

The Pasco County Line

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

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- See who won the afghan!
- Read Bob Rosengrant's entry in the writing competition.
- Find out about a special Google search.
- Check the Help Wanted section to see if there's a job you want to do.

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A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK

Are you looking for an opportunity to give back? Consider volunteering to help index **Family History Library** records.

We all use **Family History Library** records. We have to order the records, pay a small fee, wait for the records to arrive, go to a **Family History Center** to view the records, and renew the rental if we need more time. The **Family History Library** has committed to a project that will make most of its records available in a digital format on the Internet. One day, you'll be able to sit in the comfort of your own home and look at records for free. Some records are already available.

You can be part of this history making effort by volunteering to index records. All you need is computer access and some time. I've already started. I've been indexing the 1885 and 1935 Florida State Censuses and the 1870 Federal Census for Illinois.

Here's what happens when you volunteer. After you register, you pick the project you are interested in and receive an assignment. It may or may not be in your area of interest. You download images to your computer and transcribe the highlighted information used to create a searchable online index. Then you submit your work. That's it!

If the project you requested isn't available, the **Family History Library** may suggest an alternative project. That's how I started indexing the Illinois Census, which is nearly complete.

To find out about current projects, upcoming projects, completed projects and get info on volunteering, visit the following website:

www.familysearch.org/eng/indexing/frameset_indexing.asp

✂

By Thomas D. Santa Cruz

PCGS BLUE BIRD

Are you traveling to a genealogy meeting or seminar anytime soon? The blue bird is looking to hitch a ride. The only catch is that when you return the blue bird, you have to tell us all about your trip. What did you learn? Who did you meet? Where did you stay? What did you eat? Inquiring minds want to know all the details. ✂

UPCOMING MEETINGS OR PROGRAMS

February 14 Meeting:

Get your questions ready for the round table sessions:

- Basics to Get Started in Genealogy
- Germany
- Officer Training
- Computer Interests.

Look on the PCGS blog for an

outline of the day's events.

Feb 18 Program:

Join Tom Santa Cruz at the PCGS library as he explains online newspaper research.

March 14 Meeting:

Debra Sandstrom Fleming will be walking us through the pre-

1850 censuses. Debra will be digging into this underused, under appreciated resource.

April 11 Meeting:

Pattie Schultz and Pam Treme will help you plan a successful family reunion.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This first issue in 2009 will be widely read not only by our own members but by other genealogical societies as well. We may be a little late, having to wait until February for our first issue of the year, but I believe we should make, or reinforce, our New Year's resolutions.

I've not only conducted but I have also monitored our monthly meetings over the past year and I believe now is the appropriate time to discuss some of the things I have noticed and hope they can be improved.

We should always have a "greeter" at the door with a smile and a friendly welcome. Take time. Point the visitor in the right direction if that person is a newcomer.

We should always ensure that newcomers and guests are made to feel welcome. Some-

times a person attends alone and knows no one. A member could so easily put that person at ease, even sit with the person and assist as necessary. Take time.

We need to have a friendly exchange with our own members. Yes, we see them once a month at a meeting, but do we "hear" them? We certainly should. Each member should feel that they are a **part** of the society, not just an **attendee**. Again, take time.

If a member is new to genealogy, be aware of it. Do not speak above his/her head, take time to explain and give encouragement.

Make sure we have plenty of audience participation; no one needs or wants to sit and listen at every meeting. They want to find their ancestors, they want to ask questions. They don't need to be up to

their knees in alligators all alone.

Maybe every society is doing all of the above, or do they just think they are? As President, I can look out at all the smiling faces and courteous attention given and believe everything is going great. But —I also look further and watch for body language. I look for the blank stare on a newcomer. I watch for the person who seems to stand alone or walk off to a corner to nibble on refreshments all alone.

It takes so little to smile and show warmth even if you're consumed with many duties or on your own little ancestral thought trail. I'm sure I have my Executive Board behind me and together we can achieve anything. "To all of us: TAKE TIME IN 2009!!!

By Mike Shires

AFGHAN WINNER!



At the December 2008 board meeting, the winning ticket was drawn. A delighted Fay Williams was the lucky afghan winner. Given the winter we're having here in Florida, Fay is going to need that afghan...burr!

MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD

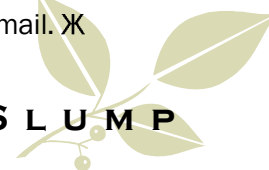
Talk to us...please! We've sent all members who have an email address an electronic survey and 13 members have replied.

Here's what we know so far from these 13 members.

They want programs on how to organize a family reunion, conduct basic research, write a family history, and get the most from census research. Eighty percent of respondents want PCGS to sponsor an all day genealogy seminar in 2009-2010.

If you haven't completed your survey, please do so soon. We plan to use the results of this survey to book future programs. Completing the survey means that your request will be heard, and if possible, honored.

Contact Pattie at pattie_schultz@hotmail.com if you missed this survey in your email. ❧



COPING WITH A GENEALOGY SLUMP

It started with an email from Pam asking if I had an article for the February edition of the PCGS newsletter. Could it be? Maybe. It was!

The entire month of January had gone by and I had not done *any* genealogy research. I started to make excuses. December had been hectic, entertaining visiting relatives and I had created photo DVDs for my holiday cards. January had started with multiple parties to host and one crisis after another at work. But I still could not believe that I had not done any research the entire month.

Luckily before I went into a full blown panic attack, I took a deep breath, counted to ten, and sighed. It was true that I had not worked on my filing, or used my new portable scanner (a Christmas present to myself) to digitize my Civil War Pension files but I had joined Facebook.

If you have not explored it, Facebook is a social community where you are able to connect with people and share as little or as much about yourself as you want.

During the last month I have made contact with numerous first, second, and lost cousins through Facebook. We have exchanged introductions, messages, and in many cases family pictures. The majority of the people listed as my "Friends" on Facebook are related to me and each other.

Wait—finding lost relatives, collecting stories, pictures, and family information...I had done genealogy research this month, it is just that these people are alive! ❧

By Pattie Schultz

Facebook is a free social networking system that you can find on the Internet at www.facebook.com. When you join, you complete a profile and begin to look for friends in the list of other Facebook users. When you find someone you know, you issue an invitation to be friends. If you are looking for living people under the age of 30, you're very likely to find them on Facebook. ❧

FINDING MORE ABOUT OUR ANCESTORS

If you missed it, the big message in genealogy is to look at other features that colored your ancestor's life besides the classic genealogical events of birth, death, marriage(s), and burial. These other features involve the local, national, and international events that may have had an effect on why ancestors made certain decisions in their lives. History texts, newspaper articles, and visits to where they lived are useful in bringing out these features in a general way. Journals, diaries, letters, family stories, legal records, and specific mention in the aforementioned general works can make it personal. Even the specific mention of your ancestor in someone else's journal, diary, letter, or story helps in guessing why your ancestor moved or stayed, worn one uniform or another, was persecuted or did the persecuting, was a farmer or a merchant, or some other circumstance that might lead to finding evidence for the classic genealogical events.

Someone in the family may have one of these treasures. However, the family member may be a cousin on the other side of your family tree. Message boards and family reunions are a good place to start

looking for these documents. Special collections are another place to look. Often correspondence files in these collections include letters from friends and family. The **National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)** www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc can be a starting point. I have not had much success with NUCMC, but you might.

Probate records can contain fabulous family information. In Florida, many courthouses have probate records. Few Florida courthouses burned. Many records from the Territorial days are in courthouses across Florida. It is important to look for the records in the original county. Many counties have split over the years. The Hernando County courthouse actually did burn shortly after the formation of Pasco and Citrus Counties in 1887. For these three counties, the property records were reconstructed, but the other records were lost. Another Florida problem is that the **Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order No. AOSC06-21** restricts access to probate file images to the local courts clerks. For more info, visit: www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/adminorders/2006/sc06-21.pdf



A member of my family, Francis Roman Sanchez, died on March 9, 1845 on his farm, in San Felasco, Alachua County at the age of 53. Francis died six days after Florida became a state. He was a prosperous pioneer who left no will. Since he died intestate, a larger probate file was generated. I found his probate file in the records section of the Alachua County courthouse in Gainesville. The file contains records of loans and bills owed to shops, doctors, lawyers, schoolteachers, general stores, tax collectors, and individuals. His property, which included land, furniture, farm equipment, slaves, crops, livestock, and more, was catalogued. The heirs are identified. If they were minors, their guardians' identity is listed. If the daughters were married, their husbands are identified too. The files contain documents in the hand of the deceased, family members, and others.

If you are going to look for probate files, you will have to travel to the courthouse. You will be able to make photocopies for a \$1 per page.

Good luck and good hunting. ✂

By Thomas D. Santa Cruz

L. D. AND THE GREAT AMERICAN SMOKE-OUT

My grandfather, Llewellyn DeWitt Rosengrant, "L.D." or "Welly", as my grandmother used to call him, was a vital and wonderful part of my life. My grandfather was an engineer on the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad, driving those big steam and diesel locomotives throughout Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey.

I remember him standing on the front porch steps of the house on Harrison Avenue, his gray trousers held up by a worker's buttoned on suspenders. He was shirtless most of the time at home, wearing "long john" underwear, which he wore throughout the year. They appeared gray from the many years of soot from the locomotive that would not come out no matter how hard my grandmother scrubbed.

Grandfather was of average height but to me he was a giant. His potbelly gave him a "pear" shape. His face was oval with sparkling blue eyes that peered at you over reading glasses perched on his nose. The top of his head was balding and what hair he did have formed a semi-circle from ear to ear. His arms and hands were large and powerful, but would be so gentle when he held a child. I remember the

smell of pipe tobacco mingled with the smell of the locomotive he drove.

He was the father of six children that he worked hard to rear during the many difficult years of the early 1900s. Quitting school after completing only the third grade, he worked on the family farm. This was not uncommon in those days. He never lectured his children, but preferred to rely on giving life's lessons in more subtle ways. One I learned from him on a particular summer day.

My grandmother had sent me on an errand to the store. Upon leaving the store, I noticed an unopened pack of cigarettes laying on the ground that someone had dropped. I picked up the pack and furtively looked about me to see if anyone was watching, then put the pack in my pocket and proceeded home with the groceries.

After taking the groceries to my grandmother, I ran down the back alley to get my friend Richie. We were both eight years old and were best friends. I showed Richie what I had so we decided to go to the quarry and do some smoking. Richie went inside his house and came out a few minutes later with a book of matches he had taken from his mother's

purse and off we went to enjoy our cigarettes.

After smoking the entire pack of cigarettes we were not feeling too well so we headed for home. As we approached the house, I could see my grandfather standing on the front porch. Our front gate was about twenty to thirty feet from the front porch. As I opened the front gate, I told Richie I would see him later. It was then that my grandfather called to us, "Come on in boys. I was to talk to you."

We froze for a few seconds, looking at each other. This was not like my grandfather. He then motioned us to sit on the front steps with him, putting his big body between us. He took from his pocket a cigar, which he cut in two with his pocket-knife, offering half to Richie and the other half to me. He was smoking his pipe and invited us to join him as though we were a couple of his railroad friends.

Lighting both cigars and handing them back to us, he invited us both to take a big pull on them. "To get the flavor," he said, demonstrating how to inhale the smoke. Richie took a big pull and immediately began coughing. I swear to this day,



he turned a pale green. With tears in his eyes and trying not to throw up, Richie yelled, "I'm going home!" He bolted for the gate, ran around the corner of Pine Street, heading for home like a scalded dog.

Grandpa was chuckling, "What's got into that boy?"

He then turned his full attention to me. It was my turn to take that big drag on the cigar. Tears were rolling down my face as I began to sob.

"What's the matter, I thought you'd enjoy a good smoke?" At that moment my grandmother appeared on the porch and began scolding L. D.

"What's the matter with you, making those boys sick like that? You ought to be ashamed of yourself."

He chuckled and said, "I just thought he was ready to be a man and enjoy a good smoke."

I remember little else of that day other than being sick and not able to eat my dinner. But what I will never know is how my grandfather knew we had been smoking at the quarry. He never mentioned it again. I never touched another cigarette until I was in my 20s, and then in 1969, decided it was a bad habit and quit smoking altogether.

L. D. was a great influence in my life in many ways and I shall never forget him. He lived until he was ninety-three and never lost the sparkle in those blue eyes or his great sense of humor. His final years were spent sitting on the front porch smoking his pipe. I think he was thinking of my grandmother who he adored. She passed away nine years before him. ✂

By Robert Rosengrant

GOOGLE SURPRISE

There's no use in denying it...I'm a Google junky. I've found relatives' mug shots, wedding registries, and travel logs. I can tell you who fishes, who bowls, and who golfs.

The one that knocked me over was the day I had a U.S. patent pop up in a results list. Quite frankly, my family is pretty humble and not particularly inventive...except apparently for one line.

The McKinley line of my family has three—count 'em—three U. S. Patent holders that I've found so far. They hold patents in the following subject areas:

- Charcoal Briquettes
- Bio Medical Devices
- Golf Instructional Device

Two of the three are living. I've traded family info with one of them...a PhD.

Now I'm pretty good on Google but I didn't know that Google has a special patent lookup. Just in case you have an inventive family...or you get an inventor surprise...here's how you get to the Google lookup.

- Open **www.Google.com**.
- Click **Advanced Search**.
- Click **Google Scholar** (bottom of the page).
- Click the **more** link.
- Click **Patents**.
- Enter a subject area or name in the search field, and then click **Search Patents**.

I could have simply given you the address to the page. However, I'm hoping that you'll follow the instructions and notice all the other links along the way. Google offers lots of specialized searches that might help you.

Live long and Google! ✂

By Pamela Tremé

AREA EVENTS

15 Feb: Presentation at the Jewish Genealogical Society at Kobernick House, Sarasota, Pattie and Pam, *Conducting a Family Survey*. For info, email Pam at ptreme@hotmail.com

25 Feb: Seminar at the Englewood Genealogical Society of FL, Inc., Donna Moughty, *Jumping the Pond*. For more info, email Sally Thomas at S252thomas@comcast.net

28 Feb: Seminar at the Southwest Florida Germanic Genealogy Research Group, Baerbel Johnson, *Putting Flesh on the Genealogical Skeleton*. For more info, visit: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flgggrg/

22 Mar: Presentation at the Suncoast Genealogy Society, Donna Murray, *Internet Genealogy*. For more info, visit: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flppgc/Suncoast_Genealogical_Society.html

HELP WANTED



Dade City Banner:

Do you have a yen to index? Judy Kelly has the project for you! Judy has been heading an indexing project for the local newspaper. She needs volunteers. If you can index and want to help, email Judy at jhkell@earthlink.net.

PCGS Cookbook:

Do you have computer and cooking skills? This committee is looking for volunteers to edit and produce a cookbook. If you are interested in this project, email Peggy Fortner at triggfortner@peoplepc.com

FSGS Quarterly

Are you interested in writing about Pasco County history? In about six months, Pasco is going to be featured in the FSGS quarterly, *Florida Genealogist*. The editor would love to have submissions. If you are interested in this writing opportunity, please contact Pam Tremé at ptreme@hotmail.com. Or write to the quarterly editor Jackie Hufschmid at jhufschmid@adelphia.net

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Want to have an article published in the newsletter? We'll be happy to accommodate you. Please submit items by the following deadlines:

- Apr 10, 2009 for May 2009
- July 10, 2009 for Aug 2009
- Oct 10, 2009 for Nov 2009
- Jan 10, 2010 for Feb 2010

Please feel free to send your submissions any time between now and the deadline. Early is great; by the deadline works too. Email your submissions to Pam at: ptreme@hotmail.com

NEW MEMBERS CORNER

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Thomas A. Muer
- Linda A. Perdue
- Marsha Cain Richardson
- Victoria Schultz

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

PASCO COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

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Researching Our Ancestors is Family Fun...

SOCIETY INFORMATION

Meetings

The Pasco County Genealogical Society meets the second Saturday of each month for membership meetings from September through May. The summer recess runs through June, July, and August when there are no meetings. The public is always invited and welcomed to all membership meetings. Meetings are held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 9016 Fort King Road (State Road 41). The church is located at the intersection of Bailey Hill Road, which is midway between Clinton Avenue, Dade City, and Daughtry Road, Zephyrhills. Visit our website for a map:
www.rootsweb.com/~FLPCGS/

Membership

Membership is open to all persons interested in genealogical research. Annual Dues cover the period January 1st through December 31st of the year and are paid in December for the year.
—Individual—\$15.00
—Family Membership—\$22.50
—Student—\$5.00
Visit our website for an application:
www.rootsweb.com/~FLPCGS/

Benefits

Membership has its rewards! They include access to our library, quarterly newsletters, and the availability of our members, many of whom are longtime, respected genealogist.

Mission Statement

To encourage research, publication, preservation and availability of genealogical material. To instruct and lend assistance to the membership and general public in the modern methods of research. These objectives shall be accomplished by regular and special meetings by means of lectures, workshops, field trips, and other educational activities. To encourage our members to strive for a personal level of achievement in genealogical research, to preserve that research with a documented lineage society and to place a record of research in the membership files. ✂