, instructional resources for those of us interested in both genealogy and computer applications are virtually unlimited and most are available at no charge. For those of you who thought that you didn't have the time, or the ability, to attend resident educational offerings I hope I have shown you a few resources which can be available in own living room.

I'd like to hear of your progress. You may drop me a line at MGSCSIG@gmail.com or GSS.FL.USA@gmail.com.



THE STORY OF PARRISH FLORIDA
IS OUR STORY
by Rev. Dr. David Cole
President of the Parrish Community Foundation
www.abeautifulceremony.com

Did you know that Parrish was not always called "Parrish?" It was first known as Oak Hill. The first Post Office, school, cemetery and churches were all known by that name. It is only for the last hundred years or so that our lovely little community has been known by Parrish. It is the name that was borne proudly by one of our first settlers. Crawford and Mary Parrish settled in Oak Hill in 1868. Eleven years later, the post office bore his name. In a little over a decade this family made quite an impression on the area. They have served as state representatives, county commissioners, justices of the peace, and postmasters. In fact, if you look at the plaque on the old state capitol steps, the Parrish name appears right at the top.

We owe much to the Parrish family for forging our path to this little corner of paradise. Likewise, the Parrish family owes much to their forebears. Parrish was not always a paradise. In the big scheme of history, not so long ago, Parrish was a dangerous, unforgiving frontier. The first settlers came to this area in the 1560s. Over the next centuries, the French, Spanish and British would jostle for control of Florida. Hernando Desoto led one of the first expeditions in 1539 A.D. He probably did not step foot in our area, for generally he hugged the Gulf coast and headed north bypassing Eastern Manatee. Desoto's mission was discovery and expedition; the next expedition was more ambitious. General Pedro Menendez is best known for the naming of St. Augustine, the first permanent white settlement in North America. His orders were to chart and colonize Florida. To support this endeavor, he was to convert the Tocobaga Tribe to Christianity and to secure additional treaties with neighboring Indian tribes. In about 1567, Menendez deAviles left a small Spanish garrison in the Parrish area.

Visible monuments to the Tocobaga Tribe remain today. The Emerson Point "midden" is one of the most impressive (just drive west on U.S. 301 and keep going straight through Palmetto and you will find it). The midden is a massive mound of shells at the end of the peninsula. Tocobagan staple food was shellfish harvested from the plentiful beds in the shallows. The mounds served as the chief's home, temple, kitchen and garbage dump. Perhaps larger mounds conferred status as a more established community. The Emerson Point midden at the mouth of the Manatee River is about 100 yards long and 50 feet wide. It is the largest Tocobagan midden in existence. It is overgrown with grass, and has a pathway and benches marking the once sacred place. Its 20 foot height shows that this village and others like it flourished by the river.

In other words, once-upon-a-time there were a lot more Tocobagans than Spaniards. That means that the European explorers were faced by formidable forces. Tobobagans were skilled in the use of spears, bows and blow guns for hunting. Apparently these implements worked just as well on Spaniards. Prior Spanish attempts in this general area had ended in bloodshed. Florida natives had already won a reputation for butchering missionaries. The Spanish conquistadors reputation was no less sordid. Menendez is known for celebrating the first mass on American soil. Paradoxically, he is also known for wiping out a French settlement near Jacksonville, including 200 fellow Catholics who had surrendered. His consideration of non-Christians was likely even less charitable. Hence his relations with the natives dissolved quickly, and came to blows. The surviving soldiers made a hasty retreat to the north. Tragically, European disease did what the conquistadors had failed to do, they all but eradicated the Tocobaga tribe. In 1935 Spanish artifacts were discovered on the land of William Parrish - a legacy to this chapter of history. The W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration) sponsored the dig.

It appeared that Menendez had not learned from the Desoto experience of 30 years earlier. Desoto had found his war dogs to be the most formidable weapon against the natives. He had also underestimated the accuracy and deadliness of the Indian darts. The slim Tocobagan darts could penetrate mail armor and their arrows could find a chink in the armor. The Spanish were also armed with crossbows and muskets. Though devastating weapons, their rate of fire was no match for the local warriors. The conquistadors had more than the natives to contend with. British privateers were wreaking havoc on the high seas. In 1586 Sir Francis Drake sailed down the east coast of Florida and sacked St. Augustine. The Spanish were constantly worried about their supply lines being cut and their booty being pirated. The animosity between the Colonial powers in this theatre lasted for centuries. In 1763 after the Seven Years War, the Spanish surrendered Florida to the British. But, in the unpredictable saga of history, the tables were to turn once again.

In 1776 the thirteen American colonies declared independence. Florida remained loyal to the King. The French allied themselves with the emerging Colonies against Britain. Three years later the Spanish declared war on Britain, outnumbering British Florida three countries to one. Rather than turn over the land to its upstart Colonies, in 1783 Britain ceded Florida back to the Spanish. In return Spain kept Florida's doors open to Anglo immigration. The policy was very tolerant, and immigrants from England and America were welcomed with open arms.

After previous bad experiences with the natives, the new mutual enemy was perceived to be the Seminole Indians, not fellow Europeans. The Creek Indians had migrated south to Florida from bordering colonies and absorbed remnants of the Tocobagas and other tribes. Runaway slaves were also assimilated into the Seminoles. A warrior, whether of African or Indian descent, could just as easily become a tribal chieftain. Interestingly, the British had actively recruited both Indians and Blacks during the Revolutionary War. Accordingly the Americans were more wary of British sympathizers than the Spanish.

On the surface, the Seminole issue provided the reason for the American incursion into Spanish Florida (The First Seminole War). Seminoles had massacred a wagon train in Georgia, the victims included women and children. The guilty then fled back across into Spanish territory trusting that the Americans would not follow. The Spanish certainly did not support the massacre, but the beleaguered Empire was hard pressed to stop it. So in 1817 Major General Andrew Jackson taught the Spanish and Seminoles a lesson, with the tacit approval of then President Monroe. Jackson occupied Tallahassee. The Spanish protested to Washington demanding that Jackson be court martialed. But the then Secretary of

State, John Quincy Adams, responded with a virtual ultimatum, saying in so many words "control the Seminoles or we will." Although Congress attempted to censure Jackson, President Monroe supported him, and made his Governor of Florida.

In any case, as the white population increased, the Spanish found themselves footing the massive bill for their protection. The Spanish walked away in 1821, and ceded Florida to the United States for the sum of five million dollars. The U.S. government then spent millions more trying to protect their citizens during three drawn-out Seminole Wars. Now President, Andrew Jackson championed the campaign with The Indian Removal Act of 1830. The Act financed treaties that would force the Indians to move west of the Mississippi River. Ironically, the Supreme Court upheld the Indian's right to stay where they were. Jackson is reported to have replied "John Marshall has made his decision, now let him enforce it!" This eviction notice was the seed of the Second Seminole War. The U.S. government spent over 20 million dollars and lost 1500 troops fighting the Seminoles. Congress became so desperate that they passed the Armed Occupation Act in 1842 which essentially encouraged civilian militias' support of the Federal effort. The Act essentially stated that if you could settle a tract of land and keep your scalp, you could keep the land. This was easier said than accomplished.

William Hooker was one of the brave souls who attempted it. In 1846 one of his many ventures was an orange grove in Parrish. He pioneered grafting and other innovations to produce a particularly sweet fruit. His homestead, Oak Hill Plantation encompasses modern day Parrish. During the Indian scare of 1849, the women and children retreated to the relative safety of stockades. The men banded together in volunteer militia to defend their farms. Hooker's Fort was built on his homestead. Similarly John Addison recruited volunteers for Addison's Fort located at the Rye Bridge Crossing. A few dozen men attempted to hold off a superior force at Hooker's farm. The homestead was burned to the ground and five settlers lost their lives.

Captain William B. Hooker was a courageous pioneer on many levels. A paper written by Kyle S. VanLandingham describes his adventures. Hooker became the "Cattle King" of Florida with the second largest herd in the state. In 1859 he became the second largest stockholder in the Florida Peninsular Railroad. In between these impressive accomplishments he gained a reputation as a fearless Indian fighter. *The Tallahassee Floridian* described one engagement "Finding the opposite bank in possession of about 30 Indians, he crossed over with nine men to attack them. As he landed, two of his men were shot down, one with nine balls, the other with five. With the remaining men he boldly charged the enemy. He was left with no alternative but victory or death. After a close and deadly contest of some minutes, the savages were routed with severe loss." It was Hooker's strategy to pursue at any peril. The Seminoles were so elusive that on the rare occasion that a war party was spotted, his militia attacked with almost blind aggression. In business as well as war, Hooker took huge risks. He arose to dizzy heights, but declared bankruptcy twice. He ended up in politics and the hotel business in Tampa. "Hookers Point" the southern promontory of Ybor City now bears his name. It was once a disembarkation port for his cattle trade.

Fort Hamar was built in response to local Indian aggression. The Seminoles were well armed, resourceful and ruthless. Small militia garrisons could not meet the challenge without better organization and professional help. General David Twiggs ordered a company of regulars to supplement the two militia companies. The Fort Hamar facility was built to garrison them. It was a cluster of large log cabins which included barracks, hospital, sheds, and a barn. 75 Seminoles surrendered there in early 1850 and were summarily banished to an Arkansas reservation, one point of origin for the *Trail of Tears*. Location of the fort is questionable.

The Seminole conflict was a protracted fight for survival on both sides. Bear in mind that a Seminole victory would not have resulted in a reservation, but extinction. Finally in 1858 the settlers claimed victory in the long wars of attrition. The Seminole story is still cause for tears. The word Seminole is derived from the Creek word "run-away." In other words, the true Seminole identity was based on a shared story, not necessarily a shared race. Recent financial compensation of Seminole claims has caused a rift in the tribe. They elected to summarily expel those of African descent, denying them any benefit from the settlement. Ironically no one group can genuinely claim to be the original Floridians. Neither can the Native American Seminoles nor the African-American Seminoles, nor the Euro-Americans. That distinction belongs only to Florida's lost tribes like the Tocobagas.

The Seminoles were vanquished with the major obstacle to industry and agriculture removed, this ushered in a brief period of prosperity. Unfortunately this was short-lived. On 12 April 1861 Confederate troops opened fire on Fort Sumpter. Death and deprivation resurrected their ravenous jaws. Many of the women and children stayed home and had to fend for themselves. The terrible war of brother against brother was to make many of them widows and orphans. Not everyone suffered in the throes of war, some even profited. Sam Mitchell was one such entrepreneur. The route of today U.S. 301 was a major supply artery for the Confederacy. Mitchell ran cattle past the Union blockades to feed the hungry troops. He made a fortune and was so successful that he founded his own town, Mitchellville after the war. Shallow draft paddleboats could navigate as far inland as Mitchellville. This made it an invaluable outpost for trade. The little community was located close to the present day Rye Road Bridge (actually it was originally named the Mitchellville Bridge). As an interesting side note, Sam's brother Henry Mitchell was successful in politics as Sam was in commerce. Henry Mitchell became the 16th governor of Florida.

Ventures like Mitchell's were a tremendous threat to the Union's efforts. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman deemed such civilian activities to be as much a threat as enemy maneuvers. His scorched earth policy sought to destroy the supply lines of the enemy. Sherman's brutality in Savannah was legendary. Unfortunately the policy worked and was widely adopted by other Union generals. Since this area was the meat and potatoes for Confederate troops, it became an attractive target. The Civil War became uncivil and Yankee raiders pushed inland to destroy food sources. Accordingly, Union General Sherman is hailed as the father of "modern warfare" (a dubious distinction). Interestingly Sherman graduated in the same West Point class as Lee, who was at the top of the class, Sherman close to the bottom. The Gamble Mansion in Ellenton was one such target of "Total War." Fortunately, the Yankees ventured no further inland; and Hooker's plantation never fell victim to Union strategy.

The Florida gentry enthusiastically rallied to the cause of the South. Manatee County mustered the Eleventh Infantry. Maj. William Iredell Turner was a seasoned veteran of the Seminole Wars. He had enlisted 27 Aug 1834 and served until discharged 27 Apr 1834 when he re-enlisted 15 Aug 1834 and became 1st Sgt. of Co. B, 4th U.S. Artillery until discharged 15 Aug 1837. He then served as agent in the Quartermaster Dept. during the Third Seminole war. With such valuable experience, he was an ideal company commander in the Confederacy's 11th Infantry during the war between the states. A fairly complete muster roll can be found online at www.psy.fsu.edu/~thompson/cw/11-fl-inf/fl-11th-inf.html. Turner's Company includes some prominent local families such as Tison, Youngblood and Whidden.

Maj. Turner reluctantly resigned his commission before war's end due to old wounds and failing health. His return was in many ways a blessing. The needs on the home front were just as pressing as those on the battlefield. The Silver Grays, as they were called, were kindling that kept the home fires burning. There were Yankee garrisons in Tampa and on Egmont Key to contend with. The Union troops, with the support of gun ships, made frequent incursions inland to disrupt the confederate food supplies. Lee sent some of the 11th back home to protect the beef route on highway 301. After recovering, Maj. Turner led the Independent Cavalry, dubbed the "Cow Cavalry," which utilized tactics learned from the Seminoles, and the Yankees had cause to fear them. The decimated remnant of his old regiment of four officers and 19 men surrendered on the morning of 9 April 1865 to Gen. Custer's Cavalry at Appomattox. On the same day, a weary General Lee surrendered after the fall of Richmond.

That same year the Turner family acquired Oak Hill Plantation from William Hooker. It is likely that Turner was wary of Union retribution. Many wondered if the Union would seek restitution from high-ranking Southern officers. Under President Johnson's reconstruction plan, Southern landowners with more than \$20,000 in assets were required to personally petition the President for a pardon. It did not help that Maj. Turner had aided the Confederate Secretary of State Judah Benjamin in his flight from federal troops. Reputedly, Benjamin briefly sought sanctuary on the Parrish property, as well as at Gamble Mansion. Benjamin did eventually escape to England. Probably, as a safeguard, Turner's farm was initially registered in the name of one of his sons. The log cabin and orange grove on 500 acres were bought for \$1000. Maj. Turner was Bradenton's first postmaster and is credited with naming the town after its first doctor, Braiden. The doctor's home, Braden Castle [see the Historical Marker off Manatee Avenue by the river] can still be visited. It was a haven for settlers during the Seminole War. On the route to Parrish, Turner also gave a name to the place formerly known as Hog Town: "Gainesville" - after Gen. Edmund Pendleton Gaines. Turner is interred in the Parrish Cemetery. Turner never named a town after himself. It is fitting that a street name in Parrish honors him.

Judah Benjamin made overtures during his office as Confederate Secretary of State that have been all but stricken from modern revisionist history. In March 1865 he "promised freedom for Blacks who served from the State of Virginia. Authority for this was finally received from the Commonwealth of Virginia 1 April 1865; a sign-up bonus was offered to Black soldiers. Benjamin exclaimed, 'Let us say to every Negro who wants to go to the ranks, go and fight and you are free!' Officers were instructed to make sure they were protected from 'injustice and oppression.' According to historian, Scott K. Williams, 65,000 Blacks, bond and free, saw service in the Confederate Army. This figure includes 13,000 who "saw the elephant," meaning they actually experienced combat. In contrast to the Northern disparity in pay, free Black soldiers of the South were paid the same as their white counterparts.

History depicts the War between the States as a war for emancipation, yet Lincoln was concerned about preserving the Union, not slavery, and said so explicitly: "if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union." He was true to his word. There were still slave states in the north including land that is now Missouri, New Mexico, Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas and Utah. The emancipation proclamation freed not one single slave in Northern-controlled territory.

Jefferson Davis had trusted that the British would come to the aid of the South. He had good cause to hope so. The Industrial Revolution in England spurred an insatiable appetite for raw material, especially cotton. Southern emissaries were sent to England to garner support. When they were "kidnapped" from a flagged British ship, *The Trent*, the British embargoed the North in retribution. They also hastily dispatched 11,000 troops to Canada. Davis' dream and Lincoln's nightmare nearly came to pass. Potentially in those stalled negotiations, everything could have been on the table, including a Southern Emancipation Proclamation. It was a chess match of international diplomacy and Emancipation Proclamation was queen. In less than a year, Lincoln craftily countered with his Emancipation Proclamation. As landed gentry, the British identified economically, ethically and culturally with the South. However, thirty years prior, slavery had been abolished in the British Empire. So either the North or the South could have manipulated emancipation to court the British. With Lincoln beating Davis to the punch on the Emancipation Proclamation, now the British could not morally intercede. Implicitly they would be supporting the very institution that they had abolished. Besides, the British populace was tired of the conflict. They were just recovering from a bloody war of attrition in the Crimea and could ill-afford another Charge of the Light Brigade.

The story of the Blue and Gray is not as black-and-white as high school history paints it. Fiery sermons were shouted from Northern and Southern pulpits demonizing the other side. Northerners accused Southerners of being cruel slaveholders who treated people like domestic cattle. Southerners accused Northerners of being cruel industrialists who treated people like a disposable commodity. Perhaps both were correct to a degree. Sadly both were too busy pointing out "the splinter in their brother's eye" to see the "plank in their own."

Many Southern plantation owners and Northern industrial barons exempted themselves from military service. The men in the ranks did not own slaves or corporations. So these brave soldiers were not guilty of either sin. Yet, it was their innocent blood that paid the price. More Americans died in the Civil War than in any conflict before or since. Are we to learn from our mistakes and stop history from repeating itself. In that case, the unity in "union" means telling the whole story of both the North and the South. In this way history prevails over bigotry and hate surrenders to heritage.

Crawford & Mary Parrish's timing was perfect. They arrived at Oak Hill/Parrish in 1868 to an unprecedented age of peace and prosperity. Major Turner removed to Bradenton and he eventually became the town's first postmaster. Crawford & Mary Parrish were able to purchase much of the Turner's Oak Hill holdings. Cattle ranchers, Crawford & Mary had experienced their share of hardship; they had lost their eldest son Garrett in the Civil War; they were pushed out from the Suwannee River due to rapidly dwindling free grazing; and their first attempted Hernando homestead turned into a malaria ridden swamp. At last they had reached the promised land. Their herds flourished on the open range, the woods were teeming with wildlife. And they reaped a bountiful harvest in fertile soil. Due to temperate weather and lack of hard freezes, they slowly divested their other holdings and made Parrish their permanent home. They planted groves from citrus strains originally brought over by the Spanish.

The local cattle were also descended from Spanish stock - Andalusian. They bred with English stock from neighboring states, which included English Longhorn and English Shorthorn. The resultant cattle breed were called Florida Piney-woods. They were hardy stock, resistant to diseases like tick fever. They were mostly wild, since gathered in a herd by dominant bull, they roamed free in the swampland just as the buffalo had once roamed the plains. After the Civil War, the Floridians were devastated and destitute; these wandering herds revived post-bellum commerce. Every summer, a cow hunt would roundup the herd to brand the spring calves. Remember that everyone's cattle were mixed together - previously branded for identification (about 1000 brands were ultimately registered with Manatee County, the ear marks are also on file). On the hunt, the cowman would carefully observe which calves to draw to which cow. Then the calf would receive its mother's brand. If the brand-holder was not on the hunt, the cowman would charge him fifty cents for each calf branded. An honest cow hunter made \$1.00 a day.

The settlers would raise a vegetable garden to supplement their food and income. The nearest cows (not necessarily their own) would be rounded up and corralled to fertilize the vegetable patch. The calf would be kept penned and the cow let loose during the day to feed. The mother cow would come back at night to nurse its young and would fertilize the patch for no extra charge. The cow would be gently tamed, and then milked. So as not to deprive the calf, they only took 'a teacup per cow.' When the tract was adequately fertilized, the cows were freed and vegetables planted; then the corral would keep the cows out so the greens were not trampled or eaten. The bull would keep the steers (younger males) away from his herd, so the lone steers would be the most difficult to round up. Since a steer did not contribute to the growth of the herd, they were the first earmarked for slaughter. It did not cost anything to allow the beef put on a few more pounds, and they would generally leave them there about 5 years. Some of the more crafty steers evaded branding altogether, these were called "Mossy-horns" as they pulled down the Spanish moss from tree limbs. An unbranded Mossy-horn was fair game for anyone.

Hogs were not branded and were open-season all year round. Settlers preferred to eat pork as it did not diminish the herd. It was also a fun past-time between cow-hunts. The cowhunt lasted about 2 weeks and the "Biscuits and 'Tater's" title comes from biscuits and sweet potatoes that the cowman would take along to eat. The cowhunter was tougher than the cowboy, but did not cut a statuesque figure. His little Florida Pony was descended from Spanish stock. The saddle did not have a saddlehorn for roping - a "Florida Cracker" bull-whip and a good cow dog was all that was necessary. He carried his own bedroll, rain-skins, food, pots and pans all on one tough little pony, it must have been quite a sight.

The ranching information in this article was gleaned from *Biscuits and 'Taters* by Joe Warner. It is one of the most insightful and witty books about Manatee culture. Another is *The Singing River* which Warner also wrote. As a personal note, I met Libby Gillett Warner who contributed to and was a star in and hand-typed her late husband's books; she also appears on the back cover of the work. These books are available at the Park on Highway 64. She also appears in the illustration at the Manatee Historical Park next to Joe's hornless and hollow McClelland saddle. There were many adventures in this saddle. Joe tells great stories in his book about getting treed by the sharp horns of the Piney Cow.

The Parrish Homestead was located just north of the Parrish Fire Station on the same side of US 301. There is a small orange grove there now. Recently S.O. Parrish recovered the head stones of two Parrish family infants whose remains still rest beneath the orange blossoms. Mary transplanted a Bald Cypress from the river and planted it behind their home. If you go to Parrish and take 121st Street and go a couple hundred yards, you will see the lone tree by the road, still towering over its neighbors. After more than a century, it is a little worse-for-wear, but still standing proud.

Mary Parrish had a total of 8 children, not a large family in family in those days. An old family photograph depicts Mary & Crawford (Mary is holding Mary Deal Parrish on her knee); Anna Bess McCord Parrish sits on Crawford's lap. Their youngest was named Garrett after the big brother who perished in the Civil War. Industry and thrift were the highest virtues. Everyone pulled together and nothing went to waste. Community was not a nicety, it was a necessity. When hogs and cattle were butchered, everyone shared in the feast. When barns were raised, when cattle were rounded up, when crops were harvested, you counted on your neighbors. The Parrish family soon became known for their devoutness, friendliness, and generosity. Parrish can learn a thing or two from the Parrishes.

A Parrish Family Reunion was held Feb. 20, 2007 at an old Parrish Homestead. The old ranch is down highway 675 across from Saffold Road. The first Parrishes to own this beautiful tract were John and Eula. When they purchased the spread in 1913, John and Eula put up some cows, a watermelon crop and a truck as collateral. The owners can trace the deed back to 1890 when the Florida Cattle Company sold thousands of acres that included this land. In 1890, the purchasers were Lady Rosetta and Sir Walter Reed. The 40 acres is still owned by Parrish blood; Dwayne and Belinda Deen were the gracious hosts of the reunion. Between 50 and 100 family members gathered under the shade of an ancient oak. Some good BBQ was one of the main diah. Two big caldrons of swamp cabbage were one of the main culinary attractions. This dish is actually not cabbage, it is the heart of a local native palm prepared according to an old tradition. The palm is called a Sable Palm/Palmetto Palm/Cabbage Palm. Some of the older folks said that during the Depression they practically lived on it. Now it is considered a delicacy, the taste being similar to artichokes.

Not everyone at the Reunion knew each other right away. After folks greeted one another, it did not take long to identify their closest Parrish ancestor. Practically everyone was related by blood or marriage to Crawford & Mary Parrish. Four family musicians pulled out a fiddle, guitar, banjo and mandolin and performed marvelous old-fashioned shin-dig music. Some of the kids wandered back to Gamble Creek to paddle in the beautiful clear water. Some baby owls nested in the crux of the ancient oak casually observed the entire proceedings. Some incredible work has been done by the Parrish family to preserve their family heritage. Pam Parrish has catalogued the Parrish Cemetery and has recorded every person buried there. Her work can be found at www.interment.net/data/us/fl/manatee/parrish/. Also Karen Parrish Boglarsky has lovingly compiled many of the oldest family photographs and documents. This comprehensive work was on display at the reunion. Many images have been digitized and are archived at the University of South Florida. Visit their website and type in "Parrish."

This article appeared in *The Villager Magazine* [now North Manatee Observer] early in 2006. Dr. Cole is its founding editor, and permission has been given by him to MGS. Dr. Cole is currently President of the Parrish Community Foundation; Chaplain of the Parrish Fire Department. He can be reached at 941.776.9222, people@tampabay.rr.com].

Archives Places African-American Genealogy Series Online
(submitted by Melvin Ely)

The Missouri State Archives has placed online a five-part series to help family historians discover more about their African-American heritage. Entitled "African-American Genealogy: Putting Together the Pieces of Your Past", the series provides helpful tips on accessing the best websites, which records are most beneficial and how to get the most out of original records. To watch any of the five parts of this educational genealogy series, go to www.sos.mo.gov/archives/about/presentations.asp



CALCULATIONS OF BIRTHDATES
FROM TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS

What do you do when you have found a death date in years, months, and days with no record of a birth date? Here is how you can calculate dates of birth from tombstone inscriptions of this kind.

*The tombstone reads:
 "John Homewood Died March 5, 1875,
 Aged 68 Years, 5 Months, 6 Days"*

<u>First:</u> Convert tombstone death date:	<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>
Death Date	1875	3	5
Minus age of deceased	- 65	5	6

1875	3	5
Reducing 3 months to 2 months. The days you borrow are those of the remaining month, here 2February = 28 days in 1875 (29 in Leap Year). Add 28 to 5 making 33 days	-1	+28
1875	2	+33
- 68	5	6

1875	2	33
You can't subtract 5 from 2, so borrow a Year, (12) months reducing 1875 to 1874.	- 1	+12
Add 12 months to 2 months, making 14 months	1874	14
		33

1874	14	33
Subtract the age of deceased shown on Tombstone from adjusted death date.	- 68	6
	1806	9
		27

*JOHN HOMEWOOD WAS BORN IN 1806,
 THE 9TH MONTH, THE 27TH DAY
 OR SEPTEMBER 27, 1806*

Be aware that the determining of birth dates from age, year and day of death can be complicated by various calendars and their dates of introduction. For instance, the Gregorian calendar issued by edit of Pope Gregory XIII replaced the Roman Julian calendar in 1582. Ten days were added to the calendar in this revision. It was not readily accepted by Protestant countries, some taking many years to change. England (and, therefore, her colonies in America) did not accept the new calendar until 1752! By this time, the calendar was eleven days off. George Washington, who was then a grown man, changed his birth date from February 11 to February 22.