



Roots and Branches Genealogy Society of West Volusia County

130 E. Howry Avenue, DeLand, Florida 32724

April, May & June 2009
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flrbgs/



Time For Spring Cleaning!

DeadFred.com wants your orphan photos, p. 9



Malinda French Is Remembered For Her Kind and Generous Ways by Her Great Granddaughter—Pat Ritter

Malinda rocked slowly on the wooden porch, shelling peas as her eyes eagerly scanned the horizon of the Iowa prairie, looking for Sam. Since the war he had never felt good, being bothered by dysentery most of the time. But he would soon be coming back from a hard day in the fields, and would always arrive with a smile for her as the wagon pulled near.

The grasses no longer shown with the green of the springtime they had traveled through on their way west from Baltimore. Now the fields were brown, tinged with gold, after the long summer of sun and winds bending them to the ground. Some might not see the beauty, but Malinda basked in the wide fields that nourished them and their children, and would do so through the icy winter ahead.

She pondered the first day that her Indian friends had come to visit—poor things. Those people were near starvation, but kept walking on past Sam and Malinda's land. Malinda was alone, except for the children, but called out to the wanderers. Always known for her friendly ways, Malinda invited the Indian family to join her on the porch, and to have water from the well. Then, seeing their condition, she asked them to stay for supper.



Malinda French

Their little girl, Alice, gazed with solemn eyes as her mother served beets, corn, and carrots to the hungry guests. The food was gone in only a few moments. The Indian family came back many times and was always rewarded with food.

Please see page 5 *Malinda*

Inside this issue:

History, Mission, Officers & Committees 2

Calendar 3

President's Agenda 3

Cover Story 5

Sleuthing With Jerry 6

Special points of interest:

Learn how agriculture in the 1800's changed the ecosystem of Iowa, page 4.

Keep your data safe with advice from Jerry Hale, page 6.

Spring Cleaning? DeadFred.com wants your "orphan photos," page 9.

Twenty questions to help you interview relatives from *Family Tree Magazine*, followed by a few first memories, page 10.

Check out the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress, page 13.

Renew your New Year's Resolutions with tips from www.genealogy.com, page 14.

What Is Roots & Branches?

History & Mission: Founded in 1986, the Roots & Branches Society of West Volusia County, serves the cities of DeLand, Deltona, DeBary, Enterprise, Osteen, Pierson, and Seville. The purpose of this Society is to stimulate and promote interest in genealogical and historical research; to provide instruction in the use of efficient mechanics and adherence to scientific principles of accuracy and thoroughness in research.

Society Projects & Lecture Subjects: Our meetings feature workshops and speakers on such topics as early land, church, census and probate records; research documentation and organization; DNA testing and internet search. Society projects include staffing the Genealogy Room at the DeLand Public Library, digitizing the Brownell Collection for preservation and

sharing with the Historical Society, maintaining the vertical files and an indexed collection of obituaries from the Beacon and News-Journal, and continuing the collection of pertinent information on West Volusia cities and pioneer families of the area.

With sixty-one members from all over the United States, the Society is a diverse group of all ages. We meet the third Sunday of each month, September through June, in the Auditorium of the DeLand Public Library for a Program at 2:00 PM. A 45 minute beginners' lesson is offered at 1:00 PM prior to the meeting in the Conference Room behind the Audio/Visual desk. Guests are always welcome. The Society's Board meeting is held the Friday prior to the General Meeting at 3:00 PM in the Conference Room. Members are always welcome and

encouraged to attend.

To speak with a Roots & Branches member in the Genealogy Room call the DeLand Public Library at x117, (386) 822-6430. Find the library on the web at

<http://volusialibrary.org/branchinfo.html#DLN>

E-mail:

roots.branches.volusia@gmail.com

Welcome New Members!

Willo Kollinger, Karen Szczesniak, Carol Dowling, James Hedlund, A. Dale Stewart, Arthur Hasbargen, & Doris Hasbargen

Contact the DeLand Family History Center at (386) 822-9695.

Officers & Committees

President: Jim Pardee

1st Vice President & Program Chairman: Carol Izzo

2nd Vice President & Membership Chairman: Mary Lois Kelley

Recording Secretary: Harriet Bolin

Treasurer: Judy Warensford

Corresponding Secretary: Jerry Hale

Past President ex officio: Rosemary Sutton

Publicity Chairman: Carol Izzo

Newsletter Distribution: Mary Lois Kelley

Newsletter Editor: Linda Williamson

Webmaster: John Woodard

Vertical File: Kay Jenkins



PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR GENEALOGY ROOM DUTY; WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Spring Calendar—Carol Izzo



Sunday, March 15, 2009 Kathy Stickney will be speaking on “**Validating Your Information**” at the general meeting. At 1:00 PM prior to the general meeting Rosemary Sutton will present the lesson on “**Time Lines and Genetic Heritage.**”

Sunday, April 19, 2009 Linda Vivian will be speaking on “**Family Reunions.**” at the general meeting. Her advice is to: “Set aside the census records, certificates, wills and other old documents. You can even turn off your computer for now. This presentation is about celebrating the family that’s still around. Family reunions don’t have to be stuffy, boring affairs. They can be a fun way to reconnect, honor, and share stories -- which may just help with your genealogy research. Learn how to organize a meaningful family reunion and actually enjoy it, too.” At 1:00 PM prior to the general meeting Rosemary Sutton will present the lesson on “**Wars & Military Records.**”

Sunday, May 17, 2009 Karen Carlisle will be speaking on “**French Canadian Research**” at the general meeting. At 1:00 PM prior to the general meeting Rosemary Sutton will present the lesson on “**Migratory Trails & Territorial Records.**”

Sunday, June 21, 2009 Sharon Lopes will be speaking on “**Legacy Writing**” at the general meeting. At 1:00 PM prior to the general meeting Rosemary Sutton will present the lesson on “**Preparing For A Research Trip.**”

The President’s Agenda—*Jim Pardee*



“Spring has sprung; the grass has riz;
I wonder where the birdies IS.”



I don’t know the poet, but everyone has a version of that old poem in the back of his head. The idea, of course, is new growth and that’s what Roots and Branches has to have.

We have enjoyed the return of our favorite speakers and that is evident by the turn out at the regular meetings. Everyone wants to hear what the speakers have to say, but there doesn’t seem to be any more activity. We haven’t seen a flood of volunteers for the genealogy room and certainly no volunteers for the scanning project. Jerry, Margaret and I have barely made a dent into the “Yates” collection, but we are plugging along. Why don’t you come take a look at what we are doing and try it yourselves?

Carol Izzo is trying to find future programs although she has formally offered her resignation as program director. There were no volunteers to take over those duties, either.

It won’t be long before summer will be here and many of you will be taking off for your summer homes and/or visiting your relatives, doing some “hometown” genealogy research. Don’t forget to check out the local library in your home town. Those small libraries usually have the best local history selection and the librarians there are most likely to want to help you in your search.

Here’s hoping your search for you roots AND Easter eggs goes well again this year.

JIM

The World of Malinda & Sam French, Pat Ritter's Great Grandparents

A Century of Change—1800 to 1900

www.igsb.uiowa.edu/Portrait/3change/change.htm



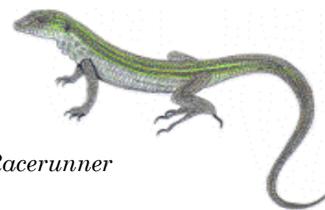
Michigan Lily

In the 1800s, Iowans reworked the face of their new state with a speed and to an extent perhaps unparalleled in human history. At the beginning of the century, a blanket of prairie cloaked three-quarters of this "land between two rivers." Pothole marshes dotted the flatter north-central part of the state, while a network of streams laced the rolling hills elsewhere across Iowa. Dense

forests engulfed some valleys in the east and groves of bur oaks climbed out of the river corridors and onto the ridges to form savannas. Thousands of Native Americans lived on the land, harvesting wild plants and animals, growing crops, and occasionally managing the vegetation with fire. By 1900, however, Euro-American settlers had claimed nearly all of Iowa's 36 million acres as farmland.

Non-Indian settlement officially began on June 1, 1833, when pioneers first were allowed to claim new land in the 6-million-acre Black Hawk Purchase along the west side of the Mississippi River. By 1846, when

Prairie Racerunner



Iowa became a state, census records listed 96,088 people. The population doubled to 192,914 by 1850 and topped one million before 1870. In 1900, Iowa had 2.2 million people, compared to 2.9 million people today. Most lived on the state's 200,000 farms, working land where 95 percent of the prairie, two-thirds of the woodlands, and most of the wetlands had been converted to agriculture.

The earlier settlers may have preferred to stay close to forest edges, where they could cut trees for building materials, fences, and fuel. But the lack of trees on the expanses of prairie only briefly delayed the rush



*In his painting *Fall Plowing*, renowned Iowa artist Grant Wood focused on the geometric patterns that cultivation brought to the land, and he highlighted the implement of change - the plow. Wood captured the steeply rolling hills of southern and eastern Iowa farmland. Courtesy of the Deere Art Collection, Moline, Illinois.*

of settlement to the more open lands of northwest Iowa. Especially after the Civil War, there was a major push onto the prairies. And once the farmers came to an area, it took less than ten years for the "frontier" to become agricultural land.

Most of the prairie sod was turned under with oxen and breaking plows and later with steel plows. The remainder disappeared in the face of heavy grazing and competition from introduced grasses. Farmers also suppressed fires, which once had discouraged woody plants and alien species from invading the prairies. The few prairie remnants that survived often were wet areas that had been used to harvest wild hay. Many of those sites later would be doomed by dredges and tiling machines that made drainage easier, and also by continuing pressure in the twentieth century to cultivate more land.

The dramatic, swift, almost complete change of diverse prairie to a monoculture of cropland profoundly altered the ecosystem. Twenty-eight million acres of bluestem, dropseed, compass plants, cone-flowers, gentians, and 200 other species were transformed, in a relative eye blink, into a patchwork of corn, wheat, oats, hay, and pasture. Those plots have expanded to the huge roadside-to-roadside corn and soybean fields that we see today.

At the same time, although to a

lesser degree, the loss of forests also reshaped the state's landscape. Naturalist Bohumil Shimek described Iowa's pre-settlement forests: "There were still miles upon miles of almost undisturbed timber, fine white oaks predominating on the uplands, the hard maple occasionally dominating the river bluffs, and the red cedar finding an anchorage on the limestone ledges, while the black walnut and various softwood trees occupied the narrow bottom lands. The upland woods were carpeted in early spring with hepaticas and the rue anemone, while the ravines were decked with beautiful ferns, interspersed with pink and yellow ladies'-slippers and many other wild flowers, all in great profusion."

Early surveyors' notes suggested that trees covered about 6.7 million acres or 19 percent of Iowa around the time of statehood in 1846. Settlers steadily cleared the forests, however, as they grubbed out trees for crop fields, rail fences, log buildings, and lumber. By 1857, the Iowa State Agricultural Society had issued a plea calling for more careful use of timber resources. Steamboat crews, who regularly stopped to cut trees to burn for fuel, decimated some forests along major rivers.

Boat decks were stacked with cordwood. When railroads came to Iowa in 1855, they brought another assault on the woodlands. The

state's eventual 10,000 miles of rail lines needed about six acres of oak woods, perhaps 800 trees, to make ties for every mile of track. What's more, those ties usually had to be replaced every five to seven years. Railroad cars, trestles, and fuel for some

"The dramatic, swift, almost complete change of diverse prairie to a monoculture of cropland profoundly altered the ecosystem."

steam engines also required wood from the forests.

Often, trees grew back rapidly after they were cut. But with the invention of barbed wire in 1873, the forests faced another threat, as farmers found it easier to use woodlands for grazing. Although the livestock didn't always destroy the forests, the animals compacted the soil, ate or trampled seedlings, and changed the character of the woodland community. Coal mining also took its toll on forests as trees were cut to shore up mine shafts. By 1900, more than 4 million acres of Iowa's original forests had been lost to other uses. *Editor's Note: Use the hyperlink in the title to the web site for the complete article.*

Malinda *From page 1*

Other people in the community of Farmington, Iowa, may have been afraid, but not Malinda. She told her daughter Alice, "We must always feed the hungry, for it is God's will that we take care of one another." Many years later, when Alice was herself a grandmother, she remembered this afternoon in the Iowa prairie and told her granddaughter,

Patsy, of the kindness of her mother and of her generosity to those in need. Now, Patsy remembers.

Malinda and Sam French were Pat Ritter's great grandparents. —Pat Ritter

Editor's Note: Records show that Malinda Newman married Sam French March 8, 1866 at home in Clark

County, Missouri. Pat is researching the Virginia Families of Wise, Scarborough, and Haley, and the Iowa families of French, Newman (Neumann) and Strah (Straw). This is Pat's first contribution, and we hope it is the first of many. She has been a member of Roots & Branches for 8 years.



Sleuthing With Jerry—Backing up your Digital Data—Jerry Hale



You can be sure of one thing. Your hard drive WILL fail. Not MAYBE, it WILL fail. When that happens and you do not have a backup I can't explain the feeling of panic and disbelief that will flood over you as you realize what all you have lost.

How do you back up your valuable digital data? Do you have a plan? Here are some of the lessons I've learned and what I'm doing presently, I have still lost data but not so much any more, I tend to learn slowly but well ;-)



Heathkit H-3 computer 1977



When I got my first computer, a Heathkit H-8 in 1977 the method of loading programs or writing a backup was the ordinary cassette tape. Cassettes were exceedingly slow and very unreliable. When loading a program one waited for 10 or 15 minutes only to receive the message "FAILED." One wrote backups four or five times hoping that one copy would be readable. In order not to have to switch my tape player back and forth I had the luxury of having two tape machines, one for record and one for playback. I could then make copies of these lousy tapes!

After a while 8" (80 kb) and 5-1/4" (360 kb) and then 3-1/2" (720 kb, later 1.44 mb) floppy disks were introduced, first with "hard sectored" disks then "soft sectored" disks. (A pair of floppy drives for the Heathkit cost \$450!) Of course they were not compatible with each other so one was forced to move everything to the newer disks. These disks were also "single sided" or "double sided." I quickly learned that punching a hole in the disk cover in just the right place would make a single sided disk into a double sided one, doubling the disk capacity.



3-1/2" floppy

Floppies were expensive and didn't hold very much so many of us shifted to backup tape of various kinds. I learned the hard way that these tapes used proprietary formats and were quickly made obsolete by ever changing drives. Just when I thought I had all the bases covered I learned that the index for the backup had remained on the hard drive and died with it making the tape useless. I tried ZIP disks then JAZ disks and finally ORB disks. All fell by the wayside when writeable CDs became available and were themselves replaced by writeable DVDs.



"DITTO" backup tape



CASTLEWOOD "ORB" backup drive.

A single copy of your data is not a safe solution no matter where it is. You need at least two copies of everything. I keep one set of DVDs in a fireproof safe and occasionally send a backup set to my daughter in North Carolina "just in case." This is called an "off site" backup and is essential, especially with fire season upon us and hurricane season coming soon.

Recently I've subscribed to as you create or modify your unlimited space. That pro-destroyed, including all of CARBONITE. Once the that, I mean all of my back-are no longer useable! Try



IOmega "JAZ" Drive/disk

CARBONITE which will create an immediate backup online files. This service costs about \$50 per year and allows duces an "off site" backup in case everything in my home is my backup disks. There is an additional benefit of using files are uploaded they become "machine independent." By ups that are still on ZIP, ORB, JAZ disks or magnetic tape to find a device that reads these "legacy" media.

Fortunately I have been fairly diligent in "migrating" these backups onto whatever the latest media happens to be. Now with CARBONITE I expect to be able to download my files without regard to the type of media. CARBONITE uses redundant storage (RAID) and the best encryption available so I believe my backup is safe. Of course I never expect anything to be 100% foolproof so I continue to back up to data DVDs.



Recently I pulled out a backup of some data and found that, although the DVD was burned only two years ago it was not readable. With Windows that's all she wrote. You are not given the opportunity to off load files that may still be readable. When Windows encounters a defective file, it quits without saying what was copied, what is left or whether any of the remaining files are still readable.



Automatic backup \$50/yr.

Remembering the things we used to be able to do in DOS I thought of a program we used to use called XCOPY. XCOPY is still available in the Windows COMMAND mode.

XCOPY is useful if the disk is mountable, meaning that the drive recognizes the disk although the disk may have some defective files. If the drive doesn't recognize the disk at all, I have found no way to recover anything. What follows, then, is a method of handling a mountable but unreadable CD or DVD.

1. Create a folder in the root directory of your hard drive. Do this by double clicking MY COMPUTER then double clicking C: Once drive C: opens you will be looking at the root directory. Right click and select NEW and then FOLDER. Give the new folder a simple name, less than 8 characters, all upper case, such as DATADVD.
2. Put the mountable but unreadable CD or DVD in the disk drive, note the drive letter (usually D:).
3. Back at the desktop click START, RUN then type CMD into the box that appears and hit ENTER.
4. You are now in simulated DOS (Disk Operating System) mode, you will see a black screen with white letters. Forget your mouse, everything has to be typed on the keyboard.
5. If the lettering on the black screen does not say 'C:\' type two dots '..' and hit ENTER, do that again as many times as it takes to get to where you see only 'C:\'
6. Type 'XCOPY' and hit ENTER
7. The program XCOPY will come up. If you want to see an example of the syntax required by XCOPY type XCOPY /? and you will be shown an example of the command needed to execute XCOPY and a list of all available switches.
8. If you are not interested in the finer points of XCOPY you don't have to do that, it might be confusing.
9. Now lets start the copying. At the C:\ prompt type:

XCOPY d: c:\datadvd /s /c **(pay attention to forward slashes and back slashes)**

Here is what that line means:



XCOPY calls the program which will read the rest of the line. d: tells XCOPY that the source of the files to be copied is the d: drive (your CD or DVD drive.)

c:\datadvd tells XCOPY that the subdirectory 'datadvd' is the "target" of the files to be copied.

The /s switch tells XCOPY to copy directories and subdirectories except empty ones.

The /c switch tells XCOPY to continue copying even if errors occur.

The /c switch is the key to getting all readable files off the CD or DVD.

XCOPY runs slowly but exceedingly well. You will see the drive flashing for hours. If you check the subdirectory C:\DATADVD you will see the readable files appearing.

Check the XCOPY (black) screen, it will tell you when the process is finished.



Green light shows activity.

After XCOPY has copied all readable files type, on the black screen, EXIT to close the simulated DOS session and return to Windows. You can decide what you want to do with the recovered files, they will all be in the C:\DATADVD subdirectory. If you have a subscription to CARBONITE they will be backed up immediately. You may also want to burn another DVD and put it away.

If you are already using CDs or DVDs to back up your precious files please check them all to make sure they are still readable. If they are not, then use the above procedure to retrieve as much data as possible as soon as you can.

* $4.7 \times 10^9 / 1.44 \times 10^6 \sim 31 \times 10^3$ or 31,000 /H/—*Jerry Hale*



CDs are replaced by DVDs.
One DVD holds about
31,000 of the 3-1/2" floppys*

An Original Patriot —*Jerry Hale*

http://www.aaregistry.com/african_american_history/1937/Peter_Salem_an_original_patriot

If you have studied the American Revolution, you probably learned about the battles of Lexington and Concord and the Battle of Bunker Hill, two of the best-known battles of the war.

But did you know that some of their heroes were black? Peter Salem, a former slave, was one of them. A Minuteman soldier, he became one of the first heroes of the Revolutionary War. This article, from the Boston Journal, originally appeared in the Southwester Christian Advocate, New Orleans, LA, 1 February 1883:

A Negro Revolutionary Here

In accordance with a vote of the town of Farmingham last April, the committee in charge of the matter has

placed a neat granite memorial over the grave of Peter Salem, bearing the following inscription: "Peter Salem, a Soldier of the Revolution. Died Aug. 16, 1816. Concord, Bunker Hill, Saratoga. Erected by the town, 1882."

Peter Salem was the colored man who particularly distinguished himself in the Revolutionary War by shooting down Major Pitcairn at the battle of Bunker Hill as he was mounting a redoubt and shouting, "The day is ours !"

Pitcairn fell back into the arms of his son. Peter Salem served faithfully in the war for several years in the companies of minute men under the command of Capt. John Nixon and Capt. Simon Edgell of Farmingham,

and came out of it unharmed. He was a slave and was owned, originally by Capt. Jeremiah Belknap, of Farmingham, being sold by him to Major Lawson Buckminster, of that town, he becoming a free man when he joined the army. *From the Boston Journal—Jerry Hale*



Peter Salem abt 1750-1816



Spring Cleaning is a Great Excuse to Preserve the Past—[DeadFred.com](http://www.deadfred.com) Wants Your Orphan Photos



Spring Cleaning

Editor's note: This article is an excerpt from a 2005 article that is still relevant. To date the website has helped over 1400 people find their relatives.

It's that time of year again when thoughts turn to spring cleaning. DeadFred.com offers a great solution for all those people who stumble across boxes of old photographs in their closets, garages and attics.

While parents and children will be donating clothing and other household items to local charities such as Salvation Army and Goodwill, the Archivists at DeadFred Genealogy Photo Archive challenge family members to post their stowed-away old family photographs, whether

identified or not, at one of genealogists' favorite destinations, DeadFred.com.

Anyone who finds a photograph of a direct ancestor will receive the original photograph for free (provided the original is owned by the Archive).

DeadFred.com accepts ancestral photographs that are older than 1965 of subjects since deceased. One can submit photos directly online at <http://www.deadfred.com> or send photos as donations to the following address:

Genealogy Photo Archive
P.O. Box 6937
Springdale, AR 72766-6937

Photo donations sent by mail will not be returned and become property of the Archive. Photos submitted online do not become property of the Archive, and the Archive respects the privacy of the submitter. Happy spring cleaning! *Springdale, AR 2005.*
www.deadfred.com/media/pressrelease0405.php
For more information go to the website or call (479) 750-0082.

Status of the Brownell Scanning Project—*Jerry Hale*

Thanks to all who have helped with the scanning of this important source of local genealogical information. The primary helpers have been Margaret Marcollese, Jim Pardee and Jim Nichols.

As of March 1, all of the notebooks have been scanned and converted to pdf files. I have produced a 2-DVD set which holds the entire collection. Indexing remains to be done but the pdf files can be used exactly like the notebooks themselves. At the least

we no longer have to worry about somebody taking pages from these valuable notebooks.

The work, however, is not finished. We will need to verify every notebook. I would like volunteers who can use the offline computer or who can bring their laptop computer to the Gen Room to help. With every person who is capable helping, this project can be quickly brought to a successful conclusion.

I have included, at the beginning of DVD

#1, a report form that can be used to make a note of each problem as it is encountered while verifying the notebooks against the scanned pdf file.

I expect that there are many problems to be noted, such as: pages out of order, pages that need rotation, pages missing, families out of alphabetical order etc., etc.

If we get plenty of help we should be able to produce a final product very soon.

Please let me know if you can help. I can provide instructions and assistance.—*Jerry Hale*

Twenty Questions for Interviewing Relatives— FamilyTreeMagazine.com

The best tactic for oral history interviews is to ask open-ended questions (rather than ones with yes or no answers), and to focus on people's memories and experiences: It's much more interesting for you and the interviewee to talk about the stories and emotions behind the events in your family's past. Use these questions as a springboard for planning your interview:

1. What's your first memory?
2. Who's the oldest relative you remember (and what do you remember about him or her)?
3. How did your parents meet?
4. Tell me about your childhood home.
5. How did your family celebrate

holidays when you were a child?

6. How did you meet your spouse?
7. Tell me about your wedding day.
8. Tell me about the day your first child was born.
9. What were your favorite school subjects?
10. Tell me about your favorite teacher.
11. Tell me about some of your friends.
12. Describe your first job.
13. What did you do with your first paycheck?
14. What was your favorite job and why?

15. Who are some of your heroes?

16. Where were you when you heard that President Kennedy was shot? (Add or substitute other important historical events.)
17. What is your experience with or opinion of computers? (Add or substitute other modern conveniences, such as television, microwaves and cell phones.)
18. Tell me about some of your favorite songs (also books, movies and television shows).
19. Tell me about some of the places where you've been happiest.
20. What haven't we talked about that you'd like to discuss in the time we have left? (This is a good way to begin wrapping up the interview.)—*From the August 15, 2008 [FamilyTreeMagazine.com](http://www.familytreemagazine.com).*

Getting Fuzzy Was My First (Really Exciting) Memory Plus A Few More For Good Measure! —Linda Williamson

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=why+we+remember+so+little+before+the+age+of+three&btnG=Google+Search&aq=f&oq=>

I became curious as to when memories first occur, and I found that psychologists believe that we remember almost nothing before the age of three. Up until then our brains are still changing rapidly and we don't have the language skills necessary to repeat experiences in our mind (telling ourselves stories), which is the brain's way of remembering.—

Information from The Independent (London), October 26, 2004, "Why We Remember So Little Before the Age of Three." by Julia Stuart at the website in the title line.

My First Dog

I was between three and four years old and I remember the excitement of Willie's arrival. He was like family and always treated me special, and sometimes he would take me to ride the ponies. But whoa! He had a little wiggly creature in his arms and he was putting it down on the floor, and it was running toward me barking and wagging its tail! I began screaming at a high pitch, while attempting to scramble up on the couch out of reach, but the fur ball was right behind me. My only hope of escape was the top of the back of the



William Hendon (Willie) Williams & Me



Fuzzy (no longer a puppy) & Me
On The Front Steps of Our House in Birdville

couch. Then, suddenly, it was OK. My fear subsided with Willie's laughter, and in the blink of an eye I was won over by that adorable little puppy. We named him Fuzzy.

The WWII Blackouts

Blackouts during World War II must have been traumatic for children. For those whose memories don't stretch back that far, blackouts were announced in advance in the newspapers (and probably the radio), and when the sirens began to blast intermittently, it was the signal that lights had to be cut off. The idea was that enemy planes couldn't target what they couldn't see, and that any visible light from above could attract bombs and gunfire. When I asked my husband about his first memory Sam, remembers that a soldier knocked at their door and asked his mother to cut off the light. She replied that she was burning a red bulb (which was allowed) because she had a sick baby (Sam's sister JoAnne, who is 18 months younger). We lived on a cul-de-sac, and I remember the soldiers in the back of an Army truck riding around checking to see that all was dark. The day after a blackout, my Momma said she read in the morning newspaper that the blackout the night before was successful

except for a woman on a porch in Birdville, calling her dog. Momma was certain it was Granny Reardon calling my dog Fuzzy!

The Day WWII Ended

I remember the excitement that followed President Truman's announcement that the war was over, August 14, 1945. People drove around blowing their horns in jubilant celebration. My Momma, Granny Reardon and I got in the yellow Studebaker and Momma drove around until after dark. My Daddy must have been at work. I still remember the headlights of all the cars on the roads. Momma gave me a pot and a spoon so that I could make some noise, but I soon fell asleep in the back seat.

Granny Reardon

My Granny Reardon, Kate Ready (1884-1954) lived with us and took care of me while my mother worked, and for sure, I tried her patience. I don't recommend this tact—nor do psychologists—for young children, but I don't think it damaged me too much. I was showing my displeasure in something by whining loudly in the front yard when a rug salesman walked up with a pile of rugs in his arms. Granny took this opportunity to quiet me by telling me that the rug salesman rolled bad kids up in his rugs and took them away. I gave him a discerning look and decided that it wasn't true. My response was "Uh uh!"...but I wasn't going to take any chances and quieted down.

Things I remember about Granny Reardon: she made delicious tomato gravy and a wonderful chicken broth and corn meal gruel that I called "bubble soup", and she let me help her churn butter. She indulged her nicotine habit by dipping snuff and I remember her spit jar. On doctor's orders (unbelievable as it seems today) she smoked menthol Kool cigarettes through a long tube



Granny Reardon (Maternal Grandmother) & Me

to relieve her bronchial condition. She always wore a hat when she dressed up. Coffee was always too hot for her to drink, so she poured it into her saucer, even in restaurants.

My Childhood Home

We lived in the community of Birdville, a Federal housing project, constructed to house the phenomenal influx of maritime and Air Force workers during the war in Mobile, Alabama. My dad, James Franklyn Rush (1919-2000) was a civilian engineer working for the government at Brookley Air Force Base.

The development consisted of a series of interwoven curving concrete streets named after birds, and according to *Wikipedia.com*, Thomas James Place was the proper name.

I liked being outdoors, and remember the front steps and playing with the children that lived in the house directly across from us. I remember the day their father died. I overheard the adults say that he was standing in the yard looking up at the heavens and fell over dead. His children were crying and I cried as hard as they did. My Momma didn't understand why I was so upset.—

Linda Williamson

A Determined Daughter Unites Her Family Separated by Two Continents for 100 Years—*Michael Pagliero (an edited version) The full version of Michael's newsletter can be read at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flrbgs/index.htm>*

Editor's note: Michael and Annie Pagliero, of Exeter, England and friends for over 30 years, shared a genealogy success story in their Christmas '08 newsletter, "Argy Pagnews" that you will find riveting and inspirational.

About 100 years ago Mike's grandfather, Peter Mauricio, left the tiny village of Savigliano, in the mountains of Northern Italy near Turin, to seek his fortune in England. Life must have been hard there, for a host of Italians did likewise, including his three brothers and a sister, who emigrated to Argentina.

The catering trade became Peter Mauricio's life. He initially ran a restaurant in London's Theatre Land, become head waiter in the prestigious Langham Hotel and finally head waiter at the R.A.C. Club in Pall Mall.

At the outset of the war against Italy and Germany, when many Italians were imprisoned or sent back to Italy, his well connected aristocratic clients helped him remain in England.

The brothers and sister kept in touch for many years but postal services during the war were unreliable, and there had been no



Helen Pagliero and her brother George.



The newly discovered first cousins studying Helen's family tree... (l-r) Vane (Carlos's wife), Carlos, & Michael.

post war communication.

Mike and Annie's daughter, Helen (Peter's great granddaughter), armed with a strong desire to explore her family roots and an ability to speak fluent Italian and Spanish, traveled with her grandfather Leonard (Peter's son) and her brother George to Peter's birthplace, a little bakery in the beautiful cloistered village of Savigliano.

While there they discovered a remote village of Paglieros just a few kilometres away in the mountains. Through the records office Helen was able to compile a comprehensive Pagliero family tree.

Continuing her quest, while on a holiday Easter '07 to Buenos Aires, Helen consulted the "guia telefonica," and with the help of a somewhat unusual name, located fifteen Paglieros. Undeterred, she called them all until she located the 'parientes perdidos'. In a trice the family had discovered nine new relatives.

Helen enjoyed a wonderful but brief reunion with them, as she was due to fly home the next day. At last, the enigma had been unlocked and the family reunited.

Mike writes: "At the early hour of 8:00 pm we met in the hotel. The first person was Humberto a large and impressive man who is the corner stone of the existing family. Humberto, who is affectionately known as Carlos by every one but as 'mi hermano' by Michael, is the grandson of one of the two emigrating Italian Paglieros. His father, also Humberto (who has passed on), would be a first cousin of Leonard, and certainly their respective photographs are difficult to tell apart. Carlos therefore is a second cousin of Michael.

Having lived out of suitcases for four weeks traversing Brazil we could not be dressed more than 'smart casual'. However, Carlos and Vanesa his daughter (who confessed later that she was very nervous of having to meet her 'opulent' relatives) were in their 'Sunday best'! but not for long—Carlos' stunning plaid jacket was over the back of his chair and we were in shirtsleeve mode chatting away like old friends - well perhaps chatting is not the most apt word but with a 'poco inglis' from Vanesa and some Spanish from Michael and the aid of some excellent vino tinto there was reasonable communication and a wealth of hilarity." —*Michael Pagliero, Exeter, England*



The Pagliero clan together in Argentina enjoying a famous Spanish dish—Parilla, (traditionally an entire cow— innards and all!) "A lovely evening, and the ice was broken."

Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress—LOC Brochure submitted by Howard Fisher www.loc.gov/vets



The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project (VHP) in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The mission of the Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American War veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

You can volunteer to conduct interviews and collect historical documents. You may also organize interview groups and teach others how to conduct interviews. Collections may take the form of war veterans' first-hand oral histories, memoirs, collections of photographs and letters, diaries and other historical documents from World I through current conflicts.

On behalf of a deceased war vet-

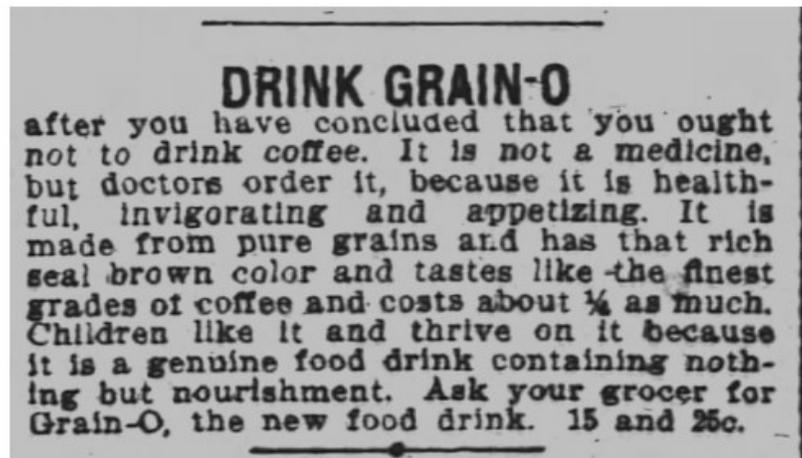
eran, you may submit historical documents like the veteran's collection of photographs, letters, diaries and memoirs. You will need to complete the biographical data form and a release form for the deceased veteran. The items you donate to the Veterans History Project (VHP) are housed in a preservation environment within the permanent collections of the Library of Congress. Your stories and collateral materials are available to you, scholars, students, and anyone else visiting the Library, following a six-month processing period.

A Web page is created for each veteran who contributes an interview, memoir, or historical documents. This page includes service history and other information about each veteran. Access the database at www.loc.gov/vets (click Search the Veterans Collections). As resources allow, VHP will digitize interviews and documents from its collection,

which will allow internet users to view the collections online without visiting the Library of Congress. Currently about five percent of the collection is accessible online. If you need more information check out the Frequently Asked Questions page online at www.loc.gov/vets.

All VHP collections are served in the American Folklife Center Reading Room, which is located in LJ-G53 of the Thomas Jefferson Building. The telephone number is 202-707-5510. By taking part in the Veterans History Project (VHP), you are contributing to the permanent collections of the Library of Congress, one of the world's most respected research and cultural institutions. When you participate, you are making history. You can deliver your materials directly to the Library of Congress or send them by FedEx, UPS or DHL but are asked NOT to use the U.S. Postal Service.

Howard has been a member of Roots & Branches since 2002. He is researching his family lines of Fisher, Demerest, Ackerman & Dunham. His research has revealed that President O'Bama's mother is his 8th cousin three times removed.



Published in the Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia, April 10, 1899.



Contributed by Allen County Public Library

<http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/>

This Year I Am Going To...New Year's Resolutions for the Genealogist at Heart—Donna Przecha



The January meeting at the computer genealogy society I belong to always has a big turnout. I am sure that "do genealogy" is high on the list of many people's New Year's resolutions. However, like many resolutions, this one seems to get put aside by about March. I have talked to people who have been doing genealogy for years and they still haven't gotten around to some of the basics.

Genealogy can't be "done" all at once — downloading hundreds of names from a database and considering them to be "instant family" is simply no solution. No, genealogy is a lifetime hobby and, for the most part, it doesn't matter if it waits a few months or even years. Those dead ancestors aren't going anywhere!

You do have to keep chipping away at it, though, and you can set some realistic goals. Depending on where you are in your research, there are some things that should not be put off. If you are just beginning, it is a toss-up as to which of the first two is the most critical:

Resolution #1: Organize what you have.

It is difficult to know where to start until you know what you have. Get out that box of "family papers" or "grandma's trunk" and go through what is there. Make some charts and jot down names, dates, etc. While you have it all straight in your mind it would be a good time to put the information into a genealogy computer program so you do not have to reinvent the

wheel next time you want to work on family history. Be sure to note the source of each fact.

Resolution #2: Interview your older relatives.

If you organize the material you have first, you will be able to ask more pertinent questions of your older relatives. It is imperative that you talk to the older family members NOW. They will not be around forever and they can supply information that will not be found in any records. While some enjoy writing letters, others prefer just to talk about the past. It is worth a special trip, taking along a small recorder, to preserve this information. Don't press them for exact dates. They won't know and you can find these later. Get approximate time periods and relationships — who was oldest, who was youngest, etc. Ask them names and places and let them tell stories.

While I was in college I sat my father down and had him explain the relationships of his large extended family. I don't know how he could possibly remember so many names, but I put them down in a graph form

and put them away. Within four years he was gone. My charts were packed away someplace for 15 years before I took them out and began to seriously work on genealogy. Thank heavens I took the time to write down all the wonderful material my father had tucked away in his brain.

Once you have these two "musts" taken care of, you can begin to add information at a reasonable pace.

Resolution #3: Computerize.

Your life will be so much easier if you computerize your data from the beginning. People will dither around for years because they don't know what program to buy. There are so many good, inexpensive

programs available now that you don't have to worry that this is a purchase of a lifetime. Buy one and start using it. If you don't like it, you can easily move your data to another program without reentering it. (Be sure that any program you buy has GEDCOM or the ability to transfer data to other programs.) A program will produce all sorts of helpful forms without your having to fill in endless charts by hand and will help you organize your research.

Resolution #4: Visit a Family History Center or genealogy library.

If you have not been to a Family History Center, find out where your nearest one is located and visit it. (*The DeLand Family History Center is located at 1345 Aquarius Avenue, DeLand, Florida 32724/ Phone (386) 822-9695.*) Some are tiny with little more than a couple of computers and a few microfilm readers. However, all have the FamilySearch on the computer which includes four helpful resources:

The IGI (International Genealogical Index);

The Ancestral File (data submitted by other researchers);

The Social Security Death Index (over 50 million individuals who received death benefits from the U.S. Social Security Administration); and

The Family History Library catalog (shows all the microfilmed material that can be borrowed, and other data).

If you are just starting out, you may find it inspirational to see all the information that is available. Every library with a genealogy collection is different. Family history and local history books usually do not exist in great numbers so every library will have a different collection, often depending on what has been donated. Of course, a library usually emphasizes its own local area so a visit to a genealogy library where your ancestors lived might

reveal some interesting and unique material.

Resolution #5: Write out the "stories."

Some people are very good about entering data into their program, but they don't take the time to add the interesting stories they know. These are the things that make genealogy come alive and interest other people in the family history. For a while, quit reading census returns and adding new names and just sit in front of your computer writing down stories.

Resolution #6: Add your sources.

When you first entered your data into a program you were probably so excited and eager to print great reports that you just put in the basic information and didn't bother with the sources. Take the time to go through your notebooks and files and add the source of the information into the computer record.

Resolution #7: Review your research.

Most genealogists take notes and make copies and file all this paper in notebooks or files. They record the significant information into their program as they go. You might want to take the time to go back through all these notes. We often copy information that doesn't tie directly into the family at the time. If you go back, you may find the answers to new questions. You may have copied the census page for your great-grandfather and, at the time, been unaware that the family two households away was his father's family. Rereading old information in a new light may open some doors.

Resolution #8: Clean up your database.

If you have been adding information over a long period of time, you probably have changed your style over the years. By now perhaps you have a firm opinion about which notation style you prefer: Chicago, Cook, IL; Chicago, Cook Co, IL; Chicago, Cook Co., IL; or Chi-

cago, Cook County, IL. Why not go through your database and make sure all such notations have a consistent style. Run some alphabetical lists and look for misspelled places or typos like "California." You should also run diagnostic checks available with the program to be sure you don't have people who lived to 150 or mothers giving birth at age 85 or three years after they died! If your program has the ability, you should look at unlinked names and possible duplicates.

Resolution #9: Print out your data.

It may seem that by computerizing your material you have saved it for all posterity using a medium that is much more durable than paper. Nothing could be further from the truth. If you step in front of a truck tomorrow and join your ancestors, what will happen to your data? If you have a family member who is equally interested in genealogy and equally computer literate, you are in good shape. However, usually other people are only mildly interested and no one understands that program that you spend so much time working with. If a computer sits idle for a long period of time, the hard drive will simply die and the information on it will be lost. Even if you archive your data on disks, the chances are that program will no longer exist in the same form in five years. By ten years your data will not be compatible with the newest version. If you save the program along with the data, no one will know how to run it and will not be inclined to sit down and try to learn it — even if the program is compatible with current computers.

I have a newspaper announcement of the marriage of one couple 198 years ago. I don't know of everyone who has had possession of this newspaper in the meantime, but I can still pick it up today and read the information. I doubt that any electronic material will be usable 198 years from now. Get a hard copy of your data so that some descendant years from now can pick it up and read it. Certainly continue to computerize and make backups, but plain, old-fashioned paper is your best link to the future.

Resolution #10: Take the time to order documents.

You may know that Great Uncle Charley was in the Civil War and that the pension records have lots of fascinating information, but you just haven't had the time to order them. Or you know your grandmother's social security application might

Twelve Steps to a Productive Research Year

Keep your enthusiasm for genealogy up all year by setting realistic goals for yourself. Experienced genealogist Donna Przecha shows you what you can do to make this year your most productive ever.

give you her mother's maiden name, but it takes forever to get a copy. Government records do take forever, but take five minutes to send off the letter requesting the information or the form. pleasantly surprised when the information arrives.

Resolution #11: Concentrate on one area.

Experts often recommend that beginners limit their search to one line. When I started there was so little available that I worked on all lines at one time. Nowa days, with so much available, it is probably a good idea to stay with one line. Even if you have done a lot of work, you might want to concentrate your efforts on a problem area. To research in depth you really have to immerse yourself in an area and time period. You need to learn as much as possible about the town or county, the people who lived there and what was going on in history at that time.

Simply knowing the physical location of the various villages or geographical loca-

Continued on page 16 Resolutions



**Roots and Branches
Genealogical Society of West
Volusia County**

**DeLand Public Library
130 East Howry Avenue
DeLand, Florida 32724**

We're on the Web!

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/
~flrbgs/index.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flrbgs/index.htm)

We're also on the Web @

[http://www.flgenhisonline.com/
counties/flaqvol/volusia/
volusia.html](http://www.flgenhisonline.com/counties/flaqvol/volusia/volusia.html)

Resolutions *From page 15*

tions, which were adjacent, what name changes occurred, and which families were intermarried can be very helpful. If the handwriting was different because of the age of the documents or you are working in a foreign language area, it takes some time to become familiar with the writing. If you do focus on one area, after a while you will be very familiar with all of these factors. If you put it aside for a couple of years or never really

study it in depth, it will be much more difficult to really dig into the records. You might want to devote this year to a particularly difficult problem ancestor that you have been avoiding.

Resolution #12: Don't try to do everything.

Don't attempt to do all of the above at once. Pick one manageable project and stick with it. I have known a few people who have "completed their genealogy." They printed their book and put geneal-

ogy aside as "done." For most of us, it will never be completed. It is an ongoing project — for every ancestor you discover, that means there are two more that need to be found. Since it will never be completed, don't put off printing out, at least for your own benefit, some sort of report. If you want to submit your names to a master database such as the World Family Tree or Ancestral File, send what you have now. Don't put it off thinking you will have more or better information later on. —*Donna Przecha*