

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

NOVEMBER 2014

38TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

2014 OFFICERS

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Next VCGS Meeting November 20, 2014

Peter Mullen will speak on "Civil War Medicine, Infectious Disease and Immunity"

VOLUSIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Minutes of Meeting of October 16, 2014

Opening of Meeting:

Cora May Hartzell, President, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Guests:

Cora May introduced guests Jordan Lewis and Joe Hadfield.

Approval of Minutes:

Cora May asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as published in the Newsletter. On motion by Kitty Consalvo and second by Ruth Patrignani, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Kitty Consalvo reported that there was an opening balance on September 19, 2014 of \$1,391.37 and a closing balance on October 16, 2014 of \$1,543.76, with income of \$213.00 and expenses of \$60.61.

Seminar:

Cora May updated attendees on the Seminar to be held on January 24, 2015. Registration prior to December 15th is \$45.00 and will be \$50.00 thereafter.

New Business:

Kim Dolce announced that there is a new hearing system in the auditorium. She asked anyone having a hearing problem to let her know so she can assist them.

Program:

Kim Dolce introduced Sarah Miller, Registered Professional Archaeologist, from Florida Public Archaeology Network in St. Augustine who spoke on "Historic Cemeteries as Outdoor Museums." She indicated that visiting a cemetery is the same as visiting a museum. She showed photos of the Tolomato Indian Village in St. Augustine which is the oldest cemetery in Florida. Other cemeteries shown were one in Jacksonville where Lynyrd Skynyrd is buried, Huguenot Cemetery, African Americans, Palatka, New Smyrna Beach, Key West, Lake Okeechobee and a Gallic grave marker.

She talked about transcriptions which include misspellings. When transcribing leave "___" where you can't read something. Don't use bleach on tombstones because of the iron in the marble. Instead use D2 which is a biological product (you can Google this) or just use a soft bristled brush and clean with water. On stubborn stones just cover with a wet towel for a while. Gravestone rubbings aren't good as they slightly degrade the inscription each time it's done. 3-D imaging is available to do ground searching, but vaults show up as a different density.

On December 5th there is a headstone cleaning workshop in Orlando. Groups go out and clean headstones.

Adjournment of Meeting:

On motion by David Farris and second by Ruth Patrignani, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Consalvo, Recording Secretary Pro-Tem

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VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014 Board Meeting 5 pm

Thursday, Nov 20, 2014 General Meeting 6 pm

**Peter Mullen will speak on Civil War Medicines,
Infectious Disease and Immunity**

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library - Nov 13, 2014 "Upstate or Downstate: Focusing your NY Research Strategies by Amy Giroux

**GSSVC NSB Library, Nov 9th at 2:00 pm
"Overlooked Resources: A Gold Mine to be Discovered" by Ann Staley.**

**GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Wednesday,
Nov 19th at 5:30 pm "Little Sod House on the Prairie: Homestead Records" by Linda Vivian**

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

\$1543.76



A Tip From Joyce Bailey

Italian Genealogy Site

I index for the Italian Gen. site (NYC databases) and have recently helped with a project to index NYC deaths for 1949-1963. (Now they are only up thru 1948). John Martino estimates it will be available before the first of next year.

Many people have the misconception that this site is dedicated only to Italian records and fail to use this valuable resource which contains many databases.

Reading Microfilm Online?



Sure you know all about reading at a library or Family History microfilm online? Internet Archive's Microfilm collection <https://archive.org/details/microfilm> including rolls from the Allen County Public Library (one of the largest genealogy collections in the United States). The sub collection of Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center-microfilm items https://archive.org/details/allen_county_microfilm currently includes over 36,000

such as US federal census and military records, passenger lists and city directories. You can download rolls via PDF and other formats or share links to specific pages. For other genealogical documents on Internet Archive, see their Genealogy <https://archive.org/details/genealogy> collection, found by clicking on Additional Collections on the Texts page.

microfilm using a microfilm reader Center, but what about reading microfilm online? Internet Archive's Microfilm collection <https://archive.org/details/microfilm> includes all types of microfilm in the United States). The sub collection of Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center-microfilm items https://archive.org/details/allen_county_microfilm

By Gena Philibert-Ortega, Internet Genealogy and Family Chronicle author

Searching for Your Ancestor's Maiden Name

One of the most common problems in researching genealogy is determining a female ancestor's maiden name. Without this vital piece of information, your research could hit a brick wall, hindering you from discovering an entire branch from your family tree. The list provided here will give you suggestions on places to look for your ancestor's maiden name.

1. **Marriage Record:** This should be the first place you look for a woman's maiden name. Marriage records usually list the bride's first and maiden name, as well as possibly her place of birth and/or residence, age, and parent's names.
2. **Census Records:** Look for every census record during your female ancestor's life. You may find her and her husband living with her parents, or you may find that her parents are living next door so be sure to also pay attention to neighbors.
3. **Death Record:** Sometimes a death record will list a woman's maiden name, or even her parent's names. These records are notorious for listing inaccurate information, so be sure to confirm the information with another source whenever possible.
4. **Wills:** While it wasn't common practice for our female ancestors to leave wills, her husband may have left something to her brother in his will. This may be a bit of a stretch, but it never hurts to look!
5. **Tombstone:** Women's maiden names are often written on their tombstones, whether it was listed as her surname (often followed by "wife of..."), or as her middle name.
6. **Vital Records of her Children:** A great place to look for your female ancestor's maiden name is on the birth, marriage, and death records of her children. This is also a good reason why researching collateral ancestors (ancestors, such as aunts, uncles and cousins, who are not directly related to you) is recommended by many genealogists.
7. **Obituary:** If you know the date your ancestor died, you may be able to locate her obituary in her local newspaper. Her maiden name may also be listed in her children's obituaries.
8. **Pension Record:** If your female ancestor's husband fought in a war, he may have had a pension file that listed her maiden name.
9. **Land Records:** Your female ancestor's father may have passed land on to her, so checking deeds may be helpful in determining her maiden name; however, because married women could not own land (only her husband could), the deed would likely be in the husband's name. Search for records that lists your male ancestor's name followed by et ux. (and wife) or et al. (and others), or for someone selling your ancestor land for \$1.
10. **Local History Books:** Local history books may include information or stories about your female ancestor and her family and can often be purchased from town or city clerks, libraries, local bookstores, and sometimes online. You may also want to see if the book is available for free viewing on Google Books.
11. **Naming Patterns:** Children were sometimes given the middle name of their mother's maiden name. If you find a child with an unusual middle name, or a middle name that you would usually associate with a surname, you may want to conduct a little research to determine if it is, indeed, your female ancestor's maiden name. Another tip that may be helpful is that it was commonplace that the eldest daughter be named after her maternal grandmother.

10 Million American Indian Records now on Ancestry.com

The following excerpt is from the November 7, 2014 edition of webpronews.com:

Genealogy site Ancestry.com has added millions of new American Indian records for the use of those who think they may have American Indian blood, according to AP.

The idea came about due to a slim 5.2 million people identifying themselves as having American Indian or Alaskan Native ancestry on 2010 U.S. Census forms.

Estimates as to those who have American Indian in their genealogy were much higher.

Ancestry.com figured that a lot of times, people just don't know their genealogy very well or that they have American Indian blood.

So, to help solve that problem, the genealogy website has partnered with the Oklahoma Historical Society to add the American Indian historical records, as well as images, to its website.

Ancestry.com will now have more than 10 million American Indian historical records. That makes it the largest online collection of American Indian genealogy out there.

5 Biggest Roadblocks in Genealogy

1. DOLLARS AND SENSE:

Genealogy can be expensive, let's face it. First, you go down to your local bookstore or wholesale outlet and pick up software that can categorize the volumes of research you've done. You need a way to put this precious material in order, but do you want to fork out the 80\$ to do it? And what about a records searching website? Is a 150\$ annual subscription worth it to search for something that you're not even sure exists? How about state certified records? I once wrote the state of New York for death records for my great-great grandfather, hoping it would have his parents' names on it. I had all the correct info, slogged through the minutiae of finding the right person to send it to, included the certified check for 45\$ or 50\$ (note that they wouldn't take a personal check, grrrrrr). About six months later (yes, six months ... not days or even weeks), I received a note back that they couldn't find it—with no refund. See, genealogy research can be expensive—and there's no promise of getting anything in return.

2. PERPLEXING INDEXING:

I once searched the 1850 census for a man named Truman Bowen, a relative who hangs on my wife's family tree as a great-great-great uncle (EDITOR'S NOTE: This guy must have been a really great guy, you know, because his genealogical title insists it is so). After a few years of looking, I found him by triangulating ... using family members to help pinpoint the household in the 1850 census. It turns out the enumerator in 1850 recorded him as Tillman Boyd, an error even soundex won't catch. Maybe the enumerator hadn't had his coffee yet? I'll bet he didn't think he'd create headaches 160 years later. Luckily, Truman's wife's first name was consistent and all of the children were correct, and their ages checked out.

We also were able to submit a correction with facts to back it up and hopefully no future researcher will deal with this. There was also the time that the present-day transcriber just read the census wrong. My great-great-great grandfather is Joseph Knox McLaughlin. For some reason the 1860 census enumerator listed Joseph's middle name in the census rolls, and the present day transcriber changed my indexed surname to Knox instead of McLaughlin—the whole family is in the index as Knox. We submitted a correction on that one too. These are just some of the many landmines you will encounter, the kind that force you to think outside the box.

3. MY ANCESTORS WERE FROM WHERE? REALLY?:

There's nothing like finding that long-lost ancestor in your research, and then seeing multiple versions of his or her birthplace or birth date. I found an ancestor once—his name will remain anonymous to protect him from embarrassment—and various researchers had his birth place(s) as the following: 1) Salem, Illinois (correct one), 2) Lincoln County, Tennessee; 3) Chester, South Carolina; 4) Papua, New Guinea; 5) Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Now, I like to think my ancestors were worldly. They may have heard of 4 and 5, maybe, but I seriously doubt they were jetting around the globe getting born at these locations. Something just tells me that some sort of computer error or auto-correct feature on some database gave my ancestor these wonderful birthplaces. It gave new meaning to "getting around", if you know what I mean (no offense to the people of Tanzania).

4. I'M OLDER THAN MY MOM:

I am no mathematician, but I know faulty math when I see it. When I was 6 or 7 years old, my grandmother told me she was turning 39. I already knew that my mom was about 30, so I called out Grandma on her math. Turns out she had other motives, it wasn't that she didn't know math. At any rate, there's nothing like running across a fellow researcher's family tree and seeing that somebody in their tree is older than their own parents. Yet, alas, you see it all the time. To me, this is frustrating and an immediate red flag ... do not use this person's research. They didn't even spend the time to check the dates and see if they even made sense, you can just imagine what other more complex errors were made.

Is There a Method to the Order

Pay attention to the order in which children are listed in wills and other legal documents. That order may suggest the birth order for the children. The key word being suggest. If the names appear in a certain order in only one document that might not be proof of much. If the names appear in the same order in different legal documents over time, it might be a little more suggestive of child order.

But try and back that assumption up with data from other records.

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.

10 Signs You Have Genealogy OCD

- 1) You check FamilySearch at 8 AM; 12NOON, 6 PM, and 9 PM every day for updated releases or databases.
- 2) You've grabbed a green leaf on a real TREE thinking it was on your Ancestry.com page.
- 3) Your family takes the long way places to AVOID cemeteries when you are in the car.
- 4) You have seriously thought about HIDING in a library to get locked in after it closes.
- 5) You spent more searching for your ancestors 1810 tax records than you did preparing your own 2010 taxes.
- 6) You know more about your spouse's ancestors than you know about your spouse.
- 7) You would easily spend your entire vacation in a library.
- 8) You have already scheduled a vacation day from work for when the 1940 census is released.
- 9) The majority of pictures in your facebook photo section are of people who are dead.
- 10) You've recognized yourself in at least half of these signs.

By Michael John Neill

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

7 Tips To Conquer The Courthouse

1. Types of records you might find at a courthouse include civil and criminal court records, naturally, but also deeds and mortgages, tax lists, county commissioner meeting minutes, vital records, business licenses, voter registrations, cattle brand registrations and more.
2. But depending on the place your family lived, older records may have been turned over to a local or state archives, historical society or library. Check in advance before you plan a courthouse trip.
3. Keep in mind that most of these facilities aren't really archives, they're working offices trying to keep up with the day-to-day business of government. For the most part, they're not set up to do a lot of hand-holding. Find out as much as you can about the records you need-the date, a microfilm number or volume and page number, where they're located, etc.-before you go.
4. More things to know before you go: Check online for courthouse hours, holiday schedules and access information. The court may have limited hours when staff will pull files. Some won't allow personal scanners or cameras. Different types of records might be in different buildings or rooms. The local genealogy librarian and genealogical society are good sources to ask ahead of time about courthouse quirks.
5. See if the office holding the records you need has a busy season. For example, if the records you really want are the tax records, and the tax office's busy season is October, then going there in October pretty much guarantees no one is going to be available to help you-and they may not even allow record lookups at that time.
6. Look for an online or microfilmed index so you have all the volumes and page numbers you need in advance. Also see whether the Family History Library has microfilm of the records you need or even posted them online at FamilySearch.org.
7. Even 'burned counties' have some records. And don't forget many people re-recorded deeds, etc., after a courthouse fire.

Reprint From Family Tree Magazine



(continued from page 4)

5. THE “I FLUNKED PRESCHOOL” RESEARCHER:

Remember when we were 4 or 5 years old, and we were told repeatedly that not only should we share, we should want to share. Sharing is the essence of genealogy. It may even lead to a connection with a real flesh-and-blood distant cousin. Yet we run into knuckleheads all the time who hoard their data—much of which has come from ... you guessed it ... other people who shared it. There's nothing like finding a golden nugget hint, clicking on it online, and getting a message that “this researcher does not share info”. I give those people an F.

There obviously are frustrations in this line of research. Unlike death and taxes, there are no definites in genealogy research. Sometimes you're going to feel like somebody is purposefully sending you on a wild goose chase on the wrong proverbial continent. But that's what makes the success that much sweeter. This isn't a 5 question pop quiz where the teacher gave you all the answers the day before ... there are roadblocks, and you can navigate them.

Because ... by golly ... you're a genealogist. You've already proven you are special, and smart, and witty, and just all around wonderful.

By Brian Moncur from Billion Graves

Civil War Portraits of Broken Bodies Sent Home

By Allison Meier

Many of the soldiers who survived the carnage of the American Civil War returned home broken. The death toll is [estimated](#) between 600,000 and 750,000, a number [still unrivaled](#) in any American conflict, but the survivors often left something of themselves behind on the battlefields. [According to the US National Library of Medicine](#), around 60,000 of Civil War surgeries were amputations (3/4 of the total of all the war's operations).

On the [National Museum of Health and Medicine's Flickr](#), portraits of these wounded soldiers show the grim resilience, military pride, and shocked resignation in their faces. Sometimes posed in their uniforms, or even with just a formal sword, they contrast heroic attitudes with their harrowing injuries. The portraits include those taken at hospitals to show the success of surgery, which was then still a rudimentary medical art, often performed right on the battlefield with chloroform for anesthesia, if anything at all. Legs and arms splintered by musket balls were sawed off with such frequency that there was sometimes a line, soldiers waiting and watching the [mound of limbs growing ahead of them](#). Other portraits were self-commissioned at photography studios as souvenirs on the way home.

When they finally returned to their communities, many of these men were unable to work and, despite improvements in veterans services, ended their lives [in poverty](#). This led to a rise in prosthetic manufacturing, although some men continued to wear their empty sleeves as a point of sacrificial pride.

