

THE PASCO COUNTY LINE

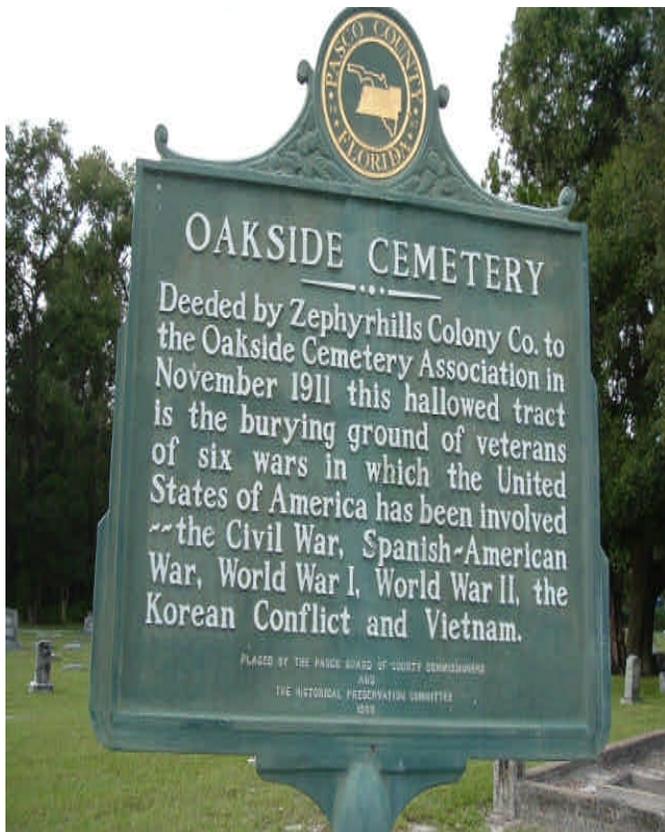
Vol. 11, Issue 4

A Publication of Pasco County Genealogical Society

November 2005

PLEASE NOTE

The deadline for items to be included in the next issue is January 10, 2006. Please feel free to send your submissions any time between now and the deadline. Early is excellent; deadline is great.



HISTORICAL MARKER

Virginia Britten discovered this marker while researching a query sent to PCGS. She was impressed with the history it contained.

AN OPPORTUNITY ALMOST MISSED

By Don Merrill

Why do we as genealogists, steeped in the tradition of grasping every shred of family information, sometimes fall flat on our face when given a golden opportunity to glean a bonanza? Never mind the answer, it just happens, and happened to me recently.

At our 2004 Merrill Family Reunion in New York State, one of my nieces told me that she had a box of family papers she wanted me to see. She had saved them when her mother (my sister) had passed away in 1967. The papers turned out to be part of the records from the Munger-Hudson Association, a group formalized in 1900 by the descendants of two of my Great-Great-Grandfathers, Russel Munger and Joshua Hudson. Although these patriarchs had both died in the 1800s, there were several marriages among their families, leading to annual picnics, the first of which took place at my grandfather Merrill's farm about 1885. The reunions continued throughout the years until the middle 1950's, when they died a slow death.

I borrowed the papers to take to Michigan for copying, with the promise of returning them at the next reunion. I have been accumulating information to help update "The Munger Book," a Munger family history book published in 1915 by J. B. Munger, and this detail might be helpful. As soon as I arrived in Michigan, I promptly forgot the papers until almost time for the to go to the 2005 reunion.

When I finally sorted the papers for copying, I couldn't believe what I had found. First, I had the "sign-in" book covering the years from 1902 through 1928, containing the names and most of the signatures of all who attended. Some of the years, more than two hundred people came. The changes in the families were very interesting, especially from year to year as more couples married, more babies were born, and as various persons passed away. There were names I recognized, but never realized they were relatives. The second record book contained the minutes of the 1900 to 1936 business meetings. Most secretaries filled two to four handwritten pages, containing many details of the business portion, but, most importantly, the happenings with the people. Numbers of marriages, births and deaths were recorded, but the minutes seldom mentioned the names. Committee reports were given in detail as were election of offi-

(Continued on page 5)

Dear Genealogy Colleagues,

In my last column as president, I salute the people who volunteer their time to make our Society what it is.

We initiated, and we help to staff an outstanding LDS library that provides researchers access to the millions of records the LDS church maintains, as well as a growing collection of books and periodicals.

We offer an ever-widening scope of expert speakers to instruct and motivate. Many of our own members have made memorable presentations – and sometimes we were even surprised to recognize such talent in our own group. I am convinced there is so much more we can be learning from each other. In truth, we are a Society of experts: each in his or her own locale or subject. I dream that some way can be found to codify this information so it's available to all. In the meantime, sharing is the essence of genealogy, and we all can – and do -- participate in “genealogical acts of random kindness”.

We publish a newsletter to share information and tips; we transcribe local records to smooth the way for Florida researchers; we plan and publicize programs that will excite members and attract visitors. We provide a community of interest and effort where all are welcome.

Volunteers do all this. They are the faces you see at every meeting, selling note cards, working in the library, joining a committee, bringing refreshments, writing for the newsletter, or serving as officers.

We have more members than ever: 92 at last count. I'm asking *you* to find a way to contribute some time, and to join the enthusiastic people who have made PCGS such a dynamic Society. I guarantee you will receive back in equal measure – if not more.

Patricia Busbice

LOST MEMBERS

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

Joseph Cummings

Everyone who had the pleasure of knowing Joe well, is aware of his vast knowledge of many subjects, his great sense of humor and his willingness to jump in and help out whenever he could. He was truly an asset to the Society and all of us who enjoyed being in his presence.

Roswell Roper

“He was a great Friend, Society member, story teller and researcher and should be remembered as such.” With this statement, Son-in-law Jim Parrish said it all. We, as a Society, are extremely grateful for his generosity to PCGS.

In Memory 1913-2005

Submitted by Pat & Jim Parrish

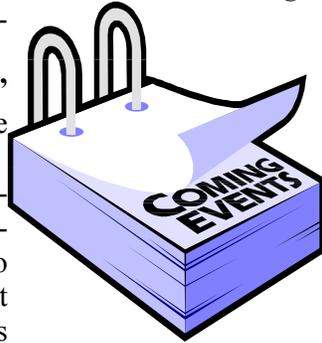
Roswell Morton Roper, Jr. - Died August 13, 2005. Born April 17, 1913 in Orange, NJ, he was the son of Roswell Morton Roper Sr. and Anna May (Carnes) Roper. Also, he was the stepson of Elizabeth (Faulks) Roper. He lived and attended school in East Orange, NJ, then received his degree from Syracuse State University in Forestry. He was employed in several State Ranger positions until he became superintendent of the East Orange Water Reserve. He was a 40-year member of the Boy Scouts of America and received the Silver Beaver Award. He was a member of the Millburn, NJ, Rotary Club and served as their president for one year. He was a proud member of Lakeland Sons of the American Revolution and he was also an enthusiastic member of Pasco County Genealogical Society. He was blessed with four children, ten grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. He was known all his life for his service to others.

PCGS UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC. 10: **John Robertson**, Scotland born & raised, will speak to us on family history research in Scotland. Visit his website at: www.shetlandroots.org. We will also hold our election of 2006 new officers.

JAN 14: "DearMYRTLE" talks to us on the "Time Machine". (See page 7)

FEB. 11: **Drew Smith**, instructor at Library & Information Science at USF to speak on "Effective Internet Research Techniques". His website is: www.genspeakguild.org/smithdrew.htm.



OUT OF AREA EVENTS

JAN. 28: Pinellas County Genealogy Society is sponsoring an all day seminar at Largo Library, featuring George Morgan. **Free.**

JAN. 28: The Genealogical Society of Sarasota is presenting a day long conference on DNA and it's applications to the genealogist. Three world-renowned leaders in this field will speak on development, testing and current genealogical applications. For more information go to www.rootsweb.com/~flgss/.

FEB. 21: South Bay Genealogical Society. All day seminar at Inn at Little Harbor, Ruskin. Speakers to be Tom Kemp and Sharon Moody Tate. Registration at 8:45 am. "Genealogy by the Bay-2006". Cost \$30 includes lunch. For more information go to: www.rootsweb.com/~flsbgs or contact: sbgs@earthline.net or bay@juno.com. ❖

Free Access

1870 Michigan Census

By Virginia Britten

For all those doing research in Michigan, the Library of Michigan has made it easier and FREE. The site is complete with index and over 36,000 images of the census pages. Please give this site a visit soon and the Library of Michigan should be applauded for providing this kind of service. Spread the word to all Michigan researchers. Visit soon http://envoy.libofmich.lib.mi.us/1870_census ❖

Queries



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.

SWINBURNE, Jennie A., wife of George, died in Zephyrhills, Pasco Co., FL 21 Nov. 1926. If anyone can locate obituary, please contact Beth Cone at bccone@co.carver.mn.us.

LESLIE, Roy W., d. 9 Nov. 1909, Lacoochee, Pasco Co., FL and wife Hattie, d. 19 Dec. 1925, buried Indian Pond Cemetery, Lacoochee, Pasco Co., FL. Please contact Daniel Lee at djlee353@tds.net ❖

"Days Gone By" by Genevieve L. Smith

Submitted by Connie Delaney

1842 - At this time, Hillsborough County consisted of part or all of Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, Manatee and Sarasota Counties (according to historian Canter L. Brown, Jr.)

1842 - Santa Rosa County established.

1843 - Hernando County established.

1843 - Wakulla County is created.

1844 - Benton County was changed to Hernando in

1850 - Hernando later changed to Citrus in the north. Hernando central and Pasco County on the south in 1887.

1844 - Benton, Marion and St. Lucie Counties created. St. Lucie County was changed to Brevard in 1855.

1845 - Devastating drought in Pasco County.

1845 - Ice was shipped south to Florida. Cedar Key was one storage area in which it was stored in sawdust. Cost was given at \$1.00 per pound.

1845 - John Geiger and sons settled in Zephyrhills southwest of Zephyr Lake. Florida had just become a state, so they came in as homesteaders. Many descendants of this family live in the Zephyrhills area. Geiger Road was named for them. ❖

The following was a news story on Peoplepc.com on Thursday, September 8, 2005.

Inventor Working Hard on Video Headstones

MIAMI - Video screens have shown up all over in recent years - cell phones, bathrooms, car head rests, subway cars, even elevators. Next up: a solar-powered video panel embedded in a tombstone that plays a clip reminiscent of "This Is Your Life."

Tasteless, you might say? A magnet for vandals? On the contrary, says inventor Sergio Aguirre. His soothingly named Serenity Panel is all about helping families celebrate the life of a lost loved one.

"While nothing ever replaces the gift of life, memories can now come one step closer to forever being remembered and not forgotten," waxes the Web site of Aguirre's company, Vidstone LLC.

The video headstone concept has been around for years, but previous inventors' ambitions have been laid to rest. One gave up for lack of demand and out of concerns his invention wouldn't be able to withstand years of harsh weather.

That's not deterring Aguirre, who quit his telecommunications job last month to work full time on Vidstone.

Aguirre, 32, promises the Serenity Panel will be durable, and while he hasn't sold any yet, he says he's got pre-orders from families whose relatives who have died. He wouldn't say how many pre-orders, and he hasn't yet collected any payment.

The device plays a 5-to-7-minute video featuring special moments from someone's life that would be compiled by anyone from friends and relatives of the deceased to funeral homes. Vidstone doesn't do video production.

The Serenity Panel's screen is covered by a solar panel, which can be flipped open by visitors. Once opened, the video starts.

The device includes two standard headphone jacks to listen to the audio. The solar panel protects the screen from sun damage and charges a battery inside, Aguirre said. Four hours of sun provides enough juice to play the video continuously for up to 90 minutes.

The 7-inch shatter-resistant LCD screen is designed to last for 15 years, when it can either be replaced with a newer device or covered with a bronze plaque. It will come with a one-year warranty; extended coverage for 10 years is about another \$200.

Aguirre says the product is vandal-resistant and has been tested to survive the outdoors - the unit will function between 32 degrees and 120 degrees Fahr-

enheit. He said the panel won't be damaged if temperatures get outside that range.

The Serenity Panel should be ready for sale in October and cost about \$1,500, including the use of video-making software, he said.

G. Scott Mindrum, president and chief executive of funeral services company Making Everlasting Memories, got a patent for a similar device in 1998 but never produced it. "I don't want to offer something that would fail," he said.

Aguirre insists that won't be a problem, and his panel has already created a buzz in the funeral industry. A prototype won an award for the most innovative product at this year's International Cemetery and Funeral Association convention in Las Vegas. And an informal poll for the National Funeral Directors Association found that of the people who want funerals, 62 percent want some form of personalization, such as video or music tributes.

Indeed, Aguirre says he got the inspiration for Vidstone at the March 2004 wake for his father-in-law. The mood was glum and everyone was crying. But then a movie screen rolled down and a video tribute was played. The first photo was of his father-in-law with a martini in hand, a pink boa wrapped around him and a top hat on. "And so everybody started chuckling and smiling and the tears kind of cleared up," he said. ❖

On the Net: Vidstone LLC: www.vidstone.com

New in the Library

By Connie Delaney

Several books have been added in the past few months as memorials to members or members' families:

Laurens County, South Carolina Wills, 1784-1840, in memory of William Hammond, husband of member Beth Hudson Hammond.

Best Backroads of Florida, The Heartland, Vol. 1, in memory of Victor Smith, husband of Mary Young Smith.

Historia de Familias Cubanas, Vol. 8, in memory of Roque Santa Cruz, father of member Tom Santa Cruz.

Records of Walker County, Alabama, in memory of member Barbara Kukec.

Many thanks to Pat Parrish for arranging and labeling these memorials. ❖

Opportunity (Continued from page 1)

cers and details of the entertainment and games. The third record book was a listing of the food used each year, from 1924 to 1954.

In the early years, the committee chairman would contact about fifty or so local relatives to bring certain things such as two pies and a potato salad, and they would be reimbursed a nominal amount, usually from ten cents to a dollar at the most. The name of each person providing food was listed, showing the money returned to them. Also, someone would go to the local grocery to purchase ice cream and other special items. In early years, they would have an evening buffet in addition to the noon meal. A collection taken up at the business meeting covered the expenses.

Those three record books will help a lot in my effort to update the Munger family history book and also to identify persons in the four group photos in my possession, taken at the reunion in 1903, 1904, 1912 and the 1932.

By far the most important find to help forward my research efforts were a couple of hand made notebooks tied with ribbons and also some loose sheets. They were as follows:

1. One very thin tissue paper sheet with birth, marriage and death notes, similar to a family bible. The names included two sets of my Gt-Gt-Grandparents Abner and Irene Miller Hitchcock and Daniel and Sally Sanford Merrill and their children. Daniel died in 1818 at age 27, and Sally re-married her sister's widower, Dewey Miller. Altogether, about thirty-five children and spouses were listed. I had very little information about any of the siblings or their spouses, so this was a real find, giving me a start on the entire families. Verification needed, of course.

2. A hand-made notebook of the Miller and Coe ancestry of my Gt-Gt-Grandmother Irene Miller Hitchcock. Millers arrived from Scotland in 1650, and the Coe family in 1655. The copy of the original is very difficult to read, but, happy day, my aunt copied it over in a very readable form. She noted in her copy that the original was written by my great-grandmother, Mary Hitchcock Merrill. I had delayed researching the Miller surname, since it is somewhat like the Browns and the Smiths, and there were four supposedly non-related Miller families in the immediate area to confuse things. I also had always heard that we had Scottish ancestry, in addition to English, but this is the first clue to that family lore. I had never heard of ancestors by the name of Coe.

3. Detailed descendency charts from Russel Munger and Joshua Hudson compiled by my aunt. I had never run across this much detail of so many cousins, especially on the Hudson side. No dates, but the names and the spouses will be a valuable guide. I would estimate there are at least six hundred names just in these charts, plus another three or four hundred in the notebook mentioned

above.

4. Two handwritten pages copied by my great-aunt Ellen Merrill from an original story of his life written by Dewey Miller, my Step-Gt-Gt-Grandfather.

5. A few sheets torn from a notebook, detailing the history of the Miller family. This is not as detailed or as long as the one mentioned above, but it may contain added data. It is hard to read, having torn at the creases where it was folded, and also it is well over one-hundred years old.

6. A souvenir folder containing a poem by a George Munger, distributed at the 1908 Munger Hudson reunion. It commemorated the 269th anniversary of the landing of the first Munger immigrant, Nicholas Munger at Guilford, CT in 1639.

7. A letter by my aunt, Sara Irene Merrill, dated September 1, 1943, sent to all members of the Munger-Hudson Association. Due to gasoline and tire rationing during WWII, no reunion was held. My aunt conjured up an imaginary airplane trip to look in on every member all over the country and in the armed services. She told the news of all the births, marriages and deaths, and detailed where each soldier was stationed, and what they were doing. There were thirty-six members in the service at that time. Receiving this letter must have been almost as good as coming to the reunion and seeing all the relatives in person.

What does this information mean to me? In the first place, it fills quite a void in my ancestry information. Secondly, it makes more of my ancestors and relatives into real persons. To me, my Grandfather Merrill was just a crotchety old man who felt that kids should be seen but not heard. He must have been quite a gay blade in his youth. At one of the early reunions at his farm, he had to be away helping a neighbor with the threshing. Late in the afternoon, he appeared coming down the road with his pitchfork over his shoulder. A group of the young ladies grabbed some food and went to meet him. He obligingly and "daintily" used his pitchfork to partake of the repast. My grandmother was also of the same demeanor as far as I was concerned, but when she was younger, she was a part of many committees, and was known as their favorite "Aunt Matie" by many of the relatives. I had appreciated my aunt Sara Irene for having identified most of the photos in three old albums in my possession. Seeing the letter she wrote in 1943, I know that she was quite aware of what was going on in the world, rather than being quite the hermit as I remembered.

The moral of my story: When you have some informa-

(Continued on page 9)

FHL Books Online at BYU

The following is an article about online books that I just received. The message is incredibly cool! You can go to the Brigham Young University website <http://www.lib.byu.edu/> and do searches of over 5000 books which the Family History Library has put online. The LDS Family History Library has announced that it has begun the process of digitizing and making available on the Internet all of the Family History books in their collection. These are primarily books in the "929.273Series" that are currently housed on the first floor of the Family History Library (previously housed on the fourth floor of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building). At the present time (September 2005), about 5000 books have been digitized and are available, and they have announced that they are adding about 100 titles a week to the on-line collection. Copyright issues are playing a role in determining the order in which they progress through this task; books out of copyright are being done first.

As these Family History books are digitized and placed on-line, an entry is being placed in the Family History Library on-line catalog with a hyperlink to the digitized image. By going to the FHL On-Line Catalog, you can search for a specific name, find a book that has been indexed using the name, and view it on-line, flipping through the pages as separate "pdf" images, much the same as if you were on the first floor of the Family History Library.

Of course, the indexing that is available through the FHL Catalog is only as good as the human indexers made it; typically they only include the "top" 4 to 6 names that appear in each book in their indexing efforts. But there is even better news! The digitized images of these Family History books are actually being stored on the electronic servers at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

By going directly to the BYU web site to view the images, there are several additional possibilities that provide genealogists functionality that they have never had before. You are now able to do full-text searches on each book, and on every digitized book in the collection. Now you can locate the small two-paragraph entry on Grandpa Ebenezer McGarrah that is buried in one of the Family History books that you would have otherwise never thought to look at before. This can open up a huge new possibility for extending lines, getting past brick walls, and uncovering new relatives!

How to Find The Digitized Images? Go to the web site of the Harold B. Lee Library at BYU at <http://www.lib.byu.edu/>. On their home page, follow the links "Find Other Materials/Electronic/On Line Collections at BYU". Click on the "Text Collections" tab and select the "Family History Archive" from the list of collections that are displayed.

You would then normally want to use the "Search All" feature with the "Search Full Text" box checked, although the "Advanced Search" will allow very high-powered searches that will allow certain phrases to be searched for and other words to be used to exclude potential hits. As you make selections from the "hits" that are displayed, you will need to use the "Click Here to View Item" button near the top of the screen to display the actual image of the page. You can page through the entire document using the index displayed on the left side of the screen. Each page may be printed after being viewed.

One interesting sidelight is, when you are at the first web page for the Family History Archive (the page that lets you begin a search), click on the "Browse the Collection" button. This will display every Family History book that has been digitized and is available in the collection.

You can scroll through this list much the same as if you were walking up and down the stacks at the library. At the top of the first page of the search results, it displays the number of hits, which (in this case) is the number of books in the collection. If you keep track of this number, you can get a pretty good idea of how fast they are adding titles to the collection as you revisit the web site from time to time. I think you will want to visit this site often as the collection grows! ❖



**Happy
Holidays**





DearMyrtle

Your friend in genealogy!

TIME MACHINE: Offbeat Resources for Family Historians

Bring Myrt a photocopy of your MOST unusual ancestral document & receive a ticket for the door prize drawings.

10 am

14 Jan 2006

Pasco County Genealogical Society

LDS Church

9016 Fort King Road

Dade City, FL

Marion "Mike" Shires nc4y@msn.com
www.rootsweb.com/~flpcgs

Find Myrt on the web at: www.DearMYRTLE.com

Reading & Listening to DearMYRTLE

Dear READERS,

Someone just asked me why my columns aren't on AOL anymore. Times change. It's a broader audience out here on the internet. I am thankful to AOL, and in particular the Genealogy Forum that used to be available on America Online, for giving me a place to start. I treasure many friendships made in those early days in 1995.

YES, it has been nearly 11 years since DearMYRTLE was first "invented." I remember working through to pick the DearMYRTLE screen name with George Ferguson on the telephone line. (My original choice was "AuntHarriet" but someone on AOL already had that name.) I was thrilled to use DearMYRTLE, since Myrtle is my paternal grandmother's given name. Then George and I sent old-timey pictures back and forth, until we settled on the one I use in the upper left corner of each page on my website.

But ol' Myrt here began onlining back in the winter of 1984-85 when I signed online with my Commodore 64 computer. It had a 300 baud modem which is simply archaic by today's terms. The grandparent of AOL was called Q-link, and there was a small genealogy group that met there. Our fearless leader was Russ Kyger, and that's where I met Terry Morgan, Bertha Bealle and another gal named Romary. They are among my oldest online genealogy friends. Russ lived in the next county in Maryland, so we met at the Library of Congress early on; but I didn't meet Terry until 12 years later when I spoke at a NGS Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. ❖

Computer Tips

More than one way to skin a cat

By Cathy Vance

Like many of you I spend a lot of time backing up genealogical information I have collected over the years, in an effort to keep it safe. Like many of you, I use CDs (Compact Disk), one of the most popular mediums used for backing up information. The problem I have found with backing up files to a CD is that they don't always work when I need to retrieve the information from them. That became clear to me last year when I spent days making backup files so I could reformat my computer hard drive. After completing the backups, I looked at the information on the CDs to make sure it was all ok and proceeded with the reformatting and installation of windows. I reinstalled all my programs and then got the CDs where I had so carefully saved all of my genealogy information and photos. The proverbial hammer fell when I found that not all of the information I had so painstakingly saved to the CDs was retrievable. There were two full disks of information that would not open, and I was not a happy camper to say the least! All was not lost, because the disks worked on my husband's computer, but then there was the problem of getting the information from his computer back to mine.

The moral of this story is "find another way to skin a cat". We need to save and backup information with some sense of certainty that our files will be retrievable and safe.

There are several solutions to the problem of file backup, and one is to store the documents or files online. In the past I have used this option by utilizing the storage space where I have my web site. I need most of the space the server allows for my web pages, so this wasn't the best solution for my needs.

Storing files online has many advantages; one is that your files will be accessible from other computers when you are away from home. The problem with online storage has been that it can be costly, so this was not an adequate solution for all people. However, I have found a new online storage site called **Esnips** at <http://www.esnips.com/signin/index.jsp>. Esnips allows you 1GB of online storage, price FREE! The site is easy to use; you can create different folders for all your storage needs, access them from other computers using a password you created when you signed up, and even share files with other people. The site is well done, easy to use and file upload is fast. For all you XP and windows 2000 users, **esnips** offers an optional

toolbar that can be downloaded to your browser. I would caution AOL users to contact **esnips** before trying the download, because your AOL browser may not be compatible. This toolbar allows you to SNIP information from sites you visit and store it in one of the folders you have created on the site. Don't worry if you can't download the toolbar, because everything else they offer will work fine without it, and it couldn't be easier!

On your first visit to the **esnips** site, you will want to take the tour they offer. It will show you all the things you can do with esnips and how to do it. You will find a link for the tour on the top left side of the page. Signing up for the site couldn't be easier; after entering your name, e-mail address and a password, you are ready to start uploading your files.

I will still use my CDs to backup files, but will also be using the **esnips** site for a second set, because like my grandmother use to say, "don't put all your eggs in one basket." ❖

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Laura Black
Scott Black
Barbara Lambert
Ellen Larsen



Our Deepest Sympathy

Our heartfelt condolences to Fred Hicks for the loss of his wife Evelyn and to our President Pat and husband Wayne Busbice for the untimely passing of their daughter Kathleen O'Connor. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time.

Opportunity (Continued from page 5)

tion dealing with family history, look at it, don't put it away for a more convenient time. In my case, I almost took the original papers back to my niece without making copies of everything. When I delved into the box, I ended up copying about five hundred pages, and had to rush like mad to get the copies made in time to return the originals. Now my challenge is to make many entries into my computer, and to verify all of the details.

Somewhere along the line, I intend to scan much of the information into the computer, enhance it for readability, then put it out on CDs to give to any of the families who may be interested. This will be in addition to scanning in the many old photographs of ancestors waiting in a closet for my attention. My problem? When do you find time to do it all? Happy Hunting! ❖

LIBRARIES

By Don Merrill

George Morgan, an excellent speaker who has made presentations to our group, has written a seven-page article on libraries, published in the Summer 2005 issue of "Heritage Quest Magazine." Entitled "Tracking Down the Treasures," the article describes first the three main indexing systems used by the major libraries. Dewey Decimal System is not the only one. The Library of Congress and many academic libraries use the Library of Congress Classification System (LOC). It is entirely different from the Dewey system.

A third system is used by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). This also is entirely different from the other two. In fact, many of us do not realize that there actually is an online listing of NARA's Washington DC area holdings, the Regional Archives, and the Presidential Libraries. George tells us how to access these records, a process which is not very evident on the web site.

George also discusses many other libraries in United States and foreign countries, the kind of holdings, and how to access their catalog and records. He gives some very good advice on search techniques to get positive results. Throughout the article, George gives several web sites which can prove valuable in our research.

George's final comment in the article is "Work like a Professional," and utilize the available online resources of library web sites to greatly improve our research success rate.

A copy of the Summer 2005 "Heritage Quest Magazine" should be available in our library, or at some area public libraries. The issue also has very good articles on "Getting the Most out of Parish Records," and gives advice on Germanic, Scandinavian and Irish research. ❖

ABSENTEE BALLOT

In accordance with Article IX Section 5 of the Pasco County Genealogical Society By-Laws, absentee ballots must be received by the Society Secretary before the start of the December meeting.

Those members not expecting to attend the regular December meeting may complete an absentee ballot by checking the nominated candidate of their choice or by using the vote for a write-in candidate.

To vote for one of the names on this slate, place an "X" on the line next to the name and office. To use the write-in option, use the section at the bottom of the list and be sure to write in both the name and office of the candidate you wish elected.

- PRESIDENT CATHY VANCE
- VICE-PRES. MARION SHIRES
- TREASURER JIM PARRISH
- SECRETARY CECILY ZERBE
- DIRECTOR JUDY KELLEY
- DIRECTOR SUSAN CANNEY

Use the following section to write in candidates of your choice.

Place this ballot inside an unmarked envelope addressed to: Pasco County Genealogical Society, PO Box 2072, Dade City, FL 33525 and mail early to be sure that it is received before December 10.

BE SURE TO REMOVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS LABEL FROM THE REVERSE SIDE IF YOU MAIL THE ENTIRE PAGE.