

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

DECEMBER 2012

38TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2012 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

CORA MAY
HARTZELL

VICE PRESIDENT PRO-
GRAM CHAIR
HAL GAUPER

TREASURER
TOM PEAKE

RECORDING &
CORRESPONDING
SECRETARY
PUBLICIST
KITTY
CONSALVO

WEBMASTER

DAVID FARRIS

ARCHIVIST
CAROL SMITH

DIRECTORS
JEANNINE HAUSMANN
RUTH PATRIGNANI
ALLIE GOODWIN

MEMBERSHIP
DAVID FARRIS

LIBRARY CHAIR
DAVID FARRIS

PARLIAMENTARIAN
HAL GAUPER

REFRESHMENTS
JEANNINE HAUSMAN
BARBARA MALIFF

PAST PRESIDENT HAL
GAUPER

Next VCGS Meeting

December 20, 2012 6:00 P.M.

Christmas Social "Sharing Christmas Memories"

VOLUSIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting of November 15, 2012

Opening of Meeting:

Cora May Hartzell, President, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 18 members present and 2 guests.

Approval of Minutes:

Cora May asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as published in the Newsletter. On motion by Kitty and second by Hal, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Nominating Committee:

Although this is not a regular election year for the Society, an election will need to be held to fill the positions of Vice President, Treasurer, and one Director. Hal will serve as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. Bob Bailey agreed to serve on the committee.

December Meeting:

Cora May reminded members that next month is the Christmas social. Members will share a Christmas memory.

Refreshment Chairperson:

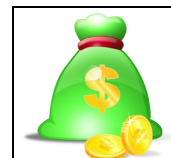
Judy Williams has agreed to oversee refreshments at the monthly meetings.

Program:

Hal Gauper introduced Ann Staley who spoke on "The FamilySearch Website: Demystified." Ms. Staley showed pictures of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and explained the procedure when visiting. She spoke about what FamilySearch is, what they are doing and how they are doing it, what's there for me and what can I do on the site. She gave an in-depth look at the Library Catalog, which is a very important part of research, which should be used often. When performing a search, all of the localities should be checked – State, County and City. Items are being cataloged by different people who may see things differently. If you find a book that you would like to review, take the information to your local library Interlibrary Loan and see if they can find it in another library.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

VCGS REPORTS	1-2
GENEALOGY TIP OF THE DAY	3
WELL-SOURCED, QUALITY WORK	3
GENEALOGY JAMBOREE	5
EARLY SHAKER CHRISTMASES	5
DAR NOTICE & PICTURES	7

VCGS Society Calendar**Thursday, Dec 20, 2012 5pm Board meeting****Thursday, Dec 20, 2012 6 pm****Christmas Social****Sharing Christmas Memories****Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies****HGS Ormond Library** Dec 13, 2012 at 1:30 pm**R&B Deland Library**, Dec 16, 2012 at 2:00 pm**GSSVC NSB Library**, Dec 9, 2012 at 2 pm**GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library** - Dec 19, 2012
at 5:30pm "Christmas Party"**Treasurer's Report****\$1401.37**

(Minutes continued from Page 1)

contains over 40,000 genealogy and family history publications. She advised members to research Wiki, view the digitized historical collection, family trees, and noted that a variety of free classes is available online. Indexing is a chance to give back to the genealogy community without leaving your house. Indexing is done in small batches and you can work on projects that you feel you can handle.

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by Ruth Patrignani and second by David Farris, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. for the social.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Consalvo, Recording Secretary

GENEALOGY TIP OF THE DAY

In his early 19th century will, a Maryland ancestor appears to disinherit a daughter when he leaves everything to her two children and appoints a guardian for them.

The man writing the will might have not so much been disinheriting the daughter as he was avoiding a son-in-law. In the very early 1800s, when this will was written, a man would be able to exercise control over real property that his wife inherited. By leaving the real estate to his daughter's children, and appointing a guardian, the testator was providing for the children while circumventing the son-in-law.

And you thought that only people today had to use creative ways to get around things.

Michael John Neal

Take Time To Produce Well-Sourced, Quality Work

Recently, a column by Sharon Tate Moody in the Tampa Tribune caused quite a controversy in the world of online genealogical bloggers.

Moody wrote, "The genealogy world is cluttered with materials that purport to be the writers' family histories. Too many of them are nothing more than lists of people with unproven dates of birth, death and marriage, and in many cases the people on the list aren't even related."

She called the perpetrators of these histories "the joy riders of genealogy," those who believe the television ads saying you can just click a few links and create your entire family tree, racing around the Internet and leaving a mess for someone else to clean up.

She went on to define source, information, evidence and proof, terms used by all prudent genealogists, not just professionals, to qualify their work.

After reading her column I don't understand what the hullabaloo is about. Personally, I saw nothing in her article that should offend anyone.

Sometimes it seems the blogging world is quick to take offense. Perhaps it's because keeping a daily blog challenges one to continually find something fresh to write about.

And of course, controversy always attracts readers. So the bloggers create an offense where one was never meant, and sometimes the offense takes on a life of its own, as it's repeated over and over ad infinitum.

Debbie Mascot, the blog keeper at Mascot Manor, posts every few days. She chose to take on Moody's column, titling her Nov. 20 blog "Grand Theft Genealogy" at <http://mmgenealogy.blogspot.com/2012/11/grand-theft-genealogy.html>.

She led off with the supposed offense, saying "I'm not good enough to write my family history."

She doubts that her "citing of sources is usually or even sometimes entirely kosher. So it [Moody's column] was about me, or at the very least, people like me."

Debbie doesn't want to spend more time on sources, information, evidence and proof than on finding and sharing her family stories. She can't believe that source citations are more important than the passion and excitement of telling her stories.

Debbie had written a book about her Conner family advertised on her blog for \$34.98. She is a member of a number of genealogical societies that support quality genealogical research, and she helped to index the 1940 census.

(continued on page 4)

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.

(continued from page 3)

Her blog is housed on the Geneabloggers website, along with some 3,000 other genealogists' blogs. Debbie is likely a more accomplished researcher than she would have you believe, and I bet she does a good job of sourcing her work.

Many authors, and particularly bloggers, employ exaggeration to create emphasis or for effect. This use of hyperbole to make a point is not necessarily a bad thing, but it can be taken too far.

Just because you are a blogger is no reason to take every comment you read as a personal affront.

Many of us began doing genealogy without citing our sources. As we grew in knowledge, we realized our error and had to go back and find all those early sources we neglected to record.

Hopefully, today's beginners using Ancestry.com and other popular websites will come to the same conclusion, and see the need to produce well-sourced, quality work they can proudly share with others, including bloggers.

Betty Lou Malesky, certified genealogist, is past president of the Green Valley Genealogical Society. Contact her at bettymalesky@cox.net. The society's Web site is www.rootsweb.com/~azgvgs/.

Genealogy Jamboree

In June 2013 History will come alive in the streets of Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. On June 6, 7, and 8, 2013 the 3rd annual Genealogy Jamboree will be hosted by the Cumberland Gap Volunteer Fire Department. This event is free to the public and combines genealogy/history lectures, with period re-enactors and traditional crafters in an historic setting. Nationally known speakers such as Mark Lowe, Carrie Eldridge, and others, will give these lectures. Traditional music will also be provided.

There will be many craftsmen, and women, demonstrating their pioneer crafts. What is now considered by many as being "rare skills" were once used in everyday life in pioneer times throughout the Appalachian and Cumberland Mountains.

All these lectures, concerts, and demonstrations are free to the public. All vendor fees are donated to the Cumberland Gap Volunteer Fire Department. This is a nonprofit event for the Genealogy Jamboree Committee and volunteers.

Your Society is invited to set up a booth/tent at this event. Join the many societies that participate in our event each year. Most societies have publications and other items for sale, which are of much interest to the public. Please bring these items, as there are no additional fees for selling your publications, etc.

Attendance over the three days of our last Jamboree was approximately 5600.

Come and celebrate our mountain heritage with us. For your convenience a vendor form is attached. For further information please go to our web site www.genealogyjamboree.us or contact mark@genealogyjamboree.us. The web site will be updated often and as we get closer to the time for the event. Lecture and concert schedules will be added to the web site as they become available.

Early Shaker Christmases

by Lynn Betlock,

The United Society of Believers was founded in Manchester, England, in 1747. Their nickname, Shakers, was a shortened version of the derisive term “Shaking Quakers,” which was bestowed because of the group’s vigorous movement during worship. Their leader, Mother Ann Lee, and eight followers established themselves in New York State in 1774. According to the Hancock Shaker Village website, the group was “seeking the freedom to live, work, and worship according to their main religious tenets: celibacy, communal life, and confession of sin. The Shakers also believed in racial and gender equality, simplicity, and pacifism. They dedicated their lives to creating a working Heaven on Earth amidst the boundless opportunities presented by settlement of the New World.” Eventually, the Shakers founded eighteen communities in ten states, and in the decade prior to the Civil War, the Shakers reached their numerical height with approximately 5,000 believers.

I have long enjoyed learning about Shaker history and culture. For a portion of my childhood, I lived less than two miles from the [Hancock Shaker Village](#) in Hancock, Massachusetts, and I have visited the fine museum there a number of times. I’ve toured the [Canterbury Shaker Village](#) in Canterbury, New Hampshire, and the [Enfield Shaker Museum](#) in Enfield, N.H. I’ve also visited the [museum at Sabbathday Lake](#) in New Gloucester, Maine, which is home to the only remaining active Shaker community. ([Eight primary Shaker sites](#) in the United States are open to the public.)

I receive *The United Society of Shakers Newsletter* by email, and I was intrigued by what I learned about how early Shakers observed Christmas in the November-December 2012 issue. Below is an excerpt:

You might find it interesting to step back in Shaker history and learn how differently Christmas was marked by earlier Shakers. Not until 1876 did the Shakers here in Maine celebrate Christmas with a decorated tree and gifts and Christmas carols. What were those earlier years like for the Shakers? Daniel W. Patterson, the pre-eminent scholar of Shaker music, writes in his major work, The Shaker Spiritual, “In the earliest years, Believers (Shakers) were agreed that Christmas was not to be kept ‘after the manner of the world,’ but ‘had a labor’ to know whether to observe the day at all, and whether to reckon it by the old- or new-style calendar. Mother Ann (the founder of the Shaker church), left others to discover the proper order. One good Believer, Hannah Hocknell, did not ‘feel satisfied’ as to the ‘propriety’ of observing the day, so she rose on Christmas morning intending to set about her business. As she dressed, ‘some unaccountable operation’ repeatedly prevented her from putting on her shoes. Mother Ann then pointed out that this was ‘the most prominent sign recorded in the scripture of holy and sacred ground Note from the Editor: Early Shaker Christmases

Father Joseph (Meacham, Mother Ann's American successor) built on this teaching in the 1790s, when he set Christmas as a ‘central time’ for ‘confessing and putting away sins, and all wrongs from the camps of the Saints, and cleansing the spiritual house.’ His ordinance had the implication, later specifically stated in the Millennial Laws of 1845, that ‘on Christmas day Believers should make perfect reconciliation, one with an other; and leave all grudges, hard feelings, and disaffections, one towards an other . . . and to forgive, as we would be forgiven; and nothing which is this day see several Shaker-related articles featured in the [holiday 2006 issue of New England Ancestors](#).

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

Early Shaker Christmases continued from page 5

Christmas was for the Shakers therefore for almost 100 years a Fast Day. Maybe the traditions of those early Shakers and more specifically the words that framed those traditions can be useful today.”

For those interested in learning more about the Shakers, you can view the websites hyperlinked in the second paragraph or peruse several Shaker-related articles featured in the holiday 2006 issue of New England Ancestors.

and purposes.’ As Hannah had intended to wash clothes and clean up the house, the sign meant that the ‘spiritual house ought first to be cleansed in a special manner’ on Christmas.

Father Joseph (Meacham, Mother Ann's American successor) built on this teaching in the 1790s, when he set Christmas as a ‘central time’ for ‘confessing and putting away sins, and all wrongs from the camps of the Saints, and cleansing the spiritual house.’ His ordinance had the implication, later specifically stated in the Millennial Laws of 1845, that ‘on Christmas day Believers should make perfect reconciliation, one with an other; and leave all grudges, hard feelings, and disaffections, one towards an other . . . and to forgive, as we would be forgiven; and nothing which is this day settled, or which has been settled previous to this, may hereafter be brought forward against an other.’

Christmas was for the Shakers therefore for almost 100 years a Fast Day. Maybe the traditions of those early Shakers and more specifically the words that framed those traditions can be useful today.”

For those interested in learning more about the Shakers, you can view the websites hyperlinked in the second paragraph or peruse

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 December 18, 2012. The topic will be "Dolley Madison and her red velvet gown & other 1812 stories. Please call the Regent at 760-9921 for more information. All women who have ancestors who fought in or provided assistance in the American Revolu-



David Farris and John Woodard talking with Ann Staley



Members awaiting Hal to introduce speaker Ann Staley.

