



# INDIAN RIVER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2007  
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## Heritage Quest Online at Home or at the Library

*by Pam Cooper, Supervisor, Archive Center and Genealogy Department*

Today, most genealogists are at-home researchers. If you have an Indian River County library card, you have access from home, at no charge to you, to several thousand records such as 1) U.S. census, 2) 20,000 family and local histories, 3) Revolutionary War pension applications, 4) Freedmen Bank records and 5) index to 1.9 million genealogy and local history articles. During this lecture at the IRGS general membership meeting (Feb. 13th), you will see demonstrations on how to search, print or email the records to yourself. In addition, you will learn about the notebook feature where you can take notes on items of particular interest and then save, print or email. HeritageQuest Online can be your virtual library!

## Board Meetings

Any IRGS member is encouraged to attend our monthly Board Meetings. We would like everyone to be aware of our workings behind the scenes. Remember these are your officers whom you elected and are working for you. We encourage your input so that we will remain an outstanding organization in our community.

Contact: Patti Kirk,  
for time and location,  
(772) 567-7463.  
ckirkfirst@comcast.net



**NOTE:** All dates and events in this newsletter are subject to change and more may be added after we go to press. Please check the Press Journal, also, for dates and times or contact the genealogy department for current updates.

## President's Corner



*IRGS President,  
Patti A. Kirk  
.....*

Dear Members,

With the start of every year we set new goals for ourselves and fresh ideas to old projects. A few of those efforts in your research may include being realistic with your goals and making them obtainable for your success; setting a goal that you would like to uncover new information each week; correcting information that you already have with new and recently discovered facts. Another sibling in the family, a cause of death of an ancestor, a second wife, a great uncle you never knew about - all of these pieces pull your family puzzle together. Have you ever considered listing causes of death to profile the family's medical history? And how many relatives do you have that are left-handed? I bet you could list all types of information to add some colorful facts to your family. This all creates a very formative profile of each person within your world.

I'd like to share with you one of my favorites sayings:

*There are three types of people:*

- 1. Those who watch things happen.*
- 2. Those who make things happen.*
- 3. Those who have no idea what happened.*

With number two in mind, you spoke and we listened: *classes on Saturdays*. The excitement never ends around here! In March we will be offering two exciting Saturday classes. Please see the following pages for all the details.

As we approach another exciting month of genealogy, I imagine you are still focused by George Morgan's fantastic program, "**Repositories of London.**" If you ever have any questions, comments or just want to share a thought about any aspect of IRGS, I am here for you - just a phone call away - and to assist you with your goals for a happy and productive 2007!

*Continued success,  
Patti*



# February 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Irish GIG; 1-3 pm., Library History room Pam Porter Seminar, 6:30- 8:30 pm, Library	9	10 Valentine Seminar, 9 am- 4 pm; registra- tion required; IRCC Richard- son Center
11	12	13 IRGS Membership meeting; 10am-12noon Library Meeting room		15 French-Canadian GIG; 1-3 pm, Library AIS room Swedish GIG; 1-3 pm, Library History room Polish GIG; 3-5 pm, Library History room	16	17
18	19	20 IRGS Board mtg., 1:00pm; Library History room	21	22 Message Boarding; 1:00-3:00pm Library History room	23	24 Transcrip- tion class; 10-11:30 am; Library History room
25	26	27	28	March 1	2 Time Lines class; 12 noon- 2:00 pm; Library History room	3

## Genealogy Interest Groups, Special Interest Groups (GIG - Genealogy Interest Group; SIG - Special Interest Group)

GIG's and SIG's are a group of people who have a common interest in one aspect of family research; for example, interest in a particular foreign country. The basic concept of a GIG or SIG is IRGS members helping one another with their genealogical research, covering the whole spectrum from beginner to expert.

### Event: Irish GIG

Date/Time: Thursday, Feb. 8; 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Location: Library History Room  
Contact: **Bill Murphy**: (772) 299-3342 or  
email: [wclhmurphy@bellsouth.net](mailto:wclhmurphy@bellsouth.net)

### Event: French-Canadian GIG

Date/Time: Thursday, Feb. 15; 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Location: Library AIS Room  
Contact: **Donna Nightingale**: (772) 978-0107;  
[donnawalt@aol.com](mailto:donnawalt@aol.com)

### Event: Swedish GIG

Date/Time: Thursday, Feb. 15; 1:00-3:00pm  
Location: Library History Room  
Contact: **Diane Macgowan**: (772) 234-0139;  
[dmacgowan@aol.com](mailto:dmacgowan@aol.com)

### Event: PAF5 Computer SIG

Date/Time: *by appointment* on an individual basis at the library or in your home.  
Contact: **John Getz**: (772) 231-1767;  
[loisbruckheimer@comcast.net](mailto:loisbruckheimer@comcast.net) or  
**John Hendricks**: (772) 562-4362;  
[hendricksJS@comcast.net](mailto:hendricksJS@comcast.net)

Mentoring is a one-on-one assistance with one of our three very knowledgeable and helpful mentors. Come early with your problems and papers and stay as long as you like. We'll be happy to assist you!

~ Friday, Feb. 2 .....10:00am - 1:00pm  
~ Thursday, Feb. 8 ... 10:00am - 1:00pm  
~ Friday, Feb. 16 .....10:00am - 1:00pm  
~ Friday, Feb. 23 ..... 10:00am - 1:00pm  
~ Friday, March 2 .... 10:00am - 2:00pm

Donna (772) 978-0107 [donnawalt@aol.com](mailto:donnawalt@aol.com)  
Marcia (772) 563-9535 [meyberse@comcast.net](mailto:meyberse@comcast.net)  
Patti (772) 567-7463 [ckirkfirst@comcast.net](mailto:ckirkfirst@comcast.net)

**IRGS Newsletter**  
is a publication of the  
Indian River  
Genealogical Society,  
Inc., P.O. Box 1850,  
Vero Beach, FL  
32961-1850

The nine issues of the newsletter coincide with the nine Society meetings per season: September through May. There are no Society meetings or newsletters from June to August.

To submit ideas for the IRGS Newsletter, email editor Bev Stevens at [newsletter@irgs.org](mailto:newsletter@irgs.org)  
Include your name, phone number & email.  
Please see Newsletter Submission Policy at our website [www.irgs.org](http://www.irgs.org).

**The Indian River Genealogical Society, Inc.**  
is a section 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation chartered by the state of Florida. Monthly membership meetings are free and open to the public. Membership is \$25/family and due annually on January 1st.  
Board meetings, open to the public, are the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00p.m.

### Executive Board

#### **President**

Patti Kirk

#### **Vice President**

Cora Sjogren-Welch

#### **Treasurer**

Tom Garvey

#### **Recording Secretary**

Jeanette Webber

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Beverly Stevens

#### **Past President**

Cindy Hineman Davis

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The Indian River  
Genealogical Society, Inc.

## Education Update

*by Nancy Broderick, Education Director, IRGS Genealogical Society*

### Membership Survey

The Membership Survey had 104 participants.

On the Workshops category, the top three categories were:

1. Scanning and Putting Pictures on CD's - 51 Members
2. Writing Family History - 45 Members
3. Immigration - 41 members

On the Geographical Regions category, the top three states were:

1. Massachusetts - 30 Members
2. New York - 27 Members
3. Pennsylvania - 22 Members

On the Foreign Country category, the top three countries were:

1. Ireland - 34 Members
2. England - 31 Members
3. Germany - 27 Members

On the Computer Use for Genealogy Research, the top three answers were:

1. Most of the Time - 41 Members
2. Frequently - 30 Members
3. Very Little - 27 Members

On Using Programs, the top three answers were:

1. PAF - 53 Members
2. Family Tree Maker - 22 Members
3. Reunion - 6 Members

I feel this survey was very informative in highlighting the needs of our members and we will make every effort in the future to make classes available to everyone to aid in their search of their genealogy.

### Surname of Ancestors

At the January 16th meeting, forms were given out to all members in attendance to list family surnames. We will have a binder at all future meetings with the completed forms. We encourage everyone to take a look and see if any names ring bells for their research or if you can help out another member. Members will also be notified by email or phone if their surname appears on anyone else's form.

To date, only 19 forms have been completed and returned. There is also a blank form on our website to download if you need a copy of the form.

*Thank you for your participation!*

## Upcoming March Classes

*Please register with Nancy Broderick (772) 794-9869 for these classes or email [jmesana@aol.com](mailto:jmesana@aol.com). You may also sign up at the I.R. Genealogy Dept. main desk.*

### Time Lines class:

Friday, March 2, 2007; 12noon - 2:00 pm; in the Library History room.  
This class will prepare you, but is not mandatory, for the Brick Wall class on March 24.

### Massachusetts research:

Saturday, March 10, 2007; 10:00 am - 12:00noon; in the Library History room

### Probate and Wills:

Thursday, March 22, 2007; 1:00 - 2:30 pm; in the Library History room

### Brick Wall class:

Saturday, March 24, 2007; 10:00am - 2:00 pm; in the Library History room  
A completed Time Line must be completed for the person you are researching. We ask that you only search for one person on that day because we do not know how many people will be in the class. Future classes will be booked on this topic if needed. Several instructors will be present to help out all members.

## News of Local Society Meetings

**Event:** Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

**Program:** "Service to Children" by Dr. Judy Miller

**Date/Time:** Monday, Feb. 12, 2007

**Reservations:** \$16.25 - send by Feb. 8 to Sondra Lee, 1927 Ocean Ridge Circle, Vero Beach, FL 32963  
Phone: (772) 234-2608

**Registration** begins at 11am; meeting - 11:30am; lunch at 12:00

**Location:** Bent Pine Golf Club

**Contact:** Cora Sjogren-Welch, Regent, at (772) 567-9134 or email [csjogwel@digital.net](mailto:csjogwel@digital.net)

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**Event:** St. Sebastian Chapter, DAR

**Program:** "American Indian History" by Marilyn Lambert

**Date/Time:** February 3, 2007;

10:00 am - 12:30 pm

**Location:** Roseland Community Bldg. 83rd Ave., Roseland

**Contact:** Elaine Johnson, Regent, for information at (772) 589-4978

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**Event:** Mayflower Descendants

**Program:** "Stephen Hopkins' Colony of Florida Mayflower Descendants"

**Date/Time:** February 13, 2007;

12 noon

**Location:** CJ Cannon's at the airport, Vero Beach, FL

**Contact:** Aurie Morrison for lunch reservations and information at (772) 778-4876 or email Aurie at [gnut1@earthlink.net](mailto:gnut1@earthlink.net)

*Friends, prospective members and visiting members are welcome to monthly meetings of local societies!*



## Meet Your New Board!

*Our Board members are as diverse as they are interesting. They work diligently for you and we hope you will get to know them throughout the year. From left to right:*

**Beverly Stevens**, Corresp. Secretary. Bev's roots are in Bucks Co., PA. She is resuming and loving her genealogy research after a long absence, uncovering more now than ever before.

**Jeanette Webber**, Secretary, was born in NJ of German immigrant ancestors; her research continues faithfully. She lived in Chadds Ford, PA area before coming to Vero ten years ago.

**Cora Sjogren-Welch**, Vice President; from Central MA, Clinical Physical Therapist, was always interested in family history. Cora got serious about genealogy when "grandmother's DAR papers failed national and I had to reprove my entire line." Currently working on Spanish, Huguenot, and Irish lines.

**Patti Kirk**, President, has been researching family genealogy since



1980 in New England, Nova Scotia, Scotland, Quebec and Ireland. She has been teaching genealogy classes since 1987, and is a member of 18 societies. Husband Charlie of 43 years, daughter Kristen and grandson Reily ( NY), and son Michael (Honolulu, HI).

**Thomas F. Garvey**, Treasurer. This is Tom's second tenure as Treasurer and member of the Society for eight years. "A complete 6-generation pedigree chart was our original goal." Mission accomplished but now the Garvey's have genealogy fever!

## Genealogy Researcher for 2006!

At our January membership meeting, the "Student of the Year" award was presented to **Betsy Emerson**. Betsy, a long time researcher, is persistent, energetic and a realistic goal-setter in genealogy. Betsy stands out in the crowd as a model achiever.

*Congratulations Betsy!*



## "Dear Freda..."

*IRGS members and friends, meet **Freda Hoppe**, a lifetime member of the IRGS. She is an outstanding, creative and experienced researcher. In her monthly column, Freda will answer research questions, offer numerous tips and share wonderful stories with you.*

*Please submit any question you have so she may assist and guide you in your research. Freda is anxious to hear from you! Mail your questions to IRGS, P.O. Box 1850, Vero Beach, FL 32961-1850.*



Dear Freda,

Please advise me on how to obtain my great grandfather's obit. Lucien was born in Quebec in 1878. He moved to Manchester, New Hampshire in 1901 and married in that area in 1905. Lucien died on February 11, 1941, at the age of 63, already predeceased by his wife Adelaide. I live 1,900 miles from New England. Help!

Frances

Dear Frances,

Never let distance keep you from

an answer. Census records are extremely important. Track Lucien down in the 1910, 1920, and 1930 census. This will add documentation to information you now have. List the contacts that can help you to obtain a copy of the obit. This list should have local newspapers servicing your Manchester area; town hall holding records of death, births and marriages, and the local Manchester Library.

To get addresses for letter writing and phone numbers to call, do the following: go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

and type in Manchester, New Hampshire. You can scan the listings for government agencies and local services for contact information. The Clerk's office, for a modest fee, can send a copy of the death certificate, but always ask the cost!

You may make a quick call to the library (sometimes an email address is listed) to inquire if they have newspapers available on film or any cemetery records that may have been transcribed, etc. Also inquire as to the names of local funeral home directors for future research.

The reference department or possibly the Historical Society will be helpful in locating the obit on film. Once copied, it can be mailed to you for a reasonable fee. Always be patient and polite. This type of work is done by the volunteers.

Never let miles separate you, Frances, from the answers!

Freda

## Introducing Nancy Broderick, Your New Education Director

I was born in Massillon, Ohio but only lived there during summers between my father's assignments. Since my father was career Navy, my parents, brother and I lived in many different places on several continents during my childhood. We lived in Morocco for five and a half years. We experienced first hand what a civil war does to a people and its territory.

After graduating high school, I met my husband John. I worked at the U.S. Treasury Department and was married in 1966. I graduated from the University of Maryland in 1994 with a degree in Anthropology and have field school experience in Archeology. Nine years ago, John and I moved to Vero Beach and go back to Maryland for visits. I have two daughters, Mary Ellen and Stephanie. Stephanie is married to Robert Fouche and they gave us one grandson Noah, who is truly a joy and a life-changing gift to our family.

Let me back up a bit about how I got into genealogy. In 1971, I started doing genealogy so that my daughter

would have a history of our family; very few people were doing genealogical research and it was very difficult getting records from sources. It was also very hard convincing relatives that I was not invading their privacy. Even borrowing photos to make copies was a hassle, but eventually most relatives cooperated and have been very supportive and appreciative of my endeavor and its results. Since there were no guidelines, I made many mistakes but I think I am a better genealogist because of those mistakes.

Genealogy is a gift we give ourselves and to those we love. We have to do what we can to enable others to know who came before us that make us who we are.

One example—my French grandfather was a bookbinder in Oran, Algeria. He and his oldest daughter (my mother, a student at

the Sorbonne at the time) worked for the French Resistance. My grandfather would collect information about the enemy forces and glue the information and maps on the inside cover of his books and then casually mail them to the



Allied Forces. For this, Papa Lopez was given a medal of appreciation by General Charles De Gaulle.

I find genealogy very challenging and inspiring and am eager to share what I have learned with others. I look forward to working with members of the IRGS while we all extend our family trees.

## IRGS Members at the Courthouse

Several serious researchers were seen at the Indian River County Courthouse on December 8th. A tour was graciously led by Richard Woodard, who escorted everyone upstairs for an informative presentation. He explained when Indian River County was established, how the old and new record systems worked, and various ways to search at the courthouse. He finished with a great question and answer period.



*Richard Woodard, left, shows an example of records kept in the IRC Courthouse. IRGS members are, from left to right, Carol Keating, Betsy Fisk, Jeanette Webber, unidentified member, Nancy Broderick and Ann Murphy.*

After filling our minds with newfound knowledge, we returned to the library History Room and abstracted an actual will. What fun it was to learn about what we are missing in not researching our ancestors in the court systems.

Areas that were discussed were: designation of executor, bond issued for executor, record of competency hearing of testator, financial statements, personal items included in an inventory, list of benefactors and much more, truly a genealogist treasure!

Those who participated were Wanda Richey, Martha Watson, Nancy Broderick, Jeanette Webber, Betsy Fisk, Carol Keating, Belle Kellarson, Betty Booth, Ann Murphy and new member Susan Rienzo.

## Winners of our 2006 Genealogy Merit Awards

**Outstanding Service Awards** were presented to those who contributed greatly to the Indian River Genealogical Society, Inc.

- ❖ Sandy Giani ❖
- ❖ Donna Nightingale ❖
- ❖ Ellen Stanley ❖

**Mentoring Students Awards** were given to genealogy students that excelled in our mentoring program.

- Prudence Carrier ❖ Warren Carrier
- Betsy Emerson ❖ Belle Kellerson ❖ Marion Newbold
- Charlotte Pennington ❖ Beverly Stevens
- Jeanette Webber ❖ Cora Sjogren-Welch
- Phil Wright

At our December membership meeting the book Christmas Customs Around the World was removed by mistake as a prize. This book is the property of Indian River County Library. If you find it in your possession, we would please ask you to return it to the Genealogy Department. No questions asked! *Thank you.*

## Pick a Patch

A floral-themed wall hanging quilt (35" x 35") has been crafted and donated by The Sunbonnet Sue Quilter's and can be yours merely by entering your name in the drawing at the Tri-County Conference! The drawing (and conference) will be held at IRCC at the Richardson Center, Vero Beach, FL on Sat., April 14, 2007 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. You need not be present to win.

All monetary donations will go to the genealogical society from whom the winning ticket was drawn.

In turn, the winning society will purchase genealogy books for their society's library. And you may win the quilt! For more information, call Donna at 978-0107 or email her at donnawalt@aol.com.



## Tips when using www.ancestry.com

by Tom Garvey, Treasurer, IRGS Genealogical Society

In my research, specifically using the web site [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), here are some of the tricks I've picked up along the way to find mis-indexed names:

1. Use the wildcard character (\*). If you use it following at least the three initial letters of the name, it will give you ALL names beginning with those letters. So "William\*" will get you William, Williams, Williamson, and other variations beginning with William.
2. If you use the "?" it only replaces one missing letter wherever you use it. This is useful for names like Smith/Smyth where you can search on "Sm?th" and get both.

3. Make use of the birth date and date range to narrow down your search. This only works when you are looking at a particular census year, but it can really help hone in on the right people.
4. If your ancestor moved around a lot, take advantage of the "birthplace" option. That way it won't matter where the person lives, as long as the census taker recorded the right birth place.
5. If you're fortunate enough to have ancestors with unusual first names, just search on that.
6. Some census takers were a bit lazy and only used initials instead of first names. If you can't find your ancestor using a first name search, try the first initial.

7. As an absolute last resort you can use the SOUNDINDEX option, but that will give you a huge volume of names that, at first glance, look nothing like the name you're looking for. But it will also capture the one you are looking for.

And a word of caution about the Ancestry site. If you do a search of a specific database like the 1870 census, then do a search from the main page of all databases and go to the 1870 census, you'll usually get different results. I don't know why, but that's just the way it is. Try both searches.



## National Archives and Footnote Launch Project to Digitize Historic Documents Online

*contributed by Donna Nightingale*

Footnote, Inc. and the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration have announced a new partnership that will place millions of historical documents online. These documents have not been available online previously and many of them have never been microfilmed. Most of these documents were previously available only by traveling to the National Archives and examining the documents in person.

The announcement describes a service that will make high-quality images available on any computer with an Internet connection. The potential here is huge for genealogists, historians, re-enactors, students, teachers, railroad history buffs, and many more people.

The 4.5 million pages that have been digitized so far are now available at [www.footnote.com/nara](http://www.footnote.com/nara).

This agreement will enable researchers and the general public to access millions of newly-digitized images of the National Archives historic records on a subscription basis from the Footnote website. By February 6, the digitized materials will also be available at no charge in National Archives research rooms in Washington D.C. and regional facilities across the country. After an interval of five years, all images digitized through this agreement will be available at no charge through the National Archives website.

The following represents a portion of the millions of historic documents that will be made available as part of the National Archives - Footnote Agreement:

- ~ Papers of the Continental Congress (1774-89)
- ~ Mathew B. Brady Collection of Civil War Photographs
- ~ Southern Claims Commission.
- ~ Name Index to Civil War and Later Pension Files
- ~ Investigative Case Files of the Bureau of Investigation, 1908-22

And many more documents will be added in the future.

Web Sites - National Archives: [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) and Footnote, Inc.: [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com)

### 8870 Formula

Do you have an ancestor whose tombstone has no birth date, but it does have years, months, and days of his life?

Here is the 8870 formula to ascertain a birth date.

Sample: Tombstone records John Hick died May 6, 1889 and he was 71 years, 7 months and 9 days old.

18890506	died: 1889 May 6
- 710709	71 years, 7 months, 9 days
18179797	
- 8870	(constant)
18170927	

*Answer*      **Born: 1817 Sept 27**

Source: MASSOG *a* GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, 1981.

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*The minutes from the monthly Membership Meeting will be posted on the website at [www.irgs.org](http://www.irgs.org). Copies of the minutes will be available upon request at the following monthly meeting.*

### Webmasters Corner

*by Phil Wright, Webmaster*

This month I renew my call for "Authors and Artists." We have several small writing assignments and an idea or two about some small graphics to enhance the appearance of our web site or add to our Newsletter. Prior experience is NOT necessary! Come practice your skills and hone your talent for that family history book that waits at the end of your genealogical quest.

Next, a few things about [www.irgs.org](http://www.irgs.org). The front page of the web site is updated weekly on Sunday mornings. The purpose of "This Week's Highlights" feature is to emphasize time-sensitive content and guide the viewer into the various pages that carry more detail. The "Calendar" feature is updated as events are received via email at [calendar@irgs.org](mailto:calendar@irgs.org). You can now submit your entries months in advance. We also carry items for our sister societies and local organizations that are in keeping with our Society's objective "to further genealogical research and promote interest in family and local history." Please make it a habit to scan the front page and calendar on Sunday nights so you don't miss out on a class, meeting, or seminar that might hold the answer in breaking a brick wall.

Contact Phil via email at [webmaster@irgs.org](mailto:webmaster@irgs.org)

***The Indian River Genealogical Society, Inc.***

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www.irgs.org

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- ◆ *Member of the Florida State Genealogical Society*
- ◆ *Indexed by PERSI*

**Standing Committee Chairmen  
for the Indian River  
Genealogical Society**

**Committee Coordinator**  
Margaret Bell

**By-Laws Chair and  
Parliamentarian**  
Betsy Fisk

**Editorial**  
Beverly Stevens

**Education**  
Nancy Broderick

**Library**  
Charlotte Pennington

**Membership**  
Donna Nightingale  
Marge Evans

**Program Chair  
and Past President**  
Cindy Hineman Davis

**Public Relations**  
Mary Mitchell



***Are your IRGS dues current?***

If your IRGS membership dues are not current, this will be your last newsletter. If you have a '\$' on your mailing label, please forward your check ASAP! Thanks for your continued support to the IRGS.

***Do you have a change of address? Do you have a new email address?***

Please let Donna Nightingale, Membership Chair, know as soon as possible. You won't want to miss the monthly updates and announcements. Email Donna at donnawalt@aol.com or phone (772) 978-0107.

**Old Hats and New Shoes - Tri-County Conference  
14 April 2007**

**Sponsors:** Brevard, Indian River and Martin County  
Genealogical Societies

**Location:** Indian River Community College, Vero Beach campus  
The Richardson Center

**Time:** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Cost:** \$15.00

Bring your own brown bag lunch.

Education, genealogy exchanges, 1920 Prohibition skit, prizes,  
five programs to further your knowledge and more!

*More information on this and other programs and events will also be posted  
on our web site at: [www.irgs.org](http://www.irgs.org)*