

Volusia County Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

38TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2014 OFFICERS

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Next VCGS Meeting April 16, 2014

Lou McNally from Embry Riddle will speak on

"Weather in Old Diaries"

Volusia County Genealogical Society

Minutes of Meeting on March 20, 2014

Cora May Hartzell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests and new members introduced themselves. Cora May announced upcoming local seminars and the speakers that will be there. Any members that have not filled out the Membership Directory form or had their pictures taken for the directory, need to have it done and turned in as soon as possible. Cora May had received an email from Leland Marsh that said that he is going to have to step down as Director as Leland and his wife are not able to attend meetings anymore. Mrs. Marsh has been sick and her health needs to be tended to. If anyone is interested in being a Director, please let Cora May know as soon as possible.

The seminar is being held in January 2015, Cora May has a couple that have been thought of to be the head of the committee to work on the door prizes and raffles. She asked Bob and Joyce Bailey if they would do it, they would have to speak to her after the program to discuss.

Approval of Minutes:

On motion by Hal Gauper and second by Ruth Patrignani, the minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2014 were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

Kitty Consalvo reported that the closing balance on February 20, 2014 was \$1,192.78. There were deposits of \$50.00 from dues and expenditures of \$25.00, with a balance on March 20, 2014, of \$1,217.78.

Program:

The program was Records Available in Volusia County Clerk's Office with Liz Whitaker, Director of Administrative Services. Liz Whitaker works at the Clerk of Circuit Court office in Deland. Liz showed and described which buildings contained which records and where they are located. Records could be located in Deland, Daytona Beach or New Smyrna. Most records have been put onto microfiche or microfilm. They are working on scanning records also. Office hours are 8:00 am- 4:30 pm Monday- Friday. Copies cost \$1.00 per page.

The Clerk's office only hold records for Volusia County. Any records for other counties would be records that were brought in to the county clerk and recorded in Volusia County and put into the proper index. Marriage information was previously indexed with the groom's names. Some Military discharge forms are available, however, these are records that would have to be brought in to the Clerk's office.

The Clerk of Circuit Court's website, www.clerk.org, does have records that are able to be searched, however, some records may not be fully viewed unless at the Clerk's office.

The Reference Desk at the City Island Library has an index of all of the records available through the Clerk's office and which location that record would be available. Liz Whitaker had her business card available and let everyone know she is available if anyone has any questions on records.

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by Kitty Consalvo and second by Hal Gauper, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie DiMatties, Recording Secretary

VCGS Society Calendar**Wednesday, April 16, 2014 Board Meeting 5 pm****Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 6 pm**

Lou McNally from Embry Riddle University will speak on
"Weather in Old Diaries"

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library Apr 10 at 1:30 pm - "Crossing The Pond" by Bill Meister

GSSVC NSB Library, Apr 13 at 2:00 pm "All Rise, Researching at the County Courthouse" - Clyde Stickney

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Wednesday, Apr 16 at 5:30pm "Family Search.org" by Leslie Vaughn

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

\$1,217.78

**Notice, Notice, Notice**

Due to the fact that the Library will be closing at 5:00 pm on Thursday, April 17th, we have had to change our meeting night. Please note it will be the day before we usually have it. Wednesday night was about the only open day available. Sorry to give you such short notice, but I was only informed of this earlier this week. Please mark your calendars for:

April 16th at 6:00 pm

Charity Day

We have received the tickets from Belk's to sell for Charity Day. Each ticket is \$5.00. We would like to ask each of you to sell as many as possible. Please pick them up from me at the meeting on April 16th. All tickets not sold must be returned. I also need a volunteer to be at the Belk's store during the sale. Please see me if you could possibly do this. All proceeds from these tickets go into our treasury. This will enable us to keep providing quality speakers.

Much More Than Books in the Free Internet Archive

The non-profit digital library known as Internet Archive, launched in 1996 by [Brewster Kahle](#), offers free public access to over three million public domain books, along with music, [film](#), photographs, and other archived historical records. Internet Archive also archives and stores entire websites through their Wayback Machine, which allows you to search the web as it was from late 1996 to present day. As of October 2012, the Internet Archive had amassed and stored over 10 petabytes in cultural material.¹ Almost half of this total comes from the Wayback Machine, and its [240,000,000,000 archived URLs](#).²

Tips for Finding Content on Archive.org

Due to the vast amount of data available on Internet Archive, and that searching is full-text based on optical character recognition, rather than keyword-based, broad searches can often yield too much information. Using some of the following search techniques to effectively limit your search can often be critical.

Search By Collection -- One trick that I use frequently is to narrow my search by collection. The key here is to learn the collection identifier which you can then use to limit your search to a particular collection. In most cases the identifier is the last portion of the URL. For example, the identifier for the American Methodism Project on Internet Archive is "americanmethodism," seen at the end of the main URL for the collection (<http://archive.org/details/americanmethodism>). You can alternately find the identifier by selecting the link to Browse by Subject / Keywords or the link for All items (most recently added first) where you will see the collection identified as collection:americanmethodism. This collection identifier can then be used to limit your search to a particular collection with a search query that combines your search term with the collection identifier, such as "kennedy collection:americanmethodism" which will then bring up search results for the term "kennedy" within the American Methodism Project. You can also search by collection from the Advanced Search page, but some collections can be hard to identify this way, and then there is the confusing issue of two concurrent alphabetical lists of collections -- one beginning with capital letters, and a second with lower-case (americanmethodism doesn't appear under the collections that begin with capital A, but does appear under the lower-case a's if you keep scrolling down the extremely long list).

Search by Title or Series -- If you are looking for a book or series with a particular title then the search qualifier title can be used to limit your search to a particular title. Example: title:(pennsylvania archives) brings up a list of results with "pennsylvania archives" in the title.

Search via Google -- Use Google's website limiter to search the Internet Archive. Google allows you to limit your search to a particular website by using the search qualifier site: followed directly (no spaces) with the URL for the website (everything after the www or http://). For example, a search for "[pennsylvania archives](#)" site:archive.org returns results for the phrase "pennsylvania archives" on the Internet Archive website. There is no guarantee that everything available on Internet Archive will be found through a Google Search, but if you are more familiar with Google's search syntax, this can sometimes help to simplify your search. And sometimes it will bring up results that do not appear in Internet Archive's own search results! Try a search for fernhaber from Internet Archive's home page, and then try the same search in Google (fernhaber site:archive.org), and you'll see what I mean.

Key things to keep in mind as you search Internet Archive:

- 1) Most content is full-text searchable due to the wonders (and limits) of OCR (optical character recognition) technology. There will be many words and even pages, however, that will not convert correctly from image to text. If you find a particularly promising book or record, then browse it manually instead of just relying on search.
- 2) Not all content on Internet Archive is OCR'd and searchable. This primarily applies to handwritten content, such as the previously mentioned U.S. Census records. Again, you'll need to browse these records manually. There are also many books, such as the Pennsylvania Archives series, that have been scanned and can be searched individually, but don't appear in Internet Archive's broad search results -- even if you limit the search by title. However, you can search each book individually, either by using the search feature for the PDF version, or by selecting the "full text" version and then using the "find" feature in your browser to search.

Sources:

1. David Rinehart, "[10,000,000,000,000 bytes archived!](#)," *Internet Archive Blogs*, posted 26 October 2012 (<http://blog.archive.org> : accessed 27 January 2013).
2. Brewster Kahle, "[Wayback Machine: Now With 240,000,000,000 URLs](#)," *Internet Archive Blogs*, posted 9 January 2013 (<http://blog.archive.org> : accessed 27 January 2013).

Discovering Maiden Name of Female Ancestors

Discovering the maiden name of a female ancestor can sometimes be difficult, but can lead to a whole new branch of your family tree. New surnames, new families, new connections. Here are ten of the records and resources where you'll most commonly find a mention of a female's maiden name.

1. **Marriage Records -** The best place to locate a woman's maiden name is on her marriage record. These can include not only the marriage license, but also the marriage certificate, marriage announcements, marriage banns, and marriage bonds. You will need to know the spouse's name, marriage location and approximate marriage date to find these records. [More: Researching in Marriage Records](#)

2. **Cemetery Records -** The cemetery may be the only place where you will find proof of the existence of a female ancestor. Tombstones may list women under their maiden names, with "wife of so and so" as the record of their married name, or may include the wife's maiden name as a middle name or initial. For those with no mention of the female's maiden name, check nearby plots for possible family members.

[More: Researching in Cemetery Records](#)

3. **Census Records -** Check every census year available for your female ancestor, up until the year that she died. Young couples may be found living with the wife's parents; an elderly parent may have been added to the household; or brothers, sisters, or other family members may be found living with the your ancestors' family. Clues may also be found in the names of families living nearby.

[More: Researching in Census Records](#)

4. **Land Records -** Land was important, and often passed down from father to daughter. Examine deeds for your ancestor and/or her husband which include the Latin phrases "et ux." (and wife) and "et al." (and others). They may provide the names of females, or names of siblings or children. Also keep your eye out for a man or a couple selling land to your ancestors for a dollar, or other small amount. The ones selling the land are more than likely the parents or relatives of your female ancestor.

[More: Researching in Land Records](#)

5. **Church Records**

Churches are a good source for birth or christening records which usually include the names of both parents, including the maiden name of the mother. Church marriage records will usually include the spouse's maiden name, and are an alternate source for marriage information for periods where civil registration was not in effect.

[More: Researching in Church Records](#)

6. **Probate Records & Wills -** If you have a possible set of parents for your female ancestor, search for their probate record or will. Surnames of female children, along with the names of their spouses, are often listed. Since estates often involved the division of land, deed indexes for your female ancestor may be able to lead you to probate proceedings.

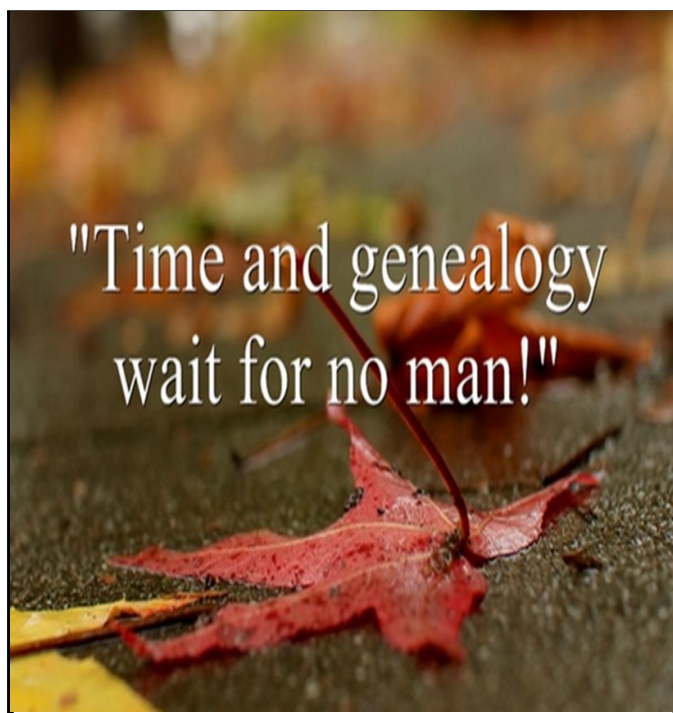
[More: Researching in Estate Records](#)

7. **Newspaper Records -** Check newspapers for the locality where your ancestors lived for birth or marriage announcements or obituaries. Even if you can't locate an obituary for your female ancestor, you may find notices for siblings or other family members that provide helpful clues. Combining a list of your ancestor's siblings with census research can help determine potential families.

[More: Researching in Newspaper Records](#)

8. **Death Records -** If your female ancestor died recently enough to leave a death certificate, this is potentially one of the few places where her maiden name may appear. Since death certificates can often include inaccurate information, check the certificate for the name of the informant. The closeness of the relationship between informant and the deceased can help you assess the likely accuracy of the provided information.

[More: Researching in Death Records](#)



Changes in Parking

This year the Daytona Cubs will be charging \$2.00 for parking during home games.

Per our agreement with the City of Daytona, library patrons will not be charged.

The two west rows of parking spaces are reserved for library patrons (which in about 50 spaces)

They will have workers at the east side of the small bridge to collect the money starting at 5:30p. Our patrons just need to say they are visiting the library and they will be directed to park in the designated rows. Anyone already in library parking will be allowed to stay and will not be required to move. The majority of their home games start at 7:05pm.

(Maiden Names—continued from page 4)

9. Military Records - Was your ancestor's spouse or children in the military? Pension applications and military service records often include good biographical information. Family members also often signed as witnesses.

10. Naming Patterns - It is only a clue, but the maiden name of a mother can sometimes be found buried somewhere among the names of her children. Unusual middle names, among boys or girls, might be the maiden name of a mother or grandmother. Or the eldest daughter might be named for her maternal grandmother.

[More Info](#) [Read Review](#)

Family Tree Magazine

Happy Easter

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

10 Search Tips For Census Success

We all have ancestors we would swear were somehow skipped or overlooked by the census taker. It's more than likely that some of them were. More often, however, it's an indexing error that has us running in circles. When online census indexes leave you pulling out your hair in frustration, try these census search tips for locating your 'misplaced' ancestor.

Don't count solely on soundex. While the soundex search option, when available, is a great way to pick up alternate spellings, it may not get them all. OWENS and OWEN, for example, are commonly seen variations of the same name - yet they have different soundex codes. Therefore, a search for OWENS will not pick up OWEN, and vice-versa.

Try a wildcard search. If you aren't sure how to spell a name, some census search engines allow you to use special symbols called wildcards to represent some unknown letter or letters in a word. Check with the specific census index for specific wildcard rules and symbols, but most (including Ancestry.com) allow you to use an * to represent an unknown number of characters at the end of a word (a search for john* might return john, johns, Johnson, Johnson, Johnathon, etc.) Usually you need to have at least three characters preceding the *. Another commonly used wildcard character is the ? which is often used to represent a single character within a word (a search for sm?th would match both smith and smyth). A search for "Harriet Sto*" in the 1860 U.S. census, for example, helps find Harriet Beecher Stowe living in Andover, MA, even though her last name was actually indexed as "Stone."

Familiarize yourself with nicknames. It's not uncommon to find families providing census takers with their formal birth names in one census, and then using the names their friends and family called them by in another. Mary might be listed as Polly, Alexander as Alex or Al, and Elizabeth as Betsy, Bessie, Beth or Eliza. Familiarize yourself with the names your families commonly used, as well as [common nicknames](#) for popular first names.

Check the middle names too. You probably wouldn't believe how many of my rural North Carolina ancestors listed all of their children by first name in the 1870 census and then by middle name in the 1880 census. Most people wouldn't even recognize them as the same family! As with nicknames, in many areas of the world it is common for an individual to be known to families and friends by his middle name. Be sure to search for middle names, baptismal names, and other alternate names.

Search by surname and location. When you're pretty sure you know where an ancestor was living but traditional searches just aren't turning him up, try searching by surname only - restricting by state, county, district, or town as necessary to bring the number of results down to a reasonable number for browsing. You may even discover previously unknown relatives!

Search for initials. When you can't narrow down the location enough to use surname only search, and you can't find them listed under their first name, check for initials. Sometimes those census enumerators were lazy! Initials may have been used for first name, middle name or both. M C Owens would come up under a search for either 'M Owens' or 'C Owens,' for example.

Search for siblings, children or other family members. When an every name index is available, don't forget about the rest of the family! Your ancestor's first name may have been hard to read, but her brother's may have been a bit easier.

Search for neighbors. If your ancestors have been living in the same place for a while, search for people who were listed nearby in neighboring census years. If you find a neighbor in the index, then head to his page and check a few pages on either side for your ancestor.

Leave out the name entirely. When all else fails, and the search engine offers enough other options, forego the name and search by other known facts. Searching for someone living in Wilson County, NC, in 1850 who was born in Virginia in 1789 will narrow down the field considerably. Sometimes this is the only way you'll find those people whose names were seriously mangled during the indexing process. Searching by first name only, along with other identifying information such as date and place of birth, can also turn up possible matches for women who have married.

(Family Tree Magazine)



Members and guests waiting for meeting to start

Allie Goodwin, Kay Stanton and Alma Ubbens enjoying refreshments



Liz Whitaker from Volusia County Clerk's Office detailing the records available.