



October 2020

The Jotted Line

Happy October! It's our favorite time of year, seminar time! Now it may look different this year but we are excited none the less.

There are still a few virtual seats open and it's free for members so get your RSVP in now, see the next page for details.

Fall is also the time we start planning for next year, which will hopefully have some in person meetings.

If there is a topic you'd like to see us cover either in person or via zoom please send in your ideas.

We'll have some information about membership renewals in next month's issue of the JL.

Nominations for Board Positions are now open.

If you'd like to nominate someone please email us at infofcgs@gmail.com

We'd love to hear from you -
infofcgs@gmail.com



Inside this issue

Meeting Info	2
DNA Stories	3-6
Brick Wall Helps	7-9
Heritage Center	10-5

**Ancestry Library
Edition access is
extended through
the end of the
year**

UPCOMING

MEETINGS

Meetings are held at
7 PM on ZOOM!

**Upcoming
virtually..**

**October 17th –
Seminar-**

**November 10th –
More DNA with Bob
Givens**

**December– we will
do something over
Zoom stay tuned.**



FRESNO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

DNA BOOT CAMP WITH BOB GIVENS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17TH 8:30AM -12PM

Free for FCGS Members, \$10 Non-members

Sign up at <https://fcgsdnabootcamp.eventbrite.com>

Have you taken a DNA test and now you don't know what to do with all those matches? This is the place for you.

No college degree in DNA analysis is needed - we promise you that the instruction in these classes will leave you with the ability to unleash the power of the tools provided on these websites to help you manage your DNA matches and use them in furthering your genealogy research.

These classes will explain the powerful but less complex activities you can use to manage your DNA matches.

We will focus on autosomal DNA tests (this is the common test provided by all testing companies) and will not go into Chromosome mapping, etc. We will leave advanced topics for a later day.

Still a few seats left!

To Register : <https://fcgsdnabootcamp.eventbrite.com>

DNA STORIES FROM OUR MEMBERS

I want to say a huge thank you to Diane D., Frank S., & Corky P. for sharing their DNA stories. DNA stories are always incredibly personal and can have different outcomes so we appreciate your willingness to share.

We hope you enjoy them and if you have one you'd like to share email it to Infofcgs@gmail.com

Here's Frank's story

Initially I wasn't interested in pursuing DNA research. I had grown comfortable with paper and computers, in libraries and visiting cemeteries, and DNA seemed intimidating. Then after a Fresno County Genealogical Society seminar I decided to jump in with a Family Tree DNA test. I must admit my first step in the pool didn't produce much but it did peak my interest so I decided to try an Ancestry DNA test. The day I opened my Ancestry results changed my life for the better. At the age of 68 I discovered I had a full sister. Sisters were not new to me as I already have spent a lifetime enjoying my two known sisters Joan and Carol.

Over a year before my oldest sister Joan had been contacted by a woman who said she thought she might be a sister, but who was adopted out at birth. Both our parents had passed many years earlier. The conversation was pleasant and later my oldest sister told my middle sister Carol and myself about it, asking what should be done? Unfortunately contact was never made and the matter was forgotten. When I received the Ancestry DNA results I immediately called my older sister and asked her for the name of the women that had called her. It was the same person, a woman by the name of Charlesia.

I called and introduced myself. It was an easy conversation and soon we were talking daily. All four of us quickly gathered at a restaurant to meet as siblings for the first time. Since then we have introduced Charlesia to our families and we have met hers, in short we have recognized we are all one family.

Charlesia was a sole child and told early on by her parents that she was adopted She was raised in a loving Fresno home. A relative told her a creation story wherein she was given up at birth as a condition of her natural parents remaining married after an infidelity with another party. So she initially thought she was a half-sister to me. After her parents had passed, curiosity drove her to take an Ancestry DNA test but it didn't yield immediate results.

Cont' next page.

FCGS BOARD



**CONTACT 600-6230 OR
INFOFCGS@GMAIL.COM**

President

Myrna Ceccarelli

559-222-3166

myrnaceccarelli@gmail.com

1st Vice-President

Corky Peterson

2nd Vice-President

Carolyn Moser

Recording Secretary

Becki Watters

Corresponding Secretary

Donna Hadrian

Treasurer

Donna Long

Librarian

Kathleen Coleman

Membership

Jim & Catherine Guild

Later when I tested the match was made. Joan is 10 and Carol is 8 years older than I. Charlesia is 18 months older. Neither of my parents ever mentioned her birth. The pregnancy was hidden. It was a sealed adoption. I believe that times were rough, the marriage rocky and money hard to come by. Joan remembers times when they were living with grandparents, that my father was gone and my mother wasn't around for a short period either. They soon got back together and stayed married for the rest of their lives. Joan and Carol both tested with Ancestry DNA also matching with Charlesia. To her surprise Charlesia was indeed a full sister and in fact we were of the same generation living relatively close to each other. Unfortunately Carol passed this year but DNA allowed her and Charlesia to know each other before she passed.

Why did my mother give up a child for adoption? We will never know, but because she was a loving person I know she made the right decision for the right reasons. Another thing I don't know is how she would feel about her children discovering each other later in life. I would like to think it would make her happy. One fact I know is we are all grateful for the gift of life and the knowledge of what we all share in common. We would never have learned of Charlesia without DNA.

To be sure not all DNA experiences turn out positive. Sometimes secrets are revealed and lies unveiled. Just because we may be physically related through DNA it does not guarantee we will live happily ever after. DNA can confirm paper research and suspicions and lead to families mending after many years of separation. Since I started with DNA I have met many unknown close and distant cousins. I have helped some learn of their family roots and introduced others with unknown family. I have now also tested with My Heritage DNA. On the whole, DNA has proven to be a worthwhile exercise.

I had the fortune to watch from the outside as Frank's story unfolded. After testing with FamilyTree DNA he was a little discouraged that there weren't many matches. He asked about the differences in the companies. I mentioned that while the tests are relatively the same it's the pool of people to match with that are the biggest differences. That led to Ancestry which has the biggest group. So he decided to give it a try, never realizing what lay in store. I am so happy they found this sister and were open to learning about their family. It's a hard, new road to navigate and not everyone is ready to accept what they find. So kudos to Frank and his sisters.

Diane also has a great story... Keep Reading on the next page.

Melissa

My name is Diane Durando and I was adopted at birth. I always knew I was adopted, my parents openly shared this important part of my life. After my mother died, in 2013 I decided to see if I could find out about my birth family. I was born in Oregon and at that time in 2013 there was legislation in Oregon to decide if the birth records for adoptees could be opened to them. It was finally decided that adoptees of legal age could request an original birth certificate. I requested my birth certificate and found my birth parents names. I then worked through the Oregon state program to reunite adoptees with their birth family. I had a 1st cousin Pam who was looking for me and I was connected through the state agency very quickly with her. She told me I had an older brother John by my mother and a full sister Joy who had also been also given up for adoption. I then connected with social services in Oregon to see if I could find my sister. I was able to connect with Joy in just one day. My birth family on my mother's side arranged a family reunion in Washington where my birth family lived. I was introduced to my sister, brother, cousins, nieces, and nephews. My mother had already passed away. Everyone in the family was very friendly and kind but I still found it very stressful.

When I arrived at the reunion to my surprise my brother John told me he thought the man listed on my birth certificate was not my father. John and his father Mike both thought Mike was my father. Yikes. Then my cousin said she thought my father was a boyfriend of my mother's. Double Yikes. I said, "Well I am going with who is on my birth certificate". I was really wondering would I ever really know who my birth father was?

My cousin shared that my father had a first family. She was able to connect me with an older sister, Holly. Holly had an extensive family tree in Ancestry that she happily shared with me. I was able to connect with Holly for only a short time, she was very ill and passed away shortly after we talked. Holly had started me on my ancestry quest. My adopted grandmother said she had a Revolutionary patriot in her family line. I had always been intrigued by her family history. Now it was my turn to discover the roots of my biological family.

About the time I had met my birth family Ancestry was offering DNA tests. I sent in a specimen and my first match was with my older sister Holly, my father's oldest daughter. That settled the question of who my birth father was. After that I had close DNA matches of great nieces, nephews, and cousins from my father's side of the family. All of these matches cemented who my father was. He had passed away 1996.

Cont' next page.

Then in 2018 I had a close DNA match that I couldn't identify, a first cousin Caitlin. I emailed and shared that I was adopted and gave my birth parents names. I asked her if she knew who these people were. She promptly emailed back that my father was her grandpa. Amazing. I then found out that my father had a 3rd family in Arkansas. Caitlin put me in touch with my younger half-brother, her father Christian. Christian and I have become acquainted through emails and the phone. Imagine his shock when he found out his father had had another family and not just one but two other families.

Through DNA I was able to establish definitively who my birth family was. I have worked hard on my family tree. I have documented 2 Revolutionary Patriots and I am also a direct descendent of the Mayflower through Thomas White. I had always known that my adopted parents' family history wasn't mine but it was all I had. Now I have my own family history confirmed through my DNA journey.

From Corky P.

I received a letter from someone who matched me as a close 2nd cousin recently. He had his tree and I could not see where we connected. I answered him and said I could not see any place where we matched but I did notice that his father was from Marin County so perhaps he might be one of my uncle's kids. He kept referring to his biological father so I was thinking he might be adopted.

I went ahead and worked the two main families from my uncle's transgressions. I was able to piece them together and it did not appear that his father or grandfather could fit into either family. Then on my morning walk I thought about it and remembered that my mother's family also lived in Marin Co. I heard back from him and he said that might be the family. He said his biological father seemed to be correct, but his grandfather was another story and a lot of gray area there. He thought that he might have been adopted. He gave me a birth date. I immediately went to Ancestry and searched the California Birth index for the date. I started with Marin Co and found only two little girls were born on that day. Then I went to the neighboring county, San Francisco, and I found a boy baby surname MILLER and mother's surname SCHROYER born on the exact date. His grandfather was listed as Robert Miller DAVIS and this baby was Robert J MILLER.

I recognized him as a child of my aunt who was named Clella. Her first husband had been a MILLER. I know that this marriage failed, and she remarried. I never heard of this child as a cousin so she must have given him up for adoption. My newfound cousin is thrilled to know his grandfather's real name let alone his ancestry back as far as the Mayflower

HERITAGE CENTER

2420 Mariposa Street, Fresno
2nd Floor— 559-600-6230

WE MISS YOU!

If you need a book from the Heritage Center let us know. We are glad to do look ups for you and scan pages!

HeritageCenter
@fresnolibrary.org or
Give us a call—

559-600-6230.

Not sure what we have?

Go to

www.fresnolibrary.org

and browse our catalog. On the left side of the menu in the everything drop down look for Heritage Center and it will just show you results in our room.



Heritage Center

Book Donations

Bob Givens

More Daniel Givens Descendants
TX - OK Clan of Daniel Givens Descendants

Jim & Mary Wolfson

Emigrants from the Wolfersweiler Region of Germany to PA
Palatine Ancestors 1644-1689
History of Bern Reformed Church United Church of Christ
Schulkill County PA, Vital Records
History of Heidelberg Union Church, Saegersville, (Lehigh Co.) PA founded in 1740
1884 History of Montgomery CA vol 2

Carolee Hansen

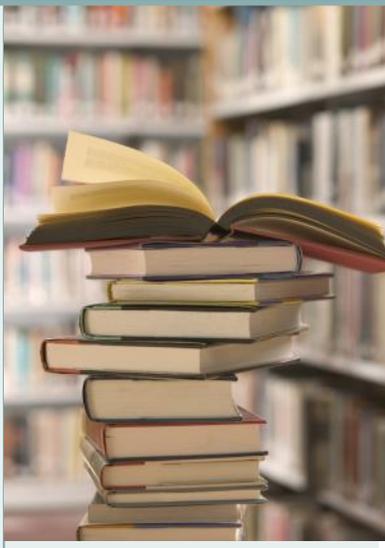
Hannibal's Role in the Civil War

Corky Peterson

Complete Book of Emigrants 1700-1750 v.3
Complete Book of Emigrants 1751-1776 v.4
Captives of Abb's Valley, a Legend of Frontier Life
MD Soldiers Entitled to Land West of Ft. Cumberland
Battle of Kings Mountain Participants
Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution; Soldiers - Sailors - Marines 1775-1783
Revolutionary War Soldiers of Union Co., PA
Official Roster of the Soldiers of the American Revolution in the State of OH
Confederate Soldiers Buried at Vicksburg 1862- July 4, 1863
Warrants & Surveys of the Province of PA including the Three Tower Counties- 1759
Centennial History of the Borough of Connellsville PA 1806-1906
Old Kent: Eastern Shore of MD
Early Charles Co., MD Settlers
Charles Co., MD Land Records 1799-1801 Deed Book IB #3
Charles Co., MD Land Records 1806-1808 vol 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11
Charles Co., MD Marriage References and Family Relationships 1658-1800
Abstracts of the Debt Books of the Provincial Land Office of MD, Charles Co. vol. 1, 3 & 4

DAR

Thomas Rogers, pilgrim
Ordinary Equality DAR Members and the Road to Women's Suffrage 1890-1920
Historical collections of the Joseph Habersham Chapter-DAR
Founders of New England
Early Settlers of Southern Maryland V. 1-3, 9-10



SEPTEMBER MEETING—

Thank you to all who came to our brick wall meeting.

Some websites we talked about during:

Reclaim the Records: <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/> - Scroll down and you will see projects from: Mississippi, Missouri, Nationwide, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York City & State, Washington and Wyoming

Steve Morse: <https://stevemorse.org/> - Scroll down to:

[Unified 1880-1950 Census ED Finder](#): Obtaining Census EDs for an 1880-1950 Location in One Step

[Universal 1940 Census Image Viewer](#): Viewing Images for the 1940 Census in One Step

Debbie Duay: <http://www.learnwebskills.com/family/debbieduay.html>
Under Links she has a whole lot, especially helpful for looking for Revolutionary era ancestors.

Did you know, sometimes Ancestry has an index but, Family Search has the actual record.

Another hint for finding records in Family Search: There are few ways to search.

1. The main search screen. Searches what is **INDEXED**
2. Catalog — Search>Catalog> search by place, title, etc.

When you see this below: It will take you to the online images.

Notes

Arkansas, County Marriages are available online, click here.

Index and Images of marriages recorded in counties of Arkansas. There may be related records included with marriage records. Once an image of a marriage record is located, browse through preceding and following images to check for related records. This project was indexed in partnership with the Arkansas Genealogical Society.

Subjects

3. Search>Records> Pick a place on the map then scroll down to Image only Historical Records— These records are not indexed but usually have some structure, arranged either by date or alphabetical.
4. Search>Historical Records— Search by place, time frame and find an online collection.

Most all of these are going to the same places just find the search that works easiest for you.

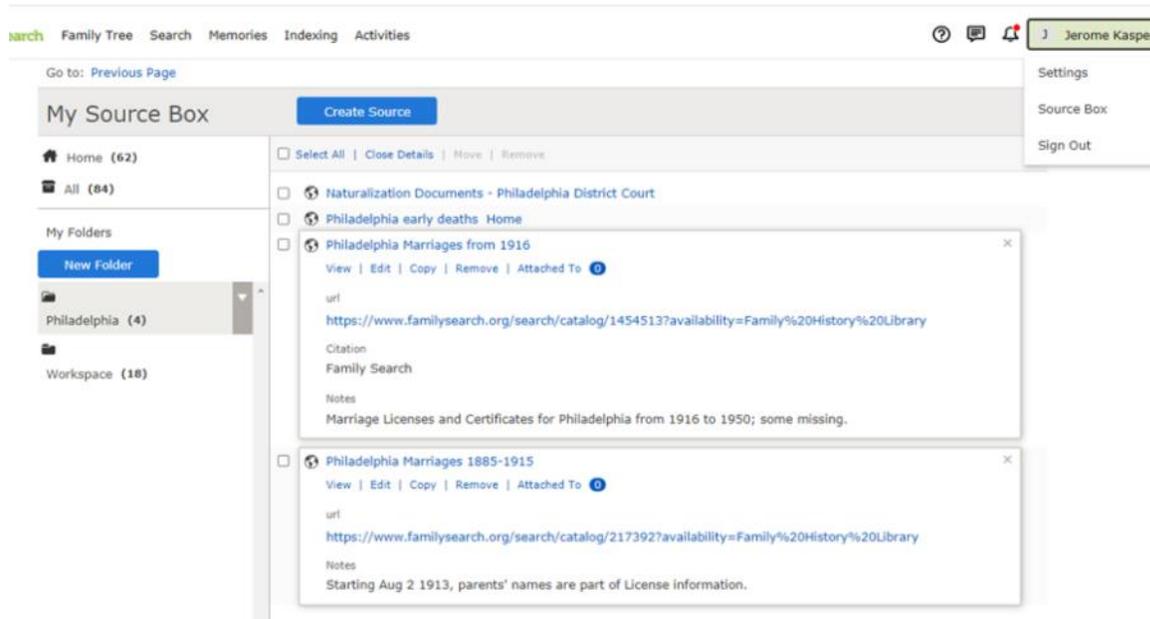


Brickwalls con'd

Jerome Kasper sent in some helpful hints, in using FamilySearch

I use the Source Box feature of FamilySearch.org to keep my links convenient.

Here are the two entries in my Box for Philadelphia Marriage records.



It's a pain to use them since most are NOT indexed. Once I have a year and a License # (from Ancestry Philadelphia Marriage index) then I go to the appropriate database, find the correct year and # range, then look at the individual images. I jump around until I find the entry I'm looking for.

Then, I save the images in a standard filename format. This allows me to find my records by name or # or year. Here are some example file names:

1893-MaguirePeterThomas-SmithMaryLizzie-MarriageLicense-PhiladelphiaPA-057029-p1-Cover.jpg

1893-MaguirePeterThomas-SmithMaryLizzie-MarriageLicense-PhiladelphiaPA-057029-p2-License.jpg

1893-MaguirePeterThomas-SmithMaryLizzie-MarriageLicense-PhiladelphiaPA-057029-p3-WifeConsent.jpg

1893-MaguirePeterThomas-SmithMaryLizzie-MarriageLicense-PhiladelphiaPA-057029-p4-Cert.jpg

I also then update the copied index text to include all other pertinent information. This goes into my research log. Here is the expanded text for one entry.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Marriage Index, 1885-1951

Name: Solomon Tredwell, b. 7 Nov 1892, Russia; Parents: Louis Tredwell (Russia) & Gittel Katz (Russia)

Gender: Male

Address: 605 N. Marshall, Phila, with both parents; Occupations: Dealer, Chicken Slaughterer & Housewife

Spouse: Fanny Fishman, b. 10 Sep 1894, Russia; Parents: William Fishman (Russia, dec) & Lena Kochim (Russia)

Spouse Gender: Female

Address: 515 Fairmount Ave., Phila, with mother; Occupations: Housework, dec. & Housewife

Consent: 19 May 1915, signed by mother Lena Fishman, 515 Fairmount Ave., Phila.

Marriage Place: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States

Marriage Year: 1915 -> 30 May 1915, signed by Rev. B. L. Levinthal, and filed on 28 Jun 1915

Marriage License Number: 327441, signed 19 May 1915

Digital GSU Number: 4141929

Source Information

Ancestry.com. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Marriage Index, 1885-1951 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

Original data:

"Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Marriage Index, 1885-1951." Index. FamilySearch, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2009. Philadelphia County Pennsylvania Clerk of the Orphans' Court.

"Pennsylvania, Philadelphia marriage license index, 1885-1951." Clerk of the Orphans' Court, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

A few of the License# ranges are NOT imaged and a few images are pretty bad, but most are fine. Some are missing the certificates.

Newspaper Searching-

When you are searching online newspapers it's important to remember that the search feature works with OCR technology, which is Optical Character Recognition. So if the newspaper is too dark or the letters are blurred it cannot read it. So it's important if you don't find your people you may need to do a page by page search, just like the microfilm (If you know a date :). The Library of Congress has also just launched a new search feature that helps find images. Check out Lisa Louise Cooke's YouTube channel for her introduction—it's episode 25.

Halloween in Fresno County and Vicinity 100 Years Ago

Mischief and mayhem or family fun? In Fresno County Halloween was mainly celebrated with parties held by churches, schools, women's, and fraternal organizations as well as private homes both for children and adults. Decorations included black and orange streamers, jack-o-lanterns, witches' hats and a ghost or two. There were games including apple bobbing and maybe a fortune or two were told.

But it was the night when mischievous youngsters would pull pranks, often damaging property in the process.

In 1915 at a church party someone climbed on the roof and cut the electrical wires throwing the party into darkness.

In 1916 a young lad accidentally set fire to the Central Grammar school in Hanford during one of his pranks. A dozen other youth were taken to the marshal's office for moving and overturning buildings.

1918 found a quieter Halloween due to the Spanish Flu. County health officer, Mathewson, decreed that there be no Halloween pranks and that children could not congregate on street corners.

In 1919 the old stagecoach belonging to the Fresno Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West No. 25 was stolen and given a wild ride through town. Days later it was found in front of a house at 178 Blackstone Ave with its tongue penetrating the baseboard of the house.

In 1920 Chief of Police Truax, swore in extra deputies to patrol. He stated that "such pranks as greasing car tracks, carrying away doors and front fences, ringing door bells, tripping people and causing unnecessary noise are tabooed." It was later reported that there were numerous reports of ringing of doorbells and costumed folks with "grotesque illuminated figures" on the streets but no arrests were made.

In 1921 three boys in Lemoore were arrested for filling the radiator and gasoline tank of a school passenger truck with sand.

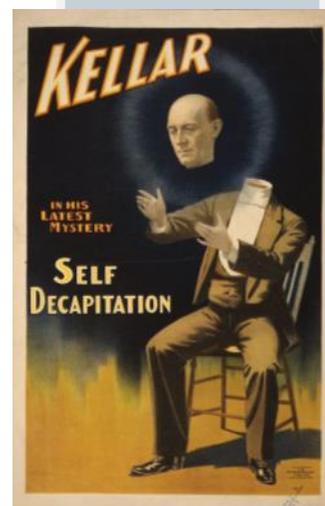
In 1922 in Exeter street signs were pulled up and garden hoses wrapped around posts. Some youth caught a chicken and threw it through a house window.

In 1923 pre-Halloween parties were held at city playgrounds. One, at Dickey playground, found 50 girls in costumes of "yama yamas", hoboes, wild west and sheiks bobbing for apples and catching apples on strings.

Extra police were patrolling that year. A special warning was made against the practice of throwing eggs at passing automobiles which had been prevalent the year before.

Overall, it appears the Central Valley had calm, family-oriented Halloween celebrations without as much destruction as occurred in other parts of the country.

Thanks Becki for sending this in!



Strobridge & Co. Lith. *Kellar in His Latest Mystery*. Cin'ti ; New York: Strobridge Lith. Co. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2014636916/>.



Rootstech is Virtual and FREE in 2021! 3 Days of Genealogy!
Register today at rootstech.org

PLACES TO FIND ONLINE CLASSES OR INFORMATION ON GENEALOGY

BYU– Online Classes- [Click Here](#)

RootsTech Past Sessions [Click here](#)

Legacy Family Tree Webinars– Free Wednesday and Friday
<https://familytreewebinars.com/>

Lisa Louise Cooke’s Genealogy Gems– podcast and blog-
<https://lisalouisecooke.com/> (she also has videos & stuff on DNA)

“**Elevenes with Lisa**” Every Thursday at 11 AM CST/9 AM PST
<https://www.youtube.com/user/GenealogyGems> she’s 4 episodes
in and you can watch the previous ones. 30 minute show.

Dick Eastman’s Online Newsletter- <https://blog.eogn.com/>

Genetic Genealogist <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/>

More about DNA [Click Here](#)



Fresno County
Genealogical Society
PO Box 1429
Fresno, CA 93716

Phone: 559-600-6230

E-mail:
infofogs@gmail.com

fresno-genealogy.org