

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

JUNE 2013

37TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2013 OFFICERS

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Next VCGS Meeting June 20, 2013

Kim Dolce will present an educational program on "Fold 3"

End of the Year Pot Luck Social

VOLUSIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Meeting of May 16, 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 12 members and 5 guests 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 Hal Gauper and second by Kitty Consalvo, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Old Business: Cora May announced that Tom Peake will not be continuing as Treasurer after June. She asked for volunteers to fill the position. Kitty Consalvo offered to take the position if someone would be willing to serve as Secretary.

Webinars:

Cora May reported that the Florida State Genealogical Society Website is offering free monthly webinars. There will be one this evening on cemetery research. Go to FSGS.org and then to Poolside Chats. The first 100 people who sign up will be able to participate.

Program:

Kim Dolce gave the background on the presenter of the webinar to be shown, "Finding Your Female Ancestors." The speaker told of 2 different sites for finding women, one with married names and one with female names. The types of American documents are duplicated in many foreign countries. Marriage applications are available at courthouses and at familysearch.org there are indexes specific to 40 states. Genealogyblog.com has more indexes. Many foreign records are now on familysearch.org. By contacting the county where the marriage took place you could obtain a county verified transcript. There are also Consents to Marry for underage people. Genealogical societies in the ancestors area have newsletters, which offer interesting bits of information that haven't been filmed. Family Bibles are another source. If brother-in-laws or father-in-laws are listed in the household in the census it could also be the wife's maiden name. State censuses are a good source. Most states conducted their census

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VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday, June 20, 2013 Board Meeting

Thursday, June 20, 2013 6 pm

**Kim Dolce presents an educational program on
"Fold 3"**

End of Year Pot Luck Social

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library No meeting until September

GSSVC NSB Library, Sunday, June 9, 2013 at 2 pm Webinar on "Breaking Down Brick Walls"

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 5:30pm Webinar on "Be A Family History Detective" by Desmond Walls Allen

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

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(Minutes continued from page 1)

between the federal census. Death certificates are notoriously inaccurate. They are only good if the informant knew what he was talking about. Early town birth and death registers sometimes superseded censuses. These can be found at RootsWeb.com. Probate records are good, show who purchased plots. Other good sources are funeral home records, obituaries, War of 1812 pension files, Civil War pension files, confederate veterans censuses, birth certificates, original family manuscripts, children's' middle names could be a clue, Social Security applications, newspaper columns, adoption decrees, land records, county histories and photographs. Kim noted that the library has the book "Hidden Half of the Family."

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by Kitty Consalvo and second by Hal Gauper, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Consalvo, Recording Secretary

Genealogy Tip of the Day

It May Be Common There

That last name that appears to be so uncommon in rural Iowa where your family settled may be extremely common in the little German village where the family originated. It may be common enough that one-third of the baptismal entries on every page contains a reference to that surname--either as the father's last name or the mother's maiden name.

What is rare in one place may be extremely common in another.

Michael John Neill

TLC Brings NBC's 'Who Do You Think You Are?' Back From the Grave

Lisa Kudrow and Dan Bucatinsky's celebrity documentary series gets a second life on the cable channel. Lisa Kudrow and Dan Bucatinsky-produced celebrity genealogy series, "Who Do You Think You Are?," can add a new branch to its family tree. TLC has picked up the former NBC documentary series for eight new one-hour episodes set to premiere on July 23. Production is already underway.

"I've never stopped hearing about how much people love 'Who Do You Think You Are?,' and I've always known that we've had more great stories to share," said executive producer Kudrow in a statement. "TLC is a great home for the series, and we join our excited celebrity participants as we unearth some amazing background and surprising histories."

Also read: [TLC Orders 'Best Funeral Ever' to Series, 7 More New Unscripted Series \(Exclusive\)](#) Christina Applegate, Cindy Crawford, and Zooey Deschanel are among the stars who will track their family's lineage on the upcoming season. "'Who Do You Think You Are?' is at home on TLC, going beyond these famous names and revealing the hidden backstories of today's biggest celebrities," said TLC general manager Amy Winter. "We hand-picked these contributors because they are real, down-to-earth individuals who have a deep passion for family, which is central to our brand. Our audience will join them on this emotional journey as they learn never-before-known details about their own lives."

Also read: [TLC Gets in Bed With 'Plastic Wives' for Latest Reality Venture \(Video\)](#) Produced by Shed Media U.S. and Kudrow and Bucatinsky's Is or Isn't Entertainment, the new season will include all the elements the show's fans have fallen in love with, including its close association with Ancestry.com. The sponsor will provide research on each of the featured celebrities. It is based on a British series from Wall to Wall and Alex Graham, which aired on BBC.

"Who Do You Think You Are?" aired for three seasons on NBC before the network canceled it last May. Martin Sheen, Rob Lowe, Blaire Underwood, Sara Jessica Parker and Paula Deen are among those who appeared on the show's NBC run.

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

Genetic Testing—DNA

Conrad Yu

Genetic testing has become old-hat in today's modern world. Most genealogists think about genetic testing from the viewpoint of finding cousins, ancestry, and world-wide places of origin. We typically deal with less than a half dozen genetic testing firms that most genealogists are acquainted with. However, there are all kinds of genetic testing companies out there – and they have many different specialties.

FindTheBest.com has [a published online list of these companies](#), complete with their locations, services, and even comparisons. The following guest post was written by Conrad Yu of [FindTheBest.com](#):

When people hear about DNA or genetics testing, (unfortunately) they tend to think about paternity tests as made popular by shows like Jerry Springer or Maury. But the vast majority of genetics testing have other rather important purposes that especially affect those thinking about starting or expanding their families. Because a significant amount of diseases and illnesses have at least somewhat of a hereditary component to their contraction or development,

Whether you want to test for disease risk or determine your ancestry, there are several types of genetic testing that are done for different reasons:

- Diagnostic testing is done for those who show symptoms of a disease that may be caused by genetic alterations, such as adult polycystic kidney disease, iron overload (hemochromatosis), and Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease.
- Genealogical testing allows people to trace their ancestry, enabling them to determine the probability that they are—or are not—related to another person within an approximate number of generations. It can also be used in forensic science to identify crime victims, rule out suspects, or establish biological relationships.
- Pre-symptomatic and predictive testing is intended for those who have a family history of a genetic condition and want to know whether they are at risk of developing that condition.
- Carrier testing can determine if someone carries a copy of an altered gene that would put a child at risk of developing the disorder. This type of genetic testing is therefore best for someone with a family history of a genetic disorder, such as sickle cell anemia or cystic fibrosis, and plans to have children in the near future. It may also be useful for those in an ethnic group that has a high risk of a particular genetic disorder.
- Pharmacogenetics can identify what medication and dosage would be most effective and beneficial for those with a particular health condition or disease.
- Prenatal testing can detect changes or abnormalities in a fetus' genes before birth. Spina bifida and Down syndrome are two genetic disorders that are often screened for as part of prenatal genetic testing. This is often done with an amniocentesis, but this process has been known to pose certain risks, such as miscarriages.
- Newborn screening is the most common type of genetic testing. In the United States, all states require newborns to be tested for certain gene abnormalities that cause specific conditions, such as phenylketonuria and congenital hypothyroidism, as this allows for care and treatment to begin immediately. Diagnostic and carrier testing can also be done to confirm a diagnosis or to let people know if their children are at risk of inheriting a genetic disorder or being a carrier of a condition.

Pre-implantation testing may be used to lower the chances that someone will have a child with a particular genetic disorder. Also known as pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), this test requires a woman to conceive a child through in vitro fertilization. With in vitro, eggs are taken from a woman and sperm are taken from a man to create embryos outside of the body. Once these embryos are created, they will be screened for genetic abnormalities. Those without any abnormalities will then be implanted in the uterus in hopes of achieving pregnancy.

It is important to note that most traditional genetic tests for diagnosing disease, screening for carrier status, or predicting medication response will require a doctor's prescription or referral. Many other tests, however, can be directly requested by consumers.

Before finding [genetic testing centers](#) and testing at any one particular facility, it is important to consider the following:

- **Services:** It is imperative to determine whether a genetic clinic has the particular test you need.

(Continued from Page 3 Genetic Testing—DNA)

Many genetic testing centers will also provide various services like counseling, ongoing care, and further testing for people who are diagnosed with a genetic disorder or condition. See which facilities offer the services or testing you need and narrow your options from there.

Accreditation: It is also important to consider the various types of accreditation when researching genetic testing centers. A seal of accreditation indicates that the facility has qualified staff members for diagnosing, evaluating, and/or treating patients with hereditary disorders and conditions. It is therefore beneficial to select a testing center with doctors who are certified in the type of genetic health care you need.

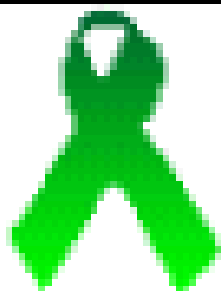


At What Stage?

When working on your "brick wall" ancestor, have you given serious thought to what stage of life they were in when they become your "brick wall?" Were they young and striking out on their own with no responsibilities? Had all their children grown up and left home moving several states away? Or did all their adult children live nearby? Were they a newlywed? Were they the only child living near aging parents?

Your relative did not live in a vacuum and, while people do occasionally "run off and never come back," most people behave relatively reasonably. Your disappearing ancestor may simply have left no records behind of certain periods in his life.

Michael John Neill



I Am Addicted
To Genealogy

Tricks for Finding Free Genealogy Data

Don't get me wrong. Spending money on genealogy is a good thing. This is spoken by someone who works hard to create [high-quality educational genealogy material for your consumption](#).

But I try to practice what my mom taught me about money: You save what you can when you can, then you use your budget on things that'll really pay off.



Free Is Always Good

This post is about the "save when you can" part. If you can find some genealogy data you need for no cost, then you can dedicate your family history funds, for example, to ordering an original record, taking an [in-depth online genealogy course](#) or subscribing to a website.

Use free sites: [FamilySearch](#), of course, but also [Find A Grave](#), [EllisIsland.org](#), [Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild](#), [USGenWeb](#), [Genealogy Trails](#), [Civil War Soldiers and Sailors database](#), [Google Books](#), [Internet Archive](#), family trees at [MyHeritage](#) and other pedigree sites, state archives, libraries and others. Many others. Use Google searches and portal sites such as [Cyndi's List](#) to find these sites.

- Know that free sites often have sponsored links (they have to pay the bills somehow), which may not be obviously ads: You click on a database title or type your name into a search box, and you end up on a subscription site, which can be frustrating if that's not what you expected. Just hit the back button until you get back to the site you started on (or if the site opened in a new browser tab, go back to the tab you were on).

Look for free-for-a-limited-time databases around holidays. Recently, for example, four sites offered free online military records for Memorial Day. Find out about these offers by reading genealogy blogs ([such as this one](#)) and newsletters (such as the [Genealogy Insider newsletter](#)), sign up for genealogy websites' email programs, and befriend those sites on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Many subscription sites have some free offerings—they want to give you a reason to get to know the site. [Ancestry.com has a landing page dedicated to free resources here](#); there's a partial list of free databases on the right. Also try typing World Archives Projects into [Ancestry.com's card catalog](#) keyword search to find the site's volunteer-created indexes (you do have to pay to see most of the corresponding records). [Fold3 lists its free records here](#).

Libraries and [FamilySearch Centers](#) may have computers with access to a variety of subscription websites such as Ancestry Library Edition, [HeritageQuest Online](#), [NewsBank](#), [Historic Map Works](#) and more. Check the library website or call ahead to the center to see what's available.

Sites such as [Archives.com](#), [Ancestry.com](#) and [findmypast.com](#) offer free trials, usually for 14 days. Just make sure you read the terms and cancel on time if you don't intend to subscribe.

8 Tips for Finding Naturalization Records

Any immigrant coming to the United States in the mid-1800s would've had to be naturalized to become a citizen. Not everyone filed for naturalization, so keep this in mind when looking for records.

For those who did file, the process was twofold: First, the newcomer would have filed a declaration of intent for citizenship (referred to as "first papers"). After fulfilling the residency requirement, he could then file his petition for naturalization. He had to sign these "final papers"-so if you can find that petition, you'll have the added treat of seeing your ancestor's John Hancock. When male immigrants were naturalized, their minor children also automatically received citizenship. Between 1855 and 1922, their wives did, too. Here are some keys to finding your ancestor's naturalization records:

1. The federal government standardized the naturalization process (including the paperwork) in 1906. Since your ancestors arrived before that, they could've filed for citizenship in any court-they might even have started the process in one location, then completed it in another. To cover all your bases, you'll need to hunt for records at the local, county and state levels.
2. Fortunately, naturalization indexes and record collections on websites such as [FamilySearch.org](#), [Ancestry.com](#) and [Fold3.com](#) include some applications from before 1906. It's easiest to start by searching online collections. If you find your ancestor in a naturalization records index, use the source information provided to track down the original record.
3. If you don't find your ancestor online, your next step is to run a place search of the [FamilySearch online catalog](#) for locations where your ancestors might have petitioned, then look under the naturalization heading to identify records available on microfilm. You can rent the microfilm for viewing at your local [FamilySearch Center](#).
4. If your online and microfilm searches are fruitless, check archives at all three levels. The records may still be with the court where your ancestor filed, or they may have been sent to a state archives or other repository. Some archives and other official stewards of naturalization records have posted indexes and documents online. A Google search could turn these up, and [NaturalizationRecords.com](#) is also helpful.
5. US Citizenship and Immigration Services has copies of all post-1906 naturalization records. [To request those, use the agency's online Genealogy Program](#).
6. Naturalization records can be a gateway to finding your ancestor's passenger arrival list, as they often tell port and date of immigration (though the earlier the records, generally the less detail they contain). In fact, that's how I confirmed the family story of my great-grandfather Henry Essel's 1888 arrival through Philadelphia, enabling me to locate the ship manifest recording him and his family.
7. You can learn more about the naturalization process in [They Came in Ships](#) by John Philip Colletta (Ancestry). [Download our step-by-step guide to finding naturalization records in ShopFamilyTree.com](#).
8. [Library and Archives Canada](#) provides information on Canadian naturalizations.

Courtesy of Family Tree University