

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

FEBRUARY 2014

37TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

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Next VCGS Meeting February 20, 2014

Juliana Romnes will give a presentation on "Introduction to Preserving Your Family Photographs"

Volusia County Genealogical Society Minutes of Meeting on January 16, 2014

Opening of Meeting:

Cora May Hartzell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

On motion by Kitty Consalvo and second by Allie Goodwin, the minutes of the meeting of December 19, 2013 were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

Kitty Consalvo reported that the closing balance on December 20, 2013 was \$1,187.78. There were deposits of \$15.00 from dues and expenditures of \$25.00, with a balance on January 16, 2014, of \$1,177.78.

Program:

George Bass spoke about GPS and Genealogy. He spoke of the different uses of GPS in ways that can aid in the research and preservation of places for families.

Using GPS allows us to share places of importance that are near impossible to find or to be able to get back to somewhere in the event all landmarks to direct you to a place are gone.

The government website (<http://geonames.usgs.gov/index.html>) has many lists of cemeteries. It lists some but not all. Internment.com also has information on cemeteries.

There are about 23-32 satellites that will find your position. Most GPS receivers will get you within about 10 feet.

Make sure when recording your GPS location you double check everything as it is easy to mix them up. When writing down the information always include the date you were there, the person or people this location is for, as well as any other pertinent information.

Another useful websites to use is Google Earth and Google Maps. While some of the pictures may be older, it can help in double checking GPS coordinates that were written down at a given place. These websites also have the ability to give directions to the GPS spot and to show a satellite image of the location. Some locations are also shot by the street so it looks like you are walking past the location.

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by Dave Farris and second by Kitty Consalvo, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie DiMatties, Recording Secretary



VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday, Feb 20, 2014 Board Meeting 5 pm

Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 6 pm

Juliana Romnes will present "Introduction to Preserving Your Family Photographs"

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library Feb 13 at 1:30 pm - "Unpuzzling Irish Church Records" - Donna Moughty

GSSVC NSB Library, Feb 9 at 2:00 pm—"Calico & Cornbread" - Ann Osisek

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Wednesday, Feb 19 at 5:30pm "Wills & Estates: Genealogy's Gold Mine—Jack Butler

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

\$1,177.78



That Preacher Was No Preacher

Michael John Neill

Parson Baker married a relative of mine in Missouri in the late 1870s. In an attempt to learn the name of the church, I decided to search for the minister in the 1880 census. After some searching, I found him, listed as a farmer. In many rural areas preachers or ministers may have had another "real" occupation and not even be listed as a "minister" in a census.

That preacher you are looking for may have married a lot of couples and given a lot of sermons, but the census taker may have written down "farmer," "carpenter," or something else as his occupation in the census.

How Portable Was Your Ancestor??

Michael John Neill

If you have an inkling of your ancestor's "lifestyle," have you thought about how portable that makes him? Did he have skills that could easily be used in a new location? Did his occupation require having a social network that allowed him to "do business?" How "portable" was that social network? Did your ancestor have an occupation that required some capital and that was not easily "portable?"

Some of our ancestors could easily start anew in a new location. Others could not.

How Complete Is That Newspaper Image Database?

Michael John Neill

Do you know how complete that online database of digital newspapers really is? If a site indicates they have coverage of the Lazytown Leader from 1880 until 1900, do they have all the issues of that daily newspaper or only a smattering? It may be that there are months where no papers are online or only a few issues are digitized.

And this may be the case even if a microfilm copy of the entire set of newspapers exists.

The reason you can't find that obituary for 12 November 1890 may be because there are no online images from November of 1890.

Maximizing Genealogical Value of Obituaries

Prepared by: Melanie Walters

Obituaries offer a wealth of information about your family. They have important facts about the deceased and important dates that you can use to piece together clues about the history of your family. Here's how you can find details to research from obituaries.

We all think differently and we all have different ways of processing information, which makes genealogy and ancestry research very confusing. Different historians and different family members keep records in different ways so sometimes finding the facts you need to piece together a family history are elusive.

There are thousands of databases out there claiming to have the answers, but in reality if you are disorganized, those databases are only going to make the confusion worse. And to top it off repetition in names, facts and even certain dates can cause further confusion. To clear up the confusion, here is the basic guideline of what to look for in an obituary and how to keep it all organized.

Searching for Clues in Obituaries

An obituary is the final record of a person's life, information is included that can lead you to some amazing discoveries about your family. When you look at an obituary it is important that you pinpoint those bits of information and make a note of them. First read the obituary through once or twice just to get an idea of the information included. Then underline the important pieces of information. Read it over again to make sure you underlined everything of importance. Here are the things you will want to look for in an obituary:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| • The deceased's full name | Awards or Accomplishments |
| • Age | Names of survivors |
| • Date of birth | Place of internment |
| • Date of death | Place where Funeral or Memorial Service was |
| • Place or City of Residence | |
| • Occupation | |
| • Military Service | |
| • Church Affiliation | |
| • Life events | |
| • Gender | |

Maximizing the Genealogical Value of Obituaries

Once you've read and reread the obituary and you've underlined the important pieces of information, the next step is to organize the information in a way you can access later and have a complete understanding of what it is you found important. You can download forms for free that can help you research genealogical clues from obituaries at Obituarieshelp.org

The first thing to do is copy down the information point by point. Then make notes about each point.

Questions to ask yourself as you go through each point are:

- What information does this clue provide?
- What public or historical records exist that will provide further information?
- Where can I find those records?

Continued on Page 4)

Maximizing Genealogical Value of Obituaries (Continued from Page 3)

The notes you make about each point can be anything related to genealogy research:

- Personal notes - maybe you were reminded about a conversation you had with a relative about this point.
 - Family history notes - maybe another ancestor was a member of the same organization.
 - Notes about what you'll want to research about this information - perhaps you want to look up how long this person was a member of this organization.
- Where records that expand on this information might exist - make notes as to where you can find the answers to your questions.

Other notes might include tidbits of information from:

- Phone book
 - City business directory
 - Internet
 - Church directory
- School databases

Taking the time to go through obituaries carefully can go a long way to helping you find clues to your family history and connecting you to your ancestors and relatives. Names, places, and dates are just the starting point. There is so much to learn from obituaries, but you have to read between the lines. Not all the information will be there ready for you to see, you'll have to do a little digging and a little research. Making notes and keeping your notes organized will help you get the information you are looking for.

Melanie Walters recommends ObituariesHelp.org for [Newspaper Obituaries](http://NewspaperObituaries.org) free genealogy resources, guides to building a family tree, sample letters of sympathy and condolence, written examples of eulogies as well as help with all aspects of funeral planning.

Some People Just Won't Tell Certain Things by Michael John Neill

No matter how often you ask or how many ways you try to get an answer, some people will not tell certain details about themselves or their close family members.

There comes a time when you have to realize that a relative may know things that they simply are not going to talk about. Period.

My own grandma knew her brother was divorced for several years before he was killed in a car accident in the 1930s. She never told me. She also knew about her step-grandmother and where she was buried. She never told me that either. Other things she readily shared.

But there are times when people won't tell you certain things. If it's a close family member, consider whether or not it's worth straining your relationship to get that one detail.

Especially if you think they'll never tell you anyway.

DAR MEETING

The Sugar Mill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be meeting at the Port Orange Christian Church at 804 Taylor Rd, Port Orange at 7:00 p.m. on February 18, 2014. The meeting will include Show and Tell with members sharing An Ancestor Photo and Story. Members will be glad to help newcomers get started on finding their ancestors. If you have an ancestor that has been in this country since the 1700's or want more information please contact the Regent at 1-386-760-9921.

Do You Know Three of Your Ancestor's FANS?

For your elusive ancestor, do you know at least three of his FANS? Fans are non-relatives of your ancestor and according to Elizabeth Shown Mills, they are:

- Friends
- Associates
- Neighbors

If you don't know at least three....could that be your problem?

Sometimes the clues to your ancestor are in the FANS.

Miles Gardner and
Life Member Alma
Ubbens



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

Dead Men Tell No Tales... But Their Obituaries Do! Announcing a Major New Indexing Project

The following announcement was released by FamilySearch at today's RootsTech conference:
Obituaries + Volunteers = A Treasure Trove of Searchable Stories



FamilySearch has declared 2014 the “Year of the Obituary” and is working with partners and the larger genealogy community to collect and digitize millions of obituaries from the United States, with other countries soon to follow. The goal for this year is to index 100 million names from these historical documents, including the name of the deceased, relatives, and all other individuals found in each document.

This massive collection of obituaries will add a fabulous new dimension to online family history research. Obituaries are a “treasure trove” of valuable genealogical information. Each is a unique story of a person’s life. Many obituaries include a photo of the person along with the names of generations of family members.

The success of this indexing campaign depends on volunteers. Tens of thousands of additional volunteers are needed to keep up with the volume of obituary indexing projects coming this year. This represents an excellent opportunity for societies, archives, schools, and churches to participate in a meaningful act of service that will pay big dividends for generations to come.

Many indexers will enjoy indexing obituaries because they are so interesting to read and are virtually all typewritten. However, each obituary is as unique as the deceased person it portrays, and this uniqueness can make obituaries deceptively tricky to index correctly. Good judgment and a willingness to closely follow the instructions are crucial. Volunteers are encouraged to start immediately. The quirks of the project may take some getting used to, but help resources are readily available, including:

A video: [Indexing Obituaries](#)

A blog article: [12 Vital Hints to Guide You as You Index Obituaries](#)

FamilySearch support: <http://familysearch.org/help/contact>

FamilySearch indexing Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/familysearchindexing>

If you haven’t indexed before, get started today by following these steps:

Go to familysearch.org/indexing and click **Get Started**.

Follow the download instructions.

Open the indexing program using the new indexing icon on your desktop.

Sign in with your FamilySearch or LDS Account.

Enter your profile information.

Read and agree to the license agreement.

Click **Download Batch**.

Select a project to index.

To download a set (or batch) of obituaries to index, do the following:

While in the indexing program, click the **Download Batch** button.

Select **Show all projects**.

Scroll down to US indexing projects, and select a project that includes the word “Obituaries.”

Click **OK**.

A message will pop up offering help. Use the help resources as needed, and then click Close to begin indexing the batch.

Although 2014 is the “Year of the Obituary,” this collection will likely require several years to fully index. Working together we will unlock this treasure trove of fascinating information for researchers everywhere.



Kim passing out handouts for the speaker to members and guests

George Bass spoke on GPS and Genealogy



David and Judy Williams.

Judy does a fantastic job on setting up the refreshment table.