

# Roots & Branches

## Newsletter

Quarterly Publication of the Roots & Branches Genealogical Society

Volume 4 Number 1

DeLand, Florida

March 1995

### **Curt Witcher Seminar**

Genealogist Curt Witcher presented a wealth of information to the 150 genealogists who attended the seminar in Ormond by the Sea on January 28th.

He began his lecture by stating that there are small treasures everywhere in Academic Libraries, State Libraries and Public Libraries - most important being the Public Library. State Libraries have excellent primary sources; Public Libraries are best for secondary sources.

Simple guidelines were stressed - we all know them but sometimes are careless in our hurry to find information:

1. Use city/town directories in your search.
2. Remember the basics - be sure to gather Supporting Evidence.
3. Document your sources! [Remember your best find is usually about one minute before the facility closes AND ALWAYS record the prefatory pages!]
4. Watch your sources, and check out the abbreviations in the source. [The letters won't mean a thing unless you record their meaning.]
5. There is an art to asking questions. Know what you want. Give the librarian the specifics of what you are searching. They do not care one single whit about your family history. They have one of their own.
6. Scout the libraries you select. Know their policies and procedures and what their restrictions are.
7. Develop simple research strategies. Narrow your search: be consistent.
8. Take full advantage of automated technologies. There is a whole new world out there.

Mr. Witcher stated that it was time for libraries to serve their constituents - this ever growing army of researchers. At least, he said, they should know how to spell genealogy and know what an ancestor chart is.

DMW

### **Far Beyond the Call of Duty**

Since 1990, Louise Caccamise has quietly, thoroughly, diligently and effectively chaired the Book Committee in its acquisition of Genealogy books, micro-film, and of late, some computer software. During those years between \$15,000 - 20,000 was processed for new volumes. Additionally, Louise also processed 500 gift books. The Genealogy Room Card Catalog was frequently updated to be compatible with the computer files.

The Roots and Branches Genealogical Society sincerely extends their appreciation to her for her time and expertise in helping the organization grow in the effective way that it has.

Appreciation is also extended to the donors of both money to purchase books and the gift books that have been presented since the inception of R&B in 1987.

This is a fine organization of which we should all be proud. Let's keep it that way.



### **PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

Thursday, March 2, 1995 - Mrs. Shirley Mullins, Director, LDS Family History Center, Lake Mary, "Research Opportunities at LDS Centers."

Thursday, April 6, 1995 - Mrs. Dianne Matousek, Clerk of Courts, Volusia County, "County Records."

Thursday, May 4, 1995 - Dr. Gerald E. Critoph, Professor Emeritus, American Studies, Stetson University, "Loyalist and Rebels in New England."

Thursday, June 1, 1995 - Business and social meeting; planning.

## Board of Directors

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## PAF Instructional Session

Doug Little has indicated his willingness to have an instructional session in the DeLand Area Public Library on the LDS Personal Ancestry File (PAF), using the computer, projector and screen with someone's typical PAF data.

We need to have an indication from persons who might be interested -- put your name on a list at the genealogy desk (time & date to be determined later, but probably a Saturday session, either A.M. or P.M.).

## BACK ISSUES OF NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE

Volume 2 # 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8  
Volume 3 #1, 2, 3,

Ask the Volunteer on duty or Walter Pounds

## Volunteer Appreciation

We always need volunteers to serve in the Genealogy Room. The importance is greater now because we need to show the strength of our program and what the Genealogy Room has to offer and how much it is used.

Many, many thanks to Mary Lois Kelley, Robert Wallace, Charles Baker, Alyce Gillingham, Marion and Murray Day, Dorothy Eggleston, Carol Ferrara, Robert Fox, Hans Geuss, Dorothy Grantham, Marjorie Heaney, Kay Jenkins, Bette Lane, Arlene Liggett, Al Little, Walter Pounds, Jeanne Reeser, Dottie Weichman, Marilou Fox, Louise Little and Mary Ann Cring.

A special accolade to Mary Lois Kelley who donates HOURS of her time.

*Thank You!*

Walter Pounds for making and maintaining our name tags. Fritz Gellerman for making the name tags for the Witcher Seminar. Alyce Gillingham for her vigilance in the Genealogy Room. Walter Pounds, LeMoyne Meichner and Arlene Liggett for serving on the Nominating Committee.

To the R & B members for all your contributions for this newsletter. You are super - super! Some of the material will be used in the next newsletter. Keep the material coming. I am grateful - believe me!

(DMW)

## Reading The Shelves

Reshelving the books in the Genealogy Room is to be done by volunteers via the book cart. However, some books are returned directly to the shelves for whatever reason.

So, if you are looking for a book, and find some are misshelved, please find the niche where they belong. It will be greatly appreciated, and those books that appear to be lost - won't be.



These gift books have been added to our collection by Louise Caccamise, since the last newsletter was published.

THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER INDEX, VOLUMES 1-50 (2 vol.) ( Gift of Lea L. Winter, in memory of Henry E. Winter)

RELATED ROYAL FAMILIES, v. 2 (Gift of Malcolm & Bette Lane)

EARLY PEE DEE SETTLERS (2 vol.) (Gift of Amy Jean Hanscom)

KEY AND ALLIED FAMILIES

A FAMILY HISTORY: THE ANCESTRY OF RANSOM FRANK WELCH AND SUSAN CURTIS WELCH

THE LOYALISTS IN ONTARIO

SAGA OF A VILLAGE CHURCH, 1877-1937 (Gift of Dr. G. Robert Fox)

THE FRENCH FIVE HUNDRED (Gift of Dr. G. Robert Fox)

THE HOUSE (Gift of Dr. G. Robert Fox)

THE WORLD BOOK OF HARRISES (Gift of Joseph Harris)

DESCENDANTS OF HENRY HITT OF WOODBURY, CT (Gift of Craig B. Crippen)

1828 AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSIONERS

MONUMENTAL BRASSES (Gift of Marjorie Heaney, in memory of Susan Gellerman Nilsen)

FAMILY ROOTS, A GUIDE TO RESEARCH IN BRITAIN'S PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE (Gift of Joseph McCann)

ON TO RICHMOND (Gift of James A. Crenshaw)

POCAHONTAS AND HER DESCENDANTS (Gift of Pat Jarvis, Colonial Dames XVII Century)

The following are from the estate of Robert Carew Cleveland.

A HISTORY OF WILLISTON SEMINARY

DUNHAM GENEALOGY

BARDWELL/BORDWELL DESCENDANTS

DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS AND RICHARD BRUSH OF HUNTINGTON, LI

DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS AND RICHARD BRUSH OF HUNTINGTON, LI (SUPPLEMENT)

PROGRAM OF EXERCISES AT THE DEDICATION OF A SOLDIER'S MONUMENT

DURAND GENEALOGY

GENEALOGIES OF HADLEY FAMILIES

HAWKINS GENEALOGY, 1635-1939

HISTORY OF ANCIENT WETHERSFIELD (2 vol.)

FAMILIES OF EARLY HARTFORD, CT

MAYFLOWER FAMILIES THROUGH FIVE GENERATIONS, v. 7

VITAL RECORDS OF BRIMFIELD, MA TO 1850

VITAL RECORDS OF DUXBURY, MA TO 1850

VITAL RECORDS OF KINGSTON, MA TO 1850

VITAL RECORDS OF MARSHFIELD, MA TO 1850

VITAL RECORDS OF PEMBROKE, MA TO 1850

VITAL RECORDS OF PLYMOUTH, MA TO 1850

VITAL RECORDS OF SCITUATE, MA TO 1850 (2 vol.)

VITAL RECORDS OF WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA TO 1850 (2 vol.)

COLONIAL ANCESTORS ( 4 CT Families)

HERITAGE PRESS MONTHLY (Allegany Co., MD)

ABRAHAM SAMPSON IN AMERICA

THE FAUNCE FAMILY, HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF JOHN FAUNCE & DESCENDANTS

JOHN HOWLAND OF THE MAYFLOWER (2 vol.)

MAYFLOWER ANCESTRAL INDEX, v. 1  
PLYMOUTH CHURCH RECORDS, 1620-1859 (2 vol.)  
PLYMOUTH COUNTY, 1685  
THE WINSLOWS OF CARESWELL IN MARSHFIELD  
THE GENEALOGY OF FRANCIS COOKE  
MASSACHUSETTS OFFICERS & SOLDIERS, 1723-1743 - DUMMER'S WAR TO THE  
WAR OF JENKINS' ERA  
MASSACHUSETTS OFFICERS & SOLDIERS, 1702-1772 - QUEEN ANN'S WAR TO  
DUMMER'S WAR  
MASSACHUSETTS OFFICERS & SOLDIERS, 1748-1763 - FRENCH & INDIAN WARS  
MASSACHUSETTS OFFICERS & SOLDIERS, 1744-1755 - FRENCH & INDIAN WARS  
HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF THE MAYFLOWER PLANTERS AND FIRST COMERS  
TO YE OLDE COLONIE  
GENEALOGICAL REGISTER OF PLYMOUTH FAMILIES  
RECORDS OF NEW PLYMOUTH COLONY IN NEW ENGLAND

## **SECRET SOCIETY RECORDS**

An unusual source for genealogical records are memberships and other records of lodges and secret societies. During the 19th and early 20th century, these organizations were quite popular. The following addresses are for possible help in finding the records of your appropriate local chapter in which your ancestor belonged:

Fraternal Order of the Eagles (FOE)  
2401 West Wisconsin Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Loyal Order of Moose (Moose)  
Mooseheart, IL 60539

Benevolent and Protective  
Order of Elks (BPOE)  
2750 Lake View Dr.  
Chicago, IL 60614

Improved Order of Red Men  
Box 683  
Waco, TX 76703

Supreme Lodge, Knights of Pythias  
Room 201, Pythias Building  
47 North Grant St.  
Stockton, CA 95202

Imperial Council of the Ancient Arabic  
Order (Shriners)  
2900 Rocky Point Dr.

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of  
Free Masonry (Masons)  
33 Marrett Rd.  
Lexington, MA 02173

Tampa, FL 33607  
Patriotic Order, Sons of America (POSoFA)  
P.O. Box 1847  
Valley Forge, PA 19481

# SEARCHING FOR SCOTTISH ANCESTORS

There is a wide range of transactions covered by Deed Books in the American Colonies and early United States. Paper was scarce and with definite, unique rules of procedure not yet codified, many clerks often used such books as suited their fancy. They may include occasional recopies of wills in other places and locations. Thus, they are a boon that fills in the place of burned county records in other areas.

Apprentices, then popular, are often found in these pages complete with the age of the person and their parentage. This may include the nativity and place of birth in Scotland or the British Isles, and as the occupation is always given, that may be a clue to finding your ancestor in later years. Another document often found in deeds is the division or provisions regarding property when a widower married a widow. Petitions are found in these books relating to pleas for roads and bridges to market places or for division of the county signed by interested parties. Another necessary deed still in use is the "quit claim" deed. It gives clear title to lands that otherwise have cloudy titles.

While deed books will vary from state to state, those in New England are often found in towns or townships and in the south the books are in the county courthouses. Many of these books have been microfilmed. Some of the very early ones have been abstracted and printed. The state archives may have copies of the books and most of them have also been copied by the Church of the Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake. For further reading on kinds of deeds and detailed information, consult Val D. Greenwood, *The Researchers Guide to American Genealogy* or *The Source* by Arle Eakle. (In the latter book, check both grantors and grantees.)

More and more abstractions of deed books are including not only locations of counties and places in their indexes, but some of them name mills, cemeteries, churches, streams, creeks, mountains and swamps in their index. In the age of the computer, more writers are indexing in more detail.

In the book, *Virginia County Records, Volume 1*, by William Armstrong Crozier, which covers Spottsylvania County, Virginia, from 1721-1800, There are fourteen entries pertaining to Scottish people, many for English people and places, one each from Barbados and Germany, and any showing what states the settlers were leaving for.

(Excerpted from "The Highlander", article by Max Coppage, 1994) (For further reference, check the vertical file)



## Roots & Branches Genealogical Society Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Family / Single      **\$10.00**

Make checks payable to:  
Roots & Branches Genealogical Society

Mail to:  
Roots & Branches Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 612  
DeLand, FL 32721-0612

Annual dues follow the Roots & Branches fiscal year from  
July 1st to June 30th.

## On The Humorous Side

### Ocupsyshun - Census Taker

"I am a cencus takers for the city of Bufflow. Our citee has groan very fast in resent years & now in 1865, it has become a hard and time consuming job to count all the peePhill. There are not many that con do this work, as it is nessessarie to have an ejudashun, wich a lot of pursons sill do not have. Another atributeut needed for this job is god spelling, for many of the peePhill to be counted can hardle speak inglish, let alon spel there names!" (Copied)

(from the Jacksonville Area Genealogical & Historical Society, Jacksonville, IL)

Why is it? The only over-turned, face-down tombstone in the cemetery is your grandfather's? The only blot on the page of the census record covers your grandmother's birthplace? Your ancestor's will leaves his estate to his "beloved wife and children" but does not name them? Remember that no road is uphill both ways, so if the person sitting next to you in the library has all the luck, your day will come. It is out there someplace.

**Roots & Branches  
Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 612  
DeLand, FL 32721-0612**

## Genealogist's Initials

What the initials after some genealogists' names mean:

AG	Accredited Genealogists
APG	Association of Prof. Genealogists
BCG	Board for Certification of Genealogists
CG	Certified Genealogist
CGL	Certified Genealogical Lecturer

From Olmsted County Genealogical Society, Volume 18, No.1 Jan. 1995  
via LaCrosse Genealogical Society

### DID YOU KNOW???

Grave Markers Insured?

Did you know that most homeowners insurance policies cover "your" tombstone (i.e., grave markers of any type) for damages and theft of up to \$1,000 per accident, provided you own them. So, if you put up an expensive tombstone on your future "home", or on your grandparents grave, etc., maintain your records so that you (or your heirs) can prove you (they) own them. Check with your insurance agent for particulars.