



LINKS



The Monthly Newsletter of South Bay Genealogical Society



OCTOBER 2026

SBGS News & Information

Vol. 32 No. 7

Next meeting Oct 20 ~ The Elks Lodge, 1630 S US Hwy 41, Ruskin ~ Lunch 12 noon Program 1pm

Guest Speaker – October 20th



Peggy Jude
presents
**COMING TO
AMERICA**



This program traces the major waves of immigration to America, focusing on who came, when they arrived, and the key reasons behind each movement. You will gain insight into the push and pull factors that drove groups from all over the world to the US—from early colonial settlers and enslaved Africans to the diverse arrivals of the modern era. If you are seeking to understand or celebrate the evolving American story, you will find this program rich with context for both family history research and broader historical reflection.



Mail Your Reservation ASAP!

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

October reservations must be in the SBGS post



office box by **Sunday, Oct 11th.**

Allow 3-4 days for mailing!



Introducing our Guest Speaker

Peggy Jude is a speaker, educator, and researcher for over 40 years, teaching in 5 areas: DNA, Genealogical Technology, Preserving Family History and Heirlooms, Methods and Records, and Swedish Genealogy. She is a co-course coordinator for the Foundations in DNA course at the Institute for Genealogical and Historical Research (IGHR), a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, a graduate of ProGen, and multiple advanced genealogical institutes.



October Menu

Pork Tenderloin

w/ gravy, Roasted Potatoes, & Veggie
OR

Baked Manicotti

w/ Marinara Sauce & Veggie
OR

Lactose Free

Pork Tenderloin

Roasted Potatoes & Veggie

Meals include:

Salad, Rolls, Coffee, Iced Tea and Dessert

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

MENU NOTICE

There is a **Lactose Free** option for lunch. Also, it is not necessary to print the reservation form for your lunch as long as you write your meal choice on your check note. Or just write Regular, Vegetarian or Lactose Free.



HALLOWEEN

The History of Trick-or-Treating

Trick-or-treating has been around for a long time, with versions existing since medieval times. Originally, it was called "guising" and children and poor adults wore costumes and begged for food or money in exchange for songs or prayers during Hallowmas. This practice was also called "souling."

2026-2027 Board of Directors South Bay Genealogical Society

President - Dru Thomas.....634-9513
 Vice Pres - Cathy Rebhun.....643-4649
 Secretary - Lynn Freeland407-782-5086
 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 - Cathy Rebhun.....643-4649
 Director - Nancy Shrom995-1165
 Director - Mary Louise Sulick.....703-220-1127
 Director - Linda Vitale.....

(area code 813 except noted)



Genealogy Tech Forum NOTICE

Unfortunately Scott will not be available
to present the GTF in October.

It will resume on Monday
November 2, 2026



Genealogy Task *LOOK*

Outline a narrative covering your
ancestor's life. Analyze and resolve
conflicts, look for additional documents,
identify gaps and confirm your sources.

**G
E
N
E
A
L
O
G
Y**



Halloween Movie Trivia Q&A

(answers on page 4)



- (1) Actor Michael J. Fox plays a high schooler with a monstrous secret in what 1985 movie? 
- (2) What actor played Laurie Strode in the 1978 movie "Halloween?"
- (3) What 1925 horror film, based on Gaston Leroux's novel by the same name, was made into a successful Broadway musical? 
- (4) What movie serial killer notably wears a red and green striped sweater from "Nightmare on Elm Street" 
- (5) Tom Cruise, Kirsten Dunst and Brad Pitt co-star in what 1994 horror movie?
- (6) Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore star in what movie about the afterlife?
- (7) Which movie tops *Rotten Tomatoes*' list of the Scariest Horror Movies Ever? 



PAY IN ADVANCE

MAKE YOUR
RESERVATION

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 82¢) 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 few weeks or more until they are deposited.

November 17th Luncheon Meeting

Sliced Turkey Breast, Dressing, Roasted Potatoes
 Vegetarian meal: Stuffed Baked Potato
 Lactose meal: Sliced Turkey & Roasted Potatoes



Guest Speaker and Program

Karen Fortin

Meet the Neighbors: Neighborhood
Analysis Using Census Records



ON THE BOOKSHELF

Empire's Crossroads: A History of the Caribbean from Columbus to the Present Day by *Carrie Gibson*



This month's book is *Empire's Crossroads: A History of the Caribbean from Columbus to the Present Day*, which takes us through the often turbulent history of the Caribbean islands and nations that have stood as gateways to the Americas since the first landing of Columbus. Although British author, Carrie Gibson, does not focus solely on the history between the US and the Caribbean, the story of one is inevitably linked to the other.

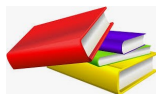


For centuries, the Caribbean, or West Indies, has been connected to and influenced by the same European powers that created the North, Central, and South American countries that we know today, particularly the Spanish, British, French, and Dutch. Control of the islands played a major role in control of the mainland colonies and the all-important trade networks back to Europe. The development of luxury agricultural commodities, such as tobacco, coffee, and especially sugar, on the islands and in the mainland colonies bordering the Caribbean Basin, created huge profits that helped shape the growth and direction of the European colonial empires. This development also led to the massive rise in the importation of African slaves, both to the islands and to the various American mainland colonies; the long-term effects of which still echo today.

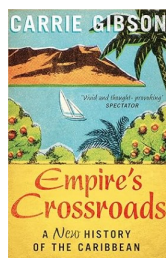
The history of the West Indies has many additional links to the US: during the colonial period, trade between the North American colonies and the West Indies was a major source of revenue for struggling New Englanders; the early period of the Revolutionary War was made possible in part through arms and gunpowder funneled to the rebelling colonies from allied nations through their island colonies; the Cuban Missile Crisis; and, the US's continued territorial interests in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. These are just a few of the various connections that have developed over time.



Due to the proximity of the islands, particularly to Florida, the Caribbean will always have some impact on the politics and demographics of the United States. The continuous movement of people between the islands, the Americas, Europe, and many other parts of the globe cannot help but impact the exchange of ideas and cultures, as well as the economies, of all involved. From 1492 onward, the Caribbean has been the crossroads between the old world and the new; influencing our history just as much as we have influenced theirs.



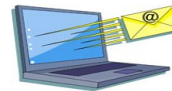
Article courtesy of Karen Fortin



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!



Ancestors missing from passenger lists may have changed their names after arriving in America. Search lists using their birth names. And search women using their maiden name, rather than married name.

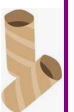
MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES

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.



Grandma's Tip's

Using empty toilet paper rolls to organize appliance cords is a free, eco-friendly, and simple way to declutter drawers and countertops. Simply fold or roll up appliance cords (like blenders or chargers), slip them into the cardboard tube, and label the tube for easy identification. Also do the same for cords attached to appliances.





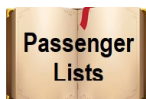
Come to the luncheon meeting a bit early and enjoy the

Round Table Discussion.

It convenes at 10:30 am 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.



IMMIGRATION



Q: I believe my ancestor “Americanized” his name after immigrating. Where can I find the name he used on a passenger list?

A: Look for your ancestor’s birth name in home sources (such as letters or a family Bible), naturalization documents, alien registration records, obituaries (including foreign language newspapers) and church records (which may contain baptism details).



Diane Haddad Family Tree Magazine Nov/Dec 2025



Search Hints & Tips FamilySearch.org



Dive into the FamilySearch Wiki

Yes, FamilySearch.org has billions of records and an extensive online family tree. But did you know the site also sponsors a free online encyclopedia? The FamilySearch Wiki boasts more than 80,000 free articles about thousands of research topics, from New York City vital records to German gazetteers. Several articles also contain links to relevant records collections on FamilySearch.org, making the Wiki a useful gateway to the rest of the site.



Andrew Koch, Family Tree Magazine Newsletter, 15 Jul 2019

HALLOWEEN

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Teen Wolf
2. Jamie Lee Curtis
3. The Phantom of the Opera
4. Freddy Krueger
5. Interview with the Vampire
6. Ghost
7. The Exorcist



ODD PENSIONS



Pension files are one of the most useful categories for researching military angles to your family history. Files from the Revolutionary War; War of 1812; and the Civil War are the most useful to large numbers of family historians in the U.S. But, there are many other pensions tucked into local, state, and federal government records.

Before 1775, some of the “Thirteen Colonies” granted pensions to disabled veterans or surviving families of soldiers killed in Indian wars. Congress granted special pensions regarding service in the Revolution, Indian Wars, or other conflicts for people “falling through the cracks” in the strict pension laws of the time.

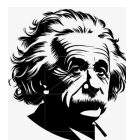


Towns and cities might create pensions for injured firefighters or law officers, or survivor benefits for their families if the men were killed in the line of duty.

Useful sources include online or published records of colonial or state legislatures, or town governments. GenealogyBank’s Government Documents collection has numerous Congressional documents dealing with “special pensions”.



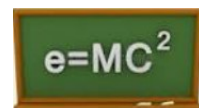
*David A. Norris, Internet Genealogy Newsletter
Genealogy Research Tips & More Vol 9 #18, 2 Sep 2022*



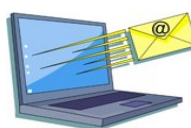
POINTS IN HISTORY



Albert Einstein turned down the presidency of Israel. Einstein wasn’t a citizen of Israel. However, he was Jewish. The German-born physicist was offered the post but turned it down in 1952, saying: “I am deeply moved by the offer from our State of Israel, and at once saddened and ashamed that I cannot accept it. All my life I have dealt with objective matters, hence I lack both the natural aptitude and the experience to deal properly with people and to exercise official functions.”



source: parade.com Maryn Liles



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

Elaborate Tombstone



Annie Inglis Springthorpe 26 Jan 1867 - 23 Jan 1897
Boroondara General Cemetery
Kew, Boroondara City, Victoria, Australia

Annie's Grave

Annie Inglis married Melbourne doctor, John Springthorpe, in 1887. In his diary, he described her as the perfect wife who was "self-sacrificing, modest, tender, true and wise." Unfortunately, after only 10 years of marriage, Annie died in 1897 giving birth to their fourth child, Guy. Dr. Springthorpe was devastated by his wife's death and poured himself into the creation of "one of the most beautiful and most costly" tombs in Australia. Harold Desbrowe Annear, one of Melbourne's most celebrated architects, designed the temple and renowned Anglo-Australian sculptor, Bertram Mackennal, created a marble statuary group depicting an angel, a recumbent young woman and a kneeling figure representing sorrow. Springthorpe's diary proclaims, "the whole is more than a tomb – it is the real made ideal – an apotheosis of love for all true lovers to the end of time with its take of loss, memory, separation and reunion." Nowhere on the temple is there any mention of Annie's name. There is only the following inscription: "My own true love, Pattern daughter perfect mother and ideal wife, Born on the 26th day of January 1867, Married on the 26th day of January 1887, Buried on the 26th day of January 1897." The tomb sits on a site 80 feet square within Boroondara Cemetery with a view of Heidelberg and Mount Macedon on the horizon. The Springthorpe Memorial is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Source: findagrave.com



Horses Not Zebras:



5 Tips for Evaluating Conflicting Evidence

"How do I evaluate conflicting evidence in my family history?" Read on to discover tips from professional genealogists.

A common medical aphorism states, "When you hear hoofbeats, think of horses, not zebras." Essentially, this means that when making a diagnosis, doctors should avoid jumping to an exotic conclusion when there is a more commonplace explanation. The same principle applies when evaluating genealogical evidence.

One of the most common mistakes a novice researcher can make is coming up with a wild or convoluted theory when encountering something in a record that doesn't make sense. However, the reality is, most of the time, the simplest answer is the correct one, and while unusual circumstances did happen, they are just that, unusual.

Although any small detail can feel extraordinary when learning about your ancestors, the explanation for contradictory evidence is usually simple, but may require thinking outside the box. Here are some tips to follow when evaluating records that don't seem to fit:

Where did your known information come from?

Are there original sources to back it up?

When verifying family information, go as far down the tree as needed to find information that you can confirm. Then work your way back up, proving the links generation by generation with sources to make sure you are following the right line.

Do the geography and timeline make sense?

This is a common mistake, especially when researching in a foreign country. Just because both places are in Germany or England, doesn't mean that they are near each other. Pull out a map and see if you can locate the different towns. Is it feasible that one child was born hundreds of miles away from the others when the younger children were back in the original place? Probably not.

Could they be two different people with the same name?

Evaluate differences carefully—if things aren't lining up, consider the possibility that the records could be for two different people who were the same age or living in the same place.

same

(conclusion on page 6)

name



DID YOU KNOW?

Count Dracula was inspired by a real person. The titular Count was based on none other than history's own Vlad the Impaler. As the monarch of Wallachia, a Romanian region of Transylvania, Vlad soon made a fearsome reputation for himself by killing and impaling the still-twitching bodies of his enemies on longsticks which he planted outside his castle.



source: parade.com Maryn Liles

Evaluating Conflicting Evidence

(continued from page 5)



For example, it is much more likely that there were two people with the same name who married different people, than a case of bigamy (plus there are usually other records that would indicate that). It helps to map out a timeline and examine details such as addresses to separate them out. If they are not the same person, a piece of evidence will eventually provide you with the necessary genealogical proof to substantiate this.

Were there circumstances surrounding the creation of the record that could lead to mistakes or misinformation?

For example, an informant on a death record reporting the deceased's parents or birth likely received the information secondhand from someone else, or they could misremember details due to grief.

Other circumstances could include changing one's age to enlist early in the army or to appear younger, details getting lost in translation, coming from a culture where exact age was not important, changing a name to fit into a new country, etc.

Could it be a clerical error?



Keep in mind that records (and people!) are not infallible. Many records, including censuses, were copied down by a clerk or someone who did not know the family in question, and they could have made a mistake in spelling, understanding the information and/or a copying error.

If a reported relationship isn't making sense with the details confirmed by other records, consider the possibility that the clerk heard it wrong, wrote it on the wrong line, or misunderstood. For example, I've seen a passenger list where the clerk inverted a brother and a brother-in-law. Instead of jumping to a convoluted conclusion to explain the different surnames, the simplest explanation was that the clerk just mixed them up, which fit with all of the other evidence.

So, next time you encounter evidence that doesn't seem to make sense, check to see if your theory involves an unusual circumstance. If it does, reevaluate all of the evidence and see if there could be a simpler explanation. When you have found the right theory, the evidence should build on itself, and new evidence will only strengthen it. If it really is an unusual circumstance, then you will likely find other records that support that, and if it's not, you will have resolved the conflict.



LegacyTree Genealogists Newsletter - 6 Apr 2020



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!



Don't Overlook Subscription Websites!

Many subscription websites (Ancestry, Fold3, MyHeritage, FindMyPast, etc.) offer FREE access to some of their offerings around holiday weekends (whether US, UK, or elsewhere); usually aligning the content to the holiday, e.g., military records for Memorial and Veterans Day, etc. You typically must be registered with a name and an email address. These little free access windows are a great opportunity to check out these platforms at no cost. Like what you see, you can consider subscribing. Before subscribing, also check out your local library – many offer access to select databases, which you can sometimes use from home 24/7. As genealogists, we are fortunate that we can often combine celebrating and researching family on the same weekend.



Diane Richard, Internet Genealogy Newsletter
Genealogy Research Tips & More Vol 9 #18, 2 Sep 2022

Keeping the Same Contact Info

I've posted a lot of queries on message boards and genealogical forums and sent a lot of messages through genealogy websites and social media over the years. Sometimes you never receive a reply, but frequently enough, someone will respond. Those replies may come within hours or days of your initial posting, but I have often received responses after a long period of time, sometimes months and, believe it or not, even years. I've even had letters sent through surface mail (yes, real ink-on-paper correspondence in the post) from address labels attached to old missives and publications.



EMAIL ADDRESS. These delayed replies and responses would never have been possible if I had not maintained the same contact information over all these years. I still use the same email address first set up for me more than twenty-five years ago and I have been fortunate to still have family residing at my old postal address. What good luck keeping the same contact information has turned out to be for me and my ongoing research. I can only recommend it as a good practice for everyone else too.



By Robbie Gorr Internet Genealogy Newsletter
Research Tips & More! Vol 9 #22, 3 Nov 2022

**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 OCT 20, 2026, SBGS Luncheon at the Elks Lodge, 1630 US 41 S, Ruskin

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

Please reserve luncheon(s) for: _____

Meal choice: Pork Tenderloin _____ Manicotti _____ Lactose Free _____

_____ A check for **\$18** per meal is enclosed. If you don't use the reservation form, please note
lunch choice on your check memo space.

Or 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 11th

===== CUT ✂ HERE =====

Please renew my Membership to South Bay Genealogical Society for 2027

Membership Renewal of **\$25.00 per household** is due December 31, 2026

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)