

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

APRIL 2013

37TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2013 OFFICERS

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Next VCGS Meeting April 18, 2013

Kathy Stickney will be presenting a program on "Using Special Federal Census, such as Farm Schedules, etc."

Volusia County Genealogical Society

Minutes - March 21, 2013

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Cora May Hartzell, President at 6:05 pm. She requested everyone to stand and Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Thomas Peake and seconded by Michael Williams that the minutes be approved as printed in the newsletter. Motion Carried.

Tom Peake, Treasurer reported the balance in the treasury as of March 21st was \$1394.17.

Cora May reminded everyone that there dues needed to be paid as soon as possible.

Kim Dolce as how many of our members were doing Irish research and also how far along they were in that research. This will help a future speaker on Irish Genealogy.

Program

The meeting was adjourned to the Genealogy Room where Kim Dolce, Librarian gave an overview of the Genealogy Room and the changes that had been made in the shelving of the books. She also answered many questions about the room and getting started in research.

Cora May asked for people to consider volunteering their time in the Genealogy Room.

We then returned to the Auditorium for refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cora May Hartzell

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VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday, April 18, 2013 Board Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2013 6 pm

Kathy Stickney will be presenting a program on "Using Special Federal Census, such as Farm Schedules, etc.

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 1 pm. Bill Meister will present "Getting More of The Story"

R&B Deland Library, Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 2:00 pm

GSSVC NSB Library, Sunday, April 14, 2013 at 2 pm

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 5:30pm

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

\$1394.17



Genelines—Timeline Charting Software

GENELINES is one of the most powerful research and storytelling tools available to anyone researching their family tree. By bringing together elements of time, history and family relationships on visual time line charts, Genelines (for Windows) software can bring your family tree to life.

Genelines automatically reads your family tree database so you don't need to re-enter your family information. For a complete list of compatible family tree database programs, [click here](#).

CREATE AMAZING TIMELINE CHARTS

Genelines features a suite of seven different timeline chart formats, consisting of two BIOGRAPHICAL and five RELATIONSHIP charts.

Each of these seven charts can be customized according to: timeline, historical events, personal or family events, colors and fonts.

Unique in presentation, the Individual and Comparative Biographical Charts allow you to include such events as career path, relationships, place of residence, etc., and compare these life experiences with those of other relatives in your database.

You can even add historical events that were happening at different times during their lives to see how such events may have impacted the decisions they made and the directions they went.

The Relationship charts let you view your family pedigrees and lines of descent against a backdrop of historical events on the local, regional or world stage.

You can customize charts according to people, line of descent or family group, personal life details, color, and the history you wish to depict.

The relationship charts can explain a great deal about your family and how they lived and even allow you to add people who are not necessarily related.

FLEXIBLE PRINTING OPTIONS

All Genelines charts can be previewed and printed in full color, in various sizes - including wall charts - or published to PDF and incorporated into a web page or shared by e-mail. The Genelines form of presentation can be much more meaningful and easier to understand than a typical text based report, and can help you draw conclusions that may otherwise have been missed.

5 Kinds of Marriage Records

Because a marriage had legal and financial implications, these were among the earliest types of records created by newly-formed governments. Eventually, states took over this responsibility, but in many areas, you still look for historical marriage records on the county level. Marriage records were often maintained separately from birth and death records.

What makes a marriage record such a juicy genealogical carrot on a stick? Depending on the time and place, you may not only learn a spouse's identity, but both spouses' birth dates and places, parents' names and birth information, prior marital status, occupations, citizenship status and more.

Marriage records kept by the government have taken different formats over time in the United States, like:

Consent to marry affidavits. Where a bride or groom was underage, the signature of a parent or guardian was required for the wedding to take place. These documents may appear alongside other documents. In addition to being interesting, consent documents can also help identify parents and even whether a father was deceased (he usually signed if he was living).

A marriage bond, or financial pledge, was posted by the groom and/or father/brother of the bride just before a wedding. The purpose was to offset any legal expenses if the marriage were nullified. A bond could be required along with a marriage license or in lieu of it. There may or may not be follow-up information confirming that the marriage took place. Bonds were especially common in the early South.

Intentions. More common in New England, this practice involved the bride and groom registering their intention to wed at the town hall or courthouse prior to the event.

License applications, licenses and returns. These are the most common record type you'll encounter. The couple filled out an application that remained on file at the county office and was issued a license. The license was surrendered to the officiator and returned to the county along with the officiator's signature certifying that the wedding took place. This last bit is known as the "return" and may be on the actual license or in a county register book: see more on that below. Applications and returns are what you'll find in most county records today. They often provide a lot of genealogical information about both parties and their parents, as the example shown on the previous page.

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.

(5 Types Of Marriage Records—continued from Page 3)

Registers. These are log books that record weddings that occurred in that jurisdiction, often chronologically, as in the example below. They may also be roughly indexed by the first letter of the bride or groom's surname. A separate index to bride and groom's names may exist.

Master court records

Let's be honest—court records can be intimidating. From complex legal jargon to busy bustling clerks and inconsistent record sets from county to county, the courthouse is not always the most welcome research venue. In this four-week course, you'll learn to become comfortable in the county courthouse and find what might be the only trace of your ancestors.

What You'll Learn:

Different kinds of county governments and how to find the right historical county for your ancestors

What vital records you may find at the courthouse

What to look for in property and estate records, as well as an introduction to court records

How to find the records you want and what to do with them once you find them

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to root out your ancestors in these complex records!

Courtesy of Family Tree University

www.GenealogyTrails.com

by Cynthia Theusch

Genealogy Trails (www.GenealogyTrails.com) is a web site that offers free access to genealogical and historical data files and record transcripts for all over the United States. It was created in March 2000 by the Genealogy Trails History Group, an independent organization of volunteers initially dedicated to gathering information specifically for the state of Illinois. Six years later, Genealogy Trails has added materials for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

On the Genealogy Trails opening page, you will find categories such as African American Data, Chuckwagon Recipes, Events, Historical Data, Maps, Military Data, Native American Data, Slavery Data, State Data, Newspaper Gleanings, People, Presidents and Research Aids. There also are options for submitting an obituary or searching the site. On the left side of the page is list of links to resources by state.

Each state page includes a brief state history, state facts and links to county pages, plus other content that varies by state. The Indiana Trails web page (<http://GenealogyTrails.com/Ind/>) has a link for Indiana trivia. Did you know that the courthouse roof in Greensburg, Indiana has a tree growing from it? Or that the main station of the Underground Railroad was in Fountain County, Indiana?

County pages include a list of townships, villages and cities within their boundaries and links to the pages of neighboring counties. Content subject headings that may be found on all county pages are biographies, birth records, cemeteries, census, church history/records, county history, death records, family histories/records, land records, marriages, military, miscellaneous data, newspaper data, obituaries, schools and wills/probate records. How much information, if any, is beneath each of these headings varies greatly from one locality to the next. Some counties with an active site host may have additional material besides what is listed just above, such as other county records and photographs.

For example, in Community News under Newspaper Gleanings on the Stark County, Ohio, page is an article transcription with the multi-deck headline, "Mrs. Royer Tells of Old Days. Changes In Massillon Since She Became a Resident. Her Home on Post Office Site. She Came to the United States From Belgium in 1852 - It Took Forty-Seven Days to Cross the Atlantic - Came Down From Cleveland by Canal Boat."

The article itself begins, "Mrs. Mary Royer, now 74 years of age, ... tells of the improvements made in Massillon since she became a resident here in 1859," and is transcribed in full on the site.

Sites like www.GenealogyTrails.com rely on volunteers to contribute content. When you visit the GenealogyTrails county and state pages for the localities where your ancestors lived, consider adding information. You might transcribe obituaries or other records from your files, or while reviewing microfilm or county books, create an index of names that can be submitted. These pieces are not the complete story, but each one may help someone who is researching that family.



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 April 16, 2013. The Annual Awards Program for JAC and American History Essay Winners will be held. 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.

(Correcting Online Family Trees—continued from page 6)

Ancestry Member Trees

You control the content in your Ancestry Member Tree tree, and can update or delete facts and photos, or change content at any time by logging into your Ancestry member account. However, once something has been added to a public tree, the content may be copied and re-posted by others. Even if you delete an item in your tree, it may still be displayed in another member's tree. You do not have any recourse in this situation other than to contact that member directly and ask nicely. Because of this, Ancestry.com advises that you "think carefully about what you post and share within the Ancestry Community."

Family Trees Submitted by Others

Even if a family tree posted online is an apparent copy of yours, most genealogy services will not make changes or remove the data at your request. Only the submitter of the family tree can make changes or ask that the family tree be removed. At this point, the best option is to contact the person who submitted the data. Although this is obviously a frustrating situation, try to restrain yourself. A threatening letter citing plagiarism and demanding complete removal of your family tree will often go unanswered, while a polite letter noting that you have additional information on the family may actually elicit a response. They may even give you credit for the new information. Most importantly, the errors may be corrected, and the misinformation stopped at its source.

Take an Alternate Route

Because of the inherent problems with people misusing your genealogy data, and the difficulties in making changes or corrections, some people opt not to publish their GEDCOM file to any of the online family trees. The downside to this is that the people who may have more information about your family won't be able to find you either. To make your family tree available online but still retain complete control over your data, many people suggest creating your own genealogy Web site. You control how much information you choose to share and how easy it is for people to copy or download it, yet still make it easy for others to find your family tree and contact you.

Correcting Errors Found in Online Family Trees

By [Kimberly Powell](#), About.com Guide

Most genealogists have made mistakes at some point during their research, or just have found some new clues which indicate previous assumptions were in error. But what happens when this research has been published online, and the errors seem to propagate like wildfire?

Family Trees You Have Submitted

Begin by logging into the account under which you submitted the family tree. If you submitted a file to multiple locations (such as both RootsWeb WorldConnect and Ancestry World Tree (AWT)), you'll need to make the changes or request removal of the family tree from both locations.

Where Did I Submit My Family Tree?

If you have a family tree online through RootsWeb.com or Ancestry.com (both part of the same parent company), you'll need to edit or delete the tree from the place you first submitted it. What if you can't remember, or have multiple family trees? Check the URL for the database ID (db=).

- Database IDs that begin with a colon ":" (db=:) were submitted through Ancestry's Online Family Tree (OFT).
- Database IDs that begin with a colon plus the letter a (db=:a) were submitted via Ancestry World Tree (AWT).
- Database IDs comprised of letters, numbers and characters without the colon indicate family trees submitted through RootsWeb's WorldConnect.

Files submitted to Ancestry's Online Family Tree and RootsWeb's WorldConnect can be edited or deleted by logging in to your account.

- How do I delete an Ancestry Online Family Tree file I submitted to the World Tree?
- How to Edit a WorldConnect Tree
- How to Delete a WorldConnect Tree

Older files submitted to Ancestry World Tree, prior to the introduction of Online Family Tree, may not be as easy to delete, however. Look at the URL for the file, specifically the letters and characters which follow the "db=" section. If this indicates a file originally submitted to Ancestry World Tree, you generally will not be able to edit or delete it yourself. The best option here is to submit a removal request to Ancestry.com (using the Email Ancestry Support link), although some genealogists have reported that even this doesn't work. If you'd like your family tree to remain online, it is still best to delete this old family tree and then submit a new one that does allow for easy editing.

Ancestry's OneWorldTree

This one is a special situation, because family trees are not submitted directly to OneWorldTree (OWT). Instead, One World Tree is a special search service once offered to Ancestry.com subscribers, and includes data from files submitted to Ancestry World Tree. Once you remove or change your file in

Ancestry World Tree, the changes should eventually show up in OneWorldTree. The search servers for OneWorldTree do not run on a regular basis, however, and Ancestry.com makes no promises on how frequent the updates will be.

Did Your Ancestor Fall Out of the Sky?

Ever feel like your dead-end ancestor must have fallen out of the sky? That's how Bill Brazel feels about his grandfather, Joseph Kittinger Brazel. There's even a family legend that he had. "Joseph just kind of appeared out of nowhere," says Bill of Las Cruces, New Mexico. Joseph showed up living about 80 miles north of Carlsbad, New Mexico when he started keeping a journal.

"Grandpa Joe's journal is a real gem," Bill says. "He meticulously kept track of the weather and the movement of the stars and planets. He was curious about everything and made beautiful drawings of plants and animals."

"Unfortunately, I've found no record of him prior to that time," says Bill.

Joseph appears in all the normal places, marrying, having children, and buying and selling land. He even appears in some recently declassified military documents. During World War II he worked as a civilian contractor at the White Sands military base. He was present at the testing of the first atomic bomb and was censured for watching the detonation from outside the safety bunker. He seemed to have suffered no ill effects, living cancer free his entire life. The brightness alone should have blinded him. Joseph is mentioned in an interesting newspaper article, having gone missing in early July of 1947. When he was found the next day in the desert he had no memory of what had happened.

But no document mentions parents, nativity, siblings, or prior residence. Bill says he's tried to find friends, family, or neighbors associated with him from before that time, but keeps coming up empty. According to Bill's father, Grandpa Joe never spoke about his early life.

"In an attempt to break through the brick wall, I had DNA tests done," says Bill. Unfortunately, the tests were a bust and may have been messed up by the lab. To believe the test results, Bill has no close relatives anywhere on the planet and a full fourth of his ethnicity is unknown.

The answer to the mystery may best be answered by the last thing Joseph Kittinger Brazel wrote in his journal: This is an April Fools work of fiction and in any resemblance to real persons no disrespect is intended.

Courtesy of The Ancestry Insider



Land Patent is Just the Beginning

If your US ancestor obtained a federal land patent, remember that there is documentation of how and why he obtained that patent-probably at the National Archives. If your ancestor purchased the land on some type of cash or credit sale, the file probably won't contain a great deal of information. But if he obtained it via a military warrant, homestead, or pre-emption claim (among others), there will be more information in that application file.

Michael John Neill