



The Geneline

September 2016

2016 AIGS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jean Mann, AIGS 2016 President

This and That

In June of last year, the LDS Church's FamilySearch service began a project to index the records of 4 million freed slaves. The project is now complete. Over 18,940 volunteers worked and uncovered the names of nearly 1.8 million of about 4 million pre-Civil war era slaves. The Afro-American Genealogy and Historical Society and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture were partners with Family Search.

Do you know what the headlines in the newspapers were the day you were born? If you have an account at Newspapers.com, you can enter your birth date. When I did this, dozens of world-wide newspapers were available. The common theme for the day of my birth ---- William O. Douglas appointed to the Supreme Court, 'Stop Hitler' Actions Begun, and Fans Wild as Cubs Near 4th Title.

The computer industry is predicting that PCs will disappear within the next ten years and be replaced by cell phones, tablet computers and other lightweight computing devices. Have you made provision in your will for your genealogy research and your digital assets? A revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act has been adopted by a number of states which lays out rules under which an executor can manage a descendant's digital accounts. To read an article by Andrea Coombes on this subject, go to <http://goo.gl/IDbdjj>.

Do you have British ancestors? British Airways and Ancestry.com are joining forces and offering a sweepstakes with travel to London which includes 2 business-class tickets, one year membership to Ancestry.com, 4 nights at the Sheraton Grand Luxury London Park Lane Hotel. For contest details, go to <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/ancestry-sisters-day-sweepstakes-official-rules/>. □

Please join us for our next AIGS Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, September 19, 2016, at 7:00 PM
The Community Meeting Room, Fernandina Beach Library
25 North 4th St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

“A Continuing Education Approach to Effective Genealogical Research”

Speaker: Marie Santry

Learn a plethora of ways to gain the continuing education you need to become a savvy researcher



The meeting is open to the public, and reservations are not required.
Check out the website for more details.

FOR ALL THE UP-
COMING
EVENTS AND
MEETING TIMES,
PLEASE GO TO
THE HOME PAGE
OF THE WEBSITE
AND CLICK ON
“EVENTS”.

Thank you to Arnold Weeks

Your editor missed this meeting, but am told it was very interesting—all about DNA and how it is used in genealogy research. It seems that we had quite a few guests at this meeting. Hopefully, these guests will become so interested that they will join AIGS!



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN WHEN WE WILL BE PUTTING TOGETHER A NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2017!! OUR ORGANIZATION MUST HAVE A FULL SLATE OF OFFICERS IN ORDER TO CONDUCT BUSINESS. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO FULFILL A POSITION ON THE BOARD, PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE—CHARLIE FINNEGAN, KAY WATT, LARRY CONTE—OR PRESIDENT, JEAN MANN.

TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Frances Joseph
Carolyn Walden



Eulena “Jean” Diamond
Deborah “Gail” Washburn

The Watched Pot

Years ago at a state genealogy conference, I signed up for a brick wall consultation. My project at the time involved finding the English ancestry of a friend's great-grandmother. The name, Alice Hall, was common. Alice was unmarried in 1880, and it was unknown if she had emigrated by that date. Her Canadian-born husband had not yet naturalized, and their marriage record was nowhere in evidence. Her children came into the world before birth certificates were required. She died in Jacksonville before the 1900 census, and the family's church burned down in the 1901 fire. The conference consultant carefully reviewed my file and suggested I look for a Social Security application for Alice's daughter. Perhaps it would list Alice's birth location. [An excellent idea, unfortunately a later search found Marguerite had not applied.] The consultant restacked my notes and handed them back. "Sometimes you've got to accept that you've done all you can." That stuck with me a long time. It's been the ongoing theme of a quarter of my family history.

Bryson Smith's adoption was complete within a month of his birth in 1924 in Seattle, Washington. The adoption was not a secret, although details were certainly changed in the retelling. A scant shoebox of effects I inherited after Dad's death included a copy of the relinquishment by his birth mother and the two-page formal adoption. No father was mentioned.

In a Catch-22 many adoptees or descendants of adoptees have experienced, the petitioner must provide the names of both birth parents to receive a copy of a pre-adoption 'original' birth certificate. Of course, identification of birth parents is the very reason why researchers seek this document. I was lucky. One parent was known, along with birth date and location. An 'adoption angel' was able to provide the father's name. My court petition was successful, and I was ecstatic when the certificate arrived. My grandfather's name was Harold Muco! How many of those could there be?



*Bryson Smith, circa 1930,
future merchant marine*

In the following 14 years, I was to explore that question in excruciating detail. There were very few Muco families, but thousands upon thousands of surnames that were candidates for alternate spellings or transcription error. How many Harolds or Henrys or Hals or Harrys or Hanks...who were in their late 20s, born in Colorado, lived in Vancouver, and were sheet metal workers? I am relentless in pursuit of genealogical mysteries, but this one didn't budge. Had a frightened young pregnant woman lied? Had she herself been misled?

Sometimes you've got to accept that you've done all you can.

Despite progress in many other areas, my missing 25% mocked me. An article asked if genealogists knew the burial locations of their eight great-grandparents. No, not me. The 9-generation circle chart I keep for easy reference was obviously lopsided, a big, blank pie slice missing. In 2014 after not being able to find a company to process DNA from my father's work hat, I decided on autosomal testing. And for two years, *every single day*, I logged in to the test results page to see if a close match had been found. There were dozens upon dozens of 3rd to 5th cousins, but without a surname match, there was not enough information to find helpful clues. Or perhaps there was one after all – an estimated 27% Scandinavian ancestry unaccounted for in known lines. My blonde, dimpled, blue-eyed father was certainly a candidate.

A 3rd cousin match means there are 5 generations to a common ancestor; 5th cousin match, seven. I learned that many people who choose autosomal testing do not have seven generations of information in their pedigree, if any is provided at all. In my father's line, I had one ancestor – Dad, or potentially two – mysterious Harold Muco. I started putting his name in quotes in my head. I was becoming convinced it was an assumed name. When I logged out, I'd tell myself that one day the results page would list a 1st cousin match right at the top.

After two years of daily disappointment, I gave myself permission to check just once a week. That was on a Friday.

Sometimes you've got to accept that you've done all you can.

The following Wednesday, over breakfast, I had an email from Family Tree DNA that I'd received a close match. Although very nearly dismissed – I oversee several family DNA profiles, and some results filters are not very discriminating – I doubled back to read it again. No, this was my own profile.

And this time when I logged in, there was a 1st to 3rd cousin match right at the top.

There wasn't much to go on. The subject had not loaded a family tree, and only three surnames were noted: Hurd (the subject), Newby, and Taylor. No locations. I clicked on the correspondence link to send an introductory email, and I noticed that the email appeared to be for a name different than that of the subject. If I could only identify the right Hurd family, I could do some preliminary digging and construct a tree for myself. A search of the email on Google brought one excellent result – a link to a Find A Grave member page. Several of the memorials entered were in a Washington town just a ferry ride from Seattle. One memorial was for a woman with the maiden name of Hurd. This was the DNA family. Perhaps I was a Hurd, not a Muco. H and M can sometimes be mistaken for each other. And both names have "u" as a second letter. C vs. R – possible to mistake one for another in lowercase cursive...and D vs. O, well, both have a circle...believe me, after 14 years, I've rationalized every permutation of this scenario.

Armed with the family information, I logged into Family Search and Ancestry, alternating between the two to follow the family back through a couple of censuses, meanwhile sketching out a pedigree chart. To my disappointment, the Hurd men were not in the right location at the time of my father's birth. On the men, I'd struck out. On to the women – who married into this family? An item came up in index format, the transcription showing that one of the Hurd boys had married Myrtle Menkow in 1925. I was already backing out of the item when it struck me that I should have a look at the actual image, just in case.

It wasn't Myrtle Menkow. It was Myrtle MEUKOW.

After 14 years of beating my head against this particular brick wall, when I was finally looking at a surname that was an aural match for Muco, I froze. Several seconds went by before it occurred to me to wonder if Myrtle might have had a brother named Harold. Would you believe she did?



Autosomal DNA suggested 27% Scandinavian. Rugen is an Baltic Sea island adjacent to Stralsund in northern Germany. It has been part of Sweden and Denmark.

And so, over my now-forgotten breakfast coffee, I finally connected with long-lost paternal grandfather, Harold Frederick Meukow. The autosomal prediction of a 1st to 3rd cousin match ended up being, more accurately, a 1st cousin once removed.

In the minutes, hours, and days that followed, I've been in contact with my new cousin-of-a-cousin, manager of the Hurd DNA account. Another cousin, a descendant of Harold's father, has provided a family history. Albert Frederic Ludwig Meukow, son of Mattias and Carolina, was born in 1859 and baptized at

St. Mary's Church in Stralsund in northern Germany. Matthias was born in the village of Casnevitze on the nearby island of Rugen. Sweden, of which Rugen was once a part, lies fewer than 50 miles across the Baltic. Family legend has it that Albert ran away to sea at age 14, a path my father unknowingly mirrored 66 years later. After becoming a sea captain, Albert eventually came ashore in northern California, where he met and married Sarah Letha Coleman of Missouri, and settled down as a ship rigger. Harold was born in California, not Colorado, in 1902 -- about five years younger than the age on my father's birth certificate suggests. The family moved north to Washington after a shipyard closed, and Albert and Harold found employment as riggers at the Navy shipyard in Bremerton. When Albert died, Sarah kept a rooming house. I have a picture of Sarah. She has dimples like Dad. Like me.

Harold died in 1979 and was buried alongside wife Clarice in Springville, Utah. He had no other surviving children.



*Great-grandmother Sarah Letha (Coleman) Meukow, with dimples.
Family collection, Larry Harden.*

Please note: Any reprinting of articles, information, or data originated by AIGS members and printed in the Geneline requires the acknowledgement of credit to the AIGS upon reprinting.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR LIBRARY Q&A SESSIONS. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO ASSIST LIBRARY PATRONS WITH THEIR RESEARCH, PLEASE GO TO THE WEBSITE, SIGN IN AS A MEMBER, AND CLICK ON "LIBRARY Q&A VOLUNTEERS" TO SEE AVAILABLE DATES AND TO SIGN UP. WE NEED YOU!!!

CEMETERY NEWS



Hopefully, the intense heat of summer is waning, and the weather will be just right for returning to the cemetery to resume the surveying of the Old Section of Bosque Bello. The trees will be changing their colors and casting a glow upon the old but beautiful headstones that are in abundance in this ancient part of Bosque Bello. If you are interested in getting outside and wandering through this serene place, join the cemetery committee to assist in a most worthy project. Each lot is measured and coordinates assigned, headstone information is verified, and a picture is taken of each headstone to accompany the deceased's information on our website. It's a great way to spend a fall morning!

Contact **Bebe Granger** at bebegranger@yahoo.com if you are interested in participating in the AIGS Bosque Bello Cemetery Survey.

Library News

- ◆ There has been a huge response to the “Mondays with Marcia” Q&A sessions this summer. As we gear up for the fall, volunteers are needed to help library patrons with their research. An AIGS member will be available at the Fernandina Beach Library on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings of each month from 6-8 PM, and on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons from 1-3 PM, starting in September. If you are willing to volunteer, please go to the website, sign in as a member, and click under “Library Q&A Volunteers” to see the available dates and to sign up for this worthwhile endeavor.
- ◆ The Library Committee is hard at work getting ready to move all the books in the Genealogy section to new shelving just as soon as it arrives. The new setup should make it much easier to find the needed materials for those working on their genealogy.
- ◆ If you are planning on donating books or materials that you no longer need, please consider donating them to AIGS. The library committee is always on the lookout for items that would enhance our current collection. Contact Marcia Pertuz at marcia.pertuz@verizon.net.
- ◆ Reminder: Genealogy books may be checked out by members only. You must show your library card and your current AIGS membership card to check out books from the Genealogy Collection.



Genealogy is like playing hide and seek
They hide—I seek!!



Four Tried and True Systems for Organizing Genealogy Research

By Denise Levenick, The Family Curator Magazine

Genealogists may not see eye to eye on the Perfect Organizational System for data and sources, but they will certainly agree that they would rather spend time finding ancestors than filing papers. The challenge is to create a system that suits the personality and habits of the user and is easy to create and maintain.

Here are four systems worth investigating –

Organize Your Paper Files <http://www.fileyourpapers.com/>

Genealogical Research Associates recommends using a straightforward numerical system based on Marriage Record Numbers in conjunction with your genealogy database software program. An illustrated tutorial provides step-by-step instructions for setting up and filing papers.

Finally, Get Organized <http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/2009/01/finally-get-organized-jan-2009.html>

Dear Myrtle (speaker and podcaster Pat Richley) describes her system of 3-ring notebooks in the first monthly installment of the series “Finally, Get Organized: January 2009 Checklist.” The monthly PDF checklists highlight different aspects of genealogy work, from organizing files to time management. Find the organizing blog posts by typing “checklist” in the “Search This Blog” search box.

Organizing Your Files https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Organizing_Your_Files

Folders, binders, and overall concepts are all discussed in a comprehensive article on the FamilySearch Wiki. Beginning with a discussion of the value of organizing your files, through organizing principles, setting up a system, maintaining your

How I Organize My Genealogy <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrWf6VmKVCs&feature=related>

Elyse Doerflinger is a college student and experienced genealogy blogger and speaker. She has recorded a series of YouTube videos featuring step-by-step instructions for setting up a genealogy filing system and staying on top of the paper piles. Browse videos by Elyse90505 for more simple, effective filing tips.

If you haven't found The Perfect System yet, don't despair; keep looking and asking questions. And, as you investigate all the many possibilities, use a simple system that helps you stay in control of your research so you can spend your time finding – instead of filing – your ancestors.

Ten Tips for Organizing Genealogy Research

1. Sheet Control – Use standard 8 ½ x 11-inch paper for all notes and printouts.
2. Stay Single – One surname, one locality per sheet for easy filing.
3. No Repeats – Avoid errors; write legibly the first time.
4. Dating Yourself – Always write the current date on your research notes.
5. Be Color Clever – Distinguish family lines with different colored folders, binders, tabs.
6. File First – File one research trip or effort before starting the next one.
7. Ask Directions – Write your own filing instructions; a big help when you take a long break.
8. Supply Closet – Keep a stash of folders, plastic sleeves, tabs, printer ink.
9. One File at a Time – Work through paper piles steadily; the mess didn't happen in one day.
10. KISS – Keep It Simple, Silly! Use an easy to set up, easy to maintain system.

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