



LINKS



The Monthly Newsletter of South Bay Genealogical Society



OCTOBER 2024

SBGS News & Information

Vol 30 No 7

Guest Speaker – October 15th



Karen Fortin

presents

Identifying Female Ancestors



The names and parentage of our female ancestors can sometimes be elusive in comparison to our male ancestors. This presentation will look at various types of records that might hold clues to female identities, some techniques for finding the answers, and a case study showing how one such mystery was solved.



Mail Your Reservation ASAP!

Reservations for the SBGS luncheon meetings need to be received **12 DAYS** prior to the luncheon.

October reservations must be in the SBGS post office box by **Thursday, Oct 3rd.**

Allow 3-4 days for mailing!

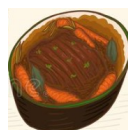


Introducing our Guest Speaker

Karen Fortin's love of history, especially family history, led her to an interest in genealogy. She began volunteering with the Pinellas Genealogy Society in Largo, FL in 2012, and was the society's president from 2014-2017.



Karen received a Bachelor's Degree in History and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida. She worked at the Barbara S. Ponce Public Library in Pinellas Park, FL for 30 years before deciding to focus on genealogical research. Karen began providing genealogy and history presentations in 2016 and has lectured at various genealogical societies and public libraries.



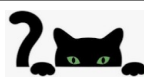
October Menu

Pot Roast
Mashed Potatoes & Veggie

OR
Vegetarian meal:
Baked Manicotti
w/ Marinara Sauce
& Veggie

Meals include Salad,
Coffee & Tea (hot/iced) & Dessert

Any questions, call Vicki:
(360) 608-1647



HALLOWEEN



The Origin of the Word "Witch"

The word "witch" comes from the Old English wicce, meaning "wise woman." The plural for wicce is wiccan. Wiccan were highly respected people at one time. According to popular belief, witches held one of their two main meetings, or sabbats, on Halloween night.



Owls and Halloween

Owls are associated with Halloween because, in Medieval Europe, owls were thought to be witches. To hear an owl's call meant someone was about to die.

Source: halloweenhistory.org



Next meeting ~ October 15 ~ United Methodist Church ~ SCC ~ Lunch noon ~ Program 1pm

2024-2025 Board of Directors South Bay Genealogical Society

President - Cathy Rebhun.....643-4649
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(area code 813 except noted)



Halloween Trivia



1. According to superstition, if you stare into a mirror at midnight on Halloween, what will you see?



2. From which region in the world do pumpkins originate?



3. Who wrote the novel Frankenstein?

4. Transylvania is a region in which country?

5. According to superstition, a person born on Halloween has what particular ability?



https://icebreakerideas.com/halloween-trivia/#Halloween_Fun_Facts

Answers on page 4

technology

Genealogy Tech Forum

will be meeting via Zoom



Monday – October 7th
10:30 to 12:00 noon



To join in, use this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82823676088?pwd=epyeBLMa7IaMpwkDO2P5AcNCbICs2a.1>

Meeting ID: 828 2367 6088

Passcode: 208101



Topic: Ancestry – Free Stuff & Pro Tools

Please log in a few minutes before start time.



PAY IN ADVANCE



Sign Up for Next Month's Luncheon

You may want to try our "Pay in Advance" plan so you won't miss the next luncheon meeting because you forgot to mail in your reservation. We hope this will help and you won't miss any meetings. So don't forget your check book!

When you arrive for the current month's luncheon meeting, you can pay for the next month's luncheon and select your meal. This will alleviate these problems:



- Forgetting to mail your check and reservation on time
- Being too late to mail your check and reservation
- Missing the luncheon because the deadline has passed
- Plus you'll save a stamp (now 68¢) and envelope

So bring your checkbook. You may want to give the "Pay in Advance" plan a try! We hope this will help so you won't miss out on any luncheon meetings.

Reminder: Checks for the current luncheon are not deposited upon receipt. Sometimes it may be a couple of weeks or more until they are deposited.

November 19th Luncheon Meeting

Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes

OR

Vegetarian: Stuffed Baked Potato



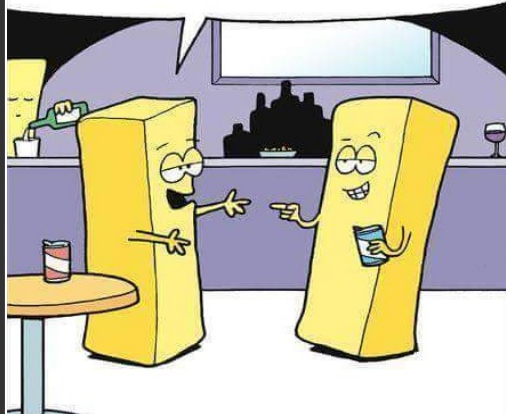
Guest Speaker and Program
Peggy Jude

**What's in a Name? Using Surnames
in Genealogical Research**



**G
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THERE HE IS! MY BUTTER
FROM ANOTHER UDDER!



ON THE BOOKSHELF

Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin *By Jill LePore*



Quite often, women in the past have left very little trace except through their fathers, husbands, or children unless they were educated and of an elite social status. Fortunately, there are some exceptions. One of these is Jane Franklin Mecom, the youngest sister of Benjamin Franklin. Much is known about Benjamin Franklin, who rose to great heights from his beginnings as the youngest son of a poor tradesman, but Jane faded into the background of history and has nearly been forgotten.



In **Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin**, author Jill Lepore seeks to change that. As the youngest daughter of a tradesman, Jane received only a limited amount of education. She married in 1727 at age fifteen, which was young even for that time. She had her first child at age seventeen, a child who died before his first birthday. Through the births, and sometimes deaths, of her many children, Jane kept a record in a small, blank book that she made herself and entitled her Book of Ages.

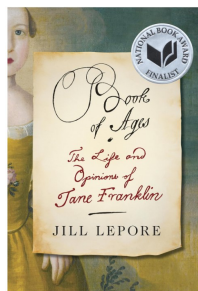


Despite her limited education, Jane appears to have had a great love of books and read everything that she could get her hands on. She also wanted to keep up with the latest news, both personal and public, and kept a running correspondence with friends and relatives, particularly her brother Benjamin. Throughout their lives, Benjamin and Jane experienced a very close and loving relationship. Although they were often apart, they stayed in touch by writing numerous letters to each other. These letters, long relegated to obscurity, provide a unique window into the life and thoughts of Jane Franklin Mecom and, through her, into the lives of ordinary American women before and after the Revolutionary War.



In many ways Jane is a typical woman of her time, often struggling with adversity and poverty, enduring the deaths of children and grandchildren, watching helplessly while several of her loved ones descended into madness, and showing a strength of character that allowed her to endure it all. However, Jane's letters also reveal a unique, highly intelligent woman who likely could have rivaled her illustrious brother if circumstances and societal norms regarding women been different.

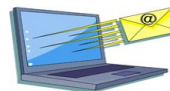
Benjamin Franklin's rags-to-riches story has often been used as an analogy for the rise of the United States. So too, Jane's story can now provide insight into the remarkable lives of the women who lived through and contributed to the birth of a nation.



Article courtesy of Karen Fortin

South Bay Genealogical Society
PO Box 5202
Sun City Center FL 33571

Whenever you change your address, phone or e-mail, don't forget to notify SBGS at:
southbaygs@gmail.com



Research Tip!



Cite your sources to keep track of what records you've already checked. Then assess how reliable the information is.

**Cite
your
Sources**

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES

Soon it will be time to renew your membership to SBGS. Your \$25 renewal is due by Dec 31st. It will be a lot easier for our Reservation and Membership Directors if you would mail a separate check, just for your dues, directly to Cathy Rebhun, or bring to the luncheon meeting. Her address is on the dues renewal form in this issue of the LINKS.

Genealogy Task



Organize your genealogy periodicals, including your electronic versions. Consider donating extra print copies to the SBGS Swap Table.

DID YOU KNOW



Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of their birthplace.



Come to the luncheon meeting a bit early and enjoy the

Round Table Discussion.

It convenes at 10:30am in the LEC auditorium at the United Methodist Church - SCC. Bring your questions and the “group” could help you find the answers.

If you have not attended this SBGS “EXTRA” give it a try and join the group.



IMMIGRATION



Q: My father came through Ellis Island on a cattle ship from Slovakia when he was 12 years old. How were such passengers recorded when they landed at Ellis Island? Or is there no record?



Without knowing the name of the ship, it would be impossible to tell whether your father actually came over on a “cattle ship,” or it just felt like the passengers were herded onto the ship like cattle. Some vessels were not originally designed to carry passengers, but cargo, such as iron, anvils, salt, coal, and even cattle. These ships’ masters installed temporary rough pine berths for passenger voyages, and dismantled them when it was necessary to carry cargo instead of humans.



Answer provided by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack
Family Tree Magazine Newsletter – 28 Aug 2021



NATIONAL ARCHIVES FREE EVENTS



Did you know that each year the National Archives hosts a free virtual genealogy fair? Watch video presentations from the nation’s record-keepers for no cost. Plus, you can download the slides and handouts as well.



Check out their Calendar of Events at:

<https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series>



TECH TOOLS Searchable Text on Maps



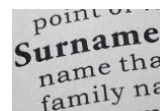
More than 57,000 maps in the David Rumsey Map Collection <www.davidrumsey.com> are now keyword-searchable, opening exciting possibilities for family historians. Run searches on place names and single words (such as saloon, barer or winery), or use Advanced Search form the drop-down to run queries of both map text and metadata. Learn more at:



<<https://machines-reading-aps.github.io/rumsey/>>.

Lisa Louise Cooke, Family Tree Magazine, Jan/Feb 2024

How to Refine Common Surname Searches on Google



Online searching becomes especially frustrating if you’re tracing ancestors with common surnames—monikers that double as other common words, such as colors (White), geographical formations (Hill) and buildings (Church). Fortunately, you can solve this problem using Google’s built-in search “operators”—special characters that force Google to customize the search your way. Follow these tips to use search operators to search for common-name ancestors.



Begin by typing the name of your ancestor in the box on the Google home page: This initial search will give you an idea of just how many results for the name are online—and how crafty you’ll need to be to find your family member.



Next, put quotation marks around the name: Using quotes forces Google to return only pages that contain the exact phrase. This technique has many advantages: In addition to finding an exact name, you can use quotes to nab words Google would normally exclude, such as the, on, where and how (called “stop words”).



(Conclusion on page 6)

HALLOWEEN



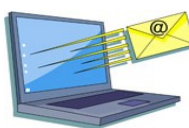
TRIVIA ANSWERS



1. Your future husband or wife
2. Central America
3. Mary Shelley
4. Romania
5. The ability to see and talk to spirits



HAPPY
HALLOWEEN



CONTACTS



SBGS: southbaygs@gmail.com

SBGS website: <https://southbaygenealogy.org/>

Roots Magic Help – Beth Clarke: beth7938@gmail.com

Luncheon Reservations – Vicki McDonnell: (360) 608-1647

Membership – Cathy Rebhun: cathy33596@yahoo.com

Programs/Newsletter – Dru Thomas: sbgsdruthomas@gmail.com

Amusing Celebrity Tombstone



THE SWAP TABLE



Don't forget to visit the Swap Table where members bring genealogy items such as books, magazines, and pamphlets, etc. to donate, share and swap. And it's all free!

NOTE: We have many Journals from North Carolina, Randolph County, published in the 1980's. They contain many records of early tax records, Family Bibles and family information on specific surnames. If you are looking for information in that area, you can likely find data that has not been digitalized. Let Michael Young (813-629-7728) know and arrange for a time to look at the collection.



FamilySearch.org Search Hints & Tips



Re-search Records Collections

If you're not satisfied with your results on FamilySearch.org, check back every so often and search again. FamilySearch.org is continually updating its existing collections (and adding new ones!), so your search results may change over time. Simply go to FamilySearch's list of collections then sort by date updated.

Andrew Koch, Family Tree
Magazine Newsletter, 15 Jul 2019



Records Found on Genealogy Websites

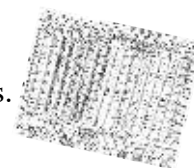


Here's an overview of which websites have the sources you'll most often consult in your genealogy search.

CENSUSES



Taken every 10 years since 1790, the federal census is probably the most useful source for tracing US ancestry. The records are widely available online: Ancestry, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage have all surviving census records from 1790 to 1950, the most recent year open to the public, with searchable every-name indexes linked to record images. Findmypast and Archives.com have 1790 through 1940. Some states also took censuses; Ancestry, FamilySearch and MyHeritage have particularly good state census collections.



BOOKS

Ancestry and FamilySearch have large collections of published family and county history books. These often mention early settlers and prominent citizens, and contain valuable information about the communities your ancestors lived in.



CITY DIRECTORIES

These annual or biannual listings of employed people and businesses usually provide a name, address and the employer's name and address. Ancestry and MyHeritage each have large collections; Fold3 (in its nonmilitary records) has smaller collections.



By Rick Crume, Family Tree Magazine Newsletter-23 Nov 2021

Stay tuned for the conclusion in the Nov LINKS



**YOU COME FROM DUST
YOU WILL RETURN TO DUST
THAT'S WHY I DON'T DUST
IT COULD BE SOMEONE I KNOW!**



YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN THE 21ST CENTURY.....

1. When you accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
2. When you haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. When you have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
4. When you e-mail your co-worker at the desk next to you.
5. When your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.

21ST CENTURY

Stay tuned for more 21st Century quips in the Nov LINKS



COUSIN CONNECTIONS ALL IN THE FAMILY



From 1650 to 1850, a given person was, on average, fourth cousins with their spouse, according to Yaniv Erlich's data. "Many people may have married their first cousin and many people married someone not at all related to them," says Erlich, a data scientist at Columbia University. But within a century, that had changed. By 1950, married couples were, on average, more like seventh cousins, according to Erlich.

One common sense explanation for this shift is that when transportation methods improved, bachelors and bachelorettes had access to potential partners they had once been denied by geography. This makes sense, given that before 1950, most people stayed in place and ended up marrying someone who lived within a six-mile radius of where they were born.

Other factors could be at play, however. Erlich says that, according to his data, many continued to marry their cousins even after the Industrial Revolution dramatically improved mobility. While proximity may be one key to romance, it seems consolidating money or power played an important part in family marriages, too. Erlich believes it was changing social norms—and the advent of this cousin marriage taboo—that finally pushed people to look beyond their village and their family. Other factors, including the increasing autonomy of women and shrinking family sizes (which left fewer cousins to marry) could also have been involved.



Whatever the underlying cause, by the end of the Civil War, many states moved to outlaw cousin marriages. Today, 24 states ban marriage between first cousins, while 20 states allow it. The others allow first cousins to couple up, but only under certain circumstances. ("Certain circumstances" include: only if both are over 50, or 55, or 65, depending on the state; only if one or both are permanently infertile; and only if the couple has received genetic counseling.) And, of course, even in states where it is legal, the practice is taboo.



Source: <https://www.popsci.com/marrying-cousins-genetics/>

Research Assistance Day SouthShore Regional Library



**Thursday - Sept 26th
11:00am - 2:00pm**



SBGS will have volunteers in the SSRL Genealogy Center to help you with your research. So if you are stuck, or don't know what to do next, come and see if we can help you find some answers. You will need a library card to access the databases. If you don't have one, bring proof of FL residence to apply for a library card.

Cemetery Tombstone Tip

TIP

If you're planning to clean a tombstone yourself, pack a cemetery repair bag including water for washing and rinsing, a paintbrush for sweeping debris off the stone's surface, and a toothbrush for cleaning dirt out of tiny crevices. Another useful item is a plastic scraper to help lift off lichen and moss. But never use any metal tools or wire brushes, as they can scratch and create tiny fissures that let water and dirt into the stone, causing more damage.



Joy Neighbors, *Family Tree Magazine* .Sep-Oct 2021

Surname Searches on Google



(continued from page 4)



To refine the search further, add the plus sign (+): This search operator works like the word and, forcing Google to fetch pages that include your original term and the words preceded by a + (anywhere on the page, not together).



Narrow results further by adding another keyword: A second location of residence works great. Keep narrowing your results to the most relevant one: Think of yet another key phrase unique to your ancestor, maybe by adding yet another place where your ancestor lived. Be sure to experiment with various search strings, as each will return unique results.

You also can narrow your searches to specific types of content using the bar on the left side of the page. By default, Google scours everything. Click the other options under the search bar to see results from books, images, videos or another category.



If your search results continue to generate irrelevant hits, use the minus sign (-) operator to exclude specific terms: This is an easy way to eliminate hits that don't relate to your ancestor. Suppose your query returns results for people with the same name, but who lived in a different state. Add the minus sign before the state to exclude pages referencing that word.

Nancy Hendrickson, *Family Tree Magazine Newsletter*, 4 Aug 2021



**IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE SEND A SEPARATE CHECK FOR DUES ONLY
DIRECTLY TO OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, CATHY REBHUN.**

(Make check payable to South Bay Genealogical Society)

**OR BRING IT TO THE LUNCHEON MEETING. THIS WILL MAKE IT
MUCH EASIER FOR OUR RESERVATION & MEMBERSHIP
DIRECTORS. THANK YOU!**

(A separate check for your luncheon meeting goes to our PO Box 5202-SCC)

===== CUT ✂ HERE =====

Reservation for OCTOBER 15, 2024, SBGS Luncheon at United Methodist Church - SCC

Lunch starts at 12 noon in the LEC auditorium followed by Speaker's Program at 1pm

Please reserve luncheon(s) for: _____

Meal choice: Pot Roast _____ Vegetarian meal: Manicotti _____

_____ A check for **\$18.00** per meal is enclosed. Please note lunch choice on your check memo space.

Mail this reservation slip, along with your check payable to South Bay Genealogical Society, to:

South Bay Genealogical Society - PO Box 5202 - Sun City Center FL 33571

Reservations must be RECEIVED in our PO Box by October 3- Late reservations cannot be accepted

===== CUT ✂ HERE =====

Please renew my Membership to South Bay Genealogical Society for 2025

Membership Renewal of **\$25.00 per household** is due December 31, 2024

When you renew, please bring your badge to the next meeting so it can be updated to show dues paid.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Make check payable to South Bay Genealogical Society and mail to Membership Director:

Cathy Rebhun – 5944 Watercolor Dr, Lithia, FL 33547

(Please note Membership on your check memo space)