



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>

March 2, 2010

MARCH GUEST SPEAKER



Tonight's program will be "Family History Websites: Why, How and HTML" featuring Patrice Green. Patrice has more than ten years' experience as webmaster for various organizations. At the present time she is the webmaster for Brevard Genealogy Society and the

coordinator of Brevard Gen Web which is part of FLGenWeb and US GenWeb.

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 March 16th at 6 pm in the library's study room 2.

Dues: Dues for 2010 are now 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!

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy to the family of
William "Bill" Cary Ragsdale
who died January 3.
Bill was the GSNB Treasurer 1990-91.

Our sincere sympathy to the family of
Marjorie A. Starr
who died February 11.
Marjorie held a number of positions in GSNB.
She was the society's first secretary
and then served as vice-president and president.
She was also a member of the DAR.
For the past few years she has lived in New
Hampshire near her daughter.

MARCH 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 March 8. The program will be the showing of "Who Do You Think You Are?" which premieres on NBC March 5th. It will be shown on the library's big screen with popcorn served.

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 March 10 with Phil Wright speaking on Facebook for genealogy.

Isn't genealogy fun?
The answer to one problem, leads to two more!

Improved Wildcard Flexibility

Improved Wildcard flexibility has been one of our (Ancestry.com) most requested feature updates. So to begin 2010 on a happy note, we've updated our wildcard functionality. Previously, you had to use three characters and then either a * or a ?. We've made a few changes:

- Now you can put a wildcard first, such as **son* or *?atthew* to catch all of those crazy spellings and variations that our ancestors came up with.
- Either the first or last character must be a non-wildcard character. For example, *Han** and **son* are okay, but not **anso**
- Names must contain at least three non-wildcard characters. For example, *Ha*n* is okay, but not *Ha**. These changes apply to both simple search and advanced search, and both old and new search.

Do wildcards work with exact matches?

Wildcards do work with exact matches and they will give you a lot more flexibility in how you retrieve records. Note: they do not work with Soundex matches, just exact or ranked.

Exactly what is a wildcard?

We allow you to use two wildcards in your name searches: the * (asterisk or star) and the ? (question mark). The * matches zero or more characters. So if you type in *Ann**, this will match names such as *Ann*, *Anne*, *Anna*, or *Annabelle*. The ? matches one and only one character. So if you type in *Ann?*, this will match names such as *Anne* or *Anna* but not *Ann* or *Annabelle*. If you use *Ann?** you will match *Anne*, *Anna* or *Annabelle*, because you must match at least one character after the *nn*.

Some examples

So if you are having a problem finding a Smith, you might try *Sm?th*, as this will match both *Smyth* and *Smyth* or you might try *Sm?th?* so you can match *Smithe*, or *Smythe*.

Or if you searching in one of those sets of historical documents where all the *T*'s look like *J*'s or *S*'s, try using a ? or a * at the beginning of the name.

Remember, just because you know how the name is spelled, doesn't mean that's how your ancestor wrote it down, or the person who recorded the name wrote it down, or how the person who transcribed the document indexed it.

Posted by Anne Mitchell on Ancestry.com
January 4, 2010

DAR Genealogy Indexes - Free Online

The Daughters of the American Revolution, a 119-year-old lineage society for women descended from patriots of the American Revolution, has added its Genealogical Research System to its public website. The web address is www.dar.org.

The system, which is free to search, includes several genealogical databases:

- The **Genealogical Records Committee National Index** (also called the GRC Index) was already on the site, but if you've used it before, it has a different interface as part of the Research System. It indexes 20,000 volumes of transcribed gravestones, family Bibles and other records (and not just from the Revolution era) DAR members have collected.
- The **Ancestor Database** of ancestral data from applications of DAR members (who must prove their descent from a Patriot).
- A **Member** search, which lets you enter a deceased DAR member's name for limited information on her ancestors.

The **Descendants** index, still under construction, lets you search for names in generations between the DAR member and the Revolutionary War ancestor. It includes much 18th and 19th-century information.

Each database has a separate search. Try alternate spellings, as the search doesn't automatically find them. It does find partial names, though: If you search on Mary Smith, for example, you'd also get entries for Maryann Smith and Mary Smithson.

Depending on the database, you may be able to click to the resource's listing in the DAR's online library catalog, or to see basic information (name, birth and death dates, parents' and children's names) about an ancestor named in a DAR application.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of some DAR materials; search its online catalog to see if it has the title you need. Then you can rent it by visiting a branch Family History Center.

The DAR takes requests for photocopies by fax or postal mail (not e-mail).

Posted by Diane November 19, 2009

New "Who Do You Think You Are?" Television Series

Ancestry.com has partnered with NBC to produce a new family history-focused series that premieres Friday, March 5 at 8 pm.

The idea for "Who Do You Think You Are?" originated from a show that has been quite a success in the United Kingdom. Since the show aired in 2004, the UK has seen a surge of interest in family history. It is hoped that will be the same reaction when this show is aired in the US.

The series will lead seven celebrities on a heart-warming journey back in time as they discover more about the ancestors who came before them. Lisa Kudrow, who produced the show, will be featured along with Sarah Jessica Parker, Spike Lee, Matthew Broderick, Susan Sarandon, Emmitt Smith, and Brooke Shields.

With the celebrity appeal, the genuine emotion they experience and the family storytelling this weekly show should appeal to the masses and not just genealogists and family history experts.

This is a golden opportunity for the genealogy community to grow and strengthen their societies. Janet Alpert, the NGS President, says "Many people are interested in knowing more about their heritage but have no idea how to begin. 'Who Do You Think You Are?' will encourage people to move from interest to action and take advantage of the many resources available." As members of the genealogy community, we are uniquely positioned to be on the front lines of this potential growth.

Invite family and friends to tune into NBC Fridays at 8 pm beginning March 5. 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

April 6 Jim Ragusa
Family Tree Maker & Ancestry.com

May 4 TBD

June 1 TBD

July and August—summer break

News from the Nancy C. Sieck Memorial Genealogy Area

There are two new books on the shelves:
Indian River Country Vol. 1 and Vol. 2

Jim and Bonnie Garmon, BGS members, compiled these two books which include abstracts, transcriptions and other information from the *Titusville Florida Star* newspaper published from 1880-1914. One volume was donated and one was purchased by GSNB.

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.

PBS Genealogy Series Ends March 3

The fourth and final episode of "Faces of America", a genealogy documentary, airs on PBS Wednesday, March 3 from 8-9 pm.

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

2010 Officers and Committee Chairpersons

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 16
6 p.m.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 6
6 - 8 pm

Speaker: Jim Ragusa

Topic: Family Tree Maker & Ancestry.com

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