



WEST VOLUSIA
ROOTS & BRANCHES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Winter, 2005

Newsletter Editor: Carol Izzo (jjzzo@totcon.com) Annual Membership: January-December

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The West Volusia Roots and Branches Genealogical Society meets at the DeLand Library at 2:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month. No regular meetings are held in July or August. All submittals to the newsletter are welcome - through e-mail, at meetings or can be left in the editor's folder in the Genealogy room in the DeLand Library.

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IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE: Mark your calendar now for the dates for the General Meetings of the Society at the DeLand Library on 3rd Sunday of the month at 2PM

New Members

Welcome! Marilyn Breeze, Lisa Graham, Kathleen Murphy, James & Carol Nichols, Mary Obrecht, Carolyn Thurlbery.

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Military Records

As a beginning genealogist, it is best to pursue one particular type of record. Service records and pension records tend to be the most accessible and are recommended for that reason.

Service records comprise the bulk of information the government keeps on any soldier. The useful genealogical data you might learn from service records could include the individual's full name, rank, age, physical description, marital status, occupation, city of birth, and place of residence at enlistment.

Pension records represent the real fun for military records research because these are the records that provide the most genealogical data, especially if your military ancestor served prior to the twentieth century.

From these files you might learn some or all of the following: the applicant's name, spouse's name (possibly even a wife's maiden name), rank, military unit, length of enlistment, and residence at time of application. You can even learn personal information such as date and place of birth, marriage or death.

If you are not certain whether your military ancestor received a pension, the federal government has published lists of pensioners at different times in history. These lists give the soldier's name, service information, age, death date, and even his or her heirs. Such lists are available for 1792-95, 1813, 1817, 1818, 1820, 1823, 1828, 1831, 1835, 1840, 1849, 1857, 1883, and 1899. They can be found in the U.S. Congressional Serial Set located in federal repository libraries or in the libraries of most major universities. Also, the federal censuses of 1840, 1890 and 1910 list veterans and pensioners.

As a rule of thumb, military records from the twentieth century can be found at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), and military records dated before 1900 can be found in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Listed below detail exactly which records are available and where they can be found:

National Archives and Records Administration Military Service Records:

<u>Service Branch</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Volunteers		1775-1902
Army	Officers Enlisted	1789-June 1917 1789-31 Oct. 1912
Navy	Officers Enlisted	1798-1902 1798-1885
Marine Corps	Officers Enlisted	1789-1895 1789-1895
Coast Guard		1791-1919*
Confederate States		1861-65
Pension Files (all claims)		1775-1916

***Including service to earlier versions of Coast Guard.**

(Military Records continued from page 1)

The National Archives does not do research for an individual. When the proper information is supplied, the Archives will provide photocopies of records for a fee.

To obtain these photocopies, submit standard NATF Form 80, on which you identify the records you seek. Form 80 can be obtained from:

**General Reference Branch (NNRG)
National Archives and Records Administration
8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20408**

National Personnel Records Center (NPRC): Military Personnel Records

<u>Service Branch</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Earliest Service Dates</u>
Air Force	Officers Enlisted	25 Sept. 1947 25 Sept. 1947
Army	Officers Enlisted	Separated 1 July 1917 Separated 12 Nov. 1912
Navy	Officers Enlisted	Separated 1 Jan. 1903 Separated 1 Jan. 1886
Marine Corps	Officers Enlisted	Separated 1 Jan. 1905 Separated 1 Jan. 1905
Coast Guard	Officers Enlisted	Separated 1 Jan. 1898 Separated 1 Jan. 1898

These records may only be obtained by the individual, a legal representative of the individual, or a family member with written permission of the individual. If the individual has passed away, a family member can obtain the records by proving relationship to the deceased.

Between 16-18 million Army and Air Force records held in St. Louis were destroyed by fire in 1973. Alternate sources can be used to reconstruct any destroyed records, but the reconstruction may not be as complete as the original.

To obtain a copy of any existing records, the individual or legal representative must submit Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records, for non-genealogical requests, and OR NA Form 13043 for genealogical requests. This form is available from

(Military Records continued from page 1)

**the National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records) at:
9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO., 63132.
Source: Ancestry Magazine, September 2000**

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Genealogy Quiz

1. **Why can't I find my ancestor's town when I look at today's map of his county?**
 - (1) **The town may no longer exist, or**
 - (2) **Your ancestor's county may have been sub-divided into more than one county.**

2. **What is a cooper?**

Seen in old census records, the term "cooper" means barrel maker.

3. **Why are Native American records sometimes difficult to find?**

Because many Native American tribes had a cultural tradition of oral records instead of written records.

4. **What is the problem with looking for my family's coat of arms?**

Coat of Arms were usually given to individuals, not to families.

5. **What is the difference between a primary source and a secondary source of genealogical information?**

Primary and secondary sources differ by time. A primary source was created at the time of a genealogical event, whereas a secondary source documents an event later on. So, a birth certificate would be a primary source to document a birth date, but an obituary giving a birth date of the deceased would be a secondary source for birth date because it is given after the fact.

6. **When interviewing an older relative to make an oral history, what should I document besides the person's stories?**

Besides the stories, you should document source information, such as WHO you are interviewing, who you are, your relationship to the person, the date of the interview, and the location of the interview.

(Genealogy Quiz continued from page 4)

7. Has the title "Mrs.," always meant married woman?

No. Mrs. Referred to an aristocratic woman, whether or not she was married.

Source: Jerry Hale from Granduncle Mark's Genealogy Parlor

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Is Your Genealogy At a Standstill?

What are you doing about it? It is often heard that nothing can be found when asked who and where they contacted to ask about ancestors - The usual excuses are the same: don't know, haven't got time, etc., etc.

Your genealogy is personal and it is your responsibility to do it. Help is available everywhere, however, you must take the initiative to seek out the information. RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH. Write, ask, read, listen, check census, check vital records, land records, ask relatives, check old newspapers, etc.

Source: Dotty Grantham from the Dunn County Genealogical Society, Oct. 1995

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Passenger Lists

If the year your ancestor came to the United States is all that you know, begin the research by viewing ships which arrived in the spring months. This is the time when most immigrants traveled. Fewer came in the summer months. Search fall, winter and summer last.

Source: Dorothy Grantham from TABLETALK, Nov. 1995.

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Thought for the Quarter

Source: Dottie Grantham from the News Journal, August, 1993



"I wish Granddad could've been at the reunion, too."

The Volusia-Flagler Council of Genealogical Societies



presents

Annual Genealogy Conference January 21, 2006

Featuring

Pamela J. Cooper as speaker

Since 1986, Pam has been the supervisor of the Florida History & Genealogy Department for the Indian River County Main Library, Vero Beach, Florida. She has served as Director of the Federation of Genealogical Societies in 1995-1998, Director of the Florida Historical Society 1997-1999, and served as President of the Florida State Genealogical Society 1999-2003 and Co-Chair of the FGS/FSGS 2003 National Conference in Orlando. She is the recipient of the 2000 NGS Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship.

WHERE: Holiday Inn; 350 International Speedway Blvd (Hwy US 92) DeLand, FL
email: holidayinnndeland@yahoo.com Tel: 386-738-5200 or 1-800-HOLIDAY

DIRECTIONS: From I-95 take US 92 (Int'l Speedway Blvd) west 15-1/2 miles OR take I-4 south. From Orlando take I-4 north. From I-4 exit 118 (US 44) go west on US 44, 2 miles. Turn right on N. Kepler Rd 2.7 miles to Int'l Speedway Blvd turn left (west) and go 2-1/3 miles to Holiday Inn on left (south) side. If you get to the intersection of Int'l Speedway (US 92) and Woodland Blvd (US 17) you have just passed the hotel on your left.

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. registration includes a buffet lunch, see form on reverse.

Program:

8:45 – 9:45 - Timing is everything! Have you timed your ancestor?

Creating a timeline for your ancestor is a very valuable research method that can open your eyes to new resources and ideas. Up to six different timeline applications will be presented: historical, family/sibling, individual, local history, land and tax. Ideas on

special timelines that deal with specific subjects such as occupations will also be demonstrated.

Break: 9:45 – 10:15

10:15 – 11:15 - Galusha A. Grow and the Homestead Law

Land records are an excellent resource for documenting residence and often personal relationships. Homestead records (1862-1986) can provide family information such as marriage, bible or naturalization records. Learn about the man who introduced the act and the steps it takes to acquire the records.

Lunch: 11:30 – 12:45

12:45 – 1:45 - Pray that you can find the church or better yet the records.

Is there a record that tells you exactly what church or religion that your ancestor belonged to? How do you find this out? Researching the neighborhood, studying the social history, reading newspapers will be just some of the suggestions on how to establish their religion and then where to look for the records.

Break: 1:45 – 2:15

2:15 – 3:15 - Stop the ship! I want to get on!

What do you know about the ships that brought our ancestors? How difficult was it for them to leave their home? How long was the journey and what was it like when they arrived. What records are there at departure and arrival? An invaluable insight to life on the ship that changed peoples lives.

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Registration fee \$32 if received by January 1, 2006, \$37 after that, must be received by January 14, 2006. Make checks payable to: **Roots & Branches Genealogical Society**
Mail to: Mary Lois Kelley, Registrar, 821 S. Amelia Ave., DeLand, FL 32724-6963
eMail: mkelle30@bellsouth.net Tel: 386 / 736-1751)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

*Tel: _____ *email: _____

Local genealogy society: _____

* optional

**Roots & Branches Genealogy Society
P.O. Box 612
DeLand, Florida 32721-0612**

Interesting Information:

This internet site is from Everton's Genealogy Helper, September/October 2005: www.cem.va.gov/. It includes names, and dates of birth and death, military service dates, service branch and rank, if known, cemetery information and grave location in the national cemeteries.

The Georgia Archives has a very good collection of genealogical records. Under the "What Do We Have?" link, the site will tell you what records are online and which are available at the Archives. The link is: <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives>).

From the National Archives of the United Kingdom online you can search over 500,000 names of Royal Navy ratings. The period that it covers is between 1853 and 1923. With this collection you can find information about an ancestor's date of birth, occupation and what ship he/she served on. Later records even include a physical description. The site is: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/browse-refine.asp?cati>.

CD's available for purchase for New York and New Jersey are available at the following site: <http://genealogycds.com>