

# Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

JANUARY 2014

## 37TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

### 2013 OFFICERS

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#### VICE PRESIDENT

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Next VCGS Meeting January 16, 2014

**George Bass will speak on**

**"GPS for Genealogy"**

### Volusia County Genealogical Society Minutes of Meeting on December 19, 2013

#### Opening of Meeting:

Cora May Hartzell called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Approval of Minutes:

On motion by Ruth Patrignani and second by Dave Farris, the minutes of the meeting of November, 21 2013 were approved as printed in the newsletter.

#### Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was not given at the meeting.

#### Program:

Kim gave a presentation on the FGS Conference she and Cora Mae attended in Fort Wayne, IN during August 2013 at the Allen County Library.

This library takes up a whole city block and has an entire floor dedicated to genealogical information. The library includes a large amount of family heritages and information on the Lincoln family.

The handouts included a list of websites that were introduced and talked about during the conference. These websites were free (except for one) to search and look at information. The other handout was information on obtaining military records.

The list of websites includes immigration information, historical newspapers and forms, and state specific information. Kim explained each site and the information available at each.

Kim and Cora May spoke of the time they had at the conference and the experience they had. They were able to see many things and go to many seminars.

#### Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by Dave Farris and second by Allie Goodwin, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. For the group to enjoy the holiday social.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie DiMatties, Recording Secretary

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### VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday, Jan 16, 2014 Board Meeting 5 pm

Thursday, January 16, 2014 6 pm

**George Bass will speak on "GPS for Genealogy"**

### Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library Jan 9 at 1:30 pm - "Raising The Dead"—Patricia Charpentier

GSSVC NSB Library, Jan 12 at 2:00 pm—"Using City Directories" by Larry Fermi

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Wednesday, Jan 15 at 5:30pm Ann Osisek on "Immigration and Naturalization"

\$\$ **Report by Treasurer Kitty Consalvo** \$\$

\$1,212.78



### SSDI Access is Now Limited



Judy Russell, author of *The Legal Genealogist* blog, has written about the new restrictions now in place on the Security Death Master File — also known as the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). Her article is available at <http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2013/12/30/ssdi-access-now-limited/>.

There is both bad news and good news:

**Bad News:** there are new restrictions on what was public domain information that can be useful to genealogists.

**Good News:** the restrictions apply only for records of individuals who died within the past three calendar years. I don't like that but suspect most genealogists can live with the restriction.

You can read more at <http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2013/12/30/ssdi-access-now-limited/>.



## Genealogical New Year's Resolutions

By Lynn Betlock

As I was thinking about genealogical New Year's resolutions, I looked back to see what editors of other newsletters wrote about this topic a few decades ago. What I turned up highlighted some changes in genealogical practices, but generally emphasized how much underlying principles have stayed the same. Below are three of those resolutions:

"Here's a New Year's resolution many should make and keep. Locate any old letters, scrapbooks, Bible records, etc. still existing in your family. Make a copy of the data in them and of your own genealogical research records and place it in a different location. Dozens of our readers are painstakingly reconstructing lost or destroyed family facts; this duplication of 'lost' data often takes years. We can't fool ourselves into thinking we're immune from disaster."--Rosemary E. Bachelor, *The Batchelor Family News-Journal*, Machias, Maine, January 1974

"Maybe a lot of us are remiss in not jotting down items which should be remembered and which our children would enjoy reading about. Maybe a good New Year's resolution would be to start writing our family history as well as looking up our ancestors." --*Heart O' Wisconsin Genealogical Society Newsletter*, 1978

"If I could put across one message to you it would be to make a New Year's resolution to contact that relative whom you think has some records or information you need to complete your Family History. We are inclined to put it off and then it becomes too late. Even if you have tried before, without much success, try again. Maybe try a little different technique, maybe a telephone call, and then a letter requesting one or two items. My experience is that you will get a generous response to your letters if you do not ask for too much at one time." --Wilfred R. Burrell, *Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon*, January 1981

In all of the resolutions I read, one phrase, from the *Genealogical Forum of Portland* excerpt above, stood out for me: *Even if you have tried before, without much success, try again.* That general directive could be applied to many areas of genealogical research: organizing files, collections, or photographs; breaking through a particular brick wall; writing a narrative; submitting an article; interviewing a relative; or tackling whatever you've been putting off or unable to accomplish. In 2014, it might be time to try again.

Best wishes for successful genealogical pursuits in the New Year!

## Another New Email Scam

By Dick Eastman

New scams appear daily. Whether is an email message claiming to be from a Nigerian Prince or other member of a royal family seeking to transfer large sums of money out of the country or even if it supposedly from your bank, asking to verify your user name and password, all of these have one objective: to steal money from you.

A new scam has appeared in recent days, At least it is new to me as I haven't heard of it before.

The email message claims to be from a court and concerns a hearing be held before that court. The email states that it contains legal subpoena/summons issued to you. The email then goes on and asks for some of your personal information. Don't be fooled!

First of all, no court ever issues a summons or subpoena by email. None. Next, the email message does not mention the name of the court, an obvious clue. Finally, no contact information is provided in the body of the message.

If you receive such a message, click on DELETE. Do not reply, do not ask for more information, don't do anything that suggests you are a potential victim.

# What do the Codes in the Census Mean?

By [Kimberly Powell](#)

Deciphering handwritten census records is often difficult enough, but sometimes the pages may include puzzling codes, abbreviations, and marks. How do we figure out if they have a particular meaning, and what that might be? If they were added at the time the census was taken, or years later?

Some of these seemingly stray marks may be the creation of a particular census enumerator who chose to deviate a bit from the standard census enumeration instructions. Others may be departmental codes added long after the time of the enumeration by census officials [tabulating the results](#) for publication. And in certain situations, they may have been created as census data was later extracted and analyzed for a particular statistical study--such as the investigation of coal mining communities conducted by the U.S. Coal Commission in 1923 which included data extracted from the [1920 U.S. census](#). As genealogists we can't help but want to know what they might mean, even if they ultimately provide little to advance our genealogical research.

A friend of mine asked a while back about a set of unfamiliar codes that pertained to coal mining families appearing in the 1920 census in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. A random family's census enumeration was marked up with the following handwritten notations:

F5, H6, WAH, B1, 0-6 HISI, 7-15 S1, WE2

Often a thorough Google search can turn up details about particular codes and marks--especially those that might apply to multiple localities. In this particular case, my friend located a description of certain codes used in this tabulation in the [FamilySearch Wiki](#), but they were not the same codes she had encountered. However, since we know that these codes likely related to this coal mining study, an understanding of the study's purpose might provide additional insight. A search for information on this study found "A Report of the U.S. Coal Commission appearing in Senate Document 195, Sixty-Eighth Congress, Second Session" (available online through subscription website GenealogyBank -- [Part I](#), [Part II](#), [Part III](#), [Part IV](#), [Part V](#) and also in full for free viewing in [HathiTrust Digital Library](#)) which discusses the 1923 investigations of the U.S. Coal Commission, as does "[Home environment and employment of women in coal-mine workers' families](#)," Women's Bureau Bulletin No. 45. Both of these sources tell us that the 1920 population enumeration schedules were used to tabulate data as part of the U.S. Coal Commission's investigation into living conditions of coal-mine workers of the continental United States, including constituency and economic status of coal-mining families.

When a good Google search doesn't turn up the meanings of a particular set of codes, then the next step is to put on a detective hat and see what clues and patterns exist that may hold the answer. In the case of the 1920 U.S. census, examination of a number of families in Belle Vernon, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, along with the understanding previously gained about the purpose of the study, leads to a theory that many of the codes likely refer to the household makeup. Listing out all of the codes found, and comparing their appearance among multiple families for similarities and dissimilarities, helps to identify possible patterns that might explain the use/meanings of the various codes and markings. Once you have established a potential pattern among the coded entries, test your hypotheses against the other households in your census sample to ensure there aren't any obvious anomalies that you have overlooked.

Using the random Fayette County family posed above, for example, it appears that F5 refers to a family of 5, and H6 refers to a household of 6. That the "0-6 HISI" is referring to two children in the 0-6 age group; one at home and one in school. The 7-15 S1 is one child attending school in that age group. Other families in the township also include a 16+ notation, and note people in each of these age groups who were at work (e.g. W1). B1 likely refers to the number of "boarders." WE2 appears to possibly refer to the number of household members who were employed outside of the home (work employment? workers employed?). WAH could possibly refer solely to the wife -- "working at home," in cases where she took in boarders, laundry, etc. The notation "Hwk" appeared many times as well, which may refer to the wife doing housework, rather than work that brought in money.

Many times, such as this, the markings will turn out to be primarily bureaucratic in nature, providing little additional detail about the families that weren't already evident from the census entries. However, the very act of analyzing the codes to this level of detail has also caused us to take a closer look at family details and statistics that we might otherwise have ignored. And then there is also the sense of satisfaction you get from solving the riddle in the first place!

### 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 January 21 2014. The speaker will be Kim Dolce, Librarian at City Island Library. She will speak on exploring the Genealogy Room and how to explore and how to find your ancestors.

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 to track your heritage.

### Genealogy Tip of the Day

By Michael John Neill

#### Local Railroads?

If your genealogy "problem" is during a period when railroads were in operation, do you know where the nearest train station was for your ancestor? Do you know nearby stops along the way? People could hop a train to elope, look for work, or simply leave home and never come back.

The following excerpt is from an article by Preston Trail and posted 1/6/2014 at [www.planoland.com](http://www.planoland.com)



With the new year comes a new policy adaptation for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) regarding accepting DNA as evidence of lineage submitted with DAR membership applications. DAR staff genealogists will now consider Y-DNA evidence along with more traditional genealogical sources during the verification of member-related applications. With this change in policy, DAR recognizes the importance of DNA in genealogical research, but also that DNA evidence alone is not definitive enough to prove the exact relationships of remote ancestors. Although various types of DNA tests are commercially available, DAR staff genealogists will only consider Y-DNA 37 Marker test results.

**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 Story Behind the Record

By Kimberly Powell

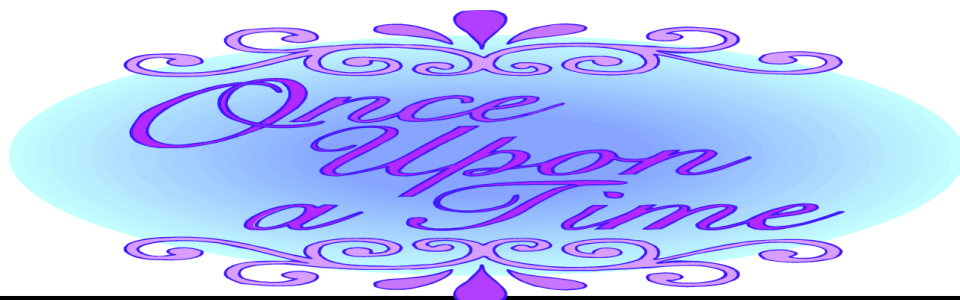
As wonderful as old documents and records can be for helping us put together the pieces of our family history, they can never tell us the whole story in the way that living family members can. The passenger arrival record for my grandmother Gisele, for example, tells me that she arrived in New York from Le Havre France on 21 March 1946.

A little digging led me to an article on the ship's arrival titled "[War Brides Arrive from 19 Countries](#)" in the 23 March 1946 edition of the *New York Times*. *"War brides representing nineteen nationalities came to New York yesterday on the former Italian liner Vulcania, now a war-bride transport operating between Europe and the United States."*

Yet even with these great records documenting her arrival, I probably wouldn't have learned about my grandmother's lifelong friendship with fellow passenger Suzanne who she first met on the ship although they both came from the same town of Melun. I also wouldn't have known, although I probably could have guessed much of it, about the medical exams which took place before they could depart, and her relief at hearing her husband's name called on the list of people waiting for arriving passengers (he lived in North Carolina and didn't have a car so she wasn't sure what to expect when she arrived).

In listening to my grandmother, I also learned that her husband was shipped out from Europe in December (three months prior to my grandmother's arrival in America), and that his troop ship was delayed into New York due to [hurricane force storms in the Atlantic](#). My grandmother was sure his ship had gone down by the time that telegram finally came telling her of his safe arrival in the United States. How terrifying that must have been...

While these family stories are not earth shattering, they bring me so much closer to understanding what life must have been like during those few momentous months for my grandparents which is why I can't stress enough how important it is to continue the conversations with living family members no matter how many times you've talked to them before. After more than 30 years of asking questions, I'm still hearing stories I haven't heard before! There is just so much we can't remember or don't think is important until someone or something evokes the memory...





## Genealogy Jazz

There's a school of thought that some genealogists take themselves entirely too seriously and are so bogged down in research details, citations, and definitions that they wouldn't see John Smith in the 1850 census if the name was written in block letters on the first page of the township where he lived his entire life.

There's another school of thought that some genealogists do not take themselves seriously enough and do slipshod work and have no hope of researching any family that's not been already well-documented back to Adam and Eve.

The reality is that some genealogy problems are easy to solve regardless of the researcher's skill level. Others are difficult and require research experience, knowledge from several disciplines, and complex analysis. Many genealogy problems fall in the range of these extremes. It is possible for problems to be so difficult that experienced researchers can't solve them and for others to be so easy that getting it wrong would be difficult.

Genealogy is like music. People play it at all levels and can be reasonably good at a given level. If one wants to play professionally, their skills and technique will have to be practiced, refined, and improved. What worked in the high school concert band might not cut it any more. If I was able to muddle through concert band, I'll probably have to up my game to go to the next level. And if I want to play in some sort of jazz combo that requires improvisational skills, I'll have to learn some scales and chords whether I want to or not.

It's not elitist to tell me that I need to learn chords if I want to play in the combo. It is elitist to tell me I can't play because I learned my chords at Podunk University instead of Ivy League U. Chords are chords after all, and if I know them, I know them.

And it appears to me that is where the problem rests for the two genealogy schools. Some members of the serious school go to great pains to let others know that they are members of the serious school and that only members of the serious school can practice genealogy. And some members of the non-serious school go to great pains to say that they are "just researching for fun."

"Researching for fun" is not a problem as long as we tell our ancestor's stories as accurately as we can. We owe it to our ancestors to record their existence in a way that is faithful and consistent with the information we have discovered. The "non-serious" crowd owe themselves and others at least that much.

The "serious" crowd has a responsibility as well. Instead of simply telling members of the "non-serious" school that they are doing it wrong, demonstrate those times where some of the skills of the "serious" school may help them solve their problems. Show them how thinking about sources and being aware of methodology can sometimes move their research along or how errors can be made when one is not careful. Keep in mind that there are many problems that don't require the "serious" school approach to solve.

Most members of the "serious" school even have problems they solved early in their research when they were using "non-serious" skills.

It's not using "serious" skills that is the problem. It's how those skills are demonstrated to others that sometimes is.

From Ancestry.com

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Nancy Woodard  
Tom Peake  
Patricia Peake  
Allie Goodwin

Michal Williams  
Judy Williams  
Ruth Patrignani  
Susan Norton  
Kim Dolce



Allie Goodwin  
Alma Ubbens  
Del Goodwin