



ROOTDIGGER

1st Quarter: January – March 2008

The Rootdigger is a publication of the Marion County Genealogical Society, a division of the non-profit Historic Marion County/ Ocala Preservation Society. Annual membership fee is \$15.00.

Getting to Know Our Organization and its People

First in a series about the Marion County Genealogical Society

It all started with a phone call from my 85 year old mother in the spring of 1988. She told me her eyes were not as good as they used to be and she was going to get rid of a bunch of family history she had accumulated over the years. I said fine. She asked me to look it over to see if there was anything I might be interested in, and then throw out what was not of interest. Reluctantly I agreed, only to keep her happy. I started to read one folder after another and found many fascinating stories. I started asking myself questions like "I wonder what ever happened to my great grandmother after my great grandfather died?" That was it! I was hooked!

I compiled the information my mother had found on my father's line, and after further research and trips to Georgia, I compiled my first book for the October 7, 1989 Bell family reunion. It was titled The Ancestors and Descendants of Henry Green Bell and Abigail Jane Brinson (my grandparents).



Arnold Davis, lifetime member and first President of the Society

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Why is it so much more likely that parents will give a son his father's first name than give a daughter her mother's first name?

—Kary Anne Tamblyn, Ellicott City, Md.

Daughters are not reared as independent individuals with lifelong surnames, so giving a girl only her mother's first name is mostly pointless. It's the combination of a first name and a surname that creates an identity.

Boys and girls both start life with their father's last name. But girls usually drop their surname when they get married, changing to the name of their father-in-law. I believe both men and women should keep their premarital surnames throughout life. When they get married and have children, sons would take their father's surname, and daughters would take their mother's surname. The benefit to girls and women would be enormous while costing boys and men nothing—except the fun of claiming ownership of the opposite sex!

From Parade Magazine, Nov. 25, 2007, Marilyn vos Savant

1st Quarter 2008

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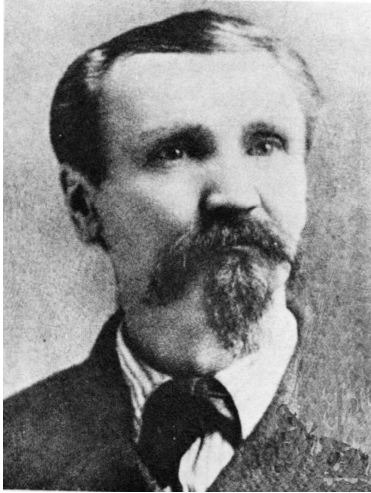
- *Our organization and its history*
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ALFERD PACKER

Jan 21, 1842—Apr 23, 1907

by Fred & Jo Mazzulla



Alferd Packer

A member of the Marion County Genealogical Society submitted this information to document that not all of our ancestors were upstanding citizens!!!



Uniontown, Pennsylvania
Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake. Stepped on the gas instead of the brake.

Alferd Packer, a Cannibal, was born in Allegheny County, Pa., January 21, 1842. He was by occupation, a shoemaker. At the age of 20, he enlisted in the Union Army, April 22, 1862, at Winona, Minnesota, and was honorably discharged December 29, 1862, at Fort Ontario, New York, due to disability. He went west working at his trade and engaged in prospecting.

On November 8, 1873, as a guide for a party of 21 men, he left Bingham Canyon, Utah to go to the gold fields of Colorado Territory. Part of their food supply was accidentally lost crossing a river on a raft. A most severe winter made travel extremely hazardous. The food ran out. Late in January of 1874 they found shelter and food at Chief Ouray's camp near Montrose, Colorado. On February 9th, Packer and five companions left the camp, contrary to the advice of Ouray.

Packer arrived alone at the Los Pinos Indian Agency, near Saguache, on April 16, 1874. He was fat and had plenty of money. His conduct invited suspicion and questioning by Otto Mears and General Adams. Packer broke down and made two confessions. He admitted that he had lived off of the flesh of his five companions the bigger part of the sixty days he was lost between Lake San Cristobal and Los Pinos Agency.

The five bodies were found. Packer was placed in a dungeon in Saguache, but made good his escape through the aid of an accomplice on August 8, 1874. He was arrested eight years later near Fort Fetterman, Wyoming, March 11, 1883. He was tried at Lake City, Colorado, April 6-13, 1883, found guilty and sentenced to death.

The Lynch Mob was ready to take over. To prevent this, Packer was moved during the night to the Gunnison jail, where he remained for three years. His case was appealed to the Colorado Supreme Court and reversed on October 30, 1885 (8 Cob. 361, 8 Pac. 564) due to a technicality, because he was charged under a Territorial law, but tried under a State law. The second trial was held in Gunnison, Colorado, August 2-5, 1886. The jury returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter for each of the five victims. The court sentenced the defendant to 8 years for each of the 5 victims, or a total of 40 years. Packer served in the penitentiary at Canon City, Colorado from 1886 to 1901.

Sob sister Polly Pry of The Denver Post, and lawyer Wm. W. "Plug Hat" Anderson were given the task of getting Packer paroled. "Plug Hat" came up with the proposition that the offense having occurred on an Indian Reservation, the trial should have been in a Federal court and not a State court. There appears to be merit to this theory.

Bonfils and Tammen wanted Packer as a sideshow freak with their

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ALFERD PACKER

continued

(Continued from page 2)

Sells-Floto Circus. Governor Thomas sent to Salt Lake City for Doc Shores. Doc told of intercepting Packer's mail while he was sheriff of Gunnison County. Doc testified that Al was filthy, vulgar, selfish, and to sum up, a disgrace to the human race. The Post was winning the fight, but the Governor had an ace up his sleeve. On January 10, 1901, Packer signed a parole agreement that provided, "He (Packer) shall proceed at once to Denver, and there remain, if practicable, for a period of at least six years and nine months from this date."

Packer had earned about \$1,500.00 making hair rope and hair bridles while a prisoner. He paid "Plug Hat" a fee of \$25.00. Bon and Tam demanded half of the fee. An argument developed in Bonfils' office. Present were Bonfils, Tammen, Polly Pry and Anderson. Bonfils struck Anderson across the face. Anderson went across the street, got his gun and returned to the office, entered without knocking and shot Bonfils in the neck and chest and Tammen in the shoulder and chest. Both ducked under Polly's full skirt. Anderson had fired four times and had one shot left in his gun. He was waiting to use that last bullet. Bonfils raised Polly's skirt to see what was going on. Anderson noticed that Bonfils was shaking like a leaf and that he was dripping wet. This struck Anderson's funny bone, and he jumped up and down and rocked with laughter. That laughter saved the lives of the owners of The Post.

Anderson was tried three times for the crime of assault with the intent to murder. The first trial started April 19, 1900 and lasted 9 days. The jury disagreed and was discharged. The same result was produced after a 9-day trial on August 2, 1901. The third trial started November 12, 1901, and four days later the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty."

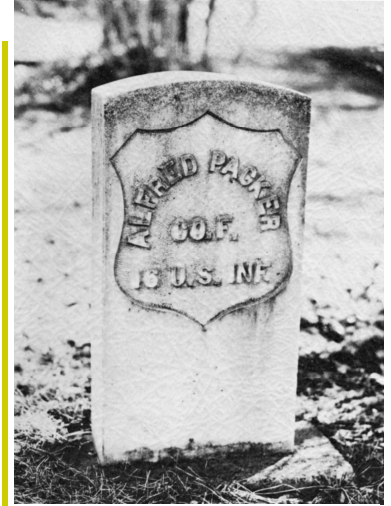
The defense attorney, Col. John G. Taylor, made this statement, "I believe that The Denver Times was fairer to us than any other paper. The tone all the way through showed the facts exactly as they were, and I desire to give due credit to the stand the paper took in the matter."

The trial judge said to Anderson: "Your motive was admirable, but your marksmanship was abominable."

The Packer Story was popularized by Gene Fowler, Ralph Carr, and Herndon Davis. Our Colorado Cannibal is hashed and rehashed badly by pulp magazines at least twice a year. We know this to be true because we sell them the pictures. Members of The Packer Club can be found in all parts of the world. Today, you can buy a Packer sandwich and a membership card in The Packer Club for \$1.50.

Packer died April 23, 1907 and is buried in Littleton, Colorado. Thousands of tourists visit his grave every summer.

(ed note: Even as late as 1989 efforts were underway to finally determine the truth in the Al Packer story!)



Packer's Marker in the Littleton, Colorado Cemetery.

That laughter saved the lives of the owners of The Post.



Ruidoso, New Mexico
Here lies Johnny Yeast... Pardon me for not rising.



JOHN CRANE

Dec 7, 1744—Aug 26, 1805

Genealogy of the Crane Family" written be Ellery Bicknell Crane published in 1895



The Spirit!!!!

*he was picked up senseless,
to all appearance dead.*

When he was only 15 years old volunteered to serve in the army as a substitute for his father, who had been drafted but was in delicate health.

On his return, John, with his elder brother, Abijah Crane junior learned the Housewright trade, and together they bought, in 1767 of Andrew Beleher, a house, land and a shop in Boston on Nassau Street, now Tremont, near Dr. Byles's meeting-house, and butted by land of Deacon John Eliot, John Withington, and directly opposite what is now Hollis Street, where Joseph Lovering's tallow chandlery stood (a place where candles are made from tallow). Further down Tremont Street, on the part then called Long Acre, near the old Province House, Adino Paddock, a London coach maker, owned a large estate. He had some young elms bought from the Robbins farm at Brush Hill in Milton, but John Crane and Gilbert Debloid set them out opposite Major Paddock's place before the South or "Granary "Burying Ground. Paddock was then a Captain of a train of artillery composed of mechanics, in 1774, and in that John Crane received his military training.

But John and his brother Ahijah were hot patriots, and it was at their shop that some seventeen men under disguise Indians, late in the afternoon of December 16.1773, started for Griffin's (now Liverpool) wharf, where three Indianmen, laden with tea, were anchored. As they went through the narrow, crooked street, a crowd of men and boys swelled their number to about seventy.

When aboard ships, as John Crane was down in a hold flinging the tea chest, one of them fell upon him and he was picked up senseless, to all appearance dead. Some of the men carried him ashore and hid under a heap of shavings in a carpenter's shop near by.

After the passage of the Boston Port Bill, John Crane, finding it hard to support his family in the stagnation of trade that ensued, removed with his partner Ebenzer Stevens, to Providence. RI. Soon after, the news of the fight of Bunker Hill roused them; they immediately raised two companies of artillery, marched to Roxbury and joined Colonel Gridley's regiment, when Crane was appointed Major and Stevens captain of the Rhode Island Train Band.

From this time until the close of the war, Major Crane was in constant service. July 8. 1775, he with Major Tupper and a company of volunteers, attacked a British advance guard on Boston neck and routed them. He commanded a break-work on the neck during the siege of Boston; January 1, 1776, he received a commission as Major in Knox's regiment of artillery, and went with the army to New York. Sept 14, 1776 a part of one of his feet were shot off whilst he was cannonading a British frigate that was running by Corlaier's Hook, and then was thus disabled for a time. January 1, 1777, he re-

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Thurmont, Maryland

Here lies an Atheist, all dressed up and no place to go.

JOHN CRANE

continued

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ceived a Colonel's rank and raised a regiment in Massachusetts which was officered chiefly by those who had been trained under Paddock, Gridley and Knox, which was principally employed in the main army near the person of the commander-in-chief and was relied on as an essential auxiliary in the most important battles. No military organization in the army participated in so many eventful scenes or won more laurels: portions of it were with Sullivan in the Rhode Island Campaign: with Gates at Saratogo and in the heroic defense of Red Hook on the Delaware, he was brevetted Brigadier General, Sept 30. 1783. He was a member of the Cincinnati.

After the war ended, Colonel John Crane formed a partnership Major Lemuel Trescott and removed to Maine, where they engaged in the lumber trade on Passamaquoddy Bay.

Colonel Crane's Artillery 1777-1783 - Officers and Men from Connecticut - The Third Regiment of Continental Artillery was commanded by Colonel John Crane and the men were recruited mainly from Mass.

PHILADELPHIA

A perfect place for genealogists to attend a national conference!

We hope that you are making your plans to join us in Philadelphia for another outstanding conference in September 2008. Exciting plans are under way to make the 2008 FGS conference in Philadelphia an event to remember. Everyone will be pleased to know that the conference hotel is the downtown Marriott which is connected by a covered walk-way to the Philadelphia Convention Center where the conference sessions and exhibit hall will be.

A team of ten committee members met early in November to finalize the program and strategize publicity and events for the forthcoming annual affair. Most daily activities and sessions will follow traditional FGS conference outlines, but we are also planning some exceptional surprises and changes from the norm.

For those with mid-Atlantic states research, the program provides experts on a variety of topics. Numerous British Isles and Irish speakers highlight various new subjects, and experts on German research cover topics of interest for those with research in that area of Europe.

Wednesday's program begins the conference with society management topics as well as Back to Basics or "Refresher" topics as well as the Family History Center tract and the Association of Professional Genealogists' Professional Management mini conference.

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Old South Meeting House in Boston

No military organization in the army participated in so many eventful scenes or won more laurels



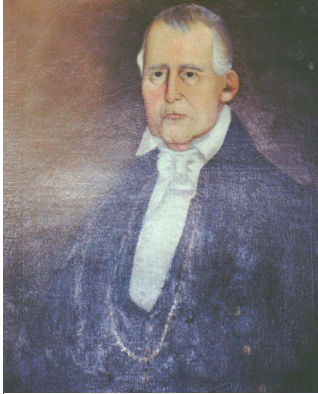
East Dalhousie, Nova Scotia :
Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102.
Only The Good Die Young.



Tarleton Brown

Private in the SC militia in 1776, was commissioned a Lieutenant in 1778 and promoted to Captain in 1780.

Excerpt from "Memoirs of Tarleton Brown, a Captain in The Revolutionary Army."
<http://sciway3.net/clark/allendale/tbrownmemoirs.htm>



Tarleton Brown

They burnt my father's house level with the ground, and destroyed everything he possessed — my mother and sisters escaping by fleeing to the woods

We reached our place of destination in Virginia, our mother country, all safe and sound. Shortly after our arrival there, intelligence was received that depredations and outrages to an alarming extent had been perpetrated in South Carolina, particularly in our own district. The substance of which was that McGeart and his company of Tories crossed the Savannah River from Georgia, at Summerlin's Ferry (now called Stone's Ferry), taking the course of the river, and killing every man he met who had not sworn allegiance to the King.

This notorious scoundrel passed in this trip through the neighborhood where my father lived, and brutally murdered seventeen of the inhabitants, among whom were my father, Henry Best, and Moore, leaving John Cave for dead, who afterwards recovered. They burnt my father's house level with the ground, and destroyed everything he possessed — my mother and sisters escaping by fleeing to the woods, in which they concealed themselves until the vile wretches departed. But the work of death did not stop here. This atrocious deed of the sanguinary McGeart and his band was shortly succeeded by another equally cruel, nay, doubly cruel.

The British Colonel Brown marched down from Augusta with an overwhelming force of Tories and Indians, and taking their stand at "Wiggins' Hill", commenced a slaughter of the inhabitants. The news of which reached the ears of those brave and dauntless officers, Colonels. McCoy and Harden, who soon hastened to the defense of the terrified Whigs. and coming upon the enemy, charged upon them and killed and routed them to a man, Colonel Brown escaping to the woods.

Colonels McCoy and Harden, having accomplished all that was required of them, retired from the field of action, after which Brown returned with the residue of his force and retook the "Hill", at which he remained until he hung five or our brave fellows - Briton Williams, Charles Blunt, and Abraham Smith, the names of the other two not recollected - then he decamped for Augusta.

My brother and myself were now in Virginia, among our relations and friends, and would have been as happy as we desired, had it not been for the intelligence from South Carolina, particularly of the section we had left. Hearing that the British, Tories and Indians had murdered our father and sixteen more of his neighbors, burning to ashes his house and all within it, our mother and sisters escaping to the woods, with little or nothing to support upon, and no male friend to help them, my blood boiled within my veins, and my soul thirsted for vengeance.

(ed note: Go online to read how he tracked the Tories down and brought them to justice.)



London , England

Here lies Ann Mann, Who lived as an old maid but died an old Mann. Dec. 8, 1767

Getting to Know Our Organization and its People

(Continued from page 1)

In 1990 HO/MCGS was founded by Pat Hastings, Shirley Lovell, Armand Lovell, Annie Norman and me. I was the first president and PastTimes editor. PastTimes published the original Marion County Minutes Book A, complete with index. The Marks & Brands book 1844 – 1855 was completed in October 1991. The publication of the two oldest Marion County records were followed by a compilation of the marriage records of Marion County. I worked with many HO/MCGS members to complete these projects.

I also had been working on my wife's family tree and I published the Fagnan Families in October 1991.

I found the small country church where my father, grand parents and great grandparents were all buried. I decided to renovate the grave site, but I was not sure if some of the unmarked graves were my family or not. I asked the caretaker of the church if he could help me and he produced a ragged piece of paper with locations of all the unmarked graves and who was buried in there. This was the only record of hundreds of people buried there, so I took it upon myself to compile this list plus add to the research for my next publication, Habersham Methodist Church Cemetery, a listing of the people interred at Habersham Methodist Church Cemetery in Jenkins County, Georgia and their relationships. This took a year's effort and was published in January 1992.

While trying to uncover information for the Habersham Cemetery book, I called on a local funeral home. The present owners had purchased the funeral home many years ago and showed me shoe boxes of "interview cards" from the previous owner. What a treasure of information! I photocopied these cards into two volumes and indexed over 10,000 names. This was published in July 1992.

The next book that I completed was my mother's line, The ancestors and Descendants of Elton Melville Montgomery & Mary Mabel Watson. This was published in 1995.

In May of 2006 I published my father-in-law's line, The Ancestors and Descendants of Peter Paul Adolf & Mary Jerge.

In 2007 I compiled the 1855 Florida State Census of Marion County, Florida in booklet form for the Marion County Genealogical Society.

At present I am working on locating the Ocala High School graduating class of 1953 for their 55th reunion to be held this summer. This has proved to be very challenging and anyone who would like to take a few names of missing 1953 classmates and try to determine their location, please let me know.

Arnold Isaiah Bell Davis



Snowden House — Historic Ocala & Marion County Genealogical Society headquarters.

This was the only record of hundreds of people buried there, so I took it upon myself to compile this list



England :
Sir John Strange.
Here lies an honest lawyer, and that is Strange.



**Marion County
Genealogical Society**

Mission Statement

The Marion County Genealogical Society is dedicated to creating and promoting an interest in genealogy, focusing on research in Marion County, Florida and in supporting members in their research.

1st Quarter: January–
March 2008

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Place mailing address label here

**We're on the web:
Mariongenealogy.tripod.com**



John Penny

Wimborne, England ,

Reader, if cash thou art in want
of any, dig 6 feet deep and thou
wilt find a Penny.

*(ed note: at the bottom of each
page I have inserted random
pictures of gravestones and ran-
dom various humorous epi-
taphs)*

PHILADELPHIA

continued

(Continued from page 5)

No one will want to miss Thursday's Opening Session for a special performance will be presented. Every day is packed with exciting, informative lectures by experienced, knowledgeable speakers. Throughout the conference various professional genealogical organizations will sponsor luncheons and/or lectures that attendees may attend. A youth tract will also be included during the conference. Friday night's FGS Banquet acts as the highlight of the conference.

Don't forget that Philadelphia holds many of our nation's most historic sites. From the conference hotel, it is an easy walk to Betsy Ross's house or Ben Franklin's grave. Or at the corner, you can catch a bus and tour the entire city. It also has many invaluable research facilities and repositories with records that date back to the colonial period. Philadelphia is a perfect place for genealogists to attend a national conference!

See full details at www.fgsconference.org.