

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

February 2012

37TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2012 OFFICERS

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HAL GAUPER

Next VCGS Meeting

February 16, 2012 City Island Library 6 pm

Miles Gardner will be speaking on "Beyond Names and Dates: Putting Flesh on the Bones of Your Ancestors"

VOLUSIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting of January 21, 2012

Opening of Meeting:

Cora May Hartzell, President called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 21 members and 2 guests present.

Approval of Minutes:

On motion by Hal Gauper and second by David Ferris, the minutes of the meeting of December 15, 2012 were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Tom Peake reported that we have a balance of \$2,131.48 as of January 21, 2012.

Upcoming Events:

Cora May read an announcement from the Imperial Polk Genealogical Society about their seminar on March 3, 2012 featuring George K Schweitzer who will lecture on Migration Routes, and Obscure Genealogical Sources.

She also read an invitation from Bettie McMullen, Regent of the Sugar Mill Chapter, DAR, inviting us to their program February 21, 2012 in honor of Black History Month. Mary Fears will be speaking on "How People of Color Served in the Civil War."

Speaker:

Hal Gauper, Vice President introduced Bill Meister, President of the Flagler Genealogical Society who spoke on "Updating Genealogy on the Internet". He gave us a list of the 10 Favorite Genealogy Websites or the "normal" sites. He also gave us the 10 Favorite Websites that are "Beyond the Normal". These sites included Italian Genealogy Group, Italian Genealogy Forum, Ports of Emigration and Lexilogos. He cautioned us to look beyond the name of the website because many times these sites go way beyond their names such as the Italian Genealogy Group which has information about many other nationalities as well as Italian.

Dues Reminder:

Cora May reminded us that dues should be paid as quickly as possible for the year 2012.

Adjournment of Meeting:

Motion by Michael Williams and seconded by Judy Williams, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cora May Hartzell, Acting Secretary

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

VCGS REPORTS 1

CALENDAR AND
TREASURER'S
REPORT 2

2

3

7

VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday, February 16, 2012 5pm Board meeting

Thursday, February 16, 2012 6 pm

**Miles Gardner will be speaking on
“Beyond Names & Dates: Putting Flesh
on the Bones of your Ancestors”**

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library February 9, 2012 at 1:30 pm
“Writing and Publishing Family History” by Joe David Bellamy.

R&B Deland Library, February 19, 2012 at 2:00 pm

GSSVC NSB Library, February 12, 2012 at 2 pm

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - February 23, 2012 at 5:30pm



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

\$2,131.48



Tools of the Trade

By Thomas Macentee, Family Tree Magazine

Do you spend more time looking for online resources than using them? Here's how to combine the best ones into an easy-access, timesaving research toolbox. Whether you know it or not, you probably have some sort of genealogy research toolbox. Your tools are those frequently used online resources you return to again and again such as Roots Web or Family Search. Depending on its condition, your genealogy toolbox can be an invaluable help or an infuriating hindrance to your research. Does it remind you of your kitchen junk drawer; jumbled, disorganized, filled with thingamabobs you forgot you had and outdated doodads that no longer work? Is the drawer itself falling apart, no longer able to hold all the tools, not performing its intended purpose? Using the following tips and tricks, you can create a useful container of valuable resources to get all your genealogy research jobs done.

Breaking It Down—As they say, knowing you have a problem is the first step in fixing it. Here are three potential problems with your research toolbox. **It's All In Your Head**—Do you search for the same websites over and over again because you can't remember them or haven't bookmarked them? If this sounds familiar, all your research tools are stored in your head. Think about taking this valuable knowledge and placing it in a document, or better yet, in an online location where the tools are always ready to work for you. **It's Out of Date**—Do you copy and paste genealogy website URLs into a Word document? Do you write copious notes about researching at a specific library, but you can't find those notes when you need them? These habits indicate your research toolbox is outdated and cumbersome to use. You can modernize it and make it easier to use by setting up an online toolbox. **It's Disorganized**—Do you have hundreds of favorites or bookmarks to genealogy websites? Do you spend more time looking for the link you need than you do actually visiting that website? Your tool box is too hard to organize and update. You'll save time by reorganizing your tools and moving them to an easier-to-maintain toolbox. **Thinking Inside The Box**—Would you continue to wear a pair of shoes that just didn't fit right? Take the same approach when selecting a “container” for all you genealogy research tools. Your toolbox should be easy to access on your home computer and whatever other computers you use to do your research. It should let you quickly find the sites

you need, perhaps with a search function or folders you can use to categorize sites. You should be able to add and delete tools without unnecessary clicking around. If you want to share your toolbox with others, the container should make that easy. Select your toolbox according to how your work best. If you're tech-savvy when it comes to the web, using a note taking application such as Evernote or creating a website linking to your tools might suit you best. Not comfortable online? Simply bookmarking sites in your web browser or pasting links into a Word document might be better. Once you settle on a toolbox, spend some time learning how it works and setting it up with your research tools—the time invested now will be repaid many times over. **Gathering Tools**—Now that your container is rehabbed, inspect what's in your toolbox. When was the last time you checked to see if your bookmarked links still work? Maybe you are missing some handy tools, or there are new sites or pages that would better represent your research topics. The types of sites I recommend you put in your toolbox are general research sites, books, libraries and archives, calculators, directories family trees, maps, newspapers, search engines, vital records, and genealogy societies. Which tools within these categories should you add to your research toolbox? There are no rules. The decision is personal, especially if you aren't sharing your toolbox with other family historians. **Keeping It Up**—You'd probably like to avoid having to make over your research toolbox again. Just as for many things in life, keeping your toolbox organized and updated requires commitment. You'll need to find new tools, categorize them so they're easily found, and delete those that have disappeared or are no longer useful. If you use an online calendar, set a monthly or quarterly reminder to review your toolbox contents for tools that you no longer use or don't work anymore. Update your toolbox right away with new tools to replace those broken links. While adding and managing tools can be a never ending project (just like genealogy research, right?), at some point you might want to share your research toolbox with family members, fellow researchers or the wider genealogy community. A tool you found could be the key to someone else's family mystery. What if you don't want to create your own toolbox? Not a problem. You'll find online toolboxes you can borrow, including the famous Cyndi's Lost and Diigo Genealogy Research Resources. Now if only you could borrow someone's de-junked kitchen drawer, you'd be all set.

DAR Meeting

The Sugar Mill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at the Port Orange Christian Church at 904 Taylor Rd., Port Orange, at 7:00 p.m. on February 21, 2012. The program will be well known Civil War authority, Mary Fears. Her topic will be "How People of Color Served in the Civil War". The public is invited. Please call the Regent at 760-9921 for more information.

All women who have ancestors who fought in or provided assistance to the American Revolution are eligible to join. We will gladly assist you in preparing your paperwork.

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.

What's All The Fuss About Social Media by Diane L Richard

Do you read or write a blog, hangout on Facebook or Myspace, check out Wikipedia for a quick history lesson, recently listened to a podcast or Tweeted? If you “do” any of these then you are using what is called “Social Media.” If you don’t do these, you might want to consider adding them to your genealogical tools arsenal.

As “Social Media” had grown in popularity throughout mainstream society, it has also become an invaluable genealogy research tool. Given how much is encompassed by it, it can be a bit daunting to figure out how multifaceted it is.

Help now exists in the form of the book, *“The Social Media Guide for Ancestral Research — Applying Web 2.0 Strategies”* by Claire V. Brisson-Banks. This is a very simple and straightforward book and will be most useful to those who consider themselves novices when it comes to Social Media. The chapter titles capture the essence of the book: Electronic Mail and Mailing Lists; Instant Messaging, SMS, Twitter; Blogs; Wikis; Forums; Real Simple Syndication; Social Bookmarking; Sharing Digital images; Sharing g Video Files; Podcasts and Vodcasts; E-learning and Online Classes; Social Networking and Online Communities; and Family History Games.

Each chapter defines the type of Social Media and then talks about some of the more familiar and/or largest examples of the named type with some discussion about “how” one might use it effectively.

And even for the experienced genealogist who has written about various new technologies, though not as a tech-geek expert, there were things that I learned. For example, I have used Yahoo Instant Messaging (IM) for years and didn’t even know that there were services such as Trillian and Meebo! And, “Social Bookmarking”—this was something I wasn’t even aware of! I guess I need to take some time and look into Delicious, Digg, Reddit and StumbleUpon.

And, what’s Squidoo, a Vodcast, or Bit.ly? I now know, do you?

Though this is not a fancy book, nor a weighty (as in densely packed) tome, I like its simplicity. It isn’t trying to tell you everything you need to know about the various types of Social Media, but it gives you enough of a “window” on all of these newer technological tools, that you will feel encouraged to explore them further and figure out which of these will now become part of your genealogical arsenal.

The book is available via Lulu.com if you are interested.

Win A Trip To Trace Your Ancestors

Ancestry.com is committed to helping you every step of the way. That's why we're giving you the chance to win the trip of a lifetime to visit your home country. We hope the trip will give our three Grand Prize winners the chance to learn more about their ancestors and, as a result, more about themselves.

In addition to the Grand Prize recipients, 20 First Prize winners will get an Ancestry.com World Explorer membership, which provides access to billions of historical records from all over the world, plus millions of family trees, a helpful community of members and lots of timesaving tools.

Go to Ancestry.com/sweeps to enter today. Log in daily through May 18, 2012 for even more chances to win.

PICTURES FROM OUR JANUARY MEETING

Speaker had both members and guests' attention.

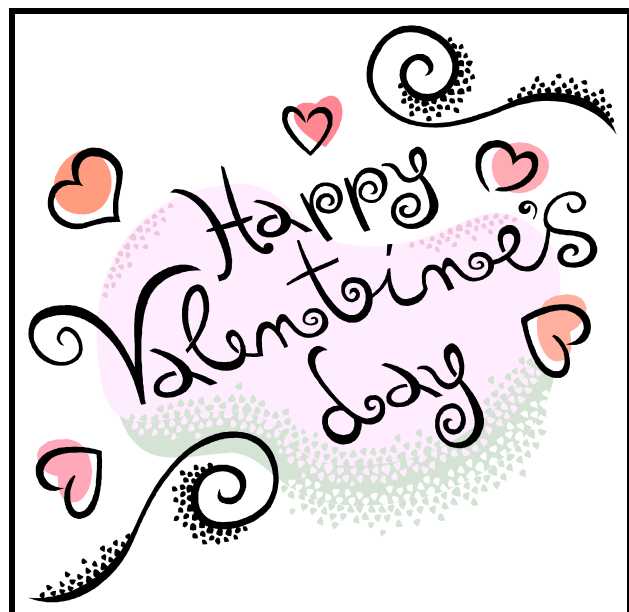


Bill Meister,
speaking on up-
dating and ex-
panding your ge-
nealogy websites

Plenty of good refreshments as usual.



Hal introducing speaker
Bill Meister



IMPORTANT!!

Dues for the year 2012 are due and payable now. You can mail to the Society at P O Box 2039, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-2039. or Tom Peake, Treasurer will be happy to receive them from you at the February meeting. Anyone who has not paid their dues by March 1st will not receive the newsletter until dues are paid.

Are You A Genealogy Genius?

Take this quiz and bring your answers to the meeting on February 16th

1. The best place to start your genealogy research is:
(A) Internet, (B) Family History Center in Salt Lake City, UT, (C) Mom and Dad, (D) County Court house
2. You want to obtain a deed from Bridgeport, CT. Where should you send your request?
(A) The registrar of deeds at the county courthouse, (B) The town clerk, (C) the Bureau of Vital Statistics, (D) The Bridgeport Public Library
3. Your ancestor was born in 1885 and you are trying to determine the names of his parents. Which census would be the best one to start with?
(A) 1880, (B) 1890, (C) 1900, (D) 1910
4. The son of your mother's aunt is your.....?
(A) second cousin, (B) mother, (C) great aunt, (D) first cousin, once removed
5. You have a record of your ancestor in a book stating he was born on 5/7/03. What can you assume about his birthday?
(A) That he was born on May 7, 1803, (B) That he was born on July 5, (C) That he was born on May 7, (D) You can't assume anything.
6. What does it mean when an ancestor died intestate?
(A) He didn't leave a will, (B) He was broke, (C) He didn't have any property, (D) He starved to death
7. You have found several records which give your ancestor's birth date. Which is the most reliable source?
(A) Death Certificate, (B) Family Group Sheet on the Internet, (C) Baptismal Record, (D) Census Record
8. Bounty land is...?
(A) Land awarded to a bounty hunter, (B) Land awarded as payment for military service, (C) Land which was part of a woman's dowry, (D) Land which was sold at auction.
9. You have been unable to find the maiden name of your great-grandmother. You know she was married several times. How will you represent her surname on your pedigree chart?
(A) The surname of her first husband, (B) The surname she had when she died, (C) The surname of your grandfather, (D) None of the above