



The Searcher

Suncoast Genealogy Society Newsletter

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY

Saturday, 24 Feb 2024, 1:00-4:00 pm
at the Countryside Library
2642 Sabal Springs Dr, Clearwater, FL
or online

A Hybrid in-person
Spring Mini-Seminar



\$25 for Members & \$30 for Non-Members

Using Irish Records

Finding your Ancestor's Townland



Program Speaker:
Seán Quinn

- **Examining the various Irish Records**
Sean will look at various records on several websites that can be helpful in your Irish research.

Snacks, Drinks & Prizes

- **Visiting Ireland & Your Townland**
This program will look at what his company can provide in the way of tours to Ireland.



For more information about Sean and his company visit:

<https://myirelandheritage.com/about-us/sean-quinn/>

For registration information visit: <https://sgsfl.com>

Genealogy and DNA IG



Monday, Feb 12

1:00-3:00 pm

PHL Conference Room

Hybrid Meeting & via Zoom

open to all members

TOPIC: General discussion about Family Search

Genealogy Help Desk



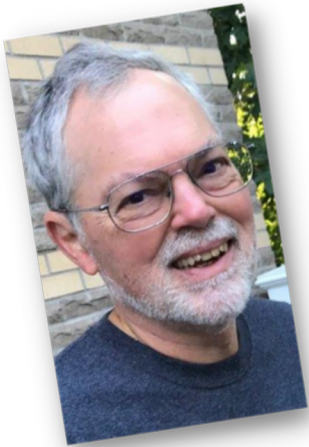
Tues, Wed & Thurs

1:00-4:00 pm

PHL Genealogy
Section

Need help researching online,
breaking down a brick wall.
Beginners and members are
encouraged to stop by!
Come join us at the Help Desk!

President's Message



It's election time and we are currently seeking nominations for Vice President & Secretary. The term of office for the current positions ends April 30, 2024. The key dates for the election process are as follows.

March 5, 2024, the nominating committee presents their candidates to the Board at the monthly Board meeting.

March 23, 2024, the slate of candidates is presented and voted on by the membership during the monthly membership meeting.

April 27, 2024, the new Board is sworn in during the monthly membership meeting.

These positions **MUST** be filled to allow SGS to continue as a viable organization.

Bob Pierro

Look What's Coming in March!

Saturday, 23 March 2023, 1:30-4:00 pm EST
 Join us at the Clearwater Countryside Library
 2642 Sabal Springs Dr, Clearwater, FL

The National Archives: The Nation's Attic



Featuring
PAULA STUART-WARREN,
 CGSM, FMGS, FUGA

Sooner or later our research leads us to the treasures held in governmental archives. Governmental archives are a treasure trove of information for researchers, with the United States National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) being the go-to source for federal government records. While many genealogists rely on federal census, military and pension records, as well as passenger arrival records, NARA has custody of a vast array of other useful records.

This hour and syllabus material focuses on the Washington, DC, area facilities, commonly called Archives I and II, finding aids, website, catalogs, access options and research tips. Some discussion covers the regional branches of NARA, including the finding aids.

<http://genealogybypaula.com>
 Member supported. Free and Open to the Public!
 For more information about SGS visit: www.SGSFL.com



Do You Have Cousins Nearby?

At the SGS April Membership meeting we will have a bit of fun with FamilySearch “Family Tree” app for smart phones. With it, you can find cousins and see how you are related to others. Maybe you are related in ways you didn’t know, to other SGS members!

Please download this app before the meeting, or you can also download the app at the Palm Harbor Library, using the library wifi. You also need to have an account (free) at www.familysearch.org and identify yourself in the FamilySearch tree family tree: Account Settings, Family Tree Preferences, set the Family Tree Starting Person as yourself. The icon for the app looks like this:



Message from the Nominations Committee

Hello All,

The SGS Nominating Committee met earlier this week to discuss the positions that need to be filled for the 2024-2026 term.

We will be presenting a slate of officers at our March meeting and of course nominations from the floor will be accepted as well.

Our Board of Directors and Officers are an integral part of the success of SGS for the next two years. If you are interested in volunteering to be an officer and to be part of our great society, contact John Matthews, Marianne Bradley or Beth Bleich by January 25th.

Sincerely,

John Matthews, 612.875.3108 Marianne Bradley, 727.784.0420 Beth Bleich, 352.650.8421

National Genealogical Society - Virtual Conference coming in May



2024 VIRTUAL FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES

16-18 MAY



Society News



Our monthly meetings are
on the
4th Saturday
1:30 - 4 pm

TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP
RENWAL AND DUES
FORM AT [HTTPS://SGSFL.COM](https://sgsfl.com)



Our Genealogy Friends

Pinellas Genealogy Society
Hybrid Meeting & via Zoom
Saturday, Feb 17 @ 11 am - 1 pm
Introduction to Church Records:
Why we Care Where Grandma Went
to Church
<https://pinellaskenealogysociety.com/>

Tarpon Springs Library
Genealogy Research Group
Monday Feb 12 @ 6:30 pm
Bringing Your Ancestors to Life:
Going Beyond the Facts
<http://tarponlibrary.org/genealogy/>

Florida Genealogical Society – Tampa
<https://fgstampa.org/>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay
<http://www.jgstb.org/>

DAR, Caladesi Chapter
Members meet the 3rd Monday of the month, Sept thru May, 11:30 am, Dunedin Baptist Church. Contact [Debbie Smyth](mailto:dsmyth927@gmail.com), dsmyth927@gmail.com, for more information.

SAR, Clearwater Chapter
Members meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month, Sept thru May, 11:30 am, Dunedin Golf Club. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/SARClearwater/> for more information.

SGS Board 2022-2024

President: *Robert Pierro*
Vice President: *John Matthews*
VP/Membership: *Shari Harmon*
VP/Programs: *Jean Van Horn*
Treasurer: *Joan Baptist*
Secretary: *Janet Sidor*
Past President: *Debbie Smyth*
Directors: *Redd Slyker*
Ann James
Kim Croco-Brooks

Committee Chairs & Others

Education: *Ann James & Jean Van Horn*
Facebook: *Beth Bleich*
Help Desk: *Marianne Bradley*
Historian: *Ann James*
Library Liaison: *Peter Cannon*
Publicity: *Redd Slyker*
Newsletter: *Kim Croco-Brooks*
Registered Agent: *Shari Harmon*
Sunshine: *Mary Jane Hough*
Web Development: *John Matthews*

Proud Partner with



Diane Johnson
Bob Pierro
Sherrie Reres

Suncoast Genealogy Society
 c/o Palm Harbor Library
 2330 Nebraska Ave.
 Palm Harbor, FL 34683



Check our website:
sgsfl.com
 Email us:
info@sgsfl.com
 Connect with us on
[Facebook](#)



**Suncoast
Genealogy
Society**

Palm Harbor, Florida

Palm Harbor Library
You. Us. Together.

**A Hybrid in-person
Spring Mini-Seminar**

Saturday, 24 Feb 2024, 1:00-4:00 pm
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Program Speaker:
Seán Quinn



Seán Quinn has spent all his working life in Tourism and is a certified genealogist in Ireland. "I felt there was a real need to make sure clients saw the real Ireland and genealogy certainly achieves this as most family Townland experiences are off the beaten path, bringing the 'Real Ireland' to life."

As a member of the Historic Society, a fully qualified Genealogist and Failte Ireland Tour guide Seán believes it is imperative that each client, from the moment they fill out a preliminary form, journey through the research process, and finally reach the exact spot in Ireland where their family's house once was, is on a very important journey to connect with their past.

For more information about Sean and his company visit:

<https://myirelandheritage.com/about-us/sean-quinn/>

For registration information visit: <https://SGSFL.com>



Suncoast Genealogy Society

Winter Mini-Seminar Registration Form

Saturday, 24 February 2024, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

at the Countryside Library, 2642 Sabal Springs Dr, Clearwater

Featuring: Sean Quinn

Register by mail and check. **Registrations must be postmarked by Tuesday, 20 Feb 2024.**

PLEASE PRINT:

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone: _____

_____ **Email: _____

****Email is required to receive the meeting link.**

Please indicate if you are: _____ Member of Suncoast Genealogy Society (SGS) _____ Non-Member

If you are a member of another genealogy society, please let us know which one

Please indicate if you expect to attend ___ in person ___ via Zoom

SEMINAR FEE(S): (Add number of registrations) _____ \$25 SGS Member _____ \$30 Non-Member

\$ _____ Check Total Check # _____

NOTE:

No refund requests accepted after Wednesday, Feb 21, 2024

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: *SUNCOAST GENEALOGY SOCIETY*

Mail check and completed Registration Form to:

**Shari Harmon
1864 Northwood Drive
Clearwater, FL 33764**

For questions or more information email: **info@SGSFL.com**

Reminder: Registration envelope **MUST** be postmarked by **Tuesday 20 Feb 2024**



Suncoast Genealogy Society

Beginning Genealogy Course A Six-Week Course

Instructors: Ann James, Marianne Bradley, Jean Van Horn; Registrar: Shari Harmon

Classes for the Winter 2024 course will be held 1:30-4:00 pm on:

Fri. 23 Feb, Fri. 1 Mar, Wed. 6 Mar,

Tues. 12 Mar, Fri. 22 Mar, & Fri. 29 Mar

at the Palm Harbor Library in the Conference Room.



Please register for the course with Adult Services at the Library

Please arrive 30 minutes early on the first day for sign-in and fee payment in the Genealogy section of the library.

Cost for the course is \$25.00 - Payable at the beginning of the 1st class
Check or cash only, please.

Please register early as we only have 10 seats available due to the room size.

These classes will teach you the research & documentation process for finding your ancestors and documenting this information in a form that can be shared with your family. We will explore the major research websites (Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org) and give you the "ins and outs" of these sites. We will cover:

Census Records	City Directories	Newspapers	Military Records
Immigration	FindAGrave	Church Records	Naturalization
Timelines	Various Websites	Sourcing	SSDI

The focus of this course is U.S. records

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Shari Harmon - (727) 539-1046 Email: sharih1046@gmail.com

Website: www.SGSFL.com