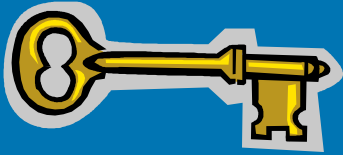


# CRACKER CRUMBS



Unlocking the Past  
Towards the Future

March 2008  
Volume 29, Issue 2

## Manasota Genealogical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flmgs>

**2007-2008**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Don't forget that the MGS Board meets the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00 at the Manatee History Records Library in Bradenton (October-May). All members are invited to attend.

PUBLICATION NOTICE: Every effort is made to publish accurate information. However, the Society assumes NO RESPONSIBILITY for the accuracy of any published materials. Established errors will be correct in the next issue.

## Letter from the President



Here we are once again almost at the end of another season for MGS, and with it the end of my term as President. I never imagined, when I took over for Walt Stock in January of 2005, what a wonderful experience it would be. I have made many new friends, gotten to know many of the MGS members, and heard some fantastic programs over the last two and a half seasons. I want to say a great big "thank you" to all of the Board members and committee chairs who have worked so hard for our society. You have made my job easy. I will certainly not say good bye, because I plan to stay as an active member of MGS for many years to come.

We have two more great speakers lined up for April and May, and your Board is already working on plans for next year's programs and I know that we will continue as the best Genealogical Society in the area. I wish all the best to our new President, Jim McHugh. He has been a member for many years and has done a fantastic job as Membership Chairman.

I wish you all a great summer with many genealogical treasures uncovered.

See you in October,

Anne



**We want to send out a special thank you to Vi Blair for her work on the Obituary Committee. The Chairperson of that Committee, Ruby Young, tells us that although health issues have kept Vi from attending meetings for several years, she has continued to participate by working on the obituaries. We thank her for her hard work and dedication to the Manasota Genealogical Society!**



Are you frustrated trying to decipher inscriptions from aged and illegible tombstones? There is help on the way! Dr. Yang Chai, director of the Ambient Intelligence Lab at Carnegie Mellon University, CyLab in Pittsburgh PA and members of his staff has developed a new technique and the "digital cemetery" pilot project where they are making **high resolution 3D scans of tombstones** to detect carved figures and words which are all but lost. They are conducting this project on Pittsburgh/Allegheny County's oldest Episcopal Graveyard, Old St. Luke's, located today in Woodville, Scott Twp. This graveyard has some 400 interments dating from before 1795. Dr. Chai spoke about his project in January at the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society's monthly meeting. Using a small scanner and a digital camera, he worked to retrieve tombstone information erased by 243 years of harsh weather, acid rain and pollution, the scourge of sandstone memorials. The computer scientist's high resolution, three-dimensional scans of the grave markers have retrieved names, ages, dates, epitaphs and other valuable data that was illegible from 30 tombstones. Dr. Chai hopes to create a virtual tour of the cemetery for the Church Web site. He worked closely with Reverend Father Richard W. Davies, vicar of Old St. Luke's since 1989 who had previously done extensive studies about the families buried in this historic graveyard. More later on this new process. [Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society Newsletter, Feb.Mar. 2008 Vol. 34 No.4 p. 47].

**Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies** is holding its annual conference in Pittsburgh PA Sat. 5 April 2008 at the Pgh Airport Marriot Hotel at 777 Aten Rd., Coraopolis PA 15108. It is co-sponsored by WPGS, The Jewish Gen.Soc.of Pgh; the Western PA Slovak Cultural Assn.; and the Mifflin Township Hist.Soc. It will include presentations from leading experts in the fields of Central and East European Genealogy; DNA testing; Online Databases; and one-on-one consultations. Visit their web site at [www.feefhs.org](http://www.feefhs.org).

Steve Morse has added conversion tools for Converting from **Russian Cursive to Print** in One Step and Converting from Russian Print to Cursive in One Step to his website. They are in the "Dealings with Conversions in Foreign Alphabets" section at [www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org). Take a look!

#### German Internet Resources Online:

German Genealogy on the Internet = [www.genealogienetz.de/index\\_en.html](http://www.genealogienetz.de/index_en.html)

German towns and villages locator = <http://gov.genealogy.net/>

German Gothic Typeface = [www.fontshop.com](http://www.fontshop.com) [www.fonts.com](http://www.fonts.com)

Online German Dictionary = [www.dict.leo.org](http://www.dict.leo.org)

Finding Ortssippenbuchern Online = [www.volkmar-weiss.de/pub15.html](http://www.volkmar-weiss.de/pub15.html)

Library of Congress = <http://catalog.loc.gov/>

Anderson, S. Chris and Ernest Thode (of Thode Translations). *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering your Germanic Ancestors, How to find and record your unique heritage*. Cincinnati OH: Betterway Books, 2000.

There is an excellent article in the January/February 2008 *Genealogical Helper* pp. 55-57 by Kathy J. Stickney entitled "Reading Old German Church Records-Part 1: Marriage Records." Kathy is an active member of the Halifax G.S. in Ormond Beach FL. This issue is in our library collection.

**U.S. Civil War Bookstore.** Visit them at [www.thecivilwarbookstore.com](http://www.thecivilwarbookstore.com) for information about Civil War merchandise; info about Civil War Round Tables; Civil War re-enactment units; Regimental Histories; Battles; and other websites for Civil War Battlefields, and Civil War Historical sites.

**Simple Family Tree** enables you to create and/or view a family tree quickly and easily. It displays ancestors and descendants of any selected individual (it reads and writes files in Gedcom format). Try it at [www.jdmcox.com/](http://www.jdmcox.com/) [Sarasota PC Monitor Feb. 2008 p. 15]

(continued on next page)

## JOTS FROM JEAN (continued)

**National Burial Index (NBI) for England and Wales** is an index to help family historians find burial records. It is an ongoing project devised and orchestrated by the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS). These burial records date back to 1538, the year that Henry VII was excommunicated from the Catholic Church, up to 1837, the date when civil registration began. They come from various sources: parish registers; bishop's transcripts (copies of the original registers made each year for the bishop of the diocese in which they lived); earlier transcripts or printed registers. This site DOES NOT contain memorial inscription records. The Index does not contain images at the present time.

[From Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter 1/2/2007]

[www.eogn.com/blogplus/2007/11/national\\_burial\\_index\\_for\\_engl.html](http://www.eogn.com/blogplus/2007/11/national_burial_index_for_engl.html)

**Are You A Scholar?** Google has lofty goals. The search giant's mission is to index all the information in the world. It's done a good job of indexing Web sites and information on your computer. And its mapping software even makes it easy to find physical locations. But what about scholarly information? Well, Google has a site dedicated specifically to academic work. Just type in a search phrase and you find articles, criticism and entire books on the subject. This site is great for students and teachers alike. In most cases, you can read the articles online. But, if the actual text isn't in Google's index, you will find links to help you track down the work at your local library.

[www.scholar.com](http://www.scholar.com)

[This article and the following are from The Sarasota PC Monitor, published by the Sarasota FL Personal Computer Users Group. June and October 2007 issue]. Visit their web site at [www.spcug.com](http://www.spcug.com)

**Internet Explorer.** If you use Internet Explorer, here's a free toolbar with the most useful one-click access to more than a hundred different Internet tools that you could ever imagine. Among them are local tools that include Weather, TV and movie listings, classified ads, cheap gas stations and more. On the Internet you can click a choice of many different popular search organs, health and medicine (WebMD) and Mayo Clinic; dictionary, thesaurus, and other educational tools; a variety of web and computer utilities and malware preventers; free greeting card sites; mail tools; security tools; phone books, and an endless plethora of other tools and info. You can set up the tool bar to contain only those items that interest you and easily make changes at any time. Each tool category has a comprehensive list of sub-categories from which you can choose via check-box which items you desire. The Toolbar is a FREE download and assures your privacy. [www.advancedsearchbar.com](http://www.advancedsearchbar.com) .

**MOBYSAURUS THESAURUS** is a comprehensive, feature-rich, easy-to-use English thesaurus for Windows. In addition to numerous built-in powerful features, usually seen only in commercial products, it offers some major and unique benefits that no other thesaurus product, software or otherwise, does, including a huge database of 2.5 million synonyms. Find Synonymous Headwords and Suggest Headwords, that make this free thesaurus software the right tool for you to find the right words at the right time. [www.mobysaurus.com/](http://www.mobysaurus.com/)

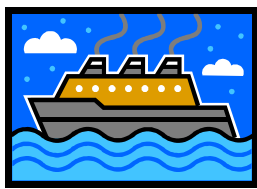
**Advanced WindowsCare Personal** is a free comprehensive PC care utility that takes a one-click approach to help protect, repair, and optimize your computer. It provides an all-in-one and super convenient solution for PC maintenance and protection. [www.iobit.com/advancedwindowscareper.html](http://www.iobit.com/advancedwindowscareper.html) .

[From Sarasota PC Monitor, Dec. 2007 p. 14-15].

**Geographic Names Information System.** You've found a record that states your ancestor was born in Deals Gap, Tennessee. Now you ask, "Where is that?" You could always buy a map of the state and look for the place, however, many small locations are not shown on modern maps. It is also possible that the place may have existed only in the past years and is now gone. You could also search on Google and that may or may not find the place you seek. You might search the online mapping services for Deals Gap. That will likely be successful if it is an incorporated town, or if it still exists. If the location you seek has since disappeared or has been absorbed into a nearby municipality, even mapping sites may not find it. If you want to find a cemetery in Deals Gap, all of the above solutions will probably fail. Luckily, there is another answer for online genealogists: look at the U.S. Government's Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). Best of all, that database is available free of charge. The GNIS database can quickly tell you that Deals Gap is along the border separating NC and TN at 35 degrees 28 minutes 26 seconds North, 83 degrees 55 minutes 16 seconds West. In fact, you can then click on an icon to display a map of that area on your computer screen. There is still one more feature: you can look at a spy satellite photo of the area.

For more [Jots from Jean](#), please go to the last \_\_ pages of the newsletter!

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Donna Moughty, who spoke at our last MGS Meeting will be a speaker for an upcoming "genealogical cruise". She will be part of a 7 day Royal Caribbean Cruise from Miami to St Maartin to San Juan to a private island Oct 25 - Nov 1, 2008. There will be 3 at sea days during which 8 national speakers will give 48 lectures on genealogical topics. At the meeting, Anne Young, President MGS, asked the members and attendees if they would be interested in getting a group together from our Society to go on this cruise. If you are interested or want more information, e-mail Anne Young at [french.cat@verizon.net](mailto:french.cat@verizon.net).

The website for this event is [www.GenealogyCruises.com](http://www.GenealogyCruises.com)

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Member Barbara Schultz has forwarded the following press release for our information:

### **Genealogy 101: An Introduction to Family History Research**

Have you been thinking about researching your family history? Genealogy is one of the most popular hobbies in the United States today. On April 1st, the National Archives will offer a free introductory workshop to introduce the novice researcher to the basics: How to get started, what to do first, what resources are in the National Archives, what other libraries and archives can help in your search, etc. The National Archives (NARA) is the nation's recordkeeper. It preserves and makes available the valuable records of the Federal Government. In the process of telling the story of the United States, the records tell the story of us all-important figures in American history as well as average Americans. Almost all Americans can find either themselves or their ancestors in the records in the National Archives.

The workshop begins at 10:00 and should end around noon. National Archives staff will be available to assist those who plan to stay for an afternoon of research.

WHERE: National Archives, Southeast Region, 5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260

WHEN: Tuesday, April 1, 2008

TIME: 10:00 - 12:00

REGISTRATION: Call 770-968-2100 to register. The workshop is free and open to the public.

DIRECTIONS: [www.archives.gov/southeast](http://www.archives.gov/southeast)

## ITEMS FROM JIM McHUGH

### **Volunteers in the Genealogy Department - Manatee Central Library.**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our MGS members who are volunteering their services to assist the operation of the Genealogy Department at the Manatee Central Library. These members are, Louise Adler, Mel Ely, Tom & Carolyn Erickson, Jo Ann French, Jim McHugh, Jim Reger, and Chuck Woehner. The Genealogy Department is located on the second floor of the library (just to the right as you leave the elevator). The Library has an excellent collection of genealogical material that can contribute significantly to one's research efforts. If you have not visited our Library's genealogical collection, you should make time to do this, and you will be surprised at what you can learn. Our volunteers are available to assist you and fellow researchers; they also maintain the collection by reshelving books, identifying periodicals for binding, repairing labels, checking the numerical sequencing of shelved books, and other items as necessary. We can always use more volunteers. Not only does it help the library operation, but it provides you the opportunity to pursue some of your research activities while at the library. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Jim McHugh. No experience necessary.

### **Ohio and Illinois Genealogical Material Added to Our Library Collection.**

Sharon and Lawson Walters, Bradenton residents, but not members of MGS, contacted Jim McHugh about research material they accumulated; they wanted to find a "home" for it. The result was that Sharon donated her material that was collected during her research of Ohio and Illinois ancestors. The material was turned over to the Manatee Central Library for inclusion in the genealogical collection. The material is being indexed and cataloged, so it will be a number of weeks before it appears on the shelves. If you are researching Ohio or Illinois you may find the following material of interest. A book: "The Justice of Our Cause" -- "A History of the Okey Family in the War of the Rebellion" by Mark D. Okey. Newspaper Abstracts and Cemetery Inscriptions from Monroe County Ohio. From Belmont County, Ohio: Census Data 1850 (one volume), Census Data 1860 (one volume), Census Data 1870 (four volumes), and Genealogical Records, and Newspaper Abstracts.

From Warren County, Illinois: Male and Female Marriage Indexes 1829-1915, Will Index 1831-1915, Federal Census 1860 (volume 1 and volume 2), Berwick Baptist Church Records - various years 1859-1954, and Berwick Baptist Church 1940s, Tombstone Inscriptions - Cold Brook Township, Deaths and Obituaries 1871-1886, Tombstone Inscriptions - Berwick Township, Civil War Militia Rolls 1861-1862, Tombstone Inscriptions - Greenbush Township. The MGS thanks you, Sharon and Lawson, for gifting this material to our local Library.

### **MGS Membership**

Our membership year is June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008. At the end of this year, we expect to have about 120 members. You can help us out by paying your dues now, either for this year, or next. Dues are \$25 for an individual and \$25 for a family couple. Dues can be paid at any regular membership meeting, or mailed to the Manasota Genealogical Society, 6023 26th Street West PMB 269, Bradenton, FL 34207. If you are not sure of your "Dues" status, check the MGS Membership Roster that is available at all of our regular Membership Meetings. Please include with your payment (whether at a meeting, or mailed), the following information: name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and your research interests (surnames and geographical locations of interests).

## SOME ORGANIZATION ACRONYMS ON GRAVESTONES

The following are acronyms for Fraternal organizations that you may find on gravestones. You can find more information about most organizations on the web by typing their initials into a search engine; sometimes you may need to type the whole title within quotation marks. Years in parenthesis indicate the year the organization was founded according to the phoenixmasonry.org website.

ALOH - American Legion of Honor (1878)  
 AOF - Ancient Order of Foresters (1834)  
 AOH - Ancient Order of Hibernians (1845)  
 AOKMC - Ancient Order of Knights of Mystic Chain (1871)  
 AOuw - Ancient Order of United Workmen (1868)  
 BPOE - Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (1868)  
 BPOEW - Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World  
 CBKA - Commandery Benevolent Knights Association  
 CCTAS - Crusaders Catholic Total Abstinence Society  
 CKofA - Catholic Knights of America (1877)  
 CTAS - Catholic Total Abstinence Society  
 EBA - Emerald Beneficial Association  
 FAA - Free and Accepted Americans  
 FOE - Fraternal Order of Eagles  
 GALSTPTR - German American Legion of St. Peter  
 GAR - Grand Army of the Republic (1866)  
 GUOofOF - Grand United Order of Odd Fellows (1843)  
 IHSV - Order of the Red Cross of Constantine [Masonic] (1870)  
 IOI - Independent Order of Immaculates (1872 in USA)  
 IOKP - Independent Order of Knights of Pythias  
 IOOF - Independent Order of Odd Fellows (1833)  
 IORM - Improved Order of Redmen  
 ISH - Independent Sons of Honor  
 JAOUW - Junior Order - Ancient Order of United Workmen  
 JOUAM - Junior Order - Order of United American Mechanics (1845)  
 KC or KofC - Knights of Columbus (1882)  
 KFM or KofFM - Knights of Father Matthew  
 KG or KSTG - Knights of St. George  
 KGE - Knights of the Golden Eagle (1872)  
 KGL - Knights Grand Legion  
 KofH - Knights of Honor (1873)  
 KHC - Knights of Holy Cross  
 KofL - Knights of Loyola  
 KKK - Knights of Ku Klux Klan (1865)  
 KM - Knights of Malta {Masonic} or Knights Militant  
 KMC - Knights of Mystic Chain (1871)KOTM - Knights of Macabees  
 KPC - Knights of Peter Claver  
 KP or KofP - Knights of Pythias (1864)  
 KSC - Knights of St. Columbkille  
 KSF - Knights of Sherwood Forest (1870)  
 KofSJ - Knights of St. John (1879)  
 KSL - Knights of St. Lawrence  
 KSTI - Knights of St. Ignatius  
 KSTJ - Knights of St. Joseph  
 KSTM - Knights of St. Martin  
 KofSTP - Knights of St. Patrick  
 KSTP -Knights of St. Paul or Knights of St. Peter  
 KSST - Knights of St. Thomas  
 KofSTW - Knights of St. Wenceslas  
 KT - Knights Templar [Masonic]  
 KT or KofT - Knights of Tabor  
 KWM - Knights of Wise Men  
 LKofA - Loyal Knights of America  
 MOLLUS - Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (1865)  
 MRA - Royal Arcanum (1877)  
 MWA - Modern Woodmen of America (1883)  
 OUAM - Order of United American Mechanics (1845)  
 PM - Patriarchs Militant [Independent Order of Odd Fellows]  
 POSA - Patriotic Order of Sons of America (1846)  
 RAM - Royal Arch Masons  
 RK - Roman Knights  
 RSTV - Rite of St. Vaclara or Rite of St. Vita  
 SAR - Sons of the American Revolution  
 SBCL - Saint Bonifazius Catholic Union  
 SBL - Society B. Lafayette  
 SCV - Sons of Confederate Veterans  
 SV - Sons of Veterans (1881)  
 TH - Temple of Honor [Independent Order of Odd Fellows]  
 UCV - United Confederate Veterans  
 VFW - Veterans of Foreign Wars

## ”LOOKING FOR ANGOLA”

Along the Manatee River on the west coast of Florida, archaeologists are searching for the remains of a maroon community of former enslaved and Seminole Indians. Together they fought two wars against the States in the early 1800s before the settlement was destroyed and the survivors escaped to the Bahamas, where their descendants still live today.

Their settlement of about 750 people thrived from 1812 until 1821 when a Lower Creek Indian war party, possibly at the behest of General Andrew Jackson looted and burned their homes, scattering the survivors across the Florida peninsula. Some may have resettled inland, while others made their way to Cape Florida, where they sailed to safety. The left behind a community called Angola. This exodus from Angola on Florida's gulf coast was in the same year that Black Seminoles arrived at Red Bay on Andros Island in the Bahamas. If archeologists unearth the lost settlement of Angola they could write a new chapter in the history of America and possibly make a conclusive connection between Angola and the Red Bays settlement where descendents of early arrivals still live today.

The saga of Angola is hidden in historical documents, oral histories and physical evidence that scholars are attempting to collect in a disciplinary research project called "Looking for Angola." Angola is one of the most significant historical sites in Florida per Florida A & M historian Carter Brown Jr. said. He is a member of the research team that is attempting to uncover artifacts, documents and oral histories to unlock the mysteries of Angola which illustrates the role Florida played as a refuge of freedom for slaves and their courage to get and keep their freedom. Other members of the research team are University of Central Florida anthropologist Rosalyn Howard, New College of Florida historical archaeologist Uzi Baram, independent archaeologist Bill Burger, Sarasota educator Louis R. Robinson and University of South Carolina archaeologist Terrance Welk. The project involves field surveys of four sites; historical research throughout England and Nassau, Bahamas; public lectures; the production of a documentary; an educational component that involves middle and high school students as researchers; and an international cultural exchange program.

Join the search. Readers of their website at <http://www.lookingforangola.com> are invited to look for historical documents to increase the understanding of Angola. To participate, go to the Document Reading Room and Looking for Angola Team Forum. Welk, an expert on maroon communities said, "The more eyes and ears we have out there, the more successful we will be in learning this history."

Early research. For 10 years they fought, hid and worked for their freedom here by the Manatee River, those 750 fugitive slaves, free blacks and black Seminoles who drifted west from the middle of Florida to form the largest community of its kind in the early 19th century South. Then in 1821 their settlement, which they named Angola after its kindred region in West Africa, was burned, looted and destroyed, probably by an order of General Andrew Jackson.

Since 2002, documentary producer Vickie Oldham has searched for the forgotten story of this self-sufficient village, which survived war, invasion and the threat of capture long enough to form one of the most extraordinary chapters of Florida history. In the summer of 2007 the search for Angola yielded real results. Now, after team members finish studying the radar reports, and when another state grant is approved, they will dig further this winter. They will dig for pottery, fishing lines and tools - dig for the 19th century. Oldham and a team of scientists and historians believe they have found the bones of the Angola story lying beneath a several mile stretch where the Manatee and Braden rivers meet, secrets suspended under a tranquil trailer park, under the tabby ruins of a plantation owner's castle, under a playground near a mineral spring. They call the project - as much spiritual journey as science - "Looking for Angola."

"I am looking for my own history. I am looking for the elders who came here centuries ago," said Oldham, 49, a free spirit driven by the possibilities of the past. "Something about this story of survival and strength spoke to me. Everybody deserves to know this chapter in history." Now, finally, after years of

research and excavations, after slow learning and cautious hope and a PBS documentary, radar technology is exhuming the truth. The same sophisticated lasers that detected underground infrastructure damage near the World Trade Center site after 9/11 are starting to uncover Angola's historical residue. For years, the settlement cloaked in a patchwork of historical documents and scholarly journals. Now, workers have found faint physical signs of its past underground. "There's evidence of a good deal of material in a three acre area," said Uzi Baram, the archaeologist heading up the project. "We now know the past is right under our feet, so close, four feet, at the most, that it can be scooped up with shovels.

Early in 2007, Witten Technologies, an underground mapping company based in Tampa, and the Army Corps of Engineers performed an archaeological survey between the Bradenton River and Manatee Mineral Spring in east Bradenton. Witten's Radar Tomography system is essentially a John Deere lawn mower chassis fitted with 17 radar antennas. Moving at 2 mph, the device produced 3-D images of underground material. "Think of this as a CAT scan or MRI of the underground" said Andrew Lund, Witten's business development manager. "We found hundreds of objects of interest, so the next step is for us to show the team where to start digging." Over two days in July of 2007, Witten workers scanned a field framed by old playground swings and trees dripping chandeliers of moss. "We are essentially looking for an invisible community, trying to piece together a settlement that was quite ephemeral," said Baram. "They did not make a large imprint on the landscape but we know something was there."

Angola was one of about 50 documented maroon communities - underground, autonomous villages of fugitive Negro slaves - in the country during the early period. Oldham first heard about it in 1992 while working on a documentary about the history of Blacks in Sarasota. "I knew instantly that I wanted to know more, and that I wanted to prove Angola was real. It just struck me as a story that should be shared." The Angola settlers migrated from central and north Florida, some as survivors of the War of 1812 and other skirmishes. They settled as far north as Tampa Bay but concentrated mostly along the banks of the Manatee River near what is now Interstate 75. The village was carved from thick vegetation along the river banks. Its protected location, rich soil and abundant freshwater made it a haven for escaped slaves. As a thriving seaport, it came to be known as Negro Point. It was prosperous and popular, and some historians refer to it as Florida's first black town.

Scholars believe that Andrew Jackson, an army general who had just been appointed provisional governor, ordered his allies, the Lower Creek Indians, to destroy all Seminole and Black villages as revenge for their dogged resistance to his control. In the 1821 raid that destroyed Angola, an estimated 300 villagers were captured and returned to slavery. The rest were killed or fled to the Bahamas where their descendants live today.

In 2003 Oldham received a \$25,000 state preservation grant to finance her research. She recruited a team of anthropologists, archaeologists and historians. Within the year the team conducted its first explorations. Volunteers dug in the front yard of a white Civil War era clapboard house owned by preservationists Jeff and Trudy Williams. Nothing much emerged from that first effort except a single bottle, but Oldham was undeterred. Several more digs were made, including an underwater search in the river. She has told her story in local churches and community centers and libraries, she also traveled to Red Bay on Andros Island in the Bahamas to meet descendants of Angola's settlers who spoke of Florida as a long-lost home. In 2005 Oldham narrated and produced a 22-minute documentary on the project that aired on the Tampa PBS affiliate in 2006. The History Channel awarded Oldham a \$10,000 grant to help incorporate the Angola story into the curriculum of some Florida schools.

[The Bradenton-Herald, Section C, Local, Sunday October 21, 2007 by Audra D.S.Burch of *Miami Herald*]

**Note: Go to the website "Looking For Angola" and click on all the sources: Introduction; Reading Room where one can interact with their Team Forum. It contains book excerpts, primary documents and letters; links to on-line articles; website links, African/Native American Genealogy resources; Interviews where readers can meet and chat with others researching their African, Seminole ancestry; Interviews with the Project Director; a Photo Gallery and much more.**

## More Jots from Jean

The GNIS was developed by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN), contains info about almost 2 million physical and cultural geographic features in the U.S. It identifies the Federally recognized name of each feature described in the database and provides references to each feature's state, county, latitude and longitude. The GNIS serves two purposes for genealogists. First, it gives precise locations to every village, mountain, river, airport, bay, beach, bridge, etc. in the U.S. The info includes exact latitude and longitude of each named feature. Second, it can help find locations mentioned in old documents.

Here is perhaps the best news of all for genealogists: the GNIS lists many cemeteries, although not all of them. For instance, I know that my great-grandparents were buried in Pine Grove cemetery in Bangor ME. The GNIS describes Pine Grove Cemetery as in Penobscot County at 44 degrees 47 minutes 54 seconds North, 68 degrees 49 minutes 38 seconds West. If I know the name of the cemetery but not the town, the GNIS database will find all the listed cemeteries of that name in the state. But before you head off to a cemetery of a given name, keep in mind that some cemeteries are not in the list. For instance, the small cemetery where my immediate family along with many of my aunts and uncles and cousins are interred and where I plan to spend eternity isn't listed in the GNIS database. Not only will GNIS provide textual information about a place's location, but it will automatically link to all of the following:

USGS - National Map  
GNIS in Google Map  
TerraFly.com  
TerraServer DRG  
Expedia

TopoZone.com  
Microsoft Virtual Earth  
TerraServer DOQ  
Find the Watershed  
Yahoo! Local Maps

By clicking on the appropriate link, you can immediately view that location as displayed in any of the above mapping sites or even look at that location in a photograph taken by a satellite in outer space. With some of the above sites, you can even "fly" over the terrain with a view that emulates a pilot's view when flying an airplane. GNIS should be a tool in every genealogist's "electronic toolbox." You probably will not need it often, but it will provide information that is difficult to find otherwise. The Geographic Names Information System is available at <http://geonames.usgs.gov>

[From Eastman's Online Newsletter, 2007 by Richard W. Eastman]

**Early Pennsylvania Landowners.** Ancestor Tracks is creating landowner atlases from Pennsylvania Warrantee Maps, county by county. The early land process in Pennsylvania occurred in 4 steps:

1) **Application for Warrant.** A small piece of paper stating how long he had been settled on the tract, or if he inherited it, or purchased it, its dimensions, adjoining land owners or renters, and it was signed by the applicant and dated. This piece of paper also gave the local tax collector information which could be used to tax this person from the time he settled upon the tract of land. [This also got rid of eternal squatters who did not pay taxes].

2) **The Warrant to purchase,** and directing the local surveyor to make a survey of said tract. A copy of the warrant was then sent to the Applicant and one to the Surveyor.

3) The Surveyor did his job, usually with the applicant at his side, and submitted a copy of the tract to the Pa. Land Office along with payment in-full for the tract, there were no mortgages on these first purchases. This is called a **Return of Survey**.

4) The Land Office then issued a **Patent** to the Applicant or his Heirs for the tract of land. The Pennsylvania counties already available for purchase are Berks, Fayette, Greene & Washington. If you had families in Pennsylvania you will wish to visit this web site regularly to check on the progress of this project at [www.ancestortracks.com](http://www.ancestortracks.com).

**Washington couldn't make it across the Delaware river this Christmas 2007.** Last issue I wrote about the yearly re-enactment of George Washington and his troops crossing the Delaware river outside Philadelphia in the Revolutionary War, the turning battle of the Revolution. This year, strong current kept re-enactors from repeating the feat. Ronald Rinaldi III was prepared to play the role of the military leader whose Christmas crossing led to a rout of British-led German forces and revived the downtrodden Continental forces. Rinaldi, 45, had taken part in every re-enactment of Washington's crossing since 1976, and has amassed more than 500 books on the American Revolution and earned a degree in U.S. Military History. But this year, he and his fellow re-enactors were done in by the rivers' strong currents. As they and hundreds of spectators watched, the first boat that attempted the short voyage from Pennsylvania to Trenton New Jersey got carried downstream. A rescue craft had to snare it. Three boats had trained to cross the river this year in the 55th-annual re-enactment, and dozens participated. The rowing portion of the re-enactment has always been at the mercy of the river. Past events were scrapped when the river was running too fast or it was too windy. Hilary Krueger, director of Washington Crossing Historic Park, said the decision is usually made before any boats go out, but there have been times when a boat has had to be rescued.

[From the Associated Press Dec. 2007].

**Old New York State Historical Newspapers** [www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html](http://www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html). Do not let the URL fool you into believing that this is just Fulton County, New York. At this site you can old New York State historical newspaper pages and old Fulton County Postcards from 1832-2005. More data is added every Sunday evening. There is an Index of which newspapers are held on this site. Please note that this will just show newspapers, and not all other documents on the site.

[*Timelines* Jan. 2008 of the Englewood FL Genealogical Society p. 9]

**Did Your Ancestor participate in any of Florida's Indian Wars?** Excellent article on this topic can be found in *The Florida Genealogist* Vol. 30 No. 4:119:85-91. The focus of this article is on the two Indian Wars that occurred after America assumed responsibility for Florida and established it as a United States Territory. The Second Seminole War, 1835-1842, and The Third Seminole War 1855-1858. The article presents three types of genealogical records from these Indian Wars: Compiled Service Records; Muster Rolls and Where to find them; and Pension Application Files and where to find them. Also presented is a Sample Muster Roll from the 3rd Seminole War listing Officers, Privates, those who Resigned, those who Died, Deserted and who were Discharged. The magazine can be found in the MGS Library.

***Give Your Family A Gift That Money Can't Buy: Record & Preserve Your Family's History*** by Jeffrey A. Bockman, ISBN 978-0-976173-0-0, [www.JeffBockman.com](http://www.JeffBockman.com) or [jeffb@anet.com](mailto:jeffb@anet.com). Price is **\$7.95**

This 8.5 x 11, 64 page book has been donated to the MGS Library. It encourages everyone to record and preserve their family history and is a starting point for any of us who want to encourage others in our families to do their part to record their genealogy. It contains work sheets and timeline pages.

**Ellis Island Immigration Records.** The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., World Vital Records, Inc. and Family-Search have formed a partnership whereby the historic collection of Ellis Island passenger arrival records will now be freely available to visitors of the [www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com) and [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) websites. Along that line you might wish to add Sharon DeBartolo Carmack's book *Guide to Finding Your Ellis Island Ancestor: A Genealogist's Essential Guide to Navigating the Ellis Island Database and Passenger Arrival Lists*. Also visit [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org) which covers the years 1892 to 1924.

**Civil War Pension Applications to be Digitized: NARA & GSU Announce Partnership.** The digitization of approved pension applications of widows of Civil War Union soldiers will offer unprecedented access to unique historic documents. These files, held at the National Archives, provide a high source of information about ordinary American citizens of the time, and include supporting documents such as affidavits, depositions of witnesses, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, and pages from family bibles. The partnership between National Archives and the Genealogical Society of Utah, doing business as FamilySearch, in conjunction with Footnote.com, begins with a pilot project to digitize, index, and make available the first 3,150 of the pension files. Upon successful completion of the pilot, GSU intends to digitize and index all 1,280,000 Civil War and later widow's files in the series. Archivist of the United States, Prof. Allen Weinstein, notes, "This agreement expands our relationship [with FamilySearch] to enable online access to some of the most popular and voluminous records in our holdings. There is an unbelievable treasure trove of genealogical information housed in the records of the National Archives; the vast majority of which genealogy enthusiasts have never seen," and Wayne Metcalfe, GSU VP. "The growing digital collection and indices that will stem from this relationship will be a priceless resource for countless family historians and researchers. FamilySearch will make the digitized material available for free through [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) and in 4500 family history centers worldwide, or on a subscription-based website operated by a third party, subject to NARA approval. They will also be available at no charge in the National Archives research rooms in Washington DC, and regional facilities across the country.

This agreement is one of a series of agreements that the National Archives has reached or will reach with partners to digitize portions of its holdings.

[Information from announcements by NARA and GSU Oct. 2007 and The FGS Forum *Winter 2007 Volume 19, Number 4, p.13*]

***Bounty and Donation Land Grants in British Colonial America*** by Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck, published by Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore MD 21211, 2007, xvi, 464pp. Index, hard cover \$45. plus \$4. P&H. [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com)

The introduction explains that a bounty land grant was offered as an inducement to military service. This was a public policy with terms known upon enlistment. A donation land grant was a reward made to a veteran or his heirs after the conflict, sometimes as an afterthought. In both cases land was seen as a reward for military service. Unfortunately, there was plenty of military service in Colonial America, often against hostile Indians, European powers and their Indian allies, or armed rebellions against colonial governments. Land was issued by the British Crown to over 6500 soldiers in various amounts depending upon rank, in locations from Nova Scotia to Florida. The biggest issuance of land followed the French and Indian War, 1754-1763. The land granted was often on the edges of a colony to provide a barrier against possible future troubles. The introduction provides specifics for the manuscripts and published sources, arranged by Colony, from which details were gathered.

The details given vary greatly, but all provide clues for further research. A typical entry reads: Hayward, Elisha. He served in the Narraganset War from Bridgewater, Massachusetts. His nephew, Thomas Hayward 3rd, claimed his land in Greenwich, Mass. in 1737' (p.176). The entries may provide clues of migration between colonies when a colony had no free land to give, or movement from coastal to inland areas. The entries are in alpha order by name of the soldier. There is an additional index for the names of individuals and ships within the individual entries, with women being recorded under both maiden and married surnames if known.

Mr. Bockstruck has collected material from numerous sources to create this index. This simplifies the task of finding origins for those with suspected military service, or found living in a known bounty land. In a work of this magnitude, the author admits that errors and omissions are inevitable and welcomes additions and corrections. All Colonial American Library Collections should have this book.

[Review by Paul Milner in FGS Forum, Winter 2007, Vol. 19 No. 4 p. 38]

**Offer from Everton Publisher's Genealogical Helper to M.G.S. members.** the *Genealogical Helper* (a one-year subscription) for only \$19.95 (regular price \$29.95). Note: Photocopy this page, and send it with your check:

Genealogical Society: Manasota Genealogical Society, 6023 -26th Street West, Box 269, Bradenton FL 34207-4402.

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**Research Library for sale.** Our VP Jean Morris, who is a professional genealogist specializing in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland and early Virginia from 1976 when she lived in Pittsburgh PA and edited the *Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society Quarterly* from 1980 to 2004 is offering most of her library for sale. It is extensive. Email her at [morisjean@verizon.net](mailto:morrisjean@verizon.net) for an outline of items for sale, by states, and by counties in Pennsylvania, and she will email you the lists.

**Pennsylvania Dutch Life.** A new web site is now available to use as a reference tool to better understand your Pennsylvania Dutch heritage. <http://freepages.nostalgia.rootsweb.com/~padutchlife/>

**National Gazetteer of Wales.** If your research leads you to Wales, you may want to check out this website. It contains a map showing the thirteen counties of Wales with the main towns and cities and special places of interest. There is a place name index of more than 6000 locations, in both Welsh and English/Anglicized versions, and has a guide to the administrative bodies and areas in Wales. Go to: <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/geogdata/ngw/home.htm>

**Virginia Revolutionary War Bounty Warrants and State Pension Database** is now on-line at the Virginia State Library and Archives. A fully-searchable index to documents used to verify dates and length of service of officers, soldiers, sailors in Virginia Regiments or Continental Line Regiments. Their accumulated service was used to determine the amount of Bounty Land awarded (and where located) to each individual (Virginia Military Lands in Ohio, etc.). <http://ajax.lva.lib.va.us/> then click on *images*, *indexes*, *etc.* at top right of home page. The War records are in the center column of the catalog page. This is not just an index, but links you to digitized images of the original pages. The entire site is filled with valuable records. [Central FL G.S. Feb. 2008 *Treasure Chest News* p. 5]

**Searching for Flemish/Belgian Ancestors** by Jozef J. Goethals in collaboration with Karel Denys, 2007; 8.5x11; 81pp; softcover. Publ. Genealogical Publishing Co., 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore MD 21211 or [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com); CF9313; ISBN 9780806353425; \$19.95 + \$4. P&H.

This is the first English language guidebook for researching Flemish ancestors. The work begins with a historical intro where the reader learns that Belgium did not become an independent entity until 1830; that residents of Flanders in the northern portion constitute 60% of the population while the remainder are French-speaking and German-speaking. Flemish emigration began to America in the last quarter of the 19th century, and today there are appx. 350,000 Americans of Flemish descent. The emphasis of the book is on Flemish records and methodology. [Review from Jan/Feb 2008 *Genealogical Helper* pp. 119-120.]

Some recent articles of interest which can be seen in our library collection of periodicals.

"Wedding the Waters: Engineering the Erie Canal," by Bill Hudgins can be found in Vol. 140 No. 5 Sept/Oct 2006 of the *American Spirit: Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine*.

"America's Main Street: The Historic National Road," by Bill Hudgins can be found in the July/August 2007 Volume 141 No. 4 of the *American Spirit: Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine*.

"Migration Routes: Moving Targets," by David A. Fryxell can be found in the *Family Tree Magazine*, March 2008 issue, page 22+ (excellent map).

**NARA Makes Some Passenger Arrival Records Available Online.** From Dick Eastman's Blog at [www.eogn.com/](http://www.eogn.com/) on 3 March 2008 we hear that the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has made available records of some passenger lists from the Ports of Baltimore, Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. They are the Germans to America series 1850-1897; Italians to America 1855-1900; and the Russians to America 1834-1897. You can access these new databases NARA at their website <http://add.archives.gov/aad/index.jsp>. These are the same lists which were abstracted at the Balch Institute in Philadelphia some years back and published. Hopefully those names which were skipped have been included in this new online database. Watch for more additions to these lists.