

THE PASCO COUNTY LINE

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February 2005

PCGS UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 12 - Alvie Davidson: "Finding lost ancestors by knowing the migration patterns and settlement areas for specific ethnic groups."

Apr. 9 - Carl Kolling: "Genealogical Research using Civil War Records." Carl, who is a Civil War buff as well as a genealogist, will be in Civil War uniform, and will bring several articles related to that war.

May 14 - Society Members: Several of our members will discuss the times and happenings of "When My Mother was a Little Girl."

OUT OF AREA EVENTS

Mar. 5 - The Suncoast Genealogy Society presents George G. Morgan, 9am-4pm, at the Palm Harbor Community and Senior Activity Center, 1500 16th St, Palm Harbor. Cost: \$30 non-members in advance (includes lunch), \$35 at the door. Lunch is included with pre-registration by February 21, 2005. For a registration form or other information, contact Ann James, jamesamsj@aol.com, (727) 791-1983.

Mar. 12 - The Imperial Polk Gen'l Soc. will present an all-day seminar in Lakeland, FL, on the campus of Florida Southern College in the Alumni Room. In the morning, Donna Moughty, an Irish research expert, will speak on "How to Begin Your Irish Research" and "Using Griffiths Valuation." The afternoon speaker, Fran Carter Walker, a well known Genealogical teacher, will speak on "Finding your Ancestors before 1800" and on "Advanced Probate." Cost: \$35, including snacks and hot lunch. Registration 8 am, speakers start at 9 am. Info: visit <http://www.ipgs.org> or e-mail Alvie Davidson at floridasearch@tampabay.rr.com or Kay Stone at kaystone@prodigy.net/

NOTE: This is also the Pasco Society meeting date, however, Donna is reputed to be one of the best speakers available on Irish Research.

June 1-4 - National Genealogical Society Conference in the States in Nashville, TN. Visit their website at: ngs@ngsgenealogy.org or call 800-473-0060 for more information. ❖

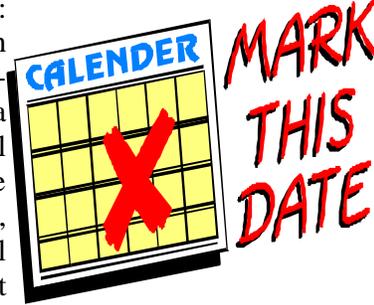
REQUESTS FROM THE EDITOR

PLEASE be sure to notify us of your new address when you move in order to continue to receive your newsletters. The Postal Service will only forward your mail for one year and then they return to sender.

IF you return to your home state and wish to have your May & August newsletters sent there; please give us two (2) address labels in an envelope with the dates you are leaving and returning written on the outside.

WE are requesting more member participation in the content of our newsletter. We would like to see short articles pertaining to memories of past events, autobiographies, favorite ancestors, black sheep ancestors, brick wall ancestors, successful or disastrous research trips, how you toppled a brick wall, a report on a special seminar, workshop or meeting that you have attended. Anything that might be interesting reading for our members. You don't have to be an acclaimed writer. Even just the gist of a story with all the details can be edited and smoothed out. The deadline for the next issue is April 15th.

IN the meantime, we will be working on setting up the newsletter so it can be sent by e-mail to those who prefer an electronic version. Hopefully, this can be accomplished in time for the next issue. If you wish to receive your copy in this format, please let us know and provide your current e-mail address so we will have you on the list. ❖



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The President's Message

What is your favorite method of family research? Do you browse the library stacks? Gather family tales and folklore? Organize reunions? Write for records? Make meticulous entries on family group sheets or a favorite genealogy database? Read history books about the periods your ancestors lived? Peruse articles in genealogy bulletins and magazines? Attend lectures and seminars? Visit archives? Place queries online? Make a name search on Google or Altavista search engines? Use Ancestry, Rootsweb, Genealogy.com, Gencircles, familysearch.org, Heritage Quest and the dozens of other web-sites made just for us genealogy nuts?

It seems there are a zillion ways to develop a complete picture and fill in the blanks on the family tree. We are all seeking the excitement of that "Aha!" moment that fills in a little more of that tapestry we call our genealogy.

Our Society strives to make your research easier primarily by hiring speakers and maintaining the LDS library at the Fort King LDS church. Now, ordering microfilms and microfiche from the Salt Lake repositories will be simplified. Sandra Haxton, our valued librarian, has agreed to take film and fiche orders at the regular monthly genealogy meeting. Come prepared with the film numbers and titles, and Sandra will provide forms at the meeting for ordering. You can fill out the form and pay her either at the refreshment break or immediately after the meeting. This should streamline the process and eliminate that drive to the library to order films.

So, no more excuses, folks! Go to www.familysearch.org and click on Library; then click Family History Library Catalog and get busy!

(If you need help in using the catalog effectively, contact me, or any officer or director of the Society.)

Pat Busbice

In Memory 1926-2004

By Virginia Britten

I find it is such a fitting memorial in the paper, stating, she was an "avid genealogist". Charlotte was indeed an avid genealogist and one who was an expert in her field, even though she was not given much notice by others. As soon as I got my first e-mail address in 1997, she would send me links to some of her new sites or her favorite ones. My computer experience was enhanced by this quiet voice, sending me to see places I never would have found with my unlimited computer skills. This she continued to do until this year. She was such a wealth of information just waiting to be asked. Her shared knowledge for my beginning genealogy questions were very welcomed by this new PCGS member..

In this time of Thanksgiving, it is appropriate to try to be a member just like Charlotte. I don't know who else she may have been a mentor to, but she was a blessing to me. May we PCGS members, too, always strive to be mentors to our new members in Charlotte's memory. She will be missed. ❖

LOST MEMBERS

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of two of our active members.

Barbara Kukec, charter member and past treasurer of PCGS, passed away in August in Naperville, IL where she had returned several years ago. She continued to remain a member and kept in touch with other members who knew her. Barbara was always there to lend a hand whenever she could help. She was missed when she left us to go back up north and surely will be missed by all who knew her in IL.

Charlotte Litchfield, a long time PCGS member, passed away on Nov. 22 in Zephyrhills. Charlotte was a wealth of knowledge in the genealogy field as well as other fields. She was a life member in many lineage societies including Founders & Patriots and the Mayflower Descendants. She will be greatly missed by all of us who were recipients of her vast source of information.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mary Ann Balbach
James F. Brown
Arthur Burdett
Susan P. Canney
John Connolly
Jackie Frisbie
Joan Knowles
Lee Melanson
Joy Pillion
Jennifer L. Seney
Chuck Sheldon
Bob Thompson
Pamela Treme



Items for this column are free and we request your queries. PCGS no longer provides research service due to the demand outgrowing our limited available researchers. However, we will gladly print your queries for all to see and respond to.

Writing Journals To Preserve your Thoughts

By Virginia Britten

With the advent of the past hurricane season, I started a journal to record my feelings and to share all of the experience with my Indiana Family. It was the first time my husband and I had experienced a hurricane and wasn't it a lucky year for us, with being hit by four hurricanes in less than 6 weeks?

What I thought was going to be a few pages, now had turned out to be most of the book. When I started, I was so careful of what I was writing, minced over each word, made sure I spelled correctly. But this was too time consuming and I found it interrupted my train of thought. The writing wasn't very fluid. Soon I began just writing as fast as I thought with no specific rules of the art of writing.

After the first hurricane, Charley, I put the book away and was pleased with the outcome. Little did I know that this would not be my last chapter, as we would experience four more hurricanes that summer. I had become accustomed to writing every day, sometimes hourly. When there wasn't bad weather to report on, it was comfortable to write about other memories. Soon, I wanted to make an entry everyday. I was over my jitters about writing, and soon the words, thoughts, and my feelings began to flow.

I was over the writer's block

Now, I write almost daily in the journal about things that have some special meaning. Journals could become an addiction. but maybe someday, some family member might be interested in what I was thinking at the time of crisis. The hard part is over.....getting started.

Let's review in what is important in keeping a journal. First of all, write what you think, don't try to sound professional. Let your true feelings flow. Write your thoughts down quickly making sure you date each entry. If you mention someone else in your message, write their first and last name. A hundred years from now, no one will have a clue who you are talking about.

It might be nice to add the time each entry was made. As during Hurricane Jeanne, I had an entry almost hourly with all the updates from the weather bureau. This showed how fast the path changed, what happens during the height of the storm, and how you have to keep on top of everything to remain safe.

Just remember, you are leaving a part of yourself, be honest, and this is your time to express yourself. How grateful someone will be someday. ❖

Preserve Your Family's History

By Don Merrill

The following article originally appeared in the July 2004 Newsletter of the Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. It is reproduced here with the permission of Steve Myers, Assistant Manager, Historical Genealogical Department.

The Allen County Public Library would like to remind you of a long-standing service. For many decades, individuals who have not had a desire to officially publish their genealogical work have sent an unbound "master copy" to the Historical Genealogy Department. In exchange for the privilege of allowing them to make one photocopy for their collection, they provide the compiler of the work with one complimentary, bound photocopy for his or her collection in addition to returning the original master.

It is a great way to make sure your work is preserved and available for future generations of researchers. In addition, having a copy at their library ensures your work is secure from any disaster that might, heaven forbid, befall your personal library. What to do with the extra copy? How about a "draft" book to pass around at the next family reunion for others to comment upon and update? Or a little surprise gift for the relative or family friend who really helped you out?

If you are interested in taking advantage of this service, just mail your unbound "master copy" to Steve Myers, Assistant Manager, Historical Genealogical Department, P.O. Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270. Include a note that simply reads, "Photocopy Exchange Program." You'll be glad you did --- and they will certainly be glad you did!

A final note: If you have Allen County, Indiana roots, be sure to continually check the "Friends of Allen County" website at <http://www.FriendsOfAllenCounty.org> There is always something new happening there! Just this month they added a searchable index to Fort Wayne and Allen County, Indiana obituaries from 1900 through May 2004. Along with more than one century's worth of obituaries, a searchable surname file and a list of the department's periodical titles are two more new data files. And there will be a number of exciting searchable indices added in August. Curt Witcher, July 2004 Newsletter, Fort Wayne Library.

According to Steve Myers, the program of copying an out-of-copyright family history, county history or other genealogy related book, and returning a new copy is still in effect. This is done only if they do not have the book in their library. Therefore, if anyone has an older book of which they would like a new copy, first review the Allen County Library on-line card catalog to see if they have the book. If not, call Steve Myers at the library at (260) 421-1200, and discuss it with him. It could be an easy way to get a new copy, and help a lot of other people at the same time. In addition to the new copy, the original will be returned if the person desires, but in some cases, may have required disassembling for copying and would not be re-bound. ❖

LETTERS SENT TO A FAMILY HISTORY CENTER:

To the FHC, enclosed, please find my grandmother.

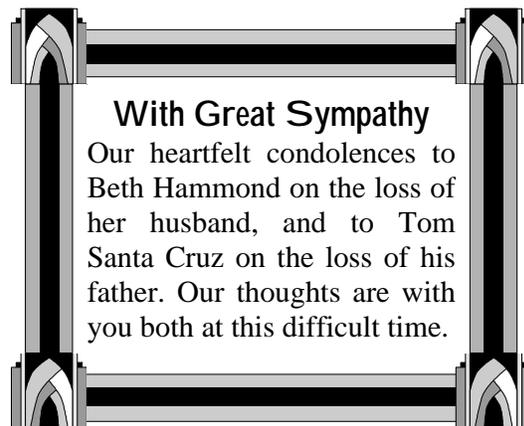
I have worked on her for 50 years without success.

Now see what you can do.

I've looked for grandpa for over 20 years. Do you have him in your library?

I am sorry we do not have complete families. The trouble here is extracting the children from the minister.

Our grandfather was found dead, crossing the plains in the library.



Florida Archives Online

by Tom Santa Cruz

My roots run deep in Florida. I have discovered some real treasures online and am willing to share them for those doing genealogical research on Florida ancestors.

Last year there was a great concern about the dismantling of the Florida State Library and the disseminating away from public access the State Archives. Now a year later this difficulty has passed without the changes happening. The physical collections are housed in the R.A. Gray Building (two blocks west of the State Capitol in Tallahassee.) If you do make a visit there be aware that the State Museum is in the basement of the building. The Museum is a good place to send your non-genealogist travel companions for a while.



Florida's State Archives have put some wonderful things online. The Confederate Pension Applications and the Spanish Land Grant Claims can be viewed and also downloaded from the online archive.

Confederation Pension Application Files <<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/barm/Pensionfiles.html>>

In 1885, the Florida legislature authorized a \$5 per month pension for Confederate veterans who were then residents of Florida. In the next three decades the application process became more formal (that is, requiring greater documentation), but also came to include widows of veterans and militia members. The pensions were available for Confederate veterans from other states that had moved to Florida as well.

Online you can search by surname of the veteran or his wife's maiden name. The applications asked for birthdates and birthplaces, for death dates and locations, for marriage dates and places, for service information. The county commissioners had to verify that the information was complete and accurate to their understanding. Later applications included affidavits by fellow veterans of the applicant's military service. There is also some financial information given. Both approved and denied applications are in the collection. The widow's applications are included as well. What you find is a folder of documents in PDF-format. Each page in the folder is a separate PDF-file.

Since money is involved the accuracy (or surety) of the information is very good and generous.

What isn't there are the Union Veteran Pension applications, these documents are stored at the National Archives and accessible there. **Spanish Land Grants Claims** <<http://www.floridamemory.com/Collections/SpanishLandGrants/>>

You do know that Florida was under Spanish rule before it became part of the United States of America in 1821.

Before you say, "I don't read Spanish", many of the Spanish documents have translations. Many of the claims were by Spaniards, but there were also Irish, English, Swiss and other nationalities who were given or purchased land grants. Most of the claims for land in western Florida have been lost but the collection is complete for East Florida.

The collection is made up of dossiers. Each dossier represents a claim by people who held Spanish Land grants in Florida. In 1822 the U.S. Board of Land Commissioners was set up to settle (that is, to validate or reject) these claims based on the information (documents and evidence) in these dossiers. Many of the dossiers contain images of the original land grant, colored land surveys (Spanish and American), translations from Spanish to English so that the commissioner could read the information. Some of the land grants included little censuses of the property and holdings involved down to the grantee's family and slaves. Some of the land grant properties had been sold and the newest owner was filing the claim. There was land speculation going on.

Here again since money was involved there is an abundance of detail and accuracy is emphasized.

The Archive staff has taken a few of the claims and prepared presentations of how the property has developed up to the present time with maps and aerial photographs which are very interesting.

In Closing: If you can go online take a peek at what is there, you might be surprised. Do other states have similar windows into their archives? ❖

Computer Tips

By Cathy Vance

You may be asking yourself “What does our computer tips section have to do with genealogy?” Many people use computers extensively nowadays for genealogical research and knowing how to take care of your computer will allow you more time to research without as many computer hassles. For those of you that don't use computers maybe you know someone that would benefit from the tips we give in this section.

Computer maintenance and why it is important

Like everything else, a computer needs regular maintenance to run at its best. Running the defrag program, cleaning temporary Internet files and getting rid of spyware, should be a regular part of a computer maintenance program.

Defragmenter:

Over time computer hard drives become fragmented with pieces of programs and information in places it shouldn't be, this causes computers to slow down and programs can freeze while searching for needed information. Running the defragmenter program puts information back where it should be so your computer can access it faster.

To run the defrag program on windows 98

- Go to start, programs
- Accessories
- Down to system tools
- Over and down to disk defragmenter

Temporary Internet files:

When we surf the Internet, files such as pictures and information are keep in a temporary internet file on your computer so that when you visit the site again it will load faster. Over time this file becomes very large with useless information. The larger it becomes the slower our web surfing becomes. Cleaning this file every month or two will allow your computer to run faster with less lockups.

If you are not familiar with computer maintenance, the safest way to get rid of temporary Internet files is to run disk cleanup. To find disk cleanup follow the same procedure as above but instead of choosing disk defragmenter on the last step, click disk cleanup.

SPYWARE:

Many web sites we visit put spyware on our computer to track where we go on their site, how long we stay and where we go when we leave their site. Spyware can cause your system to lock and/or be very slow so getting it off your system is important. Most of the time this type of spyware will not harm our computers but can cause it to become very slow, getting rid of it should be top on our list of computer maintenance.

There is a free program you can download called Ad-Aware by Lavasoft that will take care of the spyware problem for you. Go to this URL to download the program <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>. At this site you will find the free download on the right side of the page. Once the program is downloaded, it is a matter of clicking a button to run it. You will be very surprised at the amount of spyware it finds and deletes on the first run. ❖

For German/Bavarian Researchers

The town of Bremerhaven, Germany is opening a new Emigration Center in a few months. They have already set up their website and it is available for you to take a look. <http://www.dah-bremerhaven.de/english/hauptseite.html>.

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<alt 153> Ö
<alt 154> Ü

Umlaut Typing

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<alt 148> ö
<alt 129> ü
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**PASCO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NEW ____ RENEWAL ____ INDIVIDUAL (\$15.00) ____ FAMILY (\$22.50) ____

Make checks payable and mail to: PCGS, PO Box 2072, Dade City, FL 33526

Names _____
Include Full names and maiden name

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____



New Research Aids in Tampa

Submitted by Connie Delaney

The John F. German Library in Tampa "now has the complete Ships' Passenger Lists for the East Coast of the United States, from Maine to Galveston and Compiled Service Records for Civil War Soldiers for many states, Freedman's Bureau records and a huge collection of city directories, primarily for Florida cities, but for some other locations as well." - *Florida Genealogical Society letter*

Florida Tidbits

Submitted by Connie Delaney

From "Days Gone By" by Genevieve L. Smith

- 1836 - Dade County established
- 1837 - Osceola, the Seminole chief, was captured near St. Augustine. His capture ended the Seminole War...He was sent as a prisoner to Fort Moultrie, in Charleston Harbor, where he died a year later.
- 1837 - Pioneer W. F. Smith family passed Lake Buddy (Pasco County) and followed trail over a hill and across Long Prairie and built a log cabin beside a round lake (Bonny Lake). His land lay west of the present Ft. King Road between Fairview Heights and Sunshine Roads.
- 1837 - Wagons of Tucker homesteaders headed south towards Richland, blazed trails, made campsites, in Hernando and Pasco Counties. They had good food from turkey and venison. They were one of this area's true pioneer families.
- 1838 - Calhoun County was created.
- 1839 - Florida Territorial Constitution was passed.
- 1839 - U. S. Congress appropriated \$20,000 to Florida for construction of a new, brick capitol building. It was completed in 1845.
- 1840 - There were eighteen counties in Florida.
- 1840 - Some settlers in Zephyrhills area were Geiger, Kersey, Hill, Turner, Roberts, Wallace, Overstreet, Renfro. ❖