



ROOTS & BRANCHES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall, 2005

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

Board Members - 2005

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Corresponding Secretary - Marti Kara (MartiKara@cfl.rr.com) - 386-668-8234

Past President - Thomas H. Calvin (thedoc@gate.net) - 386-668-1071

The Roots and Branches Genealogical Society meets at the DeLand Library at 2:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month. We do not meet 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 Library.

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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: October 16, November 20 and December 18.

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The following topics will be discussed at our general Roots & Branches meetings this year:

October 16 - What is the PERSI Index? Where do I find it? What periodicals are in the Genealogy Room and how do I find them? Listing, examples and demonstration.

November 20- What Genealogy material is contained in all the file cabinets in the Genealogy Room? Listing, examples - Microfilm, Microfiche, Vertical files, and the Brownell Collection.

December 18- Annual meeting, Election, Holiday refreshments and program.

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Young Men And The Civilian Conservation Corps

If you had an unmarried male ancestor who was between 18 to 25 years old from 1933-1945 he could have been in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was established during the Depression to provide employment to many young men. The term of enlistment varied. Some men served for a year, others longer.

There were more than 4,000 CCC camps across the country. The first corps was in New England and the ninth corps was in the west portion of the country and included California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington. The men that populated these camps could have come from anywhere in the United States. The camps were close to a railroad station, as that was the mode for transporting the millions of recruits.

These men built cabins, and other facilities, hiking trails, lookout towers, picnic shelters, planted trees, developed roads and parking and controlled erosion.

If you think one of your ancestors served in the CCC, you can obtain his records. Since the recruits were civilian employees, the records are available from the National Civilian Personnel Record Center where records for most government civilian employees are also kept.

The file could contain the recruit's enlistment, discharge, camp, and medical records. Make sure to request *all* documents in the file, not just the enlistment or discharge paper. The Office of Personnel Management requires a written request, signed and dated to access information from civilian personnel records. Written authorization of the person of record, or proof of that person's death is also needed. More information can be accessed from the Civilian Personnel Record Center website at http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/civilian_personnel_records/civilian_records_faqs.html.

Your request letter should contain the full name of the CCC enlistee, his Social Security number if known, birth date, and the statement that he served in the CCC and approximate dates of enlistment. Personal visits, phone, and e-mail requests are not acceptable. Mail a letter containing the above information to:

National Personnel Records Center
Civilian Personnel Records
111 Winnebago Street
St. Louis, MO 63118

The enrollment form provides the name, address, post office name, and county of residence, and date and place of birth of the enlistee. It also lists a physical description including height, weight and color of eyes and hair. This document states whether the father and mother were living and the number of brothers and sisters of the enrollee. It gives the occupation of the principal wage earner, which is sometimes a WPA job. The

(Young Men & The Civilian Conservation Corps continued from page 2)

form also provides the education experience of the enlistee. If one or both parents worked for the WPA, request their records from the same facility.

The personal history section provides the camp(s) number and name(s) where the enlistee served. This form lists the name of the father, his nationality, education, and occupation. The same information is available for the enlistee's mother. The form also lists the name and address of the "designated allottee" for the monthly paycheck. The civilian record also provides the company record. The discharge record provides a record of the CCC service.

The National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (NACCCA) museum, located at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri, houses memorabilia from this important time in the life of our ancestors.

The museum has some of the newspaper, *Happy Days*. They have many camp and personal photos from various camps. The staff is busy cataloging the photos by camp number. Donations are accepted and appreciated. The book "The Tree Army" is also available at the museum.

On a recent visit, one genealogist found a photo of her father's camp. For a nominal fee or donation, the staff will search the records for information on the camp in which your ancestor participated. You need to know the camp number and location. It is available on the civilian record listed previously. First request the civilian record, then request assistance from the museum. Further information about this national museum is available on the website: <http://www.cccalumni.org/>. Some states and areas have local organizations and museums as well. You can contact the national museum at:

NACCCA Museum
16 Hancock Avenue
P.O. Box 16429
St. Louis, MO 63125
314-487-8666
nacca@aol.com

Source: NGS NewsMagazine

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New Members

Welcome! Linda Breitbard, Barbara Sayer Close, Lee Phillips, and Jerrie Tedros.

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Word Meanings

Some of today's most familiar words had different meanings earlier. Some of them are: "Niece" or "nephew" is from the Latin words which meant "granddaughter and "grandson," so you may find them used in this way.

Today, when we say "junior" or "senior" we usually think of father and son. However, in the past these words were used more liberally and could refer to an uncle and nephew, or even to two people with the same name who were unrelated.

"Brother" and "sister" were also used in different ways. Members of the same church often referred to each other as brothers and sisters, and a married couple would refer to their brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law just as brothers and sisters.

The term "in-law" was also used differently. In the past, "in-law" relationships could be either step relationships or the regular in-law relationship that we think of today.

Misunderstanding and misinterpreting these terms can really put a twist in the branches of your family tree. Therefore, when reading older records it is important to be cautious. When possible, always verify information with other records. This is the best way to make sure you have correct information. Also look at the rest of the language in the document. The more "old terms" and spellings you find, the more careful you should be.

Source: Tom Calvin from Familytreemaker.com

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DeLand Roots & Branches will be hosting the next Annual Genealogical Conference on January 21, 2006. It will be held at the Holiday Inn, 350 International Speedway Blvd (US 92) DeLand. Registration includes a buffet lunch. Registration will be from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Pamela J. Cooper will be our featured speaker. She has been the supervisor of the Florida History & Genealogy Department for the Indian River County Main Library in Vero Beach, Florida. She has served as Director of the Federation of Genealogical Societies from 1995-1998, Director of the Florida Historical Society from 1997-2003 and Co-Chair of the FGS/FSGS 2003 National Conference in Orlando. She is also the recipient of the 2000 NGS Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship.

The topics she will be discussing will be:

Timing is everything! Have you timed your ancestor? 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.

(Roots & Branches Annual Genealogical Seminar continued from page 4)

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.

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.

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 people lives. The Registration form is attached:

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. E-mail: mkelle30@bellsouth.net. Tel: 386-736-1751.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (Optional) _____ E-mail(Optional) _____

Local genealogy society _____

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Railroad Research

Begin your research for your railroad ancestor by first determining the location in which he or she lived at the time of employment with a railroad. Published histories and state archives or libraries can ascertain which railroad lines ran through the area at that time. Historical maps at the Library of Congress, American Memory Collection as well as the "Maps" section of Ancestry.com can be very helpful for this purpose.

The next step is to trace railroad mergers, acquisitions, and other dispositions that may have happened. Then locate the current administrative offices of the railroad and determine whether they still have employee records. They may have been donated to a library or archive or to a genealogical or historical society. In the case of a railroad's bankruptcy, bankruptcy court records can help you determine the disposition of the property, assets, and the company's records.

Tips – Look beyond the Railroad Retirement Board if you are seeking information about an ancestor who may have completed his or her career prior to 1937 when the Railroad Retirement Board was commissioned - the Board will not have his/her records.

Stray from a single railroad. Chances are good that an ancestor who worked his/her whole working life, for example, with Penn Central, may have actually started with the New York Central or the New Haven and Hartford, and landed at Penn Central via consolidation. Nearly every railroad in the United States has such a fragmented history.

Think beyond engineers and ticket-takers. Other railroad jobs included track layers, gandy dancers, firemen, postal clerks, etc.

Contact employee groups and railroad historical societies. They may be able to assist you in finding former rail workers and getting messages to your ancestors former coworkers or they may have access to old newsletters that could give you clues or pictures of your ancestors.

The railroad Retirement Board will release information on deceased persons for genealogical research, but it will not release any information for living individuals without that person's written consent. Files for railroad employees are found only at the headquarters of the Railroad Retirement Board. There are several records that can be included in the package they send you. They charge a nonrefundable fee of \$27.00 per record as of May/June 2005 payable in advance.

For more information about the Railroad Retirement Board, visit www.rrb.gov. You will find a link on the main screen labeled "Genealogical Inquiries" that will provide details about the office. There is also a link to "Genealogical Research Before 1936" at www.rrb.gov/geneal2.html that will give you a partial list of depositories with railroad clubs. It is not complete but it is a good resource.

Source: Ancestry Magazine

ROOTS & BRANCHES GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF VOLUSIA COUNTY
2005 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-

SURNAMEN	LOCATION, TIME	SURNAMEN	LOCATION, TIME

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

Internet Resources:

Polish Roots – www.polishroots.com

Polish State Archives – www.archiwa.gov.pl

Catholic Archives in Poland – www.aap.poznan.pl/index.php?edkat=52

Polish Maps and Gazetteers - www.pilot.pl

Swedish Ancestry Research Assn. –

http://www.members.tripod.com/~SARAssociation/sara/SARA_Home_Page.htm

**Their address: Swedish Ancestry Research Assn., P.O. Box 70603, Worcester,
Massachusetts 01607-0603**

**The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies has helpful information in English at
<http://www.genealogi.se/roots>**

**To receive the new (free) Volusia Newsletter by John Woodard send him a request at
VFCGSNewsletter@cfl.rr.com**