



## Roots and Branches Genealogy Society of West Volusia County

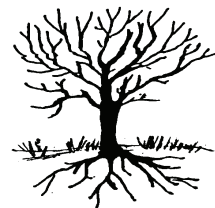
130 E. Howry Avenue, DeLand, Florida 32724

January, February, March 2009  
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flrbgs/



The Closest We Will Ever Get to a Snow Man  
in Florida is a Snow Globe...aren't we lucky?

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!



Pictured are my maternal great grandparents (my mother's father's parents) from Prizzi, Palermo, Sicily. Their names are: Georgio Macaluso and Anna Fucarino. He was born in Prizzi February 18, 1835. She was born in Prizzi January 2, 1842. They were married April 26, 1868 in Prizzi and they both died in Prizzi. They were farmers, and their children, all born in Prizzi, were: Pietro— July 8, 1867; Rosalia— August 14, 1869 and died in the early 1950's in Brooklyn, New York; Pasquale —born April 28, 1872; Giuseppe—(my grandfather) born August 9, 1878 and died October 5, 1954 in the Bronx, New York; Paolo— born February, 1881 and died July 16, 1884; Santa born February 14, 1884 and died in the Bronx, New York; and Pietro— born July 7, 1874 and died in the Bronx, New York November 5, 1947.—  
*Carol Izzo/ See Page 5 Cover*

**A Wonderful Photo from the 1800's of My Sicilian Grandparents Born in Prizzi —Carol Izzo**

### Inside this issue:

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### Special points of interest:

*Discover intriguing facts about Prizzi, Palermo, Sicily the hometown of Carol Izzo's family, page 5.*

*Jerry has written "a how to" with graphics on how to tune in to Roots TV online, page 6.*

*You'll laugh at a son's 1933 vintage story about his mother driving a model T, page 13.*

*Get a glimpse of what it's like "inside" the DAR at the DAR Fall Forum in September, 2008 at the Marriott in Orlando, page 14.*

*The VCGS is hosting The Volusia-Flagler Council of Genealogical Societies 2009 Genealogical Seminar January 24, 2009, 8 AM-4 PM with George Morgan and Drew Smith. Deadline to register is December 31, 2008. A registration form is available online at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flrbgs/index.htm> in the Winter 2008 Roots & Branches newsletter.*

## What Is Roots & Branches?

**History & Mission:** Founded in 1986, the Roots & Branches Society of West Volusia County, serves the cities of DeLand, Deltona, DeBary, Enterprise, Osteen, Pierson, and Seville. The purpose of this Society is to stimulate and promote interest in genealogical and historical research; to provide instruction in the use of efficient mechanics and adherence to scientific principles of accuracy and thoroughness in research.

**Society Projects & Lecture Subjects:** Our meetings feature workshops and speakers on such topics as early land, church, census and

probate records; research documentation and organization; DNA testing and internet search. Society projects include staffing the Genealogy Room at the DeLand Public Library, digitizing the Brownell Collection for preservation and sharing with the Historical Society, maintaining the vertical files and an indexed collection of obituaries from the Beacon and News-Journal, and continuing the collection of pertinent information on West Volusia cities and pioneer families of the area.

With ninety-nine members from all over the United States, the Society

is a diverse group of all ages. We meet the third Sunday of each month, September through June, in the Auditorium of the DeLand Public Library for a Program at 2:00 PM. A 45 minute beginner's lesson is offered at 1:00 PM prior to the meeting in the Conference Room behind the Audio/Visual desk. Guests are always welcome. The Society's Board meeting is held the Friday prior to the General Meeting at 3:00 PM in the Conference Room. Members are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Welcome new members!**

**Caroline Gordon and David Ceresoli of Orange City**

## Officers & Committees

**President:** Jim Pardee

**1st Vice President & Program Chairman:** Jacqueline Kersh

**2nd Vice President & Membership Chairman:** Mary Lois Kelley

**Recording Secretary:** Harriet Bolin

**Treasurer:** Judy Warensford

**Corresponding Secretary:** Jerry Hale

**Past President ex officio:** Rosemary Sutton

**Publicity Chairman:** Carol Izzo

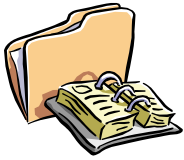
**Newsletter Distribution:** Mary Lois Kelley

**Newsletter Editor:** Linda Williamson

**Webmaster:** John Woodard



**PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR GENEALOGY ROOM DUTY; WE NEED YOUR HELP!**



## Winter Calendar—*Jacqueline Kersh*



*Editor's Note: We are sorry to lose Carol Izzo as Vice President and Program Chairman, but happy to welcome Jacqueline Kersh. She will begin her duties mid-December. Members of the Society send a big thank you for the many great programs you arranged for us Carol.*

**Sunday, December 21, 2008 Annual Business Meeting and Christmas Social.** We review our accomplishments and ask your input in the way of a survey, so that our programs reflect your interests. Afterwards, we enjoy a social time and refreshments provided by Board Members..

**January 1, 2009 Membership fees are due.** Membership is \$15/per individual or couple. Mail your checks payable to Roots & Branches addressed to Roots & Branches, the Deland Public Library, 130 E. Howry, Deland, Florida 32724; or our Membership Chairman, Mary Lois Kelley, will take your payment at the next meeting.

**Sunday, January 18, 2009—A. G. Conlon** of Winter Park will speak on "Researching Immigration Records".

**Sunday, February 15, 2009—Lee Folino**, in her presentation, gives clues on how to find ancestors—"When You Can't Find Them in Ellis Island Records". She starts with some items like the other landing sites in NYC, e.g. Castle Garden, and non-NYC sites, etc., and then goes on to highlight the pitfalls in some of the commonly used immigration sources, identifies possible emigration sources of information, and finishes with a search for what she calls "First Generation Records" as a possible lead to immigration information.

**Sunday, March 15, 2009—To be announced.**

## The President's Agenda—Jim Pardee



December 1, 2008.

Greetings, Rooters,

As I pointed out in the Fall newsletter the last three months are the shortest of the year and here they are gone already.

When I wrote that last letter, we had the scanning going full throttle and were looking forward to having completed some projects by the end of they year. I spoke too soon, as that computer failed four DAYS later and has not yet been repaired by the library's computer guy. So much for plans. On the other hand, we still could use some more volunteers for assisting the scanners. Contact me or Jerry Hale for details.

In January, the regional seminar will be held in Daytona and it promises to be one of the best so far with George Morgan and his AHA seminar buddy conducting a very interesting program. There will be many prizes for attendance, etc., so, don't get left out.

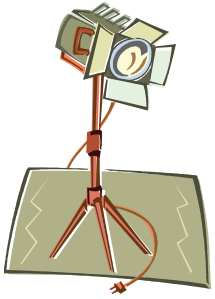
Here in Deland, we have some of our favorite speakers making return visits over the next few months. You liked them before; you'll like them even more for the second time.

We are still trying to work out the conflict with the Arts and Crafts fair for a good weekend in November 2009. We were able to get a fair showing this year even though the city moved the fair to the weekend we had chosen for our meeting.

Thanks for all your help in 2008 and let's make 2009 another good year.

*Jim*





## Member Spotlight: We Already Knew It—Esther Gould Is “Young At Heart”! She is featured in the November 2008 Senior Living Guide. —Linda Williamson

We already knew she was young at heart and now it is official: Esther Gould was featured in the “Deland Beacon’s” “Young At Heart Senior Living Guide 2008” that came out in November.

This is what we found out: Her birthplace is Madison, Maine and she is 66 years old. (*Sorry Esther—we’re just reporting!*) Her current residence is Deland.

She is a homemaker, bookkeeper and long time volunteer. Her volunteer activities include: staffing

the Genealogy Room at the Deland Public Library for the Roots & Branches Society of West Volusia County. Her reason for volunteering is that “She Loves it.” She admits that has the ‘genealogy bug’ and is curious about her roots and those of others.” “A Memorable Moment” for Esther is “Seeing the look on the faces of patrons when they find a long lost relative.” You can also find her making prayer quilts for parishioners at the First Presbyterian Church and patients at nursing homes. Her advise to others: “Volunteering helps build good friendships.”—Linda Williamson / From the Nov. ’08 DeLand Beacon



## “Outstanding Presentation”—Lee Folino’s “Researching in New York” —Jerry Hale

All who attended the Sunday, 23 of November meeting of Roots & Branches were treated to an outstanding presentation by Lee Folino who gave an animated and very interesting talk entitled “Researching in New York.”

Ms. Folino's handout was very detailed so everyone could concentrate on her presentation and not bother taking notes. We learned so many things about researching in NYC on the internet, using the Family History Center's resources and books in print which uniquely address NYC research that it would be hard to mention a fraction of it all in a short article. Her handout will be an excellent “Research Guide” and will be on the offline computer for future reference.

Ms. Folino worked from a Power Point presentation which was very

well done. For a while before the meeting it seemed as if the Power Point slides would have to give way to the old fashioned transparency. Ms. Folino had brought two computers and had her presentation backed up on a flash drive which saved the day. After neither of her computers would work with the library projector the library staff brought in their own notebook computer, Ms. Folino was then able to plug in her flash drive and work from that. As she said, one needs belt AND suspenders and sometimes neither can be relied upon.

We learned about the “musical graves” which, without her insight, would prevent one from ever locating many of the graves in the 5 borough area. Now we have at least a chance of finding out what happened to our NYC ancestors and where we might find them.

Ms. Folino demonstrated how a little



Lee Folino Addressing R&B  
November 23, 2008

information from one source reveals just enough information to make a previously fruitless search in another source useful. Her methodology was a lesson in itself. We all agreed that Ms. Folino was one of the best speakers we've had and Carol immediately engaged her for another presentation in February. Be sure not to miss her then.—Jerry Hale

# Cover Picture: Picturesque Prizzi, Palermo, Sicily: Birthplace of Carol Izzo's Family and the Mafia????!!—Linda Williamson

## Provincia di Palermo SICILY



Carol Izzo's maternal great grandfather was Georgio Macaluso. In Italian, Macaluso is the status name for a freed surf, from the Sicilian dialect term macalusciu, macaluggiu freedman. Her maternal Great Grandmother, was Anna Fucarino. Both were born and died in the medieval town of Prizzi, a 2 hour drive south of Palermo, deep in the Sicilian interior. Prizzi was founded by the Greeks in about 480 BC, and was alternately conquered by the Byzantines (8th Century AD) and Saracens (9th century AD), the latter of who built three lofty castles and created a "cult of water" with an elaborate network of drinking troughs. Christian conquest came in the 11th century. The name of Prizzi derives from Greek and means fire. From the 12th century Prizzi become a feudal village and was given to Monastery of St. Angelo, a property of the Cistercians. In the 13th and 14th centuries it came into domination of Bonanno and remained until 1812 when feudal duties were abolished.

Unique in Italy and peculiar of Prizzi is the so-called "Ballo dei Diavoli" (Dance of Devils) that takes place on Easter Sunday. The festival represents the age-old struggle between good and evil. Figures dressed as red devils, their faces covered with grotesque masks, parade through the streets, searching for souls to devour. Death is seen dressed in yellow and carrying a crossbow. All ends well.



From Fodor's: Buried in the heart of Mafia country (22 km [14 mi] of west of Lercara Friddi, a 3,267-foot mountain, which gave the world Lucky Luciano, Prizzi, population 6,000, is a fairy-tale aerie, a floating apparition of twisting stone alleyways and brown rooftops gently dusting the peak. Its medieval layout and architecture -- surreally frozen in another age -- and dreamy views of the surrounding countryside, perhaps best seen at sunset, make it well worth a stop along the way between Palermo and Agrigento.

The name "Prizzi" became known to the outside world through 1985's wryly comic mobster movie *Prizzi's Honor*,



but the town feels as far removed as imaginable from Hollywood glamour and glitz. There's little in the way of significant art or monuments, and the secrets of the Mafia presence lie out of reach to visitors, buried in inaccessible crevices of local culture. But you can spend hours wandering in and out of the maze of steeply sloped alleyways, with tiny, still-inhabited houses built into the rock, eventually giving way to the remains of three castles and the mountain's dazzling peak, from which, on a clear day, you can view the sea of Sciacca to one side and the cone of Mt. Etna to the other. *Online:* [http://www.fodors.com/world/europe/italy/sicily/feature\\_30003.html](http://www.fodors.com/world/europe/italy/sicily/feature_30003.html). Carol has discovered that the LDS Church has the book entitled, "Story of Prizzi" or "Storia di Prizzi" from approx. 840 A.D. to around 1838.—Linda Williamson



# Tune Into Roots TV Online At <http://www.rootstelevision.com/> —

*Jerry Hale*

Would you like to attend a genealogy conference and talk to Elizabeth Shown Mills, Dick Eastman, Megan Smolenyak or Cyndi Howells?

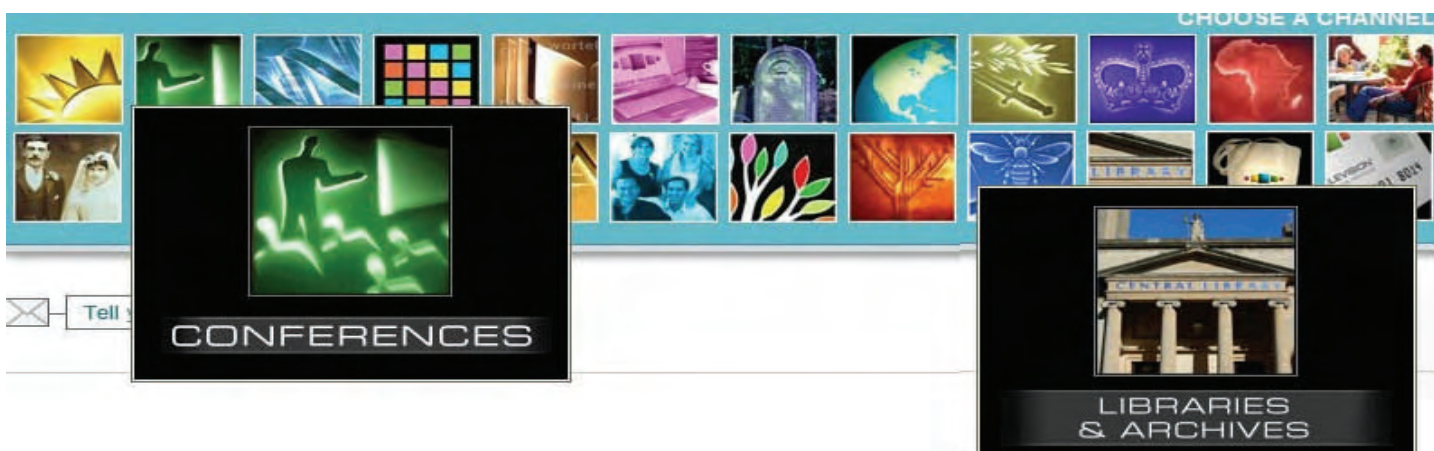
You can watch videos of such things at no cost at Roots TV.

When you go to the Roots TV web site you will be greeted with a short and tasteful "commercial" and then be able to watch the featured video, at the moment it is Dick Eastman's interview with John Titford, the President of Wholly Genes, the author of the program "The Master Genealogist." John and Dick got together while on the Wholly Genes Cruise, another of the great genealogy cruises that Mort and Jean Allread told us about after they came back from the first one.

Dick Eastman said this about his interview with John, "John Titford is a well-known British genealogy expert, author and lecturer. I had a chance to talk with John on the recent Wholly Genes 2008 Genealogy Conference/ Cruise about his recently completed project of rewriting The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames. We also talked about several other topics, including his experience with Louisiana culture & history. An Englishman in Louisiana? Indeed and with an interesting story to tell.



Run your mouse slowly over the menu buttons, each will pop out with a label that tells you what category it represents.







When you select a category you will be taken to another page with thumbnails of all of the programs that are available for viewing in that category. Click on any of them and the video will load and begin to play. You can pause, rewind etc just as you would with your VCR.

If you want to browse through all of the programs available, click on the "Program Guide" button at the upper right corner of the home page

[PROGRAM GUIDE](#)



<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> 	<p><a href="#"><u>Cyndi Howells - Genealogy Conference/Cruise</u></a></p>	<p><a href="#">Dick Eastman</a> speaks with Cyndi Howells, owner of <a href="#">Cyndi's List</a>, on the 4th annual <a href="#">Wholly Genes</a> cruise about her categorized, cross-referenced list of more than 265,000 genealogy sites on the Internet.</p>
<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> 	<p><a href="#"><u>Elizabeth Shown Mills - Genealogy Conference/Cruise 2008</u></a></p>	<p>Dick Eastman interviews Elizabeth Shown Mills, genealogy author/speaker, on the 4th Annual Genealogy Conference and Cruise, hosted by <a href="#">Wholly Genes, Inc.</a> They talk about genealogy methodology and the importance of citing and evaluating sources.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>"One-Step" Genealogy with Stephen Morse at FGS 2007</u></a></p>	<p><a href="#">Dick Eastman</a> interviews Stephen Morse, creator of <a href="#">"One-Step"</a> genealogy at the 2007 FGS Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The One-Step tools provide more powerful interfaces for searching online databases. <a href="#">Roots Television</a></p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>A First Look at deCODEme</u></a></p>	<p>Megan Smolenyak provides a tour of Iceland's new deCODEme DNA test by sharing the results of her husband's recent test, which explores the medical, ancestral, comparative and physical trait aspects of the test.</p>

Select any one that looks interesting. There are lessons, how to videos, music, The Story of Annie Moore, the first immigrant through Ellis Island. You will note interviews with all of the people mentioned above and much, much more.

This site is like a candy store for genealogists, I think you will enjoy it.—*Jerry Hale*





# Sleuthing With Jerry—The Digitization of “Everything” and A Step By Step “How To” on Researching South Carolina Records —

*Jerry Hale*



The rush toward digitization of everything is picking up speed. Newspapers are being scanned and digitized by Footnote—Ancestry has a large collection. Google is scanning the University of Michigan Collection—there are many, many public domain books at Heritage Quest; and now, an announcement of the collaboration between FamilySearch and the Houston Public Library is sure to be welcomed by anyone with Gulf Coast area roots. Here is an edited version of the announcement:

## **Houston Public Library Joins FamilySearch in Digitization Effort**

Thousands of publications that capture the diverse histories of Gulf Coast states will be accessible for free online. FamilySearch and the Houston Public Library announced a joint project today to digitally preserve and publish the library’s vast collection of county and local histories, registers of individuals, directories of Texas Rangers, church histories, and biographical dictionaries. The digital records will be available for free online at FamilySearch.org and HoustonLibrary.org.

“Houston Public Library has one of the top 10 genealogy libraries in the nation and a very strong Gulf Coast and international collection,” said Susan D. Kaufman, manager, Houston Public Library’s Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research. “Visitors come from all over the country to visit the library. Researchers will benefit from the convenience of online access to the collection targeted under the joint venture with FamilySearch,” added Kaufman.

Digital publications will be noted and hyperlinked in the Family His-

tory Library Catalog at FamilySearch.org as they are digitized. The growing collection can be accessed currently at FamilySearch.org (go to Search Records, and then Historical Books).

The new digital collections published online will have “every word” search capability, which allows users to search by name, location, date, or other fields across the collection. The search results are then linked to high quality digital images of the original publication. Users will also be able to just browse or read the publications as digital books online if they prefer.

## **Researching South Carolina Records**

This week I have become interested in South Carolina research after Linda Williamson told me about the brick wall she has encountered in researching her Williamson line. After doing DNA comparisons she discovered that the people she thought she had found were not related.

Out of curiosity and with no real knowledge of exactly what Linda needed, I started looking around to

see what I could find. I discovered quite a lot.

The first thing I did was to check the Family History Library Catalog to see what was available through



Flag of South Carolina

the FHC on microfilm and books. The catalog is online at <[http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlc/frameset\\_fhlc.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlc/frameset_fhlc.asp)>.

Selecting "Place Search" and entering South Carolina produced a list of 216 categories of resource material in the FHC holdings. Some of the most interesting, under "NEWSPAPERS & NEWSPAPER INDEXES" were "Births, deaths and marriages from Timmons ville, S.C. newspapers : late 19th & 20th century" and "Bits and pieces from the Bethune Observer." Other sources that might be valuable are "Genealogical abstracts from Marion, South Carolina newspapers, 1858-1886" and "Genealogical extracts from the Darlington Flag : miscellaneous issues from 1851-1861", "Genealogical extracts from the Darlington news, 1885-1889" and "Genealogical extracts from the Darlington Herald, July 16, 1890 through November 2, 1894". The latter two might fill in some information from the time of the missing 1890 census.





Next I explored the South Carolina Department of Archives & History Online Records <<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>>. "This free online index of historical records from the SC Archives includes will transcripts (1782-1855), plats for state land grants, Confederate pension applications and other items." Online items include "Index to Multiple Record Series, ca. 1675-1929 consisting of 173,042 items.

I selected the latter and on the search page entered the surname Williamson. I received 795 hits so I went back and entered Samuel in the given name box. This narrowed the returns to 1 for "MILITIA ENROLLMENTS OF MEN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 30 AND 45 FOR DARLINGTON COUNTY." There was an online image available which was extremely clear, and had Samuel Williamson of Darlington County been the one I was looking for, this would be a very valuable document.

Other records online include Confederate Pension Applications 1919-1938 which has 10,242 items, Criminal Journals 1769-1776 with 2,087 items and Will Transcripts 1782-1855.

Searching Will Transcripts for Williamson produced 113 hits including a digital image of the typescript will of Henry Williamson dated 1801.

The SC Digital Archives Index consists of 305,803 items and is sure to have something that will help you with your SC research.

At University Libraries Digital Collections, University of SC<<http://www.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/newsouth.html>> I found another listing which might be very helpful is "The New South Newspaper of Port Royal & Beaufort 1862-1866". There are 68 issues full-text search-able online and the following explanation of the collection: "Union postmaster Joseph H. Sears published the New South newspaper out

of the post office building on Union Square in Port Royal, S.C., on a weekly basis beginning in March 1862. The paper was moved to the town of Beaufort sometime in 1865 and remained there until it ceased in 1867." It was apparently published throughout the Civil War.

### South Carolina Vital Records

South Carolina's Vital Records restrictions are stringent, the cost is \$15 for birth records and \$12 for marriage, divorce and death records.

"Access to birth records in South Carolina is limited to the person named on the certificate, the parent (s) named on the birth certificate, the guardian, or a legal representative." If you meet those conditions birth records are available from January 1, 1915."

"Death records, available from January 1, 1915 from the Department of Health and Environmental Control <<http://www.scdhec.net/administration/vr/>>. They have these restrictions: "Access to death records in South Carolina is limited for 50 years from the date of death to members of the decedent's family or legal representatives. Deaths for 1915-1950 are available from the SC Department of Archives and History <<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>>

"Marriage records from 1950 to the present can be obtained through the State Division of Vital Records. Licenses issued before 1950 can be obtained from the Probate Judge care of the County Courthouse in the county where the marriage took place. Access to marriage records in South Carolina are restricted to the married parties (bride or groom), their adult child(ren), a present or former spouse of either married party, or their respective legal representative. Other applicants may be provided with a statement that the marriage occurred, including the date and county the marriage license was issued."

S192921:Militia Enrollments of 1869

MILITIA ENROLLMENS OF MEN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 30 FOR YORK COUNTY.

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68						
ROLL OF CITIZENS						
of <i>Bethesda</i> Township, in the County of <i>York</i> between the ages of <i>18</i> and <i>30</i> years.						
No.	NAME.	Age.	OCCUPATION.	RESIDENCE.	COLOR. W. O.	REMARKS.
220	<i>Tines Richard</i>	29	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Bethesda</i>	"	"
221	<i>Wright Theophilus</i>	28	"	"	"	"
222	<i>Wylie Levi</i>	19	"	"	"	"
223	<i>Wagoner Nyles</i>	21	"	"	"	"
224	<i>Williamson Stephen</i>	29	"	"	"	"
225	<i>Williamson Joseph</i>	28	"	"	"	"
226	<i>Williamson Adams</i>	21	"	"	"	"
227	<i>Wylie Alexander</i>	22	"	"	"	"
228	<i>Watson Nyles</i>	21	"	"	"	"
229	<i>Wilson Alexander</i>	20	"	"	"	"
230	<i>Walker J. S.</i>	26	"	"	"	"
231	<i>White W. H.</i>	24	"	"	"	"
232	<i>Williamson A. S.</i>	18	"	"	"	"
233	<i>White Lewis</i>	20	"	"	"	"
234	<i>Williamson J. S.</i>	18	"	"	"	"
235	<i>White Lewis</i>	20	"	"	"	"
236	<i>Williamson Saml</i>	22	"	"	"	"
237	<i>Weatherspoon David</i>	21	"	"	"	"
238	<i>Wiley David</i>	21	"	"	"	"
239	<i>Wallace Mart</i>	22	"	"	"	"

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- ✦ Marriage and Death Notices from The Charleston Observer, 1827-1845
- ✦ Marriage and Death Notices from The Lutheran Observer, 1831-1861, and The Southern Lutheran, 1861-1865
- ✦ Marriage and Death Notices from Baptist Newspapers of South Carolina, 1835-1865
- ✦ Marriage and Death Notices from Baptist Newspapers of South Carolina, 1866-1867
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- ✦ Marriage Notices from The Southern Christian Advocate, 1867-1878
- ✦ Death and Obituary Notices from The Southern Christian Advocate, 1867-1878

"Divorce records from 1962 to the present can be obtained through the State Division of Vital Records. Records since April 1949 should be available from the County Clerk of the county where petition was filed. Access to divorce records in S.C. are restricted to the divorced parties (husband or wife), their adult child (ren), a present or former spouse of either divorced party, or their respective legal representative. Other applicants may be provided a statement that the divorce occurred, including the date and county of divorce."

"Earlier records are available for some counties. Contact the County Health Department for the county in question." A guide to all South Carolina records open to the public is online at <http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/guide/guide.htm>.

### DeLand Library Resources

One of the completely overlooked sources for South Carolina resides in our own library. The CD is labeled "South Carolina Records & Reference" and requires the Ancestry viewer be installed on the computer. I spent many hours converting that collection of information to a pdf file which will be in our files along with the many other CDs in our collection.

The table of contents is reproduced at the top of the column. The routine listing of "The South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research" conceals the magnitude of this source. The CD contains Vols I -

XX of the magazine which was published from 1972 to 1992. It runs to 6,752 pages of genealogical information including tax records, census records, obituaries etc etc .

The other files on the CD cover SC newspapers from 1823 until 1888 and runs to 3,730 pages. All of this information is fully and easily searchable. Of course, this is not a complete account of the resources available in South Carolina. Ancestry has a very large collection of digitized records. You can, of course, access that at the Genealogy and Local History Room of the DeLand Library whenever the library is open

### Sangamon County, Illinois Genealogical Society to Shut Down Next Month

After 40 years in existence, the Sangamon County Genealogical Society is shutting down next month. Declining membership and dues revenue, as well as the abundance of genealogical information available on the Internet, all contributed to the group's demise, its leaders said this week.

Want a quick guide to marriages in Sangamon County from 1821 to 1840? No problem. How about an index of estate records in the county from 1821 to 1907? Easy. Who was buried in the Sangamon County Poor Farm Cemetery in Buffalo? Only the SCGS can tell you.

Over the years, the society has created about 70 such indexes, bringing to light long-forgotten residents whose identities might provide that vital clue to a family history — or

history itself.

Sadly, the Sangamon County Genealogical Society will not publish any more such indexes. Further information may be found in the State Journal-Register web site at <http://www.sjr.com/news/x776463003/Genealogical-society-to-shut-down-next-month> Posted November 29, 2008 by Dick Eastoman.

As a long-time member and then leader in our local genealogical society, I understand completely the challenges local genealogical societies now face. It was not always so. Our forty-three year old organization was an early pioneer, as were many others, in promoting genealogical research. Our members collected information, published a periodical and books, assisted beginners, collected genealogical materials (leading to a now significant library), and encouraged and utilized the use of computers and the internet. Now our members and genealogical community enjoy access to data bases and digitized documents of which we never dreamed. But this also has resulted in many "researchers" believing it can all be done on the internet. Our genealogical society is also facing the reality that fewer of our members are able (or willing) to become directly involved in leadership and/or committee work. Many of our long-time members are finding it harder (or impossible) to continue in their earlier endeavors. I believe this reality has also resulted in many county, state, and national genealogical organizations experiencing lower attendance at their workshop/seminar offerings, lower membership in their organization, fewer workers in their efforts to collect, publish, and share, -- and their eventual demise. Who will be left to publish information that the public (including public libraries) can purchase? Some local counties and areas have never done this. But for those of us who are still willing, what happens if and when we can no longer do so? Think about it! *Posting from Janice Meredith, November 30, 2008.*



## An Important Tool For Your Bag of Tricks...Genetree! My mtDNA Search Netted Twenty-seven Exact Matches—*Linda Williamson*

Genetree has been designated one of the 101 Best Websites for 2008 by Family Tree Magazine. It allows you to discover and connect with others through mitochondrial DNA. With the DNAtigator you can explore and unravel family connections back in time, showing when and where they lived, pinpointed by colored dots, until they merge into one common ancestor. That dot marks the most probably location of where your haplogroup emerged.

I found it fascinating that my haplo-group is J1—Western Eurasia. I was blown away when my search turned up 27 exact matches. Connecting with your matches and searching for common ancestors is an integral part of the process, so my excitement subsided somewhat when I discovered only one of my exact matches is a member.

Men also have mtDNA passed on to them by their mother. Recently, my husband, Sam, became a member. He outdid me with 121 exact matches. He is already receiving e-mails requesting a connection. I thought this was a huge break through until I realized that we are comparing a small amount of markers. A larger number of markers will almost certainly cut down on the number of matches. Sam's haplogroup, T2, originating in the Far East, is the sister to my haplogroup.

Genetree has devised a blind e-mail system that allows you to request information or request non-members join. Those people either agree to accept or decline. My only member match sent me an e-mail last May, that I've just discovered. I, in turn, have sent e-mails to my non-member matches and eagerly await their responses.



Genetree cautions that you may find you share a common maternal ancestor in genealogical time (the last 500 years). However, an exact match may also mean you share a common ancestor before genealogical time. These distant matches may be of “deep ancestry” interest, but may not help extend your genealogy in more recent times (That's hard to wrap your mind around, isn't it?)

In time, as more people join, this could become a cutting edge tool for your genealogical research—and in the meanwhile it is a lot of fun. <http://www.genetree.com/>  
—*Linda Williamson*

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## George C. Morgan Is Recognized by the FSGS—*Jerry Hale*

The Florida State Genealogical Society held its 32nd annual conference at the Sheraton Orlando–North hotel in Maitland on November 14-15, 2008. In addition to a full two days of informative and interesting workshops with featured guest speaker Ms. Jana Sloan Broglin of Swanton, OH, FSGS honored several who diligently research and assist others in genealogy. The awards were presented at a banquet on Friday evening. A number of Florida Pioneers and their descendants were also honored as the descendants received Florida Pioneer Certificates for

either a state level or county level pioneer who resided in either the state or county before or at the time of statehood or county organization. The descendants had to have a proven ancestral link to the pioneer in order to qualify for the certificate. George Morgan was one of the recipients. This dedicated genealogist began his long and distinguished service to the genealogical community in the mid-1990s as a volunteer in the Genealogy Forum on America Online. Since that time, he has continued to serve numerous genealogical organizations, and has held such offices as program chair of the 2003 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in Or-

lando, president of the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors, director of the Genealogical Speakers Guild, director of the Florida Genealogical Society of Tampa, and trustee of the Florida State Genealogical Society. He continues to serve the publicity needs of the Florida Genealogical Society of Tampa and the Florida State Genealogical Society.

Please Note:

**George will be at the Volusia-Flagler Council of Genealogical Seminars, January 24, 2009 at the Palmetto Club in Daytona Beach. Have you made your reservation?—*Jerry Hale***

## Cousin “Mame” Loved Genealogy and Wanted To Join the DAR—She didn’t drive and she didn’t type but she authored and compiled the “Rush” book, leaving those that followed in her footsteps to wonder “How did she do it?”—Linda Williamson

I was six years old when I attended my first Rush Reunion at Bold Spring Baptist Church in Greenwood, South Carolina. I remember playing with my cousins in the stream, and impatiently waiting for the picnic to begin. An organizational meeting was taking place, and the purpose was to gather family histories and compile a book on Rush genealogy. My Dad’s first cousin twice removed, Mary Jane (Mamie) Rush Broadwater had called the meeting.

She had been planning the reunion for several years, but felt it was advisable and appropriate to wait until after World War II had ended. The summer of 1946 seemed to be the perfect time. She called a meeting for August 11, 1946. About 300 enthusiastic descendants attended, and the reunion became an annual event until *David Rush and His Descendants and Stories of the Community* was published in 1953. The book followed the Rush family through seven generations from their common ancestor, David Rush. In a few instances, a child of the eighth had been born by the publication date. The book was enthusiastically received and treasured by the family.

Cousin Mamie’s grandmother said that she had been interested in genealogy since the age of twelve, and Mamie had often questioned her about the family and planned some day to trace the Rush genealogy. According to my grandmother, there was another reason. I overheard her telling my mother that Cousin Mamie was tracing the family tree “because she wanted to join the DAR” (Daughters of the American Revolution).

Indeed, the DAR was a force in small town American society and if you wanted to be “somebody” you had to be a member. Proof of lineage to an individual who aided in American independence was a requirement of

membership.

For most, the full realization of Cousin Mamie’s accomplishment was not apparent until an update of the “Rush book” began in 1995. The volunteers’ appreciation of her efforts overflowed into the preface of *Family of David Rush*: “As we have contacted various

family lines about current generations, our admiration—even awe—for ‘Cousin Mame’ has grown by leaps and bounds. Her research, knowledge and diligence in publishing the original book were astounding. As we have written letters, contacted relatives, gone to cemeteries to check dates on tombstones and typed what **Mame** Cont’d on page 13

**“The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded on October 11, 1890, during a time that was marked by a revival in patriotism and intense interest in the beginnings of the United States of America...”**

Women felt the desire to express their patriotic feelings and were frustrated by their exclusion from men's organizations formed to perpetuate the memory of ancestors who fought to make this country free and independent. As a result, a group of pioneering women in the nation's capital formed their own organization and the Daughters of the American Revolution has carried the torch of patriotism ever since.”

“The objectives laid forth in the first meeting of the DAR have remained the same in over 100 years of active service to the nation. Those objectives are: *Historical* - to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence; *Educational* - to carry out the injunction of Washington in his farewell address to the American people, ‘to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge, thus developing an enlightened public opinion’ ; and *Patriotic* - to cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom,

to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.

Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 800,000 members. DAR members volunteer more than 55,000 hours annually to veteran patients, award over \$150,000 in scholarships and financial aid each year to students, and support schools for the underprivileged with annual donations exceeding one million dollars.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, and encompassing an entire downtown city block, DAR National Headquarters houses one of the nation's premier genealogical libraries, one of the foremost collections of pre-industrial American decorative arts, Washington's largest concert hall, and an extensive collection of early American manuscripts and imprints. It was built with small donations from members all across the county who hoarded their money (sometimes in cookie jars). For more information go to <http://www.americanrevolution.com/Daughters.htm>—Linda Williamson



## A 1933 Vintage Williamson Family Story As Told By Robert Earl (Billy) Davis —Linda Williamson

One of the most memorable things I remember (*sic*) about my Mother, was one Sunday, approximately 1933. She was told by my father, H. E. Williamson, that she had to drive us to church, he was feeling bad and could not drive. Now Pop always went to church on Sunday. It was two miles to the First Baptist church in Pollard, Alabama. (I assume it was First Baptist, because they only had one!)

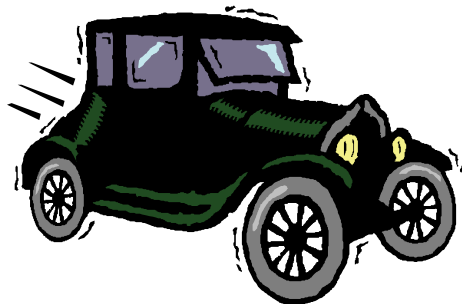
Mom told Pop that she could not drive the car but Pop said, “Yes, you can, anybody can drive that ole Model T.” He showed Mother the levers on the steering column and said “the left is the spark and the right is the gas and you have three foot pedals—left is neutral—middle is reverse, and the right is forward.” (I think that is what he told her.)

Mother said, “Papa, I cannot remember all those things to do.” He didn’t let her finish and I knew we were going to church, so we went on and got ready and put our shoes on. We had to wear shoes on Sunday even if it was warm weather!

We all got into the car. Tebo, Sis and I sat in the back, Big Mama in the front passenger side, and Mother behind the steering wheel. The first thing Sis said was “You boys stay on

your side and don’t wrinkle my dress.” It was tempting to move over on that pretty dress, but it was Sunday!

Pop came out and walked over to



Mom told Pop that she could not drive the car, but Pop said, “Yes you can, anybody can drive that old Model T.”

Mother and said “Ellen, put the spark up here and gas up here and push in the neutral foot pedal. I am going to crank it for you and when you leave church, Deacon Wyche will crank it for you to come home. The third time “Pop” turned the crank it started and he walked over to Mother and said “Ellen, when you get ready ease out of neutral and you just keep it in the road.” Mother eased off the neutral foot pedal and the old Model T did everything it

was suppose to. We had traveled approximately one quarter mile when we had to make a left to enter U.S. 31S (this road was only graveled at the time). As Mother approached Highway 31 she said “Oh, my God.” We though Mother had seen a Greyhound Bus coming but she had just realized that she would have to stop if there was any traffic coming. Big Mama said, “All clear Ellen, let’s go.” Mother gave a sign of relief, made her left turn, adjusted the spark and gas a bit, and never slowed down until she reached the Pollard hill. We had to make a left turn near the bottom of the hill and the church was the first building on the right. We made it OK and Mother parked it where the front end was facing home.

When church service was over, Brother Wyche from the church started the car for us and Mother made a good run for the Pollard hill and did not have to slow down for the traffic. When we got home Mother said, “Never again.” I do not recall her ever driving again.—*Billy Davis, from FAMILY HISTORY—STANTON, GODWIN, HALE, SIMMONS, AND WILLIAMSON OF MONROE, CONECUH, BALDWIN, AND ESCAMBIA COUNTIES OF ALABAMA by Robert E. (Billy)*

**Mame** Cont’d from Page 12 seemed like endless pages, more than once we’ve asked ourselves, ‘How did she do it?’ But she did it despite the fact that she did not drive an automobile or know how to type.”

Cousin Mamie joined the DAR and went on to serve as an officer and genealogist for many years. I had all but

forgotten about the DAR, when by coincidence, while vacationing in Washington, DC, I saw a group of women so exuberant and excited that I was drawn to them and discovered they were there to attend the Continental Congress (DAR annual meeting). I expressed an interest and was later contacted by the Deland Chapter.

Nancy Morgan helped connect my lineage to Cousin Mamie, and I became a DAR member in 2006.—

*Linda Williamson*

For information on the DAR, go to <http://www.dar.org/natsociety/>

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Highlights  
from the  
Florida  
State  
Daughters  
of the  
American  
Revolution  
Fall Forum  
—Linda  
Williamson



(above) The Florida State Daughters of the American Revolution Fall Forum was held September 19-21, 2008 at the Marriott Orlando Airport Hotel. It began with a social on Friday night hosted by the state officers. A simple fare of grapes, nuts and non-alcoholic strawberry punch typical of the 1600's gave way to brand name foods as Fritos, Ritz Crackers, Spam, Jell-O and Florida wine that emerged in the 1900's. The brandy punch of the 1700's was a popular libation and we've been promised the recipe.

(above) Mr. Everett Osceola, a member of the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida, who works in broadcasting for WSBC television, was guest speaker at the American Indians Luncheon and Auction on Saturday. He gave an interesting insight into the culture of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, its history, tribal rituals and superstitions. Sales benefited the Seminole tribe. (right) A canoe and tepees were featured as centerpieces on the Saturday Luncheon Table.







Colonel Arthur Erwin Chapter members (you will also recognize them as Roots & Branches Members), are waiting with gloves in hand after dinner on Saturday night to go through the formal reception line: Mary Gafney, Pat Jarvis, Betty Golightly, Ruth Ann Fay (*Regent*), Lila Sandstrom, Donna Forsythe (*Chairman of the event*), Mary Lois Kelley & Linda Williamson. Rev. Robert J. Duncan, president of Bacone College, gave an enlightening presentation on the school chartered in 1880 in Muscogee, OK. The historic mission of the school is to provide an education to American Indians. He gratefully accepted a donation from the FSSDAR of \$20,000 to benefit the school, which has recently become a four year college.



(left) Members wear their pins at official functions only and there is a lot of service behind these pins. (middle) The DAR Pages were easily recognizable as they dashed about doing errands in their white dresses. Pictured are a few that would slow down for a photo, dressed in their formal attire. They made an impressive opening, as they entered the ballroom with the honor guard and then carried the flag out at the close. (right) Pages back up the state officers in the formal reception line after dinner.—Linda Williamson



Roots and Branches Genealogical Society of West Volusia County  
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<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flrbgs/index.htm>

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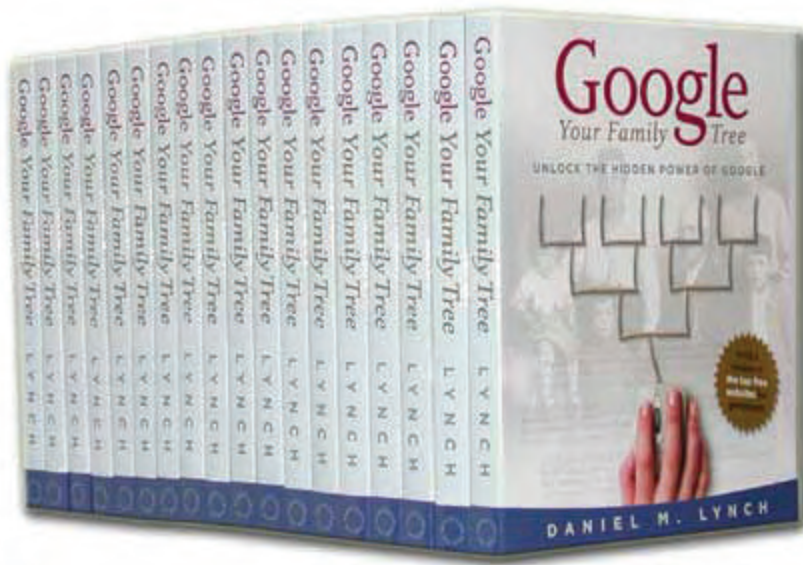
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