



# CAPE CORAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Preserving Our City's History



April 2011

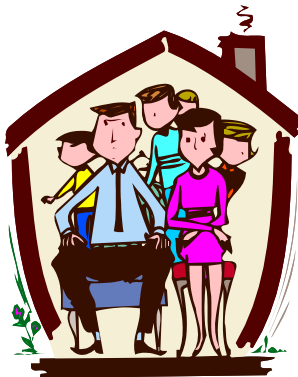
Newsletter Volume 11

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### KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS

Carol Rooksby Weldkich, [President of the Genealogical Society, Inc.](#), and a native of Rochester New, York, will speak about the basic steps in starting your family research and you don't even have to leave home or use a computer!

Carol will discuss the importance of finding informational documents you may already have and what to do with them. She will also speak on local opportunities available for assistance in your research.



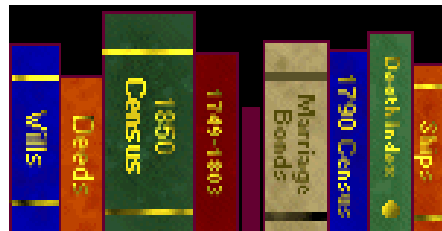
Thanks in Part to the television program "[Who Do You Think You Are](#)", people are starting to investigate their ancestry. Some may be looking for a "famous" ancestor and some are looking for the story about that "black sheep" ancestor. Today, many are also involving their family's youth in a family project of who we are descended from.

This should be a very interesting presentation. Bring your family and friends to find out what tools you need to know your ancestry. No admission fee or reservation is needed.

### GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday ,  
April 12, 2011  
2:30 PM**

**Cultural Park Theater  
528 Cultural Park Blvd.**



### Mark Your Calendar ....

April 12, 2:30pm Geneology  
April 16, Volunteer Luncheon  
May 12 TBA

We Wish you...  
A specially happy  
Easter, a bright and  
sunny spring, And all  
the joy and happiness a  
perfect year can bring!



### CURATOR CULL'S CORNER:

The Burrowing Owl Festival was a smashing success for all concerned; approximately 4,000 visitors attended the event. The Historical Society had lots of activity at our booth and we sold many items from our gift shop as well as promoted the museum and acquired new members. We can thank our [Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife](#) for organizing such an outstanding event. It goes without saying, our participation could not be accomplished without the help of Volunteers Frank Grieco, Audrey Benninghof, Dot Dow, Suzanne Miranda, Barbara Peet and Fred Cull. They did a marvelous job in representing our museum! A special thanks to all of you.



### BURROWING OWL FESTIVAL



Visitor attendance has really increased at the museum and it is great to see how they enjoy the exhibits and sometimes return with their family and friends.

April is National Volunteer month and an opportunity for us to recognize and say a big THANK YOU to ALL of our wonderful volunteers. We are so blessed to have all of you participate in the museum activities enabling us to continue having a successful operation. If ANY of our members wish to be a volunteer, we would love to have you so please call me at 772-7037 to join our family.

*Anne*



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New> \*Visit our NewsPress [Blog](#) \*

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

Open Wed, Thurs, Sun. 1 to 4 PM

*Cape Coral Historical Museum Preserving Our City's History*

**IT WAS THE YEAR 1909 ...**



When Anthony "Tone" Corbitt homesteaded a small parcel in the woods east of what is now the intersection of Santa Barbara and Cape Coral Parkway. The house was a simple 2 room structure with wooden shutters propped open with a stick. Horses, hogs and chickens for market were the main source of income. The mosquitoes were so plentiful that smudge pots of burning cow chips were placed near the tree line. The horses had stalls in the barn and cows and pigs ran loose. Wild hog hunting was done from horseback with dogs. The farm provided potatoes, corn, peas and rice. In 1923 the taxes for this 40 acre spread were \$3.35 based on home value of \$20. and a cow at \$10 plus all personal property valued at \$50. Tone Corbitt died in 1931 and his widow Genie and son Chester sold out and moved to Ft. Myers. His descendants are still here today.



CHECK OUT THE [MUSEUM WEB SITE](#) FOR PAST NEWSLETTERS (IN COLOR), PICTURES AND MUCH MORE

**DID YOU KNOW .....**

The Rosen Brothers' parents were Russian Immigrants who settled in Baltimore, MD. The Rosen family was self-educated but the children received some formal education at the Hebrew Day School. Leonard dropped out in the 6th grade to work but Jack attended Johns Hopkins University for a couple of years. Despite this limited formal education the brothers read extensively - often 20-40 books a year.



Their practical education was expanded when they hired themselves out as pitchmen, selling various products on the boardwalk in Atlantic City. The First business adventure in 1948 was the Rosen Home Equipment Co., selling appliances on installment accounts. The late 40's saw the brothers selling hair care products called Charles Antell Cosmetics. In 1950 the Rosen's became interested in land development in Florida and in 1957 negotiated a deal for a 103 square mile parcel for \$678,000. In late 1958 Jack and Leonard formed their Gulf Guaranty Land and Title Co. And later renamed it Gulf American Land Corporation.

**CONDOLENCES**



Words cannot express how sad we all feel with the loss of our dear friend, past treasurer, board member and dedicated keeper of the rose garden [CLIFF HERDMAN](#). For 16 or more years Cliff quietly and tirelessly gave of himself to our organization, always with a smile and cheerful countenance. Nothing was ever too much for Cliff and a kinder man could not be found anywhere. Our deepest sympathy to Doris, his wife and family. Cliff will be missed so much.

Another Historical Society member and Past President, and volunteer for many years was Tom Greene who made his transition also in February. Tom was a regular volunteer and could be seen working at our computer or showing visitors around. He was always such a great support to us and we shall indeed miss Tom and send our condolences to Lisa, his wife and family.

**UPCOMING NEW LOOK.....**

I promised an update on our gift shop renovation. We are so excited to be able to report that the [CAPE CORAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION](#) has donated their time, materials and talent from their members and will be taking on the project of renovating the museum gift shop. The project should be completed in March, will give you more details next month. How lucky we are to have such giving people right in our own community, we are so grateful to all of them.



Please remember to shop at our museum gift shop to buy that unique gift for your friends and family up north. We have many lovely items including books on local history with a good supply of DVD's and books including our newest book "IMAGES OF AMERICA" Cape Coral. You will see a wide selection of sizes in our burrowing owl t-shirts, as well as mugs, license plates, and jewelry. There are still some lovely German plates at a reasonable price. Come in and browse and you may find just what you want.



**DON'T THROW IT AWAY**

Remember the Historical Society if you have anything of historical value about Cape Coral. All donations are greatly appreciated