

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

MAY 2011

36TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

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Next VCGS Meeting

May 19, 2011 6pm City Island Library Daytona Beach
Patricia Charpentier presenting "Writing Your Life"

Genealogy Tips

By Michael John Neill

What It Says—Not What It Should Say

Remember that transcribers of records are supposed to copy a record or a source the way it is written—not what the record "should" say. If grandma's name is Susannah and her marriage record lists her as "Susan," transcribe it as "Susan." If grandma gave the wrong place of birth on her marriage record don't "fix it" when you make the transcription, copy it as it is on the record.

You can (and should) make a notation somewhere that the information is incorrect, and state how you know it is wrong. But don't edit and correct what was on an original record.

Avoid That 21st Century Mind

It may be difficult, but remember when reading or analyzing any document that unless it was created during your lifetime, there might be some cultural, historical, economic, or legal events impacting that document or causing it to be created. Don't interpret a 19th century document with a 21st century mind.

Land Warrants vs. Land Patents

A land warrant usually means that someone is entitled to a certain acreage of property, without giving any real specifics about where that property is. Warrants are issued for several reasons, with the most common reason being a reward for previous military service. A land patent transfers title to a specific piece of property to an individual.

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VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday, May 19 5pm Board meeting
6pm Program

Thursday June 16 5pm Board meeting
6pm Program End of Year Social

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library May 12, 2011 at 1:30 pm
"Navigating the National Archives Website"

R&B Deland Library, May 15, 2011 at 2:00 pm

GSSVC NSB Library, May 8, 2011 at 5:00 pm

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - May 26, 2011 5:30pm

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

March 23, 2011

\$2,168.77

**"Did You Really Start with Yourself?" by William Dollarhide**

When asked the question, "How do you start doing genealogy?" most genealogists will respond, "Start with yourself."

Most genealogists respond that way, but I'm not so sure that's what they actually do. The fact is, we are more inclined to start with our parents and immediate family members. What we write down about ourselves is usually our name and vitals on a pedigree chart and family group sheet. The information comes from our heads. After all, we know our place of birth, marriage, and all the dates.

The unfortunate fact is, we may not give as much attention to collecting written documents concerning ourselves as for our ancestors. We work from the known to the unknown. Things that are known and established don't get our attention because we would rather work on the unknowns.

For example, do you have a copy of your own birth certificate? How about a copy of your marriage license? Or perhaps you have a copy of your confirmation record from church? How about a newspaper clipping that mentions your name on the high school honor roll? Where is that old high school annual, the one with that wonderful retouched photograph of you at age 17? Do you still have your college diploma? How about the newspaper article in which you were mentioned-the one about your team winning the championship? Where is that photo of the first car you ever owned?

And then there are your memories. All the basic vital statistics have been written down, and the family group sheets and pedigree charts have all the details. But what about the history of you?

You can write quite a nice biography of your great-grandfather. You have that county history in which he was prominently mentioned, giving some details about his life. You have his death record from a county courthouse, a copy of his marriage license, and several other documents. You can prove what you say about him because you have the written documents. Can you do the same thing for yourself?

What have you written about yourself that will be read by your descendants a hundred years from now? Will your descendants get anything more than your vital statistics on a pedigree chart, or is there something else you can leave them?

Some dos and don'ts for writing about your life:

- DON'T worry about what to write. All you have to do is remember something that happened to you in your life. Make it a vignette or a brief remembrance of some event in your life, such as your earliest childhood memory; your first day in school; the Sunday dress you spoiled; or the time you fell out of a tree and broke your leg.

- DON'T feel that you need to write everything about yourself at one sitting. Think of the writing project as an on-going endeavor made up of small pieces and one that may take some time to complete. Write without a plan or chronological order to the things you remember. One day you can write about last week, another day you can write about 40 years ago.

Continued from page 2 Did You Really Start With Yourself?

- DO try to remember the names and relationships of people. Try to remember the places where events took place, and try to place an approximate date to the events you write about.
- DO treat each piece of writing as a separate item on a separate page (or pages). Put the written pages in a special place where they can be retrieved and read from time to time.
- DO try to date the pages for each event you are writing about, so that the pages can be put into a chronological order later. Dates can be approximate, such as "about 1955" or "when I was in the 4th grade."
- DON'T worry about your writing style or grammar, or that your writing will be judged by your 11th-grade English teacher. It won't. One hundred years from now no one will fault you for not spelling every word perfectly.
- DON'T worry if you will ever finish writing everything you could write. If you have separate sheets of paper with stories—all dated—then anyone could take what you have written and make something of it.
- DON'T think of the events of your life as unimportant. Your descendants will love reading about things you may think are mundane and uninteresting.
- DO consider that what you write will become a legacy.

SOME THINGS TO SAY about yourself that your descendants will love to read 100 years from now:

- Your trip to visit your grandparents when you were 10 years old. What was grandmother wearing? Can you remember the great pastries she made on that old wood-burning kitchen stove?
- The time your brother scored the winning touchdown but ran into the goalpost and knocked himself out.
- When crazy Aunt Ethel came to visit and brought your cousin Hector along.
- Your thoughts at the moment you first looked at your newborn child.
- A description of your first car.
- Your first date. Your first kiss.
- Relatives you remember.
- School teachers you will never forget.
- Family get-togethers. Friends of the family.
- Places you have visited. Unforgettable travel experiences.
- Graduation day.
- Your wedding. Your honeymoon. Your first new home.
- Your first job. The worst boss you ever had. The best job you ever had.
- Great financial successes. Bad investments.
- The happiest times of your life were . . .
- Service in the armed services.
- Going to war. Protesting the war.
- Your family traditions on Thanksgiving, Christmas, other holidays.
- Favorite vacation spots.
- Your troublesome brother-in-law.
- Growing up without television (or the Internet, or cell phones).
- Where you were and what you were doing the day John F. Kennedy was killed.
- Your favorite movies.
- The people you admire most, and why.
- Your hobbies. Your talents.

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 the collection in the Genealogy and History Room at City Island Library .

Have You Read This????

Some Book Reviews That Might Be of Help

Tennessee's Forgotten Children (Three Volumes)

Mr. Miller's East Tennessee book was the first in his three-volume series covering all the apprenticeship records for the Volunteer State. The East Tennessee volume, containing about 11,000 entries and spanning the period 1778 to 1911, refers to apprenticeships created in the following Tennessee counties: Anderson, Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Polk, Rhea, Roane, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Sullivan, Union, and Washington. The Middle Tennessee volume extends to some 7,000 apprenticeship records between 1774 and 1902, found in the following thirty-five Tennessee counties: Bedford, Cannon, Cheatham, Clay, Coffee, Davidson, DeKalb, Dickson, Franklin, Giles, Grundy, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Jackson, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Moore, Overton, Perry, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Van Buren, Warren, Wayne, White, Williamson, and Wilson. Finally, *West Tennessee's Forgotten Children: Apprentices, 1821-1889* contains over 4,000 apprenticeship records scattered among the minutes of the county courts of Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Harde-man, Hardin, Haywood, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, and Weakley counties.

For each record Dr. Miller gives the name of the apprentice, a date (either the date of the original bond or indenture, or a subsequent date), the age at apprenticeship, the name of the master, and miscellaneous information ranging from the name of the mother or a sibling, race, cause of apprenticeship (e.g., orphan), his/her trade, etc.

Genealogies of West Virginia Families

A consolidation of all the family history articles that have appeared throughout the complete run of *The West Virginia Historical Magazine Quarterly*, from 1901 to 1905. Though a rich source of West Virginia genealogical data, this short-lived periodical is very scarce and, moreover, has never before been indexed. Clearfield Company is delighted to rectify both of these shortcomings by reprinting the genealogical meat of the magazine and by adding a complete name index of more than 5,000 entries. If your West Virginia ancestor came from one of the following main families, *Genealogies of West Virginia Families* is a work you won't want to overlook: Cameron, Clendinen, Doddridge, Duke, Elting-Shepherd, Hansford, Henderson, Henshaw, Hite, Houston, Lewis (Samuel and John), Lovell (Joseph), McWhorter (Henry and John), Miller, Morris (William), Nourse (James), Patrick (Virginia Harvie), Ruffner (Peter and Joseph), Rumsey (James), Shepherd, Stribling-Hereford, Teays, VanMeter, Van Metre-DuBois-Shepherd-Hite, and Yates-Aglionby.

[A Gazetteer of Virginia and West Virginia](#)

This book is a consolidation of two *Bulletins* of the U.S. Geological Survey. It consists of extensive alphabetical lists of Virginia and West Virginia place names (more than 12,000 altogether) and assists the researcher in interpreting references to place names discovered in plat maps or deeds and in pinpointing a particular ancestor in a specific locality. Places listed include post villages, towns, counties, mountains, rivers, and other notable topographical features. Most places are identified in relation to a county, and are thereupon described with even greater detail and refinement.

May Program

Patricia Charpentier will be presenting the program "Writing Your Life".

Patricia has an M.A. degree from the University of Central Florida in creative writing and a B.A. in journalism from Louisiana State University. She has worked as a memorist, writing coach, editor, writing instructor, journalist and photographer.



Genealogy helps us understand who we are and where we come from.

Family historians are accustomed to silent searching through history, but wouldn't it be nice if history actually said something to us.

How The States Got Their Shapes

Tuesdays at 10 p.m. on the History Channel

We take the shapes of our states for granted, but the map of America could have looked very different. Ever heard of Chicago, Wisconsin? Why is Texas so big that you'd better not mess with it? And what ever happened to the state of Jefferson?

In **HOW THE STATES GOT THEIR SHAPES**, Brian Unger hits the road to uncover the history hidden in our map. From the crooked borders in the east to the organized boxes in the west, the shapes of the states are more than simple geography. Every line on the map of America is a surprising clue that reveals how the 13 colonies became the 50 states and how an intrepid and immigrants built a new nation. The same forces that shaped our states still influence us today—how we eat, play. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, the nation's capital to your own backyard, **HOW THE STATES GOT THEIR SHAPES** will uncover the history you never knew about the places you know best.

