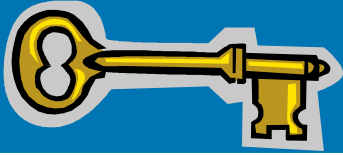


CRACKER CRUMBS



Unlocking the Past
Towards the Future

September 2007
Volume 29, Issue 1

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.

Letter from the President

It's difficult to believe that the summer is almost over, but here in Florida, the beautiful weather lasts all year long! I hope everyone had a wonderful time this summer, and at least had a little bit of time to search for your ancestors!

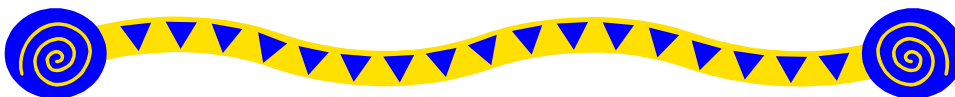
Our wonderful Vice President, Jean Morris, has been working hard to create a dynamic list of speakers for this year's meetings. It will be our best year yet! Please see page 11 for the entire year's schedule. And don't forget, we start at 9:30 a.m.!

In addition to an exciting list of speakers for this year, we are also introducing two new activities for our Society. Please read on to learn about our new Computer Special Interest Group and our new Beginning Genealogy Classes!

It will be a great year for the Manasota Genealogy Society! See you soon!

Anne Young

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.



NEW BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASSES NOW BEING OFFERED BY MANASOTA GENEALOGICAL

We are very excited to announce that Phyllis Doucette has agreed to present instructional classes for new genealogists. The classes will run 1 ½ hours and will be held in the Westminster Courtyard main meeting room at 222 Old Main St. Free parking is available at the library, 2 hour street parking is available on 3rd Ave., or on Old Main St., and metered parking in the city lot across the street. Laptop computers are welcome. The cost for the class series is \$15.00.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

- Oct 16 - 1:30pm - Where and how to start; forms; sources
- Oct 30 - 1:30pm - Computer programs; what's important and how to use
- Nov 13 - 1:30pm - Documentation - why, important, & how-to; library use; online sources
- Nov 27 - 1:30pm - Local resources; preparation for a genealogy trip; wrap-up

COMPUTER SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (by Ed Gaulin)



BACKGROUND. Last May saw the final meeting of the Manasota PAF Users Group, a ten-year old genealogical organization dedicated to expanding member knowledge of computer database software programs. The PAF group met once a month on Saturday morning at the South Branch Library in Bradenton. Proliferation of software and the rapid expansion of the Internet had an adverse impact on monthly attendance and paid membership in the small club. In May the remaining members voted to disband the group. Looking back over the past few years several studies were made by members who explored the possibilities of the PAF group being merged into the Manasota Genealogical Society (MGS). The rationale was that most of the paid members belonged to both MGS and PAF so one monthly meeting would be eliminated and the modest dues paid would cut in half. When this issue again presented itself this past spring it was only natural to look to MGS as our new home

FORMING THE NEW GROUP. The officers of MGS and PAF met several times and it was finally decided that when PAF closed its doors, MGS would form a Computer Special Interest Group (CSIG). Special Interest Groups are quite common genealogical societies today and some have a number of them specializing mostly in ethnic or geographic areas. Some of the more common ethnic SIGs are German, French, English, Irish, Scots, Italian, Dutch, and Scandinavian. But computer special interest groups (CSIG) are probably the most common. A few other types are Native American, African American, Huguenot, Quaker and French-Canadian. The goal of our Computer SIG is to enhance the knowledge of our members in working with their personal computers to facilitate their genealogical research, organize their data, share their family history and publish their research, should they desire.

WHO & HOW? Probably your first questions are "Who can join the Computer SIG and how much will it cost?" Since the SIG meetings are informal there is really no restriction on who may attend and there are NO costs or fees involved.

WHEN? The SIG will meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month, October through May, from about 12:30PM to about 2:00PM. The meeting time is subject to change as we are still working on having a catered or box lunch available for those who wish to take advantage of it. Notification of the next meeting and items to be discussed will be e-mailed about a week prior. If you would like to receive e-mail notifications please send a message with the word **SUBSCRIBE** in the SUBJECT line to GenealogyOne@lycos.com.

WHERE? MGS Member Phyllis Doucette has arranged for us to be invited to use the Activities Room of The Courtyard, a private senior residence, across the street from the Bradenton Central Library at 222 Old Main Street. Among the advantages of this meeting place is that you may leave your car in the library parking lot and enter The Courtyard through the back gate on 13th Street, a 50 yard stroll. Some of the other pluses are that the room has a full kitchen immediately adjacent and we will have full-time Internet access for our meetings. The latter is also courtesy of Phyllis.

WHAT? I imagine at this point you would probably like to know what we will be doing at each meeting. During the first few sessions we will be exploring what topics are of most interest to those attending. As I'm sure we will have differing levels of computer savvy in the group we'll try to keep everyone from getting lost in computer jargon and technical detail. We will have a high-speed wireless Internet Service Provider (ISP) available during our meetings which will allow real-time access to the World Wide Web using Time-Warner's RoadRunner. Each month members are invited to bring and discuss their favorite web sites. Some of the other possibilities that we may be looking at each month are:

Genealogy Newsletters	Genealogy Mailing Lists	Personal web sites
Internet Service Providers (ISP)	Browsers	Database software
New hardware	Digital Photography	Tips & Techniques
Word Processing	Simple computer repairs	Installing Additional Memory

Each meeting will have sufficient time aside for questions and answers of general interest. We will try to avoid fielding questions in open session that require extensive explanation or technical experience beyond the normal capabilities of the members.

THE FIRST YEAR. I have agreed to chair the CSIG meetings for the first year. Of course if someone steps up and says "I'd like to try it" I'd be happy to turn it over and lend a hand as long as required. About 15 years ago I was one of a small group that started a Computer Interest Group in Rochester, NY. It is still going strong and now has more than 200 members. I chaired that group for its first two years. Then about four years ago I assumed responsibility for the Computer SIG of the Genealogical Society of Sarasota and managed that for two years! I've spent a fair amount of time this summer collected information and materials to be used with this group when we meet. I'm looking forward to seeing familiar old faces and many new ones as our sessions begin in October. See You Then! Ed Gaulin



Access to ancestry.com has been curtailed at Family History Centers. The following link lists the titles that can still be accessed at the Family History Library Centers: <http://ancestry.com/fhc/dnlist.aspx>.

The [Ohio State Library](http://ohiohistorycentral.org) has been moved to the Columbus Metropolitan Library at 95 South Grant Avenue on the east side of downtown Columbus near Grant Hospital. The collection was available for use there April 25, 2007. While the library will no longer serve walk-ins or corresponding genealogy patrons, it will continue to promote genealogy *virtually* by offering researchers access to its genealogical and local historical information through digitization of Ohio items from its collection.

Columbus Metropolitan Library
 Attention: Genealogy
 96 South Grant Avenue
 Columbus OH 43215
 614/645-2275 (Ask for genealogy)
 Email: <history@columbuslibrary.org>
 Web site: <www.columbuslibrary.org>

(from Central Florida Genealogical Society, Inc. May/June 2007 page 40 in the MGS collection at the library).

Norwegian Genealogy. Try this web site: <<http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/index-eng.htm>>

Be a Rootsweb Volunteer. Over the years the growth of RootsWeb has largely been due to the work of volunteers. There are none more important and helpful to RootsWeb users than the thousands of mailing list and message board administrators. Volunteer administrators contribute their time, judgement and expertise to ensure that lists and boards function properly. Email Joan Young at joan@volunteer.rootsweb.com. From Dick Eastman www.eogn.com 7/11/2007.

Looking for a Genealogy Blog? Try the Genealogy Blog Finder. Are you familiar with blogs? Blogs (short for web logs) are web sites where individuals or organizations provide ongoing commentary about topics such as local news, politics, and genealogy. If you are looking for a good genealogy blog to keep you informed of all the latest genealogy news, try the Genealogy Blog Finder. It lists hundreds of genealogy-related blogs, all organized by topics, so you can find blogs on cemeteries, specific locations, like genealogical happenings in a certain county and state, genealogy humor, and more. They are a great way to keep up to date on what is going on in our hobby.

<http://blogfinder.genealogue.com/>

Also try: Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter: <http://blog.eogn.com/>

Or Everton Publisher's Blog: <http://genealogyblog.com>

Across the Fields of Yesterday by Jack Kobuskie as told to Robert Jerome Porter, Jr., Nov. 2005, Visions Marketing c/o Jack Kobuskie, Box 1660, Hockessin DE 19707, 302/234-1501. ISBN 0-9774413-0-X

A history of Jack Kobuskie's life which began in Bleeker, Fulton County, New York. Fulton County was carved out of the southern foothills of the Adirondack Mountains. The hamlet of Bleecker is located about ten miles north of Gloversville. Jack's father was a lumberman, and Jackie was the youngest of 8 children. Brothers Len, Joe, mother Henrietta Kobuskie, and Uncle Grover are the few family names mentioned in this story of his life which is largely dedicated to his love of golf, and basketball and his many years of coaching at the high school in his hometown. Many photos of winning teams, and special sections dedicated to some of the young men he coached and who made names for themselves in sports history. This book has been donated to the MGS library.

Finding World War II Era Family Try <http://www.unithistories.com/>

German Census and Port Records, and German Language Web Site has been established by Ancestry.com.

They have added more than six million names from German port and census records to its historical records collection. Includes the Hamburg Passenger Lists, Sailor's Registry, Ships Crew Lists, family and local histories just to name a few.

Iceland Research. Everyone in Iceland is related, its entire 300,000 population can be found on the following Web Site: www.icelendingabok.is/

(continued on next page)

("Jots from Jean" continued from previous page)

Colony of Connecticut Public Records. Indexed digital images of all of the published records of Connecticut's governing body from 1636 to 1776 can be found at www.colonialct.uconn.edu

Find My Past - www.findmypast.com = the ancestry for England and Wales. Birth, marriage and death records as well as censuses. It is free at Family History Libraries. Free BMD = freebmd.org.uk = 1837-1915 partial birth, marriage and death records for England and Wales. Check them out.

Colorado State Archives Historical Records Index = www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/
For Births pre 1907; Death Index 1870-1905; Some Marriage Records; Divorce Index 1870s-1939

Directory of Family Associations = www.family-association.com/

"Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers" - free of charge. The Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities announced in March of 2006 debuted more than 226,000 pages of public-domain newspapers from California, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Utah, Virginia and the District of Columbia published between 1900 and 1910, The fully searchable site is available at www.loc.gov/chroniclingameric/
[From EOGN.com 3/26/2006.

More than 4500 Family History Centers Worldwide to have Free Access to WorldVitalRecords.com. Announcement was made in Richmond at the NGS Conference Family History Centers throughout the world will now have free access to WorldVitalRecords.com's genealogical records as a result of an agreement signed between FamilySearch (TM) and WorldVitalRecords.com Read the article in Eastman's www.eogn.com/blogplus/2007/05 dated 5/21/2007.

From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter - Plus Edition. I bring this to the readers attention so that they can go themselves to www.eogn.com/blogplus/2007/07/map_your_ancestors_on_a_google.html A subscription Blog but well worth the fee! The article is entitled "Map Your Ancestors on a Google Map. The site will convert a list of your ancestors' birth, marriage, death, and other locations to points on a map.....

And another announcement "New Collection of Claims by Early American Colonists." ArchiveCDBooksUSA announces the availability of the "Digested Summary and Alphabetical List of Private Claims Which Have Been Presented to the House of Representatives" 1789-1882.....www.eogn.com/blogplus/2007/07/new_collection_of_claims_by_ea/html

Ellis Island Passenger Records. Are now available free to visitors at www.worldvitalrecords.com and www.familylink.com

Pelot Family Genealogy, 1995 compiled by Dr. Meredith Bright Colket Jr., Mrs. Julia Pelot Colket, and Mr. William Currie Colket, \$60.00 + \$4.00 P&H (Ohio res. add \$4.20 tax) from Western Reserve Historical Society Library, Julia and Meredith Colket Endowment Fund, 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland OH 44106-1777. A copy of the book is in the MGS Library collection.

The first Pelots in America are the descendants of Jonas Pelot of Swiss ancestry. The Pelots can trace decent from a Niquilly Pelot born c1390. Several appendices contain additional information on James Pelot of the E. Dale Joyner Nature Preserve at Pelotes Island; Dr. John Crews Pelot, surgeon at Andersonville Prison; John James Francis Pelot of Pioneer Days in Bradenton Florida; Professor James M. Stewart (Stuart) a pioneer educator of Florida. Allied surnames include Bessant, Chisholm, Cooper, Gates, Gignilliat, Johnson, Lofton, Marion/Marian, Sealy & Vaughan. William Currie Colket, one of the compilers, will be our speaker at the Dec. 5th, 2007 MGS meeting.

MATERIALS ADDED TO GENEALOGY COLLECTION AT CENTRAL LIBRARY
RECEIVED MARCH/APRIL 2006- (SUBMITTED BY ROSE TAYLOR)

- 929.2 Kam **Beltzhoover.** by Gayle O. Kamp and Deanna Thomas Oklepek.
 (Family of Christian Melchior Beltzhuber); Published by AuthorHouse, 2006.
- 929.373 Pas **2008 supplement** volume to Passenger and Immigration Lists Index.
- 929.3748 Ben **Genealogies of Pennsylvania Families.** From the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography. GPC, 1983. with index.
- 929.3748 Pen **Pennsylvania German Church Records** of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, etc. from the Pennsylvania German Society. 3 volumes, all dated 2001, with index in each volume.
- 929.3755 Hop **Index to The Tithable for Loudoun County,** Virginia and to Slaveholders and Slaves, 1758-1786. by Margaret Lail Hopkins, GPC, 1991.
- 929.3755 Wus **The Virginia Germans.** by Klaus Wust. University Press of Virginia, 1969. Along with history, there are chapters on bi-lingual politics, churches and slavery.
- 929.3769 Dun Harlan Connections, by Frances Y. Dunham. University of West Florida, 1987
 Mainly 1830, 1840 and 1850 Census of Harlan County, Kentucky.
- 977.3 GEN **Geneva, Illinois: A History of its times and places.** Published by Geneva Public Library District, 1977. Probably a U.S. Bi-Centennial book, it includes Life on the farm, Leisure, Churches,
- Gen 914.2 Lew A topographical dictionary of England. By Samuel Lewis.
 GPC, 1996. Originally published in 1831 in London.
 4 volumes reprinted in 2.
- Gen 929.2 Gri Herring highlights II, 1642-1991. By James M. Grimwood with Lola Herring Kennedy, et al. Published in Houston, TX, by the author in 1991.
- Gen 929.2 Mal Malone and allied families. By Randolph A. Malone. 2nd revised edition.
 Published in Thomasville, GA by author in 1996.
- Gen 929.2 She Sheppard-Marshall and allied families, Burrows, Clark, Deakins/ Dickins, Gatchell, Graves, Green, Hibbs, Hudson and many others. By Lillian A. Sheppard. Published in San Jose, CA by author in 1974.
- Gen 929.3746 Mun Connecticut's Pennsylvania "Colony" 1754-1810: Susquehanna Company proprietors, settlers and claimants. By Donna Bingham Munger. Contents of the 3 volumes: vol. 1 = The proprietors, vol. 2 = The settlers, vol. 3 = The claimants.

(continued on following page)

“COLLECTIONS AT CENTRAL LIBRARY” (continued):

- Gen 929.3747 Registers of the births, marriages and deaths of the “Eglise française à la Nouvelle York”: from 1688 to 1804. Edited by Alfred V. Wittmeyer. Reprinted from the collections of the Huguenot Society of America, volume 1, New York, 1886. Reprinted for Clearfield Company by GPC in 2003.
- Gen929.3749 Gen Genealogies of New Jersey Families: from the Genealogist magazine of New Jersey. Selected and introduced by Joseph R. Klett. Published by GPC in 1996. Contents: vol. 1 = Families A-Z with pre-American notes on old New Netherland families. Vol. 2 = A genealogical dictionary of New Jersey, bible records and other family records.
- Gen 929.3755 Fot Wills of Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1654-1800. By Augusta B. Fothergill. Reprinted from the 1925 edition by GPC in 1973.
- Gen 929.3755 Mcc Virginia immigrants and adventurers, 1607-1635: a biographical dictionary. By Martha W. McCartney. Published by GPC in 2007.
- Gen 929.3757 Sou Warrants for lands in South Carolina. Edited by A.S. Salley. Jr. Reprint of the 1910 – 1915 edition printed by the State for the Historical Commission of South Carolina. Reprinted for Clearfield Company by GPC in 1998. 3 volumes in 1. Contents: vol. 1 = 1672 – 1679, vol. 2 = 1680-1692, vol. 3 = 1692-1775.
- Gen 929.8 Rie Armorial général: précédé d'un dictionnaire des termes du blazon. By J.B. Riestap. 3 volumes, Reprinted for Clearfield Company by GPC in 2003. Contents: vol. 1 – A-K, vol. 2 = L-Z, vol. 3 + Supplement.
- Gen975.676 Ale The history of Mecklenburg County: from 1740 to 1900. By J.B. Alexender. Originally published in 1902, reprinted by Clearfield Company in 2002.

The Avery Family: The Ancestors and descendents of Christopher Avery, edited by Maureen A. Taylor, Boston; Newbury Street Press, 2004, 112 pages.

Indiana Magazine of History , vol. 100 #1 through Vol. 101 #4 (March 2004 through Dec. 2005)

Hoosier Genealogist,, vol. 43 #2 through vol. 44 #4 (Summer 2003 through winter 2004)

National Genealogical Society Quarterly for March, June and September 2004.

SPECIAL ARTICLE!

Jean Morris assembled material from various sources to share with our MGS Members; this material is pertinent to this month and the current times in our history. The source of this material was principally that from Mr. Doug Sterner's excellent website and article on "The Sentinels" http://www.homeofheroes.com/gravesites/unknowns/0_unknowns_sentinels.html . See other sources/references in the body of the text.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY & GUARDING THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER: THE SENTINELS

The 3rd United States Infantry has served our Nation continuously since 1784, and today is the oldest active-duty infantry unit in the U.S. Army. Headquartered out of Fort Myer, Virginia, it is traditionally known as "*The Old Guard*," a proud nickname ascribed by General Winfield Scott during a victory parade at Mexico City in 1847.

Since World War II *The Old Guard* has been the Army's official HONOR GUARD. Among their duties, beyond providing security to our Nation's Capitol in time of national emergency or civil disturbance, are some of the most impressive displays of military ceremony.

Soldiers from *The Old Guard* escort the President, conduct military ceremonies at the White House, Pentagon, and national memorials in our Capitol City, including funeral details and other special ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. One of their most recognized responsibilities is providing sentinels...Tomb Guards, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Since April 6, 1948 the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has been guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, regardless of weather. Millions of Americans annually visit the Memorial Amphitheater to watch these dedicated soldiers of a new generation, dutifully pace 21 steps across a black mat on the west face of the Tomb. It is a great time honored ritual, executed with great precision and filled with American pride.

The sentinel marches 21 steps across the black mat, past the final resting places of the Unknown Soldiers of World War I, World War II, Korea, and the crypt of the Unknown Soldier of the Vietnam War. With a crisp turn, the sentinel turns 90 degrees to face east for 21 seconds. The sentinel then turns a sharp 90 degrees again to face north for 21 seconds. A crisp "shoulder-arms" movement places the rifle on the shoulder nearest the visitors to signify that the sentinel stands between the tomb and any threat. After a moment, the sentinel then paces 21 steps north, turns and repeats the process. The practiced cadence is timed so that the sentinel paces at a rate of 90 steps each minute.

THE SENTINEL'S CREED

*My dedication to this sacred duty
Is total and wholehearted-
In the responsibility bestowed on me
Never will I falter-
And with dignity and perseverance
My standard will remain perfection
Through the years of diligence and praise
And the discomfort of the elements
I will walk my tour in humble reverence
The best of my ability.
It is he who commands the respect I protect
His bravery that made us so proud
Surrounded by well meaning crowds by day,
Alone in the thoughtful peace of night,
This soldier in honored Glory rest
Under my eternal vigilance.*

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

Appropriately, the men who march 21 steps south, turn and march 21 steps north, and then repeat the process minute-by-minute for up to an hour at a time day or night, are the very best of the Army's best. Whether under a blazing sun, unsheltered from driving rains, or in freezing snow, they perform their duty with great precision and military bearing. Each of them is a volunteer from the 3rd Infantry, eligible to apply for duty as a sentinel ONLY after they have already been ceremonially qualified in *The Old Guard*. Each soldier among them is physically fit for the demanding responsibility, and between 5'10" and 6'4" tall with a proportionate weight and build.

Acceptance in *The Old Guard's* Company E does not assure a volunteer that he will become one of the fewer than 400 soldiers in the last 45 years to earn the distinctive Tomb Guard Badge. Before any soldier is allowed "a walk," he must memorize seven pages of history on Arlington National Cemetery and then recite it verbatim. If a soldier finishes this phase and is granted "a walk," he enters a new phase of training known as "new-soldier training." In addition to extensive training in the manual of arms, the guard change ceremony, and the intricacies of military ritual, the new-soldier is required to memorize additional information about Arlington, including the grave locations of nearly 300 veterans. It may take months for a soldier to earn the right to TEST to wear the coveted silver Tomb Guard Identification badge, and even then, the award is temporary. Only after the sentinel has served at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for nine months does the award become permanent. One of the Army's rarest emblems, it features the inverted laurel and a replica of the East face of the tomb where Greek images represent the virtues of *Victory*, *Valor*, and *Peace*. Three female sentinels and one female Platoon Leader have completed the course. Many misconceptions have been printed about qualifications that the sentinels may never touch liquor or use poor language, they are false. For more information visit The Society of the Honor Guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier web site gives us additional history, visit them at www.tombguard.org , or visit http://www.homeofheroes.com/gravesites/unknowns/0_unknowns_sentinels.html . Also visit the website www.arlingtoncemetery.org/cemeteries/military_funerals.html where you can find lists of the ceremonies, types of military funerals, and how they take place.

Each "walk" is a shift of one-half hour during daylight hours in the summer, one hour during daylight hours in the winter, and all night shifts are one-hour walks. Each walk concludes with the ceremonial Changing of the Guards...even when no audience is present.

As the active sentry nears the conclusion of his walk, a uniformed relief commander enters the plaza to announce the Changing of the Guard. When the sentinel assigned the next walk, the uniformed relief commander enters the plaza to announce the Changing of the Guard. When the sentinel assigned the next walk leaves the guards' quarters, he unlocks the bolt of his M-14 rifle to signify that he is ready to begin the ceremony. The relief commander approaches the tomb, slowly salutes, then faces the visitors and requests silence during the ceremony. As the new sentinel approaches, the relief commander slowly and with great precision conducts a white-glove inspection of the sentinel's weapon. The two then march to the center of the mat where the duty sentinel stops his walk, and all three men salute the Tomb. "Pass on your orders," the commander instructs the active sentinel. "Post and orders, remain as directed," he replies. "Orders acknowledged," answers the relieving sentinel, who then steps into position at the center of the black mat. As soon as the relief commander passes, the new sentinel begins his own walk, 21 paces south, turn and pause for 21 seconds, turn and pace 21 steps south, and then repeat the actions without distraction until relieved by the next Changing of the Guards.

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

TRIBUTE TO A HERO

This story has been in my files for a long time, the names of the parties have been removed, it tells the story about what happens at a military burial at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. You owe it to yourself to visit this historic site, just as you should visit The National Cathedral in D.C.

They laid another soldier to rest at Arlington National Cemetery today. It was my father. His wife and five of their six children gathered there to bid him farewell. Dad served in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, island-hopping with the First Army Infantry Division. He would see the specter of death again too soon in the Korean conflict. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and other decorations for bravery in battle. That is how he earned the privilege of being interred at Arlington with full military honors.

This meant that a caisson pulled by six black horses would take the casket to the grave site, escorted by a platoon. The U.S. Army Band would play several songs, and a seven-man rifle squad would fire three volleys. Finally, the chaplain would present the widow with the American flag that was draped over her husband's coffin.

What the staff could not prepare us for was the heart-rending emotion that would overwhelm us. Our small motorcade followed the cemetery representative's car to the McClellan Arch where the procession awaited. On our way, we drove past countless rows of headstones, undulating through the trees like a vast and infinitely wide river of sorrow.

I got out of the car and was immediately stunned by the power and poignancy of the scene. To our right, the color guard, rifle squad, and the U.S. Army Band stood motionless on the lush, verdant grass. Counting the soldiers that flanked the coffin, the riders atop three of the six horses, and the lead horseman, there were about 100 men, all volunteers in "The Old Guard," a unit of the Third U.S. Infantry Regiment. Ahead, the horses and Dad's flag-draped coffin awaited. A gray sky hung overhead. All was still, quiet, and reverent on this day.

Tears streamed down my face. I wanted so badly to touch Dad's coffin and weep for him, for me, for us. I could not. The dignity of the moment demanded that I be brave, that I show courage as he had done in a much and more sacrificial way.

The 14-member band played the old hymn "Faith of Our Fathers," then the platoon marched in front of the caisson to a drum cadence. The horses began their slow, deliberate clip-clop on the pavement, and we followed. Mother and my brother led the family, 9 of us in all including 3 grandchildren. As we walked the quarter-mile to the grave site, the gentle rain intensified into a thunderstorm so typical of a sultry Southern afternoon. Tears mixed with the pelting rain.

A temporary pavilion with several chairs stood beside the grave. The U.S. Army Chaplain offered words of consolation. The rifle squad fired the three volleys, which the heavens answered with an echo of thunder that rattled our bones and stirred our souls. Lightning flashed as a lone soldier stepped away from the band to play taps. Eight soldiers then crisply folded the American flag, presented it to the chaplain, who then presented it to my Mother.

After the service, we solemnly rose to walk away, leaving behind us one soldier - The Vigil - who stood guard at the site until Dad was interred. So many unforgettable images will stay with me. I'll especially recall Mother being escorted back to the car by an officer holding an umbrella over her. He was quite tall, well over 6 feet, and towered above her. Her stride, though, matched his. On this day, she was just as tall and brave as this man, just as tall and brave as her fallen soldier.

CHRISTMAS AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Readers may be interested to know that over 5,000 wreaths with red bows have been donated yearly by Mr. Morrill Worcester of the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine. The wreaths are trucked to Arlington and are distributed by many school children from Maine, and around the country. Mr. Worcester has expanded his donations and started *Wreaths Across America* where he is placing these wreaths in each of the more than 230 State and National cemeteries and Veterans Monuments across America. For more visit www.snopes.com/photos/military/wreaths.asp.



THE TOP TEN INDICATORS THAT YOU'VE BECOME A GENE-AHOLIC

By Mary H. Harris As quoted in the Clermont Co. GS Newsletter

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>10. You introduce your daughter as your descendant.</p> <p>8. You can recite your lineage back 8 generations, but can't remember your nephew's name.</p> <p>6. You have taken a tape recorder and or notebook to a family reunion.</p> <p>4. The local genealogy society borrows books from you.</p> <p>2. More than half of your CD collection is made up of marriage records or pedigrees.</p> | <p>9. You've never met any of the people you send email to, even though you are related.</p> <p>7. You have more photographs of dead people than living ones.</p> <p>5. You have not only read the latest GEDCOM standards, you understand it.</p> <p>3. The only film you have seen in the last year was the 1880 census index.</p> <p>1. Your elusive ancestors have been spotted in more places than ELVIS</p> |
|---|---|

MANASOTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MEETING SCHEDULE 2007-2008 YEAR

Wed - Oct 3, 2007 - 9:30am - 12 noon

- ✦ "Jamestowne Virginia - Its History & People: Researching Jamestowne for Early Settlers", by Barbara Schultz
- ✦ Computer Special Interest Group in the afternoon (starting about 12:30 pm)

Wed - Nov. 7, 2007 - 9:30am -12 noon

- ✦ "Maps for Genealogists: Tracking Your Ancestors", by Ed Gaulin
- ✦ Computer Special Interest Group in the afternoon (starting about 12:30 pm)

Wed - Dec 5, 2007 - 9:30 - 12 noon

- ✦ "Experiences in Publishing a Family Genealogy", by William Currie Colket
- ✦ Computer Special Interest Group in the afternoon (starting about 12:30 pm)

Wed - Jan. 2, 2008: 9:30am - 12 noon

- ✦ "What's My Next Step? The Organized Genealogist", by Drew Smith
- ✦ Computer Special Interest Group in the afternoon (starting about 12:30 pm)

Wed - Feb. 6, 2008: 9:30am - 12 noon

- ✦ "GenealogyBank.com: Learn How to Document the Daily Life of Your Ancestors", by Tom Kemp
- ✦ Computer Special Interest Group in the afternoon (starting about 12:30 pm)

Wed - Mar 5, 2008: 9:30am - 12 noon

- ✦ "Saving A Life: Your Family's Health History", by Donna M. Moughty.
- ✦ Computer Special Interest Group in the afternoon (starting about 12:30 pm)

Wed - Apr 2, 2008: 9:30am - 12 noon

- ✦ "In the Wilderness and on the Battlefield with Your Civil War Ancestor", by Sharon Tate Moody
- ✦ Computer Special Interest Group in the afternoon (starting about 12:30 pm)

Wed - May 7, 2008: 9:30am - 12 noon

- ✦ "Understanding Pennsylvania Land Records from Colonial Times", by Jean S. Morris
- ✦ Computer Special Interest Group in the afternoon (starting about 12:30 pm)