

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

MAY 2012

37TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2012 OFFICERS

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Next VCGS Meeting

June 21, 2012 6pm City Island Library Daytona Beach

End of Year Social—Games For All

VOLUSIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting of May 17, 2012

Opening of Meeting:

Hal Gauper, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 14 members present and 7 guests.

Approval of Minutes:

On motion by David Farris and second by Michael Williams, the minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2012 were approved as submitted.

Introduction of Guests:

Cathy and Clyde Stickney are members of the Halifax Genealogy Society. Denise Huckabee and her sons, Timothy and Todd, have started doing research on their family. Brittany Jenkins is researching her family to become a member of the DAR.

Treasurer's Report:

The closing balance on May 17, 2012 was \$1634.14. Expenditures during May were \$408.95 for books for the Genealogy Room.

Program:

Hal Gauper, Vice President, introduced Bill Meister who spoke on "Getting More of the Story – Tips and Techniques That Can Help You Put The Pieces Together." He recommended six keys to assist with this: 1) Enhance your find; 2) Embrace the revelation; 3) Refresh your memory; 4) Relish the surprise; 5) Scratch the itch; and 6) Think outside the box.

Bill suggested going to the end of the ship's passenger list to get details about the voyage. You need to make the history come alive. One way is to take multi-generational photos then make copies, not digital, for everyone. He recommended that when you visit graves you need to visit the office asking questions such as "Is anyone else buried in the grave?" and "Is anyone else with this surname buried in this cemetery?" He has found additional ancestors in this way. Also, are there any babies buried in the cemetery that aren't listed on the census?

An example of thinking outside the box was a relative who was in an orphanage. When he wanted to join the service the information was taken from the application to the

(Continued on Page 5)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

VCGS REPORTS 1-2

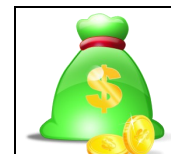
CALENDAR AND
TREASURER'S
REPORT 2

GUIDE TO PUB-
LISHED BRITISH
GENEALOGIES 2

LINCOLN'S DR'S
REPORT FOUND 3

IF THESE BARNS
COULD TALK 4-5

LAUS DEO 6

VCGS Society Calendar**Thursday, June 21, 2012 5pm Board meeting****Thursday, June 21, 2012 6 pm****End of Year Social****Games For Everyone****Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies****HGS Ormond Library** No Meeting in June**R&B Deland Library**, June 17, 2012 at 2:00 pm**GSSVC NSB Library**, June 10, 2012 at 2 pm**GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library** - June 28, 2012 at 5:30pm**\$\$ Report by Treasurer Tom Peake \$\$****\$1,634.14****Important Guides to Published British Genealogies by Steven W. Myers**

Genealogists have long consulted the work of previous researchers as a time-saving step in their own investigations. In the case of the most reliable publications, the rewards may include a carefully documented pedigree stretching back generations and a short-cut to transcripts or citations of obscure original records. Before the advent of family trees posted on the Internet, many compiled genealogies were printed in a book on a particular surname. However, much valuable previous work appeared only in county histories, heralds' visitations, biographical studies, society journals or other serial publications. Three important guides are available in The Genealogy Center to help lead resourceful researchers to these hidden gems of British family history.

The fourth and final edition of George W. Marshall's "The Genealogist's Guide" (942 M35gea), originally published in 1903, is the definitive starting point. Its 880 pages contain an alphabetical list of surnames with references to more than 75,000 published sources that include any descent of at least three generations in the male line. Most references cite the title, author, volume, and page for each publication. Cross references are provided to variant surname spellings.

J. B. Whitmore's "A Genealogical Guide: An Index to British Pedigrees in continuation of Marshall's Genealogist's Guide (1903)" (929.7201

W599ga) appeared in 1953, bringing coverage of publications forward to the mid-twentieth century. In nearly 660 pages, it provides tens of thousands of additional references to printed family pedigrees, with cross references to variant surnames.

Whitmore included coverage of some older publications missed by Marshall, and a short "corrigenda" to Marshall's "Guide," as well as a lengthy list of title abbreviations used in the citations. He did not index Scottish historical journals.

Third in the series is Geoffrey B. Barrow's shorter "The Genealogist's Guide: An Index to Printed British Pedigrees and Family Histories, 1950-1975" (942 B279g). Supplementing Marshall's and Whitmore's work, Barrow includes older works neglected by his predecessors and makes some attempt to provide coverage of material on Scottish and Irish families. He abandoned Marshall's "three generations" requirement and included "references to any fairly long passage of a family's history."

Users should read the introduction to each of these three wonderful indexes to better understand their limitations. Together they help make accessible a wealth of previous genealogical work available in older printed publications. Many of the items they reference can be found on the shelves in The Genealogy Center.

Lincoln's Doctor's Report Found After 147 Years

The first doctor to reach President Abraham Lincoln after he was shot in a Washington theater rushed to his ceremonial box and found him paralyzed, comatose and leaning against his wife. Dr. Charles Leale's long-lost report of efforts to help the mortally wounded president, written just hours after his death, was discovered in a box at the National Archives late last month.

The box apparently had not been opened for 147 years. A researcher for the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, Helena Iles Papaioannou, found the report among the U.S. surgeon general's April 1865 correspondence, filed under "L" for Leale.

Dr. Charles Leale sat 40 feet from Lincoln at Ford's Theater that night in April 1865, and saw assassin John Wilkes Booth jump to the stage. He was the first doctor to reach Lincoln's side, only seconds after the gun was fired.

"I commenced to examine his head (as no wound near the shoulder was found) and soon passed my fingers over a large firm clot of blood situated about one inch below the superior curved line of the occipital bone," Leale reported. "The coagula I easily removed and passed the little finger of my left hand through the perfectly smooth opening made by the ball."

Physicians continue to debate whether Lincoln received proper treatment. With trauma treatment still in its infancy, Leale's report illustrates "the helplessness of the doctors," Stowell said. "He doesn't say that but you can feel it."

"For his time, he did everything right," said Dr. Blaine Houmes, a Cedar Rapids, Iowa, specialist in emergency medicine who has studied the assassination. Accounts vary about how Leale did it — Houmes thinks he might have pounded on the victim's chest — but the doctor resuscitated the president.

"When Dr. Leale got into the president's box, Lincoln was technically dead," Houmes said. "He was able to regain a pulse and get breathing again. He basically saved Lincoln's life, even though he didn't survive the wound."

Dr. Leale ordered brandy and water to be brought immediately although modern medical experts question how much that helped.

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln, administered by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, has found and is digitizing 90,000 documents.

You can read more in the Washington Post at <http://goo.gl/rdlDM>.



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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.

If These Barns Could Talk

THE mud-crusted Ford Ranger kicked up dusty plumes as we tore up the gravel roads near Decorah, in northeastern Iowa. “See that one?” our guide, Marlene Fenstermann, called out, pointing to a towering roof barely visible over a windbreak of pines. “That’s a rare English bridge barn.” Before I could get a good look, we crested a ridge over a rural landscape that could have been plucked from a Grant Wood painting. Chunky limestone outcroppings, smoothly planted knolls, stands of timber and everywhere, it seemed, barns.

Because I’m a granddaughter of Iowa farmers, I have a soft spot for old barns. Maybe it’s in response to the big sky of the Midwest or the vast expanses of land, but the barns of my home state seem particularly notable. Traditionally the centerpiece of any Iowa farm, these solitary structures always remind me of the labor-filled lives rural families led before agribusiness was even a concept.

Yet despite Ms. Fenstermann’s expert pointers over our two-day exploration of the Decorah area’s historic barns, I never managed to distinguish between a bridge and a bank barn (the distinction depends on how a farmer handled hay bales, she explained) or discuss the fine points of a gable versus a gambrel roof.

Iowa is an ideal place for historic barn buffs because the land’s varied topography fostered a variety of agricultural activity among early farmers who consolidated their settlements in the mid-1800s and fashioned their barns to serve their specific needs, from smaller diversified dairy farms to bigger cattle operations.

For three decades, Ms. Fenstermann has combed this region, first as a public health nurse and now with the Iowa Barn Foundation (iowabarnfoundation.org), an association that provides matching grants and advocacy for the restoration of these “cathedrals of the prairie,” as a local stonemason later described them to me.

Ms. Fenstermann and her colleagues need to work fast to preserve this rural heritage: Iowa barns are quickly disappearing — over 1,000 are demolished each year, according to the foundation.



(If These Barns Could Talk continued)

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But barn proprietors who go to the effort and expense — Ms. Fenstermann told me it can cost well over \$50,000 to restore a decrepit barn — get a chance to showcase their rural “cathedral” each year during the annual Iowa Barn Foundation All-State Barn Tour, scheduled this year for Sept. 22 and 23.

Barn tours — there’s one in the Johnson County-Iowa City area on June 23 and 24 — are Iowa’s rural version of the urban historic house or garden walk. Regional chapter heads like Ms. Fenstermann provide maps (either online or at a central meeting point) and ensure that barn owners are on hand to show visitors around. Some chapters even organize fund-raising picnics or socials, offering a window on farming life today.

The barn was a beauty, with a broad, sheltering roof atop a facade decorated with a cheerful patchwork quilt design. We were greeted by Meghan Palmer, 29, three freshly gathered brown eggs in one hand. She explained that this was her great, great — “there are so many greats I’m not sure!” — grandparents’ farm. Her husband, John, took a moment from tending their Holsteins to show me around the massive barn, retrofitted with help from the foundation to serve their organic dairy operation. Once again, the sweet smell of hay took me back. Annie tagged along, a floppy newborn puppy named Lilly in her arms.

Minutes continued from Page 1

orphanage. Also, when he applied for Social Security the same information was used. However, this presented a dilemma since the church where this relative was baptized was 4 miles from the home and was different from the one where all the other siblings were baptized. By perseverance, Bill found that the family had moved from New York to New Jersey before the baby was born which made the information on the orphanage application incorrect. His suggestion to anyone doing genealogy — you need desire and perseverance.

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by Kitty Consalvo and second by Leland Marsh, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Consalvo, Recording Secretary

LAUS DEO Do you know what it means?

One detail that is never mentioned is that in Washington , D.C. there can never be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument ...

With all the uproar about removing the ten commandments, etc., this is worth a moment or two of your time. I was not aware of this amazing historical information.

On the aluminum cap, atop the Washington Monument in Washington , D.C. , are displayed two words:

Laus Deo.

No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there and for that matter, probably couldn't care less.

Once you know *Laus Deo's* history , you will want to share this with everyone you know. These words have been there for many years; they are 555 feet, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia , capital of the United States of America

Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words.. Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world.

So, what do those two words, in Latin, composed of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they say 'Praise be to God!'

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States , it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty-five years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation,

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles l'Enfanta perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north. The Jefferson Memorial is to the south, the Capitol to the east and cross you ask? Why a cross? What about separation *'Under God.'* of church and state? Yes, a cross; separation of church and state was not, is not, in the Constitution. So, read on. How interesting and, no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who bother to notice.

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848 deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. *Praise be to God!* Such was the discipline, the moral direction, and the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy *'One Nation,*

I am awed by George Washington's prayer for America Have you ever read it? Well, now is your unique opportunity, so read on!

'Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine humble imitation of whose example in these things our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus



Author of our blessed religion, and without a we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant Christ our Lord. Amen.'

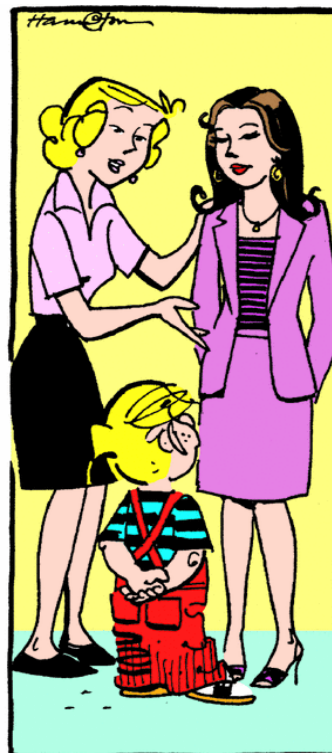
There is no DAR meeting in June

QUARANTINED! for Genealogy Fever

The inhabitants of this place have been stricken with GENEALOGY FEVER, a deadly infectious disease.

SYMPTOMS: Notepapers stuffed in pockets and files; heart palpitations at the sight of gravestones and old trunks filled with letters; bloodshot eyes from excessive microfilm exposure; erratic speech patterns punctuated with pilgrims and princes; cold sweat upon the arrival of the mail.

INCURABLE



"DENNIS, THIS IS SANDY, MY FIRST COUSIN ONCE REMOVED."



"IS THAT BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T PAY THE RENT?"

Ideas for Storing Those Old Family Garments

Some families have heirlooms, ancestors' military and other uniforms, and special occasion items such as wedding dresses and ancestral quilts that need appropriate attention to ensure their longevity. The Minnesota History Center has a very informative website offering tips on how to display, store, and clean clothing and textiles.

<www.mnhs.org/people/mngg/stories/textiles.htm> There are many other worthwhile websites that can help address nearly any preservation need involving clothing and other material items, including a video entitled, "Preserving Our Clothing and Textile Heritage" by Dr. Michael Marendy. At a run time of two minutes and thirty-five seconds, it's a quick watch. From "Genealogy Gems" - Fort Wayne Library

The Writer Makes Those Decisions

By Michael John Neill

That obituary for your great-uncle might have been written and paid for by his third wife. Consequently, she may choose not to mention his first wife or his son that she could not stand.

And that biography of your great-great-grandmother's half-brother may fail to mention his half-sister and he saw no reason to mention his mother's first marriage in the family history section.

The person paying for information to be published may very easily leave out that which he does not care to share with others.