

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

MAY 2012

37TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

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Next VCGS Meeting

May 17, 2012 6pm City Island Library Daytona Beach

Bill Meister will be presenting "Getting More of the Story", tips and techniques that can help you put the pieces together.

VOLUSIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting of April 19, 2012

Opening of Meeting:

Cora May Hartzell, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 16 members present and 5 guests.

Introduction of Guests:

Mike and Helen Stearn are researching Mike's mother who is a native Floridian. Eileen Johnson said that her grandmother is from Ireland, and Laurie Fahler and Rob Ash told of their research.

Approval of Minutes:

On motion by Hal Gauper and second by Alma Ubbens, the minutes of the March meeting were approved as submitted.

Program:

Hal Gauper, Vice President, introduced Ann Osisek who spoke on "The Paper Trail" The Ins and Outs of Courthouse Research. Ann noted that preparation is the key. She advised everyone to empty all their boxes and organize their materials. She files by surnames making a general information file. She then refines the search by geographics, i.e. by state. This is then further refined by record collections by geographic area, i.e. cemeteries, churches. After doing this she asks "Where are my gaps?" and "What is top priority?" The next step is rounding up the records.

It is beneficial to do a timeline for an individual showing date of birth and then where he was in every census thereafter. Include the ancestor's occupation. Always cite your sources. Another suggestion was to do family group sheets before going to the courthouse. On familysearch.org she was able to find marriage and death records. Rootsweb.com has county histories such as when they were formed, and on genweb you can research a courthouse on line.

Several terms you might run into while doing courthouse research are: Appurtenance – an outbuilding, Earmark brand – used for cattle, Nuncupative will – an oral will.

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by Kitty Consalvo and second by Ruth Patrignani, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Consalvo, Recording Secretary

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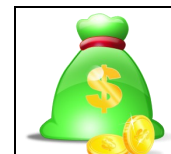
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VCGS Society Calendar**Thursday, May 17, 2012 5pm Board meeting****Thursday, May 17, 2012 6 pm****Bill Meister will be speaking on "Getting More of the Story", tips and techniques that can help you put the pieces together.****Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies****HGS Ormond Library May 10, 2012 at 1:30 pm****R&B Deland Library, May 20, 2012 at 2:00 pm****GSSVC NSB Library, May 13, 2012 at 2 pm****GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - May 24, 2012 at 5:30pm****\$\$ Report by Treasurer Tom Peake \$\$****\$2,028.29****Our Keeper of Records****Kitty Consalvo**

I was born in Trenton, New Jersey, but grew up in Bound Brook, which is in Somerset County. The town had about 10,000 residents and, you guessed it, was surrounded by brooks. In the mountains right above town was the site where Washington's troops camped during the winter of 1776. From that overlook he could see the surrounding countryside as far as Staten Island. I graduated from Bound Brook High School and received my AA from Somerset County College, which is now known as Raritan Valley College.

After our children were grown, my husband and I moved to the Jersey shore where we had a house on Barnegat Bay and enjoyed boating and crabbing. I was employed as Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools in towns in both Somerset and Ocean Counties.

My husband passed away 15 years ago, and then 10 years ago I relocated to Port Orange. I have 2 children, a son in North Carolina and a daughter in Port Orange, 1 grandson and 2 granddaughters.

My hobbies are gardening, cooking, traveling and genealogy. It was my husband's nephew who got me started on genealogy. When Mike's son was born he asked me to do a family tree for the Consalvo family which was no small task since my husband was one of 12 children. From there it just grew like Topsy, as you all can relate to.

During tax season I work for H&R Block.



What States Took Part in the U S Federal Census of 1885?

Often referred to as "[The Forgotten Census](#)," an 1879 act regulating the 1880 census requested also that states and territories conduct a semi-decennial census, in between regular census years. Authorized by the federal government, "Each state or territory that complied with this request was to receive, from the federal treasury, 50 percent of the amount paid to all supervisors and actual enumerators within that state or territory." In spite of this incentive, in 1885, only a few states complied: [Florida](#), [Nebraska](#), [Colorado](#), and the territories of [New Mexico](#) and [Dakota](#). All except the 1885 Dakota Territory census were later transferred to the National Archives. And while other state census records do exist for that period, this was the only federally-sponsored census. As with previous federal censuses, Population, Agricultural, Manufactures and Mortality schedules were included, each of which provides significant information on those enumerated ~ some of which might not be found elsewhere, helping to fill in for the lost 1890 census for participating states.

All of the 1885 census schedules held at the National Archives have been microfilmed, and some are available online. Following are the microfilm numbers for participating states:

New Mexico Territory #M846

Florida #M845

Nebraska # M352

Colorado #M158

The Dakota Territory schedules were not transferred to the National Archives, but are held respectively at the South Dakota State Archives or the [North Dakota State Archives](#).

Source: [Answers at Genealogy Today](#)

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 Your Relatives Can Tell You about the Great Depression

As Emily Anne Croom writes in her book [Unpuzzling Your Past. The Best-Selling Basic Guide to Genealogy](#), "Collecting family history also means trying to fit the family into the history of the community, county, state, and nation. You can find the political, economic, and social history of these areas in books and contemporary newspapers, but only family members can share their personal reactions to the public events. . . ."

For example, if your elders are 80 or over, they will have lived through the worst of the Great Depression of the 1930s. They can tell you about the challenges of living through economic crisis—one considerably more severe than the one the world finds itself in right now. How did their parents and other loved ones cope with financial disaster? How long did family members go without work? What do they recall adults saying about the politicians of the time, like FDR, Herbert Hoover, or Huey Long? Did one of their elders work for the Civilian Conservation Corps or one of the other temporary federal agencies created to put people back to work?

If you do have octogenarian relatives, don't let their stories of the 1930s slip away before you have taken the time to add them to your family history. Besides, it's a lot easier than you might think. All you need is a tape recorder—or a pen and legal pad—along with a list of questions, already prepared for you by Ms. Croom, concerning the trenchant events of that era, and you are on your way. The following "Questionnaire for the Great Depression and the 1930s," comes from pages 70-72 of [Unpuzzling Your Past](#), and they represent just one of the many checklists, tools, and techniques that proliferate throughout that award-winning book for genealogy researchers. (The same chapter contains similar lists of questions for the 1920s, the 1940s and World War II, the 1950s and 1960s, and 1970s and after.) For more information or to buy a copy of *Unpuzzling Your Past*, please visit the following URL:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=1222

Questionnaire for the Great Depression and the 1930s

1. To what extent did the Depression change your habits, way of life, school, plans? Did you "feel" the Depression? Did you observe a difference in the way the Depression affected people living in cities and people living in the country or small towns?
2. Did the family move during this decade? Why? How frequently? Where? What household conveniences did you have or lack: electricity, telephone, indoor plumbing, others?
3. Which family members had jobs? Doing what? Were they paid in cash, goods, or scrip? How much was rent? Was it difficult for the family to find housing or jobs?
4. At the time, what did you or the family think of Presidents Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt? Have you changed your opinion since then? Whom did the family support for president in 1928 (Hoover or Smith), 1932 (Hoover or Roosevelt), 1936 (Roosevelt or Landon)? Why? How effective were Hoover and Roosevelt as presidents?
5. Did any family member work for one of the New Deal agencies, such as the CCC, the WPA (Works Progress Administration), or the PWA (Public Works Administration)? If so, who? Which agency? Doing what? How long? Where?
6. Did the family raise, hunt, can, or preserve any of its own food? If so, what? What food items did you find to be scarce or plentiful? Did you live on a farm, in a small town, or in a city? Did you observe or experience any difference in the availability of food in rural and urban areas?
7. Did you experience the "Dust Bowl" that damaged so much of the middle of our country?
8. What sacrifices did you or your parents make during the Depression? Why?
9. Did the family have a car? What make or model? How much did it cost? How much did gasoline cost? Did you or the family limit driving? Did you or the family have to give up the car during the Depression? If you did not have a car, on what kind of transportation did you rely?
10. Did you or the family have money in a bank before or during the Depression? If so, did you lose any of it because of the Depression? Did you or the family lose money in the stock market crash?
11. Did the family make any of its clothes during the Depression? If so, what?
12. Did you hear Orson Welles's "War of the Worlds" on radio on 30 October 1938? What did you think of it at the time? Did you fall for it? Why or why not? How did other family members react?
13. What was it like to go to silent movies? What was your reaction to your first talkie or your first color movie? Explain.

Dead Folks Moving—Relocation of Cemeteries

By Delia Bourne

We like to think that once our ancestors died, they stopped moving around, but due to a variety of factors, sometimes even the deceased seem to have wanderlust. Reasons for grave removals vary. For example, the Point a la Hache Cemetery in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, was moved in 1946 due to Mississippi River shifts. Other cemeteries have been relocated to make room for civic improvements, as with the expansion of the Kansas City International Airport in 2006. But most have been moved when towns and farms were flooded in the creation of dams and reservoirs for flood control, electrical power and recreation.

When seeking ancestors' gravestones, be sure to read local histories to determine if any cemetery relocation projects have occurred in the area. The Genealogy Center has various resources for finding information about relocated cemeteries. Search first in The Genealogy Center book catalog by the name of the place and the word "cemeteries." One example of a useful source is Darlene Sizemore's

"Cemetery Relocations, 1962 Buckhorn Dam, Kentucky, Perry/Leslie County" (976.901 L555sia). It includes maps of the disinterment and reinterment sites with gravestone abstracts, and notes that the information was taken from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers real estate maps. Another is "Cemetery Relocations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas" (977 St22c), published by the St. Louis Genealogical Society. The foreword in this volume praises the Corps for their efforts to identify those buried in small burial grounds or in single graves.

Records of many displaced cemeteries have been included in periodicals, so the "Periodical Source Index" (PERSI) is a valuable resource for locating those transcriptions. You may search by location (state and county), adding the keyword "Cemeteries." Search results will include title and citation (date, volume and number or issue) for the periodical in which the information was published. For example, the Winter 1989 (Volume 10, Number 1) issue of "Hear Ye, Hear Ye," the journal of the Rochester (NY) Genealogical Society, included an article about Monroe County cemeteries that had been destroyed and the efforts to reconstruct the records of those who had been buried in them. Many articles detail cemetery relocation due to planned flooding. One such article lists the graves relocated from several small cemeteries displaced by the creation of Calaveras Lake in Bexar County, Texas, and appeared in "Our Heritage," Volume 47, Numbers 1-2, Fall 2005.

It is also best to remember that sometimes a gravestone may have been moved, but the casket and its human contents left behind, long since having fallen to dust in the original resting place. Nevertheless, this kind of search can provide a fascinating addition to the life,



Was my ancestor was married more than once?

In determining if your ancestor was married more than once, the 1910 and 1920 U.S. Federal Census can help.

Life expectancy in earlier times certainly was not what it is today; the women often died in childbirth, the men in war and other occupational hazards, and disease took the lives of many. So remarriage was common for both men and women. Several **marriage-specific questions** were asked in the census over time, but one question, in particular, focused on multiple marriages.

In the **1910** and **1920** census years, as part of the marital status question, asking "Is the person single, married, widowed, or divorced?," those persons in their second or subsequent marriage were asked to identify their present marriage by number: "M1" for married persons in their first marriage, and "M2" for married persons in their second marriage, etc. If the current marriage numbers 2 or more, this at least suggests the existence of another marriage record. And it is important to research all records for all marriages -- information contained in one record may be not be available elsewhere: maiden names, parent names, birth dates, etc.

Other marriage-related questions may also be of help by comparing a couple's marriage date to the birth dates of children listed in the household; and as pertains to relationships, the presence of step-children also indicates a subsequent marriage. And where a couple is asked to give their age at first marriage, once you calculate the dates, if marriage year for the husband and wife do not coincide, it may suggest there was another marriage.

It is important to keep in mind that not all questions were asked of all persons at a given point in time: race did play an issue during certain time periods. The information presented here applies to questions asked of the general population at the time a particular census was taken.

While it is sometimes difficult for researchers to pull together specific information from one census to the next, examining a particular type of question in isolation across provides a focus that allows insight into details that might be overlooked, especially when compared across census years.

Source: **Answers at Genealogy Today**

Published: **19/Mar/2012**

Prepared by: **Elisabeth Lindsay**

Quick-Tip of the Month for Preservation~Keeping Digital Files Safe

Courtesy of Genealogy Gems - Ft Wayne Library

There are numerous complex issues related to many preservation activities, and those complexities may cause us to forget some really basic, but very important things. One of the most important and basic of those things is keeping our digital data safe by backing it up. Many in our field remind us often of the importance of back-ups yet countless people do not take that advice seriously.

External hard-drives, jump drives, and DVDs are all amazingly economical to purchase, with those amazingly cheap prices continuing to plummet. Cloud storage through Dropbox, Mozy, Carbonite, Google Docs, and others offer reliable remote back-up options. The remote back-up option is one that more individuals should consider. Too often, back-ups are kept in the same physical location as the original copy of the data. Hence, when fires, floods, and other natural disasters happen, all is lost—originals and back-ups. Remember, back-ups are for more than hardware failures.

May 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 May 15, 2012. The annual Awards Program for students will be held. In addition, Bob Calliste will speak on "Historical Significance of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse." Please call the Regent at 760-9921 for more information. All women who have ancestors who fought in or provided assistance in the American Revolution are eligible. We will be happy to assist you in preparing your paperwork.

What Your Relatives Can Tell Your About The Great Depression

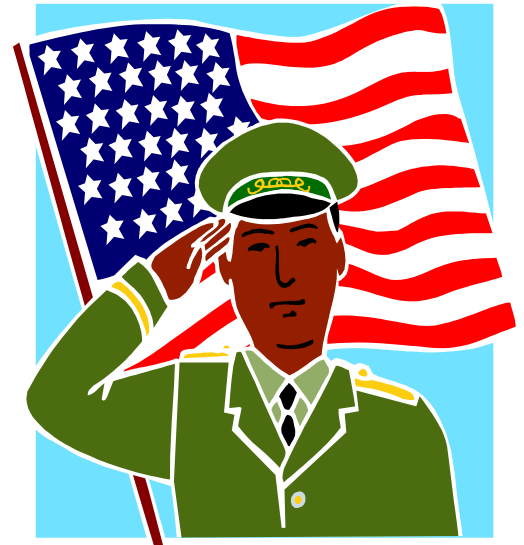
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15. How have your experiences during the Depression affected your attitudes of the present?
16. What further recollections and stories can you share about your experiences during the 1930s?

Happy

Memorial

Day



It's What My Aunt Said--So It's True

A seminar attendee came up to me after a session several months ago and asked about her problem ancestor. When I asked where she got her details, she said that most of the "story" came from her aunt who did some genealogy research several years ago. While possibly true, the story the aunt told her seemed slightly far-fetched. I asked the attendee what documents she had on the problem ancestor--very few. In trying to prove the "story" the attendee had overlooked some other scenarios that fit the records she did have. Of course, these stories were less dramatic.

I gave her a couple of suggestions that fit what she had already obtained. I also suggested, that for the time being, she put the aunt's story aside and focus on what information was stated in the records. Sometimes stories are true. Sometimes they are just stories. The truth often lies somewhere in between. But it's best to focus on what the records actually say instead of trying to make them say something else.

Murphy's Genealogy Laws

You finally find the wedding record for your gggrandfather only to discover he married Mary SMITH whose father was John SMITH and mother was Mary JONES!.