

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

MAY 2014

38TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2014 OFFICERS

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Next VCGS Meeting May 15, 2014

Barbara Costello, Government Documents Librarian at Stetson University will talk about "The American State Papers and the United States Congressional Serial Set

Volusia County Genealogical Society

Minutes of Meeting on April 16, 2014

Opening of Meeting:

Cora May Hartzell called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests and new members introduced themselves.

Cora May announced that Kitty had the Belk's Charity Sale Coupons. Kitty explained that each Coupon sells for \$5 and that money is given to the organization. The Coupon is good for \$5 towards merchandise in the store. The sale was May 3, 2014.

Cora May received an email from David. He is having a hard time taking care of all of his duties, so they have been changed to- David is going to take care of the website, Ruth will be the Library Chair and Kim will be in charge of membership. Leland Marsh had to resign, Susan Norton has agreed to take this position as Director.

Approval of Minutes:

On motion by Hal Gauper and second by Kim Dolce, the minutes of the meeting of March 20, 2014 were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

Kitty Consalvo reported that the closing balance on March 20, 2014 was \$1307.88. There were deposits of \$120.00 from dues and expenditures of \$140.62 with a balance on April 16, 2014, of \$1287.26

Program:

Dr. Lou McNally, professor from Embry Riddle, Daytona Beach Campus and University of Maine, his program was Weather in Diaries.

His research is collecting weather information in history to help better understand weather changes now and in the future. His research is collected by diaries and journals written in different times and places. Most diary entries begin with the weather of the time.

His research has been trying to locate the polar vortex in history. His research was during 1785. During this time, there were many thermometers, but only 2 barometers. The only people who could read these would be pastors from Harvard or Yale. He was able to collect information from diaries, journals, ship's protests, and newspapers. Along with information on the weather, he was also able to see the information on life and what living was like during that time. While doing his research, he has been able to track hurricanes and storms that were not known about or recorded.

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by Hal Gauper and second by Cora May Hartzell, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie DiMatties, Recording Secretary

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VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday, May 15, 2014 Board Meeting 5 pm

Thursday, May 15, 2014 General Meeting 6 pm

Barbara Costello, Stetson Univ.

The American State Papers

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library May 8 at 1:30 pm - "Before They Were States" by Jack Butler

GSSVC NSB Library, May 11 at 2:00 pm
"Immigration" by Heather McFadden

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Wednesday,
May 21 at 5:30 pm "Researching German Church
Records" by Kathy Stickney

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

\$1,287.26



We Do Want Mom's Advice --- And Her Family History



According to a new survey, nearly two-thirds of adults want to know more about their family history.

The survey about moms, commissioned by **A Place for Mom**, asked adults about topics they'd like to know more about. The top four were:

- family history (64 percent of the folks surveyed said this)
- Mom's personal history, such as her childhood memories and how she met Dad (59 percent)
- family medical history (45 percent)

Mom's life advice (42 percent), a statistic I'll definitely remember. I'd *hate* for my children to one day wish for all the words of wisdom I withheld as unsolicited

It makes me sad that more than a quarter of the adults surveyed said they don't, or didn't, know their moms as well as they'd like.

Hey—I **know where these survey respondents can find a great magazine** to help them learn more about their family history and their moms.

When you see your mom this Mother's Day, ask her about her family history and her life. **Here are some good oral history interviewing questions to start with.** If your mom is no longer with you, write about these topics for your own children, or for other young people in your family.

(Courtesy Family Tree Magazine)



Barking Up the Wrong Tree

By [Dick Eastman](#)

Subtitle: Do as I say, not as I have done.

I well remember the day that I lost about 100 ancestors. It could happen to you.

In my case, early in my genealogy endeavors, I was adding information about “new” ancestors in great haste. Well, they weren’t really new; they had always been my ancestors, but their names were new to me in those days. I’d find a new ancestor, record his or her information, then move on and find the parents. In the early days of my genealogy searches, it was easy to add new ancestors. After all, everyone has thousands of ancestors and, when you are new to the game, the records can be easy to find. This is especially true for French-Canadian genealogy as the Catholic Church did a great job of recording almost every christening and marriage and most funerals, usually including the name of the parents in each record. Those records are easy to find on microfilms and in printed books and, in recent years, in online databases.

As a genealogy newcomer, however, I didn’t know about the need for double and triple-checking for accuracy. One day I found a record for one of my French-Canadian great-great-grandfathers. There was but one problem: I had already documented him (or someone else) but with different dates of birth, marriage, and death, and with a different wife. I had no choice but to go back and double-check the original records I had previously transcribed.

I’ll skip over the boring details and go directly to the bottom line: I had found and transcribed information about the wrong man! Who knew that two different men, living in the same small town in northern Maine at the same time, would have the same name? It turns out they were not even closely related. I later determined that they were very distant cousins although I doubt if the two men ever knew that. I had found a record stating that my great-grandfather was the son of Joseph Theriault and then, in my haste, I found a man named Joseph Theriault living in the same small town at that time. I ASSUMED that he was the father. Some months later, I found ANOTHER Joseph Theriault living in the same small town.

NOTE #1: The word ASSUMED should never be used in genealogy!

NOTE #2: Theriault is a very common Acadian surname. (The Acadians were the French people living in areas that are now Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Many of their descendants moved to northern Maine to escape the British Expulsion of 1755–1763.) Joseph is undoubtedly the most common first name of all French-Canadians. I don’t know how many babies have been christened with the name Joseph Theriault over the years, but there must have been hundreds. This is roughly the Acadian equivalent of looking for a man named John Smith in English-speaking countries. Okay, finding that I had erred in my earlier genealogy efforts, I removed the “errant” Joseph Theriault from my database. The problem is that I had already traced the ancestry of the “wrong” Joseph Theriault back another 6 or 8 generations! By removing the erroneous entry, I also removed more than 100 other people from my (assumed) list of ancestors!

That was a very depressing evening as I realized I had spent many, many hours recording the ancestry of people who were not in my family tree. I had to start all over again with this branch of the family, proceeding with a bit more caution this time. I double- and triple-checked everything and am now confident that my new records have a higher degree of accuracy.

Now let me ask you a few questions:

Are you **SURE** that every record you have transcribed is 100% accurate? How about the information you obtained from an online database or from a distant relative? Are you **SURE** the other person’s work is 100% accurate?

Have you independently verified every “fact” you have discovered? By “independently,” I mean that you should always find a contemporary record that agrees with the first record you found. Even then, mistakes are easy to make. In my case, there were contemporary records available that were recorded by the priests at each marriage. The problem was that two different priests performed marriages of two different men of the same name in the same church, although on different dates. In this case, both of the original records were equally accurate but referred to different men. I only found the error by comparing their birth dates, their marriage dates, the names of the wives, and the first names of their children.

How many possibly inaccurate records do you have in your database right now?

FIRST MORAL TO THIS STORY: Use caution and common sense when transcribing records you find. Here is my favorite line that I have read dozens of times in different messages, written by different people: “I went on the [insert name of an online database] web site and found 1,000 new ancestors!” Really? How do you know they are yours? All of them?

FOOTNOTE: There is a silver lining in this story. After researching the ancestry of the “new” Joseph Theriault a few generations, I found that he was a distant cousin of the wrong man. They shared many ancestors, although obviously not all of them. I was able to “recycle” many of the original records I had previously researched. However, this time I did double-check each record to make sure I didn’t repeat my earlier error.

SECOND MORAL TO THIS STORY: Never throw away any records you have previously transcribed. You might find a new use for them some day!

Forgotten Drinks of Colonial New England with Corin Hirsch

B I O — C O R I N H I R S C H

Corin Hirsch is a drinks writer as well as associate editor and writer for *Convene Magazine*. Previously she was an award-winning culinary writer at *Seven Days*, the alternative weekly newspaper in Burlington, Vermont where she profiled chefs, farmers, cheese makers, brewers and trends in the hotbed of farm-to-table fare, and developed seasonal recipes and cocktails. Her work has also appeared in a range of regional publications. She is a member of the Association for Food Journalists, and recently won a 2nd Place for Best Food Writing from the Association of Alternative Newsweeklies.

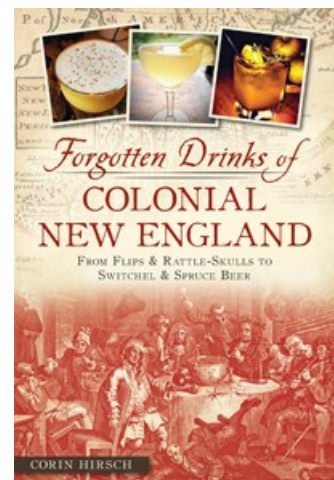
Corin learned to pull a pint of Schlitz (for her grandfather) at the age of six, and she used to tend bar inside a sixteenth-century English pub. She has written about craft beer for *Serious Eats* and also ghost-blogs and writes in the wine world. This is her first book.

Book Summary

Colonial New England was awash in ales, beers, wines, cider and spirits. Everyone from teenage farm workers to our founding fathers imbibed heartily and often. Tipples at breakfast, lunch, teatime and dinner were the norm, and low-alcohol hard cider was sometimes even a part of children's lives. This burgeoning cocktail culture reflected the New World's abundance of raw materials: apples, sugar and molasses, wild berries and hops. This plentiful drinking sustained a slew of smoky taverns and inns—watering holes that became vital meeting places and the nexuses of unrest as the Revolution brewed. New England food and drinks writer Corin Hirsch explores the origins and taste of the favorite potations of early Americans and offers some modern-day recipes to revive them today.

In this interview Corin and I dig into the how, where, why and when of Colonial drinking! Did you know that Harvard University had its own brewery? Have you ever heard of Flip, Grog, Stone Fence or Rattle-Skulls? We'll explain what those are during the show. We also discuss what Benjamin Franklin did every time he entered a pub. Get comfortable and join for this fun discussion!

Go to fieldstonecommon.com for the complete interview and discussion.



RECORDS SAY THE DARNEDEST THINGS: DARNED SON-IN-LAW

Summerville Phila. Dec. 4th 1906

I the undersigned George S Wolff being of sound mind & body write this my last will and testament

Fifty cents (\$0.50) be paid to my son-in-law Elias C. Lenzel a native of Huntingdon Pa. to enable him to buy for himself a good stout rope with which to hang himself & thus not mankind of one of the most infamous scoundrels that ever soiled this broad land or dwelt outside of a penitentiary.

A coworker shared this will with me:

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.

New Donations To the Genealogy Room

1. Mainland HS yearbooks for the years:

1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 2002, 2008, 2009, 2010

and the "Porpoise" school magazine from 1933. They are with the rest of the yearbooks.

The above were all donated by Nancy Szanto, a MHS grad and archivist for the school.

2. The International Vital Records Handbook. 2013 ed.

This book has the forms and information needed to send off for birth, marriage and death certs from the 50 states and some territories. I plan to keep this by the computers for easy access. We have an older edition at the reference desk.

This was donated by the Abigail Bartholomew chapter of DAR.

3. Calendar of New Jersey Wills: Vol. XII 1810-1813 and vol. XIII 1814-1817

These will add to a set we already have, and are shelved in with the New Jersey books: 194.9 Cal

These were donated by the local SAR chapter.

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

Revoking American Citizenship in the Early Twentieth Century

The great immigration waves in the second half of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century brought with them not only problems of immigration and emigration, but naturalization and citizenship. Exacerbating these problems was the xenophobic nature of many Americans, especially the men serving in Congress. This week the *Los Angeles Times* published a [story about the Expatriation Act of 1907](#). The story told the story of Elsie (Knutsen) Moren. Born in Minnesota, she married Carl Moren, an immigrant from Sweden. Under the provisions of the act, this caused Elsie to lose her American citizenship. Any U.S.-born woman who married an alien automatically lost her citizenship. This may help explain why you might find Alien Registration files for American-born women. But this story focuses on only one provision of the Act. It encompassed far more.

On February 20, 1907, members of congress passed “An Act in Reference to the Expatriation of Citizens and Their Protection Abroad.” Like many acts of Congress, there were good provisions and bad provisions.

Section one dealt with the subject of passports. Under these provisions, foreigners who had resided in the U.S. for three years and had made a declaration of intention to become a citizen could be issued a passport. The passport could be valid for only six months, and could not be renewed. It would entitle the holder to the protection of the U.S. government everywhere except the country of which he was a citizen prior to his declaration of intention.

Section two dealt with American citizens. Any citizen who took an oath of allegiance or became a naturalized citizen of a foreign state automatically expatriated himself and gave up his U.S. citizenship. Naturalized citizens who resided in their country of origin for two years after naturalization, or elsewhere outside the United States for five years, were considered to have renounced his citizenship unless proving otherwise to the Department of State. In these years that just followed the Spanish-American War, and with worldwide tensions on the rise, Congress was also concerned about the ability to raise military forces. The provisions of this section for revocation of citizenship would not be valid during times of war.

Section three was the provision that stripped American-born women who married alien men of their citizenship. She would regain her citizenship when the marriage was terminated.

Section four provided that a foreign-born woman who had become an American citizenship through marriage would continue to be a citizen even after the termination of the marriage. If she were living abroad, she needed to register with a U.S. Consul within one year of the termination.

Section five provided that foreign-born children of alien parents would be granted citizenship upon the naturalization or resumption of citizenship of their parents, as long as the children were still minors. This citizenship would only become valid, however, when such children began to reside in the U.S.

Section six stated that foreign-born children of American citizens who continued to reside abroad would be required to register with a U.S. Consul their intention to reside in the U.S. and retain their citizenship. Additionally, they would be required to take the oath of allegiance to the United States “upon attaining their majority.” Remember that the age of majority was different in different time periods.

Section seven, however, is the most important to genealogists. It required that “duplicates of any evidence, registration, or other acts required by this Act shall be filed with the Department of State for record.”

The terms of the Expatriation Act of 1907 were relatively short-lived. The provisions concerning women were repealed in the 1920s. That Nationality Act of 1940 repealed the remainder of the provisions of this act. But while it was in effect, it generated records that are of tremendous importance to genealogists.



Members at the April Meeting.

Lou McNally from Embry Riddle Univ. speaking on "Weather in Old Diaries"



Kim Dolce introducing the speaker, Lou McNally

President Cora May Hartzell conducting the meeting

