

## ROOTS & BRANCHES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring, 2005

Newsletter Editor: Carol Izzo ([jizzo@totcon.com](mailto:jizzo@totcon.com)) Annual Membership: January-December

### Board Members - 2005

President - Rosemary G. Sutton

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Beverly R. Outlaw ([outlawb@cfl.rr.com](mailto:outlawb@cfl.rr.com))

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Robert Weaver ([rdwjvw@aol.com](mailto:rdwjvw@aol.com))

Recording Secretary - Mary Lois Kelley ([mkelle30@bellsouth.net](mailto:mkelle30@bellsouth.net))

Treasurer - Mary Ann Cring

Corresponding Secretary - Beverly McKay - ([pbmckay@earthlink.net](mailto:pbmckay@earthlink.net))

Past President - Thomas H. Calvin - ([thedoc@gate.net](mailto:thedoc@gate.net))

The Roots and Branches Genealogical Society meets at the DeLand Library at 2:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month, September through June. 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 Library.

\* \* \* \*

---

---

**IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE: Mark your calendar now for the NEW dates for the General Meetings of the Society at the Library on Sunday at 2PM as follows: March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 19.**

---

---

\* \* \* \*

### Burial Records On-line

The Department of Veterans Affairs has put the burial records of 3.2 million veterans online. They are buried in 120 national cemeteries and some state cemeteries. The records go back to the Civil War. However, nearly half of the Union dead from the Civil War are unidentified. If you are tracing an ancestor, the government has a search engine. You must know the last name. If you have more information, there is an advanced search available. Start your search at:

[http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL\\_v1](http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1)

Source: Jerry Hale from Kim Komando Show Electronic Newsletter

\* \* \* \*

## Castle Garden

**A question often asked is: how can I research my ancestors if they arrived in New York around 1886/1887?**

**Before Ellis Island opened in 1892, Castle Garden was the immigrant processing center used for the Port of New York. Unfortunately, there is a gap in indexing from 1847 through 1897 for the port of New York City. Even a single year in those microfilmed passenger lists can take a while to go through when you must look at each page in search of one passenger.**

**By learning some additional information about your ancestor, you may be able to limit the number of lists you will need to go through. For example, knowing what port your ancestor emigrated from or the shipping line can help narrow your search. Just knowing the country may even help you to narrow the search some. You'll find a number of suggestions in John Colletta's *They Came in Ships* a book with useful information.**

**You may find additional information in other records. For instance, if your ancestor was naturalized you may find the exact date of arrival and name of the ship in either the declaration of intent or the application for naturalization. If you can find your ancestor in the 1900 census or later, you'll find columns that ask about immigration and naturalization. These columns can help you figure out if and when your ancestor was naturalized.**

**Keep in mind that information on where your ancestor was born was not recorded on passenger lists at this time. Instead, the naturalization record is a better record for possibly listing the place of birth of an immigrant ancestor.**

**Source: Rhonda McClure, Genealogy.com**

\* \* \* \*

## Ellis Island and Philadelphia

**If you are looking for a good place to start searching for relatives or ancestors who immigrated to the USA through Ellis Island and Philadelphia read the following paragraphs:**

**If your ancestors arrived prior to 1920, then you will want to make sure and look for them in the census records (also the 1910 and 1900 if applicable). This will help you to know if they have been naturalized as well as giving you the year they immigrated. You will also want to make sure to get death records and vital records on any children they had after immigrating. If you have found them in the 1900, 1910 or 1920 census, and they say they have been naturalized, you will want to get their naturalization papers.**

**Once you have done all this, you can then turn your attention to the passenger lists. Ellis Island and Philadelphia have indexes to many of their passenger lists. If your ancestors** *(Ellis Island and Philadelphia continued from page 2)*

**immigrated after about 1905 then the passenger lists will tell you the town of birth for your ancestors, as well as whom they were meeting there and who paid for their passage over. If your ancestors came before 1892, you will want to keep in mind that if they did come through New York, it was not through Ellis Island, but through Castle Garden or the Battery Barge Office.**

**Source: Genealogy.com**

\* \* \* \*

### **Hotel Putnam**

**The Hotel Putnam, located on West New York Avenue was built in 1880 by A. Putnam who came to DeLand from Palatka, Florida where he had previously built the Putnam Hotel which he sold before coming to DeLand. The Putnam's had two daughters who attended Stetson University.**

**In the 1880's, the hotel and city came alive during the winter season and hotel rooms faced orange groves instead of asphalt. The large, sand brick structure was rounded by a ten acre orange grove. By 1898, the hotel owned by Garner Gould was the second largest hotel in DeLand. In an 1885 promotional publication, Putnam House owners Putnam and Cowles offered, "A table supplied with Northern meats, fish and oysters from the coast, fruits, vegetables, venison and game, and a plentiful supply of fresh milk from Jersey stock..." The Putnam remained a popular winter retreat through the turn of the century and into the 1920's. Everything changed in 1921 when an explosion and fire struck the hotel. The frame structure burned to the ground. A new company was formed and the hotel was rebuilt within months.**

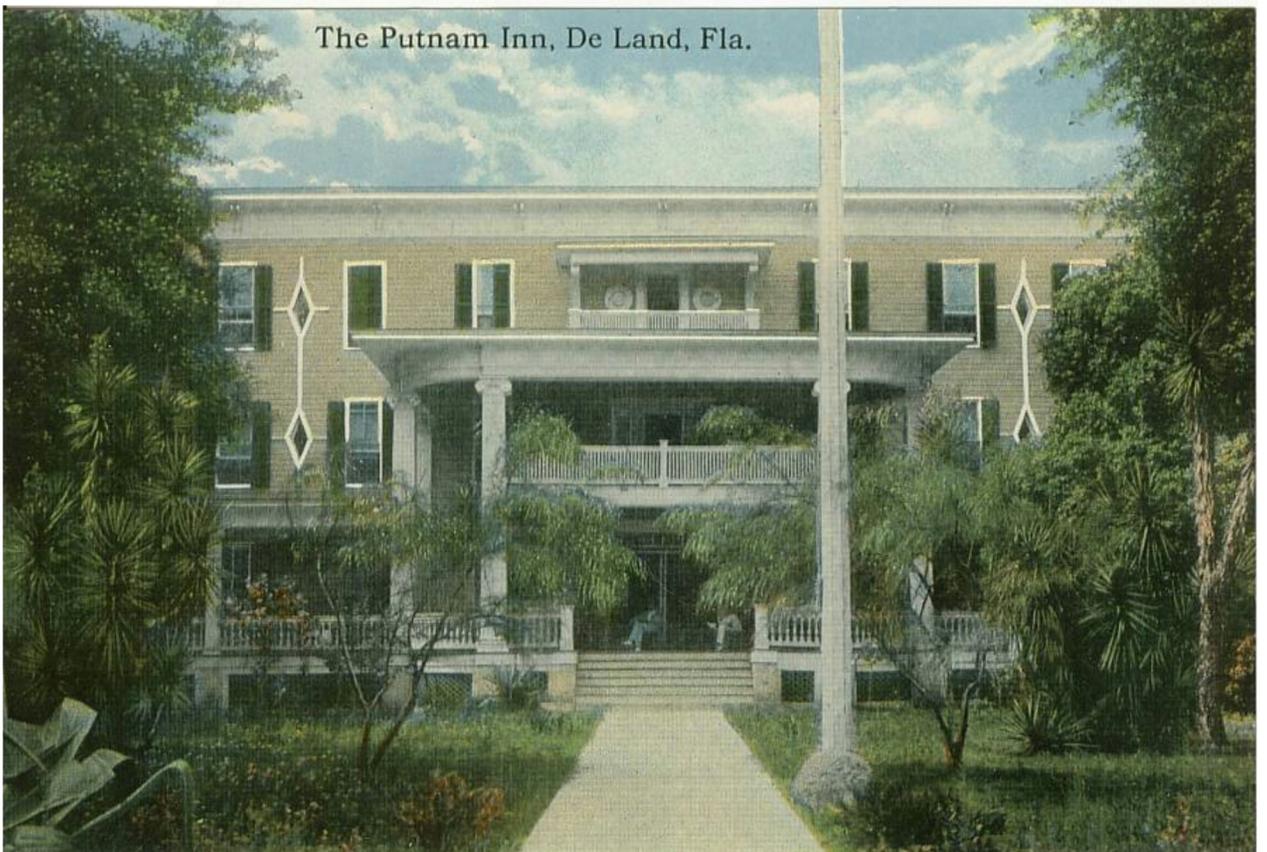
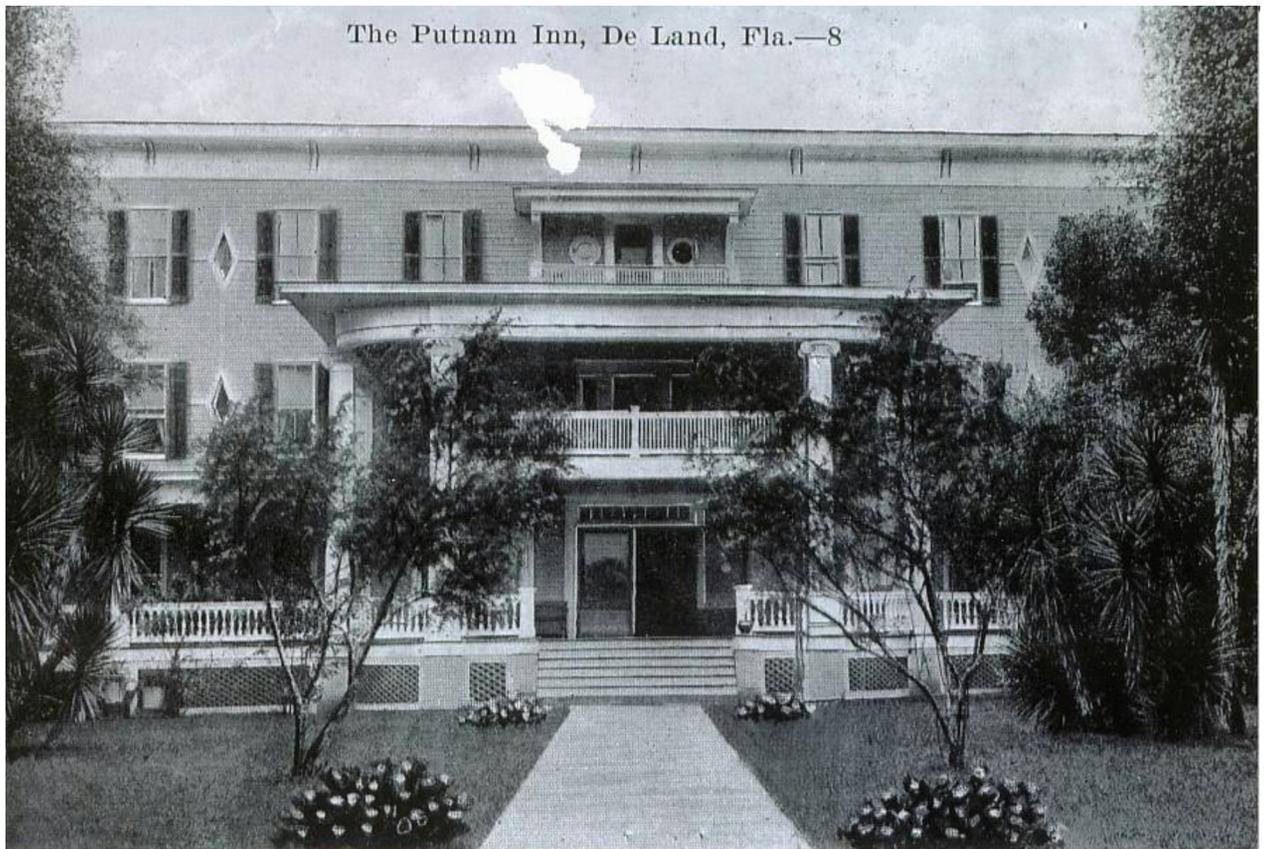
**A sample of the Christmas holiday menu of 1885:**

**Soups: Mock Turtle, Mullagatawny**

**Fish: Baked Blue a la Bordelaise**

**Roast: Sirloin of Beef with dish gravy, Lamb with mint sauce, Sugar Cured Ham with Champagne sauce, Green Goose with jelly, young Turkey stuffed with cranberry sauce, larded Partridge a L'Espanole, etc.**

**Esther Gould, a volunteer at the front desk of the DeLand Public Library, donated some photo/postcards of the old Putnam Hotel before it burned. The photo/postcards can be found in the vertical files in the Genealogy Room. Below are two images about five years apart. Take note of the people on the porch and the flagpole in one image:**



Source: Esther Gould and information from vertical file in Genealogy Room

## **Release of Dower**

**The release of dower is a part of a land record in which the owner of the land, usually the husband, was selling the land to someone else. The release of dower was the wife's signing away her claim to the one-third right she had in the land.**

**Usually a land record includes the names of the grantor and grantee, the amount of money that is changing hands, and the description of the land. Below this you will find the signature of the grantors of the land and also the signatures of the witnesses. Usually below this, and written by the county clerk is the part about the release of dower.**

**You can go through the indexes for the land records looking for what land is listed for the father and each of the children in the family. You will want to plot it out and compare the land descriptions and see who is buying and who is selling. If you have found all the land records then the total amount of land purchases should equal the total amount of land sold. Keep in mind that the land may have been sold by an administrator or executor of a deceased individual.**

**Source: Rhonda McClure, Genealogy.com**

\* \* \* \*

## **Tips Regarding Digital Photos**

**Review your digital photos and print out the best ones, i.e. the "keepers", on photo grade paper of the same brand as your printer. Store the photos as you would any photo - in an archival scrapbook, albums or in photo storage boxes.**

**Back up your digital pictures on CD-R or DVD-R in case you have a hard drive crash. Use top quality CDs to get the best life. No one knows for sure how long CDs will last as they are a recent innovation. However, accelerated aging tests would suggest that 100 years is possible if stored in the dark in moderate conditions. But will anybody a hundred years from now have a CD drive to read the CD's?**

**Did you know that JPEG files lose image quality every time they are opened, edited, and saved? If you want to do a lot of editing, either work on a copy, or save the file in the TIFF format, which does not experience this loss. However, opening or displaying a JPEG image does not harm it in any way. Nor does renaming a JPEG cause any image quality loss.**

**Continue to use film photography, in addition to digital, for important events. While home printers and inks have vastly improved, a professionally finished picture will last longer. Photo paper and dyes used by your film processor are designed for long lasting color retention. Source: Jerry Hale**

\* \* \* \*

## **History Detectives “Did Your Family Make Its Mark On History?”**

**Is your family history connected to a significant moment in America’s history? Let “History Detectives in on the story! If your genealogy research has turned up clues that your ancestors played a key role in a history-making event, “History Detectives” wants to help you piece the puzzle together. You and the ghosts of ancestors past could appear on PBS’ hit series this summer! Submit your family’s genealogy mystery online at: <http://www.pbs.org/historydetectives> or mail at: History Detectives Oregon Public Broadcasting, 7140 SW Macadam Ave., Portland, OR 97219.**

\* \* \* \*

### **Tips For Writing Cameo Narratives**

**One way to use photographs is to create cameo narratives which are usually 50 to 150 words in length. These short narratives are paired with photographs or created to fill a story gap when there is no photograph for an event.**

**A bare bones narrative adds a little to the story your photo already tells. However, cameo narratives give readers an insight into emotions, motivations and concepts that otherwise might be missing.**

**Some important tips in writing cameo narratives are:**

- 1. Cameo narratives are independent pieces of material. The effect when used with your photographs will create a very rich story. Memories that last through the years are great contributions to your book.**
- 2. Always use precise dates. Include the correct names of people and places.**
- 3. Write tangible feelings. Being sad is intangible, but crying is tangible.**
- 4. Make use of all five senses when writing your narrative. Do not use vague words.**
- 5. Be concise. Nine to fifteen words in a sentence is enough.**
- 6. Use only understandable words.**
- 7. Do not use clichés, stereotypes or cute phrases.**
- 8. A writing buddy can be useful to tell you what is unclear or uninteresting.**
- 9. Double check details! Is everything accurate?**

**Source: [www/turningmemories.com](http://www.turningmemories.com)**