



ROOTDIGGER

4th Quarter: October — December 2009

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.



4th
Quarter 2009

My Historical Journey

By Kimberly Rayborn

Several years ago, I came across a Revolutionary War pension request on behalf of my 5th Great-Grandfather John Martin Greiner that was filed by his son Jonathan in 1846. I have read many documents before, but at the end of the first page, the words really began to speak to me of the struggles of his life as it read "...he fought at the Battle of Eutaw Springs under Gen. Green...received during the war, a severe wound in one of his legs...during the war resided on the Savannah River in Screven County, State of Georgia, where royalist in course of the war, deprived him of all he possessed, drove away and killed and appropriated all his cattle, his principal property, robbed him and his family of the necessary means of substance and burnt down all his houses, so that declarant's father and family were cast upon the world without house or homes suffering every hardship and privation and misery that poverty and war could inflict." This inspired me to find all I could on this grandfather.



Battlefield of Eutaw Springs

My 5th Great-Grandfather John Martin Greiner and his family were part of a religious group of German-speaking Lutherans called Salzburger. The Catholic Church in 1731 issued the Edict of Expulsion because the Protestants of the Province of Salzburg in Austria continued to follow the teachings of Martin Luther. This Greiner family came across the Atlantic Ocean and eventually settled in Ebenezer, Georgia near Savannah. The Salzburger were efficient in organizing the first church and orphanage in Georgia; and built the first grist mill, rice mill, saw mill, and silk business in the state of Georgia.

Life in Georgia in colonial times was difficult between the harsh living conditions in an unknown land and Indian raids. Many of the settlers were subsistence farmers who had to provide for themselves what was necessary for survival

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Special points of interest:

- A search for Pre Civil War homestead
- A recipe for ham
- Descendents fight in Civil War
- Virginia passenger lists
- Christmas Cards



Recipe for Ham



The day before!



take this hot tea &
pour on the salt.



The Hog Roast

December 7th 91

Kill your hogs when the wind is from the north west.

The night before you salt your meat, make a strong pepper tea (put in a string of the pepper) let it stand on the stove all night, put into every two galls of the tea two heaping table spoons of salt petre. Next morning when ready to salt, take this hot tea & pour on the salt.— now salt lightly with this to run off the blood, let the meat lay packed in this three days. (longer if the weather is very cold.)

2nd over haul your meat, now pulverize & rub in, (on the flesh side of each ham) one tea spoon full of salt petre then salt with molasses mixed in the salt, pack close for ten days.

3^d rub over your meat again, (same salt) or some added, so as to be sure it has been well salted then pack again.

4th hang in about three weeks from the time the hogs were killed.

5th Before you hang wash hams & roll in hickory ashes, smoke with hickory wood,—now canvass secure.

(by February) Per M.C. Estile



Descendants of New England Cranes Fight for the South in the War between the States

By Fraser Crane

Henry Crane son of Samuel Crane , born 1595, was born in England around 1625. He married Tabitha Kingsley and migrated to the new England colonies and their descendants Ajijah Crane, born about 1742, and his half brother General John Crane participated in the Boston Tea Party. Ajijah settled in Milton, Massachusetts with John settled in Whiting Maine. Their children and grandchildren stayed mostly in New England.

How did the Boston area Cranes end up fighting as Confederates in the Civil War? In the 1830's 2 of Abijah grandsons, brothers, Abijah, born 1814, and Ephraim Crane, born 1819, migrated to South Georgia, married two sisters (last name Field from Brooks County and Lownes County Georgia) and settled there. Crane family tradition says that they made guns for the Confederacy, with Abijah making the stocks and Ephraim making the barrels etc. Abijah was in the home guard and may have seen action near Macon, Ga. (maybe near Griswoldville) . His son George Brewer Crane was in the Confederate army and was captured in Battle. He is supposed to have shot a Yankee officer off his horse before being captured. After the war he walked home to Georgia from Maryland (probably Point Lookout). Ephraim Thayer Crane's son Barry died fighting for the CSA but we have no details.



Crane family tradition says that they made guns for the Confederacy

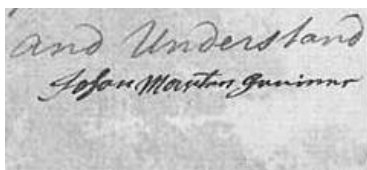
Ancestry.com to go Public

Popular genealogy site Ancestry.com is going public, hoping to raise around \$75 million, according to its SEC filing for an initial public offering submitted Monday.

As a genealogy site, Ancestry.com enables people to research their family history to find out who their ancestors were and how their family tree blossomed. The company started life in 1983 as a book publisher and then jumped online in 1997.

Ancestry.com is run by a firm previously known as The Generations Network, which changed its own name in early July to Ancestry.com to capitalize on the brand name. The majority of the company is owned by Spectrum Equity Investors, a communications business that paid around \$300 million in 2007 for a 67 percent stake. Underwriters for the IPO are Morgan Stanley and Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

 **ancestry.com**



John Martin Greiner

There were so many unmarked dirt roads leading to the Savannah River that our only hope was to find an old cemetery



Serving the Plum Pudding.

My Historical Journey

continued

(Continued from page 1)

during a time when the only source of food was from their own initiative. Savannah was the only town of importance, and at the time of the Revolution, it was still a wooden village. The roads were Indian trails.

In the beginning of my research, I found a brief description of one of his land grants. It read—"Granted on June 7, 1768. 250 acres bounded on the east by George Streigler and Michael Beaner, southeast by Nicholas Fisher and northeast by John Tanner." (This is where he lived before the Revolutionary War.) Later I found where he was a witness for Nicholas Fisher's and Michael Beaner's probate records. For his dying neighbor Michael Beaner, my Grandfather Greiner wrote Beaner's last Will and Testament in German. This is recorded in later legal entries and the German written probate record still survives. His signature is recorded several times as a witness on these documents. I was also fortunate to find several payment receipts for his war service as a horseman in the militia in the South Carolina Archives.

In another land grant dated 1786, I found told in exact detail how a 'Briar Creek' forked into the Savannah River. I was determined to find this place. In order to get there, we had to travel River Road. This road was the main route of travel from Savannah to Georgia's western frontier. Originally, River Road was an Indian path and was eventually opened up by General Oglethorpe for carriage and wagon travel. As I traveled on River Road in September 2007, part was paved road and other parts were still dirt road. The area surrounding River Road to this day is almost like time has stood still. River Road, in general, is still an isolated area. There were so many unmarked dirt roads leading to the Savannah River that our only hope was to find an old cemetery that was on the same road. We were fortunate to pull up at the right house where the people knew where the road was located. We traveled at least 10 miles toward the Savannah River on this dirt bumpy path. After arriving and seeing this place, I was overjoyed that I had found the land my Grandfather Greiner had lived on after the Revolutionary War.



Land Overlooking the Savanna River

(Continued on page 5)

Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records

www.glorerecords.blm.gov

The GLO Web site is the premier site for genealogists searching for land records. Its database contains records of land transfers from the US government to individuals, and even holds some Revolutionary War bounty warrants. Search results give the legal land description and an image of the original document. To use the Basic Search, enter at least the state and a surname. Use the Standard Search to identify who owned the land surrounding your ancestor's plot. Read the FAQ for help troubleshooting, particularly if you can't find any records—some Indiana records are indexed as Ohio, for example. (Learn strategies for getting the most from this site.)

My Historical Journey

Continued

(Continued from page 4)

After this marvelous find, we headed toward Eutawville, South Carolina to the Battlefield of Eutaw Springs where my grandfather had fought in the Revolutionary War. Sadly, today a majority of the battlefield and old plantation homes lie under Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie. Among the homes under water, is Pond Bluff, home of Revolutionary War hero Francis Marion, who was called the Swamp Fox, for which Marion County, Florida is named after.

The Battle of Eutaw Springs was the last major battle in South Carolina during the Revolutionary War. The battle between the Americans and British was a draw. It was one of the factors which made the British leave the South, which prepared the way for the siege of Yorktown. According to a first hand account, many soldiers were buried where they fell on the Eutaw Springs Battlefield; therefore the battlefield is a cemetery itself.

According to grandfather's son Jonathan, my grandfather died in 1807. Unfortunately, we do not know where he died or where he is buried.

After years of research, I finally found and visited where my grandfather had lived and where he fought in the Revolutionary War. As I looked onto the Battlefield of Eutaw Springs, I said a quiet 'thank you' to my grandfather and all the others that had fought there for our independence. My Grandfather Greiner will be remembered for his sacrifice because of my research being published. What greater gift could I give to him and to his memory.



Swedish Struvor ~ Rosettes

I said a quiet 'thank you' to my grandfather and all the others that had fought there for our independence.



Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity!



Civil War Request!!



Reproduction of Civil War Uniform.



Civil War Color Guard

Camp Douglas Chicago
 Ill April the 29th 1864

Mr Prewitt

Dear Sir

We have been informed
 that if we would write to you
 that probably you would send
 us a few articles of clothing.
 If we could by any possible
 means get anything from home
 we would not make such a
 request, but our homes are in
 Georgia and consequently we have
 to look elsewhere for assistance.
 If you can send them please
 direct to Sgt J. A. McCordel Co F
 29th Ga regt & S. I. Murray Co
 B same regt To S. I. Murray
 Co J. A. McCordel the same with
 1 coat & hat boots or shoes No 8
 1 pr pants & socks Respectfully
 1 pr boots or shoes No 8 J. A. McCordel
 1 .. Shirt & drawers Co F 29th Ga
 Squad 18

Passenger Lists to Virginia Before 1820

© Lorine McGinnis Schulze

<http://olivetreenealogy.com/index.shtml>

The original European settlers came to Virginia in the early 17th century from England. In the early 1700s, French Huguenots arrived, followed by Germans. During the 1730s and 1740s, many Scottish and German settlers migrated from Pennsylvania into Virginia. Before January 1, 1820, the U.S. Federal Government did not require captains or masters of vessels to present a passenger list to U.S. officials.

Most of the names of colonial immigrants to Virginia are listed in :

- Filby, P. William, ed. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: A Guide to Published Arrival Records of ... Passengers who Came to the United States and Canada in the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Centuries*. 3 volumes plus annual supplements. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1981

You can buy this on CD:

Ships Passenger Lists Index, 1500s-1900s -arrival information for approximately 3,530,000 individuals who arrived in United States and Canadian ports.

Other Suggestions for Research

- True, Ransom B. *The Biographical Dictionary of Early Virginia, 1607-1660*
- Withington, Lathrop. *Virginia Gleanings in England: Abstracts of 17th and 18th-Century English Wills and Administrations Relating to Virginia and Virginians*.
- Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1776, and Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775*. Buy it on sale on CD: *Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1776* - 140,000 names of the men, women, and children who emigrated from England to America between 1607 and 1776. It includes the texts of six books by Peter Wilson Coldham: *The Complete Book of Emigrants* (four volumes), along with *The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage* and its supplement.

For more Virginia databases and CD ROMs see the Virginia State pages at http://www.rootsweb.com/~ote/usa_genealogy/virginia.htm

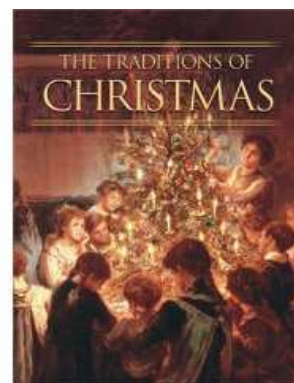
CD ROMs on Past Voices (http://pastvoices.com/genealogy/shop_usa.shtml) are also available to help you in your search of ancestors to Virginia

Some ships lists of passengers sailing to Virginia (including French Huguenots) can be found on The Olive Tree Genealogy's pages at http://olivetreenealogy.com/ships/tousa_va.shtml



Decorating for a Victorian Christmas

Some ships lists of passengers sailing to Virginia (including French Huguenots) can be found on The Olive Tree Genealogy's pages



Christmas Traditions



**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.

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December 2009

**The Rootdigger
MCGS**

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Place mailing address label here

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



First Christmas Card, 1843



Christmas cards

The custom of sending Christmas cards started in Britain in 1840 when the first 'Penny Post' public postal deliveries began. (Helped by the new railway system, the public postal service was the 19th century's communication revolution, just as email is for us today.) As printing methods improved, Christmas cards were produced in large numbers from about 1860. They became even more popular in Britain when a card could be posted in an unsealed envelope for one half-penny - half the price of an ordinary letter.

Traditionally, Christmas cards showed religious pictures - Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, or other parts of the Christmas story. Today, pictures are often jokes, winter pictures, Father Christmas, or romantic scenes of life in past times.