LINKS

The Monthly Newsletter of South Bay Genealogical Society

NOVEMBER 2026 | ***SBGS News & Information*** | **Vol 32 No 8**

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

Guest Speaker – November 17



Karen Fortin

presents CENSUS

Meet the Neighbors:
Neighborhood Analysis Using Census Records

What type of neighborhood did your ancestors live in? Who were the neighbors and where did they come from? What types of jobs did they have? Was it a blue-collar or white-collar neighborhood and how did your ancestors fit in? These and other questions can be answered as you learn how to identify the residents of a neighborhood and analyze the information found in their census records. ANALYZE

Mail Your Luncheon Reservation Now!

Reservations for the SBGS luncheon meetings need to be received 9 days prior to the luncheon. November reservations must be in the SBGS post office box by **Sunday ~ Nov 8th!** Allow 4-5 days for mailing.

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 in 2012, and was the society's president from 2014-2017.

Karen 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 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.











Technology

Genealogy Tech Forum

learn something NEW

will be meeting via Zoom
Monday – November 2nd
10:30 to 12:00 noon

ZOOM

To join in, use this link:

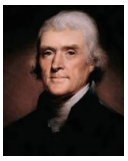
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81816228126?pwd=AJV4asc2K58i87KRNJwGG6P10xmS0A.1

Meeting ID: 818 1622 8126 Passcode: 968253

Topic: WikiTree

Please log in a few minutes before start time.

Some Turkey Tidbits



Thomas Jefferson is the only U.S. President who refused to celebrate Thanksgiving.



In 1953 an employee at C.A. Swanson and Sons overestimated the demand for Thanksgiving turkeys. He had 260+ tons of leftover turkeys. Smithsonian reports that a Swanson salesman ordered 5,000 aluminum trays. He then came up with a turkey meal and recruited an assembly line of workers. They then put together what would become the 1st TV tray dinners. In their 1st year of production they sold 10 million TV tray dinners.



50 million Pumpkin Pies will be served on Thanksgiving.



Source: positivelyjane.net

2026-2027 Board of Directors
South Bay Genealogical Society

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(area code 813 except noted)

Murphy's Law of Genealogy

No one in your family tree ever did anything noteworthy, owned property, was sued or was named in a will.



THANKSGIVING AT PLYMOUTH - 1620



Throughout that first brutal winter, most of the colonists remained on board the Mayflower, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of contagious disease. Only half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first New England spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from an Abenaki Indian who greeted them in English. Several days later, he returned with another Native American, Squanto, a member of the Pawtuxet tribe who had been kidnapped by an English sea captain and sold into slavery before escaping to London and returning to his homeland on an exploratory expedition. Squanto taught the Pilgrims, weakened by malnutrition and illness, how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous plants. He also helped the settlers forge an alliance with the Wampanoag, a local tribe, which would endure for more than 50 years and tragically remains one of the sole examples of harmony between European colonists and Native Americans.



Source: Thanksgiving.com

PAY IN ADVANCE



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 luncheon meetings.

When you arrive for the current month's luncheon meeting, try our "Pay in Advance" plan. You can pay for the next month's luncheon and select your meal. This will alleviate these problems:



- Forgetting to mail your check & reservation on time
- Being too late to mail your check & reservation
- Missing the luncheon because deadline has 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 few weeks or so until they are deposited.



December 15 Luncheon Meeting

Swedish Meatballs w/ noodles
Vegetarian: Eggplant Parmesan
Lactose: Swedish Meatballs w/ lactose free noodles



Guest Speaker Carol Rooksby Weidlich

presents Virtual Cemeteries

DID YOU KNOW?



ACCIDENTIAL INVENTION

The microwave oven, invented in 1945, came about accidentally, after engineer Percy Spencer found radio waves emitted by a radar set he was working on melted a chocolate bar.



ON THE BOOKSHELF

The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald *by John U. Bacon*



Many of us have heard the song *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald* written and performed by Gordon Lightfoot, but how many of us know the full story of what happened? This was the task undertaken by author John U. Bacon in his book ***The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald***.



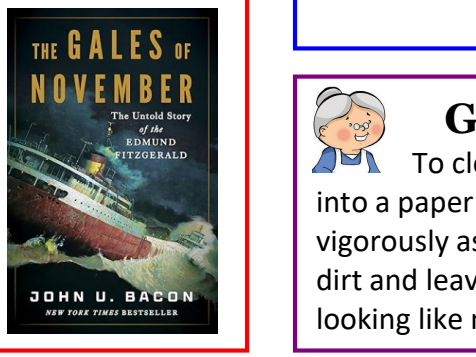
On November 10, 1975, an unprecedented storm hit the Great Lakes area, causing hurricane-force winds, blinding rain and snow, and massive waves on Lake Superior. Although 1975 doesn't seem that long ago, the level of technology, ability to predict weather, and safety protocols were much less than they are today. Caught in the middle of the storm and the lack of accurate information were two ships attempting to cross Lake Superior to the relative safety of the locks leading to Lake Huron, the *Arthur M. Anderson* and the *Edmund Fitzgerald*. As the two raced each other to be the first to reach the locks, they unknowingly headed into the worst part of the storm.



As the *Anderson* fell behind, the *Fitzgerald* steamed ahead. Helpless to do anything except keep in touch by radio, the *Anderson*'s captain heard increasingly worrisome news. The *Fitzgerald*, at the time one of the largest ships on the lakes, shortly after sailing too close to an island known to have treacherous shoals, reported that the ship was beginning to list to one side as the immense weight of its iron cargo caused the deck to barely rise above the level of the lake and well below the height of the crashing waves. At 7:10 p.m., Captain McSorley of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* radioed to the *Anderson* in response to a question about the situation aboard ship, "We are holding our own." These were the last words from anyone aboard the *Fitzgerald*. Shortly afterwards, she disappeared from the radar screen just 17 miles from safety.



Bacon's book is a page-turning account of the history of the ship, the circumstances surrounding the wreck, and the lives of the 29 men who went down with her. Along the way is a fascinating look at what life was like aboard the Great Lakes cargo ships during the heyday of the Great Lakes shipping industry.





Article courtesy of Karen Fortin

Search Hints & Tips
FamilySearch.org

Experiment with Match Exactly

In your searches, you'll have the option of selecting Match All Terms Exactly. A search with this option will return only results that match the text in all fields you filled in. This can be a useful option if you're trying to narrow down your results, but this can also exclude relevant matches that contain spelling errors or simply omit specific details.

Andrew Koch, Family Tree Magazine Newsletter 15 Jul 2019

RESEARCHING NEW ANCESTORS

When you start researching a new ancestor, it's tempting to jump straight to the most exciting record you can find. Instead, focus on building a strong foundation first. These five record types help create context and point you toward smarter next steps.

Census Records

Census records place your ancestor in a specific location at a specific time. They help you track movement, household members, occupations, and relationships across decades.

Even when details change, patterns emerge. Who is living nearby? Who disappears? Who suddenly shows up?

Vital Records

Birth, marriage, and death records often provide names of parents and spouses, ages, residences, and key dates. Each type offers different clues, so gathering all three creates a more complete picture.

One record can raise questions. Multiple records help answer them.

(continued on page 4)

GRANDMA'S TIPS

To clean artificial flowers, pour some salt into a paper bag and add the flowers. Shake vigorously as the salt will absorb all the dust and dirt and leave your artificial flowers looking like new! Works like a charm!

RESEARCHING NEW ANCESTORS

(continued from page 3)





Military Records

If your ancestor was of service age, military records are worth checking. Draft registrations, service records, and pension files often include birth information, physical descriptions, family details, and addresses.

They can be useful even when military service was brief. (And in the case of draft registrations, maybe no service involved – he was just of the right age!)



Land and Property Records

Land records are especially helpful for tracking families between census years. They can show when someone arrived in an area, how long they stayed, and how property moved through a family.

They also often reveal neighbors, witnesses, and associates worth researching. (Remember, too, that your ancestor didn't have to own hundreds of acres of land to show up in land records!)



Probate Records

Probate records include wills, estates, guardianships, and inventories. These documents can confirm relationships, reveal family structure, and provide insight into an ancestor's life and community.

Even a simple estate file can answer questions that other records cannot.



Women That Made History



Abigail Adams (1744–1818)

Activist

Born Abigail Smith, Abigail Adams was not only an early advocate for women's rights, but a confidant and advisor to her husband President John Adams (the second president of the U.S.). She opposed slavery and supported women's education.

In a 1776 letter, future First Lady Abigail Adams encouraged her husband, John Adams, then a member of the Continental Congress, to "Remember the ladies ... [we] will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation."

Katharine Andrew, Family Tree Magazine Newsletter, 26 May 2026



CONTACTS



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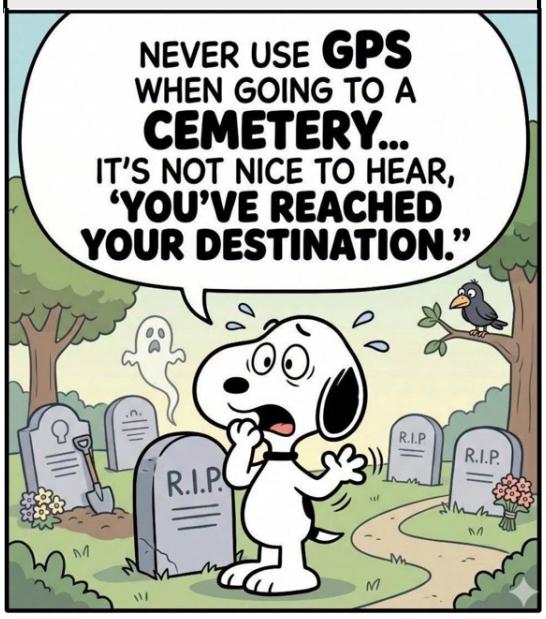
Membership - Cathy Rebhun: cathy33596@yahoo.com
Programs/Newsletter - Dru Thomas: sbgsdruthomas@gmail.com

Genealogy Funnies





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



southbaygs@gmail.com

Research Tip



Seek Original Records

Indexes, whether paper or digital, don't always tell the full story. Spelling mistakes and transcription errors can make a mess of even the most precise keyword search, so you'll sometimes need to turn to record images to even find your ancestor. Many online records collections include images of the original record, or you can request documents from an archive for a nominal fee.

Viewing original records can also generate new leads in your research. By looking at the pages immediately before and after your ancestor's listing in a census, for example, you might find friends, extended family members or neighbors whose information can help you grow your family tree.



Source:
https://familytreemagazine.com/research/genealogy-tips/

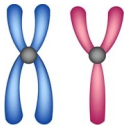
What's the difference between X-DNA and mtDNA?

Q: I understand that mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) documents the maternal line—mother's mother's mother and so on. Since a man has his mother's mtDNA and passes on an X chromosome to his daughter, would the daughter's DNA results reflect mtDNA from his side of the family?
A: This confusion between X-chromosome DNA (X-DNA) and mtDNA is common. Most people understand that mtDNA and X-DNA both have something to do with our moms. But in our bodies and in genetic genealogy research, X-DNA and mtDNA serve different purposes. Here's why:



X-DNA: Your XDNA is part of the tiny package of genetic information housed in the center—the nucleus—of every cell in your body.

You get one copy of each of your mother's chromosomes numbered 1 through 22. Her No. 23 chromosome donation to you is always an X. Your dad also gives you a copy of each of his chromosomes 1 to 22. If you're a woman, his chromosome No. 23 donation is an X. If you're a man, you get your father's Y chromosome instead.



MtDNA: Your mtDNA, on the other hand, isn't found alongside your chromosomes. Instead, it lives independently with its own DNA outside the nucleus of your cell. We all started as just one cell, actually as one half of a cell: the egg. The egg that your mom made was painstakingly packaged not just with the 23 chromosomes she gave you, but also with some mitochondria to help with all that cell division needed right after fertilization. Isn't your mother thoughtful? Both sons and daughters receive mtDNA from their mothers. But a man doesn't pass on this gift to his offspring. Therefore, his daughter's mtDNA won't tell you anything about him.

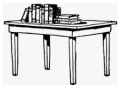


(continued on page 6)

MEMBERSHIP
ANNUAL DUES

Soon it will be time to renew your membership to SBGS. Your $25 renewal is due by December 31st.
It would 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.

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



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 a popular item so once you read it, if no longer want it, please consider returning it to the Swap Table for others to enjoy.

Addicted to Genealogy

You know you're addicted to genealogy when you ask all the people you meet what their parents and grandparents' surnames are.



GENEALOGY POX

WARNING: NO KNOWN CURE!
(very contagious to mature adults)

SYMPTOMS

- Continual complaint for names, dates and places
- Patient has blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children
- Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses
- Has strong compulsions to write letters
- Swears at mailman when he leaves no mail
- Has compulsions to frequently visit strange places, such as cemeteries, ruins, and remote, desolate country areas
- Makes secret night calls
- Hides phone bills from spouse
- Mumbles to self
- Has strange far-away look in eyes.

TREATMENT

- Medication is useless
- Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse
- Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines, and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be left alone.

REMARKS: The unusual nature of this disease is the sicker one gets, the more he enjoys it!



Source: freepages.rootsweb.com

X-DNA and mtDNA

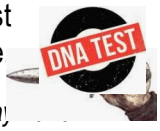
(continued from page 5)

So how do these different types of DNA fit into your family history? You're correct that you can test your mtDNA to learn about your direct maternal line (Family Tree DNA is the only major testing company that provides this test). Because we all have our mother's mtDNA, anyone can take an mtDNA test to learn about maternal-line origins—and sometimes about family history. Your origins information is provided in the form of an mtDNA haplogroup assignment. This is just a set of letters and numbers, such as H1a1a2b, that describes where your ancestor may have been thousands of years ago. You also get a list of people who have the same mtDNA profile as you do. Unlike autosomal DNA matches, your mtDNA matches don't necessarily share a recent ancestor with you. Because mtDNA rarely mutates, there's no good way to tell if a match is your second cousin or your 22nd cousin.



If you share X-DNA with a match, though, the unique inheritance pattern can help you narrow down which ancestors you have in common.

Your X-DNA is tested as part of your autosomal DNA, but not every testing company uses or reports the results. If you want to take a good look at your X-DNA, you'll need to either take the Family Finder test at Family Tree DNA or upload test results from any company to the GEDmatch website



Diahan Southard, Family Tree Magazine Newsletter, 29 May



Genealogy Quotes

Home is a place you grow up wanting to leave, and grow old wanting to get back to.

~ John Ed Pearce ~







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.



SHADES OF HISTORY

Rasputin Survives Assassination



Rasputin apparently survived an assassination attempt involving being poisoned, shot and stabbed several times.

The Russian mystic and self-professed holy man is best-known for dealing with the Russian royal family, the Romanovs.

A rabble of nobles suspected Rasputin's sway over the Tsar and Tsarina posed a threat to the monarchy, so invited the self-proclaimed Christ in miniature to the palace in December 1916.



Rasputin was then poisoned with cyanide-laced cakes and drinks and then shot three times, including once in the head.

But that was reportedly ineffective as he was also stabbed several times before he was finally found drowned in Russia's Volga River.



Source: www.newsweek.com/

Poignant Tombstone



Jotham Stoddard 24 Jun 1779 - 7 Jan 1786
Susa Stoddard 13 Feb 1782 - 3 Jan 1786
Rachel Stoddard 12 Oct 1784 - 2 Jan 1786
Noah Stoddard 3 Sep 1777 - 2 Jan 1786
Old Centre Burial Ground
Winchendon, Worcester Co, MA
Source: findagrave.com

Editor's note: I was curious as to what they died of and did an AI search. A severe dysentery epidemic struck the town that year. According to the "History of the Town of Winchendon," 28 people died of dysentery in 1786. Therefore, this is most likely what these children died from.

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE SEND A SEPARATE CHECK FOR <u>DUES ONLY</u> DIRECTLY TO OUR MEMBERSHP 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 Nov 17, 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: Turkey_____ Vegetarian: Baked Potato _____Lactose: Turkey_____

_____ 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 <u>RECEIVED</u> in the PO Box by November 8th

========== 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 <u>Membership</u> on your check memo space)