

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

MARCH 2013

37TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2013 OFFICERS

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HAL GAUPER

Next VCGS Meeting March 21, 2013

Kim Dolce will be giving a tour of the Genealogy Room and explaining the new system for shelving the books

VOLUSIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting of February 21, 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.

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.

Seminar Recap:

Cora May announced that our society received \$74.64 as our portion of the proceeds from the seminar. She noted that 8 members of our society attended. She said that Palm Coast is a distance and that future seminars will be held in Daytona Beach. Ruth Patrignani gave a summary of the presentation with additional comments by Joyce and Bob Bailey

Old Business:

Cora May reported that the Executive Board had appointed Kim Dolce as Vice President at their meeting earlier.

New Business: There was none.

Program:

Hal Gauper introduced Miles Gardner, speaker for the evening, who spoke on "Lore of Ormond Beach." Miles is currently working on a memoir about what life was like in Volusia County 100-150 years ago. The manuscript was completed in 1952. Edith Penrose Foulk came to Ormond Beach in 1897 when she was 12 years old. She married a Stanton and was a good friend of Fanny Day, whose father was the founding father of Daytona Beach. Edith's father built the first house on the beach in Ormond Beach, which he called Foulks Haven, however, the locals called it Foulks Folly. In 1875 there were 2 houses on the peninsula which were owned by the Bostrum brothers. Edith arrived when the Ormond Hotel was just about to open. She came from Illinois and took the train to Jacksonville then to Palatka. There was a toy train which took them to Ormond Beach.

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VCGS Society Calendar**Thursday, March 21, 2013 Board Meeting****Thursday, March 21, 2013 6 pm****Kim Dolce will be giving a tour of the Genealogy Room and explaining the new shelving of books.****Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies****HGS Ormond Library Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 1 pm****R&B Deland Library, Sunday, March 17, 2013 at 2:00 pm****GSSVC NSB Library, Sunday, March 10, 2013 at 2 pm****GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 5:30pm****\$\$ Report by Treasurer Tom Peake \$\$**

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(Minutes continued from Page 1)

Miles read a portion of the diary. People had to pay a toll of 5 cents to cross the new bridge. John Anderson was a cousin to Matthias Day. Other recorded memories were about parties where the hotel help cooked on the grill and about having turtle hunts. The turtle eggs were cooked and the yolk got hard, but the white stayed liquid. Ice cream in those days was like ice sherbet because there was no milk or cream available in Ormond Beach.

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by John Woodard and second by Hal Gauper, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Consalvo, Recording Secretary

University of North Texas Portal Contains Digitized Documents of Texas History

The University of North Texas operates the Portal to Texas History, a researcher's paradise where historians, genealogists, students -- anyone with a computer -- can browse thousands of books, maps, photographs and newspapers for an endless stream of information, whether an ad showing the price of milk in 1920 or clues about their grandmother's ancestry.

Texas newspapers are among the most popular archived items in the portal and last month the millionth newspaper page was digitized and added to the collection. There are currently 127,604 issues of newspapers in the portal, mostly from small towns. About half the newspapers are publications printed before 1923 -- with some printed as early as the 1820s.

Some items from the University of Texas at Arlington digital collection, including maps, photos and illustrations, are shared through the UNT portal at <http://texashistory.unt.edu/>.

You can obtain a lot more information in an article by Diane Smith in the Star-Telegram at <http://goo.gl/hdx6h> and in a video at <http://youtu.be/TmHbN-YSX4M> or click on the video player below.

Roots Tech Conference

March 21–23, 2013

Roots Tech is the largest genealogical conference in the United States with over 5,000 attendees. Following is a schedule of live presentations available free online at rootstech.org. All time are Mountain Time and you will need to add 2 hours for Eastern Time. I think you might find all of them very informative.

Thursday

- 8:30 AM Keynote – Dennis Brimhall, Syd Lieberman, Josh Taylor
- 11:00 AM The Future of Genealogy - Thomas MacEntee and panel
- 1:45 PM Tell it Again (Story@Home) - Kim Weitkamp
- 3:00 P The Genealogists Gadget Bag - Jill Ball and panel
- 4:15 PM Finding the Obscure and Elusive: Geographic Information on the Web - James Tanner

Friday

- 8:30 AM Keynote - Jyl Pattee and Tim Sullivan
- 9:45 AM Researching Ancestors Online - Laura Prescott
- 11:00 AM FamilySearch Family Tree - Ron Tanner
- 1:45 PM Google Search... and Beyond - Dave Barney
- 3:00 PM From Paper Piles to Digital Files - Valerie Elkins

Saturday

- 8:30 AM Keynote - David Pogue and Gilad Japhet
- 9:45 AM Using Technology to Solve Research Problems - Karen Clifford
- 11:00 AM Digital Storytelling: More than Bullet Points - Denise Olson

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

How to Achieve Virtual Immortality

What do we know about our ancestors? In most cases, we know their names and perhaps a few important dates in their lives, such as birth, marriage, or death. We might know the names and important dates of their family members. In a few cases, we might even have a few grainy photos. Now, let's turn the tables: what will your descendants know about YOU?

J. Peder Zane writes that people of today have the ability to leave a cradle-to-grave record of their lives so that 50, 100, even 500 years hence, people will be able to see how their forebears looked and moved, hear them speak, and learn about their aspirations and achievements. A growing number of gerontologists also recommend that retirees should engage in the healthy and productive exercise of composing a Life Review.

Today, have the tools and the desire to record the lives of almost everybody. Genealogists have always suffered from a lack of information about people's everyday lives. We now have the power to change that. Not only can we leave written records and find a way to make sure those records are preserved, we can also leave audio and video legacies. Indeed, the technology available today will someday be improved to the point where our yet-unborn descendants will be able to hold virtual conversations with holograms of their ancestors that draw on digital legacies to reflect how the dead would have responded.

Are you saving all the videos made with your video recorder? How about the photos from your cell phone? If so, will they still be available to future generations? Do you need to save ALL those photos? Who needs 75 photos of your cat? While technology is wonderful, someone today has to go through the digital and non-digital remnants of your life and take steps to preserve the items that will be important to future generations.

Cassette tapes, VHS tapes, hard disk drives, flash drives, DVDs, cloud storage and even paper may not last for long and probably will not be readable in the future.

How will you be remembered?

You can read J. Peder Zane's article at <http://goo.gl/ih67Y>.

Posted by Dick Eastman on March 17, 2013 in Preservation



Ruth Patrignani giving a report on the January seminar in Palm Coast.

Genealogy Tip of the Day

Do You Have Goals?

Have you listed your specific research goals?

"Searching for Grandma" might be a little too broad.

"Finding Grandma's date of birth" might be better as it is more specific. Then, think of all the records that might provide some evidence of Grandma's date of birth. Overly broad goals, or no goals at all, may cause you to feel overwhelmed.

Michael John Neill

DAR MEETING

The Sugar Mill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at the Port Orange Christian Church at 804 Taylor Rd., Port Orange at 7:00 p.m. on March 19, 2013. Kent Donahue of the Port Orange Historical Society will speak on "The Battle of Dunlawton and Founding of Port Orange." The public is invited. 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.

(continued from page 7—The Power of A Story)

Of course, there are individuals advocating on our behalf. However, when there is a chance for politicians to wrap themselves in the flag and declare they are protecting us and our children by restricting access to records, there is precious little that can be done on the advocacy front. Indeed what is politically expedient seems to trump all else. Even if compromise is possible, by the very definition of the term each side gives and each side loses something. How much of our ability to tell our stories can we afford to give away?

While the abovementioned assessment may seem gloomy, you and I may have more control than we think. We can commit to writing parts of our stories every day. All of that genealogical research we have been doing for years—what about compiling it into a family history? Instead of piles of papers and drawers of folders, why not take the information we have gathered and weave it into a story? If we commit to writing our stories, and further, to documenting the stories with records that we can access now, we will help ensure that, whether records are open or closed, our stories will be filled with information from once-available records.



Tom Peake & John Woodard



Allie, Alma, Nancy Ed and Del



Our new Vice President,
Kim Dolce

Miles Gardner who
spoke on “Lore of Or-
mond Beach”



Several of our members at
the February meeting.

The Power of A Story

Curt B Witcher

When one contemplates the nearly countless and wide-ranging reasons people engage in family history, I believe a common thread to be found among all those motivations is the impact and power of story.

Discovering, telling, and preserving one's story has such meaning. And for our children, and their children, our ability to discover, document, and share our family stories may be all that remains for them to know us--our challenges and triumphs, our thoughts and beliefs, our work and wisdom, our passions and hobbies, indeed, that we even existed at all.

I forever will be fascinated by the twinkle in children's eyes when grandparents tell them about yesteryear, and what life was like when they were much younger. I recall with great clarity how my own sons would come home from a day at Grandma and Grandpa's house with stories of life "way back long ago." Our own house would echo after such visits with exclamations that began, "Well, Grandpa said . . . !" Those stories made a connection across generations; those stories tied generations together in a way that nothing else could or did.

The examples of "story" being powerful and enlightening are countless. When a young Darfur student from a local high school was with her class in The Genealogy Center last year, there was some noticeable dissatisfaction that records from Sudan are virtually non-existent in North America. How could she begin to put together her family's history? When it was suggested that using technology to communicate back to family and town members in Darfur about what they could remember about their earlier lives, what they remembered about the exodus of family members to safer locations, and how political strife was affecting their lives in very real and personal ways, there was a bit of skepticism. But the young woman did just that, and wove together an intriguing story about her life that fascinated her classmates. Her story, in so many amazing ways, tied her to her classmates. The threads of her story, while so very different from those of her classmates, were an important part of the entire tapestry that made up her class, her school, her community.

An entirely different, and deeply meaningful side of military service comes to light (and comes to life!) when one goes beyond textbook accounts and reads letters written by those who participated--when one examines their stories. There is something special about the stories of service during the Korean conflict told by Maxwell Smith in a series of letters he wrote that all began with "Vaun darling, I love you!" and ended with "All my love always." <www.genealogycenter.info/military/koreanwar/search_maxwellpsmith.php> There is something extraordinary in the stories told to Ann Adang by the more than one dozen soldiers with whom she corresponded during WWII. <www.genealogycenter.info/military/wwii/search_adangletters_main.php> A North Side High School student who was researching in The Genealogy Center just a couple of weeks ago was so pleased to find the obituary of a grandfather who served in Vietnam. He carefully read each line, eager to discover every shred of his grandfather's story that he could.

The wonderful and engaging aspect of family history, and the power of story in family history, is that everyone has a family--and everyone has a story to discover, document and tell. No matter one's age, race, sex, education, religion, station in life, etc., everyone has a story! For many, discovering and appreciating their own story reinforces that they are somebody. They count. They came from somewhere and from someone.

The interesting times in which we find ourselves place our ability to discover, document and tell our stories at increasingly greater risk. Whether we realize it or not, collectively we have entrusted the care of the official records that document our heritage largely in the hands of disinterested strangers. Typically few individuals show up at local public record commission hearings where decisions are made about record retention and who will have access to the records that are retained. Access to records that we have enjoyed for generations is being curtailed or completely restricted. There are contemporary discussions taking place all over the country, in local and state jurisdictions, regarding who should have access to what records. Elected state officials are moving at an amazing pace to restrict, curtail, and in some cases completely eliminate access to parts of birth, death, marriage and divorce records. Local funeral homes and cemeteries are being taken over by large networks of funeral, cremation and cemetery service providers who increasingly believe the records of their respective businesses are just that--theirs.

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