

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

OCTOBER 2014

38TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2014 OFFICERS

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

VCGS REPORTS	1-2
ORANG CO.	
GENEALOGY MOVING	2
NATIONAL	
ARCHIVES DIG- ITIZING	3
WHAT I REMEM- BER ABOUT GRANDMA	4
COVERTING AD- DRESS TO LONGI- TITUDE & LATITUDE	6
LITTLE KNOWN GOVT GENEALOGY SERVICE	7

Next VCGS Meeting

October 16, 2014—Speaker will be Sarah Miller on
“Historic Cemeteries as Outdoor Museums”

Volusia County Genealogical Society

Minutes of Meeting on September 18, 2014

Opening of Meeting: Cora May Hartzell called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests and new members introduced themselves.

Kitty informed all attendees that we are signed up to do another Belk's charity sale. The sale is on November 8, 2014. The coupons for the sale would be available after the program. The society made \$175.00 at the last sale.

Cora May announced the seminar. It will be January 24, 2015 at Pelican Bay. Registration is \$45 and will go up to \$50 December 15. Claire Mire Bettag will be the speaker. The books that were purchased to donate in Barbara Ochs' name were donated at this meeting. Barbara's family attended. The books donated are Early Families of Herkimer County, New York Descendants of the Burnetsfield Palatines by William V. H. Barker and Old Westmoreland A History of Western Pennsylvania During the Revolution by Edgar W. Hassler.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Kitty Consalvo and second by Hal Gauper, the minutes of the meeting of June 19, 2014 were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Kitty Consalvo reported that the closing balance on July 17, 2014 was \$1423.13. There were deposits of \$79.00 and expenditures of \$110.76, with a balance on September 18, 2014, of \$1391.37.

Program: The program was Ron and Alice Howell talking about West Volusia County History. They spoke about various places such as the DeBary Hall, Heritage Inn in Orange City, Stetson Mansion in DeLand, the DeLand house, the Athens Theater and people such as Frederick DeBary, Henry DeLand and John B. Stetson that have helped shape Volusia County. East Volusia did not build up as fast as West Volusia because it was easier to travel on the St. John's River than to travel in the Atlantic Ocean.

Adjournment of Meeting: On motion by Kitty Consalvo and second by David Farris, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie DiMatties, Recording Secretary

VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014 Board Meeting 5 pm

Thursday, Oct 16, 2014 General Meeting 6 pm

**Sarah Miller will be speaking on
“Historic Cemeteries as Outdoor Museums”**

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library - Oct 9, 2014 “Dating & Identifying Family Photos” by Elaine Powell.

GSSVC NSB Library, Oct 12th at 2:00 pm
Speaker will be Bill Ryan—New Book on History of Ormond Beach.

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Wednesday, Oct 15th at 5:30 pm “It’s Your Night” Workshop—Show and Tell.

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

\$1391.37



Orange County Genealogical Collection Moving

The Orange County (Florida) Library System’s unique and remarkable genealogy collection is being moved to its new home at the West Oaks Branch Library and Genealogy Center, located at 1821 E. Silver Star Road in Ocoee, FL 34761.

In preparation for this exciting new development, the West Oaks Branch will be temporarily closed **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2014** and re-opened in early **JANUARY 2015**. The Genealogy Collection will not be available effective **DECEMBER 1, 2014**.

Upon re-opening, the West Oaks Branch Library and Genealogy Center will offer the public full library service as well as family history research, tours and study visits, programs, classes and more! Features include FREE parking, open seven days a week, technology classroom, meeting room, and convenient location to SR 408.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

The Plan to Digitize the Vast Holdings of the National Archives

Writing in his blog, David Ferriero, the Archivist of the United States, describes a simple, but audacious initiative: to digitize the analog records of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and to make them available for online public access. He writes:

"We have over 12 billion pages of records, so yes, this is our moon shot.

"To achieve this goal, we know we need to think in radically new ways about our processes, and we have started by creating a new digitization strategy. From the time we published our 2008 digitization strategy through today, we have scanned over 230 million objects. This is a huge number, but we have a long road ahead. Our new strategy pushes us further."

The strategy is officially called, the *National Archives and Records Administration Strategy for Digitizing Archival Materials for Public Access, 2015-2024*.

NARA cannot accomplish the Herculean plan alone. Instead, Ferriero writes that NARA will "continue to collaborate and build on efforts with private and public organizations to digitize records, as well as branch out to citizen archivists, other federal agencies and institutions worldwide."

David Ferriero's brief comments may be found in his blog at <http://blogs.archives.gov/aotus/?p=5717> while the longer and much more detailed *National Archives and Records Administration Strategy for Digitizing Archival Materials for Public Access, 2015-2024* may be found at:

<http://www.archives.gov/digitization/strategy.html>.



Two books were presented to the Genealogy Room of the Volusia County Library at City Island in memory of Barbara Ochs, a long-time member. Her son and daughter and families were at the meeting for the presentation made by Ruth Patrignani, our Library Chair.



What I Remember About Grandma

My wife and I reminisced about our grandparents today. My paternal grandfather died long before I was born and both of my grandmothers died when I was five. I only have a single memory of each of them. My longer surviving grandfather wasn't involved in my life to any degree but at least I have mental images of him that are replete with audio and video.

As grandparents, my wife and I have tried to be active in the lives of our grandchildren. Along with our children, they are our true treasures.

This week I have spent time this week tutoring some of them in math, in the use of cloud apps, answering their questions about life and Elmering one of them as a prospective ham radio operator. Only a few of them have been physically present but with **Google Hangouts** the rest have only been a couple of clicks away.

At the end of the week, they reported back with great scores on tests, tales of successfully wowing their teachers with their mastery of cloud based apps and even a newly minted **amateur radio operator**.

My wife and I try to make memories with our children and grandchildren. It doesn't involve a lot of money. I just involves giving them our time, attention, sharing a little knowledge and of course some laughs.

Our granddaughters love their art, sewing, cooking and crafting stay overs with grandma. Our grandsons enjoy the art lessons as well but tend to enjoy building rockets, paracord weaving, camp fire cooking, amateur radio operation and genealogy research projects with me.

Recently, FamilySearch announced a campaign to gather and **record your fondest grandma stories**. Because my grandmothers died when I was so young, I don't have any fond personal memories about them. My wife only has a one or two about her grandmothers because they too died when she was a relatively young girl. We wish we had known them better. We would have recorded our memories of them. Hopefully, our grandchildren will engage in the **FamilySearch campaign** and record their fondest memories of their grandmothers.

I've read that after the **third generation, basically all family stories are forgotten** if they aren't written down. I wish I had the life stories of all of my grandparents rather than just their basic birth, marriage, death and similar facts. When I do find life story information about them, it almost gives me more joy than finding their names when their associated brick research wall crumbles.

I'm sure that stories about the lives of your ancestors are equally exciting to you as well.

Are you going to take the opportunity to record your fondest memories of your grandmothers along with tens of thousands of others? The FamilySearch initiative runs from September 20 - 30th. Why not take the time to join in and write or record the stories. Share them with your family and if you'd like share them with others by posting them to their records on Family Tree on FamilySearch. I hope some of my older cousins record their memories of our common grandmothers and post them now. They haven't done so before but maybe the **FamilySearch initiative** will be the enticement that sparks their interest. #MeetMyGrandma

Neighbors in Another Census

Years ago I spent some time trying to find my relative in the 1840 census, using indexes and manual searches of the county where I thought he was. No luck.

Then I went back and searched for his 1830 neighbors in the 1840 census and looked very closely at the other names on the pages where they were listed in 1840. There was a name that was his--written in a way that was difficult to read with a name that was spelled incorrectly. I'd probably seen it before, but until I knew that I was in "his neighborhood" I didn't look at the entry as closely as I should have.

Michael John Neil

Mark Your Calendar

The Volusia-Flagler Council of Genealogical Societies, of which VCGS is a member, is sponsoring an upcoming seminar on Saturday, January 24, 2015, from 9 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at The Club at Pelican Bay in Daytona Beach. Claire Bettag, a certified genealogist and a 2014 APG* achievement award recipient from Washington, DC will be the guest speaker. A continental breakfast and luncheon will be served. More information will be coming soon. A registration form is attached to this newsletter.

ROOTS: "OUR JOURNEYS HOME" kicks off Sunday, October 12th, with a two-hour primetime special airing Tuesday, October 21st at 9_{pm} ET

Storytelling is at the core of what CNN does, and in a week-long series beginning Sunday, October 12th, thirteen of the network's prominent hosts and anchors set out on a journey to find their ROOTS. A project one-year in the making, these journalists embark on an emotional journey across continents as they discover never-before-known details of their family histories.

ROOTS: OUR JOURNEYS HOME will kick-off on Sunday, October 12th at 9 pm ET with a special episode of Anthony Bourdain Parts Unknown and will air across the network throughout the week, culminating in a two-hour special on Tuesday, October 21st at 9 pm ET.

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

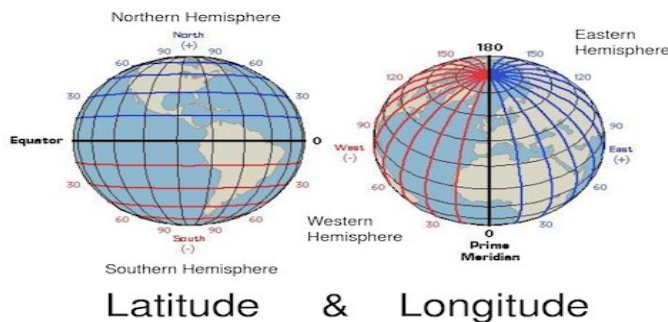
Mission: Encourage Society Members and the community to find their ancestors and connect with the past. Provide enlightening speakers at the monthly meetings on relative topics to aid, assist and better our research. Promote the use of and growth of our genealogy research room, develop our resources and

Convert an Address to Latitude and Longitude by Dick Eastman

You can pinpoint any place on Earth using a single set of coordinates: latitude and longitude. These coordinates look like a string of numbers. Once you have those numbers, you'll be able to plug them into a web map, GPS, or other mapping device and find what you're looking for in an instant — no matter where on the planet it is.

Using latitude and longitude information makes it easy to find your ancestors' homestead, your own house, the county courthouse in a distant city, or any other location of genealogical interest.

The coordinates are similar to the Xs and Ys you used to plot in algebra class. Imagine if the surface of the Earth could be stretched flat. Then suppose you place a grid on top of the flattened world. You could pinpoint any location by finding the spot where the horizontal and vertical grid lines intersect. The horizontal x-axis is the equator, while the vertical y-axis is the Prime Meridian, which runs through the Greenwich Observatory in England.



Geographic coordinates can be expressed in three different formats:

- DMS Degrees: Minutes:Seconds (49°30'00"N, 123°30'00"W)
- DM Degrees:Decimal Minutes (49°30.0', -123°30.0'), (49d30.0m,-123d30.0')

DD Decimal Degrees: (49.5000°, -123.5000°), generally with 4-6 decimal numbers.

Older maps typically use the DMS Degrees, expressed in degrees, minutes, and seconds. Computers like to work with decimals, however, and the majority of computer applications seem to use DD Decimal Degrees.

The letter "N" or "S" at the end of a latitude indicates that the location is north or south of the equator. In a similar manner, the letter "E" or "W" at the end of a longitude indicates that the location is east or west of the Greenwich Observatory in England. In the DD Decimal Degrees method, a minus sign on the latitude indicates south of the equator while a minus sign on a longitude indicates a location west of the Greenwich Observatory. Plus signs are assumed and therefore usually are omitted on latitudes north of the equator or longitudes east of the Greenwich Observatory.

There are many websites that will take an address and convert it to a geographic point. Google Maps, for example, has to do this whenever you type a location into its search box. Once the location is shown, right click on the icon and click on "What's here?" A small box will appear in the upper left corner displaying a Google Street View (if available) and the latitude and longitude of the location.

Another site at <http://universimmedia.pagesperso-orange.fr/geo/loc.htm> also provides an easy-to-use interface to Google Maps. It will find out accurate geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) for any place on Earth. It provides two ways to search, either by moving around the map and zooming in, or by typing an address if the physical location is unknown.

I experimented with <http://universimmedia.pagesperso-orange.fr/geo/loc.htm> and entered my own home address. I quickly found the exact latitude and longitude of the house. I was amazed to see that the map drawn on the screen even included the property lines of each house lot. I am not sure if that is available for all locations, but it certainly works well in my neighborhood.

I found the Family History Library in Salt Lake City is at: Latitude, Longitude: 40.77008, -111.89450

You can also find perhaps a dozen or more web sites that will convert street addresses to latitude and longitude by conducting a Google search. You might start here: <https://www.google.com/#q=convert+street+address+to+longitude+and+latitude>.

Now let's identify the precise locations of the street addresses in your genealogy database.

A Little-Known Government Genealogy Service

By Dick Eastman

A little-known program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provides genealogy information that may be difficult or impossible to obtain elsewhere. The records include naturalization files, visa applications, and citizenship tests, and may reveal family secrets and mysteries. In addition to relatives, historians or researchers can also request files.

Under the USCIS Genealogy Program, which started in 2008, requests are usually completed within 90 days. The government will run a search of the name, as long as the person is deceased. If there are records available, the government charges additional fees for the files. The fee for a record copy from microfilm

identified as (M) is \$20 per request. The fee for a copy of a hard copy file identified as (HC) is \$35 per request. More information about the fees associated with each file series may be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/historical-records-series-available-genealogy-program>.

The documents typically include immigration information, often (but not always) including exact hometowns in their ancestors' native countries. The files often have information on brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. Many times it is useful to obtain the records of your uncles, aunts, and cousins who also immigrated from "the old country."

If the immigrant applied for American citizenship, the details are also included in these files. For anyone of Japanese, German, or Italian origin who lived in the United States during World War II, the documents often include FBI reports about the person's activities, including friends, family, and political activities.



Starting Them out Young— Our Recording Secretary, Stephanie DiMatties with her new son.

Ron and Alice Howell speaking on "West Volusia History"

