

COUNTY LINE

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PCGS
P.O. Box 2072
Dade City, FL 33526

Martha McFarlane McGee Bell, Patriot.

By Nancy Daffer

Nancy Daffer writes about her 5th great grandmother, Martha Bell, and her story is continued here from Volume 19, Issue 1.

In May 6, 1779, Martha married William Bell, a wealthy bachelor or a childless widower, depending on what information you believe. Mr. Bell owned a home and a mill on Deep Creek in Randolph County, NC, and Mattie lived there until her death in 1820.

Both Mattie and Mr. Bell were Whigs and hated the Tories with a passion. They supported the cause of independence with their money and their goods. In order to keep their supplies from falling into enemy hands they gave the goods to the army.

Two days after his defeat at Guilford Courthouse, Lord Cornwallis came to make his headquarters at Bell's mill while his troops camped at Clarke's Plantation.

According to a Col. Grey, Mattie Bell told him of the event in this way. I am quoting directly from Col. Grey's letter. "His Lordship called upon Mrs. Bell and inquired where her husband was. The conversation went like this:

Mattie: "In Greene's Camp."

Cornwallis: "Is he an officer or a soldier?"

Mattie: "He is not, but thought it better to go to friends than to fall in the hands of the enemies."

Cornwallis: "Madame, I must make your house my headquarters and we can use your mill for a few days to grind for my army while I remain here."

Mattie: "Sir, you possess the power and of course will do as you please without my consent but after using our mill, do you intend to burn it?"

Cornwallis: "Madam, why do you ask that question?"

Mattie: "Sir, answer my question first and then I will answer yours in a short time."

Cornwallis then assured her that he would not burn the mill and that she would be under his protection.

Mattie: "Now sir, you have done me a favor by giving me a satisfactory answer to my question, and I will answer yours. Had your Lordship said that you intended to burn the mill, I would have saved you the trouble by burning it myself."

Because she was under his protection she was unharmed as she went about her business.

In the evening of the day when the British left her premises, she made a visit to their camp probably to gather information but using some other pretext (maybe at the request of General Lee who had been at Bell's mill the same day after Cornwallis left).

Continued on Page 6

PCGS Member publishes her book, *“The Laziest of the Litter - thru’ the years”*.

By **Jan Staugh**, a PCGS Director

I began doing genealogy in 1998 and I belong to two genealogy societies in Pennsylvania, one in Florida and one in Illinois. One day I realized I had plenty of names and dates but no stories. I began thinking that once I have gone to meet my maker, my descendants won't really know that much about my life.

Early in 2012, I began to write stories about my life growing up on a farm in southern Illinois, attending high school and beginning to date, enlisting in the Women's Army Corps (WACS) and finally about my life from the time I got married to the present day.

My friends at the Pasco County Genealogical Society kept encouraging

me to have my stories published so in July of 2012, I called Dave Staab at Staab Typographic in Emlenton, Pennsylvania to see about having my stories published. He asked me to send him the stories on a CD so he could take a look at them. Later in the month he called and told me how much it would cost to have the stories published into a book and asked how many I would like.

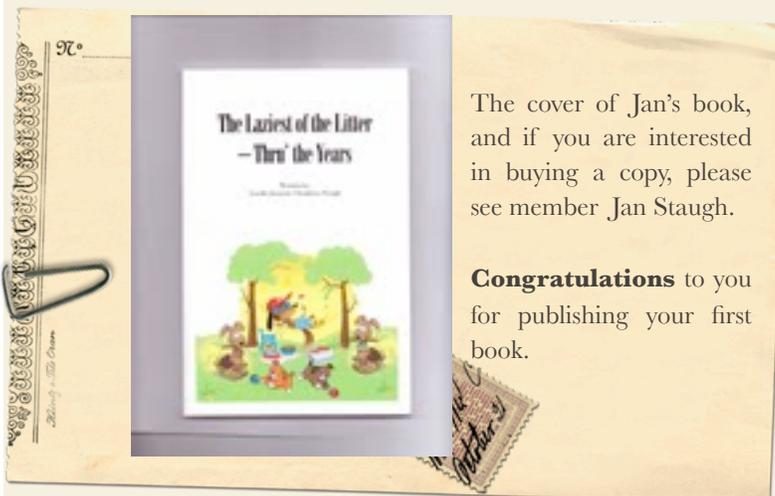
Once the book was published he sent me a copy to look over and approve before he published the other books. While looking through the book I found fifteen errors, some mine and some his. I told Dave which errors needed to be corrected and a month later he called and said I could pick up my books.

The title of my book is *“The Laziest of the Litter – Thru’ the Years”*.

My husband is the one who came up with the title and you would need to know the story behind that to understand the title. I met my future husband while we both were stationed in the Army in Germany and we married in Germany.

When we came back to the states I took my new husband to Illinois to meet my parents. When I introduced my husband to my mother, she didn't bother to say “hello” or “nice to meet you” but instead said, “I hope you realize you married the **“laziest of the litter”**”.

Submitted by Jan Staugh



The cover of Jan's book, and if you are interested in buying a copy, please see member Jan Staugh.

Congratulations to you for publishing your first book.

Have you published a book for your descendants yet? Why not take Jan's lead and start your today? If you want to try self publishing you may see these websites for more information:

<http://myprogressnews.com/staabtypographic>

<http://outskirtspress.com/selfpublishing.html>

<http://www.diggypod.com/book-publishing.html>

Prepare a Medical History of your family.

By PCGS Member Peggy Fortner

Have you considered making a study of all the family history of the medical ailments of your ancestors .

Today is a good day to start this most important project. By now, you probably have collected enough of your ancestors thru the first 6 generations and are aware of their medical histories.

Start charting the paternal and maternal sides to see if some of the medical issues are duplicated. Prepare this history for the future generations and pass it along to your children, and grandchildren.

Peggy explains why this is so important when symptoms start to appear.

I have an 8 year old granddaughter Sarah, who lived in Abington, Massachusetts for 3-4 years making snow angels, snow ball fights, ice skating on frozen ponds, before moving to

Zephyrhills. After moving here, she was always hot, thirsty, and always going to the bathroom.

We didn't think anything about it because, to all of us, our Florida winter temperature isn't the 15 to 30 degrees as it is in Abington.

Sarah had one continually strep throat after another, finally had her tonsils removed and was doing good...Grew couple of inches, lost weight, was a typical 8 year older....Got overtired, crabby, complained that her eyes were blurry when reading. She had her eyes tested and all was fine. Still thirsty, and going to the bathroom a lot.

Sarah came home one day and told me that her teacher told her she had to stop getting up for a drink of water as she was disrupting the class..got me to thinking I'm a Type 2 diabetic and always thirsty, and am in the bathroom a lot. Also, she told her PE teacher she had to Go and he told her "NO...you should have went before". Evidently at

her school. no employee knew the signs and symptoms of Type 1 Diabetes.

Sarah was tested...the normal blood sugar level is 70-120 --Sarah was 580...normal A1C(tell blood sugar for past months) is 5-7--

Sarah's was 12.

So now Sarah has turned 9 and her day consists of testing blood sugar, giving herself an injection of insulin, figuring out how many carbohydrates she can have for breakfast and each meal, --this is done 4 times a day.

So please if you notice that your grandchild, neighbor's kid, any kid is always, always, thirsty...it's #1 sign of Type 1 Diabetes.

Thanks and have a good day.

Peggy

Editor note: Peggy's husband has some serious health problems and we send our prayers to her and her family at this time.

FOR SALE

Our TOTE BAG \$15.00

See any officer or Peggy Fortner



Remember this old typewriter? Boy, have we come a long way, in the field of technology. Why not tell our members about what kind of technology you are using today to write your story down for posterity? Why not tell us your story for the next issue coming out in August, 2013?

Coming in the August newsletter will be the story of "the Empty Envelope", told by Tom Santa Cruz and news about the SAR dedication of a monument in honor of his ancestor.



The “Why” of Genealogy, what it means to me.

By guest author Thomas MacEntee

As I've become more involved in the genealogy community and I've built up my own genealogy-related business, I find I am often asked to give interviews. I like being interviewed and I will reply to almost any request for an interview as long as the questions are genealogy-related and it helps bring more people into the family history community.

In addition, after moderating many panels for genealogy conferences and events, plus hosting my own radio show, it is fun to be on the other end of the microphone, as it were, providing my thoughts on genealogy.

The Question: Why Do You Do Genealogy?

Invariably, one question is almost always on the list provided by the interviewer: “Why do you do genealogy?”

My usual response “Well, why not do genealogy?” gets a few laughs, but really doesn't stress the importance of why I and millions of others are obsessed with tracing their ancestry and heritage. Do you ever get so wrapped up in the “hunt” that you sometimes lose focus as to why you want to know more about your ancestors? Is “doing genealogy” such a large part of your life that the motivational factors sometimes defy description? Do you have trouble putting into words what researching your roots means to you?

I'm Not Crazy, Really. I'm Just Genealogy-Obsessed

Many of my friends not only call me “genealogy obsessed,” but whenever I mention my latest find or how I recently

visited a cemetery, they think it is just one more mile post on the road to “Crazy Town.”

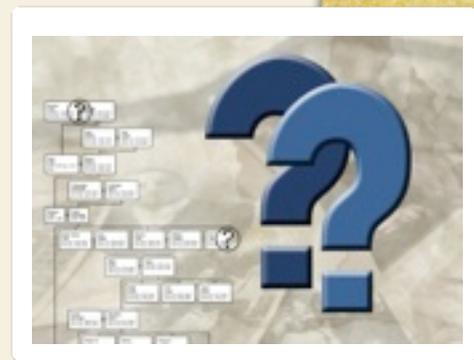
They fear that I've become the equivalent of an ancestor “hoarder” and that they'll have to tunnel through 20 years' worth of genealogical records to find my body one day. When I use terms like “citing sources” or “ahnentafels” to them I may as well be speaking in tongues. The fact that I can draw a four generation tree of my family from memory does not mesmerize them. It only gives them hard evidence in the form of a written document to be used when and if I should be committed.

I don't think it is really that bad. However, when I attempt to explain the things I do (which seem normal as a genealogist), I get frustrated. It is like trying to explain to someone why you follow a certain spiritual path or a specific faith.

Genealogy Is a Journey of Faith

Could the passion for genealogy actually be similar to one's own faith, one's own spiritual compass? In my eyes, faith is something that evolves over time, just as one's passion/obsession for genealogy also evolves. Both represent a journey often to a destination unknown. Let's look at the similarities...

If we're lucky, we discover genealogy when we are young, either through an older family relative or at school.



New Website

Free searchable website of historic United States newspapers is now online for you to investigate. It is called “Chronicling America” and includes papers from 1836 to 1922, covers more than 25 states at present.

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Seen in Vol.25.No6, Nov-Dec 2012

“Links and Bridges”

The “Why” of Genealogy, by Thomas MacEntee

MY EXPLANATION, CON’T



Our family members may have stressed the importance of knowing our heritage, of telling family stories and sharing old photos.

We may have dabbled with different hobbies in college, but we always came back to genealogy.

We attend weekly or monthly gatherings where we meet with other genealogists and discuss what genealogy means to us.

Our community has leaders and those who preach about various aspects of genealogy. Some are so popular that we pack classrooms and worship them as idols.

We keep the family traditions and place them in context by explaining to others in the family the origins of certain customs and practices.

Old documents and records not only feed our obsession, but we often hunger for more and are willing to volunteer our time indexing them and advocating for their unfettered access.

You know another genealogist either when you see them or the minute you start talking to them. There is a certain kinship, a certain bonding as you swap surnames and discuss your brick walls.

See, it really isn't such a far-fetched an idea after all. Genealogy brings meaning to our lives in so many ways that, again, we can't often explain it, even to our close loved

ones. It is a path, a journey and has its own strange practices and routines.

So how do you put all this in words when attempting to answer that “why” question? It might just be easier to “show” rather than tell. I've learned that once I can show a person photos, stories and how my ancestors fit into history, I get to see that arched eyebrow, or that glimmer in the eye. Then I know I've started to make sense.

Editor's note: This article was made possible by the [Flip-Pal mobile scanner](#) ambassador, Thomas MacEntee. He wants to share genealogy with genealogy societies worldwide and are allowing us to publish this article written in 2012. It was posted by [Thomas MacEntee](#) on Thu, Sep 13, 2012 @ 03:52 PM. It is his attempt to put into words why he does genealogy and what tracing his roots has meant to him.

It contains valuable information about what motivates genealogists in their search for ancestors.

What's The Catch?

There are no real restrictions involved; Flip-Pal mobile scanner group simply wants to get the word out on some of the current and important topics involving the genealogy community. Feel free to use the information as you

see fit—in your society's newsletter, quarterly/journal or even on your website or blog. We just ask that you use the entire article and not make edits to the text.

Interesting Websites

Zap the grandma Gap
at <https://zapthegrandmagap.com/>

Family Tree Kids at
<http://kids.familytreemagazine.com/kids/welcome.asp>

Genealogy gems with Lisa Louise Cooke at
<http://lislouisecooke.com/>

The Chart Chick Blog at
<http://thechartchick.blogspot.com/>

Editor note: These are a few of the websites I have been visiting, maybe you will like them, too.



Debra Fleming
Presenting the April
program
about Newspaper Research

MARTHA BELL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as General Greene was making plans to go after Cornwallis, it was important that he have information about the British troops. Cornwallis's troops were located at a plantation only a few miles away, so Mattie rode to this camp and asked to be taken to Cornwallis's tent. While she was waiting, she made note of the conditions of the army - whether they were being helped by the Tories. She saw his Lordship and made a complaint about the damage done to her property which she didn't observe before they left. All the while she was complaining she made note of what she observed to be passed on.

At a later time she and a Whig friend rode a whole night some 14 miles from her house where a group of Tories were gathering. It was a dangerous job. Mattie pretended that she was a midwife and everywhere she went she asked questions. The next night she would pass on the information to Col. Lee, who went the next night and broke up the group of Tories before they could do any harm.

You see, I did learn why she was a patriot and why there is a monument in her honor on the site of the Guilford Courthouse Sophia, NC and for the National Military

Park. I found out many other interesting facts about my ancestor.

She and Mr. Bell donated the land for the Old Union Methodist Church at many, many years, every organist was a direct descendant of Mrs. Bell. The first American Methodist Bishop Ashbury mentioned the Bells in one of his diaries because he liked to stay there in his travels, "because she always had sheets on the bed".

At least two of Mrs. Bell's three sons became ministers, one a Methodist, one a Presbyterian, part of the great religious revival of the early 1800's.

Several years ago the DAR erected a historical marker at her grave site and I plan on visiting it this summer. I am a member of the DAR and I went in under the name of Martha McFarlane McGee Bell.

I knew nothing about her except that she was the mother of my fourth great grandmother, Jean (Jenny) McGee Walborn.

I became determined to learn all I could about her life especially why she was considered a patriot.

Editor's note: Thanks to Nancy Daffer for telling us about her Patriot ancestor.

Great Programs so far this year at PCGS, with one of the latest speakers, Debra Fleming providing a great session on how to do newspaper research.

She not only told us what kind of articles we could find, but where to find newspapers, such as at the local libraries, at college or university libraries, at the state archives, and several online repositories.

She told how to prepare for your research, and what search strategies to use, with several examples.

Some sources she mentioned were:

- Ancestry.com
- Newspapers.com
- GenealogyBank.com
- Proquest Historical Newspapers.

Debra is known as The Ancestry Detective, LLC., and I can see why.

.....End of the Line.

From the President's Desk

Hello Members,

Summer is upon us, our Northern members have gone for the summer and many of us are planning vacations. Hopefully these vacations will include time for Genealogy Research. I hope to plan a few trips to the John G. Germany Library in Tampa. We learned earlier this year about the valuable resources they have for our use.

If you just want to stay home, and out of the heat, explore some new websites we have learned about from Sharon Tate Moody, Debbie Hagner, Debra Fleming, and our many other speakers. Be sure to use Good Search as a search engine. You can find a link on the PCGS website.

There are so many resources on the internet which have not been used (at least by me) in my family research. I just found a site **Looking4kin.com**. Someone on that site has been very helpful in my attempt to break through a brick wall on the Avery side of my family. Keep looking you never know what you might find.

Have a great summer and we will look for everyone in September.

Happy Hunting, Janet Avery

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, June 19 through Saturday, June 22

German Ancestors: When They Came, Where They Went (FGS Member Society Events)

8:30 am - Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY

Presented by Henry Z Jones, FASG, Ernest Thode et al - Web: www.PalAm.org

Sponsored by the Palatines to America National German Society

Wednesday, August 21 through Saturday, August 25

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference-- "**Journey Through Generations**" (FGS Member Society Events)

Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Web: www.fgsconferenceblog.org

The Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Allen County Public Library, and the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana invite everyone with an interest in family history to the spectacular FGS 2013 Conference. It will be held from August 21-24, 2013 at the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The "Crossroads of America" awaits you.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

James and Loretta Moss
Jack Corbin Britten



Frances Steenbaugh
Charles R. Plant

Welcome

to our society.

SOCIETY INFORMATION

Meetings are the second Saturday of each month, September through May of each year. There are no membership meetings held in June, July, and August. The public is welcome to attend.

Meetings are held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at 9016 Fort King Road (State Road 41), between Zephyrhills and Dade City, Florida.

MEMBERSHIP

Open to all persons interested in genealogical research. Annual dues cover the period from January 1 through December 31 of the same year.

Pasco County Genealogical Society
P.O.Box 2072
Dade City, FL 33526

www.rootsweb.com/~flpcgs/

<http://pascogenealogy.blogspot.com/>

Visit us on Facebook, too.



Did you Know ?
We are taking a summer break in June, July, and August? But we will update our Blog and Facebook page to keep you informed of the latest tools available in the genealogy field. Be sure to have a good summer.

COUNTY LINE.....

FROM:
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