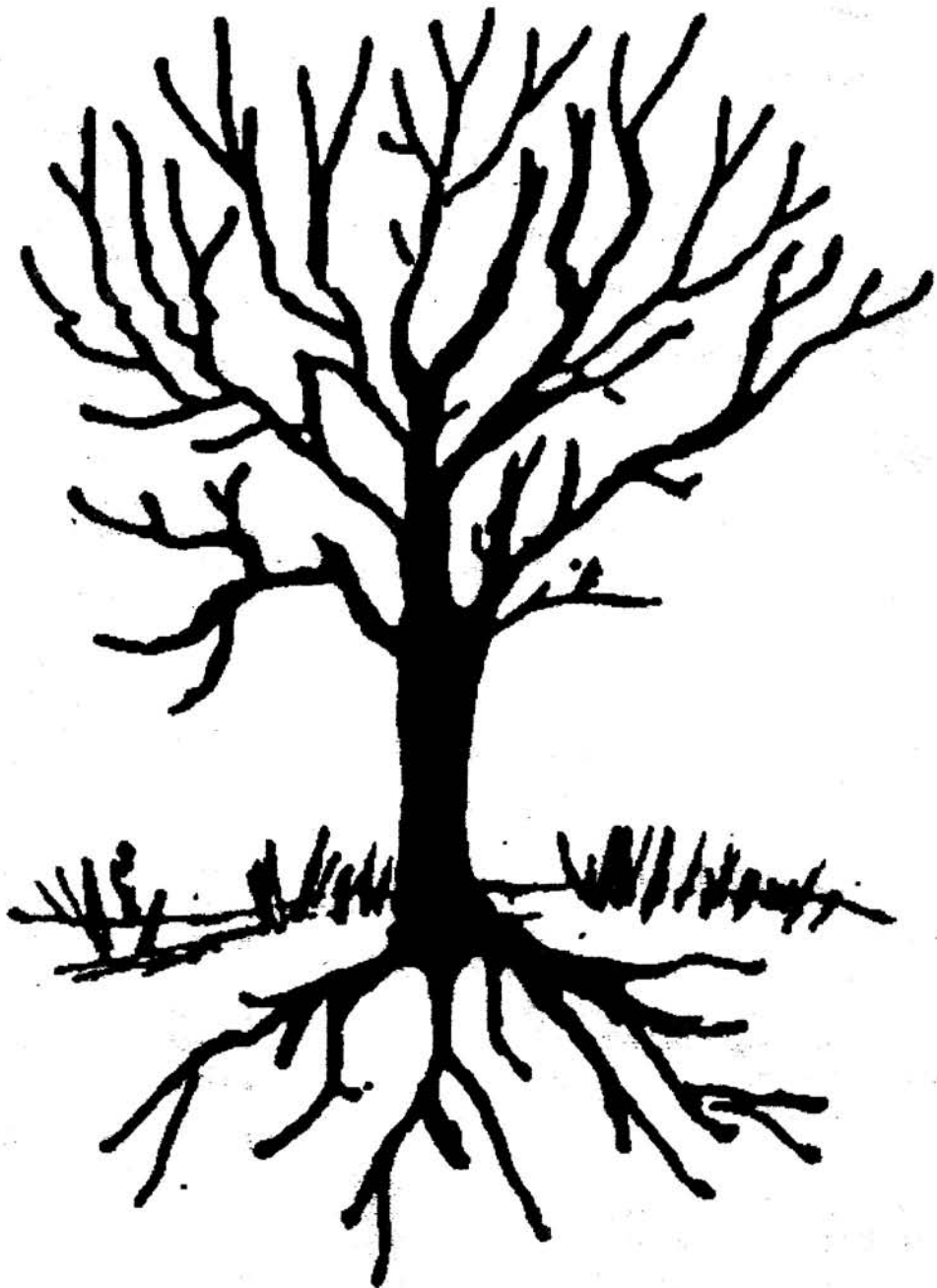

ROOTS AND BRANCHES

Volume 8, Issue 4

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Quarterly Publication of the Roots & Branches Genealogical Society



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Carol Izzo, Newsletter Editor, appreciates any genealogy-related information for the Newsletter. The information can be provided to her by e-mail (jizzo@totcon.com), at meetings, or at the DeLand Library Genealogy Room with her name on it. Please put your name on the article so you get credit.

Meeting Schedules

The Roots and Branches Society meets at the DeLand Library at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, September through June.

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REMINDER!

Do not forget to renew your annual memberships! Memberships run from January to December.

Tips for Recording Oral Histories

When you record an oral history, remember that you're an interested relative, not a hard-nosed reporter. Recording an oral history should be an enjoyable experience for everyone involved, and you're more likely to get good results if that's the case. Below are a few tips:

1. Schedule the oral history session in advance. Don't just show up on a person's doorstep unexpectedly.

2. Bring a tape recorder, or pen and paper, or both. If you want to use a tape recorder, make sure you get prior permission from the person you're interviewing. You may want to take a few notes even if you use a tape recorder, perhaps to get the correct spellings of places and people's names or as a backup in case the record malfunctions. If you use a tape recorder, be sure to test the recorder as well as the tape to make sure that each is working.
3. Make sure you record the date and location of the interview, as well as the name of the interviewer and the interviewee.
4. Ask questions to start things off, but don't be afraid to let the person you're interviewing talk "off the subject." You may get some of the best stories this way. If they really start rambling, gently steer them back to your questions.
5. Don't push for answers. If you're asking questions that seem to make the person uncomfortable, ask if they want to continue or if they would rather talk about something else.
6. If you ask "when" something happened, the answer will often be "I don't know," because the individual doesn't recall the exact date or year. Instead of asking "when," ask the question in relation to another event. For example, did an event take place before or after the individual got married, or before or after the individual's parents died? You can also begin the question with "About how old were you when..." Using these techniques, you're more likely to get answers.
7. If you have any old pictures or other items that you have questions about, bring them along. You may get answers to your questions, and you will probably hear some good stories, too.

(Tips for Recording Oral Histories cont'd from page 1)

8. **Keep the session relatively short, no more than one or two hours. Recording an oral history should be fun, not hard work. You can schedule another session at a later date if you want to continue recording the oral history.**

Suggested Topics and Questions for Oral Histories

Below are some sample topics and questions that you can use when you record oral histories. Don't limit yourself to these suggestions, however. Every family is unique, and you can probably think of some special things to talk about. Make sure you get down the name and birth date of the person you're interviewing, as well as where they fit in your family tree. Then, choose any of the topics below and begin asking questions.

Childhood

- **What do you recall about your childhood?**
- **Where did you live and go to school?**
- **What do you remember best about your parents?**
- **What did you and your siblings do in your spare time?**
- **Were you an obedient child or a mischievous child?**
- **What styles of clothing did children wear then?**

Family Traditions

- **Did your family have any special traditions, such as things that they did on holidays or birthdays?**
- **What about family heirlooms? Is there anything that's been handed down from generation to generation?**

Growing Up

- **When did you leave home?**

- **Why did you leave and where did you go?**
- **How did your life change? Did you feel grown up? Were you a little scared?**

Historical Events

- **Which significant historical events have taken place during your lifetime?**
- **Were there wars, natural disasters, or political changes?**
- **How did these events affect you?**

Hometown

- **What was the name of the place where you grew up?**
- **Was it a big city or a small town?**
- **Were there any special activities or festivals at different times during the year?**

Immigration

- **How old were you when you immigrated to the United States?**
- **Were did you come from and where and when did you arrive?**
- **How did you travel? By boat, plane, or train? How long did the trip take?**
- **What feelings did you have about coming to the United States? What was one of the biggest differences between the United States and your previous home?**

Work

- **What did your parents do for a living when you were growing up? Did you ever help them out?**
- **Was your family financially comfortable?**
- **What was your first job? How old were you at the time? How did you get your job?**

(Tips for Recording Oral Histories cont'd from page 1)

- What different jobs have you had during your life?

Physical Characteristics

- What physical characteristics do people in your family share?
- Do they all have the same hair color or eye color?
- Whom in the family do you resemble?

Previous Generations

- Did you know your grandparents or great-grandparents?
- What were their names?
- Where did they live?
- What stories can you tell about them and their lives?

Religion

- What part did religion play in your family?
- Were you very religious?
- Did you go to religious services on a regular basis?

Other Possible Topics

Education, Politics, Military Service, Recreation, Entertainers of the Era, Family Personalities, Family Pets, Traveling, Dating, Clothing, Family Recipes, Favorite Songs or Poems, Family Medical History, Marriage and Raising a Family, and anything else that may be of interest to you and your family.

Source: Genealogy.com

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FAMILY HISTORY RADIO

Family History Radio, www.familyhistoryradio.com features a summary of the latest genealogy news and events. Dick Eastman is one of the

contributors to this site. Family History Radio also offers genealogy training through its Genealogy School. Family History Radio also broadcasts the "Karen Clifford Show" where listeners can ask genealogy questions. The show has received questions from all over the United States, the UK and even as far away as Australia. What gives this program such a broad appeal is that all you need to access this show is a dial up internet connection.

Source: Jerry Hale from www.familyhistory.com

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BOOK REVIEW

Genealogy as a Pastime and Profession by Donald Lines Jacobus - G929.1 Jac. Marjorie Haney asked me if I could include a book review of this title in our newsletter. This book describes the principles of genealogy research, the evaluation of evidence, and the relationship of genealogy to chronology, eugenics, and the law. It covers early nomenclature, Royal ancestry, the use of source material, and the methods of compiling and publishing a family history and it also deals with characteristic blunders and misconceptions. The book can be purchased for less than \$10.00 on the amazon.com site.

SOURCE: www.amazon.com

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NEW AT FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

By dearmyrtle.com

Paul Starkey told us that the Family History Library Catalog located online at www.familysearch.org is now scheduled to be updated every 3 hours during the work week, a minimum of once a day. Previously this most up-to-date catalog version was accessible only at the reference desk in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

This renders totally obsolete the CDs and microfiche versions of the FHL Catalog found in your local Family History Center.

(New at the Family History Center cont'd from page 3)

This means that researchers can visit the most up-to-date catalog online from any Internet connection including home computers. This will greatly facilitate access to microfilm of original records from civil and church jurisdictions throughout the world.

There are several methods for getting to the online catalog at www.familysearch.org. One method is to click the LIBRARY tab, and then click the FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG link on the horizontal navigation bar. Search options include:

- place
- surname
- keyword
- title
- author
- subject
- call number
- film/fiche number

to locate resources including indexes, histories, compiled genealogies and filmed original documents to help with your ancestral quest.

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THOMAS JEFFERSON CONSTITUTION WEEK BANQUET - SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

A few Roots & Branches members attended this banquet for President Thomas Jefferson. It was a very educational evening. Some of the pictures of the evening follows:



Rob Warren played the role of President Thomas Jefferson



A few Roots & Branches members

IOWA GRAVESTONE PROJECT

There is a fabulous new project up and running... The Gravestone Photos Project. In the one month that it had been up, over 5,000 Iowa gravestones had been uploaded!

Please, if any of you have gravestone photos, please go to this website. It is super easy to submit them. Just click on the top menu bar "Submit a Photo" and see the instructions.

http://iagenweb.org/grave/index.php/query/cid_40/

If you do not wish your e-mail as a submitter to show, just indicate that on the Comments box.

SOURCE: Jerry Hale

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TEN BEST LOCAL LIBRARY RESOURCES

1. City Directories.
2. Compiled indices in either index or book form, i.e., marriage, passenger immigration list indices, etc.
3. Newspapers on microfilm from around the world for such things as: obituaries, wedding and birth announcements, etc.
4. Reference books such as "Who's Who, the New York Times Book Review Indices.
5. Gale's Encyclopedia of Associations - gives contact information if an ancestor belonged to a particular group or organization.
6. Census records.
7. Local vertical files.
8. Interlibrary loans gives you access to books outside of your area.
9. Book sales.
10. Internet access.

* * *

A QUICK GUIDE TO DATING PHOTOGRAPHS

Halvor Moorshead describes the basics on how to find out when a photograph was taken.

At the time the author wrote this article, CSI was the most popular show on TV. In this show, small clues lead to the solving of major crimes.

He likes detective work, making deductions from small clues. He likes trying to establish the date when a photograph was taken.

To find out who the people are, you must establish a date as this will narrow down your choices considerably. We can usually guess the age of the subjects, especially if they are children, to come up with a probable birth date.

Dating photographs is not an exact science but there is a process that you can follow. Please remember that what follow are generalities: there are always exceptions.

Women

If there are females in the picture, look at the hairstyle (this applies to both children and adults): in many cases, this alone can give you a date. From the earliest days of photography, the 1840s, until about 1870, women's hair was always parted in the middle and tied or pinned at the back. This style largely disappears by 1890. From about 1870, hairstyles change rapidly. Frequently a number of styles were popular at the same time (as they are today).

Dresses are the next most important clue. This is almost the only way of dating photos (of women) prior to 1870. Dress styles changed at least as often as they do today. People in rural and/or poor areas were not behind the sophisticated big cities when it came to fashion. This widely held belief is not borne out when pictures of known date are studied.

Men

Men are far harder to date than women. Men are usually photographed wearing a suit. While

suits from the 1840s are different from those of the 1930s, the changes are far more gradual and have a greater overlap of styles than dresses. The same applies to hairstyles and facial hair.

The easiest way to date photographs of men is neckwear. Unlike suits and hair, neckwear did change fairly frequently. Ties as we use them today, with a small knot, are not seen before about 1900. Ties with a very large knot first appear in about 1870 but are out of fashion by 1900. Small bow ties are popular at all periods from the 1840s to 1930s but large bows were out of fashion by 1870.

Beards are only helpful if they are of the "untidy" type. These were popular in the period 1860-1880.

Smiling

Having your photograph taken was a pretty formal affair, almost always done in a studio, until about 1900 when amateur photography came into vogue. A photograph was for posterity, life was serious and smiling is almost unknown before 1900.

Dating The Example

A photograph has several clues. Look at the girl's hair. A heavy bow on a girl's dress was a feature throughout the 1870s. The "sailor" top to the dress is unusual on girls though boys were often photographed in sailor outfits.

Obviously a short article like this can only scratch the surface. *Family Chronicle's Dating Old Photographs 1840-1929* (\$12 US) gives more than 650 example photographs, all of known date, to compare your own, undated photographs.

SOURCE: familychronicle.com

**ROOTS & BRANCHES GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF VOLUSIA COUNTY
2004 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

Name: (M___) _____ Maiden Name: _____

Street/P.O. Address _____ Telephone Number: _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

E-mail address: _____ NEW Member _____ RENEWAL _____

Membership period January - December. Please make check payable to the Roots and Branches Genealogy Society of Volusia County and mail to P. O. Box 612, DeLand, Florida 32721-0612.

_____ Individual & Family - \$10

AN ANCESTOR CHART IS REQUESTED. PLEASE SUBMIT AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE

-----NEW MEMBER INFORMATION-----

SURNAMES

LOCATION, TIME

SURNAMES

LOCATION, TIME

Some of June Byrne's Genealogy Sites:

A Barrel of Genealogy Links:

<http://www.genealogytoday.com/barrel>

Genealogy Sleuth Search:

<http://www.progenealogists.com/genealogysleuthb.htm>

Lots of Interesting Links:

<http://oricase.com/gen.html>

Locating towns, etc.:

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis/web_query_form

Obituary Lookup Volunteers - Rootsweb List:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~obit/>

**ROOTS AND BRANCHES GENEALOGY SOCIETY
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