



ROOTDIGGER

2nd Quarter: April – June 2012

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

President's Message

By Barbara Jones

Welcome to a new year for the MCGS and we especially welcome the return of the Rootdigger Newsletter, with Amanda Triepke as editor. Our board and committees are enthusiastically putting together programs and projects for our members. We have an impressive guest speaker list as well as interesting and educational presentations. All members are welcome to participate in our organization. There are multiple opportunities whether it's working with others on a committee, writing articles for the newsletter, doing lookups for someone outside the County, or spending time in our genealogy library. Membership can be very rewarding.

Our Mission Statement is clear. 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.

With the release of the 1940 Federal Census, there has been a flurry of activity. With the fresh information, TV programs highlighting genealogy and research, there is a renewed interest in genealogy.

If you are unable to attend the meetings, minutes are e-mailed to members to keep everyone informed. If you don't want to participate, you can just sit and enjoy the speakers and listen to our project results. I guarantee that you will enjoy the fellowship and afternoon at the library. You might even get hooked on genealogy and find out what all the excitement is about.

Officers, board members, and committees are listed on the back page. Contact any of us at our e-mail: mariongenealogy@gmail.com. Thanks go out to our Webmaster, Judy Wright, for her hard work in providing a great website. We look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting.

2nd Quarter 2012

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Special points of interest:

- *1940 Census*
- *New Members Profiled*
- *Family History Items for Sale*



1940 Census Now Available

By Amanda Triepke

For Further Information /
To Search the Census:

<http://1940census.archives.gov/>

[http://
www.Ancestry.com/1940-
census](http://www.Ancestry.com/1940-census)

[http://
www.archives.com/1940ce
nsus](http://www.archives.com/1940census)

<http://the1940census.com>

[http://us2.campaign-
archive1.com/?
u=b0de542dc933cfc848d1
87ea&id=3a4a2bf15e](http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=b0de542dc933cfc848d187ea&id=3a4a2bf15e)

<http://the1940census.com>

On April 2, 2012 the United States National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) released the 1940 Census. NARA has released digital images of the entire census. The census includes the regular information of names, relation to head of household, description, place of birth, and occupation. There are some differences however, from previous censuses. The section noting the birthplace of the parents of the person listed is not included and a section has been added noting where the person lives if the census taker found them in a place other than their regular residence. Also, the occupation section has been expanded. As well as general occupation there is information about whether the person had worked for a government program, if they were not currently employed were they looking for employment, and their annual income for 1939.

Unfortunately the images are not indexed, making searching for family members difficult. If you know where your family members lived and if you are fortunate enough that they lived in a small town or rural area you could be lucky and not have many pages to search through. If your family members lived in large cities and well populated areas you could have many pages of images to search through to find them.

The good news is that immediately upon the release of the images genealogical organizations began working to get the census indexed. As of the time this article was written Ancestry.com has indexed the census from Nevada, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. On the Ancestry.com website for the 1940 census you can give them your email address and tell them what states you are waiting to have indexed. When those states are completed ancestry will email you and let you know they are available. For the time being all of the images, indexed or not are available for free. It is not known how long Ancestry.com will continue to have these images available for free.

Other organizations are also working to get the census indexed and available to the public. Archives.com, Family Search International, and findmypast.com have joined together to create the *1940 US Census Community Project*. The goal of the project is to release a high quality, searchable name index of the census. The complete index is intended to be made available online for free, and it appears that it is intended to remain free in the future. The organizations are searching for volunteers to help with the indexing project and information can be found at <http://the1940census.com>.

With images available at the National Archives and Records Administration, Ancestry.com, and other organizations, what are you waiting for? Go find that connection to your past. You may find your parents, grandparents, or possibly even yourself. Who knows what information it holds?

My Polish Family

By *Andrea Hereda Jenkins*
100% Purebred Polish

My ancestors were 100% Polish. My dad's parents came from Polish Austria where the first two of seven children were born. My grandfather served in the Austrian army under Franz Josef. My mother's parents and grandparents came from Poland where my great grandfather was born in the town named with their last name and where he was the mayor. Everything in my life growing up was Polish: church, school, traditions, food and most important friends.

My hometown was called "Little Chicago" because of all the racketeers. In researching my family's history, I found that my grandfather ran numbers for them in his restaurant. He also joined his father in making bathtub gin and elderberry wine during prohibition.

My paternal grandparents owned a shoe store, then a café after my grandfather lost his leg in a coal mining accident. When a small mining company closed in a community south of town, my paternal grandmother bought the company's office and community buildings at auction. The office with a two-story walk-in safe was their home, then apartment rental property. The community building was a "hideaway" bar, boxing arena, hotel, and restaurant. Later they added a motel.

I spent nearly every day at the "Hotel". Every holiday, with every Polish tradition and food from Kielbassi and Krakowska to Paszka and Perogi, was held there. At times, my two sets of Polish grandparents were blended with paternal cousins, aunts and uncles. This was all reinforced at the Polish school where many of my cousins attended. We learned Polish folk dances to perform at the annual Polish Picnic held at the Polish Falcons Park. My cousins and I went to the Polish Falcons to learn gymnastics and we learned how to count to eight in Polish.

My maternal grandfather, whom we called "Judgi" a variation of "old man" in Polish, always asked the last names of our friends. If he didn't recognize the family, he asked what nationality they were. When I brought my future husband to meet him, he asked why I couldn't date a "good Polish boy."

Later, when my Judgi was dying he told me Eddie was the only "Johnny Bull" he ever liked! That slang term was used for anyone of English descent. However, my husband's ancestors were Welsh and Scots-Irish.

Judgi would have been proud of my wedding to "Eddie". It was definitely "Polish!" In fact, my father reminded me of a childish statement I made, "I won't marry anyone unless they take me on a honeymoon to Hawaii!" When I told dad, we couldn't afford a Hawaiian honeymoon, he said, "I'll pay for your Hawaiian honeymoon, if you have a small wedding.

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My Polish Family

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You choose, big Polish wedding with all the traditions or a Hawaiian honeymoon." I never hesitated. I said, "I only plan on getting married once and I can go to Hawaii anytime I have enough money, so I want the big Polish wedding with all the traditions!" My dad said, "I knew you would say that. The Hawaiian honeymoon would have been a lot cheaper!"

My dad and mom took me to Pittsburgh to shop for my wedding gown. Dad made sure that the "Cage Style" that I wanted looked good, and I could sit, stand and of course dance the polka easily in it. He had practice helping my mom and me pick out gowns for the beauty contests I was in during my college days.

Appointments were set up for my bridesmaids' fittings for their gowns. Showers were planned and held with all my family and bridal party making the food, favors and decorations. My dad remodeled the family bar and dining room for our wedding. My "Babbu" (maternal Polish grandmother), my "Chochas" aunts and my mom all met and cooked and baked for months. My dad made many trips to the Strip District in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the produce and meat markets were located by the rail-ways along the river outside the downtown city. He bought cases of items, more and more as our wedding date of June 10, 1967 drew closer. The Women's Auxiliary of the local Volunteer Firemen were contacted. They would complete the cooking and do the serving of the sit-down dinner to over 500 guests.

Finally, our big day arrived and my Protestant, Welsh, Scots-Irish husband married me in our very ornate Polish Catholic church. We had many Polish dishes and customs. My favorite was and is the Polish bridal dance. My Babbu sat at the entrance to the wrought iron edged, raised dance floor with a restaurant sized soup pot with a snowy white linen bib topped apron over it. People gave a dollar, or more, to dance with me. If the dancer was a woman, she got a piece of wedding cake. If the dancer was a man, he got a cigar and a shot of whiskey. All of my attendants were circled around me, as well as my uncles. Everyone clapped as the band played one polka after another. Uncle Teddy directed the dancers when to come dance with me and when to step aside for the next person. My new husband was hidden in the next room -- the bar. Aunt Fran, the matriarch of Dad's family had a fistful of dollar bills and as Uncle Teddy tapped her on the shoulder, she threw another bill in the air, and the dancing continued. It was a very jubilant time!

There were so many people, I couldn't tell the clapping viewers from those in line to dance with me. When I thought the line had ended, I

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My Polish Family

(Continued from page 4)

told an usher to go get Ed, and another usher to go get my mom. My mother was to be the last person to dance with me, remove my veil and give me to my husband. Well, the line was not ended. Mom was in the kitchen talking and thanking the ladies from the Firemen's Auxiliary and the usher couldn't find her. Ed came from the bar and tried to pick me up and carry me away. I kept asking where was my mom. My family circled me and shook their fists at Ed shouting in Polish, "You can't have her, she's still ours!" because Mom didn't come and remove my veil. After several attempts, including having his tux jacket pulled half off, he swooped me up into his arms and spun around to clear a path through the "crazy" Poles shouting at him and took off through the crowd. Gifts were knocked off of the gift table and my pearl crown came down the back of my head with the veil attached. I don't know if Mom ever came out of the kitchen to see any of the fiasco!

I loved my Polish family, but I especially loved my big Polish wedding, even if the bridal dance wasn't quite the tradition we expected!

"You can't have her, she's still ours!"

Meet Our Members

Steve German

I was adopted as an infant, had no records or any information about my birth mother. My adopted parents were wonderful, but we never talked about any other family but theirs and that was great with me. I could research those lines and have a lot of information from my last living relative, my aunt who is 100. A few years ago I came across my adoption document but it only listed my adopted name, then I unfolded it completely and turned it over to find they had missed xing out my birth name in one section. But it is a very common name. I did some digging and guessing and calling, always very careful to not tell the whole truth to official people. My court records are forever sealed, but I found a very nice social worker who did some digging for me and found a typed interview with my birth mother's social worker. Law required her to x out all identifying information, then she sent a copy to me. The long and the short of it is , I have my birth mother's birth certificate, my original birth certificate, my birth father's name and since release of the 1940 records, lots of family information that I had only guessed. Maybe Winston Churchill said it best, 'never, never, never, never give up.'

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Meet Our Members

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Jean Gonya

My name is Jean Gonya and I have been a member of MCGS since November 2011.

I've been searching for my ancestors for more than thirty years and have pretty much collected all the "big" stuff! I do however, have a few loose ends and wonder if I'll live long enough to tie them up!

I have collected loads of information on the DeForest family, from when the name first appeared in the First Crusade in 1096 and on up through the centuries until Isaac DeForeest stepped off the boat in New Amsterdam in the early 1600s. I have looked at all those Rev. war veterans' names listed in the NYSG&B Index, and have wondered if one could possibly be the father of my gg grandmother Maria DeForest? Seems like each veteran had 16 or more children! How does one untangle that mess? Well anyway, my Maria was born in 1796 in Woodbourne, NY, and she died in 1868. She married Isaac Forster b. 1794, d. 1866. They are both buried in the Old Methodist Cemetery in Pleasantville, N.Y. That church has no record of them other than they are buried there!

My fondest dream is to learn who Maria's parents were -- hopefully, I could then find her place in the long line of DeForests!
And so the beat goes on!

Susanna Pollock Hough

When I retired from teaching French and English for 27 years, I had time to pursue my passion of searching daily for ancestors. I wanted to know for myself and to share interesting details with my five grandchildren. Slowly, I was able to unearth facts and to document on RootsMagic my maternal trail back to Patriot Richard Dickins in NY during the American Revolution and more surprisingly my path back to Alden, Allerton, Cooke, Hopkins, Mullins, Samson, Soule, Standish, and Warren of the Mayflower."

Next, after rereading my father's autobiography, I focused on his ancestors and eventually wrote *Michigan Pioneers Pollock and Thorburn*. The families emigrated from England and Scotland. This manuscript, though, was interrupted with our move from Tulsa to Ocala two years ago. With "downsizing," we had almost as much paper documentation to move as furniture.

After trying all the possible research vehicles in libraries, cemeteries, churches, and internet, I finally had my DNA analyzed by 23andme. What a remarkable surprise when a Swedish "cousin" wrote stating that we were connected about three generations back. Because of this connection, I have finally been able to understand and identify the Swedish ancestors who do not carry on the same surname from generation to generation. Until this modern step was possible, my grandmother's Swedish ancestry would have remained a blank.

I look forward to meeting other members of M C Genealogy Society.

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If you would like to be featured in this new section of the newsletter send your story to MarionGenealogy@gmail.com

SOLD! Your Family History on the Auction Block

By Amanda Triepke and Arnold Davis

Bibles, diaries, letters, and photographs — many know that these items can hold a wealth of information about your family history. However, it is often surprising where these items can be found. All of the above items can be found on the popular auction site *eBay*. There are various ways that these items could end up for sale on a site like *eBay*. People who have no interest in their family history may choose to sell items they own; other items may have been picked up at estate sales later to be resold because the buyer had no connection to the items. Our own Marion County Genealogical Society member Arnold Davis benefited from a family bible being sold on *eBay*. Here is his story:

Normally I don't open an e-mail from someone I do not know, but the subject line was too much to resist. The e-mail was from a lady that has a very interesting hobby. She scours eBay looking for old family Bibles. When she finds one she then looks online for a family tree that has some of the same names. This was the case with this e-mail. She had found several matching names in my family tree that is posted on Ancestry.com. She explained that her hobby was trying to find a loving home for family Bibles and she was not the person selling this old Bible.

Armed with the eBay item number, I discovered this 1828 Martin Luther Bible, written in German, was indeed filled with all of my Reinhart and Watson ancestors plus a new name, Deets. I was ecstatic! I started bidding on the Bible and was prepared to spend whatever it took to win the bid. I was bidding against other people who just collect old Bibles. My winning bid of \$98.00 resulted in the Bible becoming my treasured possession. The Bible revealed many new names and dates I had not known about. An added bonus was several very old obituaries that had been placed in the pages of the Bible.

This is an out of the ordinary hobby of a lady wanting to help other people. Much of the work the members of the Marion County Genealogical Society perform does not benefit the individual member, but it will be an exciting discovery for someone else.

Arnold Isaiah Bell Davis

Arnold was fortunate in that someone took the time to not only look for family bibles on *eBay*, but was also willing to take the time to track down people who would have a true connection to the item. There is unknown information available to researchers on this site; however it is not a place many people would think to look. If you have the time why not try searching some of these sites? You never know what you may find that could unlock a mystery in your past.



First Page of the Hersh Bible



First Page of the Hersh Deets Family Register



**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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Place mailing address label here

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

Upcoming Events and Programs

May 17, 2012 Marion County Genealogical Society Meeting
2:00 p.m. Marion County Public Library, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.,
Ocala, FL
Speaker: Karen Rhodes
Topic: Black Sheep Ancestors

June 21, 2012 Special Interest Group
1:00 p.m. Marion County Public Library, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.,
Ocala, FL
Richard Heckman and Arnold Davis will scan your photographs and documents. Bring a flash drive to store your scanned images.

June 21, 2012 Marion County Genealogical Society Meeting
2:00 p.m. Marion County Public Library, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.,
Ocala, FL
Speakers: Arnold Davis and Richard Heckman
Topic: How to Store and Organize Your Records