

# Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

FEBRUARY 2013

## 37TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

### 2013 OFFICERS

#### PRESIDENT

CORA MAY HARTZELL

VICE PRESIDENT  
PROGRAM CHAIR  
HAL GAUPER

TREASURER  
TOM PEAKE

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CAROL SMITH

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RUTH PATRIGNANI  
LELAND MARSH

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LIBRARY CHAIR  
DAVID FERRIS

PARLIAMENTARIAN  
HAL GAUPER

REFRESHMENTS  
JUDY WILLIAMS

PAST PRESIDENT  
HAL GAUPER

### Next VCGS Meeting

February 21, 2013 6pm City Island Library Daytona Beach  
Myles Gardner will be speaking on "My Genealogical Research"

### *VOLUSIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY*

#### Minutes of Meeting of January 17, 2013

##### Opening of Meeting:

Cora May Hartzell, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 24 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 Hal Gauper and second by David Farris, the minutes were approved as submitted.

##### Old Business:

Cora May will take dues in Tom's absence. She informed members that the positions of Vice President and Treasurer still need to be filled.

**New Business:** There was none.

##### Treasurer's Report:

The balance as of January 17, 2013 is \$1,327.91.

##### Program:

Hal Gauper introduced Linda Vivien and gave her extensive background. Linda opened by saying that researching Quaker records is the same for researching any church records. People who have Quaker ancestors are very fortunate since the Quaker records are very rich. George Fox was the founder who became an itinerant preacher. He met up with the Westmoreland Seekers who had like ideas. William Penn, who was the son of Admiral Sir William Penn, wasn't well tolerated in England because of his beliefs. Since Charles II owed a debt to William's father, he deeded land to William in Sylvania, and then Charles added Penn to the name to honor Sir William.

The Quakers were originally called the Children of Light. There are several versions of where the name Quaker derived. The society has monthly meetings, association and yearly meetings. The records of births, marriages, deaths, etc. are found in the monthly meeting notes. "Encyclopedia of American Genealogy" compiled by Thomas W. Marshall can be found online through Google Books, Ancestry.com for pur-

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**VCGS Society Calendar**

**Thursday, February 21 2013 Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 21, 2013 6 pm**  
**Myles Gardner speaking on "My Genea-  
 logical Research"**

**Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies**

**HGS Ormond Library Thursday, February 14,**  
 2013 at 1 pm  
**R&B Deland Library, Sunday, February 17, 2013**  
 at 2:00 pm  
**GSSVC NSB Library, Sunday, February 10, 2013**  
 at 2 pm  
**GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Wednesday,**  
 February 20, 2013 at 5:30pm

**\$\$ Report by Treasurer Tom Peake \$\$**

\$1327.91



(continued from page 1)

Linda talked about discovering her ancestors. The posting of bans becomes a legal form of marriage. She found two disownments for people marrying outside of the order; however, there aren't enough individuals in the order for marrying. Good research sources are Society of Friends, Ancestry.com, Allen County Library, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Google. She noted that when you go to do research you should take a magnifying glass, small flashlight, digital scanner or camera, a notebook or laptop and change for the copy machine.

**Adjournment of Meeting:**

On motion by Ruth Patrignani and second by David Farris, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. for the social.

Respectfully submitted,

**HISTORY Premieres "*Stories From the Road to Freedom*"**

Ernest Beane was a typical middle-class American in the 1940s. He loved his family, lived in a comfortable home, and took pride in his job—as a [Pullman Porter](#). Beane's life, and those of other African-American middle-class families of that era are rarely chronicled in today's history books. Yet thanks to his own home movies, we are offered a rare glimpse into an aspect of America's racial progress that was just as significant as the massive marches, disturbing slavery images, the colored-only signs and the powerful speeches of the Civil Rights Movement.

Beane's films are part of *Stories From the Road to Freedom*, a moving two-hour documentary premiering Saturday (Feb. 16) on HISTORY® that views black life in America as lived by regular people, in their own words through more than a century of social upheaval. (Check local listings for times.)

Besides Beane's never-before-seen broadcast footage, the program also includes color footage of Richard and Mildred Loving, the interracial couple whose [Supreme Court case](#) ended the ban of such marriages; an audio interview with World War I veteran Edward Nichols (who witnessed the 1919 [Red Summer Riots](#)); and home movies shot in the middle-class black area of Tulsa, Okla., after the city's infamous [1921 race riot](#).

## Trust No One and Carry A Big Magnifying Glass

Jenny Lancot, of recent Evidentia webinars and hangouts fame, posted You Can Trust a Genealogist Relative, Right? on her blog Are My Roots Showing? Jenny's answer to that question is well taken on multiple counts:

1. Always revisit another researcher's work before incorporating it into your own.
2. Regarding extracts: What one person thinks is important might not be what you think important.
3. Without a copy of the original document you cannot be sure the previous researcher, indexer, abstracter or transcriber didn't make a mistake. We are all human.
4. Transcribe every document word-for-word, even if it is typed, as a prelude to analysis of the claims or inferences that can be drawn from the information provided.
5. The software program Evidentia encourages document analysis. It is all about looking at a document, then analyzing what the document claims about individuals who may or may not end up being an ancestor. Evidentia summary reports are easily copied and pasted into notes for a specific event or fact in an ancestor's profile in a traditional genealogy management program.

Linda Vivian speaking on  
Quaker Research , VCGS  
January meeting.



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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 .

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## 5 Reasons You Can't Find Your Person Online

Michael J. Leclerc

Sometimes when we are searching for our ancestors in online databases, we just can't find them. No matter how hard we look, or what databases we search, they just won't appear. There are many reasons why this might happen. Here are a few.

### **1. The person is "too young."**

There are far more online records dealing with individuals who were born more than 80–100 years ago than there are for more recent individuals. This is especially true for records of birth, marriage, and death. Searching for individuals in more recent time periods often requires working outside of vital records. Newspaper announcements of births, marriages, and deaths are excellent substitutes. City and telephone directories can help you locate people, and land records can help you track people's movements.

### **2. The name is unrecognizable.**

It is possible that your ancestor is actually in the records you are searching, but their name is so butchered that the search engines don't recognize what you are looking for. The handwriting in the original may be faded or illegible. Or perhaps those indexing the records misread the entry. Soundex and meta-phone searches can help get past some of this, but if the consonants are too confused, or extra ones are inserted, this will throw off those types of searches. You may need to manually examine images of the original records to locate your ancestor.

### **3. They weren't recorded.**

Sometimes your ancestors just aren't captured in major official records. Some people, for whatever reason, escaped recording by the census taker for example. I have researched families where city directories, land records, and vital records all established their exact place of residence during a census year, yet examination of that address in the census shows they were not recorded. Perhaps they were away, or the census taker was not vigilant. Some people did not record the births of their children. Immigrants may have been afraid of the government. Others simply hated the government and wanted nothing to do with it.

### **4. You are looking in the wrong place.**

I was once helping someone look for her ancestor because she couldn't find him. She knew where he lived, but couldn't locate him in a census record. By trying a few different types of searches, I located a man with the same name living in a different state. She had dismissed this person as not being hers, but when I pulled up the image of the census, the family group indicated that this was the correct family. A map quickly demonstrated the problem. The census location was only two towns away from where she was looking, but it was on the other side of the state line. It appears that for a short time they were living in another place, with another family. Perhaps it was a relative, or perhaps they were following work. Whatever the reason, they resided there long enough to be recorded elsewhere in the census.

### **5. Not all records are online.**

Huge number of records are now available online, courtesy of genealogical societies, government and private repositories, and commercial companies. Although a wide variety of material is available, only a tiny portion of surviving records have been digitized. Even the millions of reels of microfilm at the Family History Library that are being digitized and made available on FamilySearch represent only a small portion of records. And copyright issues prohibit a huge number of resources from being made available online. As genealogists, we cannot conduct our research without online resources. But good genealogists know that by the same token, we cannot do all of our research online. The best way to find all of the information on your ancestors is to use a combination of online records and offline resources.



## Alien Registration Records

If you have an immigrant ancestor who did not become a U.S. citizen prior to 1940, then you may find a search for an [alien registration record](#) worth your time. The Alien Registration Act of 1940 (also known as the Smith Act) required all non-citizens 14 years of age or older to register at their local Post Office or INS office (now the [USCIS](#), or U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service) beginning in June 1940. A great deal of information of interest to family historians was collected, including full names, place and date of birth, date and port of arrival to the U.S., whether the alien ever applied for citizenship; the names of parents, spouse and children in the U.S., and even a fingerprint! More than 4 million alien residents were registered during the first year of the program.

## 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 February 19, 2013. Diane Adams of Halifax Health Hospice will be the speaker. Please call the Regent at 760-9921 for more information. Has your family been in this country since the 1700's? If so you might be eligible to join the DAR. We will assist you in your research.



Volusia -Flagler Council of Genealogy Societies members along with the guest speaker, Melissa Shimkus and the Seminar Chairman, Marcia Salvatore.

## 3 Tips for Solid Source Citations

Why cite sources? As genealogists, we hear all the time that we *should*, that it's the *right thing to do*, but sometimes the reasoning itself isn't clear. After all, if you're pulling information from an official record, that data has to be solid, right? In her video class 'Simple Tips for Solid Source Citations', Sunny Jane Morton emphasizes the numerous reasons why source citations are more than just a good idea:

- To keep track of what we're doing
- To evaluate what we've found
- To 'prove' our findings to others
- To provide a trail for others to follow or build upon
- To discuss with those who disagree
- To avoid plagiarism and give credit where due
- Because sources are interesting artifacts

Here are some of Sunny's keys to putting together solid citations:

**1. The citation itself is just one step.** To confirm the factuality and authenticity of your data, you must first properly evaluate the source of your information. Questions to ask include:

- What type of record is it?
- Can you tell who created it and who reported the information therein? What credentials, biases, limitations or weaknesses might that person or agency have had?
- Is it complete--are parts missing or illegible?
- Is it an original record, a true copy, a transcript, translation or abstract?
- If a copy, do you have access to the original at least long enough to compare them? Any difference?
- Was the record created at the same time as the information was recorded?
- Do the front, end and other descriptive matter give more clues about the creation of this record?

**2. Link the source information to the data itself.** This is the best way to stay organized, and prevent you from having to double-back later or go hunting for records you've already found. Options for doing this include photocopying the title page and the publication information from a book and stapling it to the photocopied records. Be sure to copy the full title, all authors, the edition (if applicable), publisher, city, state and publication date. Alternatively, you could write this information in the margins of the photocopied records. Both are good options for when you are working in the library, copying pages from books. If you're working paperlessly online or with your own database on your computer, then you can insert citation information in your database or online family tree, or you can record it in bibliographic software such as Endnote, RefWorks or Zotero.

**3. Good source citations can provide further clues about your ancestors.** Sometimes you have to compare data gathered in different places, or sometimes the clues are in the data themselves. Sometimes the information fits with what you already know, and sometimes it doesn't. And sometimes the clues are in the sources. Here are some important questions to ask that can assist in your data analysis:

- Which sources were created closest to the time of the event?
- Which sources report firsthand knowledge of the event?
- What biases might these sources have had?
- Did you consult an original source, a copy or a derivative?
- Was the source complete, or were parts missing that might have altered your understanding of the content?

**Do you trust the provenance or authenticity of the source?**

Courtesy of Family Tree University

2013 Genealogy Seminar featuring "The Family Detective" Uncovering The Secrets of Your Family Tree  
by Melissa Shimkus, The Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library, Ft Wayne, IN

Ruth Patrignani,  
Kitty Consalvo  
and Joyce Bailey



Bill Meister, President of Genealogy Society of  
Flagler County serving as Master of Ceremo-  
nies

Melissa Shimkus, guest speaker, from  
The Genealogy Center, Allen County  
Public Library, Ft Wayne, IN

