



The Searcher

Suncoast Genealogy Society Newsletter

Saturday, 28 Mar 2026, 1:30-4:00 pm
Palm Harbor Library in the
Conference Room

What's happening in March

Genealogy Gold

in New England
Town Books and Reports



Program Speaker via Zoom

Robert Cameron Weir

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

In this presentation we examine two important, but underused, town-level resources. Old town books, as maintained by town clerks since colonial times, and town annual reports, published from the mid-19th century to the present, can provide the breakthrough clues needed to demolish your genealogical brick wall.

Where census and compiled vital records fail us, these resources can save the day. I will cover where to find these resources, how to interpret them, and how to use them to solve your genealogical conundrums.

Robert Cameron Weir is a genealogical researcher, educator, and author who lives in Dover, New Hampshire. He specializes in hard problems related to New England genealogy, from 1620 to the present.

He is a member of the Association for Professional Genealogy and is Vice President and Publications Director of the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists.

Inside this issue

| | |
|--|---|
| SGS 43 rd Annual Meeting..... | 2 |
| President's Message..... | 3 |
| Board of Directors..... | 3 |
| Genealogy & DNA IG..... | 4 |
| Our Genealogy Friends..... | 5 |
| Field Trip..... | 6 |
| SGS Minutes..... | 7 |
| Book Review..... | 8 |
| 2026 Upcoming Programs..... | 8 |

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**Suncoast
Genealogy
Society**

Palm Harbor, Florida

Palm Harbor Library
You. Us. Together.

SGS 43rd Annual Meeting

Saturday, 25 April, 2026

at the Palm Harbor Library

1:30-4:00 pm

Join us for our yearly gathering!

Elections of Officers for the next two years.

Bring suggestions for improvement

Awards will be given!

Prizes will be won!

But also

We will be announcing two new Genealogical programs that will
advance your genealogy and give you a lot of enjoyment!

Don't miss this presentation!



President's Message



We had a great presentation on LDS FamilySearch by Debbe Hagner, at our February meeting. She knows FamilySearch quite well and demonstrated some new things including the full-text search feature. I've used it to find non-indexed records such as wills, deeds and naturalization records in Pennsylvania that I would never have found otherwise. I've also had some luck searching local history books that include subscriber's biographical sketches.

So that you can plan ahead, our May meeting will be at the FamilySearch center in Largo where you will get a chance to peruse records you cannot find at home.

John Matthews

SGS Board 2024-2026

Board of Directors

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

Directors: Peggy Toohey

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: Jenny Kidd

Newsletter: Kim Croco-Brooks

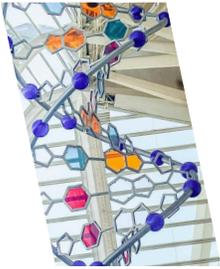
Registered Agent: Shari Harmon

Sunshine: Mary Jane Hough

Web Development: John Matthews

DNA IG: Robert Pierro & John Matthews

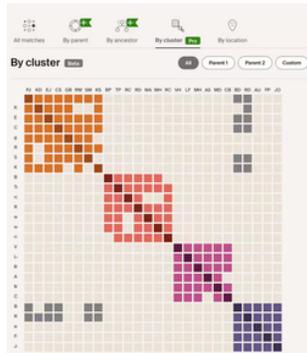
Genealogy and DNA IG



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

Topic: Ancestry DNA Matches by Cluster using Pro Tools

Join us as we discover how to navigate and unfold the clustering process & measuring them.



Next Meeting: Monday, Apr 13

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 or bring to our next meeting
28 March

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
Apr 6 @ 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



Melanie Bouse
Marianne Bradley
Kathy Brissette
Elaine Campoli
Mary Jane Hough

Barbara Katcha
Barabra McNulty
Jennifer Mortell
Natalie Mortell
Angie Pollock
Cheryl Rupe
Millie Tibma
Steve Tovee
Carol Townsend



NEW MEMBER

Cheryl Rupe
cprupe@gmail.com



Our Genealogy Friends

Pinellas Genealogy Society

Saturday, Mar 21 @ 11 am- 2:30pm

Hybrid Meeting & via Zoom

Topic:

1. Turn Boring Statistics into Meaningful Stories
2. Meet PERSI & Discover Treasures in Genealogy

Speakers: Sunny Jane Morton

<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, Mar 9 @ 6:30 pm

Topic: Online Books Websites
for Genealogy

Speaker: Karen Fortin

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



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



Manatee Genealogical Society

First Tuesday on Zoom

<https://mgsfl.org>

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.

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

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

FEBURARY MEETING 2026



Debbe Hager showed us how to navigate the FamilySearch Labs Full Text.

She shared with us that you can create a tree on FamilySearch, but it is not necessary.

There is a wealth of information to explore, which you can download on to your computer, or you can put it on your private genealogy software.

Some of the things that you can do are to create a fan chart, tracking your ancestors on the one world tree, how to retrieve the sources, records, images and books, creating memories, and how you can contribute, Also, exploring the Library Catalog and Research Wiki.

What the Genealogies have to offer: Community Trees, Oral Genealogies, MyTree.com, RootsFinder are just some of what are offered.

Contact Debbe Hager, A.G.: debbhagner@yahoo.com or
Debbe.hagner@gmail.com
 727-271-0770 (text)

Debbe is available every Monday at the Tarpon Springs Library from 9-12



Since the Palm Harbor Library is not available for our May 23rd meeting, we are going on a field trip to the St. Petersburg Family History Center.

The Director, Jimmy White, will give us an orientation to the resources available at the FHC. There is much more than just Family Search!

We will meet at the FHC at 10:30 AM. After our orientation, you will have time to do your own research with the support of the FHC staff. This is a great opportunity to view those locked records that you can not see from home. More details to follow. There will also be a sign up sheet available in April.

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

General Meeting - February 21, 2026

CALLED TO ORDER: 1:35PM by
President John Matthews
IN ATTENDANCE: On Zoom with
members and guests will be reported
by Shari Harmon

SECRETARY REPORT: Marianne
Bradley's minutes for Jan 24, 2026,
approved as submitted.

TREASURER REPORT: Reported by
Joan Baptist and Approved

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Shari Harmon
reported current 45 members.

PROGRAMS REPORT: Jean VanHorn
reported the March meeting will be at
the Palm Harbor Library, with
Speaker Robert Weis on New England
Townbooks.

April will be two big surprises. April
will also be our elections for the April
2026-Mar 2028.

Ann reported for when she is starting
in May, we will have a field trip to the
Family History Center in Largo.

June will be a speaker on Marriage
records and members can bring
displays and photos of Family
weddings.

OLD BUSINESS: DNA interest group for
March 9 meeting will be on ProTools
for Clustering Matches.

NEW BUSINESS: X

GOOD AND WELFARE: X

SHARE THE BASKET:X

DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZE: X

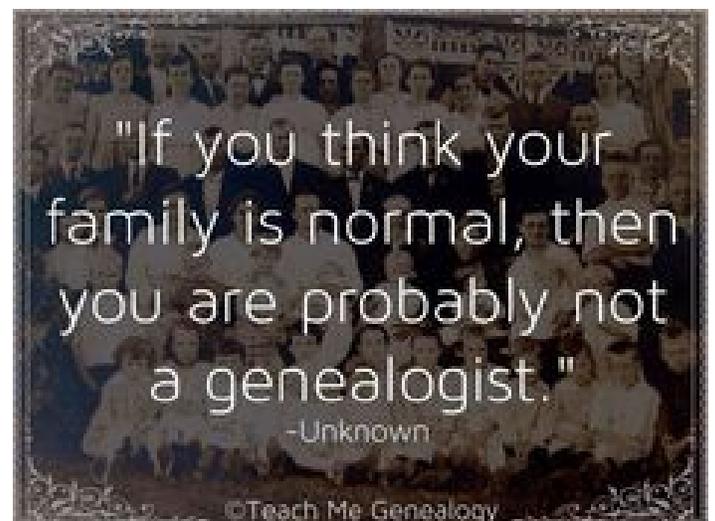
ADJOURNMENT: 1:45PM for the break
before the Speakr

NOTES: X

ANNOUNCEMENTS: x

PROGRAM: Debbe Hagner is speaking
on Overview of FamilySearch at
Familysearch.org

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
Marianne Bradley, Secretary

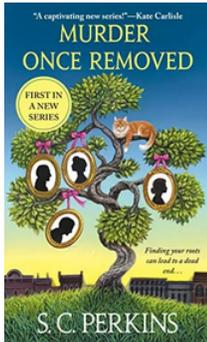




MURDER ONCE REMOVED

S.C. Perkins' *Murder Once Removed* is the captivating first mystery in the Ancestry Detective series, in which Texas genealogist Lucy Lancaster uses her skills to solve murders in both the past and present.

Except for a good taco, genealogist Lucy Lancaster loves nothing more than tracking down her clients' long-dead ancestors, and her job has never been so exciting as when she discovers a daguerreotype photograph and a journal proving Austin, Texas, billionaire Gus Halloran's great-great-grandfather was murdered back in 1849. What's more, Lucy is able to tell Gus who was responsible for his ancestor's death.



Partly, at least. Using clues from the journal, Lucy narrows the suspects down to two nineteenth-century Texans, one of whom is the ancestor of present-day U.S. senator Daniel Applewhite.

But when Gus publicly outs the senator as the descendant of a murderer--with the accidental help of Lucy herself--and her former co-worker is murdered protecting the daguerreotype, Lucy will find that shaking the branches of some family trees proves them to be more twisted and dangerous than she ever thought possible.

About the Author

S.C. PERKINS is a fifth-generation Texan who grew up hearing fascinating stories of her ancestry and eating lots of great Tex-Mex. Her first book, *Murder Once Removed*, was the winner of the 2017 Malice Domestic Best First Traditional Mystery competition, and an Agatha Award Nominee. She resides in Houston and, when she's not writing or working at her day job, she's likely outside in the sun, on the beach, or riding horses.

Save the Date

2026 MEETINGS

- 28 March: Speaker: Robert Weir - Genealogical Gold in New England
Town Books and Reports
- 25 April: SGS 43rd Annual Meeting-Elections & Two Fun Surprises
- 23 May: Field Trip to St. Petersburg Family History Center