



LINKS



The Monthly Newsletter of South Bay Genealogical Society

SEPTEMBER 2025

SBGS News & Information

Vol 31 No 6

Guest Speaker ~ September 16th



Karen Fortin
presents

ANALYSIS

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.



WHAT'S FOR LUNCH

September Menu

Chicken Parmigiana

Penne w/ Marinara Sauce & Veggie

OR

Vegetarian Meal:

Egg Salad on lettuce

Cottage Cheese w/ Peaches and Potato Salad

Meals include:

Salad, Tea (hot/iced), rolls and Dessert

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

Introducing Our Guest Speaker

Karen'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 Fortin 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.



Mail Your Reservation Today!



Reservations for the SBGS luncheon meetings need to be received 9 DAYS prior to the luncheon.

September reservations must be received in the PO Box by

Sunday ~ Sept 7th



WELCOME BACK!


Hope you had a great summer and were able to check off some of your boxes in your genealogy research; 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!

Next meeting Sept 16 ~The Elk's Lodge, 1630 S US Hwy 41, Ruskin~Lunch 12 noon/Program 1pm



ELECTION RESULTS


At the May meeting these officers were elected to lead South Bay Genealogical Society in 2025-2026

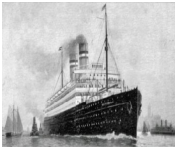
President - Cathy Rebhun.....	643-4649
Vice Pres - Dru Thomas.....	634-9513
Secretary - Lynn Freeland	407-782-5086
Treasurer - Glenda Hall.....	760-4219
Director - Beth Clarke.....	892-7938
Director - Mary Ann Davis.....	703-579-7776
Director – Marsha Doane.....	748-6864
Director - Judy Lee.....	614-440-9755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

(area code 813 except noted)



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Everyone Check In!** Each month when you arrive at the luncheon meetings, please let Vicki and Cathy know you are attending the luncheon, even if you are having the regular meal.
- 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 venue and facilities, etc.
- Meal options:** When selecting your meal for the luncheon meetings, there is a Regular meal and a Vegetarian meal. The kitchen staff regrets it can not make exceptions to the menu to satisfy special diet needs.
- For any one allergic to nuts,** the kitchen staff **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.
- Reservation Deadline!** We have a deadline that we need to adhere to when it comes to making our luncheon reservations. This guideline has been provided to us by the Elk's Lodge so we hope you understand our commitment to abide by it. Therefore, we need to stick to our timeframe and reservations must be in by the deadline. Note: The deadline date is not the postmark date. The deadline date is when your reservation must be received in our Post Office Box. Allow 4-5 days for mailing.
- Reminder:** Just a suggestion - bring a container to use if you need a “doggie bag” to take home leftovers. This is not mandatory. If you need a “to-go” meal for someone, let Vicki know at the check in table.
- 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.







IMMIGRATION


Q: Isn't it true that only the steerage passengers landed on Ellis Island and others were let off in New York City? That is what we were told via video when visiting Ellis Island.




Neither of my grandparents from Germany and England ever set foot on Ellis Island. That was in the 1920s. I believe they got off in Brooklyn. I'm not sure of the exact location but Ellis Island only took the passengers that weren't being met by someone or had backing by someone. That is seldom publicized so most people think all immigrants landed on Ellis.




A: It is true that only steerage passengers were processed at Ellis Island. The first and second classes disembarked at the ocean liner's dock, then the steerage class was taken by ferry to Ellis Island, but not just those who weren't being met by someone or had financial backing. The entire steerage class was taken to Ellis Island.



(continued on page 4)




What Is My Ancestor's Maiden Name?




Researching your female ancestors can often come with a variety of unique challenges. Woman generally took their husbands last names. When photographed, woman were generally listed under their married name, or not at all. We've put together some helpful hints to help you discover your female ancestor's maiden names.

Research Indirect Records Research the woman indirectly, seeking records of her relatives—husband, father, siblings and children. She may be named as an heir, witness or traveling companion. A letter may mention her, too.



Try Searching Marriage Records Marriage records are most likely to contain a woman's maiden name. If you notice from censuses most of her children were born in one county, start your marriage records search there. Look for a certificate and license application in county records. Churches many have marriage bonds or banns. Study historical newspapers, too, for an announcement.



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TIPS TO GET ORGANIZED

TIPS

Use a Numbering System for Relatives.

A numbering system for relatives can help keep you organized. Use a combination of numbers and letters for more flexibility. For example, label the oldest child in each family No. 1 with his or her spouse 1A. Then list children in birth order beginning with No. 1a, 1b, 1c and so on. The next eldest sibling would be No. 2 and the spouse 2A, with children 2a, 2b and 2c, and so on. Note that the spouses use uppercase letters and the children use lowercase letters.

NO. 1

Ahnentafel (German for “ancestor table”) is a standard genealogical numbering system you can use to keep track of ancestors (those from whom you descend—parents, grandparents, etc.). For example, if you’re No. 1 on an Ahnentafel chart, your father is No. 2 and your mother is No. 3. Your father’s father is No. 4, and your father’s mother is No. 5. As you might have figured out, fathers are even numbers; mothers odd. To find a father’s number, double the child’s number. Add one to the father’s number to get the mother’s number. Many genealogy software programs will automatically calculate the Ahnentafel numbers for you and create Ahnentafel charts you can print.

SOURCES

To keep track of sources, number all of your sources chronologically. Put the source number in the upper-right corner of each document you file, then compile the list of sources in a single binder. If you need to confirm a source of a document you’re working with, go to the source binder. For example, the 1910 US census may be source number 22. If you have a 1910 US census record for your grandfather and a separate record for your great-grandfather, both sources may be listed under number 22, but your grandfather may be listed as 22.i and your great-grandfather as 22.ii. The source citation will appear for each person.

Dana McCullough – Family Tree Magazine Newsletter - 6 Jun 2020

Newsletter

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



Newsletter



HYPERLINKS in the LINKS

If the hyperlinks do not work in the articles in the LINKS, try to copy & paste it into your web browser. It will usually work and you’ll be able to go to the website.



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: sbgdruthomas@gmail.com



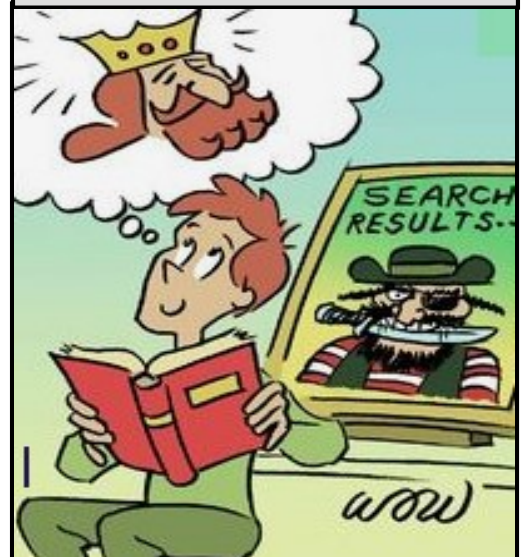
Roundtable

Come to the luncheon meeting early and enjoy the

Round Table Discussion

It convenes prior to the luncheon meeting at 10:30am. 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.

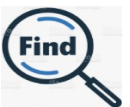
GENEALOGY FUNNIES



Fred had preconceived notions!

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

Research Tip



Finding a local researcher might not be as daunting as you think. A simple Google search with the place name and the word genealogist might do the trick. You can find directories of professional genealogy associations at Cyndi’s List <cyndislist.com> or the Association of Professional Genealogists <apgen.org>. Local repositories may also be able to provide a referral.





IMMIGRATION Q&A

(continued from page 2)

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

Beginning about 1903, the passenger arrival lists began to include a supplemental section for those detained on Ellis Island. Many immigrants were detained for short periods of time at the port of arrival until relatives came to claim them. These lists of detainees, or Record of Detained Aliens, that have survived were microfilmed with their corresponding passenger lists at the end of the lists of arrivals. These contain the name of each detainee, the cause for the detention, and the date and time of discharge. The number of meals the detainee was fed during detention was also recorded. If the émigré was deported before being released from the immigrant receiving station, these records stated the reason and the date deported.



Be sure to check subsequent passenger lists and indexes for aliens who were deported but may have re-entered the country at a future date when they might have been able to pass inspection. Another common way for aliens to re-immigrate was to save enough money and re-enter as a first or second class passenger, who underwent less stringent exams aboard ship, and as mentioned, did not have to undergo the processing at Ellis Island. For more on the immigrant experience, visit the Ellis Island website.

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

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and
Office of any vessel having such p

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Birth	Place	Occupation	Marital Status	Education	Religion	Political	Profession	Trade	Industry	Business	Other
1	John J. Smith	35	M	1886	Poland	Farmer	Married	High School	Catholic	None	None	None	None	None	None
2	Mary J. Smith	32	F	1894	Poland	Homemaker	Married	High School	Catholic	None	None	None	None	None	None
3	John J. Smith	35	M	1886	Poland	Farmer	Married	High School	Catholic	None	None	None	None	None	None
4	Mary J. Smith	32	F	1894	Poland	Homemaker	Married	High School	Catholic	None	None	None	None	None	None



What Is My Ancestor's Maiden Name?

(continued from page 2)



Follow Her Children Seek records on each of a woman's children, even those not in your line, including birth and baptism records, marriage records and death records. One may give a maiden name if others don't. Also note others named, especially witnesses, as they may be her relatives.

Ancestor

Do Some Cemetery Research In the tombstone, look at plots near hers, since families often were buried near each other. Study the caretaker's burial records for more information about those people, and to see if anyone was buried nearby without a headstone.



Find Evidence to Support or Refute Potential Names

Once you have a guess at a surname, start researching families in the area with that surname to see if any have children with your female ancestor's first name. Keep note of all the clues that support, as well as those that refute, the conclusion you've found your ancestor's maiden name. It's likely that a collection of clues will lead to her name, rather than a single momentous record that states, "I, Mary Smith Pearson



The Genealogy Insider Newsletter from the
Editors of Family Tree Magazine 5 Aug 2021

Humorous Tombstone



Will There Be Coffee in Heaven?



Some questions are interesting, but there may be more important ones to ask. As a coffee lover, I hope that the brew will be a part of any future world I may inhabit. But it doesn't make much sense for me to worry about it ahead of time. Likewise, you may want to know if you have any royal ancestors or famous relatives. While I admit you're more likely to discover the answer to your question than I am to learn the answer to mine, it probably isn't a good idea to focus on this avenue of research. Instead, I'd suggest you concentrate on learning what made your ancestors interesting. Try to answer that question. To do this, you'll often need to dig deep and add context. But doing so will make your family history fascinating and memorable to you and others.



Sue Lisk, Internet Genealogy Newsletter,
Research Tips & More Vol 9 #10, 21 Apr 2022



MAKE YOUR
RESERVATION

PAY IN ADVANCE



Sign Up for NEXT MONTH'S Luncheon

Sign Up for Next Month's Reservation

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 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 in time
- Being too late to mail your check & reservation
- Missing the luncheon because deadline passed
- Plus you'll save a stamp (now 78¢) & envelope



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



October 21 Luncheon Meeting

Pot Roast & Mashed Potatoes
Vegetarian Meal: Baked Manicotti



Guest Speaker and Program

Karen Dwyer presents

Self Publishing Your Genealogy for Under \$10

PREVIEWS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS



LOOKING AHEAD

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



October 21 – Karen Dwyer

Self Publishing Your Genealogy for Under \$10

November 18 – Shelley Bishop

Avoiding an Ancestor Identity Crisis

December 16 – Karen Fortin

WorldCat and ArchiveGrid:

Finding Books, Manuscripts, and More



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

E-mail!



southbaygs@gmail.com



Cemetery Q & A

Q: My grandma once told me a gravestone facing the opposite way of all the others in the cemetery indicates that person committed suicide. Is this true?



A: Cemeteries follow different traditions, but if a person who committed suicide were to be ostracized after death, it's more likely that the body would be buried apart from others. According to the Association for Gravestone Studies, the north side of a cemetery was often considered less desirable, so suicides might be buried there along with paupers, slaves, members of minority religious sects and the unidentified deceased. Suicides also were sometimes buried upside-down, with the head vertically below the feet, as a post-mortem punishment; this required considerably deeper digging and, of course, is impossible to check without excavation.

Rather than a suicide, you might find that someone buried the opposite way is actually a minister. Many church graveyards were laid out east-west, with the head at the western end of the grave, to be facing the risen Christ on Judgment Day. But the minister was sometimes buried with his head at the eastern end of his grave so he'd be facing his flock at the time of Resurrection.



The rural cemetery movement, which began in the 1830s, diminished the role of church-administrated cemeteries and made cemeteries a fashionable place for recreation. These parklike cemeteries placed a high emphasis on landscape and design and might arrange their headstones to fit the contour of the terrain, following up and down hills or taking advantage of attractive vistas, rather than adhering to a strict east-west orientation.

Family Tree Magazine Newsletter
Answer provided by David A. Fryxell



ON THE BOOKSHELF

Republic of Detours: How the New Deal Paid Broke Writers to Rediscover America

By Scott Borchert



Most of you are probably familiar with the work relief programs that were part of Roosevelt's New Deal policies during the Depression. When you picture the work programs, you likely think primarily of the construction crews that built highways, dams, and service buildings. But the Works Progress Administration recognized that there were many white-collar workers who were in just as dire straits as everyone else who could be of more use on intellectual and cultural projects than as general laborers. Federal Project Number One of the WPA sought to employ artists, musicians, writers, historians, and others such as Eugene O'Neill and Zora Neale Hurston. One component of Federal Number One was the Federal Writers' Project (FWP).



Although this project was able to generate many books, pamphlets, oral history projects, and other valuable works during its eight years of operation, the primary goal of the project was to create guidebooks to each of the, at the time, 48 states, Washington, D.C., and New York City. Scott Borchert's new book, ***Republic of Detours: How the New Deal Paid Broke Writers to Rediscover America***, looks at the many twists and turns in the creation of these American Guides. He introduces us to some of the more influential administrators, editors, and writers who brought the books to fruition despite numerous obstacles.



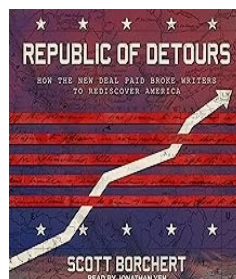
But these books were not just simple travel guides. They contained essays, descriptions of towns and cities, and step-by-step tours that brought the history, folklore, flavor, and culture of America to life in a way that had never been possible before. Those in charge purposefully sought to present not only the positive and noble aspects of each state, but also the reality of life as an impoverished factory worker, as a Black person under Jim Crow, and other facets of the American landscape that many wished to ignore. Part of this was due to socialist-leaning ideas that were prevalent among intellectuals and academics of the time who had been disillusioned by the system that had led to the Depression.



These same ideals also made them targets as attitudes toward the New Deal changed and the political winds began to shift. Art, theater, and writing projects were now viewed as a waste of taxpayer money despite the successes of these projects to keep people going until they could find permanent jobs, boost public morale, and reinvigorate parts of the economy such as the publication industry and tourism. Accusations of communist sympathies or activities against many of those involved with Federal No. One projects, spearheaded by the newly formed House Un-American Activities Committee, sounded the beginning of the end, and the entry of the United States into World War II and a further shifting of manpower, funds, and governmental focus brought the FWP to a close.

However, the American Guides have become an enduring legacy, providing a snapshot of not only the physical landscape but also the social landscape of America at the time. As Borchert puts it, the Guides in essence present a genealogy of the country itself in all its rich diversity.

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. Reminder: SBGS needs someone to take over as Swap Table coordinator. Please contact Cathy Rebhun if you can help us with this.

REMINDER



There is **NO**



Genealogy Tech

Forum in September.

It resumes October 6th.

See ya then!

DON'T FORGET!



If you plan to use the computers in the Genealogy Center at SSRL, you are no longer able to use your library card. You need to stop at the information desk in the center of the library and get a code to access the databases on the computers. However, you are still able to use your library card from home to access the databases, except for Ancestry and JSTOR.

Advice for Genealogists



Many genealogists neglect telling their own stories, while in the midst of telling the stories about others. Don't let that happen to your family.

WRITE YOUR OWN STORY

===== CUT ✂ HERE =====

Reservation for SEPT 16 SBGS Luncheon at The Elk's Lodge, 1630 S US Hwy 41, Ruskin

Lunch starts at 12 noon followed by Speaker's Program at 1:00 pm

Please reserve luncheon(s) for: _____

Meal choice: Chicken Parmigiana _____ 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 7th