

# The Pasco County Line

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

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Enter a competition
- Get search tips
- Buy a raffle ticket
- Learn more about "Forum"
- Plan your summer

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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## PCGS WRITING COMPETITION

Do you have a poignant story about one of your grandparents or great-grandparents? Do you have a story that's sure fire to make people laugh? If the answer is yes, then we want you to tell your story by entering it in the PCGS Writing Competition.

- Make the story as long as you want.
- Don't worry about spelling, punctuation, or grammar. We're reading for content. We want a great story.

- Submit it in any format: handwritten, printed, electronic, recorded.
- Submit your story by **4 July 2008**.
- Send your story to Pamela Tremé at [ptreme@hotmail.com](mailto:ptreme@hotmail.com)  
OR  
Mail your story to Pamela Tremé  
c/o PCGS  
P. O. Box 2072  
Dade City, Florida  
33526-2072

To be eligible for this competition, you must be a member of the PCGS.

That's it—if you're a PCGS member, you're in.

Stories received by the deadline will be read by the following committee:

- Patricia Schultz
- Pamela Tremé
- Pricilla Lewis

We will pick the winning tale and publish it in the newsletter. The PCGS will present the winner with a small prize to mark the occasion.

In subsequent issues of the newsletter, we will try to publish as many submissions as possible.

## LIBRARY THING

Did you get your Pasco Library card okayed for Hillsborough Libraries? If you did, when you go online to the Tampa-Hillsborough County library site at <http://www.thpl.org>, you can access their online databases with your Pasco County Library card number. I cruise the GenealogyBank and the Historic Atlanta Constitution Newspaper from the comfort of my home. X

By Thomas D. Santa Cruz

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

Three months ago I knew I had to write an article for this issue and I had in mind to have it finished by mid to end of March. Here I sit on 6 April with many thoughts and no direct target. I picked up the Sunday paper and after reading some of the articles I started thinking about three of them. I wonder if they will raise similar thoughts to mine.

First, Sharon Tate Moody had a great column referring to a question she was asked by a person seeking her ancestors: "Can anyone go back to Jesus?" Sharon stated she could not give a definitive answer to whether anyone can trace ancestors to Jesus but she found it very hard to believe.

Second, in another section of the paper I came across a short article where the Absolut

Vodka Company apologized for an ad campaign which showed the southwestern United States as part of Mexico. It appears it was an 1830 era map in their ad showing Mexico which in that time frame included California, Texas and other SW states... Needless to say this caused a few calls of major discontent.

Third, did you know that besides searching for ancestors, we have folks reaching out to identify and solve the mysteries of the missing dead? Volunteers work thru "Doe Network" which has volunteers and chapters in every state. I'm sure some of you are familiar with their blogs and websites.

My thoughts on number one started this trail of thinking: Did Adam come from dust? Did Eve come from Adam's

rib? Did we come from fish? Amoeba? A brother of Jesus? Mary?...and I fell asleep.

My thoughts on number two started when I wondered if any of my husband's ancestors were in California or Texas in 1830. Were any at the Alamo and what's vodka got to do with 1830?

My thoughts on number three was that I didn't want to go there. It's a great cause, but I'd rather be digging up relatives (no pun intended) and learning their stories. I'm sure it's a bigger thrill when you find one of your own.

And a last thought was we had a great program last month and I wonder how many actually went to look at the different message boards, and how many wrote in a query? Did you? Ж

**By Mike Shires**

## T I P S F O R S E A R C H I N G A N C E S T R Y . C O M

Most of us use Ancestry.com and some of us find information that we need. For the people who are not having much luck, here are a couple of tips you can use to help find that elusive ancestor whose name may not be spelled the way you think it is. The tips are taken from the Ancestry help file. You can find many more tips than I am able to cover in this article by using Ancestry's Help file.

Wildcards are special symbols that are used in place of letters or numbers. They can be used to match distinct but similar words.

- An asterisk "\*" replaces zero or more characters.
- A question mark "?" replaces exactly one character.

For example, a search for "fran\*" will return matches on words like Fran, Franny, or Frank. A search for "Johns?n" returns Johnson and Johnsen, but not Johnston.

Here are some suggestions on how you can better use wildcards to complete your search:

- Use more characters before the wildcard. For example, use Able\* instead of Abl\*. There must be at least 3 characters before any wildcard.
- Specify both a first and last name or a partial first and last name.
- Try using the single-character wildcard "?" rather than the multiple-character wildcard "\*". For example, entering "Hans?n" returns matches for both Hansen and Hanson.

A second search method that I love is used for searching "Stories and Publications." I have found so much using this technique and I am sure you will too.

To use "Stories and Publications," locate the tabs above the search box and click the tab "Stories and Publication." In the *Keywords* field, type in a name using quotation marks; for example, type "John Parnell." And then click the **Search** button.

Ancestry returns only articles that list the names together on a page. If you just used the first and last name with no quote marks in the *Search* field, Ancestry lists thousands of hits, because the search returns every article that has the names John and Parnell in it. Using the quote marks causes Ancestry to list only articles that show the entire name John Parnell together on the page.

These tips, and more, were taught in one of our monthly educational programs. So, if you're interested in learning new and exciting research skills, make sure you attend the special programs PCGS is offering. ✂

By Cathy Vance



## ROOTSWEB MAILING LIST USING THE SEARCH ENGINE

Before you post a message to a mailing list, you may want to see if someone else is researching your great grandmother who lived in Juneau County, Wisconsin. To do this, use the Archives Search Engine for the Rootsweb Mailing Lists, which is located at: <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/search>

This search engine gives you great flexibility and allows you to search by a number of areas.

For example, I could search just for my great grandmother, Sarah Jane Marrs, on all mailing lists or I could restrict the search to the Juneau County list.

So, before you post that message check out the archives, you may find the answer to your question, and much more. ✂

By Pattie Schultz

### Archives Search Engine

<a href="#">Keyword</a>	<a href="#">Advanced</a>
Body: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	
Subject: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	
From: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	
	<small>(email address of poster)</small>
List: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	
	<small>(limit search to one mailing list)</small>
Date: <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	
	<small>(e.g. 10 Jun 2005, Jun 2005, or 2005)</small>
<input type="button" value="Search"/>	<a href="#">Search tips</a>

## WHO ARE THE MENORCANS?

The Menorcans (or Minorcans) are an important part of Florida's past and present. During Florida's British period (1763–1783), Andrew Turnbull organized a colonial plantation call "New Smyrna" in 1768. Turnbull intended the plantation to cultivate, harvest, and process indigo. The plantation was to be manned by indentured workers.

Turnbull recruited in the British-ruled Mediterranean, primarily from the island of Menorca. Eight ships, set sail with 1,403 people—individuals and families; however, 148 died in the passage. The first year in Florida claimed another 450 lives.

The colonist faced other challenges as well. Initially, adequate housing was available only for a third of the colonists. Mosquitoes were ever present and mosquito-borne diseases were another problem. The biggest challenge was cultural differences. Turnbull was an English speaking non-Catholic Scot entrepreneur who lived for work. The Menorcans were Spanish speaking Catholics who lived by barely sustainable agriculture.

The Menorcans demanded a priest and got one. They marked their days with religious events with feast days and days of penance. Turnbull and his overseers viewed these practices as laziness, which they often punished with brutality that included beatings, and the placing of workers in stocks or chaining them to iron balls or logs.

The work was not easy. The processing of indigo involved the use of dangerous machines and hazardous chemicals. Lives were shortened and lost. When workers completed the indenture, Turnbull coerced them into extending their indenture. The plantation was very profitable for Turnbull. A Menorcan child overheard plantation visitors saying that Turnbull's actions were illegal. The child told

his elders, and three workers on the pretense of a hunting party went the 100 miles to St. Augustine to see the new governor, Patrick Tonyn.

Tonyn who was at odds already with Turnbull, agreed to hear the workers. In 1777, Tonyn released them from the indentures. With Gov. Tonyn's freeing them from oppression, they walked to St. Augustine. They numbered just over 600 men, women, and children. Over 10 years, 964 colonists died in New Smyrna.

The governor allowed them to settle in the area between the fort and the present-day Catholic cathedral (the Menorcan Quarter.) This group quickly filled an economic gap as crafts and tradesmen. At the time the Menorcans were the largest European cultural group in Florida. They were loyal to the crown and were a strategic resource in case of an American invasion.

When the Spanish rule returned in 1783, the Menorcans easily integrated after taking an oath of allegiance, especially since they spoke Spanish and were Catholics already. The Menorcans blended socially and economically with the Spanish and the other European groups.

Today a population of more than 15,000 people of proud Menorcan heritage live in the St. Augustine, Florida area. Many of them are happy to talk about their genealogy. Two Menorcan websites that link to others are [minorcanfamily.com](http://minorcanfamily.com) and [freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pudig/Minorcan.html](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pudig/Minorcan.html). There are many books about the Menorcans. The best known is "Mullet on the Beach" by Patricia Griffin, and it is in the Pasco County Library. ✂

**By Thomas D. Santa Cruz**

## THE SAGA OF ALICE PIERCE SCHWEMM AND THE MISSING NEWSPAPER INDEX

I love newspapers. It is the plain unvarnished truth. I have folders bulging with copies of newspaper articles; a hard drive crammed with their images; and an empty purse from having spent too much money on subscriptions to newspaper databases. I just love doing genealogy research using newspapers.

There are times, however, when there are newspapers that I cannot access via the Internet. In those cases, I have to rely on indexes that have been created by hardworking volunteers that make my research easier. Without those indexes my research would be much slower and much harder. I would have to read through rolls of microfilm and take a chance that my ancestor's birth, marriage, or death had been published in that newspaper. That would also assume I had the time and money to spend to visit all those cities across the country! Indexes are wonderful, but I found that they can be faulty.

### Searching for Alice Pierce Schwemm

My great grandfather Fred Schwemm was married twice. His first marriage to Alice Pierce in 1884 produced three children, two who survived to adulthood. His second marriage in 1897 produced four children, one of which was my grandmother, Florence Schwemm. Technically, there was no reason to document his first marriage.

I was intrigued, however, when I interviewed my grandmother's cousin Ruth Schwemm Hardacre in 1998. Ruth was 95 and the oldest living member of the Schwemm family. She was shocked when I told her that her Uncle Fred's eldest sons were from his first marriage. In fact, she did not believe me until I showed her the marriage license. Ruth said that there had never been any mention in the family of Uncle Fred's first marriage. Alice seemed to have disappeared from the family memory without a trace.

When I decided to start my research on Alice Pierce Schwemm I was living in Florida so I relied on the newspaper indexes. According to all available records Alice and Fred had lived on a farm in Barrington Township, Cook County, Illinois. According to the index for the local Barrington paper, The Barrington Review, there was no obituary published.

I was surprised to find an index entry in the Crystal Lake Herald. Crystal Lake is located in McHenry County Illinois and it does border Cook County; however, Crystal Lake is not and was not close to Barrington. The newspaper did have a three line obituary that included a date of death, May 28, 1896, which led me to Alice's death certificate.

Over time I was able to put together an outline of the brief life of Alice Pierce Schwemm. I was able to trace her family's journey from Barrington Illinois to Marble Rock, Iowa. As a young girl, she came back to the Barrington area to live with her grandparents. A second cousin of my grandmother's found some photos of Fred and Alice, their children and members of the Pierce family. Alice's sons married but did not have any children who lived to adulthood. The pictures had been passed down to one of the half-brother's family.

### The Missing Index Entry

This past year I was reviewing my notes on Fred Schwemm and decided that something was not right. It bothered me that an obituary had not been published in the Barrington Review. It was inconsistent with how other family members' deaths were handled.

During a quick trip to visit my mom I decided to look for the obituary. Since I love to read newspapers, instead of starting with the issues around her date of death, I started a couple of months before she died.



Saga cont'd from page 5...

The first thing I noticed was that the comings and goings of the Fred Schwemm family was not mentioned under "Barrington Local News" but under "Spring Lake Local News." While today Barrington covers a large area, back in 1896, it seemed that it was broken into multiple communities, Spring Lake being one of these communities. As I read, I found entries about Freddie and Charles Schwemm going to various children parties.

Then in the beginning of April there was a brief note in the "Spring Lake Local News" that Alice Schwemm was ill.

In May it stated that she was "dangerously ill." I knew that Alice had died on May 29, 1896, but I did not see an obituary under the "Spring Lake Local News." There was an entry, however, listing the people who had attended the funeral of Mrs. Schwemm. I looked over the page again; it had to be there...Then I saw an article titled "Only Sleeping." It did not have the appearance of an obituary. It did tell the story of a woman who was loved by her family and had died too young. The woman was Alice Pierce Schwemm. I could now fill in some of the holes in Alice's story.

### Lessons Learned

The volunteers who had built the index had not seen the obituary. It was easy to miss because the title did not contain a name or state that someone died. I was looking for it and did not see it. What did I learn? Indexes are a great research tool but they are not infallible. If you think a family would have published an obituary, birth announcement, or marriage announcement and it is not listed in the index, you might want to go to the source and look for yourself. ✂

By **Pattie Schultz**

## A F G H A N R A F F L E

PCGS is raffling this handmade afghan. The afghan, which is white with a green ribbon trim, measures 57"x45". This donated afghan is the handy work of member **Ann Morris**. The tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. You can purchase tickets from any of the following members:

- Ray Morris: [gduck2@aol.com](mailto:gduck2@aol.com)
- Mary Ann Balbach: [MJBFL@juno.com](mailto:MJBFL@juno.com)
- Virginia Britten: [Jverly@aol.com](mailto:Jverly@aol.com)
- Reg Thompson: [cwest70@tampabayrr.com](mailto:cwest70@tampabayrr.com)
- Judy Kelly: [jhkell@earthlink.net](mailto:jhkell@earthlink.net)
- George Varney: [gvarney3@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:gvarney3@tampabay.rr.com)
- Cathy Vance: [velvetcres@msn.com](mailto:velvetcres@msn.com)
- Ann Morris: [hummerten@aol.com](mailto:hummerten@aol.com)
- Mike Shires: [nc4y@msn.com](mailto:nc4y@msn.com)
- Joan Knowles: [jbcknowles@aol.com](mailto:jbcknowles@aol.com)



## FGS "FORUM"

**What is it?** The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) quarterly journal.

**Who is FGS?** FGS is a non profit organization comprised of more than 600 genealogical/ historical societies and libraries representing more than 600,000 individual genealogists.

**Did you know?** PCGS members can subscribe to this journal for a reduced rate of \$15.00 a year, because Pasco County Genealogical Society is a member of FGS.

**Why subscribe?** To keep yourself informed about national issues and what the Federation is doing to enhance and promote genealogy. They devote their time and energy to keep historical records open and searchable for us genealogists. They also, provide help to societies to run their local organizations better. Each issue contains several articles about different methods of research.

Our library maintains this periodical file and the magazine can be read there. Be sure to check it out. This journal "Forum" would make a nice addition to your home library and at a decent price.

To subscribe, send a check to FGS Business Office, FORUM Mailing List, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, Texas, 78720-0940 and tell them you belong to Pasco County Genealogical Society in Dade City, Florida. Or online at : <http://www.fgs.org/fgs-forum.asp>

PCGS Executive board recommends this quarterly as preferred reading to our membership. X

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:

- July 10, 2008 for Aug 2008
- Oct 10, 2008 for Nov 2008
- Jan 10, 2009 for Feb 2009
- Apr 10, 2009 for May 2009

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 Pam at:

[ptreme@hotmail.com](mailto:ptreme@hotmail.com)

## SUMMER EVENTS

Since PCGS closes down for the summer months, we thought the break would be a good time for local members to attend events hosted by other societies.

### South Bay Genealogy (SBG)

- May: RootsWeb with Beth Clarke. Check their website for the date, time, and cost: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com>.

### Florida Genealogy Society of Tampa (FGS)

- May: DNA and Genealogy with Drew Smith
- June: Tampa History Center with Rodney Kite-Powell
- July: Vital Records and Other Record Documentation with Ann Bergelt
- August: Check the FGS website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flfgs/> where you can also find out date, time, cost, and parking info.

### Where's George?

You can catch up with the ever popular George G. Morgan at the following events:

- May 27, Kinseekers in Leesburg, Florida
- May 28, The Villages
- June 10, Brandon Area Genealogical and History Society.

Check George's website calendar for more dates and times: <http://ahaseminars.com>

## NEW MEMBERS CORNER

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- John Brush
- James M. Fritz
- Suzanne Plasse
- Darlene Rose Sadler

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT  
[WWW.ROOTSWEB.COM/~FLPCGS/](http://WWW.ROOTSWEB.COM/~FLPCGS/)

**P A S C O C O U N 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/](http://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/](http://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. ✕