

Spring 2010

Roots & Branches Genealogy Society West Volusia County

130 E. Howry Avenue, DeLand, Florida 32724

April, May, June 2010

Happy Spring!



DICKINSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUILDING

DeLand Daily News, December 17, 1919—

The new Memorial Library at Orange City has been completed and will be dedicated tonight with appropriate ceremonies. A very interesting program has been prepared and the people of DeLand and vicinity are invited to be present and to inspect the building.

The large building site adjoins the public park. The beautiful memorial was erected by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dickinson of Orange City, in loving memory of Mr. Dickinson's sister Miss Melissa Dickinson, now deceased who was an honored resident of Orange City.

The memorial faces the public park on the south and is a very attractive design in the mission style of architecture. The exterior walls are constructed with Dennison interlocking tile and finished with cement strucco (sic), the roof is covered with Ludowici-Celladon tile of the Imperial Spanish pattern. The interior was carefully planned to meet the educational and social requirements of the community.

The building contains an auditorium with seating capacity of 300 people. The wood work is finished in white. Many beautiful and interesting paintings adorn the walls of the auditorium and library. The library consists of large room for quiet study, room for reading and research and stock room, the Civic Club rooms provide large reception room, dining hall, kitchen and pantry.

The firm of J. H. Bates & Sons were the builders, this firm consisted of J. H. Bates, Wm. Keown, Conrad O'Neill and E. S. Corson, as all the members of this firm were mechanics the greater part of the work was done by the members of the firm. The plumbing was installed by Mr. E. F. Culp of Orange City, and the electrical work was done by J. A. Seydel, Jr. The heating and ventilating equipment was furnished by the Hess Heating and Ventilating company of Chicago and installed by Messrs. Thursby (sic) and Munson of Orange City.

The building was designed and erected under the supervision of Francis M. Miller, architect.—*Contributed by Jerry Hale from the Brownell Collection*

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Special points of in- terest:

- *Jerry Hale reports on the future of genealogy, and it is here.*
- *A funny story from 1826 and a letter from 1828, contributed by our members.*
- *A 1919 obituary of a prominent citizen of DeLand, James J. Vinzant.*

Roots and Branches Genealogical Society of West Volusia County

Roots & Branches Genealogical Society
Deland Public Library
130 East Howry Avenue
DeLand, Florida 32724

Genealogy Room:
(386) 822-6430 x117.

Website:

rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flrbbs/index.htm

Library Website:

<http://volusialibrary.org/branchinfo.htm1#DLN>

R & B e-mail:

Roots.branches.volusia@gmail.com

Do you have any suggestions or comments about this issue of the newsletter? Do you have any ideas for future articles? Do you wish to share your thoughts about any topics concerning history and/or genealogy? Would you like

to post a query in the newsletter and network with fellow researchers? Send correspondence to the above address.

The newsletter is published quarterly: January, April, July, and October.

Editorial Policy: Submissions by members are encouraged and will be used as space permits. Editor reserves the right to edit articles, files or queries prior to publication.

Neither the Roots & Branches Genealogical Society nor the Editor assumes any responsibility for errors on the part of the contributor.

Material contained in this publication may be quoted if credit is given for the source.

Editor's e-mail: swilliamson1@cfl.rr.com

2010-2011 Officers

President: Rosemary Sutton

1st Vice President & Program Chairman: Howard Fisher

2nd Vice President & Membership Chairman: Mary Lois Kelley

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Treasurer: Harriet Bolin

Corresponding Secretary: Jerry Hale

Publicity Chairman: Carol Izzo

Newsletter Distribution: Mary Lois Kelley

Newsletter Editor: Linda Williamson

Webmaster: Jerry Hale

Vertical File: Carmela Bergen

Society News

Society Dues

Membership Fees are due and payable. Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. The cost is \$15.00 for an Individual or Family. Dues can be mailed to the above address at the DeLand Library.

A Big Thanks to Jerry Hale

Jerry Hale, our corresponding secretary and internet webmaster, who for years has devoted Thursdays to helping researchers in the genealogy room has been busy for the last few months at the offices of the Beacon scanning old publications for the Beacon Archives. For his efforts the Beacon gave us a free ad! Yea, Jerry!

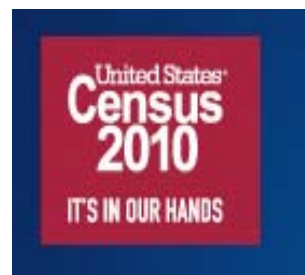
Have you mailed Your Census Form?

Is the Address on Your Census Form Not What You Expected? From the blog of the Director of the Census, Robert M. Groves:

"The 2010 Census mail-out is the largest single delivery ever undertaken by the United States – over 120 million forms were mailed this week. (March 17, 2010) To streamline delivery in a mailing this large, addresses in a particular ZIP code sometimes were all labeled using a

single city name that is valid for the ZIP code, even though some people in that area usually receive mail addressed to a different city name. The Postal Service does not have a problem with this because for many addresses there are multiple city names that are perfectly acceptable for accurate delivery. If you got a form at your address, you're fine. Fill it out, mail it back, just as it is. (Please don't cross out the bar code or the address). We will place your return with the right area. If you got the form, we have coded your house to the right geography. "

You can see how Volusia county is responding and check the Director's blog out at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>.



Roots & Branches Genealogical Society
of West Volusia County
March 21st at 2 p.m.
"Finding Your Elusive Civil War Ancestors"
presentation by
Cherie Brumfield of the Halifax Genealogical Society
1 p.m. general lesson presented by local member Jerry Hale
"Introduction to Ancestry.com"
Volusia County Library
130 E. Howry Ave. • DeLand • Free & Open to All!

Did you see our new free ad in the Beacon?

Treasurer's Report—*Harriet Bolin*

December Meeting Report:

Balance as of December Meeting (09/18/09) \$4255.75
Receipts: Dues from R. Weaver, D. Weichman,
J. Kersh : 45.00
No Expenses Submitted:
Balance on Hand as of 01/15/10 \$4300.75

January Meeting Report

Balance as of January Meeting (01/15/10) \$4300.75
Receipts:
Proceeds from December 50/50 15.00
Proceeds from January 50/50 21.00
Dues from: J. Allread, J. Nichols, D. Goshorn, R. & J. Simpson, C. & J. Baker, A. Liggett, H. Bolin, C. Kaprocki, I. McGrew, J. Herman, C. Dowling, R. Fay, C & B. Ferrara, C. & J. Workoff, L. Hardin, J. McDonough, P. Harrington, R. & M. Taunton, K. Szczesniak, B. & M. Marcolese, R. & E. Heller, K. Jenkins, P. Hodge, D. Grantham, H&J. Osterhouse, C. Cho, all 2010; J. Drennen for 2009 (27 memberships/7 spouses = 34 total persons) 405.00
Sub-total: \$ 4741.75
Expenses
January Speaker's Fee (H. Fisher) 30.00
Printing Winter 2010 Newsletter (G. Hale) 28.00
Printing Membership Book (Quality Quick Print) 135.68
Balance on Hand as of 2/19/10 \$ 4548.07

The President's Agenda—*Rosemary Sutton*

March, 2010

Dear Members,

Spring is here – maybe!

When Roots & Branches was formed, there was a great need for information. Books were the main source for thirst. Speakers were willing to share their expertise for little remuneration. Like some other societies in the country, due to technology, the question is sometimes asked “Has the society outlived its usefulness?” A better question is “Are there enough individuals willing to do the work to keep the society functioning?” Are there?! Please let us know your thoughts and suggestions.

“The Friends of the Library” have always been very generous in providing for our needs, and is why we are able to keep our dues lower than most groups.

Kudos to the following:

Mary Lois Kelley for the new directory;
Carmela Bergen for Vertical Files inventory;
Linda Williamson for time and patience in publishing the newsletter;

The Board for their help and suggestions.

Vertical file material & Five generations charts

Please put the above material in the prepared folder on top of the vertical file cabinet.

Watch for upcoming contest!!

Rosemary Sutton

President

Calendar—*Howard Fisher*

Sunday, March 21, 2:00 PM: "Finding Your Elusive Civil War Ancestors" by Cherie Brumfield. The pre-meeting lesson, 1:00 PM: "An Introduction to Ancestry.com" by Jerry Hale.

Sunday, April 18, 2:00 PM: "Understanding the 2010 Census" by MarLa Levy, Community Development Coordinator, City of Deland.

Sunday, May 16, 2:00 PM: "Cinderic Documentaries" by Eric Dusenbery.

Sunday, June 20, 2:00 PM : "Sharing and Solving our Dead Ends", a Roots and Branches member workshop moderated by Howard Fisher.

Abbreviated Society Minutes—Carmela Bergen, Recording Secretary

February 21, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Rosemary Sutton at 2:05 p.m. The minutes of January's meeting were read and approved.

Harriet Bolin now states we have a balance on hand of \$4548.07 in our treasury.

We had one new visitor with us, Carolyn Jones.

Membership chairman Mary Lois reported we have a total of 53 paid

memberships with 76 members as of February.

Carol Izzo subbed for Vice President Howard Fisher in his absence. Carol introduced Mr. Bill Dreggors from the Volusia County Historical Society. She gave a short intro on all of Mr.

Dreggor's accomplishments. His program consisted of a description of his first book *Reflections*, his second book, *Volusia, The West Side*, and his last collabora-

tion of a pictorial history of *100 Years of Volusia County*.

Mr. Dreggors kindly answered questions from the audience at the end of his program. Also, Cherie Brumfield will be on board next month as she helps us find our Civil War ancestors.

After the 50/50 drawing, a motion was made to adjourn at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmela Bergen

Recording Secretary

From The Brownell Collection—Contributed by Jerry Hale

Wednesday, December 10, 1919, DeLand Daily News—

JAMES J. VINZANT DEAD FORMERLY COUNTY TREASURER FUNERAL SET FOR THURSDAY

James J. Vinzant, 83 years of age passed away at 4 o'clock this morning. funeral services will be held at 3:30 on Thursday from the family residence on South Boulevard. Mr. Vinzant was a Mason and the funeral will be under direction of St. Johns Lodge, F. & A.M.

His many friends will be pleased to learn that Mr. Vinzant did not suffer during his last hours, but just slept life away.

With him at the time of his death was his widow, his sons, John T. and James H. Vinzant of Jacksonville, and his daughters, Mrs. J. A. McClellan of Beresford; Mrs. Joseph H. Davis of DeLand; Mrs. Nan Holmes of Trenton, Alachue county, and Miss Addie Vinzant of DeLand.

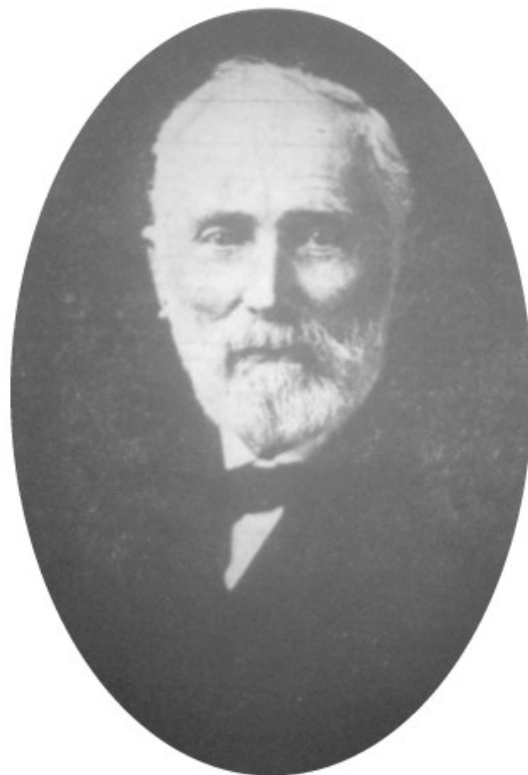
Mr. Vinzant was a native of Georgia, coming to Florida in his

infancy and first settling in the western part of the State. He moved to Volusia county one year before the war, settling on a homestead near Beresford. He enlisted in Captain Starke's company and served with the Confederate army four years. He was among the few living Confederate veterans in this section.

Mr. Vinzant was selected county treasurer many years ago serving the county faithfully to this office for twenty-two years and until the office was abolished.

He was a man of gentle manner and probably did not have an enemy in the entire world.

Mr. Vinzant was an interesting talker of early days in Volusia county. Coming here before railroads were established all produce was brought by boat up the St. Johns, or by schooner to New Smyrna. There were no schools here at that time, and only traveling ministers. The only justice of the peace in this section was at Beresford and at Enterprise, which latter was the county seat. Game was plentiful, but other



James J. Vinzant

1826—1919

provisions were scarce. It was a delight to hear him and Mr. John L. Chandler talk of old times and their vicissitudes.—

Contributed by Jerry Hale from the Brownell Collection

Mrs. White's Frightful

Experience with a Rattlesnake

Hawley (Pa.) Letter: Mrs. John White, living a few miles from this village, has a mounted rattlesnake skin four feet and a ball long, with an imperfect set of rattles in the tail, which she is proud to show to visitors, while relating how the snake when alive chased her, although involuntarily, for nearly half a mile, and kept up the chase even after it was dead.

Mrs. White was standing by the roadside one warm day when she heard a rattlesnake sorted its "bells" immediately behind her, and at the same time felt a tug at the skirt of her dress. She looked around quickly and saw that a big rattlesnake had struck at her and that its fangs were fast in the bottom of her dress. Mrs. White started on a run for home. The snake's fangs were so securely fastened in the dress that the snake was carried along. Mrs. White ran so fast that the rattlesnake was whipped and snapped about like the tail of a kite.

The house was almost half a mile away, and when Mrs. White re-searched her door she was so much overcome by the run and her fright that she fainted on the doorstep. Her daughter ran out. When she saw the snake, with its fangs fast in her mother's dress, and her mother lying pale on the step, she supposed the snake had bitten her mother and killed her, and the girl ran screaming to a neighbor's, half a mile further on, where she alarmed the household with the news that her mother had been killed by a rattlesnake. A man ran back to White's. Mrs. White had revived sufficiently to drag herself

into the house. The snake was dead, and was still fast in the dress. The thrashing on the stones and against the ground had beaten the life out of it broken off the lower part of its rattles. Seven were left, from the size and gradation of which it was calculated that the perfect set contained at least thirteen. The snake was skinned and mounted, and has ever since been an object of great curiosity in the community. The shock to Mrs. White prostrated her for several days.—*Submitted by Carmen Bergman from the Chicago Daily Tribune (1872-1963); Oct 26, 1886; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1986)*

An Old Letter Gives Insight into the Past

Mr. James Crawford, Esq.
Iredell County, North Carolina
North Carolina

By the politeness of Dock Smith
November 9th 1828

Dear Brother

I for the first time take up my pen to inform you of my state of health and my reason for not writing to you previous to this time. Me and my family are all well at present (sic) and hope that these few lines may (find) you and your Family in the same state of health. My reason for not writing to you before this time was owing to difficulties that I had to encounter with I not getting to this country until sometime in March towards the last, than (then) having to rent, as Alphonso (Newton A. Ewing, her son) was in Kentucky at the time that we landed so that I got nothing put in the ground until (sic) April. Having to pay a extravagant

rent than (then) there being such a bad season that I was much discouraged and wished myself back to Carolina but since I made a purchase of land I have become more reconciled to this Country though absent in body yet pleasant (sic) in mind. They all seem to be well satisfied with the Country. We have enjoyed good health since we have been in this Country except Alphonso who had a severe attack of the fever which lasted eight or nine weeks. He though lived twenty miles from me at that time and got a good practice until he took sick. He came home so soon as he was able to be brought home. Had he been blessed with good health he says that he would of made 4 or 5 hundred dollars in about 4 months. The neighbourhood (sic) that I now live in has been remarkable healthy and the place or neighbourhood (sic) that I purchased land in is as much so. I bought two hundred and twenty five acres of land of the first quality. There is 49 Acres of cleared land that (is) fresh and under good fence. The buildings are much better than we left. There is also a mill on the place that grinds from 30 to 40 bushels per day eight months in the year. The balance of the time she is useless, unless in time of rains. There is a number of fruit trees upon the place 4 hundred peach trees 3 hundred Apple trees and some Cherry trees. The land lies in the southwest corner of Maddison (sic) County. The growth of the timber on my land is Hickory Poplar and White Oak, undergrowth pop-paws ((sic)hazel (hazelnut) and cain (sic), which answers for range for stock. The Land lies upon the south side of the south prong of forkadeer.

Please see *Past* page 8.



Lakeland Florida., Dec. 19, 1919

Editor DeLand News: I am sending you under separate cover a copy of an old flash light photograph taken of the original DeLand Board of Trade about twenty-five or thirty years ago.

The group embraces the officers and directors. Reading from left to right are: Frank Bond, Dr. Forbes, George Dreka, Will Allen, John Cannon, Professor Carson, Mike Davis, Silas Wright, Frank Alldis, Morris Munn and Charlie Miller.

All of these men were 100 per cent boosters for DeLand, and did their bit toward the early development of the town. Some have gone over, some moved away, and five are now living in DeLand. My hat is off to all of them.

Sincerely yours,
MORRIS G. MUNN

Mutt & Jeff Coming

DeLand Daily News, November 24, 1919—It is certainly good to be able to see Mutt and Jeff again and it gives infinite pleasure to record the fact that they are to be at the DeLand Opera House for next Monday. This time in a new piece which will present their laugh compelling gifts in undisturbed sway. The title of the new piece “Mutt and Jeff’s Dream” is described as a comedy with music, songs, pretty girls and novelties, acknowledged the best musical

The Future of Genealogy is Here—*Jerry Hale*

Instead of searching through old trunks, scrapbooks, court houses and internet data bases, how would you like to be able to take your laptop to the cemetery, connect to the headstone with a USB cable and download the life story of the person buried there? Some would, some would not— but that is just one of the features that seem to be coming to us.

John Stevenson of Gold Canyon, Pinal County AZ has one such device. Mr. Stevenson had a bench installed near his wife's headstone. While observing her stone he thought that the born-DASH-died information was not enough. He wanted people to be able to know what was in that DASH. He wanted them to know more about her accomplishments so they would not forget her.

He went to work and invented the "graveside memory capsule." The capsule is a bronze encapsulated memory stick which is installed into the bench. Anyone who connects to the memory stick could download to their computer, PDA, Blackberry or cell phone, all of the photos, videos, GEDCOM, document or spreadsheet files that the stick holds and the capacity of current memory sticks is getting VERY large indeed. Security measures could allow only select people to have access.

The cost for the Graveside Memory Capsule is around \$500*. Stevenson points out that its actual value to family members is priceless. "The Graveside Memory Capsule and its communication system provides a family with cohesion that is psychologically in keeping with human instinct yet rare in the modern world." he says.

"As families become increasingly scattered and estranged in today's society, gone are the days when family histories were faithfully recorded and passed down from generation to generation," Stevenson said. "The Graveside Memory Capsule helps families ensure that their histories will not be forgotten." (Genealogists rejoice!)

Even more interesting is a higher tech device. How would you like an audio/visual tribute? A Colorado company called Vidstone LLC (Sergio Aguirre, founder and chief executive) is marketing what he has named the Serenity Panel. It is a solar powered 7-inch LCD panel



which plays a 5 to 7 minute video tribute to the departed.

Sales of the Serenity Panel were slow at first but have been picking up since it won the Most Innovative Product Award at the annual International Cemetery and Funeral Association Conference in Las Vegas.

The tribute video, on an encrypted microchip, is powered by a lithium polymer battery that requires a daily minimum of four hours of sunlight to fully charge and will allow 7 to 10 viewings of the tribute in 60 minutes. What next?!

Vidstone uses photo-editing software from FuneralOne, a St. Clair, Mich., funeral consultancy, to turn family pictures into a video tribute. Result: a slide show with Ken Burns-style motion effects and occupation-

specific background themes, including ones for architects, hunters, engineers, and chess players. People are asked to provide 50 to 70 photos and FuneralOne uses them to create the tribute which is installed by Vidstone before delivery. Serenity Panel comes with a full one year product warranty and optional protection plans. It retails for \$1,999* with a 15 year warranty. With a five-year warranty and a vandalism protection policy, it costs \$2,392*. The LCD panel will last about 15 years in normal weather conditions. VIDSTONE Media Contact: Christina Aguirre VIDSTONE, LLC 848 Brickell Key Drive, #902 Miami, FL 33131 888-292-8603 Christina.Aguirre@vidstone.com,

<http://www.vidstone.com>

*The price varies.—*Jerry Hale*



130 E. Howry Avenue,
DeLand, Florida 32724

We're on the Web!

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flrbgs/index.htm>

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 and provide instruction in the use of efficient mechanics and adherence to scientific principles of accuracy and thoroughness in research.

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. A 45 minute beginners' lesson is offered at 1:00 PM prior to the meeting in the Conference Room behind the Audio/Visual desk. Guests are welcome. The Library hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

We're also on the Web @

<http://www.flgenhisonline.com/counties/flagvol/volusia/volusia.html>

Past

From page 5.

We can make more produce in this Country than you can. We had very bad season this year which makes produce very dear. Wheet (sic) is one dollar per bushel corn 2 dollars per barrel cotton discount 2 dollars cash 1.25 to 1.50 dollars and fifty cent. Me and my family wishes to be remembered to you and sister Easter and Sister Matilda and Family show this letter Matilda and Family nothing but remains your dear sister untill (sic) drices (sic) on the road.