



Roots and Branches Genealogy Society of West Volusia County

C/O DeLand Public Library, 130 E. Howry Avenue, DeLand, Florida 32724

December, 2006/January, February 2007

Happenings Outside the Meetings

County Fair

For the second year the Volusia County Fair has added a Genealogy Exhibit with both youth and adult entrants. The supervisor of the Exhibit is our own Donna Hicks. The focus of the County adding this Exhibit is to inform the public about one of the top hobbies in the nation. Roots and Branches had volunteers to represent our Society on Saturday November 11 who

answered genealogy questions and handed out our brochures. We'd like to thank John and Carol Izzo, Bob Weaver, Arlene Liggett, Charles Baker, and Ruth Ann Fay for representing us.

Web Site

Have you seen our Root and Branches Genealogical Society of West Volusia County Website? Go to <http://www.rootsweb.com/~fl>

[rbgs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~fl) and see what a wonderful job Linda Williamson and John Woodard have done. It's something to be really proud of. We'll be adding information from time to time so check often—
Marti Kara

Cemeteries

Bill Morgan continues to work on surveying all of the cemeteries in Volusia County. *Cont'd on Page 4—Happenings*



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Special points of interest:

- *Bill Morgan's quest is to survey all of the cemeteries in Volusia County*
- *Big news for families affected by the Holocaust—the files will soon be available for research*
- *Marti Kara & Jerry Hale document a local cemetery*
- *Linda Williamson discovers a lot of cousins using DNA testing*

Volusia County Council of Genealogical Societies

The Volusia–Flagler Council of Genealogical Societies meeting on November 21 turned informal when Flagler and GSSVC were unable to make the meeting. An Annual Seminar break was proposed and met with agreement. This proposal would allow a regrouping so that all of the Societies can participate, taking the burden off a single Society. Other benefits are that the move back would provide time to resurrect interest in local seminars, seek new speakers and allow the County Societies to increase



VFCGS meeting Tuesday 21 Nov 2006

L-R Ed Ubbens Treasurer VCGS, John Parkerson, Editor HGS NL, Karen Keeting, President HGC, Marti Kara, President R&B, John Woodard, President VCGS, Jerry Hale, 1st VP R&B

membership numbers for better support of the annual event. Talk will continue at the February 20

meeting, when other Societies are present—*compiled from minutes provided by John Woodard*

What Is Roots & Branches?

History & Mission: Founded in 1986, the Roots & Branches Society of West Volusia County, serves the cities of DeLand, Deltona, DeBary, Enterprise, Osteen, Pierson, and Seville. The purpose of this Society is to stimulate and promote interest in genealogical and historical research; to provide instruction in the use of efficient mechanics and adherence to scientific principles of accuracy and thoroughness in research.

Society Projects & Lecture Subjects: Our meetings feature workshops and speakers on such topics as early land, church, census and probate records; research documentation and organization; DNA testing and internet search. Society projects include staffing the Genealogy Room at the DeLand Public Library, digitizing the Dauphne Brownell Collection for preservation, and sharing with the Historical Society, maintaining the vertical files and an indexed collection of obituaries from the Beacon and News-Journal, and continuing the collection of pertinent information on West Volusia cities and pioneer families of the area.

With 96 members from all over the United States, the Society is a diverse group of all ages. We meet the third Sunday of each month, September through June, in the Auditorium of the DeLand Public Library for a Program at 2:00 PM.

We Welcome to Our New Members: Laura Rains Jones, Geraldine A. Clark, Wilda Pat Hodge, and Barbara & Rivers Ford.

Officers and Committees

President: Marti Kara

1st Vice President: Jerry Hale

2nd Vice President: Mary Lois Kelley

Recording Secretary: Louise Caccamise

Treasurer: Robert Weaver

Corresponding Secretary: vacant

Past President: Rosemary Sutton

Programs: Jerry Hale, Chairman

Publicity: Jerry Hale, Chairman;

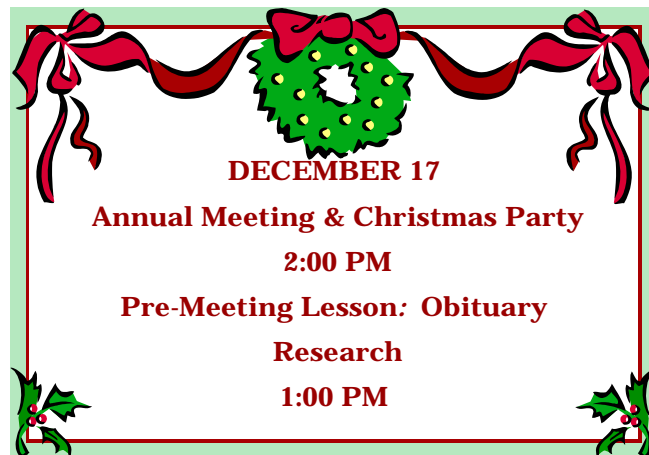
Linda Williamson, Assistant

Membership: Mary Lois Kelley, Chairman

Newsletter : Linda Williamson, Temporary Editor;

Mary Lois Kelley, Distribution

Website: Webmaster John Woodard; Linda Williamson, Design



Message from Marti

Dear Members,

In December we hold our Annual Business Meeting, report Accomplishments, and once again ask your input in the form of a Survey, so that our Programs reflect your interests.

Per our By-Laws, membership renewal is January 1, and fees are now due. It is important to have all fees collected, in order to establish an accurate budget for 2007, print an updated directory and plan programs. If you have not paid your fee, please send a check for \$15 per individual or family to our Treasurer, Bob Weaver, c/o Roots & Branches at the Library, 130 E. Howry Avenue.

After the business meeting, Rosemary Sutton is planning a festive social. Please call her at 738-9948 if you have a favorite goody you'd like to share. We hope to use this time to renew our friendships, find our cousins we don't know and share our stories, both successes and brick walls.

May the Spirit of this Season touch all of us as we share in refreshments and family stories, and enable us to start the New Year filled with new possibilities.

Marti

*If you need help in spelling Genealogy remember
"Genealogists Evidently Needing Endless Ancestors
Look Obsessively in Grave Yards"*

Cemetery Project- Another Found

On Thursday Marti Kara and I traveled to New Smyrna Beach to the quarterly VFCS meeting. On the way home Marti wanted to try to locate a couple of "lost" cemeteries.

We were unsuccessful in finding the first location, off of Turnbull Bay Road. The site we visited was completely overgrown. Without a GPS it would be impossible to be sure just where that cemetery is located. My trousers were covered with three different kinds of "stickers" when we got back to the car. Rumors have it that it is an old Indian burial site. We'll have to try again later.

Our next attempt was more successful. We continued down Turnbull Bay Rd to Rendy Road. Marti had done her homework and we found the address. We knocked on a neighbor's door and a friendly lady made a couple of phone calls then told us that we had gone a little too far. The cemetery was behind another neighbor's horse barn. We returned to the first house and

knocked on the door. Mrs. Lorella Friend came to the door. She was enthusiastic about the cemetery in her back lot and was happy to lead us "out behind the barn" and through the thick overgrowth to the single headstone that remained.

The headstone was for Lena Fisher, daughter of F.D. and Winnie Fisher, born 1882, died 1889. We are calling this the "Fisher Cemetery" for lack of a better name.

Marti had her camera and we took several photos of the moss covered headstone. Lorella pointed out some interesting iron loops and some rusty piping which was probably a nice fence at one time.

After we got home Marti did some research on the Volusia County GenWeb site and located a marriage between Frederick B. Fisher and Winnie F. Wickwire on Jan. 6,

1872. The Fisher and Wickwire families are also found in the 1860, 1870 and 1880 census.

This find brings to light another lost cemetery. There are many more to be located and preserved as part of Volusia County's history. Marti is to be commended for her perseverance, her "bulldog" mentality will not allow her to put this project down until it is properly completed. Way to go Marti!—
Jerry Hale See Map Page 4



Headstone of Lena Fisher, 1882-1889

Research Tips From Jerry

Ancestry.com Free for Three Days — Access to Census Records & Images, Historic Newspapers, Birth Death & Marriage Records, Ships Passenger Lists, Family & County History Books, Old Yearbooks, City Directories, and more!

HQ Updated with 1880 CENSUS Every name Index—Today 11/22/06 for the first time, I have noticed that, without fanfare the Heritage Online Census site has been updated with an every name index to the 1880 Census. As everyone should be aware, we have access to

the HQ Census through the Volusia County Public Library web site at <http://www.vcpl.lib.fl.us/>. If you have any trouble using HQ from home please contact me for assistance. (RandiOSailor@juno.com)

Cont'd on page 5—Tips

The Very Articulate Willard's Made For a Great Meeting

The November meeting of Roots & Branches featured two very talented and experienced speakers. Jim and Terry Willard, now of The Villages in Lake County and past presenters of a series of genealogy programs on PBS TV and a long running series of articles in Ancestry Magazine, gave a very entertaining and informative presentation. The Willard's have a

long list of topics. We chose Franco-American and French-Canadian Genealogy. Terry has long been a French teacher and is fluent in the language. Jim speaks French and both have had a lot of experience in researching their French-Canadian heritage. Jim was the primary speaker, animated and funny, he made the material very interesting and easy to understand. The hand

outs amounted to 18 pages and contained examples of various publications and how to interpret them which will be very valuable to anyone needing to research in this area. If you missed the meeting you can review the Ancestry articles which I have collected into one notebook that is in the Gen Room on the top shelf above the Brownell Collection.—*Jerry Hale*



**DeLand Memorial Gardens
View of the beautiful cemetery on E. Beresford Road.**

Marti Kara and myself have been helping with the job whenever possible. I usually spend about 2 hours and typically record the inscriptions on 100-200 headstones. On a beautiful day there are few things more relaxing than the quiet of a cemetery and the result of our effort is being placed on the Volusia County Gen-Web site for all to access free of charge. If you would like to help, contact Bill at: ke4ho@hughes.net—Jerry Hale

"On a beautiful day there are few things more rewarding than the quiet of a cemetery..."

Agreement is Reached to Unseal the Holocaust Archives—But Must Be Ratified

This article is excerpted from the Daytona Beach New-Journal November 19, 2006 issue.

Millions of documents are being held by the International Tracing Service, or ITS, an arm of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

This vast archive - 16 miles of files in six nondescript buildings in a German spa town - contains the fullest records of Nazi persecutions in existence. But because of concerns about the victims' privacy, the ITS has kept the files closed to the public for half a century, doling out information in minimal amounts to survivors or their descendants on a strict need-to-know basis.

This policy, which has generated much ill-feeling among Holocaust survivors and researchers, is about to change.

In May, after years of pressure from the United States and survivors' groups, the 11 countries overseeing the archive agreed to unseal the files for scholars as well as victims and their families. It may take a year or more for the files to open fully. When the archive is finally available,

researchers will have their first chance to see a unique collection of documents on concentration camps, slave labor camps and displaced persons.

Over the years, the International Tracing Service has answered 11 million requests to locate family members or provide certificates supporting pension claims or reparations. It says it has a 56 percent rate of success in tracing the requested name.

But the workload has been overwhelming. Two years ago it had a backlog of nearly half a million unanswered queries. Director Blondel says the number was whittled down to 155,000 this summer and will disappear by the spring of 2008. New queries have slowed to just 700 a month.

Compounding the delay in releasing the files is the cumbersome makeup of the governing committee. Any decision on their future requires the assent of all 11 mem-

ber nations - Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland and the United States.

Last May's agreement to open the archive stipulates that it will remain off-limits until formal ratification by the 11 governments. After that, each of the 11 countries can have a digital copy of the files and decide who has access to it.

But some delegations are worried the process will take too long, at a time when aged survivors are dying every day.

"What victims of these crimes fear the most is that when they disappear and it's happening very fast now - no one will remember the names of the families they lost," said Shapiro of the Washington museum, who was a delegate to the talks.

"It's not a diplomatic timetable, and not an archivist's timetable, but

Cont'd on page 6 Holocaust

Sleuthing with DNA

My brick wall has just crumbled, and I owe it all to Megan Smolenyak and her great lecture last March on “DNA and Genealogy.”

After her lecture, I found a Williamson DNA Surname Project on the web, ordered a kit, and my husband obliged me by swabbing his mouth.

When we received the results, a couple of months later, I was disappointed that he had no matches, but I had the feeling that it might one day lead to something.

I noticed that my husband's ancestor Samuel David Williamson, living in Alabama in the 1700's, was born in York, South Carolina. I also noticed a repetition of the same given names, including several Samuel David's in the “York” Williamson family. I thought there was a connection, but couldn't find concrete evidence to support my theory.

Online I found a cemetery on the grounds of a Presbyterian Church

established in the 1700's near York, and by chance saw the mention of a Williamson buried there. It was near where my sister lived, and she was due a visit!

In June, my daughter, Cara, and I paid our South Carolina relatives a visit and spent one late rainy afternoon looking at gravestones in Brattonville*, a historic area outside York. I thought we might have trouble finding the Williamson grave, but to my amazement, there were many, many Williamsons graves, over fifty—and we got pictures of every one.

Through the church, I was able to make contact with the “York” Williamsons. They were so supportive. One sent me her entire FTM file, and introduced me to two Williamson cousins (through e-mail) that had done a lot of family research—one had even written an interesting book called “A Williamson Saga”.

They were unaware of the Alabama relatives but they reasoned through the birth dates and decided Samuel David's father was probably John, the eldest son of James Williamson (the first of these Wil-

liamson to migrate to York).

When I finally got the nerve to ask if they had ever had a DNA test, they didn't hesitate to offer their DNA. Since Y-DNA tests the male line, only one cousin qualified, and he obliged me with a swab.

I've just learned that there is a 99% likelihood that he and my husband share a common ancestor in a genealogical time frame. Bingo!!

I haven't solved the whole puzzle, but now at least I know I'm researching in the right direction, and we have a whole lot of “new” cousins.

**Today the Battle of Williamson's Plantation (the location of James Williamson's home in 1780) is preserved within Historic Brattonville, a living history museum interpreting life in the Carolina Backcountry from the mid-1700's to the mid 1800's. The Battle was a turning point in the Revolutionary War. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.—Linda*

Upcoming Programs

December 17– 1:00 Lesson: “Finding and Using Obituaries”—Jerry Hale (Last one, due to lack of volunteers.)

2:00 PM The Annual Business Meeting & Christmas Social—Rosemary Sutton, Chairman.

January 21—Workshop and group discussion of research with the object of lending assistance in various areas.

February 18—“Generating Reports in Family Tree Maker” by Del Leonard.

Jerry's Tips *cont'd from Page 3*

A Great New Reference

Source—Follow this link to RnB website, look over the book list and send a list of books you own to John Woodard for inclusion in the list. This is a great addendum to the libraries of the area and may be

just the source you are looking for. The people who have submitted to the list will do lookups and/or loan the resource to other club members.

Follow this Link to the List of Genealogy Books privately owned by

Genealogy Society Members:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flvcgs/lul1.htm> .—Jerry Hale

Check out “Books I Own”



Historic Brattonville



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We're on the Web!

www.rootsweb.com/~flrbg

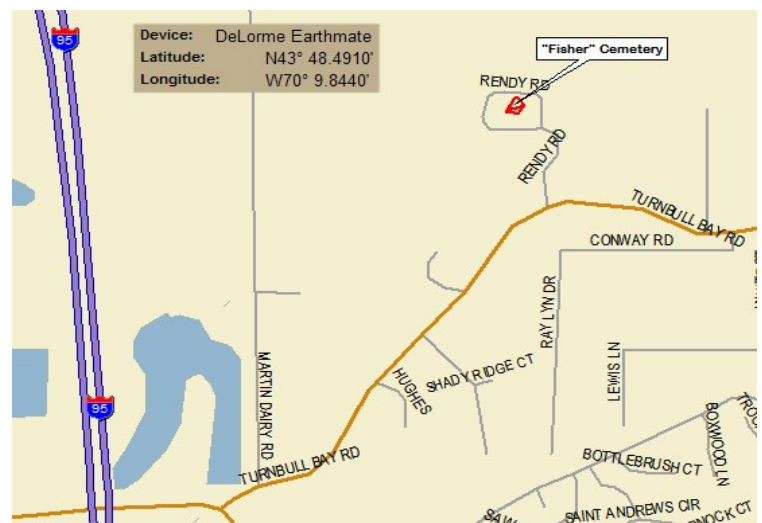
"Dig up your Roots and
 discover your Branches."

Mailing Address Line 1
 Mailing Address Line 2
 Mailing Address Line 3
 Mailing Address Line 4
 Mailing Address Line 5

Holocaust *cont'd from Page 4*

the actuarial table. If we don't succeed in having this material public while there are still survivors, then we failed," he said.—*For the complete article see the 11/19/2006 Daytona Beach News-Journal, on the Net:International Tracing Service: <http://www.its-arolsen.org>, U.S. Holocaust Museum: <http://www.ushmm.org>, Yad Vashem: <http://www.yadvashem.org> © 2006 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. AP correspondents Melissa Eddy in Buchenwald, Randy Herschaft in Washington D.C., and Monika Scislowska in Warsaw contributed to this report.*

"Old Genealogists never die, they just lose their census."



Fisher Cemetery—From Page 2—Cemetery Project