

Roots and Branches Genealogy Society of West Volusia County

130 E. Howry Avenue, DeLand, Florida 32724

October, November, December 2009



Grandfather, Alfred Howard, Was A Surveyor Grading the First Roads in DeLand—*Esther Gould w/ Linda Williamson*

Grandfather Alfred Howard was born in Jersey City in 1841. Family stories say that Alfred lived in Detroit during the Civil War, serving with the Border Patrol as a volunteer along the Detroit River. He was said to be a sharpshooter, for which he won many trophies. It was in Detroit that he met and married Caroline Bell Hawley in 1867.

In the fall of 1879, Alfred, Carrie and their five children—Charles Root, Grace, Robert Warner, Mable Ensign, and Phillip moved to Florida. They purchased acreage that was part of the Coe Homestead west of New Smyrna, near the intersection of 44 and I-95 for \$100, and subsequently bought ten more acres. Alfred worked as a surveyor and developed several properties on the east side of Volusia County.

In 1876, approximately fifteen miles to the west of where the Howards settled, Henry Addison DeLand, made his fateful trip to Persimmon Hollow and envisioning a citrus, agricultural and tourism center, purchased 159 acres for \$1000. DeLand sold his northern baking powder business, moved to Persimmon Hollow and hired people to clear land, lay out streets, erect buildings and recruit settlers. In 1882, the townspeople of Persimmon Hollow voted to incorporate and they named the city DeLand in honor of their generous benefactor. The town became the county seat



Alfred Howard 1/18/1841— 7/10/1931

in 1887. In 1891, the Howards moved to DeLand and bought a large house at 235 East Michigan Avenue. Other family members soon followed. The house built by Richard Simpson for Mable Howard and Vincent

Please see Cover Story page 5

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Special points of interest:

Check out "The Early Roads of Volusia" on page 6, from an out of print book on Google, to discover how the roads in Volusia County developed.

Read "Linda's Excellent Genealogy Adventure" on visiting old family graves, page 10.

Are you familiar with the symbolism of grave stones? See a list of common symbols on page 12.

Did you realize "Tombstones Are A Secondary Source"? See George Morgan's article on page 14. He'll explain what to consider as evidence.

See what our resident sleuthhound, Jerry Hale, has discovered on page 16.

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 and 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 collec-

tion of pertinent information on West Volusia cities and pioneer families of the area. From July 2008 through this date we have had approximately 800 visitors from all over the country and Florida visit the Gen Room.

With sixty-seven memberships and 80 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 beginners' 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.

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Renewals can be paid starting in September

and must be paid by January 31, 2010 to be included in the directory. Dues paid after October are good through December 31, 2010.

To speak with a Roots & Branches member in the Genealogy Room call the DeLand Public Library at (386) 822-6430 x117.

The library web site is located at <http://volusialibrary.org/branchinfo.html#DLN>

E-mail the Corresponding Secretary, Jerry Hale at roots.branches.volusia@gmail.com

Send articles for the newsletter to the editor, Linda Williamson, at swilliamson1@cfl.rr.com

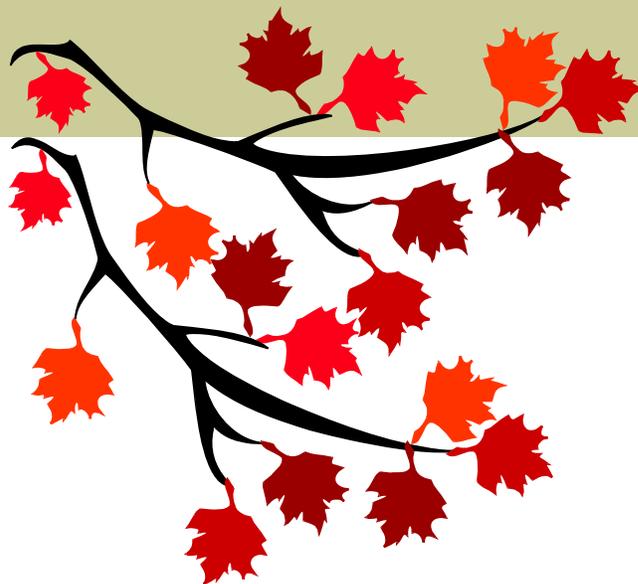
Contact the DeLand Family History Center at (386) 822-9695.

Find us on the web at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flrbgs/index.htm>

Welcome New Members
Elda Stuckey and John Herman!

Officers & Committees

President: Jim Pardee
1st Vice President & Program Chairman: Carol Izzo
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: Jerry Hale



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



Fall Calendar—Carol Izzo



Sunday, September 20, 2009, 2:00 PM: Dr. Lou McNally will give a presentation on “**Digging Weather Out of Old Diaries.**” Weather information in diaries frequently provide clues to family migration, property transactions, prosperity changes and even mortality.

At 1:00 PM prior to the general meeting Rosemary Sutton will give a lesson presentation on “**Researching Newspapers To Detect Migratory Trails.**”

Sunday, October 18, 2009, 2:00 PM: J. C. Johnston, M.Ed., semi-retired counselor and psychologist, will give a presentation on his recently published family history book, “**The J.C. Johnston Family, Years 1794-2008.**” He will show how he organized his material, laid out the information and inserted photographs to create his book through Ancestry.com.

At 1:00 PM prior to the general meeting Rosemary Sutton will give a lesson presentation on “**Using Persi & Vertical Files Effectively.**”

Sunday, November 15, 2009, 2:00 PM: Reverend Dr. Dale Stewart will give a presentation on his ancestors who were captured, and some were massacred, by Indians in Pennsylvania in 1757, entitled “**The Hochstetler Massacre.**” Reverend Stewart discovered his Hochstetler connection while a member of a Mennonite prayer group in Cincinnati, Ohio where he was a pastor before retiring.

At 1:00 PM prior to the general meeting Rosemary Sutton will give a lesson presentation on “**Indentured Servants and Apprentices**” and “**Preserving Materials.**”

Sunday, December 20, 2009, 2:00 PM: **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. Everyone should bring a favorite treat they would like to share.

Secretary's Report—Harriet Bolin

The meeting was called to order by first Vice President Carol Izzo in the absence of President Jim Pardee. There were three guests and 37 regulars present. Minutes of the May meeting were approved as read. Treasurer Judy Warrensford reported \$3998.26 in the treasury. The report will be filed for audit. Second Vice President Mary Lois Kelley reported we have 65 memberships representing 79 individuals. (*Jerry Hale, recording secretary, video recorded the meeting.*)

Our Program for the day included two authors, Jean Crawford and Sharon Lopes. Jean began by sharing that she writes directly on her computer. Much of the time she relies on inspiration from the Holy Spirit for her material. All three of her books have quilt block names as their titles: Ties that Bind about her father's family, and Stitch of Time and Framed in Love about her mother's side. She read a short excerpt from the latter.

Sharon Lopes began teaching others to write by instructing unemployed persons to write their resumes in a government funded program in Massachusetts. She defined “memoir writing” as a glimpse of a portion of one's life. She then led us in an exercise of Legacy Writing. She urged us to tap into our memories by scanning old notebooks, maps, report cards, etc. Thus allowing us to document the stories being written. We were given the following prompts to write a short memory story: What is a favorite smell that brings a memory?

- Your biggest sacrifice
- The first time you saw your parent cry
- A time you felt on top of the world
- Who was your first playmate

We spent a brief time writing and then some of us shared their stories. Sharon would like to begin a Legacy Writing course. E-mail her your interest in taking that course at sjl140@hotmail.com.

The President's Agenda—

Jim Pardee



It is that time of the year when all of the locals who headed for the hills to escape the heat to return. We welcome you back and hope you found lots of new leads into your genealogy.

It's amazing how fast internet research has grown in the last few years. The new magazines "Internet Genealogy" and "Discovering Family History"

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=internet+genealogy+magazine&aq=0&oq=internet+genealogy&aqi=g3> and

<http://webeasysearch.com/kvsearch/search.php?q=discovering%2Bfamily%2Bhistory%2Bmagazine&said=ns2&saff=ns2> have listed many hundreds of new links to specialized research in the past six months. There should be copies of these magazines in the Genealogy room of the Library waiting for you to expand your horizons. Don't forget www.google.com, either.

Just this week an old source of mine popped up in a new location. She has retired as the head librarian at Broward County Community College and moved back to her native Avon Park. I would not have known this with out the "google Alerts" <http://www.google.com/alerts> that I have used for so many years to keep track of news articles about all of the surnames I am researching. Well, not all of them. I decided to drop the "Reed" search on the second day because there were too many. You can get lucky using google just as I have.

The board has heard that there are some members who do not feel that they are getting all they can from computer research. We are trying to help in that situation. Please inform us of what your needs are so that we can proceed with solving this problem.

Jim

Treasurer's Report—*Judy Warrensford*

Balance as of 05/15/09		\$3,743.11
Receipts: Dues received from: J. Haggerty, J. Osterhouse, D. Forsythe, J. Kersh,		
C. Baker, M. Rodneff, S. Davis, R. Fay	120.00	
Proceeds from 50/50:	9.00	
Share of proceeds from Volusia County Genealogical Society		
Society January Seminar:	<u>213.05</u>	
Sub-total:	342.05	
Expenses Paid:		
Speaker Fee:	25.00	
Copies:	9.90	
Stamps for Club:	42.00	
Mileage to attend quarterly Vol/Flagler Meeting	<u>10.00</u>	
Sub-total:	103.95	
Balance on hand as of 06/28/09		\$3,998.26

DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED.

Cover Story

From page 1

Ward Gould, Bill Gould's grandfather, is still standing at 245 East Michigan Avenue.

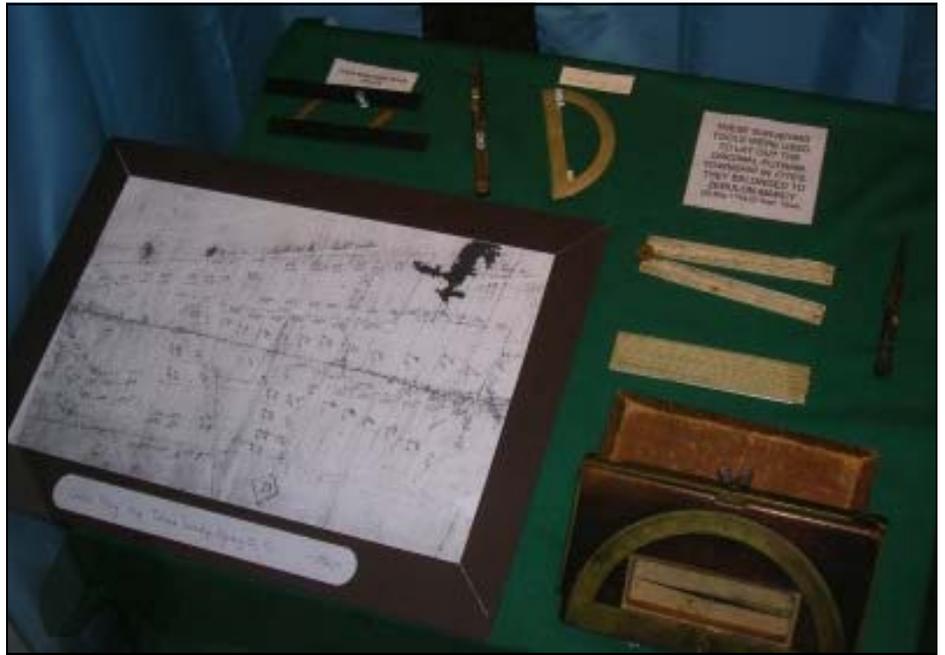
Over the years Alfred worked as manager of Volusia County Abstract Company, land agent for J.W. Howry's Addition to Deland, trustee for the City of DeLand for Sylvan Park Cemetery (now Oakdale Cemetery) and a surveyor for the City of DeLand, starting in 1903.

As a surveyor, his work was primarily on the grading of the downtown streets. Listed in the Clerk of the Court records, his first payment in that position was \$2.50. Subsequent payments were listed from 1903 through March, 1920.

Alfred served as city surveyor until 1917, when Governor Sidney Catts appointed him Volusia County surveyor. In the minutes of the Board of County Commissioners dated March 13, they noted the purchase of an Official Bond for him as County Surveyor.



It's still standing today! The home at 245 E. Michigan—built by Richard Simpson for Bill Gould's grandfather, Vincent Ward Gould, and his wife Mable Howard in the 1800's. (Photo by Linda Williamson)



Surveyor's tools from the 1900's likely similar to those used by Alfred Howard from

<http://wcexaminer.com/sections/news/archive/2009/05/13/surveyors-tools->

In June, that same year, Deland celebrated the completion of the brick roads in their city and district. Pine straw that was used to cover the sandy roads in the 1890's had eventually given way to marl (a lime rich mud) or shell, then brick in the

1900's. The construction of roads is considered a major development and contributor to the furthering of prosperity for the DeLand area.

Carrie died in 1905 and Alfred continued to live in the large house on Michigan Avenue until

he sold it in 1919 to Carolyn V. Lane. He died at the age of 90 1/2 in 1931. He is buried in Oakdale Cemetery next to his wife.—*Esther Gould w/Linda Williamson / Information on the City of Deland by Bill Keeler @ <http://www.angelfire.com/ny5/fairporthistmuseum/deland.htm>,*

Old Survey Equipment Pictures from <http://www.planetdeland.com/delandhistory/road3.htm>



The Early Roads of Volusia—edited by Jerry Hale

From the Centennial History of Volusia County, Florida, 1854-1954—Ianthe Bond Hebel (an out of print Google book)

The oldest road in Volusia county is the King's Road which dates back to the time of the British, 1763-1783. The King's Road started in Charleston and ended at New Smyrna. Traces of this early road can be seen on the north bank of the Tomoka between U.S. 1 and the railroad. During most of the year a darker ribbon through the marsh shows where the road led down to the ferry. The road goes south on the lowland and at Port Orange it is about a mile west of the old sugar mill.

The old maps also show an Indian

trail from Volusia, opposite present day Astor on the St. Johns to the ferry on the Tomoka, and another Indian trail from Enterprise across the flat woods to the ferry. This road has a branch leading to New Smyrna and was the only road open in the early days. As the western part of the County was more accessible most of the settlers stopped there

Little road building was done before 1900. Sandy roads radiated out from the towns and it took all day to go by team# from DeLand to Daytona. It was an all day trip to come up from

Blake (now South Daytona), make your purchase in DeLand and return home. Then one went west to the King's Road from both places.

About 1890 pine needles were gathered and used to "pave" the roads around DeLand.

In 1898, Daytona was using some marl* or shell on her streets and the sidewalks were covered with marl. In dry weather the shrubbery along the streets was white with dust. In 1901, the DeLand Orange City road was marled, it was the first paved road in the County. The road be-



[DeLand's 125th Anniversary brochure, pg 8]

"The Boulevard" early picture.



[From: "The Road to DeLand, pg 9]

Woodland Boulevard, looking north from Georgia Avenue C-1895

tween Daytona and Port Orange was opened that year.

In 1903, the County Commissioners agreed to pay \$6,000 toward the cost of a road between Daytona and New Smyrna, the rest of the money was to be raised by subscription. This road opened late in 1904. In February 1904 a highway from Jacksonville to Daytona was proposed. The beach was to be used part of the way, and in July of that year the County ordered the opening of the river road on the peninsula between Seabreeze and Ormond. The river road to the Inlet was commenced in February, 1907.

In October, 1907, W. C. Cannon of DeLand was awarded a contract to shell the DeLand Daytona road. The County levied a four mill tax for this.

In January 1908, through the generosity of Thomas H. White, a Daytona winter resident and the manufacturer of the White Sewing Machine,

the White Steamer, and the White Truck, the road between St. Augustine and Daytona Beach was placed in passable condition. Most of the way was on the old King's Road. The waterways were bridged, the road cleared, brush trimmed so the paint on the cars would not be marred. All motorists were advised to carry a small ax and a shovel to fill holes and cut away fallen timber. It was not until February of 1908 that the first automobile reached Miami under its own power.

The present Peninsula Drive of Daytona Beach was extended to the Port Orange Bridge during World War I. It was built while Jerome D. Maley was one of the County Commissioners and so was known as Maley Road. In June, 1917, DeLand celebrated the completion of the brick roads in their city and district. There was a fine brick road to Lake Helen. While M. M. Bond was Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners the Daytona road was paved to the eastern edge of the district. Meanwhile the road from Daytona was being built west to meet the DeLand end but this

portion was not of brick.

In December, 1918, the road from Daytona via DeLand and Orange City to Harden's Ferry was named the Pershing Highway. The Pershing Triangle was formed by the roads connecting Daytona, New Smyrna and DeLand. In the early 1920s more work was done on the DeLand Road.



From: "The Road to DeLand" pg 8]

Woodland Boulevard, c-1890's



[From "Volusia The West Side" pg 250]

Photo taken in 1884 of Mr. Fisher's first wooden drug store on southwest corner of New York and Boulevard. Also shown is Cole Studio that was responsible for many of the old photographs shown throughout the book.

Before World War II the State Road Department started on the building of a fine modern highway from Daytona west, which today is Route 92. The war halted construction and, for a long time, travelers between Daytona and DeLand went the long way via New Smyrna. The Naval Air Station near DeLand and the Daytona Air Base both abutted the road adding to the difficulties.

The entrance into Daytona was moved from Bellevue Ave., where it had been over a half century, back to the original entrance on Volusia Ave. The Daytona part of the road was not completed until several years after the end of the war and then the State Road Department and the Federal Government began on U. S. 1, widening Ridgewood, putting in a two lane highway from Beville Road to 15th St. in Holly Hill. Ridgewood lost most of fine oaks and its claim to being one of

the most beautiful streets in the world. Today, this modern highway is being extended north of Ormond and will be continued north.

At the end of World War I it took

five hours to motor down from Jacksonville to Daytona. The narrow brick road north of Volusia could not carry the traffic, so the tourists were being routed down the Central part of Flor-



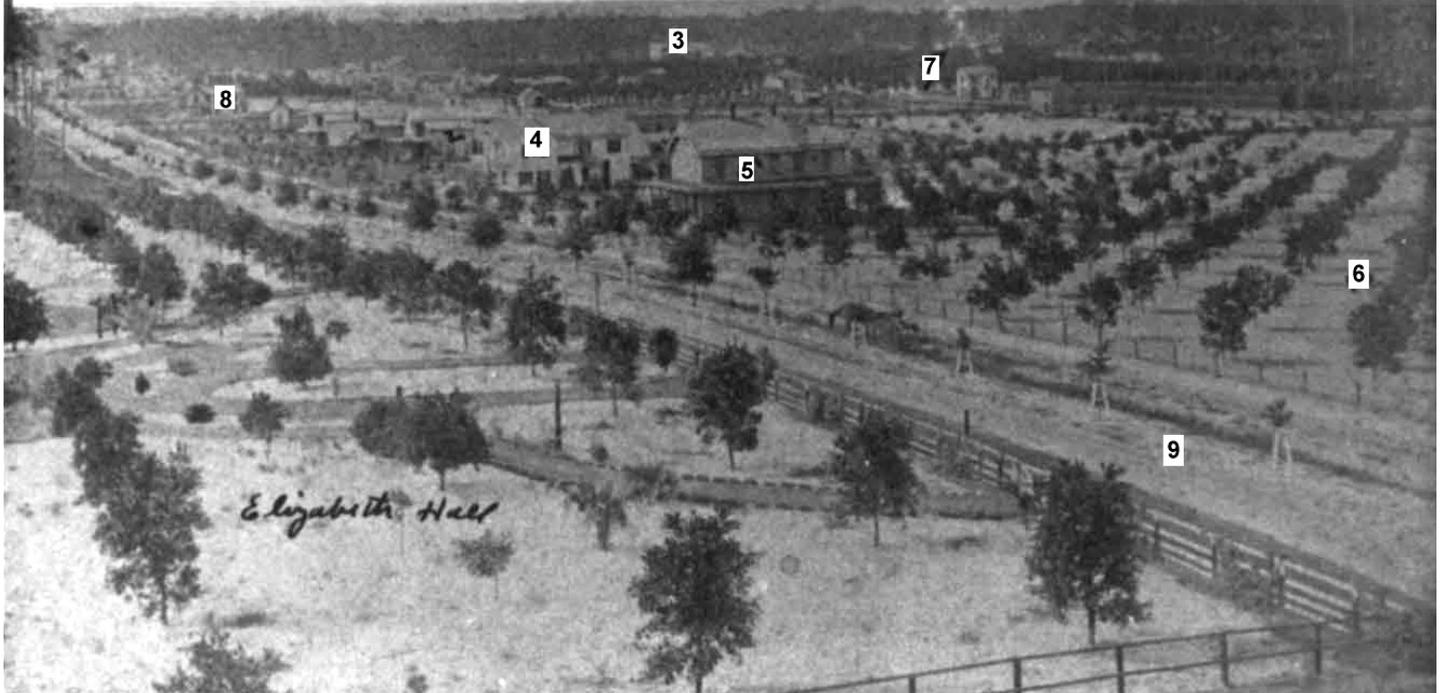
[DeLand's 125th Anniversary brochure pg 8]

DeLand Street Scene on the Boulevard.

No. 3.

Woodland Blvd. looking South from the Academy, residence of Dr. David More of Geneva, N. Y., in foreground.

1. Mrs. Swift's Boarding House, corner of Blvd. and Wisconsin Ave.
2. Dean Carson's home.
3. Terry House, now Putnam Inn.
4. Now vacant lot on corner of Blvd. and Michigan Avenue.
5. Dr. Moore's, now owned by Williamson's.
6. Where Science Hall now stands.
7. Lance Adam's Grove.
8. Minnesota Ave.
9. Blvd.



[From "Volusia The West Side" pg 256]

Early glass photo taken from top of DeLand Academy looking towards DeLand.
Elizabeth Hall site is in foreground and will be constructed later, Circa 1887.

ida.

* Marl: "... a material much like clay, ...", "very pale orange to light gray, very sandy, very microfossiliferous. ...", yellow orange, very sandy. Contains poorly preserved casts and molds of mollusks, with Turritella and Cardium identified. Indurated near top forming a nodular ledge." [Source: "Florida Geological Survey - Bulletin Forty-Seven" pg 78: "3 SHELL MARL," and "The Shell People" <http://funandsun.com/1tocf/inf/nativepeoples/calusa.html>]

"Team" is an ancient term which meant riding on a wagon or buggy drawn by draft animals, usually

horses but sometimes oxen. The term has no meaning for the younger generation unless they have picked it up by watching old movies.

—*Ianthe Bond Hebel* / Google has made this out of print book available online

[@ Centennial History of Volusia County, 1854-1954, The Early Roads of Volusia County](#)

[http://books.google.com/books?id=PV8TAAAYAAJ&pg=PA13&lpg=PA13&dq=early+roads+of+volusia+count+v&source=bl&ots=x9qYVEuT95&sig=CPOeIQ5B6TIBjOA9Fj8iEdzDzUo&hl=en&ei=u#v=onepage&q=early%20roads%](http://books.google.com/books?id=PV8TAAAYAAJ&pg=PA13&lpg=PA13&dq=early+roads+of+volusia+count+v&source=bl&ots=x9qYVEuT95&sig=CPOeIQ5B6TIBjOA9Fj8iEdzDzUo&hl=en&ei=u#v=onepage&q=early%20roads%20of%20volusia%20county&f=false)

[20of%20volusia%20county&f=false](#)

Photos are from <http://www.deland.org/virtualtour/history/road2.htm> —*Jerry Hale*

"Tampa already had fifteen automobiles by 1906 and the entire state had 296 automobile. Driving was not yet for the masses, but the state recognized a potential transportation boom and formed the Florida State Road Department in 1908. In this way brick continued southward. Florida's brick was transported by rail and by mule."—*Florida, A Short History* by *Michael Gannon*

Linda's Excellent Genealogy Adventure—

Linda Williamson <http://www.sciway.net/photos/upstate-sc/edgefield-town/>



Edgefield, South Carolina Town Square—This monument donated by local DAR Chapters in 1933 is dedicated to the ten Governors and five Lieutenant Governors from Edgefield County that have served the state over the last two centuries. A live streaming web cam of the town square can be seen at <http://www.telecamsystems.com/townsquare/>

On a Friday afternoon in June, I took a bargain \$19 (+tax) flight on Allegiant Airlines from Sanford to Greenville/Spartanburg to visit my sister, Josie, and research our ancestral beginnings in America. Both sides of the family pioneered in Edgefield and that was the destina-



Historic Willow Brook Cemetery—Burial site of several South Carolina governors, senators, legislators, and other politicians, religious and civil leaders, including Strom Thurmond and my maternal grandparents.

tion of my adventure. My online research revealed that Edgefield was founded in 1785 and by the early 1800's had become a trade center for the surrounding farms. The Edgefield Advertiser, South Carolina's oldest newspaper, printed its first edition there in 1836. I found the town square charming. It has been described as having the typical "old town" look, and has been called "a shrine to the agelessness of political, religious, industrial, cultural and social happenings in the community." Much of the town has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and it is hard to miss the billboard proclaiming "Ten Governors From Edgefield" printed on the side of a building at the entrance to the square. It houses what is said to be the oldest still operating grocery store in the country. A

life-size bronze statue of native son Senator Strom Thurmond stands in the square facing the courthouse.

Josie and I easily found the historic Willow Brook Cemetery where our grandparents were buried behind the Edgefield Baptist Church, a couple of blocks from the town square. It was Mother's Day

weekend, and the grass had been freshly cut by a good Samaritan—as it is not the church's responsibility and there is no perpetual care. We were unable to find the Rearden plot and gave it up for that day.

When we returned to Edgefield the next day, it was lunch time, so we headed to the Edgefield Billiard Parlor on the square. It is the place to go if you like eating hamburgers perched on a bar stool, watching locals play billiards. It was right up our alley. Afterward, we made our way across the square to the Old Edgefield District Genealogical Society housed in the Tomkins Library at 104 Courthouse Square.

As soon as we walked in and the staff began bringing us books and folders of information, I realized I was in genealogy heaven. Especially helpful were the books on the cemetery locations and information about those interred that OEDGS volunteers had researched and published. The staff made copies for me from the folders, I purchased five books, and we happily departed.

With our cemetery books in hand, Josie and I went directly to the



Rearden plot in Willow Brook Cemetery, and wondered how we missed it the first time. I finally understood the notations and drawings that my dad had given me before he died. There was an error on my grandfather's headstone—his birthday was off by 40 years (his first wife would have died before he was born), and there were no markers for my Uncle Charlie and Granny Rearden. I didn't realize this was something we would need to take care of.

There was another small Rearden family cemetery dating to the 1850's that Josie had visited about twenty years ago, and we were determined to find it. We had been searching along the route to Edgefield but could not spot the location. We recruited a couple of escorts—Josie's husband, Chuck, and our cousin, Dewey



Josie (left) and I are attempting to read the inscriptions on the tabletop graves at an old cemetery at the former Rearden homestead

Rearden, for the following day. (It is recommended when going to isolated areas; as is getting permission from the owner.)

The concise directions in our "cemetery book" lead us down a private road to a gate. The land was



There appears to be a sink at the site—without intervention others could follow.

heavily wooded and was apparently leased to hunters, as there were 15 or so camper trailers parked inside the gate. (During hunting season, August 15–December 31) it would be wise to wear an orange vest.)

We traversed the gate on foot and walked down the road until we saw the pond and found the remains of the old homestead house. It was pushed into a pile next to a rock fireplace that was still standing. The house had been built with wooden pegs. Wild rambling pink roses are growing in the woods nearby. I imagine they were planted and nurtured long ago by a loving hand.

Chuck forged ahead through the woods to the far side of the pond and found the grave sites. He yelled to us and we quickly followed to the highest point on the property. I was awestruck by the scene of three table top grave-stones and one smaller stone sitting in isolation in the woods.

The stacked brick bases under the tabletops have started to tumble and one tabletop is leaning off-kilter because a tree has grown up too close. We struggled to read the inscriptions on the weathered old stones. We learned from his obituary reprinted in the *Edgefield County, SC Family Cemeteries & Death Notices From the SC Baptist Newspaper*, published by the OEDGS, that our second great grand uncle James Joseph Rearden "... in the meridian of life accompanied the American troops



This smaller stone marks an infant's grave.

at the battle of New Orleans and in other hazardous enterprises and participated in the glories on January eighth that gave the finishing stroke in the second war of Independence (The War of 1812.)" and "Joseph departed this life at his residence in Edgefield District on November 30, 1852, in the 82nd year of his age."

It was an humbling experience to see where my ancestors lived and died so long ago. We have resolved that our family must be the caretakers of this site for future generations. It's going to take some work, but as descendents, isn't it our duty? —Linda Williamson

The Old Edgefield District Genealogical Society was founded in 1985 and is the largest genealogical society in South Carolina with over 650 members in forty states. For information call (803)637-4010 or online at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~scoedgs/>

Gravestone Symbols—Read the Gravestones on the Hill—

Argent Moon / <http://www.spiritedghosthunting.com/GravestoneSymbols-ArgentMoon.htm> Photos by Linda Williamson from the historic Willow Brook Cemetery in Edgefield, South Carolina

Over the centuries, the act of burying the dead has evolved. Evidence of Neanderthal man burying his dead in pits deep inside caves has been found. In biblical times, bodies were for the most part placed in the ground and the hole was covered with stones, to protect the body from wild animals. Of course, the pyramids in Egypt are shining examples of the world's largest gravestones. But none of us are likely to be conducting ghost hunts in the pyramids anytime soon. Very often you'll be in a cemetery, surrounded by the interred

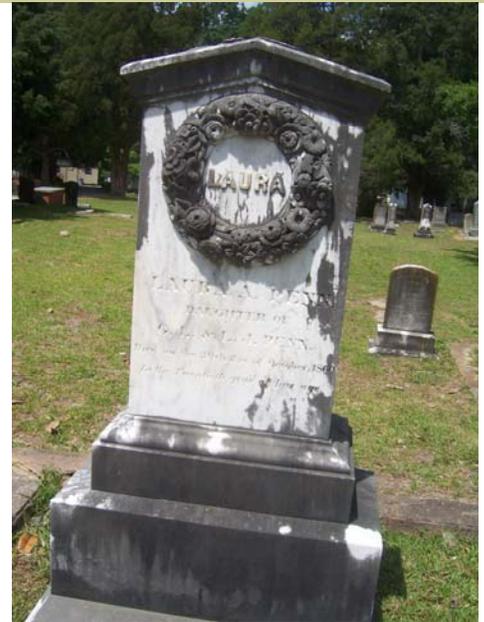


The cross represents salvation.

bodies of the dead. The graves will be adorned with some sort of stone marker, bearing words and symbols. These gravestones are a way for the dead to speak, to tell us of their life, and in a way achieve immortality. Early cemeteries were scattered graves near the family home. Churchyards later became crowded with the buried dead. The

1900's brought park-like settings of grassy tranquility. The markers for the graves in the cemeteries have evolved as well. The first markers were rocks and boulders superstitiously piled on the graves to keep the dead from rising (and to keep animals from disturbing the body). Later markers were made of wood or rough stone. These primitive gravestones did not fare well in the elements. The first markings on gravestones were simple, telling only the name, age and year of death. Gradually, more elaborate carvings were added. By looking at the gravestones, their inscriptions and their carvings, you can learn more about the dead than you ever realized.

Gravestones before 1800 were usually slender, square sandstone or slate slabs. Between 1830 and 1860, more elaborate sculptured stones of white marble were used. These stones were and are subject to growths of obscuring and damaging lichen and moss. From 1860 to 1880, gravestones tended to be square, massive marble stones of elaborate shapes or with decorative, ornate sculptures. The period between 1880 and 1910 brought the use of soft grey granite for gravestones. Unfortunately this type of stone was extremely subject to weathering. Starting in 1910 and continuing to the present, granite or marble has been used. (As an aside, stillborn children were often remembered with only a very small stone, sometimes blank, other times with only initials carved on it.) Due to the requirements of grounds keeping at the modern park-like cemeteries, the stones are devolving back to simple polished granite or marble, lying flat on the ground and in-



A garland or wreath means victory of death.

scribed with only names and dates of birth and death. Once you've seen the haunting beauty of the ornately deco-



Lambs are often seen on children's gravestones.

A lamb represents innocence.

rated gravestones of the past, you can't help but lament that they seem to be truly and forever of the past.

The words inscribed on a gravestone will tell you a lot about the person the stone honors. Some are carved with a short biography about the person.

Even a one line epitaph tells you what the deceased's survivors thought of him. The sheer number of words on the stone can give you a clue about the one buried there. After all, if you're hiring a stonecutter by the letter, lots



Tree Trunk Stump usually marks the graves of Woodmen of the World members. Broken branches on the tree symbolize a life cut short.

of letters equals lots of money.

Not all of the stories that you find in cemeteries are written in words. The figures and pictures on the stones also tell us a story. Markers in the 1600s were typically inscribed with stark skull-and-cross bone markings, the ancient symbol of death. These figures represented a sense of awe about death and a fear of dying that people during that time period often had. By

the 1700s, the crossbones were beginning to be replaced by wings. The resulting image was called "death's head". The wings were introducing the idea of flight from the earth, or life after death. Gradually, sculptors emphasized life over death, and the skulls became angels. During the mid 19th century the stones were used to convey themes that emphasized eternity, rebirth, and the experience of the deceased. Learning the meanings behind the myriad of symbols carved on gravestones will give you new insight into the lives led by those buried in a cemetery. Broken columns, inverted torches, and urns were images of lives that

ended too soon. An hourglass with wings represents the fleeting passage of time. Wheat or a sickle shows the reaping of the soul. The weeping willow tree was a popular symbol used in the Victorian era. It stood for mourning and the idea that man, like a tree, must reach for heaven. Included here is an extensive list of gravestone carvings and their symbolic meanings. It's by no means complete, but will certainly help you as you explore cemeteries, not just looking for the spirits of the dead, but for knowledge of their lives. The dead still have their stories to tell. Listen to them speak.—
Argent Moon

Common Gravestone Icons and Symbols Found in Cemeteries and Graveyards from "American Spirit" November December 2008

Anchor: hope ("Hope is the anchor of the soul.")	Ivy: memory and fidelity
Angel: messenger between God and man; guide	Lamb: Christ; the Redeemer; meekness; sacrifice; innocence
Angel (flying): rebirth	Laurel: victory
Angel Weeping: grief	Lily: resurrection; purity
Arrows or darts: mortality, the dart of death	Palls/drapery: mortality
Birds: the soul	Pomegranate: immortality
Coffins: mortality	Portals: passageways to the eternity journey
Column (broken): sorrow, life cut short	Rose: sorrow
Cross: salvation	Scallop shell: the resurrection; a pilgrims journey; the baptism of Christ
Dove: Holy Ghost	Scythe: time or time cut short
Father Time: mortality	Skull (winged): the flight of the soul from the body
Flame: life	Skulls and crossbones: death
Flower: the frailty of life	Sun (rising): renewed life
Flower (broken): death	Sun (setting): eternal death
Garland: victory in death	Sword: martyrdom; courage
Gourds: the coming to be and the passing away of earthly matters; the mortal body	Torch (burning): immortality; truth; wisdom
Hand (pointing upward): ascension to heaven	Urn: mortality (a receptacle for the bodily remains)
Handshake: farewell to earthly existence	Wheat: time; the divine harvest (often used to denote old age)
Heart: the home of the soul; love of Christ; the souls in bliss	Willow: grief

Tombstones are a Secondary Source—George Morgan from “Along Those Lines”

<http://library.ancestry.com/search.aspx?srch=perpetuate&submit=Search&ti=0>



Tombstones Are Secondary

Sources. Halloween always conjures up mental images of ghouls, goblins, monsters, ghosts, witches, and other unearthly creatures. It also makes me think of cemeteries, and as a genealogist, cemeteries don't frighten me at all. A cemetery is actually a peaceful place for reflection and for family history research using tombstones. The information found on tombstones can provide any number of clues, but the information should always be considered a secondary source. In "Along Those Lines . . ." this week, let's discuss some of the reasons why tombstones are secondary sources.

Tombstone Troubles. Tombstones, markers, plaques, mausoleums, and other monuments have been used over the millennia to mark the place of an individual's interment or to act as commemorative memorial to a person. The study of these markers over time provides a number of interesting insights into the sociological and archaeological aspects and practices surrounding death and memorialization. The common denominator across many centuries of burial markers is the inclusion of vital information about the deceased. Names, dates, and other information is carved, inscribed, or otherwise written to communicate facts about the deceased's life.

What we must understand about these commemorative markers is that they are not primary sources of genealogical information; they are

emphatically secondary sources. The following are some reasons and examples of why tombstones are secondary sources.

Time of Placement. Tombstones and other grave markers are very frequently not placed until some time after the death and burial of the individual. In some cases, it may be months or even years before a permanent marker is installed. During the Great Depression, many people did not have the money for gravestones and therefore had to wait for better financial times to allow them to order a marker and have it installed.

Incorrect Names. Individual's names on tombstones may possibly be incorrect. As with death certificates, the accuracy of information on a tombstone depends on the knowledge of the informant or the person who actually ordered the stone. As a result, a tombstone may bear a nickname rather than the true name of the individual. This is the case with my Grandmother Morgan's stone. Her real name was Laura Augusta Wilson Morgan, but her gravestone reads Minnie Wilson Morgan—a concession to the nickname used throughout her life and to the physical size of the stone.

In other cases, there may be errors on the marker. Occasionally, a stonemason made an error in carving information. You might expect these to be caught and a new stone created, but this did not always happen. For example, in one old cemetery in downtown Tampa, Florida, there is a tombstone on which there

is a spelling error in the surname.

Rather than create a new stone, the stonemason carved a slash through the incorrect letter on the stone and then carved the correct letter above the incorrect one.

Incorrect Dates. Vital dates can also be wrong. A death certificate may be a primary source for death information, but it is certainly only a secondary source where birth details are concerned. The accuracy of this information again depends on the knowledge of the informant, and any incorrect information provided may be perpetuated on a tombstone.

Another cause for an incorrect date on a tombstone may be the vanity of the deceased person. Some people may try to conceal or even lie about their age. This deception may literally be taken to the grave—to the stone itself—in the form of incorrect dates.

Wrong Place. Another problem with tombstones is that sometimes they are placed in one location when the burial actually took place somewhere else. It pays to study obituaries and to make note of the place of interment, if included. One of my great-uncles has two tombstones in different cemeteries. The first one was placed in his wife's family plot and was pre-inscribed with his name, year of birth, and "19--" in the space for year of death. For many years, a number of family members thought he was buried there. It was not until I conducted some additional obituary research that I found that he had married a second time, and that he

and his second wife purchased and were buried in another cemetery on the other side of the town where they lived.

Transcription Typos There are many conscientious people involved in projects to transcribe tombstone inscriptions and make them available for others' research. I applaud the efforts of these volunteers, many of whom are local historians and members of genealogical and historical societies. Even the most conscientious person, however, may make errors while working through the cemetery. Some stones are eroded or covered with lichen, moss, vines, and other growth that make them difficult to read and decipher. Transcribers will give their best effort at reading them correctly, but may still record incorrect information. In other cases, it is easy to miscopy or misspell names and other data, and numeric figures may be easily transposed.

And then there is the process of formally preparing the data for publication. The errors made in the cemetery, and new ones created during the process of typing or performing data entry, can be published and are then perpetuated by researchers who may accept the data as fact. For these reasons, it is important to use published cemetery transcriptions only as finding aids to point you to the actual tombstone. You will want to see the tombstone yourself or have someone provide you with a high-

quality, high-resolution photographic image for your review.

Setting It in Stone. Thus, there

tion inscribed on it was 100 percent accurate, you really don't know for certain anything about it. That means you don't know who ordered it, when

My grandfather's birth date on his tombstone in Willow Brook Cemetery in Edgefield, South Carolina has a blatant error—it's off the mark by forty years. His first wife buried next to him would have died before he was born. Through his death certificate and the census, I believe his birth date to be May 27, 1846.

Check and verify, even when it's set in stone!—
Linda Williamson

Photo by Linda Williamson



are a number of opportunities for incorrect information to be perpetuated on tombstones. Families may make every effort to provide a fitting and tasteful marker for their loved one, but surviving family members may not have all the details or may make mistakes. In some cases, the person who arranged for the marker may not have been a family member at all. The fact is, unless you were directly involved with ordering and placing a tombstone and knew the informa-

tion, the accuracy of the name, dates, and other information inscribed, or when it was placed. You will therefore need to verify the information with other primary sources.

So, when you pay your visit to the cemetery this Halloween, take a look at the tombstones and markers, and remember that you can't assume the information set in stone" is correct. There is more research needed.

Happy Halloween!—George Morgan



National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

A booklet in pdf format is available from the National Park Service on Basic Monument Cleaning at <http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/pdf/CMC-Cleaning-Booklet-EN.pdf>



Sleuthing With Jerry—Volunteerism and Our Society, E-mail Nightmare, Civil War Pension Files & More—*Jerry Hale*



Volunteerism—The Life Blood of Any Society:

Beacon Obituaries: If you are familiar with the "Obituary Daily Times (ODT)" project at Rootsweb you will appreciate how valuable an effort it is. The idea is for volunteers all over the US and Canada to abstract the obituaries from their local newspapers and submit them to the ODT database. When someone needs an obituary they can check the ODT database and find out exactly what newspaper and what publication date holds the obituary they seek. They can then obtain the obit from the newspaper itself or from someone who has access to the paper.

I have been abstracting the Beacon for years but have fallen behind. Would someone be willing to take on this task? I will help you get started and provide copies of the Beacon obits that you can work with.

It has been mentioned that other Societies earn money through the sale of books they have produced. I wonder whether anyone in the Society would be willing to take on a project or two? We could, perhaps, abstract court house records, transcribe early area documents such as census or tax rolls and produce books for sale.

We have one very attractive project which has made some money for our treasury and might produce much more if it were advertised. During August I made a CD for a Gen Room visitor re-

searching the Marsh family. The Brownell notebooks had around 50 pages of information. I burned a copy of the Marsh information to a CD for him. I did not "charge" anything and, when asked, said that there was no charge, that that is what we do. He insisted on "a little something for your Society" and handed me \$60! When I protested that it was far too generous he insisted. Later someone on the internet requested a look up which I handled without charge and then suggested that a copy of the wealth of information that Brownell had on his family might be worth a \$15 donation. The fellow was eager to have the information and sent the donation to the Treasurer. I created a pdf file and sent it by eMail. I asked him whether he felt he had gotten his money's worth. He replied that he had and was very happy with the bargain.

The Brownel Collection: The Brownell collection is a gold mine. Unfortunately the project languishes for lack of volunteers. We finished scanning and I have created pdf files (electronic books or ebooks) for each notebook. What is needed is for people to verify each notebook against the pdf files. When I was preparing the Marsh information I found that there were 20 pages in the notebook that had not gotten into the pdf file. Whether the pages were somehow not scanned or whether they are out of place is not known. It is clear that, for the project to be properly completed, we must verify the results.

E-Mail Nightmare: Dick Eastman's BLOG explains why you need an

email address that is not tied to your internet provider. As the industry consolidates email addresses like <myname@bellsouth.net> or <myname@verizon.com> may disappear overnight and without notice. Everyone should obtain one of the free services, such as gmail, hotmail, yahoo or junio. These services are all free and easy to set up. I prefer gmail (Google Mail) but any service that is independent of the company that provides your internet service would be a step in the right direction.

One service that is not often mentioned is Hotpop (there may be others.) Set up an account with Hotpop and your email address becomes <myname@hotpop.com>. Hotpop's ad supported service is free and allows a person to have one permanent email address. Eliminate the ads for about 99 cents per month. The difference between Hotpop and others is the ability to direct Hotpop to forward all email to as many as three other addresses. The addresses being forwarded to can be changed at will, no need to notify anyone of the change.

Find Hotpop at: <http://www.hotpop.com/index.jsp>

Read Eastman's BLOG at:

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/08/followup-why-you-need-a-second-and-better-email-address.html

Exact Age of Pensioners in the 1840 Census: In response to a question about War of 1812 pensioners in the 1840 census the NEHGS Online Genealogist gave this answer:

The majority of the 1840 pensioners fought in the Revolutionary War. Most veterans of the War of 1812 were not pensioned until after 1871;

however, there were some exceptions. Where the main portion of the household is only enumerated by age ranges, the pensioner was listed with his or her exact age. This is the first census to record the exact age of an individual. The 1850 census started enumerating all household members by their exact age.

Civil War Pension File: This week my gal Friday, Peggy Reeves, who I have mentioned in several other newsletters, delivered the Civil War pension file for my Great Grandfather John Lindsay Hall who served in Co. D of the 27th Iowa Infantry. The file ran to nearly 200 pages and consisted of three pension applications, an INVALID pension for John L. Hall himself, a WIDOW's application for his wife Elizabeth Rizer, and a MINOR DEPENDENT CHILD application for John & Elizabeth's nearly blind son Frank.

This file has opened up a whole new path for me, if you haven't applied for the pension file for your Veteran it is surely worth the money to do so. The first page in the file was an elaborate obituary which gave his birthplace (Davie Co., NC) and date, the path the family took to Iowa, about when they arrived as well as the names of his living children and their spouses. In the pages of the file was revealed the fact that his sister married his wife's brother! All of a sudden I understood why she appeared alone in the 1870 and 1880 census and I had a connection to the William Rizer, also in Company D of the 27th Iowa Infantry. William died in a New Orleans hospital. I was able to confirm that William was the husband of Nancy Hall and appeared as neighbors to John & Elizabeth in the 1860 census. The names of other neighbors in the census appeared on the many affidavits testifying to John's disability, and the dates and places when John and Elizabeth lived for short periods in Nebraska and South Dakota. I would never have figured that out without the pension file.

It took about three weeks from the ordering to the delivering of that file and I can be sure that every page of the file was copied. As I've said before, using Peggy's service is much faster and very little more expensive than ordering directly from NARA, waiting 1 to 3 months and not being sure you have everything. She charged me 1-1/2 hours for the work at \$20/hr.

North Carolina Online Records:

Now that I have a place in North Carolina to look for my ancestors I began making progress in my research. I searched for John's father William Hall using Ancestry Library Edition (ALE). The results of that search for such a common name produced a staggering and largely useless return. In an attempt to find something more useful I went back to the "Home" page of ALE and selected "All Databases." Browsing through North Carolina databases I discovered two nearly identical titles, "Early Marriages" and "Marriage Bonds." The first produced no results but the second yielded a William Hall's marriage to Susana Parker in 1825 in Rowan County. Knowing that John, son of William and Susannah, was born in Davie County I started looking at the development of NC counties. The first thing I learned was that Davie County did not exist when John was born. Davie County was formed from Rowan County in 1836. It seems likely that this marriage is for my Gr Gr Grandparents. I will have to visit the library at Mocksville the next time I'm up that way to try to prove it.

More and more actual records are becoming available online. North Carolina has a site called "**North Carolina Family Records Online**" at <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/dimp/digital/ncfamilyrecords/>

Quoting from their site: "*North Carolina Family Records Online* is com-

prised of North Carolina family history materials from the holdings of the North Carolina State Archives and State Library of North Carolina. The online collection currently contains a selection of over 200 Bible Records (lists of birth, marriage, and death information written in North Carolina family bibles) from the 2000+ copies of various donated family Bibles held by the North Carolina State Archives. The State Library's six volume Marriage and Death Notices -- indices of marriage and death announcements appearing in five North Carolina newspapers from 1799 to 1893 -- rounds out this collection. These newspapers include the *Raleigh Register*, *North Carolina State Gazette*, *Daily Sentinel*, *Raleigh Observer* and *News & Observer*.

The State Library of North Carolina Digital Repository provides online access to current and historical North Carolina state government information and North Carolina. First made available in the spring of 2008, the Digital Repository supports instructional and research needs related to the history and culture of North Carolina by making many of the unique and valuable holdings of the State Library of North Carolina easily accessible via a fully searchable, online, moreover, the collection incorporates the Web 2.0 functionalities tagging (allowing users to add their own descriptors to records), comments, and an interactive Google map.

Explore this website to browse all the items in the collection, search by topic, date, or location (using the interactive map), and learn more about North Carolina family history using the "Resources" section of the site.

About the State Library of North Carolina: The State Library of North Carolina has provided services to North Carolina and her people since 1812. Among its many services, the State Library provides resources, programs, and services to anyone with a research interest in

(AGS) to create indexes to county marriages registered in Arkansas between 1837 and 1957. Jan Davenport, 1st vice president of AGS, worked closely with FamilySearch to create the project and help solicit volunteers to index the digital images using FamilySearch's online indexing program. To date, 20,559 volunteers have helped produce the first sets of indexed data and images now available online.

FamilySearch is the global leader of online indexing. It launched its online indexing program in 2008, and tens of thousands of volunteers donate time online helping to index historic records like the Arkansas marriages collection. FamilySearch currently has 65 online indexing

projects underway.

For this project, FamilySearch is creating digital images of the county marriage records



and online volunteers worldwide then use FamilySearch's Web-based indexing tool to view the digital images and extract the desired information from the image. That data is then processed and published online in free searchable indexes linked to

the digital images.

Volunteers need only Internet access to contribute to this historic effort. A unique quality-control process ensures a highly accurate, finished index. Each document is transcribed by two different online indexers. Any discrepancies in their two extractions are then forwarded to a third volunteer—an arbitrator—who makes any needed corrections between the two interpretations. A typical downloaded "batch" (group of records) will take a volunteer about 30 to 40 minutes to complete. The indexing utility has built-in tutorials and helps. Anyone interested in volunteering to help complete the Arkansas project can do so at indexing.familysearch.org.

Third Cousins Meet For the First Time After Migrating to Florida—Howard Fisher

Rotarians Richard Fisher (Rotary Club of Port Orange) and Howard Fisher (Rotary Club of DeLand) were both born and raised in New Jersey but never met until they both moved to Florida. Richard is descended from Ira's second son Ira Jr. and Howard is descended from Ira's ninth son William which makes them third cousins.

Howard's genealogy hobby brought these cousins together. Just after moving to Florida from San Francisco Howard located a Fisher relative (Richard's sister Audrey) in New Jersey who mentioned that her brother lived in Port Orange. Howard contacted Richard and the rest is history.—Howard Fisher



Howard Fisher (left) and his cousin Richard, brought together through Howard's genealogy hobby.



**Roots and Branches
Genealogical Society of West
Volusia County**

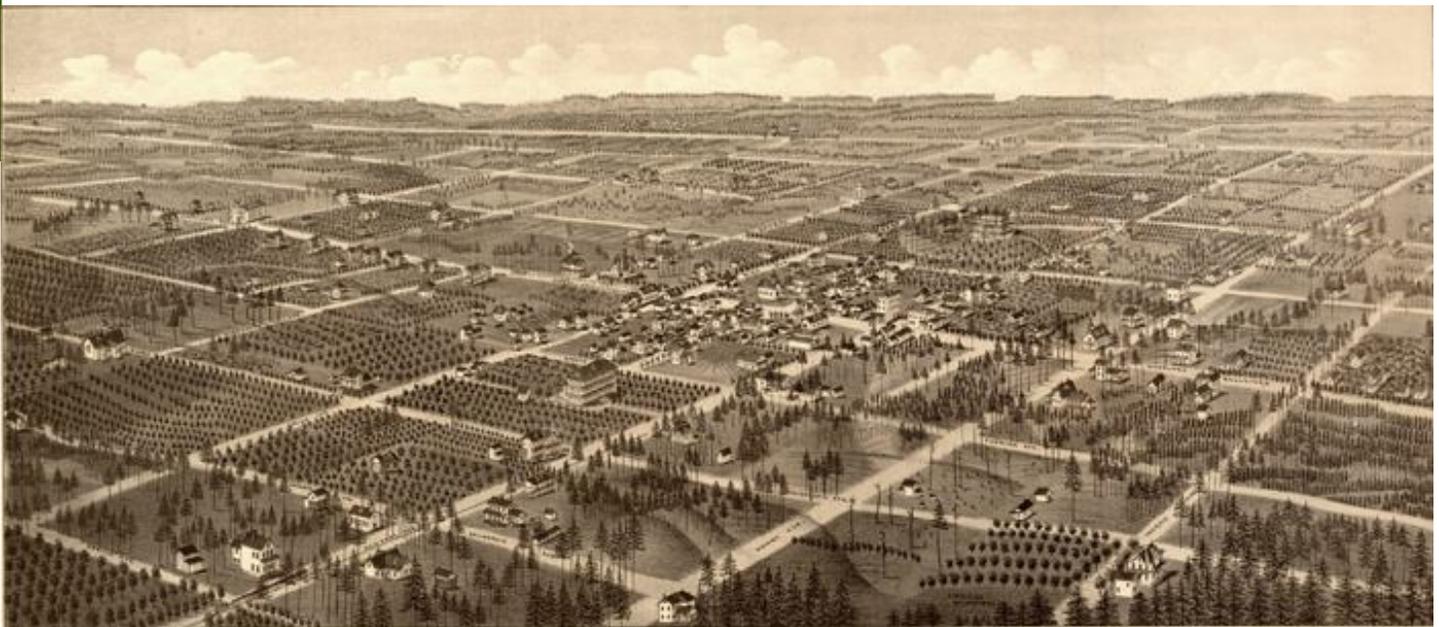
**DeLand Public Library
130 East Howry Avenue
DeLand, Florida 32724**

We're on the Web!

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/
~flrbgs/index.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flrbgs/index.htm)

We're also on the Web
@

[http://www.flgenhisonline.com/
counties/flagvol/volusia/volusia.html](http://www.flgenhisonline.com/counties/flagvol/volusia/volusia.html)



Published by J. J. STONE, Madison, Wis.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF

DE LAND, FLA.

VOLUSIA COUNTY

1884.

BECK & PAUL, Litho. Milwaukee, Wis.

- 1. Baptist Church.
- 2. First Baptist Church.
- 3. Methodist Church.
- 4. Episcopal Church.
- 5. Roman Catholic Church.
- 6. United Brethren Church.
- 7. Presbyterian Church.
- 8. DeLand School.
- 9. DeLand Grammar School.
- 10. DeLand Normal School.
- 11. DeLand Hotel.
- 12. DeLand Office Building.
- 13. DeLand Store.
- 14. DeLand Bank.
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John Rick.

Bird's Eye View of DeLand Florida 1884

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/pages/9700/f9752/f9752.htm>