



# INDIAN RIVER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2007  
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## Civil War and Andersonville Prison

*presented at the IRGS Membership meeting, April 10, 9:30 - 12noon*

Sandy McDonnell, a member of the Martin County Genealogical Society and well-known genealogist, will be our guest speaker for the month of April.

Sandy's three-part presentation on the American Civil War will paint a clear picture of the conflicts many of our ancestors faced during this time period. She will cover such topics as the three brothers of New Hampshire, The Cartel, hostages, and much, much, more.

A member of Martin County Genealogical Society for approximately six years, Sandy has been a member of the Society's Board for two years, Genealogy Room Chair for one year; Speakers Bureau Chair two years, Co-moderator of Family Tree Maker SIG for one year, plus exhibitor at the Family History Fair workshop for the past three years.

## President's Corner



*IRGS President,  
Patti A. Kirk*

Welcome to spring and feel that warm air and the sun shining over all of us. With our new time adjustments, there is a sense we have more time to play "family search."

Our board has been working hard to offer you more in the line of education and communication. Just to remind everyone: we will be dedicating our May issue of the newsletter to honor the special women in our lives, past and present - moms, sisters, aunts, and even mother-in-laws! These tributes should be brief and short. Please forward your story directly to my email - ckirkfirst@comcast.net. Deadline for submission will be April 9th!

We have two field trips in store for you.

Mark you calendar for April 18<sup>th</sup> for our first field trip to the Indian River Historical Society in Vero Beach. A private time has been reserved *just for IRGS members*. Meet in the parking lot of the main library to carpool at 10:30 a.m. (*sharp!*) and we'll go from there.

Our second visit will be April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. - 12noon at the Church of the Latter Day Saints located at 3980 12th Street in Vero Beach. Our previous visit to the LDS church in January was very successful, and so many spread the word...this one is also just for you! Bring along your notepad.

Remember, we are here for you just a call away or at the click of a key.... 567-7463 or ckirkfirst@comcast.net.

*Continued success,*  
Patti

## Attention! Class Registration

If you are interested in any IRGS classes, our new sign-up procedure will be to register with either Nancy Broderick, (772) 794-9869 (email: jmesana@aol.com) or Patti Kirk, (772) 567-7463 (email: ckirkfirst@comcast.net)

*Thank you!*

## Board Meetings

Any IRGS member is encouraged to attend our monthly meetings, which are also opened to the public. 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 we can remain an outstanding organization in the community. Contact Patti Kirk for time and location at (772) 567-7463 or ckirkfirst@comcast.net



# April 2007

\*\* See the descriptions below this calendar and on page 3 for more detailed information. \*\*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Florida History Month continues until April 15th</i> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	2 <i>Passover</i>	3	4	5	6 <i>Good Friday</i>	7
8 <i>Easter</i>	9	10 IRGS Membership meeting	11	12 Irish GIG	13 <i>Hibiscus Festival; 14th Street downtown Vero Beach Sat., 14th&gt;&gt;</i>	14 Tri-County Genealogy Conference 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. IRCC, Richardson Center
15	16	17 IRGS Board meeting	18 Indian River Historical Society Field Trip	19 French-Canadian GIG Swedish GIG Polish GIG	20 Beginners' Genealogy class	21
22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23 <i>"Grandmother Julia"</i>	24	25	26	27 Church of the Latter Day Saints visit/tour	28 Regional Genealogy class
29	30	May 1 Brick Wall class: <i>Full!</i>	2	3	4 Church Records class	5 <i>Cinco de Mayo</i>

## 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: Thurs., April 12 ~ 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Location: Library History Room  
Contact: **Bill Murphy: (772) 299-3342**  
email: [wclhmurphy@bellsouth.net](mailto:wclhmurphy@bellsouth.net)

### Event: French-Canadian GIG

Date/Time: Thurs., April 19 ~ 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Location: Library AIS Room  
Contact: **Donna Nightingale:**  
**(772) 978-0107; donnawalt@aol.com**

### Event: Swedish GIG

Date/Time: Thurs., April 19 ~ 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Location: Library History Room  
Contact: **Diane Macgowan:**  
**(772) 234-0139; dmacgowan@aol.com**

### Event: Polish GIG

Date/Time: Thurs., April 19 ~ 3:00 - 5:00 pm  
Location: Library History Room  
Contact: **Marge Putzke: (772) 569-0132;**  
**[jmputzke@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmputzke@bellsouth.net)**

### 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)**

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*For more information on the April 14th Tri-County Genealogy Conference event, please call Patti Kirk at (772) 567-7463.*

## IRGS Newsletter

(ISSN 1052-0333)

is published monthly from September through May and is mailed to all current IRGS members. We also make it available online for your convenience at our Web site:

**[www.irgs.org](http://www.irgs.org)**

To submit ideas for the IRGS Newsletter, email the Editor at **[newsletter@irgs.org](mailto:newsletter@irgs.org)** Include your name and phone number, please.

## 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 on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Membership is \$25/family and due annually on January 1st.

Board meetings, open to the public, are the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

### Officers

#### **President**

Patti Kirk

#### **Vice President**

Cora Sjogren-Welch

#### **Treasurer**

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#### **Recording Secretary**

Jeanette Webber

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Beverly Stevens

#### **Past President**

Pete Kersey

The Indian River Genealogical Society, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 1850,  
Vero Beach, FL  
32961-1850

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## Tips, Tricks & Helpful Information

### How & Where to Find Birth Certificates, Death Certificates, Marriage Certificates, Divorce Certificates & Adoption Records

<http://genealogy.about.com/library/blvitalus.htm>

### Cleaning out Paper Files

Set a goal to clean out by sorting through two of your ancestors' files a week. It's a great 'sit down' job and extremely rewarding. You never know what you may find. One member told us she discovered a piece of valuable information she didn't realize she had. She had been re-searching for two years and already had the answer !

### Genealogy on PBS archives

*Do It Yourself: How to Investigate Family History:*

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/diy/genealogy.html>

*Do It Yourself: African-American Genealogy:*

[http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/diy/gen\\_black.html](http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/diy/gen_black.html)

*Investigative Techniques: DNA Analysis:*

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/techniques/dna.html>

*The companion Web site to the PBS family history and genealogy television series:* <http://www.byubroadcasting.org/ancestors/>

## IRGS Library Corner

*submitted by Charlotte Peterson  
Pennington, IRGS Library Chair*

Marge Putzke is currently working on the IRGS historical scrapbook. She is an expert in photo preservation and is extremely knowledgeable in page layout and design. Her efforts in creating the scrapbook will help preserve our society's memories. The book will be ready to view in September.

I am currently working on the project of digitizing our past Board and Membership minutes and they will be available on CD. This project will ensure security and save space for our society by eliminating the large amount of paper storage.

Members will be notified when the CD's are completed.

## "Dear Freda..."



*IRGS members and friends, meet **Freda Hoppe**, a lifetime member of the IRGS. She is an outstanding 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.*

Dear Freda,

My mother's side of the family came over to the United States from Sligo County, Ireland around 1892. I was told that many of her relatives stayed in Ireland and possibly lived in the same county. With this in mind, I spent several days researching surnames for addresses and found a few prospects. I would like to write these people and see if they can answer some of my family history questions.

Knowing that it is considered

polite to enclose a self-addressed envelope when requesting a reply, I found myself in a dilemma - U.S. postage stamps would not be valid on the return envelope. What can I do about stamps on my envelopes when dealing with a foreign country?

Maureen

*Dear Maureen,*

I understand your dilemma when corresponding with foreign countries. Have you heard about International Reply Coupons (IRC)?

An IRC is a coupon that will allow you to mail a 20 gram letter anywhere in the world as long as the country is a member of the Universal Postage Union. You can buy an IRC from your local post office in the States or any member nation in the world. When you send an IRC with your letter to a foreign country, the recipient takes the coupon to their local post office and redeems the coupon for airmail postage. The cost is around \$1.85 per coupon.

For more information about IRC, visit the Web sites below.

Good luck!

Freda

*International Reply Coupon information:*

<http://www.n6hb.org/s-a/irc.htm>

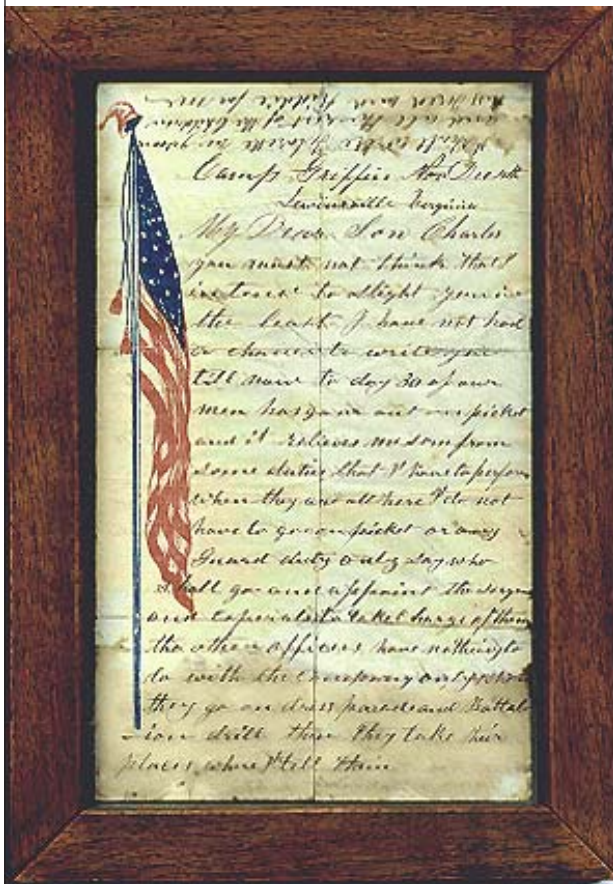
*Participating countries:*

<http://www.upu.int/members/en/members.html>

## Mystery Letter Ingredients

submitted by Sandy McKenny, IRGS member and instructor

1. Take one double glass framed letter with furled flag on the edge of the paper that was found in the Archive Vault of the Goodrich Memorial Library in Newport, Vermont.
2. Add two archive volunteers and avid genealogists, Ernestine Pepin and Sandra McKenny.
3. Mix in a bucket of curiosity and a dozen of questions.
4. Sprinkle with some good ole Yankee logic, tenacity and cross a couple of fingers.
5. Stir until the desired results are accomplished.



Camp Griffin ~~Nov~~ Dec 4  
Lewinsville, Virginia

My Dear Son Charles

You must not think that I intend to slight you in the least I have not had a chance to write you till now today 30 of our men has gone out on picket and it relieves me some from some duties that I have to perform when they are all here I do not have to go on picket or any guard duty only say who shall go and appoint the sergeant and coporal (sic) to take charge of them

How do you get along sawing wood I know you will do all you can be a good Boy at school take care of your clothes be careful about sliding on the ice I fear you will not remember that you know I never liked to have you go on the ice much you and Walter can use your hand sled about home you must not go to the Village to play in the Street you must see to Walter and look after him be Kind to all and you will please me

Dear Ella I am pleased to learn that you are trying to help your mother all you can I shall send you something from Old Virginia some time we are all hoping (sic) to see Old Vermont next June Stranger things happen sometimes Give my Respects to Mr and Mrs Flint and Mr Hunt and accept much love from your affectionate Father

[The original postscript is written upside down] I shall write Florette very soon and all the rest of the children

Kiss Fred and Kiddie for me

Most every Wednesday morning this past summer, you would probably find us either in the musty basement or the Newport Room on the second floor of the newly restored Goodrich Memorial Library accessing and organizing the motley collection of books and ephemera that have been deposited there for over one hundred years. We would make a bit more progress every week and would be more successful if we didn't stop to "smell the daisies" so to speak, but we are always finding something really

interesting to sidetrack us.

Hence, the above letter, which seemed to be calling our names. Why had it been so lovingly preserved and how did it end up in the Goodrich collection? Who were these people and what happened to them? You will notice that there was no family or surname to start the search or even an indication of this being a Vermont or Orleans County family. However there were a number of clues to follow.

In the fall, we also set up a display featuring this fascinating 145

year old letter along with other local Civil War memorabilia and our documentation. We also were asked to present a program one evening and publish an article in the local "Vermont's Northland Journal," December 2006, v.5, #9.

So that was the summer journey we took to satisfy our curiosity... what fun! Perhaps we will be invited to "play" there again this summer if we work more diligently.

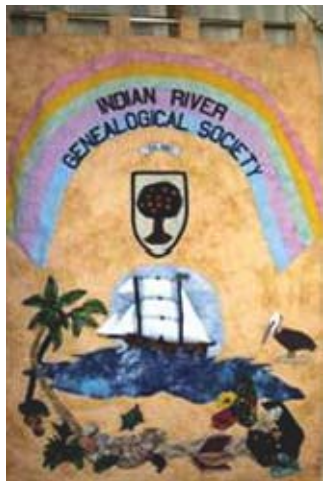
Read the complete story on the IRGS Web site to see how we solved it.



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

P.O. Box 1850  
Vero Beach, FL 32961-1850  
www.irgs.org

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**Public Relations**

Mary Mitchell

**Library**

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Donna Nightingale

**Membership Co-Chair**

Wanda Ritchie

**Editorial**

vacant

**Committee Coordinator**

Margaret Bell

**By-Laws Chair and Parliamentarian**

Betsy Fisk



**Collecting Surnames**

IRGS is still gathering surnames of ancestors of all IRGS members.

If you haven't done so already and need a form, please contact Nancy Broderick at (772) 794-9869 during business hours or email your names to Nancy at [jmesana@aol.com](mailto:jmesana@aol.com).

**Deadline to submit copy** for the May newsletter is April 9th. All dates and events in this newsletter are subject to change and more may be added after we go to press. For current information, please call Patti Kirk (772) 567-7463 or email [ckirkfirst@comcast.net](mailto:ckirkfirst@comcast.net).



*“To bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men living in the future, a nation must believe in three things.*

*It must believe in the past. It must believe in the future. It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgement for the creation of the future.”*

Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
*submitted by George Gross,  
IRGS member and past President*

