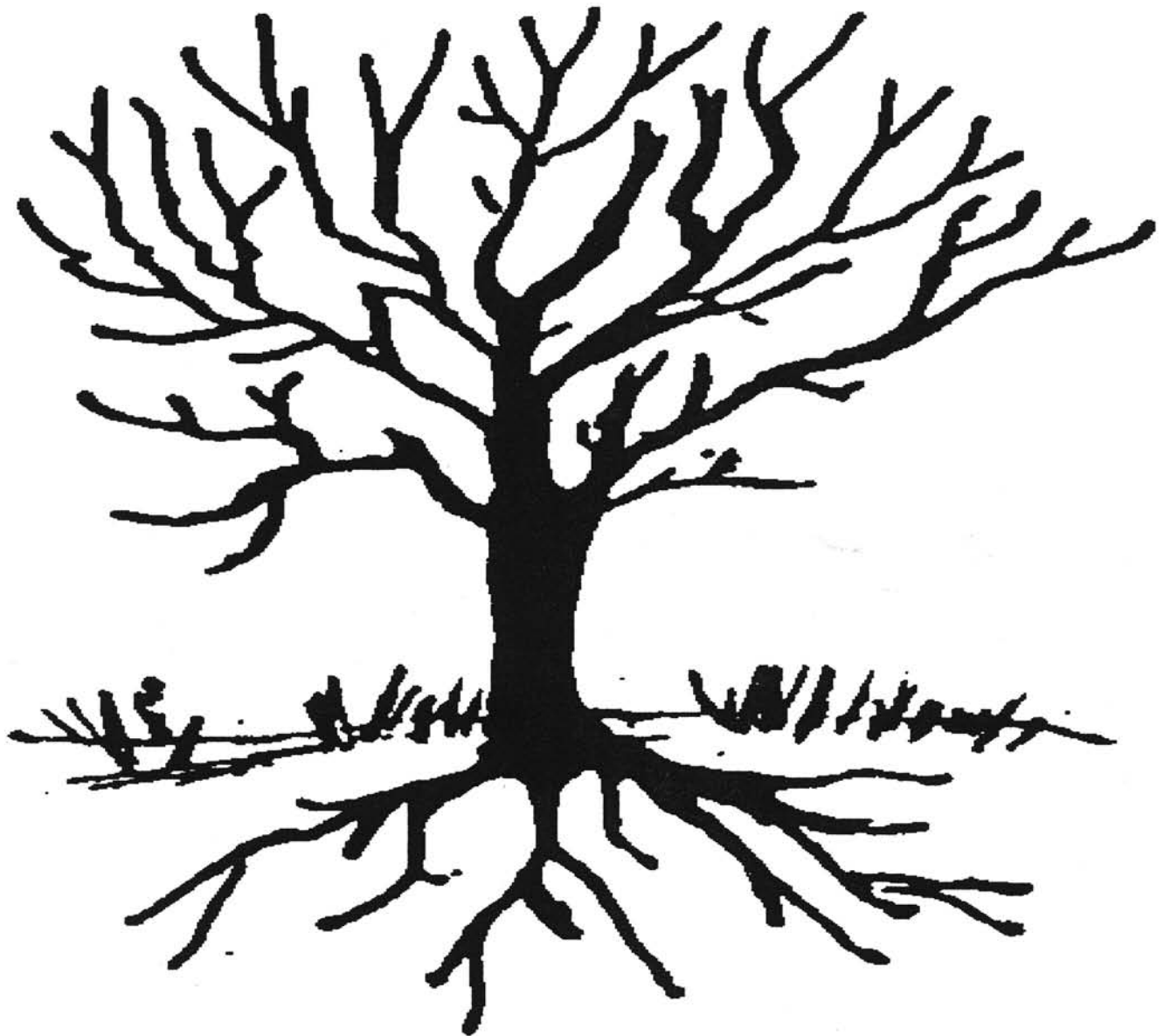

Roots and Branches

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MY FAVORITE ANCESTOR

My grandfather's grandfather, Adam Beck, was born on the 31st of December, 1840 in Pennsylvania. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he, like many other young men, felt he had a duty to serve his country. Answering the call, he joined the 78th Pennsylvania Volunteer infantry, Company D. Company D was recruited at Cherry Tree, Pa. In the Northeastern part of Indiana County. It was made up of lumbermen, farmers, and mechanics, with an average age of about twenty two years. Adam Beck was mustered in on the 12th of October, 1861 in Kittanning Pa.

The name "Army of the Potomac" is typically thought of as the entire Union Army. It however was only the name of that army of Union soldiers east of the Appalachians. The "Army of Cumberland" was the name of the Union Army in the western theater. The 78th was a part of this great army. Some of the more famous engagements that the 78th was involved in were: STONE RIVER, TN, December, 1862-January, 1863, CHICKAMAUGA, GA, September 1863, LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN and MISSIONARY RIDGE, GA, November, 1863 and ATLANTA CAMPAIGN, GA, May 1864- August, 1864.

Adam kept a diary of his day to day happenings of the war years, only the 1893 diary is known to exist. It is currently in the hands of one of my cousins who recently had it transcribed and published. The following are several accounts as told by Adam Beck:

"Thursday, January 1st. 1863- Three miles from Murfreesboro on the battlefield. The day cloudy and cool. Fighting is still going on, we moved back about 1 mile on the pike. We was on picket guard tonight.

Friday 2- This morning we got up, went in the cornfield right opposite the pike. We lay there some time, then we went back. We drew flour then we went across to the left. We had a very hard fight. We went into it about 2 P.M. lasted till dark. The day cloudy, it rained all night. Nathan Keim was killed today. We drove the rebels back, took their cannons, 5 pieces & two stands of Colors. Lieut. Halstead killed of Company K. We went back where the fight commenced, laid there all night in the mud, still some skirmishing yet tonight."

This was the battle of Stone River, where the 78th played a major part in routing the Confederate Army that day. From January through June, the 78th was stationed in Murfreesboro, TN.

The time was spent on guard duty, drills, dress parade, drills, reading and writing letters to loved ones, and last but not least, drills. It is interesting to note that it cost Adam 5 cents to get his shirt washed, and that he purchased a Nashville newspaper for 10 cents! The end of June brought movement in the Union Army as they headed southeast in search of the Confederate Army. It was a quiet summer with boredom sinking in.

"Monday July 27th.(Dechard, TN)- The day cloudy and it rained this morning at 4 o'clock, the day warm. I gathered a quart tin cup full of blackberries this afternoon, The rest of the time I done nothing but set around in the camp still guarding mules."

By the middle of September the Union Army had reached Georgia in a place called Chickamauga.

"Saturday September 19th - Chattanooga valley, Walker Co. Ga. Near the Chickamauga river guarding the fording. We was taken off about noon. We went to the Div. About three miles towards Chattanooga. They were fighting in front but our regiment did not get into the fight. It was a very hard fight. We were in front in the evening. The day cloudy and cool."

"Sunday 20th- Chattanooga valley, Walker Co. Ga. The day clear and cool. There was a very heavy battle today. We built breast works today in the morning on the right. Then we was ordered at 10 o'clock to support a battery on the hill in the rear of the left flank. We built breast works of rails there, then shelled the rebs. Then our regiment was ordered to fall back to Chattanooga to stop stragglers. The 21st Ohio Vols. Inf. Was on the hill yet they had a hard fight after we left. They were all cut up and taken prisoners. We fell back about 1 mile. Staid all night in Franklin Co. Tenn."

The hill that the 78th had occupied on the morning of the 20th, and later left to the 21st Ohio, was Snodgrass Hill, made famous by General Thomas, who held the position till nightfall to cover the retreat of the Union forces. For that stand, Thomas became known as "The Rock of Chickamauga."

It was during his time with the 78th that Adam Beck became well acquainted with Sergeant Samuel Irwin and his son John. John Irwin was captured and imprisoned in Andersonville, GA., where he died on July 8, 1864. Adam married Samuel's daughter, Hannah on April 29, 1868. They had five children.

Submitted by: Matt Kalus through Judy Otto.

QUOTING FROM THE HISTORY OF THE 78TH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY (1905)

" The Regiment embarked from Nashville on the evening of the 18th (October, 1864) and came by way of the Cumberland and Ohio Rivers to Pittsburgh. Every scene on the Ohio, above Louisville, reminded the members of the Regiment of their experiences, their hopes and their fears, when three years before, with two other regiments of Negley's Brigade, they had gone down the Ohio River as far as Louisville. These three years had been spent in campaigning through Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia. Three years before, these soldiers knew nothing of real warfare, now they were regarded, and deserved to be regarded, as real veterans. They had participated in great battles and knew what war meant."

For online reading of the 78th Penn. Volunteer Infantry, go to the following web sites. <http://members.tripod.com/%7EProlificPains/service.htm> or to see a picture of Adam Beck and read the first few pages of his diary: <http://members.tripod.com/%7EProlificPains/companyd.htm> (No spaces in web site addresses.

IMAGINE THE HARDSHIPS OF OUR ANCESTORS EDUCATION

"Schools were very imperfect in every respect except want of comfort and facilities. They were taught at the rudest log houses, and were poorly attended, probably by the children of two or three of the nearest families. It was then the custom, as more than one resident of the township can testify from experience, to go to school winter and summer barefoot, that seems unreasonable but it was done.

How? The barefooted child, to begin with had gone thus so long that his feet were hardened and callused to resist the cold, by several extra layers of epidermia, which necessity compelled Nature to provide. He could stand a degree of cold which would apparently chill him to the bone, and could walk for some time in snow and frost without suffering more than he could bear with reasonable fortitude. When he had to do extra duty in the snow and cold, however, he would take a small piece of a board, say a foot wide and two feet long, which had been seasoned and partially scorched at the fire, and after heating it until it was on the point of burning, he would start on a run toward the

schoolhouse, with the board in his hand, and when his feet became too cold to bear any longer, he would place the board upon the ground and stand upon it until the numbness and cold had been partly overcome, when he would again take his "stove" in his hand and make another dash for the schoolhouse and repeat the process until the building had been reached. This was actually done in Washington Township. Sometimes a flat light piece of rock was substituted for the board, and was much better as it retained the heat longer"

Submitted by Dorothy Anderson—

CHECK LABEL ON THIS NEWSLETTER, IF 98-99 IS NOT ON LABEL YOUR 1998-99 DUES ARE DUE.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN GENEALOGY ROOM

MEETING SCHEDULES

The Roots and Branches Genealogical Society meets at the Deland Public Library at 6:00 P.M. on the first Thursday in the Month at 6:00 P.M. September through June. The Board of Directors meet at the Library on the Friday proceeding the General Meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY

We will start a new section in which we will include definitions of some genealogical terms, as well as some words we will define in the next Newsletter. (See how many of the undefined terms you know.)

Ahnentafel: a table of ones ancestors, from the German Ahen(ancestor) and Tafel (table or list.

Amanuensis : Secretary or stenographer

Ascendant : Ancestor

Apoplexy: Stroke

Assignee: the person to whom a privilege or some property is signed over to by the court.

Assistant Marshall: the census taker prior to 1880

Bilious fever:

Black Death:

Boluter:

Boniface:

Borough:

Bounty Land:

Bounty Land Warrant:

Bundling:

Cadastral:

NGS 1998 CONFERENCE IN THE STATES

by Judy Otto

A whole week in Denver in May...how could I pass it up? May 3rd found us on a plane anticipating a lot of sightseeing and a lot of learning. We did both. From Pikes Peak to the Van Briggle pottery factory, the Cliff Dwelling Museum, a trip over The Continental Divide to the old silver mining town of Leadville- we tried to do it all in the two days before the conference started. We even saw snow and had a snowball fight in the higher elevations.

Early Wed. morning the conference opened at the Denver Convention Center. A large number (I never heard a total) of Genealogists from all over the country attended the opening meeting and then dispersed to attend the sessions of their choice. The number of subjects was impressive and in many cases we had a hard time choosing. Most of the time we went to different sessions and then compared notes. The most impressive handout in our packet was the program syllabus, which not only listed all of the subjects, the speakers and a lot of other information, but had a two page synopsis of every session.

Rather than try to describe the sessions, I will just mention a few miscellaneous facts that I learned.

< Always look for collateral lines. You never know who has the old Bible, a diary, letters. Etc.

<Some typical misconceptions: 1) Court records are always indisputably correct. 2) A published abstract is all you need. 3) If the records dispute your traditions, you must be looking at the wrong family.

< Some reasons you missed something important in your research: 1) It was a long time ago—now you have additional information. 2) You didn't take time to read the introduction, notes and bibliography. 3) You stopped with the abstract, 4) You didn't read every word.

< When planning a visit to your ancestral village: 1) Do your research ahead of time. European genealogists are impatient with Americans who come unprepared.

2) Know the exact name of the village your ancestors came from as well as the modern day name.

3) If you are not fluent in the language, learn a few essential words, i.e. entrance, exit, one way street, bathroom, no admittance, danger, etc.

< Don't wear white sneakers when visiting Europe. Europeans think they are tacky and equate them negatively with Americans. Make a good impression by dressing conservatively and wearing black walking shoes.

The conference was such a wonderful experience. There was so much to learn from the speakers and I haven't even mentioned the exhibit hall. That will have to be an other article.

GENEALOGICAL EVIDENCE**To be Weighed**

There are few things in genealogical research that can be proved with an absolute certainty—unless it is possible to produce an eyewitness to birth, marriage or death or an account of an event written immediately afterwards, not months or years later. For example, a doctor who delivered an infant can testify only to the identify of the child's mother. He can not give testimony to prove the father of the child. Here are some guidelines to judge the reliability of genealogical evidence.

- 1) Testimony of eyewitnesses is personal knowledge and is excellent' depending on the competency and credibility of the witness.
- 2) Official records (land, probate, vital statistics and other court records) are an excellent source and apt to be correct in most cases.

- 3) Unofficial records (church, corporation, etc.) usually are good but reliability varies.
- 4) Family records (diaries, journals, letters, Bible records, etc.) vary in reliability from poor to good.
- 5) Newspaper files (contemporary accounts of birth, marriages, deaths) are usually good sources; the hazard is the informant's knowledge and the possibility of typographical error.
- 6) Family genealogies (printed and manuscript) are usually good sources, but the test is who compiled the work and when, sources of information, and whether you locate the records used. Stories passed from one generation to another usually have been embellished with each telling and are unreliable.

You will need to record each item of evidence you locate and judge the reliability in an objective manner. (excerpts from an article written by Ceta Armitage for the Tampa Tribune.) found in The July August 98 edition of The Quest- Newsletter of the Ohio Genealogical Society Vol. 15, No.4 Page 46

QUIPS AND QUOTES

- 1) Remember, undocumented genealogy is mythology.
- 2) Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality.
- 3) When I searched for ancestors, I found friends.
- 4) I'm not stuck, I'm ancestrally challenged.
- 5) Documentation ...the hardest part of genealogy.
- 6) A family tree can wither if nobody tends its roots.
- 7) Snobs talk as if they had begotten their own ancestors.
- 8) That's strange; half my ancestors are women!
- 9) Only a genealogist regards a step backward as progress.
- 10) My ancestors must be in the witness protection program.
- 11) Genealogy; Chasing your own tale!
- 12) Floor; the place for storing your priceless genealogy records.
- 13) Try Genealogy; You can't get fired and you can't quit.

All these gems from March -April 1998 Wood County. Ohio newsletter, NEWSLETTER.(Found in same issue of The Quest as previous article)

WHERE DID YOUR SURNAME COME FROM?

A tourist in San Francisco is visiting Chinatown. He gets to the area of all the Chinese laundries and is amazed to see that one of them is named " Sven Olafson Laundry". He is curious and walks up to the Chinese man behind the counter and asks to speak to the owner. The Chinaman says. "I am Sven Olafson" The tourist asks how he ever got a name like that, and Sven explains..."when I first came to America I was in an immigration line behind a big Swede, Sven Olafson. The immigration agent asked him "What is your name?" He says "Sven Olafson" When it is my turn that agent asked me "What is your name?" I said "Sam Tang" (Same issue of The Quest")

NOTATIONS WRITTEN BY DOCTORS ON DEATH CERTIFICATES

A mother died in infancy.
 Deceased had never been fatally sick, died suddenly at the age of 103.
 Went to bed feeling well, but woke up dead.
 Kicked by a horse shod on the left kidney.
 Pulmonary hemorrhage, sudden death, duration four years.
 Deceased died from blood poisoning, caused by a broken ankle, which is remarkable, as the automobile struck him between the lamp and the radiator
 (From " The Sunny Side of Genealogy" by F.D. Baselt, 1986, p.70) found in Gen News Halifax Genealogical Society June 1998)

CENSUS TIP

Censuses were loose papers before they were bound and then filmed. After the loose papers were bound, a number was stamped on each page. Sometimes the pages were not in sequential order when bound. If you find an ancestor at the bottom of one page and the rest of the family is not on the next page, check the sequence of numbers for families and dwellings; the rest of the family may be several pages away. (From Blue grass Roots, Vol. 24, No.3, Fall 97, via The Pinellas Genealogist, Summer 1998, & Links & Bridges Vol.12 No. 7 July 1998)

ANCESTORS

ANCESTORS are found along with old favorites and captive skeletons in all the best families. ANCESTORS consist of forefather's and foremothers, to say nothing of foreuncles and aunts, who have done something grand and noble... like being beheaded by a king or having a relative who was the governor of a colony. This enables them to be pointed to with pride by their descendants forevermore.

Being an ANCESTOR is one of the easiest and most attractive jobs. It merely consists of being boasted about by one's descendants. Thus many ANCESTORS have been able to make good after they are dead. More than one ANCESTOR has gone out of this life a poor person, only a few jumps ahead of the sheriff... but has had the good fortune, a century later, to become the ANCESTOR of some ambitious family with plenty of money. He has become so famous in consequence that his tombstone has had to be greatly enlarged and improved.

ANCESTORS are one of the most valuable and satisfactory possessions. They are nontaxable, and can't be stolen. Their upkeep is practically nothing, and they do not deteriorate with age or neglect. In fact, they increase in value as they grow older. An ANCESTOR six hundred years old is worth a mass meeting of fifty-six-year-old ANCESTORS. Adam is the oldest ANCESTOR, he is six thousand years old and has a fine record., but he is a common possession, like education and liberty, so he isn't very highly valued.

Almost all rich people own and operate ANCESTORS. But poor men have them, too. Many a man who hasn't two vests to his name and cannot hold a job for two minutes has ANCESTORS that are the envy of his neighbors. We cannot buy ANCESTORS, if we do not have them.. but we can buy them for our children by marrying discreetly! (unknown author)

THE OLD FAMILY ALBUM

The old family album, the pages are worn,
 From turning and browsing they are tattered
 and torn,
 For memories are sweet ones, we like to
 repeat ones,
 We live them again, in the old family album.
 Now picture the family, we're all having fun,
 We're in this together.. parents, daughters,
 and sons.

For pictures are share times, those family
 affair times.
 We live them again, in the old family album.
 The camera is snapping, while gifts we're
 unwrapping.
 The lens is recording, our group as we're
 boarding.
 The shutter is clicking, while baby is kicking.
 And all to record, in the old family album.
 So stand all together, remember to smile.
 We'll all be recorded, in family group style.
 The camera is ready, now everyone steady,
 And we'll be a page, in the old family album.
 (Author unknown.)

The following items were among many humorous requests received by Glade I. Nelson, President of the Association of Professional Genealogists. From Golden State News, via The Florida Genealogist Vol. XXI, No. 1. And Links & Bridges Vol. 12 No. 7, Newsletter of The Genealogy Society of Hernando County.

- "I've looked for grandpa for over 20 years. Do you have him in your library?"
- "We're having a hard time finding the records that haven't been kept."
- "Would it be possible to send copies of my ancestors?"
- "I am mailing you my aunt and uncle and three of their children."

RESEARCHING IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Circle Friday and Saturday 25-26 1999 On your calendar. The Station Square will be headquarters for the conference celebrating the 25th. anniversary of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.

Keynote Speaker will be Hank Jones, author of *Psychic Roots and the Palantine Families of New York-1710*. Over twenty sessions will include a choice of speakers, covering general genealogical and specific western Pennsylvania topics.

This might be a good time to start planning that trip back to Pa. More information will be available in their Jan.-Feb. newsletter. I will keep you posted. Judy Otto

ABOUT YOUR NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first meeting of the Roots and Branches Genealogical Society's 1998-1999 year and to the first issue of your newsletter for this year. We hope you all had a productive summer of research and have lots of success stories to tell. Our hope is to publish four issues this year, the success of which will depend on several factors.

Enclosed in this issue you will find a questionnaire. As you read it you will realize the questions are written to determine what contribution each of us can make to the success of our newsletter. We want to personalize each issue with more articles, written by our members. We can help each other by sharing our successes, failures, funny things that happened along the way, our expertise, and our ideas. We also can share what we have learned from other sources---tidbits of information from other newsletters, meetings we attend, from the internet, from magazines, etc.

As we have looked through our past newsletters, there have been good articles from the membership. There have also been several good ideas that died due to lack of participation. Unfortunately a large number of the articles, while well done were written by the same few people. We want to try to change that this year by requesting articles from specific people. Don't panic! It won't be difficult, if we all participate the few won't get burned out.

Will you please take a moment to answer the questions and give some thought to the type of articles you would like to read in your newsletter. If you have a special story you would like to volunteer to write, please tell us about it on the back of the page. If you have enjoyed the newsletters of the past please tell us what articles or types of articles you liked and would like to continue to see in your newsletters. You can mail your questionnaire to the address on the back cover of this newsletter, or drop it off in the Genealogy room (attn. Tom Calvin) or bring it to the next meeting on 1 Oct. After the October meeting we plan to call each member we have not heard from. Please save us from making too many calls by returning it ASAP. One additional thought. **1998-99 DUES ARE DUE.**

Tom Calvin & Judy Otto

SALT LAKE CITY

Salt Lake City is one of my favorite places to visit. My main reason to go there is to spend time in the beautiful library there. I spend many an hour happily looking for family records among the many available rolls of microfilm. Those times that I am not successful in adding to the family history. I rejoice with anyone who shares their tale of pursuit with me. Much of my time has been spent in the basement with the people manning the international desk. I have family in Sweden and although I do not read this language, I have successfully traced generations myself. Last March, while traveling with the Volusia genealogical group I was looking for information for a cousin. Chuck knew these facts: his grandfathers birthday, his departure date from Sweden (no locations!) and he knew that his father had changed his name leaving Sweden. During a previous SL visit I had taken a class, taught by one of the Swedish researchers, offered during my visiting time, and we narrowed the parish location possibility, The Swedish archives from that area provided my cousin with the name of a young man who had the same birth date and had left approximately the same time. With some suggestions from the people on the front desk I was able to find the birth announcement and to place him within a family unit who fit the description my cousin had through oral history of his particular family. This summer, my cousin and I met for the first time on an Swedish Elderhostel. We continued to travel after the program to visit the villages and farms where our grandmothers had spent the early years of their lives. Chuck was able to meet with an old timer of 75 who was one of the grandsons of an elder brother of Chuck's grandfather who filled him in on some of the lapses in the family history. The last I knew the Volusia Genealogical Society was planning a seminar in Salt Lake City under the direction of Fran Carter November 8-15. Information can be obtained by calling Jean Reiser, Ormond Beach. The above submitted by Carol Ferrara.

From First United Methodist Church, Deland, Bulletin Aug. 16, 1998. **ALTAR FLOWERS:** To the Grace of God and in honor of our 58th Wedding Anniversary, from Murray and Marion Day.

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