

Volusia County Genealogical Society

N E W S L E T T E R

DECEMBER 2014

38TH YEAR SERVING DAYTONA BEACH GENEALOGY

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Next VCGS Meeting December 18, 2014

Kim Dolce will present a short Webinar "Getting Around the Missing 1890 Census" by Crista Cowan and we will be having our Christmas Pot Luck Dinner. Please bring a copy of one of your ancestor's recipes to exchange

Volusia County Genealogical Society

Minutes of Meeting on November 20, 2014

Opening of Meeting: Cora May Hartzell called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests and new members introduced themselves.

Cora May announced new fundraising efforts. The society is signing up for Waste Pro's recycling program. In this program, Daytona Beach residents sign up, put a sticker on their recycling bin and it is scanned at pick up. There are other groups that also participate so as long as the society meets or exceeds Waste Pro's program requirements, the society is able to collect up to \$600.

Another fundraiser that we will be doing is with Restaurant.com. You can purchase a gift card through a group specific link and the society will be given 50% of the profit. The link was to be put on the society's Facebook page for easy sharing and usage.

Due to the cost of printing, the society will not be able to print the membership directory. The directory will be emailed to all members and printed at each member's discretion.

Our annual December pot luck is at the next meeting on December 18, 2014. If you have a recipe from your ancestors, please bring them to share with the society.

The Genealogy Room is in need of volunteers. We only have volunteers on select Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. If you are interested, please contact Kim Dolce, you will need to fill out a form for a background check and wait for it to be approved. Once approved, Kim will be sure to train you on how to use the library computer and other library systems. You will be able to spend the time researching your own family.

The library loop system for the hearing impaired is still being worked on. It is to help connect hearing aids to the library auditorium speaker system. Once it is working properly, you will be able to connect to it with a digital frequency and hear directly from the microphone and lower the amount of background noise. If you need assistance, please contact Kim Dolce.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Kim Dolce and second by Bob Bailey, the minutes of the meeting of October 16, 2014 were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Kitty Consalvo reported that the closing balance on October 17, 2014 was \$1143.76. There were deposits of \$238.75 (\$130.00 dues, \$100 Belk's Charity Sale, \$8.75 printing) and expenditures of \$133.90, with a balance on November 20, 2014 of \$1248.61.

Program: The program for the evening is Peter Mullen on Civil War Medicine Infectious Disease and Immunity. Peter Mullen is a native born Kentuckian and studied at the University of Louisville. He is a member and speaker of various groups on history and medicine.

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VCGS Society Calendar

Thursday, Dec 18, 2014 Board Meeting 5 pm

Thursday, Dec 18, 2014 General Meeting 6 pm

Kim Dolce will present a Webinar "Getting Around the Missing 1890 Census" by Crista Cowan and our Christmas Pot Luck

Volusia -Flagler Sister Societies

HGS Ormond Library - Dec 13, 2014 "Doc Your Memories" by tony Politis and Jay Robbins. Holiday Party

GSSVC NSB Library, Dec 14th at 2:00 pm Christmas Party

GSFC Palm Coast Flagler Library - Wednesday, Dec 17th at 5:30 pm "Christmas Party and Trivia Program



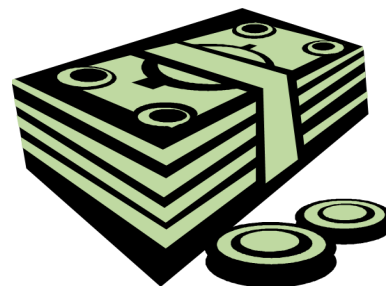
\$\$ **Report by Treasurer Kitty Consalvo** \$\$

\$1,648.61



Save Yourself Some Money.

Register for the Seminar at Pelican Bay by December 15th. (Must be postmarked by that date.) Tell your kids it would make an AWE-SOME Christmas present.



(continued from Page 1)

Peter Mullen's research has gathered information to understand the medical information that was known and used during the Civil War. Most practices and treatments would be considered barbaric and dangerous. The effectiveness of field hospitals, traveling hospitals and medical staff were not very knowledgeable about germs, various systems throughout the body, genetics and other current common medical practices used today. Both the north and the south were respectful of the medical needs of both sides.

Adjournment of Meeting: On motion by Kitty Consalvo and second by David Farris, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie DiMatties, Recording Secretary

[Another Site Have Another Scan?](#)

The *Archive.org* scan of an Ohio Adjutant General report of War of 1812 for a unit of interest [was a little difficult to read in spots](#). *Ancestry.com* had a scan of the same publication that was easier to read. It may have been made from a copy of the book that had seen less wear and was in better shape.

This is not to say that *Archive.org* is always bad and that *Ancestry.com* is always better--that's not the case. Sometimes it's the other way around. It just pays to look in more than one place if the image you've located has portions that are difficult to read.

Archives of Maryland
By John D. Beatty, CG(sm)*

Maryland's historical records are among the best of any state and survive from the seventeenth century. If you have ancestors from this state or colony, you will find a plentiful supply of records and record transcripts in print, both at the state and the county level. One of the most important resources is the "Archives of Maryland." This source is available in its original multi-volume print set in two series (GC 975.2 Ar2 and Ar21), as well as online at the Maryland State Archives site in a greatly expanded format with a fully-searchable keyword index: <http://aomol.msa.maryland.gov/html/index.html>. Most researchers will want to use the latter version because it is free and easy to use.

The "Archives of Maryland" appeared in print in two series. The first series consisted of 72 volumes published between 1883 and 1972, while a second so-called New Series began in 1990 under the editorship of Edward Papenfuss. The volumes contained full transcripts of various record series in the state archives, which were published in clusters of volumes as they were completed rather than sequentially. These series include the Proceedings of the Provincial Court, 1636-1770; Proceedings of the Provincial Court, 1637-1683; Proceedings of the General Assembly, 1637-1774; Journals and Proceedings of the Council of Safety, 1775-1777; Journals and Correspondence of the State Council, 1777-1793; Muster Rolls of Maryland Troops in the Revolutionary War; Proceedings of the Court of Chancery and various county courts; and the correspondence of Gov. Horatio Sharpe, 1753-1771. The New Series includes a list of public officials. All of these volumes are superseded by the online version, which has full name and keyword access and a glossary of historical terms, with well over 700 volumes that include probate records, land records, maps, local county court records, slave manumission records, and certificates of freedom among a myriad of others sources.

Why should a genealogist care about these state-level records? First and foremost, they did not preserve information about only the wealthy. Anyone who appeared in court in Maryland for any sort of criminal offense, from bastardy to theft to indebtedness, will likely make an appearance in the volumes. Wills, depositions, and other records often appear in full transcript form. The records are rich with the social and cultural history of Maryland, especially in the colonial period. Consider, for example, the case of Mary Beasley, convicted of committing fornication and having an illegitimate child in 1732 and convicted again for doing so in 1734, for which the court ordered her to receive "twenty five lashes well laid on her bare back till the blood appear" (volume 567, page 506). In another example, Sarah Saunders of Somerset County gave a deposition in February 1690/1 in which she testified that her cousin, Thomas Oxford of Mattapony Hundred, tried to rape her on two occasions, once prior and once after her marriage to John Saunders (volume 191, page 40). A month later Sarah wrote her will and mentioned her kinswoman Mary Beazely, who was then living with Oxford (volume 405, page 80). Google searches with names in quotations and the word "Maryland" will sometimes bring up references to names within the volumes.

The above references are but a small sampling of what one can find in the "Archives of Maryland." The series remains an essential tool for research, especially for the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but increasingly also for some later periods.



New books in genealogy room, November 2014

By Kim Dolce

These books were donated by a patron, so although they are not new, they are new for us.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. New Jersey index of wills | New Jersey. Dept. of State. | Genealogy R 974.9 New v.1-3 |
| 2. Digest of the early Connecticut probate records. | Manwaring, Charles | Genealogy R 974.6 Man v.I-III |
| 3. Ulster County, N.Y. probate records in the office of the surrogate | Anjou, Gustave | Genealogy R 974.734 Uls vols. I-II |

Deck the halls with boughs of kissing! How our Christmas decorating traditions were born

Decking the halls is a tradition far older than the song which bears its name. Thousands of years ago, people decorated the hedgerows during the cold months to create attractive shelters for the myriad sprites whom they believed populated the land. Over the millennia, this gradually translated into flashing lights in the shape of rotund bearded men stuck to people's roofs. The roots of our traditions spread far, but they are all connected and part of fascinating history, a potted version of which we'll share below...

From the custom of adorning evergreens for spirits grew that of bringing them indoors for the winter, to offer them respite from the cold. As soon as the first buds appeared come spring, the spirits and their leafy hosts were discarded outdoors, for fear that they would become angry if cooped up too long. To this day, it's considered bad luck to keep decorations up after Christmas is over.

Holly branches were the most popular home adornment thanks to their vivid red berries, which made a beautiful contrast with their natural counterpart, white mistletoe. For hundreds of years they were woven together to make Holy Boughs, which were blessed by the local priest, and then hung over the entrances of people's homes. Any visitor who arrived during the Christmas season was embraced under the bough, as a sign that animosity had been abandoned.

When Oliver Cromwell came to power in England in the mid-17th century, he ushered with him a far more austere Puritan ethos than the festive abandon which had prevailed before. Christmas was cancelled. Boughs were banned, and hung in only the most rural areas, blessed furtively by priests under pain of death. Even makeup was forbidden, to be scrubbed off women's faces if detected. Upon the return of the monarchy, Christmas was restored, but all was not as it had been. In defiance of Cromwell's reign of frigidity, the embrace under the mistletoe carried new connotations, and the name 'Holy Bough' was replaced by 'Kissing Branch'.

Later the stern Victorians again threatened to crush the frivolity of the season, and the Kissing Branch came under scrutiny for its lewd associations. A compromise was reached however, and a new rule was established that every time a gentleman kissed a lady under the mistletoe, he had to remove one of its berries. When branch was stripped bare, there could be no more kissing...

Other traditions come from further afield. In Germany, rather than holly, tiny Christmas trees were hung over doorways as a sign of seasonal compassion. A boom in Christmas markets from the 15th century onward brought with it new additions to the institution, such as wax ornaments made from the honeycombs left after the gingerbread makers had used their honey. Tinsel came later – and was originally made from pure silver, and legend has it that candles were first included by the theologian Martin Luther. Original American decorations were more accessible for the common household, including painted popcorn on string.

There are so many more little histories we don't have room for here. But if you find yourself hesitating as any less-attractive suitors advance under the sprig this Christmas, think on this: your ancestors fought for the right for these uncomfortable embraces, so stop being such a puritan, get in the (festive) mood, and pucker up!

Published on Find My Past blog



Age on a Date?

If your ancestor states that he is aged 60 on 2 April 1900, that doesn't mean he was born in 1840.

Someone who says he was 60 on 2 April could have:

- just turned 60 on 2 April, making his date of birth 2 April 1840

getting ready to turn 61 on 3 April, making his date of birth 3 April 1839.

Or anywhere in between.

That is assuming an age of 60 on 2 April 1900 was correct.

The accuracy of his age is another story altogether.

By Michael John Neill

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.



Members and Guests at the November Meeting

Speaker—Peter Mullen



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

12 Kinds of Organizations Genealogists Should Follow on Facebook

Published in Family Tree Magazine

This isn't an article about the genealogy organizations you should follow on [Facebook](#) and other social media. Nope. Instead, it's about the *types* of organizations you should seek out and follow, because they might lead you to important research information and resources.

As you'll find out in our [Jumpstart Your Genealogy with Social Media webinar](#) on Nov. 25, using social media for genealogy isn't just getting your research questions answered on Facebook (although that is a great use of social media).

It's also finding out about new resources, learning the history of your ancestral places and people, meeting folks who are researching the same ancestors you are, and answering other genealogists' questions. Start by finding and following these organizations:

- Genealogical societies for the towns, counties and states where your ancestor lived and where you live
- Public libraries where your ancestor lived and where you live (sometimes the genealogy department has its own Facebook page)
- State libraries and archives for your ancestral states

Major genealogical societies, libraries and archives (such as the [National Archives](#))

Heritage societies (such as the [Germans from Russia Heritage Society](#))

- Alumni organizations for the places your relative attended school

Museums and historical sites related to your family history (such as the [Coal Creek Miner's Museum](#) if your great-grandfather worked in a mine)

Still-extant social, religious, immigrant and other organizations your ancestor belonged to (such as the [Freemasons](#))

- Organizations and museums related to your relatives' military service
- Genealogy websites and products you use, are considering using or subscribing to, or are interested in hearing about

Sharers of genealogy news and tips (such as [Family Tree Magazine](#))

Groups of researchers with interests similar to yours, such as [Tracing the Tribe—Jewish Genealogy on Facebook](#) or [Genealogy Translations](#)

On a Facebook page, click the Like button to follow it. For groups, click the Join button to join (or if it's a closed group, to ask to be added). You can see most pages even if you're not a member of Facebook, but you must be a member of Facebook to join a group.

You'll learn how to find these types of organizations and groups on social media sites in the [Jumpstart Your Genealogy with Social Media webinar](#), taking place Tuesday, November 25, at 7 p.m. ET. You'll also learn strategies for using social media to do genealogy research, and discover social media sites especially for genealogy.

Webinar registrants receive a PDF of the presentation slides and access to view the webinar again whenever they want. [Learn more about the Jumpstart Your Genealogy with Social Media webinar in ShopFamilyTree.com.](#)

8 Best Genealogy Pages on Pinterest

1. Ancestor Hunter

If you have a particular area of interest, try entering a keyword in the Pinterest search box. That's how I found Ancestor Hunter's Vintage Maps board featuring nearly 60 maps pinned from around the web. Click this pinner's name and you'll find 26 other boards devoted to genealogy and history.

2. Caroline Pointer

Caroline has more than 70 boards, the majority of which are dedicated to genealogy. Don't miss: Productivity Tips and Apps for Researchers featuring pins that prompt you to be more efficient, organized and productive.

3. Genealogy Tip Jar

This board, spearheaded by GeneaBloggers' Thomas MacEntee, has tips from 10 contributors. Want to see the genealogical potential of Pinterest boards? Check out Thomas' 70-plus other boards as well.

4. Gini Webb

Enjoy getting lost for hours as you click through Gini's boards. I recommend her Freebie & Printables, Framed Ancestors, Genea-Spaces, Family History and Childhood Memories boards.

5. Janet Hovorka

Among Janet's many boards are more than 10 for genealogy. Her pinning specialty is family history displays (she's the owner of Family ChartMasters) and you'll find plenty of inspiration. Don't miss her Genealogy Fun board, either.

6. Linda Kvist

Pinterest is popular around the globe, and Swedish pinner Linda Kvist offers captivating vintage photographs on her Genealogy board. The majority come from her Cousin Linda blog. Kvist shows how enticing photos make blog posts perfect for pinning.

7. Robin Foster: Genealogy & More

One of Robin's best boards is African-American Genealogy, which delivers more than 100 pins to educate and inspire. And if you really want to become a proficient pinner, check out her "All About Pinterest" board.

8. Valerie Elkins

With more than 7,500 pins on 100-plus boards-about 30 dedicated to genealogy-Elkins is a prolific pinner. Whether you want to get your certification, host a family reunion or create a family history craft, Elkins has a board for that.

Have YOU Checked out Pinterest Lately?