

## Volusia-Flagler Council of Genealogical Societies

15 November 2011

V-FCGS met on 15 November 2011 at the New Smyrna Beach, FL, library; present were Cherie Brumfield, Kathy Hennigan and Diana Tonge from GSSVC; Hal Gauper from VCGS, Bill Vivian and Karen Keating from HGS, and Bill Meister and Marcia Salvatore from GSFC. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Cherie Brumfield, presiding.

Cherie Brumfield of GSSVC handed out a list of speakers for GSSVC for the next quarter:

- Dec: Holiday Fest and Round Robin
- Jan: Larry Fermi, "Land Records"
- Feb: Bill Meister, "Crossing the Pond: Tips and Techniques for Success"
- Mar: Linda Vivian, "Quaker Minutes: A Treasure Trove"

GSSVC had no Old or New Business to present.

Bill Vivian of Halifax Genealogical Society also handed out a listing of future programs:

- Dec: Annual Holiday Party, plus Bill Egan presenting "Come to the Stable". Mr. Egan is known for his miniature Crèche and Christmas scenes
- Jan: Dr. Robert Wright, "researching the War of American Independence"
  - Education Class: Bernardette Zappala, "Irish Research, Part II"
- Feb: Joe David Bellamy, "Writing Your Family History"
  - Education Class: Clyde & Kathy Stickney, "State Genealogical Societies and State Lineage Societies"

Bill also noted that there will be one last HGS newsletter in December and after that all their information will be transitioned to their website:

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flhgs/Halifax\\_Genealogical\\_Society/Home.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flhgs/Halifax_Genealogical_Society/Home.html)

New officers for the Halifax Genealogical Society for 2012 were also listed on the hand-out. Clyde Stickney will be the new President and Bernardette Zappala will be the new Vice-President.

Hal Gauper, President of Volusia County Genealogical Society, had no prepared list of speakers. He did say that VCGS is having leadership problems and trouble recruiting new members. The City Island library has assigned Kim Dolce as the new Genealogy Librarian. Also, since the VCGS meeting run late, after library closing hours, a library staff member must stay after-hours at each meeting.

Bill Meister of the Genealogical Society of Flagler Society noted the following speakers:

- Nov: Bill Meister, "10 Favorite Websites Beyond the Normal"
- Dec: Annual Holiday Party plus a fun program
  - GSFC First Annual Genealogy Treasure Hunt Prize
- Jan: Ann Mohr Osisek, "Fast Forward in Reverse—Back to Basics"
- Feb: Mary Penner, "Finding Females in Your Family Tree", a webinar

Bill also noted that the Friends of the Flagler Library is sponsoring the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Trees on 2 December. Flagler County organizations each decorate a tree for the season and GSFC members frequently decorate their tree with pictures of ancestors. Bill also made note of the Flagler Home Show the end of January at which GSFC usually has a booth.

Marcia Salvatore, who is chairing Seminar 2013, announced the following:

- The date will be Saturday, 19 January 2013
- The venue will be the African American Cultural Society located on US1 in Palm Coast, which has seating for about 150 people as well as a vendor
- The speaker will be Melissa Shimkus, Genealogy Librarian at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Details will be updated in subsequent newsletters

Marcia asked for opinions on the number of prizes to hand out and what might be the best vendor or type of vendor to approach. The general consensus regarding the prizes was that there should only be a few since most people get tired of hearing number after number called. As for a vendor, it was felt that a non-book vendor was probably the best type but anyone just coming with books should be requested to bring a more diverse variety than just books on Florida. Karen Keating cautioned that "Fun Stuff for Genealogists", the vendor used by HGS at the 2011 seminar, tended to want more room than was available and that a contract should clearly specify how much space would be available.

A further discussion pursued the topic of advertising the Seminar and making it attractive to attendees. Karen said that having enthusiastic committee members talking to each of the other societies was one key and Cherie suggested that having someone talk to each society each month beginning next September or October would most likely keep it in people's minds. Karen and Bill Vivian also noted that a key factor in having a well-run program was good team work by the various committees.

In a general discussion period, Cherie Brumfield and Kathy Hennigan talked about using Dropbox as a way for the GSSVC Executive Board to prepare their quarterly newsletter by committee. Although GSSVC does still continue to print out and mail a small number of newsletters, Bill Meister said that Flagler doesn't mail out any newsletters, members who don't have email can read the newsletter from the library computer, and Bill Vivian and Karen Keating agreed that even before it was decided to terminate the HGS newsletter, the society had quit sending them out by mail.

Other topics mentioned included Hal Gauper saying how useful Facebook has been for finding living relatives; Marcia Salvatore said that she has found Find A Grave a good site to visit; and Diana Tonge asked that Cora Mae please correct the GSSVC meeting date on the City Island website from the second Monday night to the second Sunday afternoon of each month. In a discussion about mailing out meeting notices to members who don't have email, Marcia suggested that using bright-colored postcards make good, eye-catching reminders.

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, 14 February 2012, at City Island Library in Daytona Beach.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cherie Brumfield  
President, GSSVC