

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

NOVEMBER

38TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2012 OFFICERS

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HARTZELL

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GAUPER

Next VCGS Meeting

November 15, 2012 6:00 P.M.

"Family Search Website Demystified" by Ann Staley

VOLUSIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting of October 18, 2012

Opening of Meeting:

Cora May Hartzell, President, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 11 members present and 2 guests.

Minutes:

Minutes of the last meeting sent out in the October Newsletter were approved.

Program:

Cora May introduced Paul Enchelmeyer who spoke on "Ten Ways To Be A Good Ancestor". He reminded us all that we are "ancestors" if we have children and grandchildren. We should be leaving written or digital records so our descendants will have stories of our lives.

Announcements:

Cora May reminded us of the upcoming conference of the Florida State Genealogical Society in Deerfield Beach Nov 8-10.

She also reminded us of the seminar on January 19 sponsored by the Volusia-Flagler Council of Genealogical Societies to be held in Palm Coast.

Adjournment:

On motion by David Farris and seconded by Ruth Patrignani the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Cora May Hartzell

Remembering Veterans Day



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VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 5pm Board meeting

Thursday, Nov 15, 2012 6 pm

“Family Search Website Demystified”

Ann Staley

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library Nov 8, 2012 at 1:30 pm

R&B Deland Library, Nov 18, 2012 at 2:00 pm

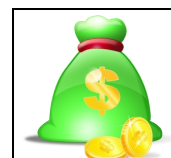
GSSVC NSB Library, Nov 11, 2012 at 2 pm

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Nov 21, 2012 at 5:30pm “Your Family History, Basics”



Treasurer's Report

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Mysterious case of Henry Lefebvre's ashes, left behind at OB carwash, finally laid to rest

Mysterious case of Henry Lefebvre's ashes, left behind at OB carwash, finally laid to rest. Everyone has, at some point in life, lost something of worth — whether it is that irreplaceable piece of jewelry or a beloved tool that was never returned by a pesky neighbor. When it is a person one loses, however, the resulting emotion is devastating.

Losing a loved one twice is, well, unimaginable.

That is exactly what happened earlier this year when an unknown patron of OB Suds left behind a heavy metal box labeled “Henry Lefebvre: April 30, 1995” from Secure Crematorium in one of the carwash's bays. After OB Suds owner Frank Greene discovered the box six months ago, he held onto it, thinking someone would return to claim it. When that didn't happen, he turned the box over to the Ocean Beach Main Street Association (OBMA) to help solve the mystery.

“We put the word out and we were overwhelmed with the press from all over. Within 18 hours, people were reading about Henry all over the country,” said Denny Knox, executive director of OBMA. “It's amazing how fast the story spreads.”

After Lefebvre's story broke on Oct. 22 on OBMA's Facebook page, the community business organization received a number of calls and emails from genealogy buffs who offered to help track down Lefebvre's relatives.

“A niece in Australia was contacted by a number of individuals, who graciously researched this for us, emailed me and managed to find another relative in Douglas, Ariz., who contacted another relative in California,” said Knox. “Gary Lefebvre said he will be here in two weeks and will pick up Henry's ashes from us.”

Although the mystery remains as to who left the box at OB Suds, Lefebvre will soon be reunited with loved ones, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the OBMA and others around the nation who contributed to tracking the genealogy of Henry Lefebvre.

The Call To Be Thankful by Curt B. Witcher

We frequently allow the pace of our lives to push out or overshadow opportunities for us to be thankful. As we welcome November 2012, and with it another Thanksgiving holiday, let's start early in giving thanks for the many blessings we enjoy, both as genealogists and as citizens of our great country.

November 12th is the official observance of Veterans Day, a day to honor all who served. One special way to give thanks and pay tribute to our military ancestors is to locate their records, tell their stories, and ensure that those stories are preserved for future generations. Contributing digital copies of military records and photographs to The Genealogy Center's "Our Military Heritage" website is one way of preserving and sharing those stories—one way of showing gratitude.

A remarkable way to give thanks to family members who carry stories of our ancestors in their hearts and in their heads is to participate in what has become the "national day of listening"—the day after Thanksgiving. This year, the national day of listening falls on November 23rd. Story-Corp's listening website at <http://NationalDayOfListening.org/> encourages us to participate, listen, and share. It is an amazing way to give thanks for the lives lived that made our lives possible. And it is a great way to advance our family history research, providing context to go with the names, dates and places we have gathered.

Every year since 2004, the Surgeon General of the United States has asked that we also observe the day after Thanksgiving as Family Health History Day. From his website: "Over the holiday or at other times when families gather, the Surgeon General encourages Americans to talk about, and to write down, the health problems that seem to run in their families. Learning about their families' health histories may help ensure a longer, healthier future together." One can begin compiling that family health history with assistance from the following website: <https://familyhistory.hhs.gov>. Researching our families' health histories may just provide us with even more reasons to be grateful, since the health data we collect may help us extend our lives.

Wishing you a family-filled, story-packed, heart-warming Thanksgiving and 2012 holiday season!

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 .

More Suggestions For Family Interviews

- One technique I use is to ask a question that I'm pretty sure will get a negative response. With some relatives if you just say "Aunt Betty was born around 1930, right?" they will simply agree and not give details. But if you phrase it as "Aunt Betty was a lot younger than you, right?" you may not only get a "No, she was NOT!" but a stream of details supporting this. This is a parallel to the suggestion to ask about a person's experiences – make it personal. You just have to know which relatives this works with. *(from a GenealogyBlog reader)*
- My great uncle was a veteran of WWII. His company was at Normandy Beach, not in the first wave, but fairly soon after most of the intense fighting was done on that same day. He has always refused to give much information about that time in his life and when asked to speak at church functions, etc. has always told them "no." When I interviewed him, I approached many other subjects first to help him feel comfortable and then I led up to that time by showing him pictures of himself before he got on the train to leave his family and a few pictures that I have of him in uniform. I didn't ask him about his experiences, just about facts. For example, what company was he in? What exactly does the anti-aircraft artillery do? When did he get to Normandy? Each time he answered a factual question he would add some memories with it. Eventually I didn't have to ask any more questions and I got over an hour of tape with stories from the war. My mother, who was with me, said it was the most she has ever heard him talk about his experiences in the war. My grandmother has lost most of her long-term memory. Sometimes though I just throw out names and places or ask her if she had a playhouse when she was little or a favorite ice cream. Almost always she is able to come back with some memories and I write them down immediately. Usually in the next hour she doesn't remember it anymore. *(from Stacey Dietiker)*
- During WW2 everyone had ration cards and they had to be signed by the person to whom they were issued – I was about 14 years old and just found mine in some papers and I am thrilled to see that my signature shows what my handwriting was at that time, to say nothing of having such an official document represent me. For someone who never had seen one, my own children are thrilled too, just to see what the ration card and stamps looked like. At this point in my life, I have no idea why this was saved and probably wouldn't have included it in anything I was showing as an artifact of the war days, unless someone specifically asked. *(from Betty N. Rhoda)*
- Betty's comment brought back a memory about ration cards in my own family. I recall mother telling me about the war years in Seattle and learned that in 1942 my Dad had gone downtown to get ration stamps. Apparently, he had to fill in an application form and list every member of the family, including their names, ages, heights, and weights. When he came home he had my height listed as "one foot" on the form (I was six months old). Mother thought that was just hysterical – that he thought I was 12 inches long at age of six months. (How long are you at six months, anyway?) But, then, knowing my Dad, he probably just placed his hands apart the way a fisherman would recall the size of a fish he once caught. In any case, that there were some records taken at the time of rationing during WWII with such specific personal information makes one wonder whether such records were ever retained somewhere. They sound like primary genealogical sources. Anyone know? *(from Bill Dollarhide)*
- I also recall a favorite story of my Dad's about the rationing era. Before the War, he had a friend who was always kidding him about having so many children – I was the final one, number seven, born four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, so the fellow must of thought six kids was too many. But during the rationing era of World War II, the number of ration stamps increased by the number of family members you had. Dad loved telling about the time the same friend asked him for a couple ration stamps so he could buy gas, but Dad told him, "Sorry, buddy, if you just had more children, you wouldn't need more gas stamps." *(from Bill Dollarhide)*
- I have been doing Life's Reflections (oral histories) for over 20 years and have heard some of the most fascinating stories and recollections over this time period. People kept asking to borrow my questions so I put it in a kit form so folks can do their own interviewing. A fun question I have recently added into the format is "What have you made that other people have enjoyed?" Also ask for their thoughts on abortion, capital punishment, assisted suicide – the answers are awesome, as I get such a wonderful variety of answers. My web site basically deals with my Life's Reflections Memories kit – though I also offer to do the interviewing myself (for a fee) for two 90-minute tapes in a nice personalized album with a picture of the person taken the day of the interview. I find the best way to market both of these is to be in network groups. Any other suggestions? Check out my website if you so desire at www.lifesreflections.com *(from Jan Lindgren)*

Civil War Prisons

By Delia Bourne

Civil War prisoners were held far from home in unsanitary conditions for months or even years. They were subjected to cold and heat with little food, unsafe drinking water and poor medical attention. Such suffering often left scars, physical and mental, that lasted a lifetime. Some prisoners kept diaries or composed memoirs after their release, and these may be used to learn of daily experiences and events of importance in a specific camp. In addition, The Genealogy Center has two volumes that provide detailed information on each prison camp.

The introduction of Frances H. Casstevens' book, "Out of the Mouth of Hell: Civil War Prisons and Escapes" (973.74 AA1CARX), discusses the numbers and types of prisoners, the facilities in general, the soldiers' duty to escape, and which prisoners were most likely to try.

The main text is divided into separate sections for Federal and Confederate prisons. A chapter on each facility begins with the prison's location and a brief history, and may include a description of the institution, details on prison personnel, numbers and types of prisoners, conditions, escapes and attempts, and factors affecting the facility during the war, such as epidemics, mortality, security, unrest, and executions. The disposition of each prison after the war and its current state is also described. An appendix provides statistics on escapes from Federal prisons. The bibliography lists contemporary sources (newspapers, archives, public and official records, unpublished manuscripts, published diaries, letters and memoirs), and derivative sources (articles, pamphlets and online articles). An index provides access by name, location and subject.

Robert E. Denney's "Civil War Prisons & Escapes: A Day-by-Day Chronicle" (973.74 AA1DE) provides a detailed, chronological history of prisons and prisoners, beginning with a brief account of the historical and military events that led to the war. The many factors affecting prisons and prisoners are covered, including: inspections, fevers, food, clothing, exchanges, transfers, battles that impacted the capture and disposition of prisoners, camp administrators, and treatment of captured slaves. Appendices feature information on the Prisoner Exchange Cartel; U.S. Army and Confederate policies on the capture and treatment of prisoners; the parole to be used for captured officers; and on deaths in the northern prisons. The index includes names, places, ships and camps. Although the volume does not include comprehensive lists of prisoners, it does spotlight the experiences of a number of detainees within each system, adding depth to the information.

Whether your ancestor was held at Elmira, Andersonville, or elsewhere, these volumes will provide background information and a deeper understanding of his life as a prisoner of war.



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 coordinates 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

Unclaimed Persons

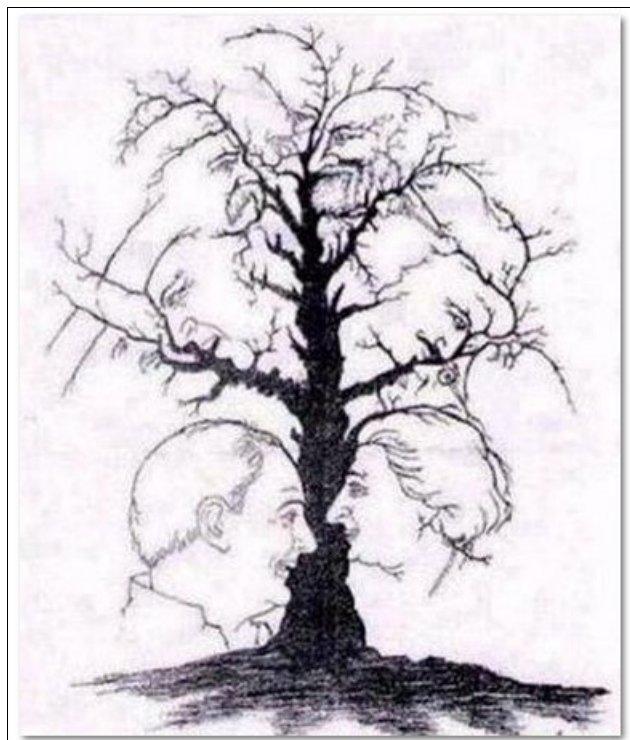
It's a quiet but disturbing epidemic. People are going to their graves with no family to claim them. Medical examiners and coroners' offices—frequently overstretched with burgeoning case loads—are turning to an unexpected resource for help. Over 400 genealogists are now offering their volunteer services to help locate the next of kin for unclaimed persons. And it's working. To date, **more than 400 cases** have been solved through this unusual partnership.

Curious to learn more? We invite you to watch videos about actual cases and find out how to volunteer, or—if you're a medical examiner, coroner or investigator—gain a better understanding of how our **Unclaimed Persons** team can help you.

Go to unclaimedpersons.org to get more information if you would like to volunteer.

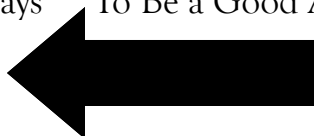
DAR MEETING

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 November 20, 2012. 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.



How many ancestor faces can you find in this picture?

Paul Enchelmeyer giving his talk on “Ten Ways To Be a Good Ancestor”



My relatives must be in the Witness Protection Plan.

Only a genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.

Genealogist are Time Unravelers.

