



THE REGISTER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF

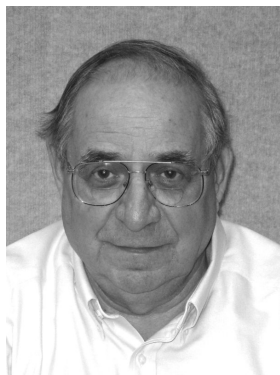
THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH BREVARD, INC.

P.O. BOX 897, TITUSVILLE, FL 32781-0897

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flgsnb>

April 6, 2010

APRIL GUEST SPEAKER



Our guest speaker tonight is Jim Ragusa. His program will describe the features, costs, and references for Ancestry.com and Family Tree Maker 2010. Emphasis will be placed on the integration of these two genealogy database

programs. He has successfully used these programs for his and wife's genealogy research and book writing. Jim is a retired NASA engineer and manager, and retired University of Central Florida associate professor of business and engineering. He is a member of the GSNB and has been a frequent area genealogy lecturer.

APRIL GENEALOGY MEETINGS IN BREVARD COUNTY

The **Brevard Genealogical Society (BGS)** meets the second Monday of each month at 9:30 am in the Meeting Room of the Central Brevard Library and Reference Center (308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa). This month's meeting will be held on April 12 with Patrice Green speaking on "Family History Websites: Why, How & HTML—Not!"

The **Genealogical Society of South Brevard (GSSB)** meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am in the Melbourne Public Library (540 Fee Ave.) This month's meeting will be held on April 14 and will feature Carolyn Carlisle who will speak on DNA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Meetings: Members are welcome to attend the GSNB Board meetings. The meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the library in study room 2. The next meeting is April 20 at 6 pm in the library's study room 2.

Dues: Dues for 2010 are still being collected. Dues are \$15 per person or \$20 per family. When paying by mail, please make check or money order payable to GSNB, Inc. and send to P.O. Box 897, Titusville, FL 32781-0897.

Staples Rewards: Please bring your used printer ink cartridges to our general meetings. They will be turned in to Staples for reward credits that are used to pay for GSNB printing needs.

Volunteers Needed: Several positions in our organization still need to be filled. If you can help in any way, see Marty Noffel, President.

Thank you to all who have signed up to bring refreshments to the monthly meetings—it is very much appreciated!

Indian River Genealogical Society

FamilySearch.Org, the popular genealogy website, will be the topic of the Indian River Genealogical Society's April 13 general meeting. Pamela J. Cooper, Supervisor of the Florida Archive & Genealogy Dept. of the Indian River County Main Library, will highlight the power that lies beneath the surface of this research tool. Ms Cooper will compare old and new versions of FamilySearch.Org.

The IRGS meets at 9:30 AM in the first floor meeting room of the IRC Main Library, 1600 21st Street, Vero Beach. Following a business session and refreshments, the program will begin at 10:30 AM. All IRGS general meetings are free and open to the public. For questions about this meeting, please call (772) 492-4012.

To learn more check the website www.irgs.org

Preserving Your Family History

Let's face it. Family history is about stuff—pictures, papers and personal memorabilia. It accumulates in piles and boxes in all sorts of places. As any genealogist knows, staying on top of this can be a little overwhelming. If you're asking yourself what you should do, here are some tips to tame the clutter.

Sort It! One of the first things curators do when they receive a new collection is look at the material and ask questions. Who owned it? What families are represented in the boxes? It's a good idea to photograph the items in their original order. Documenting the material before you start sorting will help you when you start to organize items. Become the family archivist and create a box-by-box inventory of each item so you'll also have a written record. Don't be afraid to ask the question, should I keep this item? It's ok to split up a collection by donating pieces to a historical society or even throwing it out (gasp!). For instance, if you've been given boxes of photographs of family trips, focus your attention on shots that include people. You might not want to keep all the landscape views.

Use the Right Stuff. Preserving family materials doesn't have to cost a fortune. The basics include acid and lignin free boxes and folders, protective sleeves or boxes made from inert polyester such as polypropylene and labeling tools like soft lead pencils. These items are available from library suppliers, art, and scrapbook stores. Since you can damage materials by handling them, it's best to make sure your hands are clean and dry. Better yet, wear non-latex examination gloves (available in pharmacies).

Organize What You've Got. "Keep it simple" is the best strategy when organizing. Think about a system and then try it out. A common sense approach for genealogists uses surnames and then subdivides by type of material such as photographs, clothing, and papers. For long-term storage, you don't want to store different items together. Basically you're trying to find an organizational method that works for you, but that others can understand too; eventually you will be passing your collection onto another family member.

Share the Wealth. Scan or photograph each individual item so that you can share it online. Online trees at Ancestry.com are great organizational tools, as well as a family history resource. Also, think about using a photo organizing program that allows you to keyword, i.e. tag materials using names, places or types of material. Then when you want to find all the weddings in the family, use "wedding" as a keyword and you'll find wedding portraits as well as wedding attire and invitations. If you include a box number or file number in your identification, you'll be able to locate the original.

Tell the Story. Sorting, storing and sharing family history information and items helps you tell your family story. You'll be able to locate illustrations for a family history book. You might even discover something that breaks through one of the brick walls in your research. Those relatives that reach out via the web probably have collections of their own. Before you know it, your online archive or family website will bring together missing bits of research. It'll turn into an online family reunion that's fun and exciting.

Excerpts from Maureen Taylor Feb 23, 2010 Ancestry.com

The Journey of the U.S. Federal Census

The journey the U.S. census took from the census taker who knocked on your ancestor's door, to the screen of your home computer, is a long one. Understanding that route can help you when it comes to interpreting your finds and weighing any conflicting details it uncovers.

In 1860, 80% of the population still resided in rural areas, down from nearly 95% in 1790. The journey of those early census takers for the most part took place on horseback, and some early enumerations took more than a year to complete. Answers to questions were to reflect the status of the household as of the official "census date," but in cases where the enumerator visited the household so long after that date, it's easy to see where confusion could creep in.

Copies were required of censuses taken between 1790 and 1870. For the years 1790 through 1820, these copies were first held on the local level, but in 1830 legislation called for these copies to be returned to Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, some of those early enumerations hadn't been preserved as ordered and were lost.

In some early censuses where names within a district were alphabetized, it is obvious that you are looking at a copy, but in other cases it might not be as easy to tell. Check the handwriting. If it is consistent throughout several districts, it is likely a copy. From 1850 through 1880 the originals were kept locally and copies were sent to Washington. With each copy that was made, the possibility for errors increases, so it's not surprising that we will occasionally find census records with inaccuracies. Beginning in 1890, only one copy was required.

In the 1940s, to save space, microfilming began. This technology was new so the resulting images were sometimes of poor quality. Some schedules from 1850 through 1870 were re-filmed, but the 1900 through 1930 originals were destroyed before they could be microfilmed.

For many years, family historians had only microfilms, but as advances were made in digitization, the tide began to turn. When Ancestry.com began digitizing the census in 2000, the images were scanned in gray-scale to provide the highest possible quality images. Now, a decade later, new technology is allowing us to improve the quality of these records. The new enhancements have brought out some names that were previously obscured by tape marks and blotches, and made them readable.

The indexes for seven enumerations are also being improved (1850 through 1870 and 1900 through 1930). New indexes will be merged with old indexes and where there are differences, an alternate name will be added, enabling the record to be found by either interpretation. Currently, the enhanced indexes are available for the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1900 censuses, and we're continuing work on the remaining years.

Excerpts from Juliana Smith Dec 9, 2009 Ancestry.com

First "Who Do You Think You Are?" Episode A Reported Success!

The tune-in numbers for the first episode that aired March 5th are in: more than 6.85 million viewers watched the show, making it the No. 2-rated show that hour. The show has aired five weeks and here's an overview of each:

Week 1— Sarah Jessica Parker, a celebrated film and television star, explores her ancestry and discovers connections to an amazing American history.

Week 2—Football legend Emmitt Smith embarks on an incredible journey into his family's slave history.

Week 3— Emmy-award winning actress Lisa Kudrow uncovers a tragic family story dating back to the Holocaust. Her journey takes her to her ancestors' homeland where she learns some devastating truths.

Week 4— Tony Award winner Matthew Broderick unlocks his family's mysteries and discovers his ancestors' roles in the Civil War.

Week 5— Accomplished television, film and theatre actress Brooke Shields learns some family secrets with the help of professional genealogists.

The remaining two episodes of this series will feature Actress Susan Sarandon on April 9th and Director Spike Lee on April 23rd. Invite your family and friends to tune into NBC at 8 pm on these Fridays. The family history community has a lot to gain. Potential benefits include more members in local genealogical societies, more people asking for help to find their stories, more positive media coverage and maybe even more funding and resources for organizations focused on family history.

For more information about the show, go to <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/>

TITUSVILLE COMPUTER CLUB
meets monthly
2nd & 4th Thursday, 7 pm
St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church
(414 Pine St., Titusville)
Visitors always welcome!

2010 GSNB PROGRAM SCHEDULE

May 4 Phil Wright
"Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution"

June 1 TBD

July and August—summer break

September 7

News from the Nancy C. Sieck Memorial Genealogy Area

There has been a lot of activity with recent out-of-state requests for help (4) this month. In addition, anywhere from three to six people are coming in for assistance on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also, eleven new books have been added to the shelves, including some from Doris Yancey's collection. The D.A.R. donated a book that lists all its Florida members. Its entitled *D.A.R.—11 Years of D.A.R. History (1998-2009)*

Need help in researching your ancestors?

Several GSNB members are in the genealogy area of the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 am—1:30 pm to answer your questions.

Barbara Maloney, GSNB Historian, has become a "regular", volunteering in the library Tuesdays and Thursdays (and sometimes more) to help others in their ancestry search. She is working towards genealogy certification through online courses. Currently, she's taking an 8-week class on African-American methodology and will start an Adoption Records class in April. Go Barb!

The GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH BREVARD, INC.

is a non-profit corporation chartered by the State of Florida. It is affiliated with the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Florida State Genealogical Society, Inc., and the National Genealogical Society.

Dues : \$15/person or \$20/family per year

Web site: www.rootsweb.com/~flgsnb

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NEXT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 20
6 p.m.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, May 4
6 – 8 pm

Speaker: Phil Wright
**Topic: “Last Naval Battle of
the American Revolution”**

Jacob Hannemann Memorial Room
Titusville Public Library
2121 South Hopkins Ave.