

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists

President's Corner by Richard F. Robinson, CGRS

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Time to Renew Dues

By now, you have writing "2005" down pat. It's time for everyone who hasn't already done so to renew your chapter dues for this year. **Renewals** are only **\$10** for the year; dues are **\$20** for **new members**. Dues help the chapter print flyers and brochures, pay for a booth at the FSGS conference and pay other expenses. Mail checks payable to Florida Chapter of APG to Laurie Caulk, APGFL Membership Chair, 6586 Dor Mil Court, Jacksonville, FL 32244 or e-mail her at <beavercaulk49@cs.com>. New member applications can be found on the chapter Web site <apgflorida.org> under the link "Florida Chapter Application" on the home page.

We are on the Web:
apgflorida.org

Welcome to our first newsletter!

Finally, it is here. We made plans last summer to produce the newsletter last fall. But then all our lives were put on hold when four hurricanes hit Florida. I had to evacuate my home twice within a few weeks. Some members' homes were severely damaged, and one member that I know of lost his home. Then treasurer-newsletter editor Gail Ghigna-Hallas reported that she was unable to put out this edition because her husband was seriously ill.

I asked Brenda Simo, a new chapter member whom I knew from my local Family History Center, to help get the newsletter out. She gladly and enthusiastically pitched in and was largely responsible for producing our first edition of *The Sun*. She put a lot of hard work into this. I had no idea that she had produced newsletters before. We are very appreciative of her efforts, and thank her for doing this with her very busy schedule.

It was my idea to call the newsletter *The Sun*. I thought it would go well with the palm tree on our Florida Chapter logo and encourage our development. As Helen Keller said, "Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow."

Another person whom we should look up to is Gail, who is the subject of our chapter profile on Page 4. She has devoted her life to helping kids and people, and is committed to helping deprived African-American children learn about their heritage. She provides great joy in their lives through roller skating. Now she is facing one of her toughest challenges, taking care of her husband Jack. Our prayers are with them and their family.

I am looking forward to our first chapter meeting with programs and speakers. It will be 5 February in Polk County. (See Jean Kelley's article on Page 2.) She has planned four terrific meetings in the central part of the

state this year. That's where most of our members are, so be sure to attend. The chapter serves the entire state of Florida. That is a big area to cover, so we have divided up our programs into three regions—North, Central and South. Each has its own program chair. We are starting to hold meetings around the state. North and South Florida are planning meetings for February as well. Watch for announcements on the chapter mailing list.

We plan to post and archive our newsletters on the chapter Web site, ably developed by webmaster Amy Giroux who advises members to submit information for the chapter directory in an article on this page. Once in a while, potential clients contact me looking for professionals to help them in genealogy. The first place I look to make referrals is our member list on the Web. We adding a section called Press Clippings on the site. Send scans of articles mentioning the chapter to Amy.

(Cont'd Page 6)

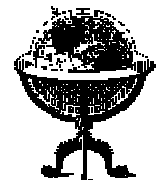
APG—Florida Website by Amy Larner Giroux, CG

The website for the Florida Chapter of APG is accessible from the main APG site <apgen.org> via the Local Chapters area or directly using <apgflorida.org>. Upcoming meetings are announced on the site and our members can advertise their services. There are currently five meetings scheduled throughout 2005-6 for the Central

Florida region that are posted on the Meetings page. Be sure to check back often as the other regions begin to plan their meetings.

If you are a member of our chapter and offer services to the genealogical community, think about adding your information to the members page. To add your services listing, send

your information to Amy Larner Giroux, CG <webmaster@apgflorida.org>.



Central Region Programs – Jean Kelley, Programs Chair, Central Region

jfkelley@tampabay.rr.com

The APG Florida Chapter central region has planned the following programs for 2005. All APG members are invited to attend -- guests are welcome! If groups (8 or more) are planning to attend let me know ahead of time to make proper arrangements. *Please check out the website for the meeting places, they look very interesting.*

Next Meeting:

5 February 2005 - Roundtable on Professional Issues, lead by Alvie Davidson, CGRS - Topics to be discussed: how to handle difficult clients, contracts (pros and cons - if you have a favorite contract you like and would share, bring some copies), office set up; fees/retainer; locating clients/designing your research for your client; Marketing and how to invest in your business to keep it viable and solvent.

Location: Polk County Historical and Genealogical Library

polk-county.net/county_offices/leisure_svcs/hist_library/index.aspx

Physical Address: 100 E. Main St., Bartow, FL 33830



Upcoming Meetings :

(Central Region)

30 April 2005 - Legal issues (tentative topic) -

Location: Quintilla Geer Bruton Archives Center: A Genealogy and Family History Library

6 August 2005 - 20th Century Research by Alvie Davidson, CGRS -

Location: Polk County Historical and Genealogical Library

29 October 2005 - Workshop on Certification and Accreditation -

Amy Larner Giroux, CG will lead the BCG certification portion.

Debbe Hagner, AG will lead the AG accreditation portion.

Location: Polk County Historical and Genealogical Library

Northern Region Programs:



Ann Staley, CG Programs Chair Northern Region

astaley@apgflorida.org

Our first meeting will be mid-

February and will be a planning meeting to discuss times, places and topics for upcoming meetings.

Southern Region Programs:

The Southern Region, which generally serves Martin, Glades and Charlotte counties and everything south, will hold an organization meeting in February. Meeting details will be announced later. We need a program chair for this area. If you would like to be chair or be notified of meetings, please e-mail <dick.robinson@apgflorida.org>. The meetings are also open to guests, archivists, librarians and others in related professions.

Florida Statewide Genealogy Meetings of Interest

Feb 19 9AM—4PM

Indian River Genealogical Society —

GENEALOGY FAIR!

Heritage Center, 2140 14th Ave. in Vero Beach, FL

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Mar 5 9AM—5PM

Tallahassee Genealogical Society —

Michael John Neil on

MIGRATING BACK TO THE LIBRARY

St. John's Episcopal Church, 211 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL

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Mar 12 9:30AM —

St. Augustine Genealogical Society—15th Annual Seminar at the LDS Church, 500 Deltona Blvd., St. Augustine, FL

May 4 1PM

South Bay Genealogical Society —

PLANNING YOUR FAMILY REUNION

Tropics Restaurant,

Mariner's Club,

Bahia Beach Resort,

611 Destiny Dr. Ruskin, FL

+++++

May 14 9:30AM

The Pasco County Genealogical society —

Presentations from various members on

WHEN MY OTHER WAS A LITTLE GIRL

LDS Church

9016 Fort King Road

Dade City, FL

DATE: June 1-4, 2005

SOCIETY: National Genealogical Society

EVENT: 2005 Conference

LOCATION: Nashville, TN

WEBSITE: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

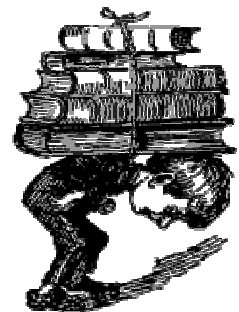
DATE: September 7-10, 2005

SOCIETY: Federation of Genealogical Societies

EVENT: 2005 Conference

LOCATION: Salt Lake City, UT

WEBSITE: <http://www.fgs.org/2005conf/FGS-2005.htm>



CHAPTER ELECTIONS by Gladys Friedman Paulin, CGRS

Ann Mohr Osisek and Alvie L. Davidson were re-elected secretary and APG liaison respectively. Both had been unopposed and will now serve two-year terms in those offices. The by-laws call for two year terms for all officers with staggering so that all positions are not up for reelection at the same time. The other positions will be up for reelection at the end of 2005.

Ann Mohr Osisek has been a resident of Central Florida for the past 30 years. She has been an instructor for the Orange County Adult Education Program for the past 13 years, teaching both Beginning and Advanced classes in Family History. She is vice president of the Florida State Genealogical Society and a member of the Florida Speak-

ers Bureau. Ann is a past president of the Central Florida Genealogical Society, a member of the National Genealogical Society, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and numerous genealogical and historical societies. She was the 1997 recipient of the Florida State Genealogical Society's Outstanding Achievement Award.

Alvie L. Davidson, CGRS, is a native of Florida and was recently re-elected a director of APG from the Southeast Region. He earned his CGRS certification in 2000. He is a Florida state licensed private investigator specializing in missing persons and genealogically related searches. He is a past director of the Florida Association of Licensed Investigators and recognized by a

number of courts as an expert in the field of probate investigation. He is an alumnus of and a presenter for NIGR, past president and founder of the Imperial Polk Genealogical Society, and registrar of the Lakeland Chapter, SAR. Alvie was recently profiled in the December 2004 issue of the APG Quarterly.

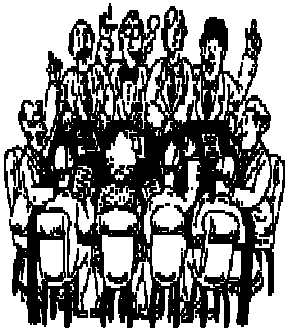
The election was conducted via e-mail by the Nominating Committee chaired by Amy Larner Giroux, CG. Twenty-three ballots were issued and fifteen returned. The results were unanimous.



. . . and the Members of the Board !

Next Board Meeting:

All members and guests are welcome to attend the next board meeting. A regular chapter meeting on professional issues will follow at 10AM.



DATE: 5 Feb 2005

TIME: 9AM

PLACE: Polk County Historical and Genealogical Library, 100 E. Main St., Bartow, FL

Board Members:

President – Richard F. Robinson, CGRS
Dick.robinson@apgflorida.org

Vice President – Denise Wells
Denise.wells@apgflorida.org

Secretary – Ann Mohr Osisek
Ann.osisek@apgflorida.org

Treasurer – Gail Ghigna-Hallas, PhD
Gail.ghigna-hallas@apgflorida.org

Chapter Representative – Alvie L. Davidson, CGRS
Alvie.davidson@apgflorida.org

Committee Chairs:

Membership — Laurie Caulk
beavercaulk49@cs.com

Programs North – C. Ann Staley
astaley@comcast.net

Program Central – Jean Kelley
jfkelley@tampabay.rr.com

Publications– Gail Ghigna-Hallas, PhD
Gail.ghigna-hallas@apgflorida.org

Publicity – Debbe A. Hagner
dhagner@attglobal.net

Webmaster — Amy Larner Giroux, CG
agiroux@nyfamilyhistory.com

Member News

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Please tell us what you are doing of note and about your recent accomplishments – Send Member News to Brenda.simo@simofam.com)

Several leaders of the APG international organization come from the Florida chapter. Five Florida members were directors or on the support staff of APG, more than any other state. They are: **Sharon Tate Moody**, CGRS, vice presi-

dent; **Alvie L. Davidson**, CGRS, and **C. Ann Staley**, CGRS, directors; **Richard F. Robinson**, CGRS, information officer and **Amy Larner Giroux**, CG, webmaster. Ann Staley is also the membership development committee chair. . . . Half of the eight stories featured on the cover of the September 2004 issue of the *APG Quarterly* were written by Florida chapter members!

Amy Larner Giroux, CG, is a trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG).

Gladys Friedman Paulin, CGRS, was recently appointed editor the BCG newsletter, *OnBoard*. **Richard F. Robinson**, CGRS, was guest editor for the September 2004 issue.

The board of the Florida State Genealogical Association includes -five Florida chapter members: **Ann Mohr Osisek**, vice president; **Pamela J. Cooper**, immediate past president; **Ann Staley**, conference planning chair; **Dick Robinson**, legislation chair; and **Amy Larner Giroux**, newsletter

Sharon Tate Moody, CGRS, of Sun City Center, is the genealogy columnist for Tampa Bay Online. See her columns at TBO.com and type in the keyword "Heritage." She is vice president of the international APG board.



SPREAD THE WORD by Alvie L. Davidson, CGRS

It is my privilege to travel around Florida and visit libraries with good genealogical collections and record repositories. I am constantly on the vigil for anything new in these collections which will help my research. The customary greeting I give the librarian is “Anything new?”

This was the case recently when I visited the John F. Germany Library (Tampa Public Library) located at 900 N. Ashley, and I gave this greeting to the librarian, Lisa Wagner. Immediately she began to show me some of the new things that have been acquired for use by the genealogy patrons.

Over the past two years this library has been building a collection of records of interest to those searching for their “immigrant ancestor”. They have passenger lists for the major port cities of Florida and have begun to acquire lists from other ports around the country. Just to name a few things which have been placed into their microfilm cabinets for us to use:

Index to Naturalization Petitions (all alphabetical) for:

New York (Western) 1907-1966

New York (Eastern) 1865-1957

New York (Southern) 1824-1906

Massachusetts 1906-1966

Pennsylvania (Eastern) 1795-1951

Southeastern US

(AL,FL,GA,KY,MS,NC,SC,TN) 1790-1958

Some other items of interest are those Canadian Border Crossings at St. Albans, VT 1929-1949; the index covers much more including 1825-1954.

This library has been striving to become one of the best in the South covering more and more of general United States material. Their census collection was the first to show growth by adding practically all US Census microfilms and available soundex

Where there is no soundex they have acquired printed indexes which are grouped on shelves adjacent to the microfilm cabinets.

Just recently a private donor gave the library his personal collection of hundreds of city directories, mostly Florida, and they are now catalogued and available for use by the patrons.

As I travel around the State of Florida it is my intention to share what I find in the growth of genealogy in our Sunshine State.



Alvie L. Davidson CGRS

floridasearch@tampabay.rr.com

“I am constantly on the vigil for anything new in these collections which will help my research. The customary greeting I give the librarian is “Anything new?”

Member Profile — She finds joy in helping others

(Cont'd from Page 5)

Nurse. Active in healthcare and as a nursing home consultant, Gail is a licensed registered nurse. She is helping care for her husband Jack, who is seriously ill. She credits him with supporting all her “crazy ideas” in her career. The two met when Gail was a wide-eyed student in a pre-med biophysical science class taught by Jack. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of the State of New York, a master’s degree and doctorate in psychology and education from Columbia Pacific University. She and her husband live in Leigh Acres in Lee County, near Fort Myers and have three children.

Gail doesn’t talk much about her life; she just lives it by helping others. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, “It is what you do with your life that counts.” — Richard F. Robinson

Member Profile — She finds joy in helping others



Gail Ghigna-Hallas, planning a research trip.

Gail Ghigna-Hallas, Ph.D., modest treasurer of the Florida Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, doesn't like to talk or write about herself much.

"I am a believer that more joy comes from promoting other people's accomplishments," she wrote this writer. This is exactly why she was selected as the subject of our newsletter's first profile. She is the "other person" who has devoted her life to helping people of all ages overcome a variety of obstacles and realize their dreams.

A student of Martin Luther King Jr., she has answered the civil rights leader's question, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" A positive, upbeat person, she is making a significant contribution to the chapter and to the lives of her clients, needy children and minorities and to the cultural community.

Gail has worn many hats:

Chapter leader. A charter chapter member, Gail is happy to help where needed. She is serving as treasurer for 2004-5 and established the chapter as a nonprofit organization. She is also our newsletter editor. She once drove 8 hours to attend a chapter board meeting. That's dedication.

Business owner. She owns the Hallas Group, consulting firm in genealogy, research, investigation, writing, editing and illustration. She was once named to the "Top 50 Houston Business Women to Watch."

Researcher. She recently discovered a client's unknown biological father, a member of the buffalo soldiers, African-America regiments that patrolled the American West after the Civil War. "I absolutely love research... the icing on the cake is to see the joy on a client's face when they learn about their heritage," she said. Her research specialties are African Americans, heraldry and heraldic art; Native Americans, genealogy and writing for children.

Educator. She teaches writing and genealogy to children through her African Legacies program. She also writes a full-page column, called "Winning Kids Page" in the *Palm City Digest*, to promote self-esteem and confidence in underprivileged children.

Writer/Broadcast personality. Her writings include fiction, non-fiction and poetry. In addition to writing several newspaper columns, Gail has appeared on television and radio talk show. She ran her own program, *Hallas on Health*, on WFLA, Tampa,

and *Creating Promises* in Blowing Rock, NC (WOIX).

Public speaker. She has presented seminars to 23,000 participants in 47 states; and is former guest faculty for National Judicial College at University of Nevada, Reno; University of New Mexico Judicial Education Center, Albuquerque; and has consulted for the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida, Pinellas County, as well as dozens of national and state professional organizations.

Heraldic artist/illustrator. She will display original art, titled *Black & White Horses* (see photo); Heraldic art; and writings, "If Wishes were Crayons" and "Solid Trust" in the 2005 Zora Neale Hurston Festival in Eatonville, Florida.

Advocate. When APG member Charles Johnson and his family in Port Charlotte lost their home in Hurricane Charley last year, Gail helped the family find new quarters. She also raised money for hurricane victims of her Free Wheelers Skate Club in Leigh Acres. Gail is founder, president and a certified roller skating coach at the club, a nonprofit group that serves nearly 200 underprivileged adults and children, who might otherwise resort to juvenile crimes.

She is a life member of the NAACP, chair of the Lee County Branch Youth Council and serves on the executive board of the Lee County Branch, and as branch secretary. She is also a former Guardian Ad Litem for the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida and U.S. Department of Justice/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission business educator. She is listed in *Marquis Who's Who*, *Who's Who Among Human Services Professionals*, *Who's*

Who in Education, *Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare*; International Who's Who of Professional & Business Women and *Who's Who of International Poets*.

(Cont'd on Page 4)

"I absolutely love research... the icing on the cake is to see the joy on a client's face when they learn about their heritage,"



Gail's *Black & White Horses*, a mixed media piece.

President's Corner — (Cont'd from Page 1)

We had a couple feature articles in a South Florida newspaper recently that generated several inquiries and three potential members.

We have so many of our leaders helping other organizations that it is a wonder that they have time to run the Florida Chapter. That story is told on Page 3 in Member News and Chapter Elections. Finally, our roving genealogist Alvie Davison reports on the new immigrant ancestor collection of records at the Tampa Public Library on Page 4. Please report to us any significant developments in repositories or in your genealogical community. We have lots of things happening here in Florida... under *The Sun*.

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS —

Members are welcome to submit contributions to this newsletter in the form of new and previously published articles, meeting information, upcoming events and activities and any other genealogically-related material. Please email submissions to guest editor, Brenda Simo (brenda.simo@simofam.com).

Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)

from *Genealogical Resources in New Mexico*

Second Edition

by Karen Stein Daniel, C.G.

The Genealogical Proof Standard was established in the genealogical field to guide serious researchers in writing and assembling a family history that would be "as close to the truth as possible," and replaces the previously held doctrine of "preponderance of the evidence," a legal tenet deemed not as appropriate for genealogical studies. The GPS, a five-step process, involves these components:

- Conducting a reasonably exhaustive search for information that is or may become pertinent to an identity, relationship, event, or situation being questioned;
- Collecting and including a complete and accurate citation to all sources of each and every item of information used;
- Analyzing and correlating the information to assess its quality as evidence;
- Resolving conflicts caused by items of evidence which contradict one another or are contrary to a proposed solution for the question; and
- Arriving at a soundly reasoned and coherently written conclusion. (1)

While proof beyond "a shadow of a doubt" is not required in the GPS, genealogists must recognize that any statement made regarding an ancestor or lineage can *never* be the final word. (2) It always remains

almost a certainty, that new evidence will be found one day, forcing the researcher to re-examine and re-evaluate his or her original statement or statements, and determine if they are still valid or in need of revision.

In genealogical and family history research, many searches begin based wholly or in part on a family tradition or story. Traditions concerning relatives and ancestors who have lived and died in past times may have existed over several generations and even several hundred years, depending upon the culture and circumstances of their lives. Before a tradition can be accepted as fact, however, it must be verified. (3) This writer has found that generally, traditions hold some grain of truth, but the amount can vary widely. In the years or centuries of its telling, the "facts" surrounding a tradition may have expanded greatly or been altered so completely as to bear no resemblance to the original account. Often, unraveling the mysteries of a family tradition require an even greater research effort than simply beginning the search with some basic known or suspected fact about a person or problem. Unfortunately, disproving all or part of a family tradition may become an unhappy experience for a novice researcher, as the family may have cherished its tradition as part of who they are. This researcher has observed reluctance and refusal to give up such traditions in some families, even when the documentary evidence does not support it, or in some cases, researcher, as the family may have cherished its tradition as part of who specifically contradicts it. As the Millises observed in their 1981 critique of Alex Haley's *Roots*, "family traditions are surrealistic images of the past, blurred by time, colored by emotions and imagination."(4)

I strongly recommend that researchers always adhere to the principles of the GPS in both their research and writing. Whether your research is meant only for your immediate family's use or for publishing and sharing with a wider audience, any reader should be able to pick up your work and trace back the steps you took to arrive at the conclusions you reached. In today's world of genealogical and family history research, exemplary research and documentation methodology are required elements we should all strive for in our work.

— Karen Stein Daniel, C.G.

Used by permission of Karen Stein Daniel, CG, Editor of the *New Mexico Genealogist*, a publication of the New Mexico Genealogical Society.

- 1) Board for Certification of Genealogists, *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual*, Millennium Edition (Orem, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2000), 1-2.
- 2) *Ibid.*
- 3) Johni Cerni, "Family Traditions - There Is No Truth Without Proof," *Lineages Club News* (Fall 1993): 9.
- 4) Gary B. Mills and Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Roots and the New 'Faction,' A Legitimate Tool for Clío?" *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 89 (January 1981): 6.