

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

DECEMBER 2010

35TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2010 OFFICERS

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CALENDAR AND VCGS REPORTS	1
MEMBERSHIP CORNER	3
SAVING HOLIDAY GREETINGS	2
THE BIG PICTURE	3
NEW YORK STATE DAR RECORDS	4
GOOGLE E-BOOKS	5

Next VCGS Meeting will be the Christmas Social

Everyone Please bring a favorite treat or dish to share.

December 16, 2010 6pm Auditorium City Island Library Daytona

November Meeting From the Minutes of the Society *by Kitty Consalvo*

Treasurer's Report:

The balance as of November 18, 2010 is \$1,027.42. Ed Ubbens has conducted an audit of the books and everything is in order.

Dues:

Members were reminded that 2011 dues need to be paid.

Upcoming Seminar:

David Farris reminded attendees to sign up for the January seminar. The registration fee is \$35.00 until December 15th when it goes up to \$40.00

Election of Director:

Michael informed members that we need to conduct the election of Director #3 this evening. He asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Since there were none, he asked for volunteers. Jeanine Haussman volunteered. On motion by Hal Gauper, second by Tom Peake and a unanimous vote, Jeanine Haussman was elected as Director #3.

Book Sale:

The Book Sale postponed from the September meeting was held prior to this evening's meeting with a number of purchases being made.

Program:

A Dr. Schweitzer video was shown about early immigration to New York. He talked about how Wall Street and the Stock Exchange received their names. Originally, it was where livestock was exchanged.

He cited a number of resources for researchers of New York ancestors. On the Internet you can go to FamilySearch.org, FTM.com and Genealogy.com. For a locality search go to the Family History Library through your local Family History Center. Also on the Internet look at Cyndi's List, USGenWeb.com for the state, and the State Library and State Archives. There are what he calls "trapdoor" records in three places – the State Library, DAR Library, and New York City Public Library. There is an index to all the volumes but it isn't good. Instead go to the index in the back of each volume.

Other sources are county and city courthouses and libraries, historical societies and genealogical societies. Instead of going to the courthouse first he recommended going to the library and asking about city directories.

VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday December 16 5pm Board meeting
6pm Program Christmas Social Please bring food.

Thursday January 20 5pm Board meeting
6pm Program : William Cummins who will talk on his book "The Forgotten"

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library Dec 9, 2010 at 1:30 pm
Discovering Your Christmas Heritage and Installation of Officers

R&B Deland Library, Dec 19, 2010 at 2:00 pm

GSSVC NSB Library, Dec 12, 2010 5:00 pm

\$\$ Report by Treasurer Tom Peake \$\$

November Balance \$1,027.42 ,. Audit has been completed by Ed Ubbens. Two checks outstanding.

Preservation Tip of the Month-**Saving Holiday Greetings by Curt B. Witcher**

Tis the season when many will be receiving Christmas cards and other holiday greetings. If you're like me, every year I receive a few cards that are really special and other greetings that are wonderfully personalized. I like to save these items. How to do that successfully is a matter of personal taste, but there are some basics to keep in mind.

Remember that the vast majority of holiday greetings are printed or written on paper that contains acid; indeed, some are very acidic. So saving them will mean segregating them from photographs and other valuable keepsakes and heirlooms. If you like scrapbooking, you can glue an acid-free envelope on a scrapbook page with acid-free adhesive. Use that envelope as a pocket for your cards. If you're more of an "archiver" or filer, you can use the same acid-free envelope for storing the cards and then place the envelope in an acid-free folder.

Of course, digitizing the cards and greetings is a great way to save holiday mementos. Remember to scan at a dpi of at least 300 and save as tiff images. Be sure to integrate these new 2010 holiday images into your back-up and media refreshment schedule.

Membership Corner

Ruth Patrignani

Thirty-five members and guests attended the November 18 meeting. As the year 2010 is drawing to a close, it is time to renew your membership. Dues are still \$10 per individual or \$15 for family membership. Beyond the usual maintenance fees of the organization, the dues help to purchase books for the genealogy room at City Island Library. As most of you know, this is a wonderful asset for our community. We are still looking for members to help man the room. It is a great way to check out the materials we have in the room and to assist others in their search. Please consider sharing your knowledge with others. Checks for dues may be given to Tom Peake at our next meeting, December 16, or you may mail them to: Treasurer, VCGS, PO Box 2039, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-2039. See you in December.

The Big Picture

By Maureen A Taylor

Every picture tells a tale—sometimes you just have to tease it out. Here's how my 10 best photo-identification tips helped solve your photo mysteries.

1. **Ask Family First** - Many time your best source of information is family who you talk with all time .
 2. **Focus on the Photo's Format** - Solving photo mysteries is a process of adding up clues about when a picture was taken and who might be in it. Looking closely at an image to identify the photographic format—such as a paper print, an ambrotype or a tintype can give you a date range to start with. The earliest type of photographic image, the daguerreotype, was produced on a reflective metal surface. This format was in vogue from 1839 to about 1865, a brief period when compared to the longevity of another type of metal image—the tintype. Invented in 1856, these pictures printed on "tin" (actually iron) were popular into the 20th century.
 3. **Pay Attention To Props**—An object in a photo can be more than a decorative device employed by the photographer to add interest—it can actually deepen the photographic story.
 4. **Investigate Imprints**—Find a name embossed or printed on the front or back of a picture?? Most photographers ordered pre-embossed or printed cards on which they'd then develop photos. The mark is called a photographer's imprint; it can include just a studio name or also the street address city and incorporation year. It offers clues to when , where and why an ancestor posed for a portrait.
 5. **Inspect Clothing**—Examine every facet of clothing in a photo from head to toe. Elements of a person's dress can date an image and even reveal place of origin. Browsing clothing history books for costumes similar to those in your photo may result in a match.
 6. **Rely on Genealogy Research**—When you think you may know who is in a photo but maybe cannot identify one of the subjects—try looking at census records to see who might have been living together at that time.
 7. **Check Out The Background**—A backdrop could tell you a bit about ancestral hobbies. To examine miniscule background detail, scan the print to a high resolution and zoom in on your computer monitor. Search for structures, signs, foliage and other clues to the photo's setting. Don't forget to look for photographs within a picture. Bureaus, parlor furniture, pianos, walls and room screens in the background might display framed photos of family members.
 8. **Flip It Over**—What's on the back of the photo may be as important as what's on the front. You might find a photographer's imprint or a handwritten caption there. A tax stamp in the corner would indicate a photo was taken in 1864 or 1865 when the government taxed photographs to raise funds for the Civil War. A stamp box on a real photo postcard, a photograph with a postcard back, first introduced in 1900—packs an identification wallop. Use the directory at www.playles.com to determine when the stamp box design on the back of your photo was in use.
 9. **Look For What Doesn't Fit**—Are pants legs rolled up or are they just wide cuffs? Cuffed pants were common on casual clothes in the early 20th century. Look at neckties. Soft polka dot ties first appeared in the late 19th century. What is the necktie style? Check out the style of the shoes.\
 10. **Seek the Truth Behind Family Legend**—You need to question everything you find instead of jumping to conclusions. Let the scientific method rule your process . Follow the clues and see what they tell you, rather than trying to make the elements fit what you have heard. It's all about adding up the clues.
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New York State DAR Records by John D. Beatty

New York is a challenging state for genealogical research. Public vital records were not kept regularly until the late nineteenth century and the availability of other records online remains limited, so most researchers need to consider alternatives. A useful source, available in The Genealogy Center, is the “New York State D.A.R. Records,” a set of microfilmed typescript volumes compiled over many decades by chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Beginning early in the twentieth century, the D.A.R.’s Genealogical Records Committee spearheaded the transcription of historical records of significance across the United States. The reports of New York State’s chapters were particularly fruitful, offering transcriptions of Bible records, church registers, wills, muster rolls, and cemetery inscriptions – all sources not otherwise readily accessible.

Bible records and cemetery inscriptions comprise the bulk of the collection. Researchers can best access the microfilms by using two printed guides. The “Master Index, New York State DAR Genealogical Records,” compiled in 1972 (974.7 D26ge), is a subject and name index providing references to a volume and page. Each volume citation is preceded by either a “B,” indicating a Bible record, or a “V,” designating some local record. This guide is a key access tool to the D.A.R. film series filed under New York State, which carries these letter designations. There is also a complementary “Master Index Supplement 1972-1978” at 974.7 D26ge suppl.

A more recent guide, published in 1998 under the title “Revised Master Index to the New York State Daughters of the American Revolution Genealogical Records Volumes” (974.7 D26gea), provides a corrected and more comprehensive index to the reports. The two-volume set contains four separate indexes: Bible records; cemetery, church, and town records; family histories; and Revolutionary War soldier graves. The B and V notations were replaced with references to specific volumes and page numbers corresponding to a second series of microfilm, which is filed in Special Collections as part of a larger set of D.A.R. Genealogical Records Committee Reports for other states. Users of this guide can search by surname for Bibles, family histories, and soldier graves, and also by county, and then under that heading, by town, for references to specific local records. For example, a search under “Chautauqua County” identifies dozens of transcribed cemeteries, as well as indexes to newspapers, state census indexes, and the records of several churches.

The national “Online GRC Index” available at www.dar.org/library is an every-name index to the reports and contains 368,000 entries for New York. Unfortunately, researchers will have difficulty using these references with the microfilms because filming was completed before final volume numbers were assigned.

This difficulty aside, the “New York State D.A.R. Records” are worth exploring because some of the family Bibles are undoubtedly no longer extant, and many of the transcribed gravestones have become unreadable. Researchers should consider using the collection, especially for upstate areas outside New York City.

Google E Books

Google has just launched its “Google eBooks” platform, an e-book store that contains 3 million volumes, most of which are free public domain. But hundreds of thousands of Google’s e-books will be paid titles from major and minor publishers. Those will include many bestsellers and, Google says, the vast majority of books already commercially available in electronic form. The books can be read online on any Windows or Macintosh computer — through a new Google reading interface also launched. They’ll also work on a number of tablet and e-reader devices, including Apple’s iPad and iPhone, Android based smartphones and tablets, and e-ink devices from Sony. You can find a list of hundreds of genealogy-related books, many of them free of charge, if you start at <http://goo.gl/85COh> and enter “genealogy” in the search box. You can then download onto your computer or e-reader,

] **Volusia County Genealogical Society, Inc** Founded 1976, is the oldest Genealogy Society in Volusia County. Meeting City Island Library Daytona Beach, 3rd. Thursday, monthly at 6pm. Sept—June

Mission: Encourage Society Members and the community to find their ancestors and connect with the past. Provide enlightening speakers at the monthly meetings on relative topics to aid, assist and better our research. Promote the use of and growth of our genealogy research room, develop our resources and grow

