



The Searcher

Suncoast Genealogy Society Newsletter

What's happening in June

28 June 2025 SGS Membership Meeting

1:30-4:00 pm, Palm Harbor Library

Zoom Presentation

Finding a Birth Mother A DNA Case Study



Glenn York

This is a case study of a woman that was adopted at birth in the early 1950s. I discuss the steps used to analyze her DNA matches, then how those matches and family tree information were used to identify her birth mother and her birth father's family.

For more information go to: www.SGSFL.com

Member Supported. Public Always Welcome

Look What's Coming in July!

26 Jul 2025 SGS Membership Meeting

1:30-4:00 pm, Palm Harbor Library

1:30 SGS Meeting, 2:00 Program

In Person Speaker



Overview of FamilySearch.org

Debbe will go over all the new parts of FamilySearch and give an overview of all the sections of FamilySearch, such as Trees, Search, Books, Catalog, Genealogies, and Research Wiki.



Speaker
Debbe Hagner

Debbe's amateur interest in tracing her family's roots led her to pursue a professional career in genealogy. In 1996, she attended Brigham Young University and received a Diploma in Family History. She is one of the few professional and accredited genealogists in the Tampa Bay area. Debbe is in private practice where she presents genealogy seminars and workshops on an on-going basis. She conducts private and confidential family background research studies and assists individuals on a one-on-one basis to research their family histories and develop supporting genealogy records.

President's Message

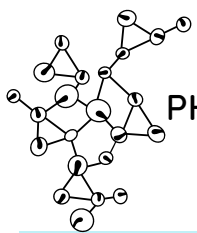


Denise Manning presented "DNA and Your Family Tree" at the May SGS Membership meeting. She asked "How many have done a DNA test?" and only a few indicated they had not. I would like to invite those who are still thinking about doing this or even those who have but don't know what to do with their test results, to attend the monthly SGS Genealogy and DNA group meeting or visit the Genealogy Help Desk at the Palm Harbor Library where we would be happy to help you learn more about the test and what to expect, or your test results.

Memorial Day has passed and with it, began the unofficial start of summer. I hope many of you are planning a vacation trip with adventures or even a family reunion, with chances to connect with distant cousins. But don't forget genealogy and take your family tree info with you!

John Matthews

Genealogy and DNA IG



Monday, Jun 9 @
1:00-3:00 pm
PHL Conference Room
In-Person Meeting
open to everyone

**Topic: How to use the
Leeds Charts to determine
family groups**

Next Meeting: Monday Jul 14



The Leeds Method is a DNA match analysis method that uses color clusters corresponding with shared ancestors. It divides DNA matches into four colored quadrants representing each grandparent.

JOIN US



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!

Board Meeting

All SGS Members are welcome to come to the Board meetings. They are on the first **MONDAY** of the month on ZOOM. The next meeting is on Jul 7, 2025 at 2:30pm

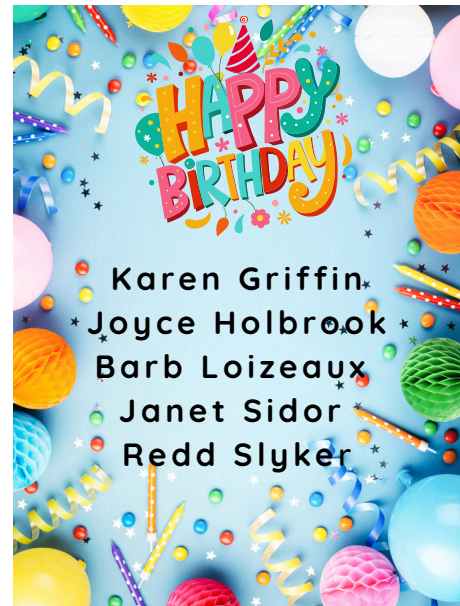
SGS Board 2024-2026

President: John Matthews
Vice President: Eugene Girardi
VP/Membership: Shari Harmon
VP/Programs: Jean Van Horn
Treasurer: Joan Baptist
Secretary: Marianne Bradley
Past President: Robert Pierro
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 Ann James
 Kim Croco-Brooks

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

Proud Partner with



The best place to start you genealogy research is:

- a. Internet
- b. Grandma
- c. National Archives
- d. Mormon Library

Answer: bottom of page 4



Questions?



Check our website:
sgsfl.com

Email us:
info@sgsfl.com

Connect with us on
[Suncoast Genealogy Society Facebook](#)

Suncoast Genealogy Society

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



Our Genealogy Friends

Pinellas Genealogy Society

Saturday, Jun 21 @ 11 am-1 pm

Hybrid Meeting & via Zoom

**Topic: Online Newspaper Research
presented by Kenneth R. Marks**

<https://pinellaskenealogysociety.com/>

Florida Genealogical Society – Tampa

<https://fgstampa.org/>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

<http://www.jgstb.org/>



East Lake Community Library

A **FAMILY SEARCH** Affiliate

Library

Contact the library at 727-773-2665

Many of those records can be accessed at ELCL because we are the only North Pinellas FamilySearch affiliate library and have privileges to limited-access databases

Tarpon Springs Library Genealogy Research Group

Monday, Jun 9 @ 6:30 pm

**Topic: Genealogy Geeks with
Laptops & Snacks**

<http://tarponlibrary.org/genealogy/>

SAR, Clearwater Chapter

Members meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month, Sept thru May, 11:30 am, Dunedin Country Club.

Go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/SARClearwater/>
for more information.

Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative

Online Genealogy Resources

<https://hcplc.org>

DAR, Caladesi Chapter

Members meet the 3rd Monday of the month Sept thru May, 11:30 am, North Dunedin Baptist Church. Contact Debbie Smyth, dsmyth927@gmail.com for more information.

Answer: b. Grandma



Getting Involved

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

We are looking for someone who would like to take on this position.

Please contact
John Matthews
if you are interested.

GENEALOGY HELP DESK

Hone your research skills while helping others. It's the most rewarding job there is!

We can train you! Contact **Marianne Bradley** to volunteer and/or set up training time with one of the other volunteers.

Other Local Resources

Palm Harbor Museum

2043 Curlew Rd, Palm Harbor, FL 34683
Phone: (727) 724 -3054
Hours: Thurs, Fri and Sat; 10 am to 2 pm
<https://www.palmharbormuseum.com>

Clearwater Historical Society

610 S Fort Harrison, Clearwater, FL 33756
Phone: (727) 754-8019
Hours: Wednesdays & Saturdays; 10 am-2 pm
<https://www.clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org>

Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society

Historic Train Depot. Downtown Tarpon Springs, FL
160 East Tarpon Ave, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
Phone: 727-943-4624
Hours: Wednesdays-Saturdays: 11:00 am-3:00 pm
<http://tarponspringsareahistoricalsociety.org>

Pinellas County Historical Society

<https://pchs.winniedesignandphoto.com>

USF-Special Collections

140 7th Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone: 727-873-4123
<https://lib.usf.edu>

Did you know

Anyone that recruits two people to join SGS will receive a free one-year membership.

If you think your family is normal, you probably aren't a genealogist!

FACEBOOK GROUPS

Are you part of our **SGS Facebook Group** or any other Genealogy Facebook groups? There are many groups that you can join.

Save the Date

2025 MEETINGS

28 Jun Finding a Birth Mother - speaker: Glenn York
 26 July The New Family Search - speaker: Debbe Hagner
 23 August Show and Tell - Members
 27 September Understanding AI in Genealogy: Foundations and Tools
 - speaker: Diana Elder
 25 Oct Seminar - speaker: Lisa Louise Cook
 22 Nov Questions & Answers - speaker: Megan Smolenyak
 Dec Christmas Party

Do you have an heirloom from your ancestors and you want to share your story about it? August is the date.

Tell Jean Van Horn what you want to share.



Do you have questions about how to research, where to look for your ancestors, have a brickwall that you can not break? Get your questions ready for Megan Smolenyak by November.



DNA Mentors Available

Struggling with understanding your DNA results? Have questions for with you can't find answers? Email info@sgsfl.com to get connected with a Mentor.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Do you have an idea on how to improve our newsletter? Do you have a story or a breakthrough? Is there something you would like to share - a genealogy tip, a website or a an upcoming event? Email your ideas to Kim Croco-Brooks: inhislovinghands10@yahoo.com

What unusual way have you found information about your ancestor

My maternal grandmother and two of her cousins published a book in 1979 on their Jopling family titled "The Jopling-Joplin family with some of their connections in England and America". About 1985 I thought it would be a good idea to put everyone in it in a genealogy database and began researching the family at that time.

Later I focused my research on my paternal lines from Wales, Switzerland and Germany. Later I got involved with genetic genealogy after I took an Ancestry DNA test.

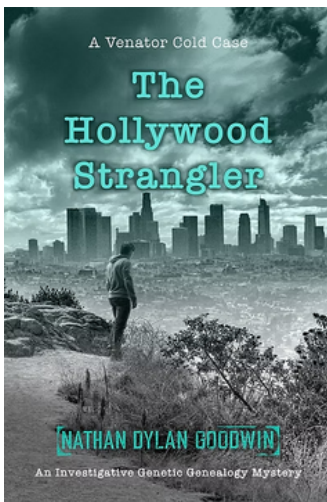
by John Matthews



NATHAN KNOCKS IT OUT OF THE PARK WITH HIS LATEST!!

Book Report on Nathan Dylan Goodwin's latest Genealogy Murder Mystery, *The Hollywood Strangler*, the third novel in his Venator Cold Case Series.

I finished this intriguing book by Nathan last week and can't rave about all of his books any more than I have about them in the past. If you have any interest in Genealogy and enjoy Murder Mysteries, this book is a must. Rather than try to dream up my own synopsis on it, I will just write verbatim what Nathan says on the back cover of his book - after all he is a Writer and a Genealogist. Who could describe it better?



In the glitzy, gritty underbelly of 1980's Los Angeles, a chilling series of murders left the city gripped with fear. Six small-time actors and actresses met brutal ends; their bodies grotesquely posed in scenes from the films that had given them their fleeting fame. The Hollywood Strangler evaded capture, leaving behind only a trace of DNA and a legacy of terror. Decades later, the case remains ice-cold, a favorite for true-crime aficionados but a nightmare for detectives. The LAPD Cold Case Homicide Unit, desperate for a breakthrough on this case, turns to Venator, an elite investigative genetic genealogy company headed by Madison Scott-Barnhart. Knowing the media storm that the case will attract, Madison reluctantly agrees to take on the investigation, where she and her small team must use their forensic genetic genealogy skills to identify one of the most infamous serial killers in the U.S. history. But only if the remaining DNA proves sufficient to test.

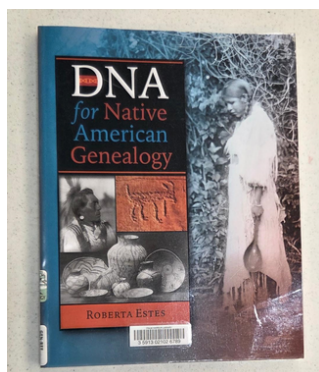
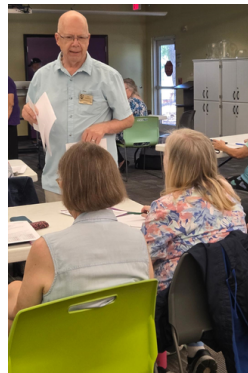
I can suggest to you that you do not try to keep track of the names and relationships of all of the family trees that the genetic genealogist group are studying and building, just enjoy their hard work, dedicated days, and superior skills, and apply your own knowledge of how it works to appreciate the process they went through to solve this case. Brilliant.

MARIANNE BRADLEY

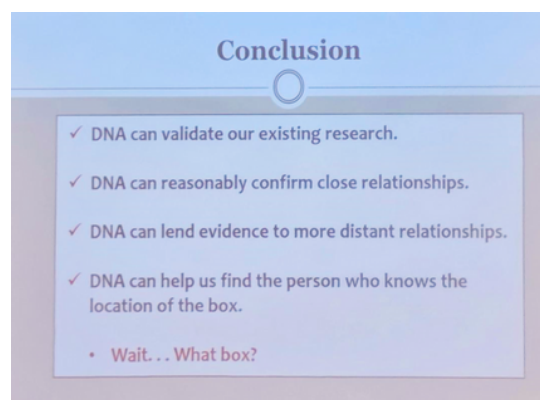
MAY MEETING



Welcome our speaker Denise Manning as she uncovers Groups matches by share ancestors and how it all works



Our newest book at the library



Katie Graves won door prize donated by John Matthews