



# The Searcher

**Suncoast Genealogy Society Newsletter**

**What's happening in August**

## 22 Aug 2026 Membership Meeting

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

1:30 SGS Meeting, 2:00 Program

Speaker live on Zoom

**Check our website:**

[sgsfl.com](http://sgsfl.com)

**Email us:**

[info@sgsfl.com](mailto: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

## Mysterious Codes

### Passenger Manifest Letters and Numbers



Christine Cohen

What do those letters, numbers, stamps, and pencil marks mean on Immigration Passenger Manifests? Does your ancestor have a letter "D" or "X" next to their name? Do you know what V/L. # 404. USB. Transit, CL, N.O.B.. C/A. LPC, SI, NQIV, PV, or C-XXXXX mean? We will learn if and when to contact the U.S. National Archives or USCIS to get more genealogical information from these codes. Plus, what insight we can learn about your ancestor's immigration experience based on these codes.

### Inside this issue

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Upcoming Programs.....         | 2   |
| President's Message.....       | 3   |
| Board of Directors.....        | 3   |
| Genealogy & DNA IG.....        | 4   |
| Our Genealogy Friends.....     | 5   |
| Book Review.....               | 6   |
| SGS Minutes.....               | 7   |
| Rob Jacobson Story.....        | 8,9 |
| Ethnicity & Heritage Page..... | 9   |

Proud Partner with



Christine is a long time member of the Whittier Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) and is currently the Program Director. In addition to WAGS, I'm also a member of the El Redondo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Past 1st Vice Regent), the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames and the Association of Professional Genealogists.

My interest in genealogy began in 1977 with the airing of the TV mini-series "Roots". My enthusiasm was piqued when I was given a typed pedigree chart, commissioned by my maternal grandfather, of our Dutch heritage from the New Netherlands in the 1650's. I am a native Californian, a graduate of UCLA in Political Science and have recently retired to pursue my genealogy interest full time.

**Member supported. Free and Open to the Public!**

**For more information about SGS visit: [www.SGSFL.com](http://www.SGSFL.com)**



**Suncoast  
Genealogy  
Society**  
Palm Harbor, Florida

## 26 Sept 2026 Membership Meeting

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

1:30 SGS Meeting, 2:00 Program

Speaker live on Zoom



Brian Rhinehart

**Researching Your  
19th Century Ancestors on Fold3 --  
Is there a better way?**

Ever get confused searching on Fold3? Learn what records are available for your 19th-century military ancestors there and pick up some search strategies to narrow down what you're looking for. Yes, there is a better way to search!

Brian Rhinehart provides on-site research and record retrieval at the National Archives in Washington DC, focusing primarily on 19th century military records (Civil War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Indian Wars, Spanish American War) and federal land records (bounty land, homestead land, etc). I am open to other projects aside from these, as long as the records can be accessed at the National Archives in Washington DC.

For more information go to: [www.SGSFL.com](http://www.SGSFL.com)  
Member Supported. Public Always Welcome

## **Our annual Mini Seminar is coming up October 24, 2026.**

We are looking for volunteers to help with the seminar. We need people to help with refreshments. We also need another person to help Joan Baptist with the door prize table.

Three or four people are needed for set up and take down of the room. If you can help contact Ann James at (727) 791-1983 or [jamesamsj@aol.com](mailto:jamesamsj@aol.com).

## President's Message



It's the dog days of August now. Many of us are going on genealogy trips and getting away from the heat. If you are doing genealogy this month I hope you all find a major document that breaks a brick wall. Or at least have fun!

Ann James has scheduled a great speaker with a great topic this month, so I hope to see all of you at this meeting. Most of us have had experience with passenger lists, but have we ever known what all the codes mean? I haven't and look forward to learning this.

Also, we are working on our October fundraising Mini-Seminar. If you could help with the food committee, please contact Peggy Toohey at 727-463-0966 or email her at ptoohey518@gmail.com. We are asking for your help. Please consider volunteering to help provide snacks for our mini-seminar.

Happy researching,

*Jean Turner Van Horn*

## SGS Board 2026-2028

### Board of Directors

**President:** Jean Van Horn  
**Vice President:** Robert Pierro  
**VP/Membership:** Shari Harmon  
**VP/Programs:** Ann James  
**Treasurer:** Joan Baptist  
**Secretary:** Marianne Bradley  
**Past President:** John Matthews  
**Directors:** Sue Martin  
                   Peggy Toohey  
                   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, Aug 10 @  
1:00-3:00 pm  
PHL Conference Room  
In-Person Meeting  
open to everyone

Topic: Ancestry Clusters and DNA

Next Meeting: Monday, Sept. 14

### DNA Mentors Available



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

Email [info@sgsfl.com](mailto:info@sgsfl.com) to connected with a Mentor.

### Returning Member

Merriam Burdette  
[merriameb@gmail.com](mailto:merriameb@gmail.com)

**DONATE  
NOW**



## Board Meeting

All SGS Members are welcome to come to the Board meetings.

Members should contact a board member for the Zoom link.

They are on the first **Monday** of the month on ZOOM.

The next meeting is on Sep 7 @ 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Tech with John**



**AUGUST**

**Rhama Atwell  
Vanessa Cserep  
John Mangan**

As our October Mini-Seminar is approaching, we need your help. Start looking through your genealogy books, resources, and knick Knacks that are related to genealogy that you no longer need.

Donate them to Ann James or drop them off at the Palm Harbor Library in the Genealogy Department.



## Our Genealogy Friends

### **Pinellas Genealogy Society**

**Saturday, Aug 15 @ 11 am- 12 pm**

**Hybrid Meeting & via Zoom**

**Topic: Let's try AI  
Step by Step**

<https://pinellaskenealogysociety.com/>

### **Florida Genealogical Society – Tampa**

<https://fgstampa.org/>

### **Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay**

<http://www.jgstb.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

### **Tarpon Springs Library Genealogy Research Assistance**

**(727) 943-4922 ext 6010**

**Monday, Aug 10 @ 6:30 pm**

**Topic: Laptops & Snacks**

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

**Debbe Hagner available  
Appt only**



### **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, The Regency Oaks, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 2751 Regency Oaks Blvd., Clearwater.

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](mailto:dsmyth927@gmail.com) for more information

### **Family Search Center**

#### **St Petersburg/Seminole**

9000 106<sup>th</sup> Ave N

Largo, FL 33777-1147

Hours:

Tues 10 am-6 pm

Thurs 10 am-9 pm

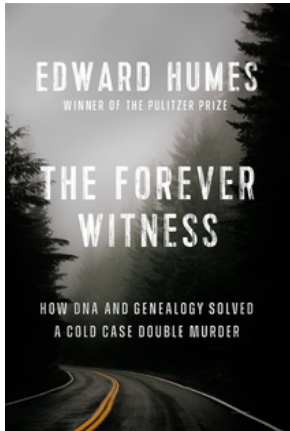
Sat 10 am-4 pm

[FL\\_StPetersburg@familyhistorymail.org](mailto:FL_StPetersburg@familyhistorymail.org)

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



## THE FOREVER WITNESS: HOW GENETIC GENEALOGY SOLVED A COLD CASE DOUBLE MURDER



After 30 years, Detective Jim Scharf arrested a teenage couple's murderer—and exposed a looming battle between the pursuit of justice and the right to privacy.

When Tanya Van Cuylenborg and Jay Cook were murdered during a trip to Seattle in the 1980s, detectives had few leads. The murder weapon was missing. No one witnessed any suspicious activity. And there was only a single handprint on the outside of the young couple's van. The detectives assumed Tanya and Jay were victims of a serial killer—but without any leads, the case seemed forever doomed.

In deep-freeze, long-term storage, biological evidence from the crime scenes sat waiting. Meanwhile, California

resident CeCe Moore began her lifetime fascination with genetic genealogy. As DNA testing companies rapidly grew in popularity, she discovered another use for the technology: solving crimes. When Detective Jim Scharf decided to send the cold case's decades-old DNA to Parabon NanoLabs, he hoped he would bring closure to the Van Cuylenborg and Cook families. He didn't know that he and Moore would make history.

Anyone can submit a saliva sample to learn about their ancestry. But what happens after the results of these tests are uploaded to the internet? As lawyers, policymakers, and police officers fight over questions of consent and privacy, the implications of Scharf's case become ever clearer. Approximately 250,000 murders in the United States remain unsolved today. We have the tools to catch many of these killers—but what is the cost?

**This book is at the Palm Harbor Library**

**Author: Edward Humes**

### 2026 MEETINGS

**22 Aug: Mysterious Codes - Passenger Manifest Letters & Numbers**

**Speaker: Christine Cohen**

**26 Sep: Finding Your 19th Century Ancestors on Fold3**

**Speaker: Brian Rhinehart**

**24 Oct: Mini-Seminar**

**8 Dec: Christmas Party**

## SGS MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

### GENERAL MEETING 25, JULY 2026

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - 1:35pm**  
by President Jean Van Horn

**SECRETARY REPORT** - June report  
accepted as read

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT** - from Shari  
Harmon: Merrian Burdette is a  
returning member.

3 Guests: Linda Robinson, Beverly Miles  
and Sandra Bartholomew.

**PROGRAM REPORT** - from Ann James:  
Today's topic members are sharing  
stories of Revolutionary War ancestors  
August: 22 Christine Cohen: Mysterious  
codes -Passenger Manifest, Letters &  
Numbers

September:26 Brian Reinhart-Finding  
your 19th century ancestors on Fold 3  
October 24 Mini-Seminar- 2  
contributors; Debbie Smyth on NARA  
and

on Zoom, Pam Vestal on poor  
ancestors.

Volunteers needed (non board  
members) who would like to contribute  
to refreshments for our Mini-Seminar  
and the Door Prize table.

No meeting in November

December 8 our Christmas Party at  
Johnny's Restaurant

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

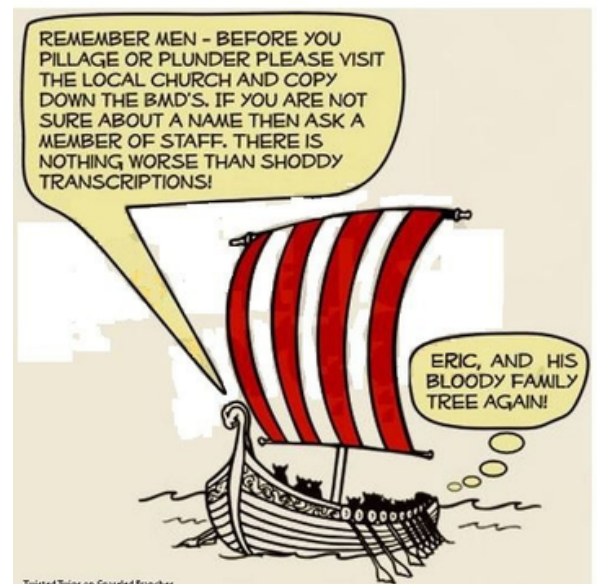
**NEW BUSINESS** - None

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:40 PM

Door Prize won by Katie Graves

Share the Basket won by Kim Croco-  
Brooks

Peggy Toohey substitute for  
Marianne Bradley



## Finding that key record or person



As we all know, genealogy can be very frustrating when you run into dead ends and brick walls. That's when we either give up, or keep researching, hoping to discover that one clue that smashes your brick wall. This is a story about finding that one key person and that one key record, that solved a whole set of mysteries!

My great great grandfather was Carl Jacob Jacobsen, who after having several affairs, settled down and married Anne Olsdatter in Norway, and after a fairly large family of about 7 children, died in 1870. Anne and most of the family appear in an 1875 census, but disappear afterward, and apart from one child, I could not find any records for the rest of them. For this story, only the mother Anna and first 3 children are needed - Carl Jacob Olaus Jacobsen, Johanna Amalia Ulrikke Jacobsen, and Anna Jacobsen (I think they had run out of extra names). The other children followed them.

I work in FamilySearch, WikiTree, and Ancestry, and try to keep all of them current, but someone remarked to me that I had missed one of the children on FamilySearch, and sure enough, I had forgotten Johanna, the second child. So, I added her name and birth and began to research her for more. I suddenly found 2 records that seemed possible, but were way up in Troms Norway, north of the Arctic Circle. One said she gave birth to a daughter, Inga, the other said she died in childbirth. The father was Martinus Forseth, and there was a stranger there named Ole Huseby - Huseby and Forseth were completely new names to me. So, I looked for a marriage record for Martinus and Johanna and found instead a subsequent marriage record for Martinus and Johanna's sister Anna! Martinus and Anna adopted Inga, then had children of their own.

So, then I went looking for more records for Inga - and discovered a 1900 census record in America, for Inga Forseth! What seemed coincidental at that time was the fact she was living in a large household, whose head was Charles J O Jacobsen, from Norway. Since there were already lots of records for this Charles J O, and his initials matched my Carl Jacob Olaus, I thought I'd see compare info - and wow(!) the birth dates matched exactly! I then checked to how Inga was related to him - and found she was marked as 'Niece'! Double proof that I had just found my Carl - walls were dropping like flies! But that wasn't all, one more person in the family was a stranger named Anna Huseby(!), and then I noticed how she was related to Charles - 'Mother'! I about fell out of my chair!

To summarize, Anna Olsdatter had married Ole Huseby, and they were in Troms to be with her daughter Johanna when she gave birth but tragically died. She then stayed very involved in the life of Inga, her first grandchild. Anna and Carl/Charles and several other children had come to America as a group, then Anna went back later to get Inga and bring her to America. Inga married an Olson, and the Huseby's and Olson's bought little farms next to each other, where the older couple helped the younger couple, until it reversed and the younger couple took care of the older couple. Two other sisters were also found married here, because of records of that group that came to America. I now have all their dates and places and graves, all because of tracing an unknown child Inga to that 1900 census, full of wall smashing data! Why couldn't I find them before? They all went to America, and they all changed their names - Carl to Charles, and the mother and daughters all married.

By Rob Jacobson, freely copyable, 2026-06-17

## Norwegian, Scottish Ethnicity and Heritage Websites

**Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library**

<http://www.nagcnl.org>

**Norwegian Emigrant Museum**

<https://utvandremuseet.no> › en

**CYNDI'S LIST**

NORWAY / NORGE

There are (315) websites



**The Scottish Genealogy Society**

<https://www.scotsgenealogy.com>



**National Records of Scotland (NRS)**

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>

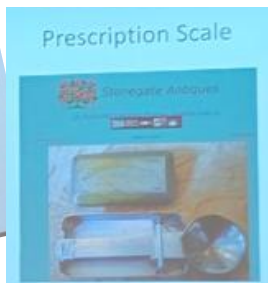
**Scotland's People**

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

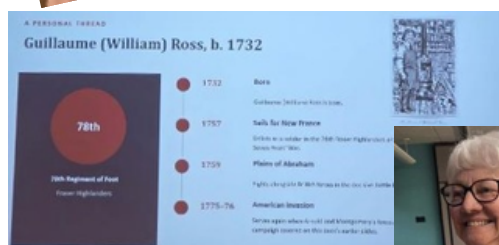
**GENUKI**

<https://www.genuki.org.uk>

## JULY MEETING

250th Anniversary of  
America's Founding

John Matthews shared  
on the Manor of Maske &  
the Prescription Scale.  
He is related to Lewis Bowdry  
& William McGoughey



Joan Baptist  
is related to  
William Guillaume  
& the role of the  
Candaians during  
the American  
Relovation War



Sherrie Reres  
is related to  
George Walton  
& John Hart

Katie Graves  
is related to

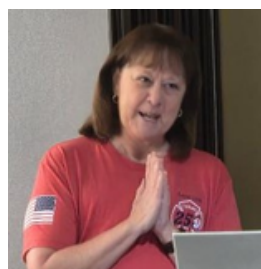
Willaim Sargent, John  
Skean, John Parshall,  
Robert Kilgore, William  
Keyser, Joseph Kizer,  
Charles Massey, Abiah  
Folger (Ben Franklin's  
mother) and many  
more.



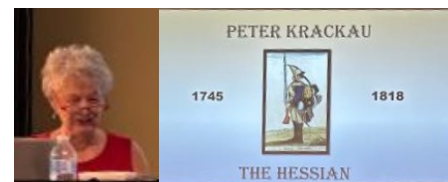
Jean Van Horn  
is related to  
Oliver Teall



Katie Graves won  
Unpuzzling your Past  
by Emily Anne Croom  
donated by Ann James



Debbie Symth  
shared about the  
women during the  
American  
Revolution War



Kim Croco-Brooks  
is related to Peter  
Krackau Croco

