

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

JANUARY 2013

37TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2013 OFFICERS

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DAVID FERRIS

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REFRESHMENTS
JUDY WILLIAMS

PAST PRESIDENT
HAL GAUPER

Next VCGS Meeting

January 17, 2013 6pm City Island Library Daytona Beach
Linda Vivian will be speaking on "Researching Your Quaker Family"

VOLUSIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Minutes of Meeting of December 20, 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 23 members present.

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 David Farris and second by Hal Gauper, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Newsletter:

Cora May asked everyone present if they were getting the newsletter.

Report of the Nominating Committee:

Hal reported that Leland Marsh will serve as Director #3, however, there was no interest in the Vice President or Treasurer positions. It was noted that the individual filling the Vice President position did not need to be present at every meeting but could arrange for speakers at the beginning of the year. Someone else could introduce the speaker at the meeting. On motion by Kitty Consalvo and second by Alma Ubbens the membership accepted the slate of officers as presented. Hal and Tom Peake will continue in their positions for a few months. It was noted that anyone accepting these positions would be mentored.

New Business:

There was none.

Books Being Discarded:

Kim Dolce, Librarian, noted that some books were available on the table for anyone wishing to take them.

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by Kitty Consalvo and second by David Farris, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Consalvo, Recording Secretary

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VCGS Society Calendar**Thursday, January 17, 2013 Board Meeting****Thursday, January 17, 2013 6 pm****Linda Vivian speaking on "Researching Your Quaker Family"****Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies****HGS Ormond Library** January 10, 2013 at 1 pm**R&B Deland Library**, Sunday, January 20, 2013 at 2:00 pm**GSSVC NSB Library**, Sunday, January 13, 2013 at 2 pm**GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library** - Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 5:30pm**\$\$ Report by Treasurer Tom Peake \$\$**

\$2,094.43

**Makin' a List and Checkin' It Twice . . .****by Curt B. Witcher**

Now is exactly the right time to think seriously and plan actively to make 2013 a great year for your family history endeavors.

You can call the activities you plan New Year's resolutions, a list of healthy habits, a schedule for your genealogical success, your calendar of family history activities for '13--whatever strikes the right cord with you!

Of course, I have some suggestions for that list you make--the list that won't get buried on your desk or become an abandoned file on your iPad or Droid! There are all kinds of theories on how to make the "best" list. Some advocate keeping it short so you are sure to accomplish what you have identified. Some advocate for making a rather substantial list so you can see progress and have things to check-off.

I advocate borrowing from the Nike advertising slogan--Just Do It.

First, I suggest that you top your list with regular family history "fun." Some suggestions are: Routinely explore for more family history data, document information you already have in your files, share data with others, learn something new, and secure your data with appropriate back-ups. Routinely to me means perhaps or perhaps not once a day, but certainly no less than once a week. If it's not happening at least once a week, it's not regular or routine--and you're not having all the fun you need to have! It doesn't have to be long, and it doesn't have to be involved. It just has to happen.

Second, this holiday season you may have witnessed how wonderful and meaningful family history and family heritage gifts can be. To have a great family history gift available to share with your family and the special people in your life at holiday time next year, you really need to start working on it now. Such wonderful family history gifts can include a generational scrapbook, a genealogy of a particular branch or part of the family as a book or pamphlet, loading a digital photo frame with unique images of generations gone by, and for some, planning a trip to an ancestral hometown across the "big pond." Giving the gift of history, especially family history, can be among the most awesome of holiday gifts. And to do it well, you really need to get started before the onset of the Black Friday sales hype.

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Third, make a commitment this year to “pay it forward.” We can respect and honor all of those who have helped us in both big and modest ways with our family history endeavors by doing something that will benefit others as much or more than it will benefit us. As an example, for the last several years, a dear friend has routinely abstracted obituaries from the “Evangelical Messenger” religious newspaper covering the time period 1848-1930. Over time, she has created nearly 150,000 abstracts that are linked for free use at GenealogyCenter.org. Each month there are between three and four thousand searches on that data file. It’s amazing to think about the lives that have been touched by my friend’s selfless work. Just think what a tremendous resource we would have if we collectively indexed, abstracted or transcribed historical records on a regular basis. You could post the data on your webpage or your blog, or you could share it with The Genealogy Center to post on our website for free use by all interested parties. An additional option would be to join one of the many access projects (like indexing Indiana marriage records!) available at FamilySearch Indexing.

Fourth, at the very least, attend an educational program in the genealogy space once a quarter this year. There are so many offerings, especially here in northeast Indiana. The offerings of the Allen County Genealogical Society, the monthly (and more!) program offerings of The Genealogy Center here in Fort Wayne, and the nearly countless free and low cost webinars leave one without an excuse for enhancing one’s genealogical education. This coming summer, August 21st through August 24th, the Federation of Genealogical Societies will be holding their annual conference here in Fort Wayne. Four completely packed days of learning and networking will represent some of the best genealogical education one can get anywhere in 2013. And for those of us in the Midwest, it’s right in our backyard! Now is a great time to start saving your dollars for this great event. And if you live a bit of a distance from Fort Wayne, now would be an excellent time to work with your local genealogical society to plan a bus trip to Fort Wayne for the conference. It’s a comfortable, cheap and easy way to get to Fort Wayne and not have to worry about those pesky details of driving and parking. In addition, you get to spend extra time with people who are as excited about family history as you are.

Fifth, take some time this year to engage a young person in exploring his/her family history. You define what’s young, and you craft the meaningful activity. Younger elementary children really enjoy going to cemeteries with parents and grandparents. They particularly appreciate seeing old photographs, uniforms and technology from yesteryear. Older middle school and high school students enjoy using the latest technologies, so why not show them some of the historical and genealogical information available on the web, and invite them to show you how you can better deploy today’s technologies in pursuit of your family history passions.

Finally, make this the year you become actively engaged in preserving and maintaining access to the records that document our history. We will only gain the upper hand in this constant struggle if each one of us commits to being engaged at the local level. Our historical records are increasingly at risk as government entities at all levels deal with diminishing resources and lack the experience to recognize, much less partner with, meaningful constituencies.

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 .

The Good Genealogist vs. the Educated Genealogist

Kimberly Powell

Now I know that title may sound a bit snobbish, but please bear with me here. This week marks my third year in attendance at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, where I'm both a student in German: Advanced Tools and Methods and a co-coordinator for the Advanced Evidence Analysis Practicum, as well as an instructor in the Internet Genealogy course. While I'm honored and excited to be here, it was only a few years ago that I paid little attention to genealogical institutes. I'm primarily a self-educated genealogist, as most of us are. I taught myself how to research my family history by reading books, such as Helen Leary's treasure *North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History* (the 1980 edition), writing letters, scrolling through microfilm, and asking a lot of questions (probably too many!) at various archives, libraries, and court houses. As I'm now reviewing some of my research from back then (way back then!), I'm proud to see that even without a fancy genealogical education, I was a good genealogist. My research was fairly thorough, although there were still many record types with which I still wasn't familiar. My connections between generations still hold up, although I am now having to go back and write up my genealogical conclusions. Yes, my source citations were a bit lacking (e.g. "1880 census, NC" or "story from Mama"), but I also have yet to find someone on my family tree who doesn't belong there. Even then I understood the value of land and probate records, although I only looked at the ones which related directly to my family. Yes, my family tree from 20 years ago is a bit ragged around the edges, but darn it...I was a good genealogist!

Things changed for me, however, while sitting in a classroom listening to Elizabeth Shown Mills during the summer of 2010. I was attending my very first institute course--Course 4: Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis at Samford's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research--and it is in that class, I think on day 4, that the light bulb finally clicked on in my head. I learned not only how to research, but also how to analyze, to correlate, to challenge, to think... I took the leap from being a good genealogist, to being an educated genealogist, and have never looked back.

Whether you've been researching for two years or twenty, there is always more to learn. To be the best genealogist you can, it is imperative that you keep up with the latest methodology, standards and available records. Plus, there's the benefit of being continually challenged by discussions and interaction with your instructors and fellow genealogists. There is absolutely nothing wrong with being a good genealogist. But, I can promise you that it is much more fun and rewarding after you take the leap to becoming an educated genealogist. It's not just about where the comma goes in a particular citation, or when to use an "em dash" or "en dash" in your genealogical writing. It's about being the best genealogist you can be.

As interest in genealogy increases, a number of degree and certificate options have become available, both online and off. When you also include individual course offerings and genealogical institutes, it's amazing how many quality genealogy education programs are available these days

Genealogy Tip of The Day

Michael John Neal

Turn Off the Internet

If you are stuck on a research problem, try working on it offline for at least an hour-- maybe even more. Organize and analyze what you already have. Transcribe documents. Confirm family structure. If research ideas come to you while doing this, write them down or type them in some sort of document. But do not perform any online searches. The constant temptation to "search" may be hindering your progress.

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 January 15, 2013. Wayne Gordin, Chairman of Flight 10, Volusia Honor Air will be the speaker. Please call the Regent at 760-9921 for more information. All women who have either male or female ancestors who fought in or provided assistance to the American Revolution are eligible. We will be happy to assist you in preparing your paperwork.

(continued from page 4—Good vs. Educated)

both online and off. When you also include individual course offerings and genealogical institutes, it's amazing how many quality genealogy education programs are available these days for individuals looking to further their education and experience. Even for those who can't afford to take a class, there are hundreds of genealogical case studies, podcasts and video presentations available for on-going free genealogy education. Registration for the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) at Samford opens next week and many courses will fill within minutes - so mark your calendars!

Of course, while genealogical research is rewarding in itself, it is always nice to receive a little financial support for your endeavors. To this end, a number of genealogical scholarships, awards, grants and fellowships are available to help applicants hoping to attend a genealogical conference or institute, to honor excellence in genealogical writing or research, or to support research projects of benefit to the genealogical community.





Allie and Del Goodwin and Carol Smith enjoy socializing at our Christmas Social.

Photos courtesy of Bob Bailey

John and Nancy Woodward



Tom and Patricia Peake and Ed Ubbens.

I'm sorry this newsletter is so late getting out, but I have been having all kinds of computer problems. So much so, my computer has been completely erased and the operating system reinstalled. I will try to be more efficient in the coming months.

North Florida Genealogy Conference

Friday & Saturday, March 8 & 9, 2013

Place:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
461 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, Florida

Time:

Friday Night- 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Saturday Late Registration begins at 8:00 AM

Conference 8:45 AM to 5:00 PM

\$20 includes lunch

IMPERIAL POLK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

SEMINAR 2013—APRIL 13, 2013

PLACE: Family Ministries—Auditorium B, Highland Park Church of the Nazarine
4477 Lakeland Highlands Road, Lakeland, Florida

TIME: 9 AM TO 4 PM

COST: \$45 Advance \$50 Walk-In Box Lunch Included

FEATURED SPEAKER: Lisa Louise Cooke, Instructor at Family Tree University and
host of Genealogy Gems Podcast

TOPICS: Google Search Strategies and Tips,

Get The Scoop on your Ancestors with Newspapers

How to Save Your Research From Destruction & Ensure Its Future Survival

Google Earth For Genealogy