



LINKS



The Monthly Newsletter of South Bay Genealogical Society



SEPTEMBER 2026

SBGS News & Information

Vol 32 No 6

Next meeting Sept 15 ~ The Elks Lodge, 1630 S US Hwy 41, Ruskin ~ Lunch 12 noon Program 1pm

Guest Speaker ~ September 15th



Drew Smith
presents



Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Genealogy

AI tools are being used by genealogy companies and have recently become available to genealogists. What are they and how can we use them appropriately?



Introducing Our Guest Speaker

Drew Smith is an associate librarian emeritus at the University of South Florida Libraries in Tampa, specializing in genealogical research. He is the co-host of The Genealogy Guys Podcast and the host of the Genealogy Connection Podcast.



Drew is a founder and administrator of The Genealogy Squad Facebook Group, with over 75,000 members. He writes a regular productivity column for the Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly.



Drew is co-author of the book *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques* and author of the book *Organize Your Genealogy: Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher*. His latest book, *Generation by Generation: A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy*, was published in February 2023 by Genealogical Publishing Co.



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 6th

Allow 4-5 days for mailing



September Menu

Chicken Parmigiana

Penne w/ Marinara Sauce & Veggie

OR

Vegetarian Meal:

Egg Salad on Spinach

Cottage Cheese w/ peaches

Potato Salad

Meals include:

Salad, Rolls, Coffee, Iced Tea

Dessert

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

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!



For Your Continued Support!



ELECTION RESULTS

At the May meeting these officers were elected to lead South Bay Genealogical Society in 2026-2027

President - Dru Thomas.....	634-9513
Vice Pres - Cathy Rebhun.....	643-4649
Secretary - Lynn Freeland	407-782-5086
Treasurer - Glenda Hall.....	760-4219
Director - Beth Clarke.....	892-7938
Director - Mary Ann Davis.....	703-579-7776
Director - Vicki McDonnell.....	360-608-1647
Director - Scott Niblick.....	757-613-3948
Director - Sheila C. O'Halloran...	319-631-4457
Director - Nancy Shrom	995-1165
Director - Mary Louise Sulick.....	703-220-1127
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 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 anyone allergic to nuts**, the kitchen staff **will not** be using any nuts in salads, meals or desserts.
- To-Go Meals:** Please do not go to the kitchen staff or ask the servers for a meal to-go. When you check in, let Vicki know and she will coordinate the to-go meals. However, you can ask the servers for a “doggy bag”.
- 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 Elks 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.
- 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: Do immigration records exist for people who flew to the United States?

A: Several lists collections on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch include air arrivals to ports such as New York, Baltimore and San Diego. You can also use the National Archives’ NATF form 81 <www.archives.gov/genealogy/immigration> to order arrival manifests for airplanes (or ships) through 1959.

Departing migrants must have a visa from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or its predecessors. The agency’s free-based Genealogy Program <www.uscis.gov/genealogy> lets you order visa files from July 1, 1924, to March 31, 1944. You can request later files under the Freedom of Information Act. You can request later files under the Freedom of Information Act. You must make your FOIA request online at first.uscis.gov after creating a USCIS account.



Diane Haddad Family Tree Magazine Nov/Dec 2025



Organize TIPS

Give Your Email Messages a Descriptive Subject

“Algernon Hatfield, Poughkeepsie, NY, GenCircles Posting” is much better than “Hatfield Info Request”. You usually can rename emails you receive from other (less-organized) people, too. Outlook for Windows lets you change the subject line by opening the message, typing a new subject and selecting File.

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, share your research story, 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:

sbgsdruthomas@gmail.com





DIGGING FOR DEATHS: Understanding the Census Mortality Schedule

Across most of the United States, consistent, statewide registration of vital events, such as births, deaths, and marriages, did not begin until the twentieth century. For genealogists, this creates a gap that is sometimes difficult to fill. Mortality schedules, although limited in scope, can, on occasion, help address the shortfall and build crucial contextual understanding.

Where can I access the records?

Census mortality schedules for most years are available for researchers today, with two prominent exceptions: mortality schedules created in 1890 were burned alongside that year's census records, and nearly all of the schedules created in 1900 were destroyed by Congressional order after they had already collected statistics.

The remaining schedules are available online at both Ancestry and FamilySearch. Ancestry is simpler to navigate. All records appear in a single collection, organized by year, state, and county (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8756>). At FamilySearch, the user searches the catalog for individual record sets, often organized by state. Filters such as author name (Census Office) and keyword (mortality) facilitate the search.

The extra time spent locating records at FamilySearch reaps surprising rewards. Not all counties are filmed in their entirety in the Ancestry collection. Frequently, the missing pages contain only the marshal's oath or statistical calculations. However, in some cases, entire pages of names have been omitted. For example, in a study of Ohio's 1850 mortality schedules, eight counties—Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Highland, Hocking, and Holmes—are missing important data. The records at FamilySearch did not encounter this problem.

(conclusion on page 4)



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

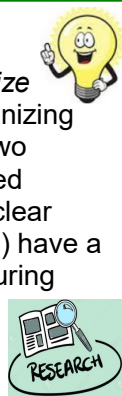
IN ORDER TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, HE FIRST HAD TO UPDATE HIS OPERATING SYSTEM, DOWNLOAD AN APP, GET A USERNAME, CHOOSE A PASSWORD, LOG IN TO A HEALTH PORTAL, NAVIGATE TO MESSAGES AND WRITE HIS DOCTOR...BY THEN IT WAS TOO LATE.



Research Tip

Drew Smith, author of *Organize Your Genealogy*, is a master of organizing the research process. He says the two essential components of an organized research session are to (1) be very clear about your research question and (2) have a good plan for what you'll research during that session to answer the question.

Vanessa Wieland, *Family Tree*
e-newsletter 25 Jan 2018



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.

Research Logs: Your Book of Magic



There are as many different approaches to research logs as there are genealogists, but the best research logs allow you to easily see what steps you've already taken and allow you to pick up right where you left off. Whether you use a written journal, a spreadsheet, Evernote, Trello or quill and parchment, your research log is your map to finding your ancestors.

Vanessa Wieland, *Family Tree*
e-newsletter 25 Jan 2018



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



Those In-laws, in Eyes of the Law

Affinity is the legal term we use to refer to the connection between persons related through marriage but not common ancestry. We usually refer to them as in-laws, the people “in the eyes of the law” who establish kinship because of a marital union. These usually include the mothers- and fathers-in-law who are the parents of a spouse, brothers- and sisters-in-law who are the siblings of a spouse, and sons- or daughters-in-law who are the spouses of your own children.



The latter term, however, was once used in another way and the reference to sons-in-law or daughters-in-law in court papers and other legal documents like property records and wills and testaments could cause confusion as to their intended relationship. In nineteenth century records, the term sons- and daughters-in-law once referred to the children of a spouse from a previous relationship, as they were considered sons and daughters “in the eyes of the law” as a result of a marriage to their parent. Today we would refer to the prior children of a spouse as step-sons and step-daughters.



It pays to bear in mind that descriptive and relational terms change over time and may not have the same meaning today as they did when they were recorded.

Robbie Gore, Internet Genealogy Newsletter. Genealogy Research Tips & More, Vol 10 #10, 25 May 2023

DIGGING FOR DEATHS:

Understanding the Census Mortality Schedule



(continued from page 3)



Both record sets occasionally include miscategorized images, most often when combined records of one township with another occurred. If you expect to find an individual in the mortality schedules, be sure your search is complete – browse the records for the appropriate county in case of spelling or transcription errors, and examine the records of localities both geographically and alphabetically proximate.



Legacy Tree Genealogists Newsletter, 16 Jan 2023

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

**I'M TRACING MY
ANCESTORS
SO I'LL KNOW
WHO TO BLAME**

Ancestor Poem

DEAR ANCESTOR

**Your tombstone stands among
the rest,
neglected and alone.
The name and date are chiseled out
on polished, marble stone.**

**It reaches out to all who care,
it is too late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist,
you died and I was born.**

**Yet each of us are cells of you
in flesh, in blood, in bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse
entirely not our own.**

**Dear Ancestor, the place you filled
one hundred years ago,
spreads out among the ones you left
who would have loved you so.**

**I wonder if you lived and loved.
I wonder if you knew
that someday I would find this spot,
and come to visit you.**



Walter Butler Palmer



Amusing Tombstone



This memorial is for James Monroe Kelchner's hand. He lost his left hand June 4, 1884 in a work related accident. They buried his hand in the Fleetwood Cemetery - Fleetwood PA. Mr. Kelchner died in 1946 and was buried next to his hand.

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 82¢) & 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 20 Luncheon Meeting

Pork Tenderloin & Potatoes
Vegetarian Meal: Baked Manicotti

Guest Speaker and Program

Peggy Jude *presents*

Coming to America



Grab-N-Go Cemetery Bag Check List

If you're heading to the cemetery, these items should be on your list:

- Smart Phone
- Batteries and Phone Cord
- Comfortable Shoes
- Water to Drink
- Sunscreen/Sunglasses/Hat
- Soft Brush and Rag
- Toothbrush
- Spray Bottle of Water
- Umbrella
- Aluminum Foil
- Grass Shears or Scissors
- Trowel
- Mirror or Flashlight
- Marker for End of Row
- A Friend



Source:  BillionGraves

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Looking Ahead...

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

October 20 – Peggy Jude
Coming to America

November 17 – Karen Fortin
Meet the Neighbors: Neighborhood Analysis Using Census Records

December 15 – Carol Weidlich
Virtual Cemeteries



Using Directories to Give You a Sense of Local Businesses When/Where Your Ancestors Lived

Ancestors

Though directories don't exist through time, they are very helpful when performing 19th and 20th-century research. There might be a city collection, e.g., Greensboro, or a state-wide collection, e.g., North Carolina City Directories, or a collection via Ancestry, and much more. These directories let us know where people lived (incredibly helpful) and what businesses (was there a photo studio, dress shop, etc.), religious institutions, schools (private and public), cemeteries, social clubs, and anything else that existed. When we know what existed in a community, we can further research whether records survived, which just might list our ancestors.



Diane Richard, Internet Genealogy Newsletter, Research Tips & More Vol 10 #15, 18 Aug 2023

ON THE BOOKSHELF

An Empire on the Edge: How Britain Came to Fight America by Nick Bunker



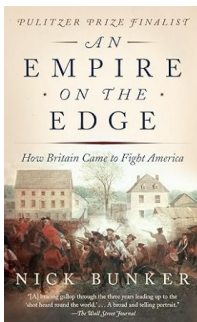
In America, we naturally view the American Revolution from the Colonial perspective but what about the view from the other side? In *An Empire on the Edge: How Britain Came to Fight America*, British author Nick Bunker provides a revealing account of the three years leading up to the outbreak of war from the viewpoint of both sides.



Pivotal to this story are the events surrounding the Boston Tea Party. We all know the story, or so we think, but why was this such a defining moment that snowballed into armed revolution? Bunker looks at the politics on both sides of the Atlantic and the economics that influenced critical decisions. America saw oppression that must be overcome, and Britain saw treason that must be punished. With misunderstandings and mistakes on both sides, warfare appears to have been inevitable as each refused to compromise or back down.

Bunker's book provides us with a fair accounting of the actions and mindset that lead to the violent birth of our nation. The ability to recognize the motivations behind these actions allows us to go beyond the rote history that we learned in school and seek a more comprehensive understanding of our past.

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! 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



There is **NO**



Genealogy Tech

Forum in September.

It resumes October 6th.

Revisit Genealogy Talks to Kick Start Your Research

KICK START

It is easy to think that once you've heard a talk on a genealogy topic, you can cross that off your list. Don't be so quick to believe that. Here are some reasons to reconsider that thinking: (1) every speaker brings a different slant & experience to a topic – you can listen to five talks on the same subject, and they will all be different though they often do share certain common "lessons," (2) times change – speakers are always updating their talks to reflect new resources and thinking, neat finds, observations, and strategies, (3) you are different – your needs when you first heard a topic may be different than they are now, and (4) remember the adage about telling them what you will tell them, tell them, and tell them what you told them? – well, there is a reason for that, and it is because sometimes we need to hear something a few times before we have the "ah-ha" moment. So, consider listening to as many talks as feasible on a subject. Though talks on diverse subjects benefit us also, revisiting talks on records, tips, strategies, and more, might help kick start your research.

Research!



Diane Richard, *Internet Genealogy Magazine*
Newsletter, *Research Tips & More* ~ Vol 9 #25 ~ 15 Dec 2022

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



If you're the family photographer (and not showing up in photos), your family historian descendants will become upset with you.

===== CUT ✂ HERE =====

Reservation for SEPT 15, 2026, SBGS Luncheon at the Elks Lodge, 1630 US 41 S, 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 6th