

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:

- See who is running for office in annual elections
- Consider the proposed changes in bylaws and standing rules
- Learn something about railroad watches
- Follow along on a family research trip

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Letter	2
Annual Society Elections	3
Proposed Standing Rules Change	3
My Family Heirloom	4
A Family Trip to North Carolina	5

COOKBOOK NEWS

The PCGS Member Cookbook has arrived from the printer. It is a wonderful 88 page book filled with recipes, photos, and family memories of society members. The book is available to members for \$15. The non-member price is \$20. Copies will be available at the December membership meeting and there is no limit on the quantity purchased. Copies will also be available at the PCGS Library on Tuesday evenings for the rest of 2009, since Virginia Britten is working at that time.

The quality is suitable for your library or your kitchen. It has a clear plastic cover to protect it. The cover to the right is just hint of the wonderful photos inside and the recipes are delicious.

The book provides a great opportunity for memories to be stirred up in the family kitchen. Should you need copies immediately for Christmas gift giving, please

contact Virginia Britten at 352.567.5550 and she will make an appointment to get them to you. Cash or checks (payable to PCGS) will be accepted.

FROM THEN



To Now



PCGS MEMBERS'

COOKBOOK
Pasco County Genealogical Society

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

Because this is my last letter as President , I am going to take a few minutes to reminisce. Since my ancestors were all *sea-going* and my love of the sea follows me no matter what I do or where I go, I'm going to take you on a fantasy voyage based on a true experience.

The last two years were like a long cruise. The first year was smooth sailing with calm winds and following seas. It took me a while to find my sea legs and ensure I was on a firm platform before making any decisions. Most of my crew were experienced and had taken the voyage before. My overseer was the former Captain; my first mate (Vice President) and my radio man (secretary) were rookies, along with me. The rest of the crew was experienced and we sailed forth. We had some great programs, raised attendance, and gained new members. It was a fun year.

After a couple years (maybe more) of planning for a cookbook , we started the project. We had a few squalls and rough waves getting started, but we persevered and struggled through some grey times.

In May as we pulled into port and planned for the fall opening, our sails were whiter and fuller than before. The fall season started off with great promise and hope for meeting our goal of 100 members. A few more members were added to the rolls. We actually started getting the cookbook together but it was like dragging anchor in strong currents.

Adding to the turmoil was changing some old familiar bearings to meet current realities and stay within budget. Some heavy waves, rocks, and dark storms crossed our path and we pulled into port with lingering storms and down-cast skies.

However, again we persevered, put the storm clouds behind us and this year we came out of port in bright, sunny weather with thunder and lightening far astern.

In September, we had a speaker with a *show and tell* about "Crackers in the Scrub" and some real southern history of mid-Florida. In October, we welcomed our 95th member.

Over the past two years I've found enjoyment with old friends and been pleased to make new ones. I've had a great adventure, while learning more about genealogy and founding support and strength from a great crew. I only hope I have steered the ship PCGS on a right and true course and the new crew can step aboard with the knowledge she is strong, upright, and ready for a new sail.

May God bless you all in your research, and my wish is that you all will find sunshine behind your brick walls. To all of you my sincere thanks and best wishes for the road ahead. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy, and happy New Year. X

By Mike Shires

P R O P O S E D B Y - L A W S C H A N G E S

The following is a proposed change to PCGS bylaws. The vote for the change will take place at the Society's Annual meeting in December 2009. The amendment change pertains to Article XV, Section 4.

It currently reads: The Membership Directory will be published annually for the March meeting. This will include the members for the current year, Surname Registry, Calendar of the Society events and other society information.

If approved, the change is to read: The Membership Directory will be published annually for the March meeting.

ANNUAL SOCIETY ELECTION

SLATE OF CANDIDATES

- _____ President: **Virginia Britten**
- _____ Vice President: **Janet Avery**
- _____ Treasurer: **Linda Miller**
- _____ Secretary: **Daylene Sanders**
- _____ Director: **George Varney**
- _____ Director: **Reggie Thompson**
- _____ Director: **Louie Holt**
- _____ Director: **Thomas D. Santa Cruz**

Write- In Candidates (Enter your write-in candidates name and office:

In accordance with Article IX Section 5 of the Pasco County Genealogical Society By-Laws, Society members not expecting to attend the regular December meeting may complete an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be received by the Society Secretary **before the start of the December meeting**. Member can vote for a candidate on the slate or write-in the candidate of their choice.

To vote for a candidate on the slate: Cut out the ballot above, look at the slate of candidates, and place an "X" on the line next to the name and office.

To write-in a candidate: Cut out the ballot above, locate the write-in area, and write in both the name and office of the candidate you wish to elect.

Place this ballot inside of an unmarked envelope, then into another envelope addressed to:

Pasco County Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 3073, Dade City, Florida 33525

PROPOSED STANDING RULES CHANGES

1. Standing Rules may be rescinded, amended, revised or supplemented by a majority vote of voting members present at any meeting. Unless or until a Standing Rule is rescinded, amended, revised or supplemented, it is considered to be in full effect.
2. Annual Dues will be Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) per year as directed by the vote of the membership in accordance with Article IV Section 7 of the By-laws.
3. In accordance with Article IV Section 8 of the By-laws, new first time members shall pay dues according to the following schedule:
 - A. New Members applying for membership between January and May meetings will pay the full annual dues.
 - B. New members applying for membership after the May meeting and before the October meeting will pay one half (1/2) the annual dues. Renewal of membership will be due January 1.
 - C. New members applying for membership at the October meeting or later will pay the full annual dues and their membership will include all of the following year.

MY FAMILY HEIRLOOM

One July evening this year, I was watching the TV show the *History Detectives*. The show is a PBS series and can be seen on the local educational TV-stations. In the last few minutes of the episode, Elyse Luray presented a short piece on pocket watches, specifically railroad pocket watches, and their importance in railroad history. I have an heirloom railroad pocket watch that I had gotten from my aunt's estate.

Railroad pocket watches were an important factor in reducing *human caused* accidents. Originally, railroads and other conveyances kept their own time (that was more or less accurate as well.) One o'clock on one railway might be two o'clock on another railway line. These inconsistencies resulted in tragic railroad accidents and lives lost. The difference also caused inconvenient delays to travelers and freight movers because train schedules were based on different time keeping systems. Even for those working on the railroad, time keeping was important. My great-grandfather, Charles W. Haven, was a section chief. He was responsible for crews working between Cedar Key and Waldo. His crews repaired tracks, trestles, switches, and such; but the crews and equipment needed to be off the track and repairs done before the schedule train came through. Therefore, the tasks of keeping the correct time and reading the schedule were a paramount

part of his daily routine. In the meantime nationally there were several more train wrecks (some considered historic) that were caused by *time* issues. Finally, Congress acted with a series of laws and regulations requiring a unified time system and railroad quality timepieces.

My watch is an *Elgin Natl. Watch Co.* watch. The watch is in a silver alloy case with a thick glass over the face. It weights almost 6 oz. The back unscrews to reveal the mechanism and the series number. The inside the back of the case shows additional information and some barely visible notes. My watch was assembled in 1892, which is in agreement with the Elgin database. No, I didn't find any vital statistics, but I did discover a bit more about the lives of my ancestors. I enjoyed the whole process too.

For more information checkout the following:

- *History Detectives*, series 7 episode 1 (go online to view the entire episode)
- The *National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors* (see online Kent Singer's article "Just What is a Railroad Watch?")

The Elgin Watch Collectors Site (just Google this name) ✕

By Thomas D. Santa Cruz



A FAMILY TRIP TO NORTH CAROLINA

In the summer of 1977, my wife Pam and I decided to further our research on her father's side of the family by taking a trip to North Carolina. My wife's grandfather had a brother and a sister still living at that time and we hoped they would be able to supplement what her grandparents had told us. My father-in-law warned us that we would probably not have much success, because the relatives would be suspicious of us Yankees probing into their affairs. Nevertheless, we packed our car and our two small children (Erich 3 and a half, and Lauren 1 and a half) and headed toward Charlotte. We had the address and phone number of my wife's paternal grandmother's sister and hoped she could shed some light on that branch of the family. My wife's grandmother, whom we called Nana Ross, was prone to exaggerate a bit so we needed proof of some of the things which she had shared with us.



On the way down, we stopped in Roanoke Rapids to visit a cousin, Joe Stone. His mother was a sister to my wife's great-grandmother and although he had no children, we thought he might be able to help provide us with some information. We met with limited success, but got to meet a wonderful gentleman who remained in touch with us for the rest of his life.

Proceeding on to Matthews, NC, we found Aunt Nettie and Uncle Bub anxiously awaiting our arrival. Bub, we learned, was his actual name. When he was born, his father was out to sea and so his mother wasn't sure what to name him. By the time he had come back, Bub was over a year old and the nickname had stuck. He had difficulty getting a Social Security card when he applied because no one would believe his name was Bub. So, he began to use the initials W. E. (his father's initials) and that seemed to satisfy the

people at Social Security. Aunt Nettie was a delightful soul who tried her best to help us, but she couldn't provide much information as her father died a couple of months before she was born. However, she accompanied us in our quest to find some of my wife's paternal grandfather's family and that was a great help.

We set out to find Aunt Dara Haney, my wife's great-aunt who was in her late eighties. After driving around for a while and having little success, we stopped at a little country store and I asked if there were any Haney's in the area.

The proprietor told us to drive to the next intersection and turn right. That area was known as *Haneytown* because all the people who lived there were Haney's. We followed his advice and, sure enough, found rural mailbox after rural mailbox sporting the name Haney.

Where should we stop became the question. Finally, after some delay and discussion, I pulled into one. Being the brave soul that I am, I turned to my wife and told her to go up to the door and ask. After all, they were her relatives. Dutifully, she walked up to the door and knocked. Someone answered and I could hear a bit of a muffled conversation take place and then a shout. "Mama! Come here. It's Uncle Wilson's granddaughter from New Jersey." We had found a cousin!

Aunt Nettie, our two kids and I got out of the car and went up to meet them. Within five minutes, cars and pick-up trucks were arriving and people were piling out to meet their "New Jersey cousins." It turned out that the person whose home we had visited was the daughter-in-law of Aunt Dara and Uncle Vernon. We would meet them later but for now, we began getting acquainted with all these new cousins. (By the

way, the other Haney's whose mail boxes we drove past, were all cousins.)

We had a wonderful afternoon and obtained a wealth of information and then planned to return the next day. Then, we were told, we would be taken to see Aunt Dara.

The following day, we returned and were taken down to meet Aunt Dara and Uncle Vernon, both in their late 80s. Uncle Vernon was out cultivating on his tractor. Aunt Dara was a wonderful person who was eager to help us. She brought out several old Family Bibles which contained the names, birthdates and some marriage and death dates of several generations.

Then she brought out a photograph of her mother, my wife's great-grand-mother and a photograph of my wife's great-great-grandfather. This was the kind of material I was looking for. She told us many stories about the family and things which members had done.

We spent the night at the Haney household and the following days were driven from one old cemetery to another so I could photograph and record information.

Then we visited the homes of several generations of the family and I photographed them and even got to see what was left of my wife's grandfather's country store, which he had sold to his father when he moved to New Jersey.

During the course of our visit, I wanted so much to visit the grave of Ennis Station, one of my wife's great-great-great-grand-fathers. There were so many stories about him—how he was mean, how his family mistreated him, and how he, in turn, retaliated, and how he married a

woman who was younger than many of his children and began a second family. We had difficulty finding the cemetery and again stopped at a little country store. Cousin Peggy and I went in to ask about the cemetery and the storekeeper said he would call his grandmother. He knew she could help. In five minutes, a pick-up truck pulled by the little store and out jumped a wonderful little old lady—his grandmother—who had come to take us to the cemetery.



“I DIDN'T REALIZE
COWS WERE SO BIG
UNTIL I MET ONE
FACE TO FACE...”

We never would have found it because we learned it was in the middle of a cousin's farm. We left my little daughter with some of the older relatives and started our trek into a corn field. Next, we crawled under a barbed wire fence and across a cow pasture (I didn't realize cows were so big until I met one face to face), until we finally reached our destination.

There, in front of us, was a wonderfully kept cemetery with a chain link fence protecting it. We entered and I immediately spied the headstone of Ennis Station and those of his first two wives.

Then, off to the side, I spotted the grave of James Ross and his wife, Lydia Coburn. James was a soldier of the Revolution and my wife's g-g-g-grandfather. A beautiful stone marker erected by the DAR marked the graves.

Off to the side I spotted rows of little field stones and asked about them. I was told they marked the graves of slaves who were also buried in the family cemetery. I could not believe the good fortune we had been having. Family bibles, old homes, documents, photographs, and cemeteries. It was like paradise.

During our march through the fields, I noticed what appeared to be a branch that moved. I mentioned it to our guide and she said it was only a snake and not to worry. Upon hearing that, my son Erich, quickly scampered up my back so he could serve as a look out for other snakes.

From Charlotte, we headed toward Wilmington, NC where we hoped to meet Aunt Emma, one of Nana Ross's sisters-in-law and widow of her brother "Doc." Along the way, we stopped and visited Rev. John Sta-

ton who had written a book about the Staton family, which included information about and a photograph of Ennis Staton. He was so interesting to meet us. He showed us to the grave of Ennis' father, Frederick Staton, who had been murdered by Federal troops during the Civil War when they terrorized the area searching for anything of value. Frederick was in his 90s at the time of his death.

When we reached Aunt Emma's house, we found a multi-course home-cooked dinner waiting for us. Aunt Emma was also very kind and generous to us and took us to the cemetery where her husband, his mother and aunts were all buried. More information and photographs surfaced and we hit yet another jackpot.

At the end of the week we returned to New Jersey, our heads spinning with the information we had obtained. My father-in-law was impressed with all that we had accomplished, all the people we had met and all the information we had obtained. This visit was the first of several to North Carolina and while all were productive, this was the greatest of them all. ✕

By James Mason Fritz

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:

—10 Jan 2010 for Feb 2010

—10 Apr 2010 for May 2010

—10 Jul 2010 for Aug 2010

—10 Oct 2010 for Nov 2010

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

NEW MEMBERS CORNER

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

—Deborah Kernohan Adles

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

**PASCO COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY**

P. O. Box 2072
Dade City, Florida 33526-2072

E-mail: ptreme@hotmail.com

Researching Our Ancestors is Family Fun...

SOCIETY INFORMATION

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. ✕