



*Dan Schweitzer*

Criminies!

Here it is, late in the month, and there is still nothing that whispers in my ear, "Write about me. I'll be interesting, I promise."

Nothing.

...

"Criminies"?

Where did that word come from?

Google it.

An interjection popular in the fifteen hundreds. No meaning, except that it sounds similar to a swear word. Not too exciting. It is interesting, however, to imagine Mr. Pilgrim saying, "*Criminies* chief, your son has one *heck* of an arm." That must have been difficult to translate.

Some words have much more interesting origins.

I like "sincere". It comes from the Latin, *sene cera* (without wax). The connection being that Roman sculptors commonly used wax to hide flaws in the marble, and their mistakes. So, fine pieces were marked "*sine cera*", i.e. not hiding anything.

Another cool word origin belongs to "southpaw." It originally described left-handed baseball

pitchers, because the fields are all oriented so batters never look into a setting sun. (Home plate is west, first base is south, etc.) Because lefties pitched from the south side, they were southpaws.

"Deadline"? In the civil war, the Andersonville prison camp had a "dead line" 17 feet inside the prison wall. The line was so named, because any prisoner crossing that line was shot dead. Eventually, journalists used the term for that critical time when, if crossed, an article was killed – the article being too late to make the day's edition.

But, I digress. Where was I?

Oh yes, nothing to write about.

Nothing.

Maybe next month.

In the meantime, dance, have a merry Christmas, and end 2009 well by joining the Timberline Toppers and Scott Byers on December 31.

Oh yes, and always check our web site for the latest updates on our dances, workshops, and lessons: [timberlinetoppers.org](http://timberlinetoppers.org)