



The Searcher

Suncoast Genealogy Society Newsletter

What's happening in February

21 Feb 2026 Membership Meeting

1:30-4:00 pm, on **ZOOM ONLY**
1:30 SGS Meeting, 2:00 Program



Speaker - Debbe Hagner

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

Overview of FamilySearch.org

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

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.

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Proud Partner



To register, send request to:

SuncoastGenSoc@gmail.com

Member Supported. Public Always Welcome

President's Message



We had another great presentation on TimeLines by Karen Fortin at our last SGS member meeting, with an interesting case study and unexpected results. TimeLines are an essential genealogical tool and will also be covered in our upcoming Beginning Genealogy Course.

Our next SGS member meeting will be on February 21st when Debbe Hagner will talk about the New FamilySearch. This is a week earlier than normal to not conflict with the annual Pinellas Genealogy Society seminar.

This is a good time to remind SGS members to register for the annual RootsTech conference, March 5-7, at Salt Lake City. If you are not going in-person, it is free and many sessions are available on-line.

John Matthews

SGS Board 2024-2026

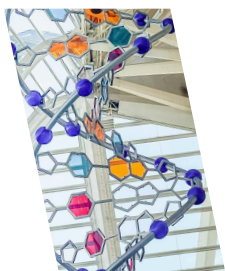
Board of Directors

President: John Matthews
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Web Development: John Matthews
DNA IG: Robert Pierro & John Matthews

Genealogy and DNA IG



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

Topic: Time Line Case

Bring one of more of your ancestors' timeline as we will discuss different ways to create them & how helpful they are.



Year	Event	Location	Notes
1800	Birth of John Doe	New York	
1810	Marriage of John Doe and Jane Doe	New York	
1820	Death of John Doe	New York	
1830	Birth of Jane Doe	New York	
1840	Marriage of Jane Doe and John Doe	New York	
1850	Death of Jane Doe	New York	
1860	Birth of John Doe	New York	
1870	Marriage of John Doe and Jane Doe	New York	
1880	Death of John Doe	New York	
1890	Birth of Jane Doe	New York	
1900	Marriage of Jane Doe and John Doe	New York	
1910	Death of Jane Doe	New York	
1920	Birth of John Doe	New York	
1930	Marriage of John Doe and Jane Doe	New York	
1940	Death of John Doe	New York	
1950	Birth of Jane Doe	New York	
1960	Marriage of Jane Doe and John Doe	New York	
1970	Death of Jane Doe	New York	
1980	Birth of John Doe	New York	
1990	Marriage of John Doe and Jane Doe	New York	
2000	Death of John Doe	New York	
2010	Birth of Jane Doe	New York	
2020	Marriage of Jane Doe and John Doe	New York	

Next Meeting: Monday, Mar 9

Reminder

It is time to renew your membership again!

Have you renewed your membership? It will be running out soon. Don't miss out on your upcoming meetings and monthly newsletters.

Send to: Shari Harmon,
 1864 Northwood Dr, Clearwater,
 FL 33764



DNA Mentors Available

Are you wondering how to understand your DNA results? Do you have questions about your DNA?

Email info@sgsfl.com to connected with a Mentor.

Board Meeting

All SGS Members are welcome to come to the Board meetings. They are on the first **Monday** of this month on ZOOM.

The next meeting is on
 Mar 2 @ 2:30pm

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!

Every 3rd Tuesday Tech with John



Christine Fiechter

Anita Freudenthal

Bob Pierro Sherrie Reres



NEW MEMBER

Debbe Hagner
debbe.hagner@gmail.com

Kristie Swoboda
k@swoboda.com



Our Genealogy Friends

Pinellas Genealogy Society

Saturday, Feb 28 @ 8 am-4 pm

PGS Annual Seminar

Hybrid Meeting & via Zoom

Speakers: Diana Elder, Taneya Koonce, Debbie Wilson Smyth

<https://pinellaskenealogysociety.com/>

Florida Genealogical Society – Tampa

<https://fgstampa.org/>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

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

Tarpon Springs Library Genealogy Research Assistance

(727) 943-4922 ext 6010

Monday, Feb 9 @ 6:30 pm

**Topic: Tracking the Trail: Developing
Effective Research Habits**

Speaker: Debbie Wilson Smyth

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



Manatee Genealogical Society

First Tuesday on Zoom

<https://mgsfl.org>



East Lake Community Library

4125 E Lake Rd S, Palm Harbor, FL

Contact the library at 727-773-2665

Largo Public Library

120 Central Park Dr, Largo, FL 33771

Contact the library at 727-586-7410

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/SARCclearwater/>
for more information.

DAR, Caladesi Chapter

Members meet the 3rd Monday of the month
Sept thru May, 11:30 am, North Dunedin Baptist
Church. Contact Debbie Smyth,
dsmlyth927@gmail.com for more information

Family Search Center

St Petersburg/Seminole

9000 106th Ave N

Largo, FL 33777-1147

Hours:

Tues 10 am-6 pm

Thurs 10 am-9 pm

Sat 10 am-4 pm

FL_StPetersburg@familyhistorymail.org

**Services: Computers, Photo negative
scanner, Photo scanner, Printer**

JANUARY MEETING 2026



Timelines for Organizing, Analyzing, & Breaking Down Brick Walls

SPEAKER: KAREN A. FORTIN

Karen showed us by either using pencil and paper or on our computer, how we can create a timeline for our ancestor. By putting their age, location, and events of their life and adding a particular historical event, as wars, epidemics, a murder trial in chronological order will help make their story come alive by using a spreadsheet.



I challenge you to make a timeline of one of your ancestors and bring it to our next Genealogy and DNA IG on Monday, February 9th. I have a template on the last page of this newsletter.



Jenny Kidd won
Nathan Dyan
Goodwin book:
The Deserter's Tale

Please welcome Jenny Kidd as she is our Publicity Chair Person

Jenny Kidd has been researching her family's history since her son asked about buying a kilt with the correct family tartan as he was learning to play the bagpipes.

After some rudimentary research she found that the family is part of

Clan Donald. This started her love of genealogy. She has uncovered verified proof of her relationship to Devil Anse Hatfield, the patriarch of the Hatfield vs McCoy feud, joined the DAR and has been on the hunt to verify her connection to Dunluce Castle in Ireland. Her mother-in-law, LynnRae, is herself an accomplished family researcher and they both joined SGS to make friends and learn more tips to break those brick walls. She works in the marketing department at her company and is looking to put that experience to work with SGS.

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**

SGS MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

SUNCOAST GENEALOGY SOCIETY
MINUTES FOR GENERAL MEETING -
24 JANUARY 2026

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 1:35PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Shari will report

SECRETARY REPORT: Minutes approved
as presented.

TREASURER REPORT: approved as
presented

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: 28 current
members, 3 guests

PROGRAMS REPORT: Jean presented the
previously named programs and
announced a fun surprise for the April
meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

DNA interest group for Feb. 9, will be
on Timelines, which is appropriate to
follow today's program on Timelines.
The membership voted to approve the
Policies and Procedures as has been
presented.

NEW BUSINESS: At the April meeting we
will have the 2026 elections for the
year of May 2026-April 2028.

GOOD AND WELFARE: no report today

SHARE THE BASKET: Joan Baptist
won the \$27 today

DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZE: Jenny
Kidd won the Nathan Dylan
Goodwin genealogy mystery book.

ADJOURNMENT: 1:50pm.

NOTES: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

PROGRAM: Karen Fortin will present
today's program on TIMELINES.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
Marianne Bradley, Secretary

LAST WILL OF MR. FARMER

I leave:

To my wife, my overdraft at the
bank — maybe she can explain it.

To my banker, my soul — he has
the mortgage on it anyway.

To my neighbor, my clown suit —
he'll need it if he continues to farm as
he has in the past.

To the ASCS, my grain bin — I
was planning to let them take it next
year anyway.

To the county agent, 50 bushels of
corn to see if he can hit the market —
I never could.

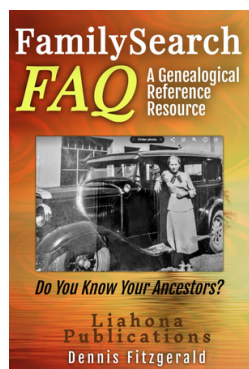
To the junk man, all my machin-
ery — he's had his eye on it for years.

To my undertaker, a special re-
quest — I want six implement and
fertilizer dealers for my pallbearers.
They are used to carrying me.

To the weatherman, rain and sleet
and snow for the funeral, please —
no sense in having good weather
now.

To the grave digger — don't
bother. The hole I'm in should be big
enough.

* * *



You can discover the secrets to unveiling your family's history with "FamilySearch FAQ," the ultimate guide to genealogy.

With over 400 questions answered, this book provides you with a roadmap to navigate the intricate world of family research.

From understanding the fundamentals of genealogy to harnessing advanced research strategies, this book provides you with the knowledge and tools needed to uncover your heritage. Explore the vast treasure trove of records, census data, and historical archives on FamilySearch.org, the world's largest genealogy platform.

By Dennis Fitzgerald



Registration for RootsTech 2026 is now open. The global family discovery event will take place March 5-7, 2026, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and online at RootsTech.org. Select content will be available in multiple languages.

The 3-day genealogy conference includes a variety of family history-themed activities, including:

- Keynote speakers addressing the power of family connection
- Hundreds of in-person and online classes for beginners and experts
- A virtual Expo Hall for browsing and learning about new products
- Daily forums on the latest breakthroughs in family history research and innovation

You can connect with other cousins.



Save the Date

2026 MEETINGS

21 Feb 2026: Speaker: Debbe Hagner - The New FamilySearch

28 Mar 2026: Speaker: Robert Weis - Genealogical Gold in New England
Town Books and Reports

25 Apr 2026: Elections and Fun Surprise

