

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

OCTOBER

38TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2012 OFFICERS

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GAUPER

Next VCGS Meeting

October 18, 2012 6:00 P.M.

“Ten Ways To Be a Better Ancestor” by Paul Enchelmayer

VOLUSIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting of September 13, 2012

Opening of Meeting:

Cora May Hartzell, President, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 17 members present.

Program:

Hal Gauper announced that Paul Enchelmayer would be the speaker at the October meeting. His topic will be “10 Ways To Be A Great Ancestor.” Ann Staley will be the speaker in November. 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.

By-Laws and Standing Rules:

Cora May had e-mailed a copy of the By-Laws and Standing Rules to members for review prior to the meeting. She asked if there was any discussion on the proposed changes. On motion by Hal Gauper and second by Kitty Consalvo, the By-Laws and Standing Rules were approved.

Librarian Announcements:

Kim Dolce noted that the library has subscribed to Fold3 that can be accessed from home. She indicated that a cue word search should be done rather than a surname. New books purchased by the society for the Genealogy Room are on display on the cart in the back of the meeting room. She also announced that City Island Library

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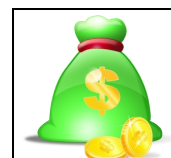
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VCGS Society Calendar**Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012 5pm Board meeting****Thursday, Oct 18, 2012 6 pm****“Ten Ways To Be a Great Ancestor”****Paul Enchelmayer****Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies****HGS Ormond Library Oct 11, 2012 at 1:30 pm****R&B Deland Library, Oct 21, 2012 at 2:00 pm****GSSVC NSB Library, Oct 14, 2012 at 2 pm****GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Oct 25, 2012
at 5:30pm****Treasurer's Report****\$1.634.14**

(minutes continued from page 1)

would be closed from September 24th through October 14th for maintenance and repairs.

Seminar:

Cora May announced that the flyers are now available for the Volusia/Flagler Societies Seminar to be held on January 19, 2013. The speaker will be Melissa Shimkus from the Allen County Library. In addition, the Florida State Genealogical Society will be held from November 8-10, 2012, in Deerfield Beach.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on October 18, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by David Farris and second by Hal Gauper, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. for the social.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Consalvo, Recording Secretary

Happy Halloween 

Land in Her Own Name: Women as Homesteaders in North Dakota by Cynthia Theusch

When we think about homesteaders, we normally picture a husband and wife working together to create a frontier home for their family. "But the Homestead Act also allowed women, for the first time, to claim an independent stake in the land...if they were single or heads of households, at least twenty-one years of age, and citizens or immigrants who had filed for citizenship." In H. Elaine Lindgren's book, "Land in Her Own Name: Women as Homesteaders in North Dakota"

(978.4 L643Lan), we learn that 287 women filed for homesteads under this 1862 law. Dr. Lindgren, who taught sociology at North Dakota State University, spent years researching these women. She interviewed them or their relatives and friends, and also reviewed the documents for each land claim.

A majority of women claimed land near close family members (parents, sisters, brothers, or adult children), other relatives, a husband-to-be, or friends. For example, Lena Norby's parents had their homestead across the section line from her property. Three of her brothers also had claims nearby.

Lindgren included excerpts from diaries and letters in her study, as well as photos of some of the sod houses, shacks, dugouts, log cabins, and wood-frame homes that were built on the claims. Mary Ann Murray wrote in her diary about constructing her sod house. "Sod was stripped from the prairie with the walking plow, cut into pieces 4" x 12" x 24" and then stacked like bricks to enclose the 12' x 14' house. A wood roof and floor was installed and wood-framed interior walls carried wallpaper and an essential shelf or two." Other excerpts from diaries and letters highlight the daily struggles and good times enjoyed, as well as the challenges of coping with the long winter months, wild animals and snakes.

An appendix, arranged alphabetically by name, provides details on each woman homesteader. Included are: land location, ethnic background of mother and father, age when land transaction was initiated, date transaction initiated, date of final land transaction, birth date, and marital status when transaction was initiated. Even if your ancestors did not homestead in North Dakota, this book offers a personal and revealing glimpse of what homesteading pioneers faced in establishing their new homes on the prairie.

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 .

Courthouse Research Tips From the Virtual Genealogical Conference

Courthouse records can be some of the most revealing sources about your ancestors.

These Fall 2012 Virtual Genealogy Conference tips come from our live chat on Researching Courthouse Records, hosted by [the Legal Genealogist](#) Judy G. Russell.

- Types of records you might find at a courthouse include civil and criminal court records, naturally, but also deeds and mortgages, tax lists, county commissioner meeting minutes, vital records, business licenses, voter registrations, cattle brand registrations and more.
- But depending on the place your family lived, older records may have been turned over to a local or state archives, historical society or library. Check in advance before you plan a courthouse trip.
- "Keep in mind is that most of these facilities aren't really archives," Russell advised. "They're working offices trying to keep up with the day-to-day business of government. For the most part, they're not set up to do a lot of hand-holding." Find out as much as you can about the records you need—the date, a microfilm number or volume and page number, where they're located, etc.—before you go.
- More things to know before you go: Check online for courthouse hours, holiday schedules and access information. The court may have limited hours when staff will pull files. Some won't allow personal scanners or cameras. Different types of records might be in different buildings or rooms. The local genealogy librarian and genealogical society are good sources to ask ahead of time about courthouse quirks.
- See if the office holding the records you need has a busy season. Russell gave this example: "If the records you really want are the tax records, and the tax office's busy season is October, then going there in October just about guarantees that nobody is going to be available to help you—and they may not even allow record lookups at that time."
- One chat participant advises you to dress nicely—"so you look like you might be a lawyer or paralegal." And if you have allergies to dust or mold, bring medication. Look for an online or microfilmed index so you have all the volumes and page numbers you need in advance. Also see whether the [Family History Library](#) has microfilm of the records you need or even posted them online at [FamilySearch.org](#). "Even 'burned counties' have some records," Russell said. "And don't forget many people re-recorded deeds, etc., after a courthouse fire."

Ready to head to the courthouse now? [Click here to find out about our downloadable guide to researching in courthouse records, available in ShopFamilyTree.com.](#)

FLORIDA MATCHING GRANT

The Florida State Genealogical Society Board is pleased to announce that in support of the digitization project of the War of 1812 pension applications, FSGS has set up a \$2000 matching grant for the "Preserve the Pensions" campaign by the Federation of Genealogical Societies. We will accept contributions from societies and individuals until the \$2000 grant goal is met.

Ancestry.com has generously agreed to match 1-for-1 each the dollars raised for this project. So a contribution of \$25 is actually \$50 going toward the project--and 100 images are able to be scanned instead of fifty. With the Ancestry match, the total amount of money needing to be raised drops to \$1.85 million. It's still a considerable amount that will take a significant collaborative effort.

The main GOAL of this campaign is to raise \$3.7 million needed to digitize all pension applications from the War of 1812. If you have not seen the application files, you can review them FREE at the FOLD3 website: <http://go.fold3.com/1812pensions/>. They will always be free for everyone to view.

- There are over 180,000 pensions and 7.2 million pages
- The pages are being digitized as the funds become available.
- All names will be searchable. If you are trying to find a link from one family to another, they may show up in the pension application on an affidavit stating their relationship.
- War of 1812 is known for giving us the "Star Spangled Banner."
- Over 300,000 people took part in the War of 1812.
- Currently only 4% of the records have been digitized or 311,037 pages.

We are asking that all societies in Florida help us make this matching grant. Please ask members of your society to contribute whatever they can.

To make a contribution, please visit our website at www.flsgs.org and look for "Preserve the Pensions." This is Tax-deductible. You may use a credit card through the FSGS PayPal account. Or mail a check, made payable to FSGS (put War of 1812 on the memo line) to Pat Rand, Treasurer - 1038 Cottageville Lane - The Villages, Florida 32162-2458

The deadline for matching this grant will be six months from now on March 31, 2013. Everyone, please help us and show your support for all genealogists.

I hope all of you plan on attending the Seminar in January. Put it on your Christmas Wish List. Tell your kids it would make a wonderful present for you and make it so easy for them.

The Annual Conference of the Florida State Genealogical Society in November in Deerfield Beach promises to be a very educational and exciting three days. I hope some of you will be able to attend. Rumor has it, next year's conference may be held in Daytona Beach.

Genealogy Seminar
Saturday, January 19, 2013
African American Cultural Center
Palm Coast, FL

3 Seminars:

Discovering Your Female Ancestors

Overlooked Records for Hurdling the Census Chasm

Knocking Down Brick Walls

Melissa Shimkus began her career as a genealogy librarian in Tampa, FL. She currently coordinated programs and seminars held by The Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN. Her areas of interest are the southeastern United States, African American research, and the use of emerging technologies in genealogy which have led to her being co-administrator of the blog & Facebook

The Best of Times
Genealogy + Technology

Florida State Genealogy Society Annual Conference
November 8–10, 2012
Deerfield Beach, FL

Two nationally noted Keynote Speakers:

Curt B Witcher, Allen County Pub Lib.

Thomas MacEntee, High-Definition Gen

Several Other Workshop Leaders:

Paul Enchelmayer

Marlis Glaser Humphrey

Donna M Moughty

Ann Mohr Osisek

Deanna D Ramsey

Ann Staley, CG, CGL

Friday night Banquet speaker will be Hon. Nelson Bailey, 15th Judicial Circuit of Florida. He will provide an entertaining and informative presentation of the 500 years of Florida history.

DAR MEETING

The Sugar Mill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at the Port Orange Christian Church, 904 Taylor Road, Port Orange at 7:00 p.m. on October 16, 2012. A Report on the Florida State DAR Fall Forum will be given by Bettie McMullen, Gail Rysso and Dawn Sautter. 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.



Hal Gauper introducing program—Sept 2012



Kim Dolce informing members of the new Fold3 database available thru the library.

Members checking out the new books for the Genealogy Room

