



# LINKS



## The Monthly Newsletter of South Bay Genealogical Society



FEBRUARY 2026

News & Information

Vol 32 No 2

Next meeting Feb 17, The Elks Lodge, 1630 S US Hwy 41, Ruskin, Lunch 12 noon/Program 1pm

### Guest Speaker ~ February 17



**Lori Coffey**



**Three Fer!**

Lori will present three 20 minute programs:  
Ancestry Fixes; Revolution in the South;  
Tech Tips for Genealogy



### Introducing our Guest Speaker

Lori Coffey has spent nearly 50 years researching her family tree and teaching computer skills! She is a lifetime member of the Pinellas Genealogy Society serving as their vice president, a vice regent of the Caladesi chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, a member of the William Bradford Colony General Society of Mayflower Descendants and is both a Son of Norway and a daughter of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. She also belongs to other genealogy societies, and currently serves as vice president of the Pinellas Genealogy Society.



**Don't Delay!**



**Mail Your Reservation Today!**

Reservations for the SBGS luncheon meetings must be in **9 DAYS** prior to the luncheon. February reservations must be received in the

PO Box by

**Sunday - Feb 8th!**



Allow 4-5 days for mailing!



### February Menu

**Meatloaf**  
Baked Potato & Veggie  
OR

**Pasta Primavera**

*Meals include:*  
Salad, Coffee, Iced Tea  
and Dessert

*Any questions, call  
Vicki 360-608-1647*

### Genealogy Tech Forum

Monday – Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> – via Zoom  
10:30 to 12:00 noon



To join in, use this link:



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89121558159?pwd=zJCcv8yFkMO3DrnImM3Hd3TaDKub1.1>

Meeting ID: 891 2155 8159

Passcode: 402463

**Topic: Working with Ancestry**

*Please log in a few minutes before start time*

**Don't**



**Forget**

### Finding Your Roots Season 12

*Finding Your Roots*, hosted by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, is now airing on PBS Tuesday evenings at 8PM. (Spectrum channel 3)



## You might be a genealogist if . . .

you get excited and offer all sorts of help when a friend or acquaintance happens to mention in passing, that someday they'd like to start doing genealogy research.



## FINAL REMINDER

### Membership Renewal



Dues of \$25 per household were due

December 31, 2025. If you have not renewed, this will be your LAST ISSUE of the **LINKS** newsletter. But there is still time! Please mail your check now, payable to **South Bay Genealogical Society**. It must be received "in hand" by February 17th. Don't miss out on any Membership Luncheon Meetings, Genealogy Tech Forums, **LINKS** newsletters, and the Genealogy Events Bulletin of upcoming programs.

Thank you for your continued support!

Without YOU there is no SBGS!

*Please mail your check to our Membership Director, Cathy Rebhun, using renewal form below, or bring it to the February 17th luncheon meeting.*



## Free Newspaper Archives

California Digital Newspaper Collection  
<https://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc>



Read all about your California kin in this fast-growing collection that (at last count) contains more than 873,000 issues comprising more than 10.9 million pages and 48 million articles. The University of California, Riverside project can be searched or browsed by tag, county, date or title.

Chronicling America

### Chronicling America

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Boasting almost 20 million pages from coast to coast, this Library of Congress project digitizes US newspapers from 1777 to 1963 and offers a directory to help you find newspapers in libraries.

Elephind (*free for a limited time*)

<https://www.elephind.com/>



One click seeks your ancestors in 200 million-plus items from more than 4,300 newspaper titles. Elephind searches big collections (including the aforementioned Chronicling America) as well as small, such as academic archives, and goes overseas to include plenty of Australian papers.

Online Historical Newspapers

<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/>

Though still a work in progress, this website is worth book marking for help in answering these key questions: Are newspapers from my ancestors' town online? And if so, where?



David Fryxell - Family Tree Magazine  
Newsletter - 9 Jan 2024



## IMMIGRATION Q&A



Why do I find multiple passenger list entries for one person on different dates?

If you're sure all the entries are for your great-grandfather, it's likely he was a "bird of passage." Male immigrants often would go to America to earn money for their families, then return home. They might travel back and forth several times before finally settling in America.

*Diane Haddad Family Tree Magazine Nov/Dec 2025*

## Genealogy Funnies



Well I don't know why you thought genealogy would be a relaxing hobby. You're a rabbit for Pete's sake!



## Genealogy Task

Make a list of vital records you need. Check each state office's website for record locations, fees and forms.

# ON THE BOOKSHELF

## Index, A History of the: A Bookish Adventure from Medieval Manuscripts to the Digital Age by Dennis Duncan

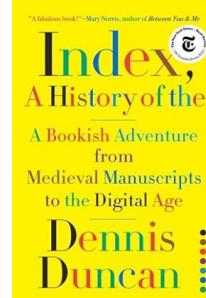


As genealogists, where would we be without print and online indexes? Have you ever thought about what it would be like to research a person or topic without these invaluable tools, or how indexes came to be in the first place? Chances are you haven't thought too deeply on the subject, but English professor and author Dennis Duncan certainly has. His book *Index, A History of the: A Bookish Adventure from Medieval Manuscripts to the Digital Age* takes us back in time and explores something that is so ubiquitous to us now but developed in its present form in fits and starts over centuries.

This may sound like an extremely boring topic, but Duncan's enthusiasm and humor leaves this book anything but dry. He shows how the index was used not only as an aid to serious researchers but also as plot devices in fiction, as clever vehicles for satire, and as weapons wielded against social or political enemies. Intellectuals in the past denounced the use of indexes under the belief that people would stop reading books and merely skim through the indexes to gain a superficial understanding of the contents. This has a direct connection to arguments that continue to circulate today involving information garnered from internet searches and whether technology is "dumbing down" society. Several hundred years of history shows that new ways of finding and accessing information is no more likely to stunt our intellectual development than the creation of the index did to our ancestors.

Duncan's book is an ode to the indexers who toil away in the background, unseen and unacknowledged by most of us, ensuring that the information we seek can be found quickly and easily. While computers have greatly improved the process by which books are indexed today, it still takes the knowledge, skills, and experience of people to create a truly useful subject index and it probably always will.

*Courtesy of Karen Fortin*



## 6 Steps to Organizing and Managing Your Digital Photos

Download photos from your various devices onto your computer.

Edit and organize your photos on your computer.



Identify or "tag" your pictures.



Create backups in the cloud.



Keep your storage system up-to-date.

Ensure future access to your digital photo collection



*Karen Edwards - Family Tree Magazine Newsletter – 26 Jun 2021*

## 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](mailto:southbaygs@gmail.com)



## Evernote Users

If you use Evernote and deleted a note by mistake, don't panic. Click on your notebook called Trash, find your note and click Restore Note. Voila! Your note will return to its original home.



## Funny Genealogy Quips

With so many brick walls my ancestors must have been masons.



## Elaborate Tombstone



Dr. David Tinsley Porter

3 May 1828 ~ 2 Jan 1898

Elmwood Cemetery ~ Memphis TN



## GRANDMA'S TIPS

Use vertical strokes when washing windows outside and horizontal for inside windows. This way you can tell which side has the streaks. Straight vinegar will get outside windows really clean. Don't wash windows on a sunny day. They will dry too quickly and will probably streak.



PrePay

PAY IN ADVANCE

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

### 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.*

### March 17<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Meeting

Shepherd's Pie **Or** Baked Stuffed Shells



### Guest Speaker April Min

*presents*

Forensic Genealogy



## ATTN: GERMAN RESEARCHERS



Need help with German Writing?  
Check out these websites for help.

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany\\_Handwriting](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Handwriting)

<http://nancysfamilyhistoryblog.blogspot.com/2011/06/helps-for-translating-that-old-german.html>

<https://www.omniglot.com/writing/german.htm>

<http://www.suetterlinschrift.de/Englisch/Sutterlin.htm>

If the hyperlinks don't work, then copy & paste the link into your browser.



## Research Tip



Can't find that elusive ancestor on your favorite genealogy website? Try searching without a name and just fill in family member's names (i.e., parents or siblings) and locations and dates.

## Pinellas Genealogy Society - Annual Seminar

February 28<sup>th</sup> – Doors open 8:00am



### Hybrid Seminar

*(virtual and in-person)*

### Featuring Diana Elder

Breakout Speakers

Debbie Smyth & Taneya Koonce

For info & cost go to their website.

Website: [pinellasgenealogysociety.com](http://pinellasgenealogysociety.com)



## 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: [sbgsdruthomas@gmail.com](mailto:sbgsdruthomas@gmail.com)

## State Land Grants or Patents for Genealogy



Using state land grants or patents to obtain vital genealogy documents is one way to help tear down your family history brick walls.

We've recently helped a client discover more about an ancestor who lived in North Carolina in the mid- to late-1700s. Southern U.S. research that's this early requires a careful look at existing documents, especially since often there aren't nearly as many documents available as there are for the mid- to late-1800s. We were happy to find that this particular ancestor had received a state land grant from North Carolina so we could obtain more information about him as we searched for the link to his parents.

### What is a State Land Grant?



Where deeds between private individuals generally involve only one document registered with the county, state land grants usually generate four separate documents.

First, an entry was made to the state or county office by an individual who wanted to claim a parcel of land.

Next, a survey would be ordered and performed to ensure that the land being claimed was available.

Appropriate fees must be submitted to pay for the parcel of land.

Then a warrant (order) would be issued granting that parcel of land to the individual.

All of these documents can help provide additional details about an ancestor. You can use the patent number and the Manuscript and State Archives System (or MARS) of the state archive where research is being conducted to obtain these additional documents. These documents will often contain a map of the exact location of the land along with additional information that may just be the key to extending your family history!



LegacyTree Genealogists Newsletter  
25 Jan 2021



## SHADES OF HISTORY

Joan of Arc convinced Charles VI she could lead his armies with no experience. She routed the English, survived a 60-foot escape leap from a tower uninjured, was falsely accused of heresy, and burned at the stake, all between the ages of 17 and 19. She was guided by voices only she could hear.

source: [parade.com](http://parade.com) Maryn Liles



## Newspapers on Google Books

<https://books.google.com/>

Google Books isn't just for books. Google Books results include digitized newspapers (from Google News Archive). To utilize these newspapers, conduct a Google Search for your ancestor's name in either Google or Google Books. From the Results page on Google, choose Books at the top and then in the drop-down menu labeled Any Document, choose Newspapers. In Google Books, conduct your search and then on the results page choose the drop-down menu labeled Any Document and then Newspapers.

By Gena Philibert-Ortega ~ Internet Genealogy Research Tips & More ~ Vol 9 #25 ~ 15 Dec 2022



## When Using FamilySearch Don't Forget to Check for Major Cities

I tend to go to the FamilySearch catalog and focus on the county records for the target locale. Don't forget to see if any materials are tagged to the county seat or other city, not the county itself. I recently searched for some pre-civil registration records and was reminded that some are listed under the "county" and some for the "county seat." By just looking at one or the other, I was missing some readily accessible digitized records. I won't make that mistake again any time soon.

<sup>6</sup>  
Diane Richard, Internet Genealogy Newsletter. Genealogy Research Tips & More, Vol 10 #10 - 25 May 2023



## Murphy's Law of Genealogy

If there is a family history on one branch of the family – it won't be yours.



## Good Advice for Genealogists



If someone's picture looks like they don't belong in the family tree, well, maybe they don't.

## The Swap Table



You are invited to bring genealogy items such as books, magazines, & pamphlets, etc. to donate, share and swap. So please feel free to take an item that interests you. Books are a popular item so once you've read it and no longer want it, please consider returning a book to the Swap Table.





## GETTING ORGANIZED Sort ~ Copy ~ Purge



After more than 40 years of genealogical and family history research, I have collected many documents, photographs and photocopies, books and notebooks full of research notes. In the beginning I kept everything in binders and then I expanded into a filing cabinet and then to overflow archival storage boxes. Now my collection fills a spare room in my home. At times it's challenging to find one specific paper among so many.

I now find I must reduce this collection before it overwhelms me. I have been slowly working my way through, evaluating the importance of pieces and making decisions to keep them or make a more easily storable and manageable digital copy before purging them- SORT. Of course, original or certified copies of documents must be kept and filed, but there are many transcripts and photocopies as well that I do not need to keep if I digitize the images- COPY. I am shocked at the great number of items which I have kept that are really of little value, like maps, pamphlets and travel brochures- PURGE. Books that I have accumulated can be kept if they are of ongoing value, but others could be donated to a local library where I could still access them if necessary- SORT. Correspondence and written enquires fill a filing cabinet drawer, but I could easily highlight and create a digital file of addresses or important information- COPY. Most of the rest, along with duplicates of printouts and photocopies can be recycled- PURGE.



The cycle of sorting, copying for manageable storage and purging through donation or recycling is a necessary method for reducing those ever-expanding collections of paperwork and notes and for facilitating your ability to locate what you want more efficiently. It may not be accomplished at one time, but regular efforts will gradually reduce that overflow.



By Robbie Gorr - Internet Genealogy Newsletter  
Research Tips & More! Vol 9 #24 - 1 Dec 2022



Come to the luncheon meeting  
a bit early and enjoy the

### Round Table Discussion.



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

## County and Town Histories Resources



County and town histories provide rich local detail, and newspapers impart the flavor of a time and place. Use them to explore the events and happenings during your ancestors' times with these online sources. (\$ notes subscription required)

- Ancestry.com: Search the Card Catalog. \$
- FamilySearch Books
- Google Books
- HathiTrust
- HeritageQuest Online (available at subscribing libraries)
- Internet Archive
- My Genealogy Hound
- Newspapers
- Chronicling America
- Elephind (free time limited)
- Fold3 \$
- Free Newspaper Archives
- GenealogyBank \$
- Google Newspapers Archive
- Online Historical Newspapers Website
- NewspaperARCHIVE \$
- Newspapers.com \$



Shelley K Bishop - Family Tree  
Magazine Newsletter - 27 Aug 2021

## The 2025 – 2026 Officers South Bay Genealogical Society

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)

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FINAL NOTICE**

**Must be received “in hand” by Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**

**PLEASE SEND A SEPARATE CHECK FOR DUES ONLY  
DIRECTLY TO OUR MEMBERSHP DIRECTOR, CATHY REBHUN,  
OR BRING IT TO THE FEBRUARY 17th LUNCHEON MEETING.**

**Make check payable to South Bay Genealogical Society  
THANK YOU!**

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

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### **Reservation for FEBRUARY 17, 2026, SBGS Luncheon at the Elks Lodge, Ruskin**

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

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

Meal choice:    Meat Loaf \_\_\_\_\_    Pasta Primavera \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 PO Box by February 8th**

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### **Please renew my Membership to South Bay Genealogical Society for 2026**

**Membership Renewal of **\$25.00** per household was due December 31, 2025**

**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)**