

The Pasco County Line

P A S C O C O U N T Y G E N E A L O G Y S O C I E T Y

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Anticipating the availability of a new library resource
- Accessing the PCGS blog
- Preparing for the November meeting
- Learning about tags on the Internet
- Changing the newsletter

IN EVERTON'S GENEALOGY HELPER JULY/AUGUST 2007

This edition includes exciting news. The publisher, Walter Fuller, has just announced that "the digitized content of the Everton Genealogical Library and all back and current issues of *The Genealogical Helper* will now be available on the computers in more than 4,500 Family History

Centers sponsored by the LDS Church." That includes our own Dade City Family History Center. So watch the newsletter for our announcement of when this new resource becomes available in our library.

In addition, this issue has a not to be missed

article, William Dollarhide's *The Best Grave Sites on the Internet*. There are several new sites and Mr. Dollarhide gives directions on how to find them.

I say, "Read every page. You won't be sorry." ✕

By Virginia Britten

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THE BLOG

[HTTP://PASCONEALOGY.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://PASCONEALOGY.BLOGSPOT.COM/)

Not the BLOB, the BLOG! PCGS has a blog. If you have no idea what a blog is, you're in for a treat. Blog is shorthand for web log. You can use the blog to post comments about current events, great discoveries, or start a discussion about a topic of interest to you. When you post a blog entry, readers not only see what you have to say

but they can post a response—very interactive. Visit the PCGS blog at the address noted above and get the latest uncensored ramblings of your fellow members.

Want to join the fun? Email the administrator at FLPCGS@gmail.com. You'll receive an invitation to join, which allows you to post new entries. And if the PCGS blog isn't

enough for you, the 11 July 2007, Volume 10, Number 28 issue of *Rootsweb Review* includes an article on blogs. Visit the following website to see a copy of the article:

<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/review/2007/0711.txt>

✕

By Pamela Treme

U P C O M I N G M E E T I N G S

September 8 Meeting

Let's talk about Dade City and the surrounding areas. James Dennison, who has many families in his ancestral background who helped settle the area, is well-versed in local history by way of his personal history. And he's going to be on-hand to tell us all about it in his presentation *Chesley David Hill, Pioneer of Florida*. Ж

October 13 Meeting

Are you ready to play? Members are putting together an interactive program that will have you hopping, guessing, and learning. Will it be terminology? Will you have to use maps? Does it require a pith helmet and a pick axe? Who knows? And presenting members aren't talking. I'm bring a canteen just in case! Ж

November 10 Meeting

Come join Pattie Schultz and Pam Treme for pointers on producing a family newsletter. Pattie will explain the process. Pam will jump in with suggestions on easy to use newsletter templates. Be sure to read the article on pages 5 and 6 about preparing for this mini-workshop. Ж

P R E S I D E N T ' S L E T T E R

A R E Y O U P R E P A R E D F O R T H E U N E X P E C T E D ?

As genealogists we often forget about things in the present because our focus is on finding things in the past. In this article I will address some of the things we forget about and hope it will help everyone to prepare for an unfortunate event.

We all think about death and many of us have prepared in some way for that eventuality. But, have you prepared for other things that might happen in your life? Do you have a living will that tells your family and doctors what your wishes are if you can't speak for your-

self? Have you discussed death with your spouse and children, and told them what you want done with your belongings and genealogy information? Do your children and spouse or other family members know the medical history of your family? Is your living will and other important documents in a place where someone can get them if need be?

Remember, if your documents are in a safety deposit box, access to the box is limited. Unless family members are on the paperwork at the bank and they have a key, they will not

be able to get them without a court order to open the box.

This summer Virginia Britten lost her son-in-law. Because he had no living will, doctors were forced to continue to provide medical care when the family knew that it was not what the son-in-law, John, would have wanted.

They also found out after the fact that John's father had a bad heart history and that his mother has had a vascular problem from her youth. Had John or his family been aware, they could have alerted the doctors and maybe taken

another course of action that may have saved his life.

This young man of forty-five didn't think about death because of his age and like most people thought there was plenty of time to take care of things. His death caused much distress for the family and they learned many hard lessons about being prepared for the unexpected.

What Virginia would like everyone to know is: Be prepared! Prepare your wills, get a living will made out for medical care, and make sure your primary care physician has a copy on file. Make sure your family knows about any medical conditions that run in your family. Talk to your children and ask them if they have made any preparations. And if they haven't made them, nag until they do it.

Make sure you know the medical conditions that may not be in your immediate family but occurring in cousins, nieces, and nephews. When my husband's nephew was born, he would get blisters all over his body and they would get infected. Doctors found that the condition could be life threatening and painful. The doctors didn't know what the problem was and everyone started calling family members to ask if they got unexplained blisters.

My husband is one of the family members who gets unexplained blisters. By finding out that other family members get the blisters, they were able to start testing for specific conditions rather than guessing about what it might be. Doctors found the baby had a rare inherited skin disorder and my husband has a mild case of it. My husband's condition would not have been known had it not been for this nephew's condition. Our daughters do not have the condition, but their children might. Their awareness may save them some heartache when they have children.

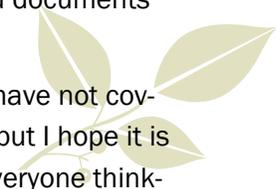
What I am saying is think out of the box. Look at scenarios that you would not normally think of when preparing your will or living will. The other day I was thinking about my will and

thought of something that had not crossed my mind before. I realized that if I died and my husband remarried, and then he died, the new wife would be in control of everything. My daughters might not get any of the items that have been passed down in my family. Further, they could be sold or given away. We think it won't happen but it can. I will be changing things in my will to ensure that people get the items I want them to have.

Last but not least you should also remember to make sure your will states where your genealogy files and documents should go.

I am sure that I have not covered everything but I hope it is enough to get everyone thinking and acting. ✂

By Cathy Vance, President



*Our deepest sympathies go to
Virginia Britten and her family
on the recent passing of John, her son-in-law.*

*Our deepest sympathies go to
Sandra Kaxton and her family
on the recent passing of her father-in-law.*

THE ROUND SCHOOL HOUSE

The Round Schoolhouse in Brookline, Windham County, Vermont is reportedly the only one of its kind in the country. The plan for its construction was made by Dr. John Wilson and presented to the town building committee—Dr. William Perry and Samuel Stebbins—in 1821. The site was deeded to the town by Peter Benson for the sum of \$5.00 and the school was built in 1822. The single room structure has five windows and one door. Its great distinction is that it is shaped like a silo and was heated by a stove with the chimney running through the center of the roof.

The school was constructed of brick and the interior included benches

placed in a circular formation. The benches could hold sixty students and the district had enough pupils to fill the school.

The designer, Wilson, was a man shrouded in mystery. He walked with a limp, spoke with a British accent, and always wore a scarf or high collar, concealing his neck. Only after his death did the truth surface concerning his notorious past.

Wilson otherwise known as “Thunderbolt,” and Michael Martin, called “Lightfoot” were two highwaymen who came from Scotland to escape punishment for their crimes. Captain Thunderbolt, as legend has it robbed from the wealthy along the border between Scotland and

England and shared his booty with the poor. He was able to acquire enough resources to get to America and moved to the mountain hamlet of Brookline as a hideout. His companion, Martin, came to this country in 1819 under agreement to be separate from “Thunderbolt” and reform. Martin returned to his unlawful ways and was hanged for highway robbery for highway robbery in 1821 at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Although “Thunderbolt” lived a quiet life in

Brookline, he was always under suspicion for his past in Scotland. He was the son of a pious and respected blacksmith from Muirkirk. He taught the first term at the school with his desk at the back of the room, facing the

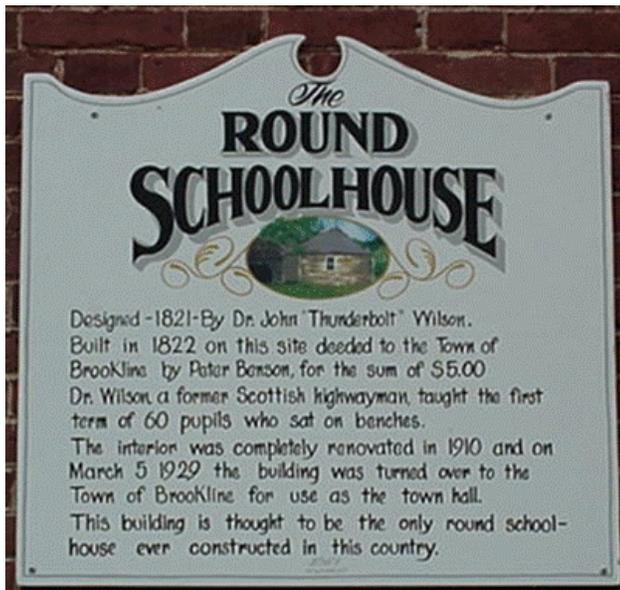
door. This vantage reportedly gave him a chance to escape if any suspicious caller approached the school. He was reportedly always armed.

Wilson moved frequently and it is reported that he settled in Dummerston, Vermont. He lived there for two or three years, and built a school and workshop. He later located in Newfane, Vermont where he established a physician’s practice. In 1836 he moved to Brattleboro, Vermont and built a house on the banks of the Connecticut River near the present railroad yard where he spent his remaining days. He married a Miss Chamberlin of Brattleboro, who a few years later, secured a divorce because of certain facts



she learned about his past. One son was born to them, but nothing is known of him. "Thunderbolt" passed away in 1847 and is buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery in Brattleboro where his grave and headstone is pointed out to visitors.

After his death it was determined that his limp was caused from multiple injuries to his leg and foot. His neck revealed heavy scarring, probably caused from chains during imprisonment. Among his possessions were two double-barreled shotguns, two pairs of horse pistols, two or three dueling pistols, a number of swords, a variety of powder horns, shot bags, and bullet pouches. Also, he had a false heel that reduced his limp, a daguerreotype portrait, and his waking cane in which a sword was hidden. These items are on display at the Brooks Library in Brattleboro.



Efforts by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, The Preservation Trust of Vermont, and local residents have raised over \$50,000 to restore the school. According to Cynthia Nau, co-chair of the Brookline Historical Society, the society plans to have the school open for visitors on a regular basis.

William Rounds, Lorraine Varney's father, attended this Round School House in about 1918. ✕

Story and Photographs by George Varney

PREPARING FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING

A family newsletter can serve many purposes. It can help dispersed family members keep up with the latest family news—genealogy-related or just tell how you spent your summer vacation. It can light a fire under family members to update you on their discoveries. It can remind family members to drive to that cemetery down the road and take those pictures they promised you two years ago.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are great times to send out family newsletters. Families are gathering and a newsletter can generate conversations that might not other-

wise happen. Stories in newsletters can also spark memories.

To help you start your family talking—and possibly researching—the November meeting will be devoted to producing a family newsletter. To be ready to write your family newsletter, you need to start now.

Update addresses. Do you have your addresses in a Word table or spreadsheet so that you can merge them with peel and stick labels? You can get clear labels and use a script font to produce labels that are lovely. For templates and information on creating labels, visit www.Avery.com.

Examine your research. Do you have questions to ask?

A great place to ask them is in a newsletter. Family members who might otherwise hesitate to reply to a direct question may help you when they see what you are after. They can quietly answer your questions without anyone knowing who supplied the information.

Start writing stories now. Did you make an interesting discovery or find a funny family tidbit? Don't hoard the treasure. Spread it around. Every family can use some wonder or at least a good laugh. —>

Start thinking about supplies. Do you want to use fancy stationary or the cheapest stuff you can get your hands on? Are you going to use envelopes? Or, are you going to fold and seal the newsletters with a sticky tab and drop them in the mail?

If you start preparing now, you'll get the most from this mini-workshop because you won't be scrambling at the last minute. And producing a effect newsletter will be a breeze. See you in November!
Ж

By Pamela Treme

IN THE FLORIDA GENEALOGIST VOLUME XXX, #2 - APRIL/JUNE 2007

The Florida Genealogist published by the Florida State Genealogical Society, Inc., has arrived and has some very interesting articles. One was written by well known author Alvie Davidson that highlights a woman who was fortunate to have lived in three centuries. Yes, you have read that right, three centuries. She died in 1911 and was 115 years old and at one time was the oldest person in South Florida.

Another interesting article by Marlene Womack, a member of the Bay County Genealogical Society, highlights a small antebellum town in Northern Florida named Two Egg. Since I have previously visited this town with the catchy name, I was very interested in learning its history.

It appears that residents of the town were known to have lived long lives and the two cemeteries in town are filled with several individuals who lived well past the century mark.

Was it the water?

Was it the fine living? No, it was the hard work they endured during their lifetime, according to Levy Mack, a resident of Two Egg.

One centurian, Susan Hartsfield, enrolled in Jackson County Adult Education Program at the age of 101 to learn how to write her name. She lived until she was 113 years old. Her sister lived to be 110 years old and a neighbor of the sisters lived to be 115.

Find out why they named this unusual town Two Egg by reading this latest edition of *The Florida Genealogist*. It is located in the LDS Library Book Room in the Banker Box named *The Florida Genealogist*, Box 2. ж

Story and Photograph by Virginia Britten



ST. AUGUSTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH LIBRARY



Reading Room

This library is one of the important stops for anyone researching Florida's history. The library, which is housed in the Seguí-Kirby house in old St. Augustine, occupies all three floors of the 200+-year-old building. The library's collection includes many source documents from Florida's colonial periods, territorial period, and statehood. Over the years, as the political and economic influence of St. Augustine diminished, the nature of the later acquisitions emphasized more St. Augustine itself and St. Johns County. Keep in mind that Flagler's railroad operations in Florida were based in St. Augustine.

The library's collection consists of maps [older and newer], historical and genealogical periodicals, books, a photograph collection, a microfilm collection, a vertical and biographical collection, and the archives. The archives are the special treasure of the library. They include church records, correspondences, federal claims records, court records, and even business records. The Stetson Collection, which is not a collection of hats, is there too. This collection is a historical record of Florida through the territorial times into statehood. And there is more that I haven't found.

The library caters to academics, scholars, students, writers, historians, and genealogist. The reading room includes a number of displayed books that have been generated by researchers who have used this library. To use the library, you request a particular item and a volunteer brings the item to you from wherever it is stored. Library copy charges are steep. Personal cameras and scanners are a no-no.

The weak point in the library is its catalog. It runs on what appears to be a pre-Windows operating system. While the old style computer catalog is functional, it limits the Internet exposure of a research library of this quality. The resolution of this issue is a library priority. The library does have a website at www.staugustinehistoricalsociety.org/library.html

If you go, remember that parking in St. Augustine is a long-standing problem. There is all-day parking near the library for \$6/day. St. Augustine is a fun adult town so your non-genealogical traveling companion has lots to see and do nearby.

**Story and Photograph by
Tom Santa Cruz**

“The Stetson Collection, which is not a collection of hats, is there too.”

TAGS AS THE INTERNET EVOLVES

While Web 1.0 is still under development, Web 2.0 is emerging on the Internet. Why should you care? Web 2.0 allows you to make easier and quicker additions to web pages. A person doesn't need to know HTML or CSS or even what it means. However, users do need a user name and password to use Web 2.0 applications. Your email address is used in the application as your user name, but it is not published on the website, which significantly reduces spam.

Sites that use Web 2.0 include Flickr (photography), YouTube (video), Digg (news), and Blogger. PCGS has a blog at <http://pascogenealogy.blogspot.com/>. Anyone can sign up

"Flicker may have some wonderful photos of a city or building (such as a church) that interest you."

and post to this website. Everything that is posted remains on the site and is archived monthly. As time passes, this site will continue to grow with content. Similar sites have existed for a year or longer.

What do you find on these sites? They may have hundreds of entries and photos. How do you find anything?!?! Web 2.0 uses tags. Wikipedia defines a tag as *a keyword or term associated with or assigned to a piece of information (such as a picture, article or video clip).*

Tags can also be called labels or keywords.

Websites usually include a search option at the top of the main page. You type in a word or phrase in the search box. Now, tags (labels or keywords) start doing the work. Anything that is posted can have a tag. The person who posted the original item can include a brief description, usually one or two words, and this will assist in the search. On the PCGS blog, search using *Library* and it will reveal all the entries posted that were tagged with *Library*.

Using Flickr, YouTube, and Digg, you can find genealogy information. Try searching on these sites using a family name or a topic of interest. Flickr may have some wonderful photos of a city or building (such as a church) that interest you. YouTube has

278 entries for the word *Genealogy*. These entries will be for videos and they are best viewed using a high speed Internet connection. If you want to learn how to do scrapbooking, that search on YouTube will yield 2,100 short videos.

Tags are also available on some software on your personal computer. I use Adobe Lightroom to manage my photos. Adding descriptive tags in Lightroom is easy and recommended, especially since the file name is a cryptic letter number combination coming from a digital camera. I use the last name for a family line, cemetery name, town name, or all of the foregoing as tags. When you use tags, any search will provide the same picture if it fits the search criteria.

Tags are helpful and flexible. They provide a way to find what you are looking for on Web 2.0 sites and on your own computer if you use them. It may take some time to get them all entered but tags will often save time in the long run. X

By Kelly Jewett

WITHLACOOCHEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CEMETERY

You can find this neatly kept church and cemetery outside of Dade City. If you check page 65 in *The Historic Places of Pasco County* by James Horgan, Alice F. Hall, and Edward J. Herrmann, it states that the congregation was organized on August 24, 1886. The church and cemetery were part of the Ashley settlement that was established by a Post Office from 1884. The settlement was gone by 1910 along with the Post Office. However both the church and cemetery continue to serve the area.

To get to this cemetery start from Dade City. Take River Road off the US-301 by-pass. At the end you come to a one-lane bridge, the Lanier Bridge. On the other side of the bridge the road turns from pavement to limestone, but at the end on the right is the Withlacoochee Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery.

**Story and Photographs by
Tom Santa Cruz**



A recent survey of grave markers can be seen at:
<ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/fl/pasco/cemetery/with.txt>

NEWSLETTER CHANGES AND NAME

Perhaps you've noticed a few changes in the newsletter. The board of the PCGS asked me in my capacity as head of the Newsletter Committee to make some changes. I figured no guts, no glory.

I snatched the newsletter from the unsuspecting editor, June Woodhum, and ran amok with it. Board members were pleased with what they saw. Thus you have a newly designed newsletter. However, one fly in the ointment

remains...the name.

In reviewing the new layout, Virginia Britten pointed out that without the telephone line graphic that *The Pasco County Line* didn't have much meaning for her. I countered with, "I've already made so many changes that I don't want to mess with the name too." So we compromised.

All involved agreed that we should let members decide.

So fire up your email program

and email your suggestions to me at

ptreme@hotmail.com.

If you like the old name, please tell us. If you want to suggest a new name, please tell us. I will gather your comments together and submit them to the board.

Besides laurels for your efforts, a small prize may be on the line if we rename it.

Ж

By Pamela Treme

MAY 2007 MEETING



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF KELLY JEWETT

In this well-attended meeting, members and guest listened closely to learn how to send mass mailings to family members. In this photograph Patie Schultz explains the process. Later she and Pam Treme walked everyone through using the computer to automate mailings. Ж

ITALIA, FLORIDA

The early history of Italia, Nassau County, Florida is highlighted in Volume 34, Nos. 3 and 4 of the Jacksonville Genealogy Society, Inc.'s journal. If you have ancestors located in this county during the late 19th century along the Florida Transit Railroad, this issue is a good source to look at in the LDS Library Book Room. The Florida Transit Railroad ran from Ferdinandina to the Gulf of Mexico going through the towns of Palatka, Gainesville, and Ocala.

Italia was settled by a man from Ireland along with several others who are highlighted in this article written by Heber MacWilliams. The man also created several businesses, ran for public office, and served as a Secretary of the Florida Senate. Read this arti-

cle to find out who this public figure was.

What was Italia famous for? Would you believe bricks? How can Florida sand be made into bricks? Read this

“What was Italia famous for? Would you believe bricks? How can Florida sand be made into bricks?”

well-documented article and you will discover how bricks were manufactured in Italia and how important this craft was to the development of Florida.

Another article in this journal is *Births, Marriages and Deaths Reported in Old*

Jacksonville Newspapers, abstracted by the late Grace H. Jarvis. It was fun reading what was published in that time period. Many tragic events were recorded, such as the two women who drank poison and died, train explosions, murders by prison escapees, accidents with the new found motor carriage, and one poor soul who died from contracting both typhoid fever and measles. Boy, he had really bad luck.

A lot of records include people from places other than Jacksonville.

You can find this issue of the journal in the Jacksonville Journal Banker Box on the metal shelf on the right as you enter the library. ✕

By Virginia Britten

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Want to have an article published in the newsletter? We'll be happy to accommodate you. Please submit items by the following deadlines:

- Oct 10, 2007 for Nov 2007
- Jan 10, 2008 for Feb 2008
- Apr 10, 2008 for May 2008
- July 10, 2008 for Aug 2008

Please feel free to send your submissions any time between now and the deadline. Early is great; by the deadline works too. Email your submissions to June or Pam at:

jwood7311@peoplepc.com
ptreme@hotmail.com

NEW MEMBERS CORNER

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

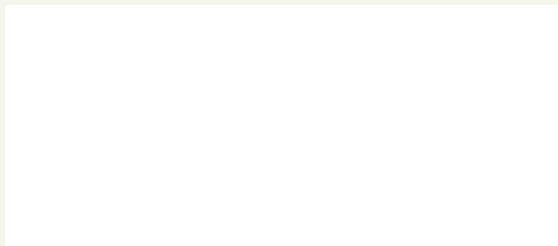
- Louie E. Holt
- Robert “Bob” Chandler
- Emily Mae Hethcote
- Donna Blommel
- Louis Blommel

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.ROOTSWEB.COM/~FLPCGS/

**P A S C O C O U N T Y
G E N E A L O G Y S O C I E T Y**

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Researching Our Ancestors is Family Fun...

S O C I E T Y I N F O R M A T I O N

Meetings

The Pasco County Genealogical Society meets the second Saturday of each month for membership meetings from September through May. The summer recess runs through June, July, and August when there are no meetings. The public is always invited and welcomed to all membership meetings. Meetings are held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 9016 Fort King Road (State Road 41). The church is located at the intersection of Bailey Hill Road, which is midway between Clinton Avenue, Dade City, and Daughtry Road, Zephyrhills. Visit our website for a map: www.rootsweb.com/~FLPCGS/

Membership

Membership is open to all persons interested in genealogical research. Annual Dues cover the period January 1st through December 31st of the year and are paid in December for the year.
—Individual—\$15.00
—Family Membership—\$22.50
—Student—\$5.00
Visit our website for an application: www.rootsweb.com/~FLPCGS/

Benefits

Membership has its rewards! They include access to our library, quarterly newsletters, and the availability of our members, many of whom are longtime, respected genealogist.

Mission Statement

To encourage research, publication, preservation and availability of genealogical material. To instruct and lend assistance to the membership and general public in the modern methods of research. These objectives shall be accomplished by regular and special meetings by means of lectures, workshops, field trips, and other educational activities. To encourage our members to strive for a personal level of achievement in genealogical research, to preserve that research with a documented lineage society and to place a record of research in the membership files. ж