

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

MAY 2013

37TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

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Next VCGS Meeting May 16, 2013

Webinar entitled "Chasing Women: Finding Your Female Ancestors"
presented by Leland K Meitzler

VOLUSIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting of April 18, 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 Ferris, the minutes were approved as submitted.

New Business: Ruth Patrignani announced that she would be conducting a beginning genealogy class on June 4th and 11th and possibly June 18th, at 10:00 a.m. in City Island Library. The first class will be on what kind of information we can get from censuses.

Program:

Kim Dolce introduced Kathy Stickney who spoke on "Using Special Federal Census Schedules" which include mortality schedules (1850-1880), agriculture schedules (1850-1880), industry schedules (1850- 1870)/manufacturers schedules (1880), and social statistics schedules (1850- 1870). She gave background on nonpopulation census schedules, which are schedules that were not involved in the constitutionally mandated count of the population. The first were the 1810 and 1820 manufacturing schedules and the 1840 schedule of mines, agriculture, commerce and mines. They usually refer to those schedules that were taken from 1850 through 1880 in addition to the population and slave schedules. The information at the top of the schedules was usually consistent, i.e. minor civil division, county, state, post office, names of Assistant Marshal, page

number of census of population, and in 1880 Supervisor's District number and Enumeration District number. Mrs. Stickney then gave background information on each of the schedules. She noted that only in 1880 were there seven supplemental schedules for classes termed "Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent" which were for insane inhabitants, idiots, deaf-mutes, blind, homeless children, inhabitants in prison, paupers and indigent, inhabitants of institutions or boarded at public expense in private homes.

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VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday, May 16, 2013 Board Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2013 6 pm

Webinar entitled "Chasing Women: Finding Your Female Ancestors" presented by Leland K Meitzler

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 1 pm.

R&B Deland Library, Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 2:00 pm

GSSVC NSB Library, Sunday, May 12, 2013 at 2 pm

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 5:30pm

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

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(Minutes continued from Page 1)

She concluded by telling attendees where to obtain these schedules. Some are available at repositories, some at colleges and universities, the National Archives has microfilm copies of schedules for some of the states, Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center, on microfilm at the LDS Family History Library, and some at ancestry.com. For transcriptions, check www.censusonline.com. Forms to enable you to record the information on the various schedules are available at <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com> and www.ancestry.com.

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by Tom Peake and second by David Farris, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Consalvo, Recording Secretary

Genealogy Tip of the Day

What Other Records?

Whenever reviewing any document, think about what other records or materials that document might have caused to be created. A death certificate may mean a burial permit, a tombstone, an obituary, or a cemetery record. A court case involving an inheritance may be mentioned in the newspaper or have caused a deed to be recorded when the case was finalized.

Rarely is one document recorded in complete isolation.

By Michael John Neill

No Time is Ever Wasted Doing Research

“No time is ever wasted doing research, if we learn,” said Marian Smith at the opening session Wednesday morning of the 2013 annual conference of the National Genealogical Society. “Some questions take years of work to answer,” she said. But along the way we learn about persons, places, events, economies, and societies. This information helps explain some of our ancestors’ decisions. “You can never learn too much about the historical background,” she said.

Smith’s address was titled “People, Policy and Records: The Importance of Historical Background.” She is the chief of the Historical Research Branch of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service, since 1988.

Smith presented the story of her research project to uncover the author and origins of the Morton Allan’s 1931 book Morton Allan Directory (or “MAD” as she sometimes wanted to call it.) Genealogists have used it for generations to identify ships, ports, and travel dates to facilitate passenger list research. (It can be searched on Stephen Morse’s One Step search website.)

Four points sum the major lessons learned by her experience:

Some questions take years of work to answer.

No time is ever wasted doing research if we learn more.

Be prepared to be surprised.

Question your sources.

The session was sponsored by Archives.com whose representative, Amy Johnson Crow, shared a bit or two of information. People had a lot of questions when Ancestry.com bought Archives. As they said they would, Ancestry has kept the Archives name, kept Archives separate, and improved the offerings. They’ve added new content, including the UK Census, Griffith’s Valuation and records of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). They’ve upgraded their image viewer. They have a new weekly series of live stream videos. Look for improvements in search and browse later this year.

By Marion Smith

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

The Importance of Sharing Your Genealogy Research

By Jenny Randall

I have been researching my family tree for many years now. I began when all enquiries had to be made via regular post. It was a long process, drawn out and for the most part, totally fruitless.

I had heard tell of vague relations who were interested in their family tree but it seemed that they wanted to either keep their hard work to themselves (I can understand this in a way) or never bothered communicating with anyone else.. After all, if you've managed to find a birth/marriage or death certificate and paid the fee, then there is a reluctance to offer it or the valuable information it contains, away to anyone else for free. Either that or they feel that no one else would be interested.

One elderly relative had researched her entire life and had a gold mine of information. She passed away suddenly and who knows what became of her research?

My father came from a really large family and although they loved each other deeply, they just didn't keep in touch. I grew up not even knowing the names of many of my cousins. I only knew the names of my grandfather and grandmother. My family emigrated so that was the family connection entirely broken.

I had some old photos but I didn't know who they were of, they were just kept in a tin.

Then came the arrival of the internet! Documents began to be available on line!

I researched for a long time on my own and gathered more information that filled out my genealogical research. However, there were lots of gaps in my knowledge. I wondered so much what various ancestors had looked like. I wanted so much to find out more.

I thought more and more about how I would feel if all my research was lost. I wondered how I could share the information with people who shared the same ancestors as myself.

It is important to take those first steps to share your information. Share it with those relatives that you have contact with and create a family tree on as many sites as you can. There are a lot of free places on the internet which allow you to create a tree on their site.

You will be amazed at how many people are researching the same family names as you are. Join forums and take part in the conversation threads. If you can help someone else, you will be surprised at how many will help you in return. Post your photographs. There are regular members on a lot of forums who have expansive knowledge in various areas, such as military or dating old photos who are often only too happy to help others.

Over the past year, since joining a lot of sites, I have gradually heard from many of my first cousins who contacted me via various websites. They put me in touch with other cousins until the family, once again has been reunited. They were all researching the family history too. We now swap what knowledge, stories or family rumors that we have heard of. Photographs of long lost family members have been swapped. We've been able to put our heads together and identify old photographs. Little snippets of information are now able to be researched. All of this combined information has not only expanded our knowledge but it has brought a wonderful feeling of belonging to a large family again. I can almost feel our ancestors smiling down on us with a look of approval. Pooling our knowledge has meant that we can now trace the family tree back to 1590 and are working on going back further.

I recently received a photograph from a lady in New Zealand who wondered if an old photograph of a wedding group could possibly be anything to me. It was my own mother and father's wedding and provided an image of my grandfather of whom no photos were known to exist.

If you can trust enough to share your information, you will be rewarded a hundred-fold.



Kathy Stickney speaking on "Using Special Federal Census"

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 May 21, 2013. Officers will be installed for the upcoming term. Please call the Regent at 760-9921 for more information. If you have ancestors who fought in or provided assistance to the American Revolution you may be eligible to join. We will gladly assist you



Kathy & Clyde Stickney, and Kim Dolce discussing Federal Census

General discussion among members waiting for meeting to start



Mastering Genealogy Research in Court Records Online Course

I'm pretty excited about our new [Mastering Genealogy Research in Court Records](#) course from Family Tree University. I've found this to be [one of the most intimidating areas of genealogy research](#), but also one of the most rewarding—my court records finds have included an ancestral [divorce filing in Texas](#) and a revealing [divorce case in Kentucky](#).



Something you might want to check out.

[Mastering Genealogy Research in Court Records](#) instructor Sunny Jane Morton shared these tips for a productive visit to the courthouse (and why you might not need to make a special trip to the courthouse, after all). If you're traveling to a courthouse or another repository to research county-level records, download and fill out a [Research Repository Checklist](#). It'll help you plan your visit, bring appropriate materials and leave extra stuff behind. Bring this checklist with you to the courthouse, along with a County Research Resources worksheet (available to course participants) listing which office has which types of records and what records you're looking for.

- Arrive as early as possible in the workday. You never know how much time your research will take.
- Dress professionally but in comfortable, washable clothes. You may be on your feet a lot of the day in tight, hard-to-reach or dusty spaces. Yet, you'll get the respect you deserve as a researcher when you look presentable.
- Carry a minimum of materials with you. There probably won't be a secure place to set up a laptop computer or table space where you can spread out your notes.
- Confirm copying policies ahead of time. You may be permitted to use a wand scanner or the digital camera on your phone, or you may have to buy a copy card. Some places permit only taking notes.
- When you need to ask the staff a question, think of the most direct way to ask. Don't share your family history. Say, "Where would I look for an index to probates or intestate proceedings for 1912?", not "My great-grandfather died in 1912 in Chester Township and I think my great-grandmother was the executor of the estate...."
- Be observant. In addition to the records you came for, keep an eye out for clues to other court records about your family.
- Be thorough. If you don't find what you expect to, ask a clerk a specific question. "Where else other than deed books might I find someone disposing of land between 1843 and 1846?" You might be shown a separate book of sheriff's sales if your ancestor fell behind on taxes.
- If you can't find what you're looking for, ask politely whether someone in the county offices has a lot of experience with the historical records. If that person is available, he or she may be able to tell you whether an ancestor could have married by banns, or how likely it was that African-Americans would've had their deaths reported or estates filed during the Jim Crow years.

Finally, not every court record requires a trip to the courthouse. You might discover that records you need are microfilmed or digitized at the state archives or [FamilySearch.org](#). In some cases, a combination of online research, microfilm rental and requesting copies from the courthouse will suffice.

Your Ancestor's SS-5 You Better Get It Before It's Too Late

It's time to look up your 20th-century ancestors in the Social Security Death Index and request their Social Security number applications (SS-5s) if you haven't already.

Threats to close the Social Security Death Index are resurfacing with a vengeance: President Obama's budget proposal would give the Commissioner of Social Security license to grant or deny access to the SSDI and our ancestors' SS-5 forms. It makes the records' availability subject to a bureaucrat instead of the Freedom of Information Act.

Other genealogy bloggers have expertly explained why there are more effective ways to prevent tax fraud and protect the identities of taxpayers, while also meeting the needs of genealogy hobbyists and those who use Social Security records to identify survivors of deceased service members and unclaimed persons.

Read more from:

Judy G. Russell at the Legal Genealogist (who also writes about the commissioner of Social Security's ominous testimony regarding closing the SSDI)

Dick Eastman at Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

I'll explain what the SSDI is and why it's important to genealogy: The SSDI is a computerized file of deceased individuals whose deaths have been reported to the Social Security Administration. It contains mostly deaths from 1962 and later, though my great-grandfather who died in 1949 is listed.

You can search the SSDI on websites including FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com (which excludes recent deaths) and order your ancestor's SS-5 for a fee from the Social Security Administration under the Freedom of Information Act.

Once you find an ancestor in the SSDI, you can request his or her SS-5, which requests parents' names, among other information. This is the only record I've ever found giving my great-grandfather's mother's name.

From The Genealogy Insider by Diane Haddad