



# LINKS



## *The Monthly Newsletter of South Bay Genealogical Society*

SEPTEMBER 2024

SBGS News & Information

Vol 30 No 6

### Guest Speaker ~ September 17



**April Min**

*presents*



### **In the Room Where it Happened: Discovering my 11th Great-Grandfather and how he helped launch Rembrandt's career**

In this presentation, April will introduce you to her 11th Great-Grandfather, a fur trader from Amsterdam who was the subject of one of Rembrandt's earliest works. This case study will explain the research process and genealogical evidence that led her to discovering her lineage and share captivating tales of this family's adventures as fur traders and seafarers in 17th century Holland and Russia.



**What's for Lunch?**

### **September Menu**

**Chicken Parmesan  
& Pasta and Veggie**

OR

**Vegetarian Meal:  
Egg Salad on lettuce  
Cottage Cheese & Peaches  
and Potato Salad**

*Meals include:*

Salad, Coffee & Tea  
(hot/iced) and Dessert

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



### **Introducing Our Guest Speaker**



April Min is a multidisciplinary researcher and professional genealogist. She currently owns and operates Heritage Discoveries, LLC, where she provides family history and forensic genealogy services. April is also a content writer for Ancestry, where she develops stories for the company's StoryScout® product.

April holds a master's degree in Applied Anthropology/Heritage Studies from the University of South Florida and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the West Virginia University College of Law. She is an alumnus of ProGen 54, and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the National Genealogical Society.



### **Mail Your Reservation Today!**



Reservations for the SBGS luncheon meetings need to be received 12 DAYS prior to the luncheon. September reservations must be received in the PO Box by



**Thursday ~ Sept 5**  
Allow 4-5 days for mailing



**WELCOME BACK!**

Hope you had a great summer and were able to check off some of the boxes in your genealogy research; or perhaps broke through some of those brick walls; and maybe unraveled some of those puzzles your ancestors left behind for you to resolve.

**SBGS WELCOMES YOU BACK!**

**THANK YOU**

**For Your Continued Support!**  
Without YOU there is no SBGS!

**Next meeting ~ Sept 17 ~ United Methodist Church ~ SCC ~ Lunch 12 noon ~ Program 1pm**

## ELECTION RESULTS

### At the May meeting these officers were elected to lead South Bay Genealogical Society in 2024-2025

President - Cathy Rebhun.....	643-4649
Vice Pres - Dru Thomas.....	634-9513
Secretary - Lynn Freeland .....	407-782-5086
Treasurer - Joan Weening.....	633-5274
Director - Beth Clarke.....	892-7938
Director - Mary Ann Davis.....	703-579-7776
Director - Marsha Doane.....	748-6864
Director - Glenda Hall.....	760-4219
Director - Judy Lee.....	614-440-9755
Director - Vicki McDonnell.....	360-608-1647
Director - Nancy Shrom .....	995-1165
Director - Linda Vitale.....	
Director - Michael Young.....	922-4270
Past President - Scott Niblick.....	757-613-3948

(area code 813 except noted)



### Common Genealogy Errors and How to Avoid Them

#### AGES THAT DON'T ADD UP

Do you have an ancestor who was born before her parents? How about a great-great-grandmother who gave birth at the age of 60 (or at the age of 6)? Incorrect dates can topple your hard-earned research and raise head-scratching questions. Specifically, watch out for these oddities:

Children born before their parents' birth; women giving birth before the age of 14 or after the age of 50; women married before the age of 13; individuals who married, bought property, appeared in census records, etc. after their death.



**Solution:** Create a timeline of your ancestor's life. Timelines can help keep your dates straight and prevent these common-sense errors from occurring. Make sure your timeline includes birth year, and note what age your ancestor would have been during life events you uncover in research. Also look for additional records that might shed light on the circumstances.

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## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- (1) **Everyone Check In!** Each month when you arrive at the luncheon meetings, please stop at the sign-in table in the church lobby and let Vicki and Cathy know you are attending the luncheon, even if you have the regular meal.
- (2) **All Members and Guests** will need to purchase a lunch to hear the speaker. Keep in mind that the \$18 fee pays not only for our meals and the service, but also covers the cost of the room itself and the sound system/technician, etc.
- (3) **Meal Options:** When selecting your meal for the luncheon meetings, there is a Regular meal and a Vegetarian meal. The kitchen staff at UMC regrets it can't make exceptions to the menu to satisfy special diet needs.
- (4) **To-Go Meals:** Please do not go to the kitchen staff or ask the volunteers for a meal to-go. Let Vicki know and she will coordinate all to-go meals. If you can't finish your meal, then you can ask the volunteer for a "doggy bag."
- (5) **For any one allergic to nuts**, the kitchen staff at UMC **will not** be using any nuts in salads, meals or desserts. So if you are allergic to them, you are safe to eat anything they prepare.
- (6) **Reservation Deadline!** We have a deadline we need to adhere to when it comes to luncheon reservations. This guideline has been provided to us by the church so we hope you understand our commitment to abide by it. Therefore, we need to stick to our timeframe and no reservations will be accepted after the deadline. Note: The deadline date is not the postmark date. The deadline date is when your reservation needs to be received in our Post Office Box. So allow 4-5 days for mailing. You will not be able to hand deliver your check after the deadline date.
- (7) **Finally Very Important!** Once the reservation count for lunches has been sent in, if you have paid for your lunch but do not attend, SBGS can not reimburse your money or transfer to the next month. We have to pay for the lunch even if you do not attend.



## Some Free Genealogy Resources

**Free**

### National Archives

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

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



### Family Search

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

FamilySearch offers free genealogy courses through their Learning Center. You can find everything from general research strategies, to DNA help, to how to research specific heritage groups. Also don't forget that the nation's largest family history conference, RootsTech, takes place each February, is virtual and in-person, and completely free.



### History Hub

<https://historyhub.history.gov/>

Do you have a burning genealogy question? HistoryHub is a great, free resource to crowdsource answers from National Archives staff, libraries, museums, other genealogists and more.



See conclusion on page 3





## ATTN: GERMAN RESEARCHERS

### Tips for Translating Your German Ancestor's Records



Don't be daunted by documents in German, or think that you can't research your German ancestors just because you don't know the language. The fact is, you don't have to be fluent to find those records, you just have to know the key words and phrases commonly used in the documents, along with a few handy translation tools.



#### Ignore the Ellis Island Myth



Many people believe that their German ancestors' names were changed at Ellis Island, but the name change at Ellis Island is, in reality, a myth. Expert German genealogist James Beidler states that there are two things that may be responsible for the many variations you'll find in your ancestor's records: one, German names were often mixed up by census takers and courthouse clerks, and two, standardized spelling wasn't a thing—on either side of the Atlantic—until well into the 20th century.



#### Understand Your German Ancestors' Geographic Names

Your German ancestor might share a surname with a city or place, but that doesn't necessarily mean that's where you'll find their records. Someone taking a geographic name is likely to have moved away from that city rather than living within it. So Phillip Marburger may be Phillip from Marburg, rather than Phillip in Marburg – which would distinguish him from other Phillips in his new environment.

Ancestor

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Names



### MEMBER'S CORNER

This column in our newsletter is for you – **OUR MEMBERS** – to voice your opinion, provide some genealogy tips, recommend a good book, critique the newsletter, or whatever you want to share. So please use it and share your thoughts & expertise! Send an email to the LINKS editor at: [sbgdruthomas@gmail.com](mailto:sbgdruthomas@gmail.com)



### Research Tip

Many subscription websites offer free trials, which allow you to try a service without having to purchase a plan. During holidays, some paid sites may also offer free access to some of their databases.



## CONTACTS



SBGS: [southbaygs@gmail.com](mailto:southbaygs@gmail.com)

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

Roots Magic Help – Beth Clarke: [beth7938@gmail.com](mailto:beth7938@gmail.com)

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

Membership – Cathy Rebhun: [cathy33596@yahoo.com](mailto:cathy33596@yahoo.com)

Programs/Newsletter – Dru Thomas: [sbgdruthomas@gmail.com](mailto:sbgdruthomas@gmail.com)

## Roundtable

Come to the luncheon meeting 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 some answers. If you have not attended this SBGS "EXTRA" give it a try and join the group.

### GENEALOGY FUNNIES

THE BAD NEWS, MR. PIGLET, IS THAT YOUR STUTTERING IS GENETIC... THE GOOD NEWS IS ALL THAT DNA TESTING HELPED US DETERMINE WHO YOUR FATHER IS...



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

### Free Genealogy Resources

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#### Family Tree Magazine



<https://familytreemagazine.com/websites/best-free-genealogy-websites/>

Last but not least, we maintain a list of our favorite free websites for genealogy research. Browse the list to find free resources you haven't tried yet and add them to your family history toolbox.



Rachel Christian, Media Editor,  
Genealogy Insider Newsletter from  
Family Tree Magazine 23 Dec 2021



Q: How did immigrants arriving by ship get to their final destinations?

A: How our ancestors went from hither to yon depended on the time period and the cost of available transportation. Some immigrants had little choice but to settle in the port city for a while to find work and save up cash before taking off for their final destinations. An ancestor who landed in New York City and ended up elsewhere could've used a combination of ways to get there, taking a carriage to a dock, boarding a boat that took him by river to another dock, then another carriage or even a train to his final destination. Depending on their means and how far they wanted to go, our ancestors traveled by foot or in carts, wagons, carriages or coaches along early national roads and paths. (Google *Early American Roads and Trails* for descriptions and maps.)



One of the most practical modes of transportation, especially for immigrants who arrived after 1800, was to hop on a boat and mosey on down (or up) a waterway. This is why most early settlements were along coastal areas and rivers. The Mississippi River, for example, connected Northern and Southern towns along its path. Tributaries, such as the Illinois, Chippewa, Saint Croix, Des Moines and Rock rivers, allowed travelers to get further inland. Add to that the Missouri River, which joins the Mississippi at St. Louis, and the Ohio River, which joins at Cairo, Ill., and our ancestors could travel just about anywhere. See *American Rivers and Waterways* (boating guides) for information on historical transportation.

Those who arrived in the mid-1800s or later, could travel by rail. By the 1860s, railroads had replaced canals and rivers as the primary means for moving people and cargo. And in 1869, the Union Pacific and Central Pacific united the transcontinental railroad at Promontory Point, Utah.

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



## Amusing Tombstone



## GRANDMA'S CURES



### For Fast Pain Relief

It's not for breakfast anymore! Mix 2 cups of Quaker Oats and 1 cup of water in a bowl and warm in the microwave for 1 minute, cool slightly, and apply the mixture to your hands for soothing relief from arthritis pain.



## Common Genealogy Errors and How to Avoid Them

(continued from page 2)



### DATA COPIED FROM FAMILY TREES

With millions of online family trees on sites like Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage, it's hard not to peek at someone else's family tree from time to time.



Fortunately, family research isn't like your high school algebra class—copying, for the most part, is allowed. Genealogists have collaborated since the first family trees were drawn, and cross-referencing research can save time while providing new leads and connecting you to potential relatives.



However, copying another user's tree without verifying it first is a recipe for genealogical disaster. The information the user found may apply to another person with a similar name, or the data may be incorrect altogether.

**Solution:** Check other users' sources before adding their data to your tree. Though copying is allowed, genealogy is like your high-school algebra class in another way: You have to show your work. And you should hold others to that standard as well. See how the information lines up with what you've found so far, and determine for yourself if the other user has come to the most accurate conclusion given their resources. This goes double for record hints on sites like Ancestry.com - not every hint the site suggests will apply to your ancestor.



Andrew Koch, Family Tree  
Magazine Newsletter, 10 Jan 2024



MAKE YOUR  
RESERVATION

## 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. Don't forget to bring 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!

*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.*



### October 15 Luncheon Meeting

Pot Roast & Mashed Potatoes OR  
Vegetarian Meal: Baked Manicotti

Guest Speaker Karen Fortin

presents

Identifying Female Ancestors



## PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS



### LOOKING AHEAD

Here are the Guest Speakers  
and Programs scheduled  
through the end of this year.



**October 15 – Karen Fortin**  
Identifying Female Relatives

**November 19 – Peggy Jude**  
What's in a Name? Using Surnames  
in Genealogical Research

**December 17 – Drew Smith**  
Collaborative Trees:  
Making Them Work for You



When you change your address,  
phone, or e-mail, please notify  
SBGS at:



**southbaygs@gmail.com**

## Tips for Translating Your German Ancestor's Records



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### Learn German Words for Dates & Other Key Genealogy Terms

Sometimes you'll find records in which the day of the month is missing or difficult to read but contains a day of the week that is legible. In those cases, you can use a perpetual calendar to track down the date and determine which day it may have fallen on. Learn the basic language of names and places, along with the key vocabulary terms you'll find in many of your German ancestors' church and civil records.



### Look for Recorded Clock Times in Records

Birth and baptismal records are the primary German records in which you might find references to clock times. Usually, they'll simply refer to the hour (Uhr), but might also refer to the periods of the day, such as morning or evening, or the quarter-hours. Something to keep in mind: they usually start counting toward the next hour right after the "old" hour is struck – so you'll see drei viertel vor vier am Nachmittag (three quarters til four in the afternoon, or 3:45).

Vanessa Wieland, Family Tree  
Magazine Newsletter, 6 Aug 2021



## technology



There is NO *Genealogy*  
*Tech Forum* in September.  
It will resume October 7th.  
See ya then!

## ON THE BOOKSHELF

### Family Trees: A History of Genealogy in America

by Francois Weil



Although this column is generally devoted to historical non-fiction books rather than genealogy books, this month's title combines both topics. In **Family Trees: A History of Genealogy in America**, author Francois Weil, a Professor of History and Chancellor of the Universities of Paris, looks at how the practice of, and interest in, genealogy has changed over time.

This book does not focus merely on how the mechanics of genealogical research has changed. Instead, it places genealogy in the larger context of social history and shows how it reflects the changes in American cultural ideas. Since the earliest days of the Colonial Period there has been a persistent interest in discovering and preserving family history that has waxed and waned depending on how Americans viewed the purposes of genealogy and its value to individuals and society at large.



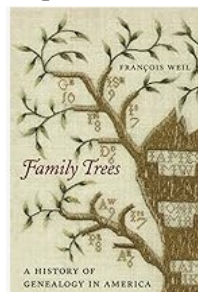
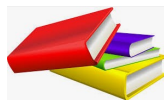
Family Trees takes a serious, sometimes uncomfortable, look at the various ways in which genealogy has been used at different times, and attempts to explain how these uses can give us insight into the past. Just as we each have our own reasons for pursuing genealogy, so did our ancestors. That reason may have been to preserve family or ethnic identity in a rapidly changing society of immigrants, who were losing their ties to the past, or it may have been part of an attempt to create a unique American identity. However, genealogy was also used by various people to advance themselves in society with false claims of aristocratic lineage, put forth monetary claims to estates that they did not actually have rights to, and to further ideas of racial superiority and the justification of eugenics.



Many family and local histories have been written in the last few hundred years, and nearly all of us have been the recipients of family stories about our ancestors. It is necessary for genealogists to look at all these sources through the critical lens of an historian and acknowledge that these are products of the time in which they were created, and it is important to have an understanding of what was happening in society at the time that could have influenced them. It is also important to recognize that what was recorded, what was omitted, and the manner in which it was recorded reflects the purposes, ideals, and biases of the individuals who created them, and that these may not be the same as our own.



The study of genealogy has come a long way since the beginnings of America. Today, we celebrate the diversity that makes us who we are as individuals, as families, and as a society. And we experience unprecedented access to resources through publications, the Internet, and even DNA. Consequently, genealogy has grown in popularity at an astonishing rate. How will modern practices, technologies, and ideas affect the future of genealogy? As Weil points out, "...family trees have always said more about the genealogists than about their ancestors."



Article courtesy of Karen Fortin

## The Swap Table



Members can bring genealogy items such as books, magazines, and pamphlets, etc. to donate, share and swap. And it's all free! A table is set up opposite the Round Table Discussion. So please feel free to take an item that interests you. Books are popular items so please consider returning a book to the Swap Table, only if you no longer want it. And don't forget to check out those NY & NGS Journals!



## DID YOU KNOW?

The novel **Tom Sawyer** by Mark Twain, was the first book ever written on a typewriter.



## Olive Tree Genealogy

<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com>

Olive Tree Genealogy is the website of genealogist Lorine McGinnis Schulze. It includes over 1,900 genealogy records in the categories of: "Passenger Lists, Immigration Tips, Canada, Military, Genealogy Guide, Loyalists, New Netherland, Native American, Palatine Genealogy, Photo Albums, Almshouse, Lunatic Records, Orphan Records, Huguenots, Mennonites, Quakers," and more. Aside from transcribed records, you will find tutorials and genealogy guides.



Gena Philibert-Ortega, Internet Genealogy Newsletter Research Tips & More! Vol 9 #9, 7 Apr 2022

===== CUT ✂ HERE =====

***Reservation for SEPT 17, 2024, SBGS Luncheon at United Methodist Church - SCC***

Lunch starts at 12 noon in the LEC auditorium followed by Speaker's Program at 1:00 pm

Please reserve luncheon(s) for: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal choice: Chicken Parmesan \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian meal: Egg Salad \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 the PO Box by Sept 5th – Late reservations cannot be accepted**