

# THE PASCO COUNTY LINE

Vol. 12, Issue 3

A Publication of Pasco County Genealogical Society

August 2006



This is the picture that appeared in the St. Petersburg Times, taken by Jeff Cannon for Cathy Vance, of all of us that attended the Memorial Ceremony for one of the earliest settlers of Pasco County, Jacob Wells, at the Williams Cemetery.



This is a closeup of the wreath we made

*Thanks to Virginia Britten for providing these pictures and descriptions.*

## PLEASE NOTE

The deadline for items to be included in the next issue is **October 10, 2006**. Please feel free to send your submissions any time between now and the deadline.



Virginia Britten laying the wreath on Jacob Well's grave. The wreath was made by members during the May meeting as each member brought a flower in honor of one of their ancestors to place on the wreath. This wreath was then laid at the tomb of a Pasco County settler who settled in 1842

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

For many of you it has been a busy summer visiting family, taking research trips, or maybe just getting your records in order.

For the PCGS Executive Committee and other society members it has also been a busy summer. Although our society does not meet during the summer months, work to run it doesn't stop because summer is here. I take this opportunity to let you know some of the things that have been happening this summer.

Kelly Jewett worked on the IRS 501(c)3 application for our tax exemption. Treasurer Jim Parrish worked on getting all the financial information together and to Kelly so the application could be mailed before the price went up to \$400.00.

Virginia Britten wrote an article about our May visit to Wells cemetery, and it was published in the Tampa Tribune in June. I was interviewed for an article that ran in the July issue of Focus Magazine and I have also been busy on other society projects. Vice-President Mike Shires has been busy scheduling our speakers and working with Virginia Britten on fundraisers. Kelly Jewett has updated the society web site and plans continue for our November "Microsoft Word" workshop. Others in the society have worked hard staffing the library, writing for the newsletter and filling in where needed. Our newsletter editor June Woodham has been busy getting this issue of the newsletter ready.

THANK YOU to everyone that has worked so hard this summer to make our society the great organization it has become.

*Cathy Vance*

### Creating a Book Using Microsoft Word

You've spent years gathering your data. You've spent longer organizing it. You've written hundreds of pages. And still you have no idea how you're suppose to put all this work together into a book. Pamela Tremé and Patricia Schultz could have the answer to your problem.

Pam and Pattie, both computer professionals, are offering a workshop covering the use of the XP version of Microsoft Word to produce a book that can be printed and bound. Don't avoid this workshop if you have an earlier version of Word. The majority of what Pam and Pattie will be demonstrating has been in Word since Word 95.

Handout materials for this workshop include a manual that details the skills you need to know to produce a book. Attend this workshop to learn how to:

- Apply styles and use them to generate an electronic table of contents.
- Insert electronic footnotes that can be updated with current page numbers
- Insert electronic cross-references and page numbers that can be updated
- Create electronic index entries and use them to generate an electronic index

Pam and Pattie use templates—a Microsoft Word standard—to produce books. And in this workshop, they teach you how to use them too. Pattie has already located genealogy templates at [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com). Pam is putting together a simple template to jump-start the production of your book. Come watch Pam and Pattie use this template to create chapters and pull together a book.

And after this workshop is over...Pam and Pattie are still available to you, because they are members of the PCGS. If you have questions about this workshop, contact Pam at [ptreme@hotmail.com](mailto:ptreme@hotmail.com).

In the meantime, mark your calendar and plan to attend this workshop.

When: November 4, 2006, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Cost: \$25. Members; \$35 Non-members; \$40 at the door



### BRICKWALL SOLUTION?

*By Virginia Britten*

Having a New York brick wall in New York after 1776? Here may be the answer. In reading the Genealogical Publishing Company's catalogue at our library, I found out that after the American defeat at the Battle of Long Island in 1776, several thousand refugees left Long Island and New York City and did not return until after 1780.

According to Frederick Gregory Mather, author of "*Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut*", over 5,000 people fled to Connecticut for security reasons. If your NY people disappeared, have you looked in Connecticut?

Mr. Mather has written this book telling the history of this exodus and contains biographies and genealogies of the refugees. The book includes a complete list of the Long Island Militia and the Long Island census of 1776.

This book is published by the Genealogical Publishing Company, ISBN 0-8063-4095-2, and Library of Congress number 72-39173, and is 1,204 pages in length.

If this pertains to your lost ones, happy hunting.



### On a grave from the 1880's in Nantucket, Massachusetts:

Under the sod and under the trees  
Lies the body of Jonathan Pease.  
He is not here, there's only the pod:  
Pease shelled out and went to God.

## PCGS UPCOMING EVENTS

By "Mike" Shires

**SEP. 9** - Jeff Canon, who's doing a lot of research on local cemeteries. There are many cemeteries in Pasco County that have been destroyed along with the history that lies in them. There are a couple of early communities that were situated near the Genealogical Society that he will speak about. Also, some of the early African American history as they were also a part of our community. You can view some of his research in African American history at <http://fivay.org/freedmen.html>. These are Freedmen's Bureau report and records from the late 1860's for the Hernando and Pasco County areas. Most of the area of interest will be focused on the East Pasco area, specifically around Dade City and Lake Buddy.



**OCT. 14** - We are planning an event around **old** recipes. Everyone is encouraged to bring one or two (or more) of their recipes from their ancestors or even a favorite from which a community was/is well known. These may even include how to preserve, how to prepare wild game, how to butcher, how to do laundry, even how to dust - do we do that anymore? Anything you may find and treasure and would like to share.

**NOV. 4**—Microsoft Word Workshop. Registration forms will be available online and at the Sept. meeting.

**NOV. 11** - Damon Hostfelter who has spoken to us before will again spin his tales of years gone by and the old frontier.

## OTHER AREA EVENTS

**SEP. 16**—The Florida Genealogical Society (Tampa) will present it's Annual Fall Seminar, featuring Hank Z Jones. His topics will be: When the Sources are Wrong!, Family Tradition: How to Separate Fact from Fiction, Tracing the Origins of Early 18th Century Palatine and Other Emigrants, Genealogy in the New Millennium: Where We've Been and Where We're Going!. The society's Web site <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flfsgs> has additional information about this event or contact George Morgan, Publicity Director [rabidgenealogist@hotmail.com](mailto:rabidgenealogist@hotmail.com) or (813)920-0619 M-F bet. 10am and 6pm.

**SEP. 19**—South Bay Genealogy Society, luncheon meeting 12-2pm at Cypress Creek Golf Club, 1011 Cypress Village Blvd., Ruskin. Speaker will be Ann Bergelt on the topic of Passenger List and Immigration PLUS Foreign Research. Cost \$12 (includes lunch). Contact Don Churchill at: [dchurchill@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dchurchill@tampabay.rr.com) or (813)642-0844. Website: [www.rootsweb.com/~flsbgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsbgs)

(Continued next column)

(Area Events continued)

**NOV. 10-11** - Florida State Genealogical Society 30th Annual Conference at Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront, 2605 N. A1A, Indiatlantic, FL. Speaker Claire Mire Bettag and many more. Topics will include: Federal Land Records at the National Archives, NARA Records and Information at your Fingertips (How to get the most out of NARA resources from home), Assumptions in Genealogical Research: Your Own Worst Enemy, Historical Documentary Publications as Genealogical Sources, Document Preservation, Genealogy Software, Use of City Directories, Organization, Naturalization, Cemetery Research, Internet Research, Designing Family Web Pages, and more. Website: [www.rootsweb.com/~flsfgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsfgs). ❖

## Memorialize Your Veteran Ancestors

Submitted by Virginia Britten

Virginia received this from "Genealogy Gems" by Kurt Witcher, the online newsletter of the Allen County Library.

(The website is: [genealogygems@friendsofallencounty.org](mailto:genealogygems@friendsofallencounty.org))

Historical Genealogy Department here in Fort Wayne. This is the perfect time to gather those family stories and advance your research so you will have much to talk about when the flurries fly and you're gathered around those holiday dinner tables.

A couple of days ago we had the opportunity to remember in a special way those who gave their lives in service of this great nation--a day to memorialize deceased veterans from our families, our communities, and the nation. Indeed, most genealogists have a very special regard for their military ancestors. I would like to invite you to memorialize your military ancestors in a unique and meaningful way.

Between Memorial Day and Veterans' Day of 2006, I invite and encourage you to make digital copies (scanned as uncompressed ".tif" files on CD-ROMs or DVDs) of letters you may have, written by your military ancestor(s) as well as discharge papers, awards, certificates and citations, pension papers, and other historical write-ups. Share them with other family members who may not have been so honored as to have access to this material earlier. And seriously consider sharing a copy with our Historical Genealogy Department. (Simply send the disk of military data to the attention of the Historical Genealogy Department at the address on the library's homepage.) The information would be well preserved and accessible to generations of researchers. What a neat way to pay tribute to one's military ancestors. ❖



## The Life and Times of Peter Gibbons, Jr.

By Virginia Abbey

My fourth great-grandfather was Peter Gibbons, Jr., son of Peter Gibbons and Elizabeth Warren. Elizabeth was the daughter of Joshua Warren and Rebecca Church. (Rebecca Church was a direct descendant of Richard Warren of the Mayflower, but Joshua was of a different Warren line.) Peter Gibbons, Sr. and his older son both died of smallpox before Peter, Jr., was born. His mother, Elizabeth, also had smallpox, but survived, even though she was about five months pregnant. After Peter, Sr.'s death, Elizabeth went to stay at her father's home in Waltham, Mass., where Peter was born in April 1730.

When he was six months old, his uncle and aunt, Jedediah and Abigail (Warren) Howe came to visit her parents. Abigail had just lost her baby, and since Elizabeth was still too weak from her bout with smallpox to nurse the infant Peter, Abigail took him home and wet-nursed him.

He remained with the Howe family until he was about 17 years old, and later wrote that they became mother and father to him. The Howe children treated him as one of their own. His memoirs stated that his only sister died in 1747.

Peter Gibbons was highly literate for the time and left a great deal of information about himself and his experiences. He wrote "A Short Narrative of My Life", which included dates of several natural disasters in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In November 1751 he married Sarah Greene and settled in Hardwick, Mass., on 12 acres given to him by "father Howe".

He wrote of sacrifices made during the Revolutionary War: "But the Revolutionary War put a check to my business. My boys, instead of helping me, I had to support them in the War, and was crowded to much, but I lived through."

He wrote that May 18, 1780, was the "darkest day every known here", and of the cold weather and deep snow which caused the soldiers to "suffer for want of provisions and clothing."

The following tribute to George Washington after his death was found among Peter's papers, in his own handwriting, and it is thought that he wrote it himself, since no author is mentioned.

"What wraps the Land in sorrows shades?  
From Heaven the great mandate flies  
The father of his country dies.  
Let every heart be filled with woe,  
Let every eye with tears o'erflow,  
Each form oppres't with deepest gloom,  
Be clad in vestments of the tomb.  
Behold, that venerable band  
The ruler of our mourning land,  
With grief proclaimed from shore to shore,  
Our guild, our Washington's no more.  
Where shall Colombia turn its eye?  
What help remains beneath the sky?  
In deep prostration, humbly bow  
And raise the penitential vow.  
Hear, O most high, our earnest prayer  
Our country take beneath they care  
When dangers press and foes draw near,  
May future Washington's appear." ❖



George Washington

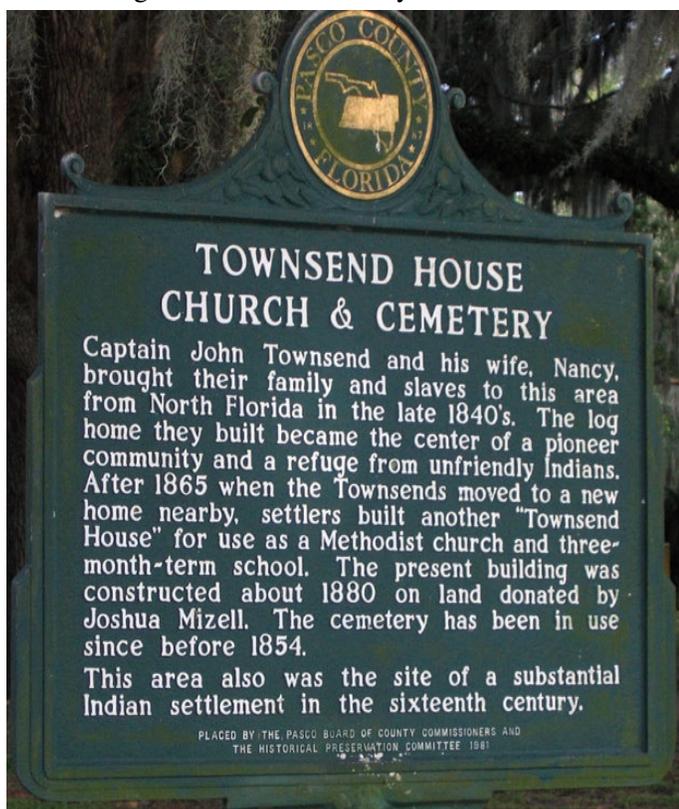
**PLEASE NOTE: THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST**

## Townsend House Cemetery

By Tom Santa Cruz

One of the pioneer cemeteries of Pasco County is the Townsend House Cemetery. The name comes from the one-room-log-cabin house that Jack Townsend built in 1846. Mr. Townsend, his family and slaves came to the area from North Florida or Georgia. This sturdy house was the gathering point for women and children when the local men went out in response to Indian sightings. After the Indian War in 1856 the then Capt. Jack Townsend built a new home nearby, but left his old house as a community meeting place. This, the Townsend House, served as the first Methodist Church in the area and also as a three-month term school (actually a summertime school). The first burial dates to 1854. Circuit riding Methodist ministers served the church. The community built a new church in 1880. In about 1930 the church closed. Sometime after 1980, the church building was taken down because it had become a hazard.

The cemetery has continued to be used up into the present day. The Townsend Town Cemetery Association has been taking care of this cemetery. The association is made up of the descendants of those interred in the cemetery.



County Historical Monument Sign

This last May, the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association since the church closed was held. Maintenance of the cemetery is done on an annual workday in April and by donation of the membership. Joyce Sleep, a member of the Pasco County Genealogy Society, is an active member of the cemetery association's board. Joyce helped me with the history of the cemetery and insights into the people buried in the cemetery.

Online at [fivay.org/townsend\\_house\\_church.html](http://fivay.org/townsend_house_church.html), you will find a history of the Townsend House Church. Also at [ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/fl/pasco/cemetery/townsend.txt](http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/fl/pasco/cemetery/townsend.txt), you will find a listing of grave marker inscriptions that were found at the cemetery in January 2001 along with a description of the cemetery. Surnames in the list include Townsend, Bradley, Darby, Hancock, Bellamy, Burnside, Eiland, O'Berry and Jones, and this is a sampling.

The history of the area surrounding the cemetery is similar to that of most of eastern Pasco County. Settlers began arriving in the mid 1840s after statehood and the passage of the Armed Occupation Act. Most of the people were not rich. They farmed, hunted and fished. After the War Between the States a second wave of settlers moved into the area and they were poor with losses of land, fortune and family as their record. They too farmed, hunted and fished.

The chance for prosperity came with the citrus industry and the railroads; both of which were subject to economic ups and downs. There were citrus packing houses in nearby Blanton. Some of the local farmers traveled to the west coast to sell their produce (truck farmers). In the hard times, many of the able-bodied found work in Hillsborough County. Some of these families moved down there permanently, but many returned to their home in Pasco. Now encroaching development threatening the rural life style of the area.

The cemetery association in some sense resembles a lineage society of the descendants of the pioneers buried in the cemetery. However the rules are relaxed. The continuing existence of the cemetery for the more than 150 years is due to a respect for their predecessors and a love for the area. At these annual meetings some people come from across the county to be with family, friends and their memories of their ancestors.

The cemetery is an isolated and quiet place. It is bordered on three sides by orange groves and the road on the fourth. The cemetery is shaded under a high canopy of high oak tree limbs and the ground vegetation is Florida style. The grave markers range from the worn unreadable to new monuments. There is a pavilion and tables for the annual meeting that includes a potluck.

You will find the cemetery off of County Road 41 (Spring Lake Road), at the county line turn west onto Dan Brown Road (not paved), the first road on the left is marked Townsend House Road (about ¾ mile), drive down the road and the cemetery is on the right. There is a historical monument sign just outside the cemetery. The GPS gave coordinates

(Continued on page 7)

## **The Early Trek Westward**

By George Varney  
(Part 2)

### **Settling The New Land**

The settlers looked forward to arriving at their destinations and see for themselves the rich fertile land that was promised. A place where you could put down roots, raise a family and make a new life for yourself. Such a place was Jackson Hole in the Wyoming Territory. Nestled amid the Majestic Grand Teton Mountains, it called to the settlers to come. And, come they did, with their wagons, livestock and tools to build a home and barn in this wilderness. The most important building to the settlers was a barn. It would provide temporary shelter for the settlers until a more suitable home was built. It housed the livestock and stored the grain and food to see them through the winter and seed for planting in the spring. Everyone pitched in, family members, surrounding ranchers and neighbors to help raise a barn for the newly arriving settler.

After the barn was built, there was cause to celebrate, to officially welcome the newcomers to the community. The celebration would most likely be an old fashioned "Barn Dance" and the local fiddler and any other musicians would gather and provide the music to "Rompe and Stomp" to. Grab your partner and don't be slow, get on the floor to Do-Si-Do.

### **Traveling the Overland or Oregon Trail**

Wagon Trains consisted of from 40-50 wagons that were formed at Westport, Missouri. They hired a wagon master to lead them along the trail. The Overland trail or Oregon trail took six months to traverse. The wagons were loaded with the needed supplies for the long, arduous journey.

#### **Food**

The required food for the long journey usually consisted of approximately: 150 pounds of bacon per person; 10 pounds of salt per person; 20 pounds of sugar per person; 20 pounds of coffee per person; 10 pounds of dried fruit per person; rice, beans, corn meal, raw corn, peas. Two milk cows to pull behind the wagons and a couple of beef cattle or calves for meat. This was approximately 220-250 pounds of food per person on the wagon.

#### **Loading of the Wagon**

The loading of the wagons consisted mostly of the food provisions. Very little, if any, furniture was allowed. The only heavy articles were a few cooking vessels, a shovel, a water keg, a tin canister for milk, tin cups, plates, saucers, butcher knives and a small grindstone for sharpening.

#### **Clothing**

Clothing was sturdy and functional. To clean clothes, they were first boiled in a kettle, beaten with stones, wrung out by hand and placed in the sun to dry. Weak thin material wouldn't last very long under these circumstances. There were two pairs of strong heavy shoes for each person in the wagon.

#### **Guns & Ammunition**

Most wagons contained a rifle, a shotgun and a pistol, 6 pounds powder, 12 pounds lead for each man for killing game along the trail and for personal protection. The largest animal that was hunted was the buffalo and the best size bore for buffalo was a 40 caliber rifle. A small caliber was better suited for the smaller game west of the mountains.

*Next Issue - Judge Roy Bean ❖*

## **WHAT COLOR IS YOUR WEDDING DRESS?**

*By Virginia Britten*

Does it matter what color your wedding dress is to what your life will be? See the Heritage Quest, Spring 2005, Vol. 21, #1, Issue 113 and you can read what Donna Potter Phillips says. Donna writes about the Victorian wedding gown and Queen Victoria who was the first to set the standard of a bride wearing a white wedding gown

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

*(Continued from page 5)*

N 28° 25.626', W 82° 19.081' (that is through the trees.)  
From the cemetery you can see Middle Lake (formerly Jones Lake, the Jones are in the cemetery).

With recent concerns about cemeteries being destroyed by developers in the county and people looking for bail-outs from the government, this cemetery is fresh air. This cemetery is not supported by government funds. ❖



**View of Monuments in Cemetery**



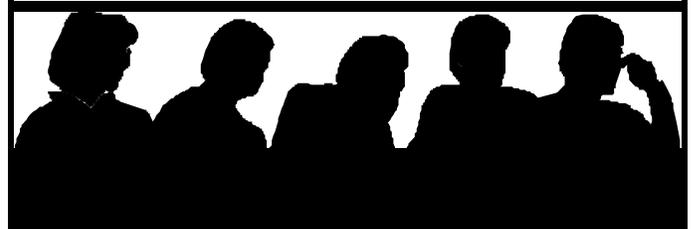
**View of Trees in Cemetery**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Jim E. Koontz**



**Pavilion and Food Tables**



**PASCO COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Officers**

<b>Cathy Vance</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Marion Shires</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Cecily Zerbe</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Jim Parrish</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Connie Delaney</b>	<b>Director</b>
<b>Judy Kelley</b>	<b>Director</b>
<b>Susan Canney</b>	<b>Director</b>
<b>Marion Shires</b>	<b>Director</b>

**Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday  
each month at 10:00 a.m.  
Except June, July & August  
at  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
9016 Fort King Road  
Dade City, FL 33525**

**Visitors Welcome**

**Visit our web page at  
[www.rootsweb.com/~flpcgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flpcgs)**

**All items for future newsletters can be mailed to:  
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P.O. Box 7034  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544  
or  
FAX to 813-973-2085  
E-mail: [JWood7311@gmail.com](mailto:JWood7311@gmail.com)**

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