



GENIE BYTES

Volume 2, Issue 3

Grand Strand Genealogy Club

August 2021

Message from the Editors

Bonnie Kishpaugh & Ann Hamilton

Editor & Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Board

We're back!! On Saturday, August 14th, the Grand Strand Genealogy Club will return to Chapin Memorial Library. After meeting virtually for over a year on Zoom, we hope you're as excited as we are to welcome newcomers and to renew old friendships. Remember, you can always continue the conversation over lunch at Harry's Breakfast Pancakes!

Still bothered by those brick walls you've been unable to budge? Complete the Problem Ancestor Form you'll find at GSGC.org. Submit it at our September meeting. Another member's fresh perspective may well result in the breakthrough that's eluded you!

Genie Bytes inaugurates its new publication schedule with this issue. Subsequent issues will arrive on the first of November/February/May. Changing the publication dates means *Bytes*' recipients don't have to disrupt New Year's and 4th of July festivities to read our newsletter.

Share subjects you'd like to see addressed in future issues with us. We want *Genie Bytes* to be relevant to our readers' research. Send your ideas to the Club's email address with "Newsletter" as the subject. ♦

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Explore the Power of GEDmatch

Phyllis Hughes

Host, GSGC Special Interest Group (SIG)

GEDmatch is a free third-party website used to analyze and compare raw autosomal DNA data, which you upload from fee-based genetic genealogy testing companies. *GEDmatch*'s Basic Tools are free, but there is a suite of advanced services called Tier 1, that you can purchase for \$10.00 per month on a month-to-month basis.

A key feature of *GEDmatch* is that it gives you the ability to compare matches from the databases of commercial DNA companies in one big shared database. The key is to encourage as many of your matches from each of the commercial companies (*Ancestry*, *23andMe*, etc.) to upload their raw DNA into the *GEDmatch* database. Because your matches' kit numbers are visible and readily accessible, you can conduct in-depth research, not only using your own kit number, but your matches' kit numbers as well. This gives you the ability to conduct comprehensive analysis using a wide range of tools to include one-to-many matches, one-to-one comparisons, matches on the X chromosome, admixture analysis, people who match both kits analysis, and archaic matches. The program also has excellent browser tools.

For more comprehensive research, you can purchase the Tier 1 package, which allows you to perform triangulation and cluster analysis in addition to other comparisons. ♦

Featured Website

The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) Genealogy Center is a unique and valuable resource for the Northeastern Indiana community as well as the genealogical community at large. The ACPL has one of the largest research collections available, incorporating records from around the world. Their staff specializes in genealogy and is always available to help. Register for their free webinars offered every week. ♦

So, What's PERSI and How Do I Use It?

Gail Reynolds

Member and Past President, GSGC

The *PERiodical Source Index* or *PERSI* is a keyword index to historical, genealogical, and ethnic publications and newsletters published throughout the United States and beyond. It classifies first by type and then by keyword. Allen County Public Library (ACPL) in Fort Wayne, Indiana, created *PERSI*. The project was begun in 1986 with the goal of indexing all genealogical journals, newsletters, and family history publications. *PERSI* indexes articles in over 11,000 such periodicals including out-of-print journals. These include local, state, national, and international publications.

Originally, *PERSI* was published annually. Later, *FamilySearch* published a 16-volume set on disc. Eventually, *Ancestry* and then *HeritageQuest Online* offered access. Presently, it's unavailable on either site. Instead, search *PERSI* at [Find My Past](#). When you do, know that *Find My Past* and ACPL are partnering to create online digitized images of the periodicals indexed by the latter. See a camera icon in front of a digitized title.

Filter your *PERSI* searches by title, surname, location, keyword, periodical, or subject. Filtering by the latter searches 23 subjects, including: biography, cemeteries, censuses, church books, courts (e.g., cadastral, probate, vital, and voter records), directories, education, history, institutions, manifests, maps, military, naturalization, obituaries, taxes, and miscellany.

A click on [Find My Past](#) takes you to its home page. To access *PERSI*, sign up for a free 14-day trial. Then, scroll to the "Quick Links" section on the left side and check "Newspapers and Publications." Click the "PERSI" button to search. Only a paid subscription will access the digitized articles mentioned earlier. To order paper copies of articles, go to the genealogy page of the [Allen County Public Library website](#).

To access the *PERSI* form, scroll to the blue box entitled "Our Services." Scroll down to "Forms" and click on "Article Fulfillment." From there, download the "PERSI Order Form." Order up to six articles for \$7.50. Expect an additional charge of 20¢ per page. Find the address to which you mail it on the form.

Questions? Contact Allen County Public Library by phone at 260-421-1225 or by email at Genealogy@ACPL.Info. ♦

State Guides

New Hampshire

(Source: *State Guide New Hampshire* by McCullough, D. Originally published in the Jan/Feb 2020/Vol.21, Issue 1, P. 33 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1788

First federal census: 1790

Statewide birth and death records begin: 1866

Statewide marriage records begin: 1866

State-land state

Counties: five in 1769; 10 today

Contact for vital records:

Division of Vital Records Administration, 9 Ratification Way, Concord, NH 03301, (603) 271-4650

Website: [New Hampshire Archives Vital Records](#) ♦

Wyoming

(Source: *State Guide Wyoming* by McCullough, D. Originally published in the Jan/Feb 2020/Vol.21, Issue 1, P.37 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1890

First federal census: 1870

Statewide birth and death records begin: 1909

Statewide marriage records begin: 1941

Public-land state

Counties: 23

Contact for vital records:

Vital Statistics Services, 2300 Capitol Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82002, (307) 777-7591

Website: [Wyoming Vital Statistics Services](#) ♦

My Most Unforgettable Ancestor

It's amazing what a generous genealogist can find when motivated by a desire to help someone else. Just ask Gail Reynolds. She found this genealogical gem while doing research for her granddaughter. Writes Gail: "The character in the [following] article was my granddaughter's [paternal] great-great-great grandfather." According to Gail, Gustaf "Gust" Johnson achieved his "unforgettable" status by walking 225 miles along the Erie Canal from Toledo, Ohio, to a site in Indiana he would call home for the rest of his life.

The article is reprinted as published with the permission of the newspaper's current editor, Michael Johnson.

(continued on next page)

My Most Unforgettable Character

by Frank Washburn

From time to time, an article appears in the Reader's Digest under the heading, "my most unforgettable character". Each Story is a breezy, human interest account of some individual with unusual characteristics. I would like to share with you the story of my most unforgettable character.

He was born in Sweden in 1834 and was christened Gustaf (Gust) Johnson. Typical of Swedes, he had blonde hair, blue eyes, a light complexion and a medium frame. From the time he could remember, Gust had heard in glowing terms, America must be the new garden of Eden, and at 19 years of age the temptation to go west overcame him. With all of his earthly belongings in the small trunk and enough rations for the trip, he boarded a Swedish emigrant ship and headed for the promised land.

After six weeks at sea, the ship dropped anchor in New York Harbor. From there the westward bound were hearded into railroad cattle cars and shipped to Toledo, Ohio; a junction point to the northwest. It was at Toledo Gustav parted company with the band of emigrants. He located the Erie Canal and walked the towpath all the way to Lafayette, Ind. He arrived with only the clothes on his back; his shoes worn out and broke financially, but not in spirit.

A railroad was being built, through Lafayette and Gust joined a gang of wheelbarrow pushers, who were building a landfill for the tracks. He was paid \$2.00 for a 10 hour day and thought he had the best of the deal; as those who shoveled the dirt in the wheelbarrels had the hard job. That part of the railroad completed, he went to the then thriving town of Americus. There he found work in a cooperage, making shipping barrels for canal boat freight hauling.

Someone asked Gust why he left the old country and came to America. He explained; the biggest potatoes they had in Sweden was about as big as his thumb; there they get big like his fist. At 21 years of age he married a lady from Sweden. He bought an 80 acre woodland farm near Americus. From his own hand hewn timbers Gust built (for a good reason) sizable log cabin. It was then he started to clear the land and raise

a family. Four children and another farm later, Gust's wife died. He met and married Anna Johnson, a widow with three children. In due time they increased the family with three more children. By then it was evident Gust Johnson came to America to raise something besides potatoes. In this land of plenty his waistline took on an expanded dimension. When he sat down his stomach rested comfortably in his lap.

When it came to figuring, he could not tell one figure from the other; but he was blessed with a rapid calculator in his head and it served him well. It helped him to drive a hard bargain in all his dealings. When in the market to buy something; he would clutch a handful of bills in his fist, shake them at the dealer and say, "ven I pay de cash, vat you sell it to me for?"

The word 'idle' was not to be found in Gust Johnson's vocabulary. They tell about one hay making time, when he put his extra help to digging out a large oak stump in the yard; during the noon hour while they were resting. Among his shortcomings, Gust was known to take a nip from the jug, on Occassion, As if by coincidence, when his "yug" was getting low on spirits, he would take a load of hogs to market and among other things, get his jug filled. On one such trip, he fell off the wagon, so to speak. The horses found their way home and pulled up at the barnyard gate. They found Gust, sound asleep, In the bottom of the wagon, covered with straw and what ever else you find where hogs have been. He swore he 'yoost had a coupla svigs'.

On the plus side; if someone in his neighborhood needed help, Gust was the first to offer his services. He never refused a tramp or traveler a meal or a nights lodging. His pet diversion was playing euchre and he played a spirited game, as long as he was on the winning side. Johnson was deeply religious, in his own way. Each evening before going to bed, he would read from his well-worn Swedish Bible and study his catechism. In 1916, at 82 years of age Gust passed to his final reward. People from all walks of life came to pay their respects. Truly he was a man's man; beholden to no one. My most unforgettable character, Gustaf Johnson, was my maternal grandfather.

Washburn, Frank. "My Most Unforgettable Character." *The Lafayette Leader*. Apr 12, 1984. p. 2. ♦

Book Review: *They Came in Ships*

Anne Laymon

Treasurer, GSGC Board

So, you're sure your ancestors set foot on American soil on Ellis Island? Not so fast. The ports via which immigrants entered America throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries numbered 101! The five major ports were New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans, and Boston. Not to be overlooked were minor ports such as Savannah, New Haven, San Francisco, and Galveston.

The 3rd edition of John P. Colletta's *They Came in Ships*, published in 2008, is a great resource to help you track down your immigrant ancestors and the ships' manifests with their names on them. The book categorizes searches into two periods: pre/post-1820. The Steerage Act of 1819 required captains to submit a list of passengers. To aid them, blank forms were printed and sold to shipping companies. These manifests, standardized by 1893, were filled out at the port of embarkation. Many still exist.

So, how do you find the right manifest? You will need to provide three facts about your immigrant: full original name, approximate age upon arrival, and approximate date of arrival. Use Colletta's book as a reference for resources from which to acquire these facts and, once you've found the right manifest, as a guide to what you can glean from it. To illustrate the process, the author walks the reader through his own journey.

Want to better visualize the voyage? Colletta details how you may acquire a photograph of the ship on which your ancestors sailed. ♦

Featured Books

The Chester Creek Murders (Venator Cold Case Series Book I) – January 12, 2021 by Nathan Dylan Goodwin. Goodwin is a writer, genealogist, and educator. This is an introductory textbook on practices in genetic genealogy and the forensic use of DNA to identify criminal suspects wrapped in a murder mystery. ♦

Your DNA Guide - the Book – February 26, 2020 by Dahan Southard – Southard's guide provides a unique new approach to learning genetic genealogy. Instead of learning more-than-you-need-to-know in textbook style, you'll choose a specific DNA question and start exploring it right away. Follow concrete step-by-step plans, learning important DNA concepts-in plain

English-as you go. Our very own Bob Dahlin highly recommends this easy-to-follow step-by-step approach to DNA analysis. ♦

Did You Know?

On *Ancestry*, Bonnie Kishpaugh discovered the *Directory of the Eleventh Census of the Population of Schuylkill County* published in 1891. While reading it, she noticed that page 22 listed all of the Post Offices in Schuylkill County, PA. Page 23 gave the page number for each district, some of which were divided into subcategories, e.g., north, south, southwest, etc. Careful perusal paid off! The *Directory* also gave a brief history of the area. Bonnie discovered the town of Tuscarora, which was part of Palo Alto. She found an elusive ancestor living there. For anyone looking for residents of Schuylkill County, this is a wonderful substitute for the 1890 *Census*. The researcher can also access the *Directory*, as well as similar titles for other states, via a Google search. No need for an *Ancestry* subscription! ♦

This is a tidbit from Bob Dahlin. Have you checked your "AncestryDNA" results lately? *Ancestry* has a new tool that lets you change from the generic relationship they assign your match to the actual relationship between you and your match. So, you can change the relationship with your aunt from "Close Relative" to "Aunt, Mother's Side." This, along with your shared matches, just might help you break through that brick wall.

Phyllis Hughes offers an addendum to Bob's tip. She urges members to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the *Ancestry* tool before inputting information. There are three critical questions to answer. You can get confused -- especially if you manage multiple kits and try to identify relationships that exist in more than one. Need clarification? Email the address below. ♦

Darla Williams noticed that on August 2, 2021, the National Archives will open on a limited basis. ♦

**Have a tip/tidbit you'd like to share? Please submit to genieclub2002@gmail.com – Subject: "Tip/Tidbit." Love to hear it. **

Dear Miss Genie

No questions received this quarter. ♦

**Do you have a question for Miss Genie? Why not send it to her at genieclub2002@gmail.com – Subject: "Miss Genie." She would love to hear from you. **

Learn Locally Come Fall

Ann Hamilton

Assistant Editor *Genie Bytes*, Membership, GSGC Board

Gail Reynolds, a GSGC past president, informs *Genie Bytes* that she's proposed a 6-week Zoom class entitled *Researching Your Immigrant Ancestors*. Two-hour sessions will be held on Fridays from Oct 29th to Dec 10th with no class during Thanksgiving week. Attendees will work in the comfort of their own homes.

Gail's class will be offered via the folks at [What's Next? Senior Adventures in Learning and Travel](#). *SALT* is the brainchild of Carol Osborne and Kelli Barker, former directors of CCU's OLLI program. With *SALT*, the seasoned duo provides education and travel opportunities for the Grand Strand's vibrant community of lifelong learners. Read Gail's biography, as well as those of *SALT*'s other educators. Click the "Instructors" tab.

Gail also proposes a free introduction to *Heritage Quest Online* in a single 3-hour Zoom class on Oct 8th from 10AM - 1PM. Interested? Bookmark the [What's Next? Senior Adventures in Learning and Travel](#) website. Check it periodically in August for the publication of *SALT*'s 2021 fall catalog. Enroll. Join the growing number of Club members who count their genealogical success stories to availing themselves of Gail's enthusiasm and expertise! ♦

SOUTH CAROLINA GRAND STRAND GENEALOGY CLUB (SCGSGC)

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**Club T-Shirts (\$10) – See Darla Williams or email the
Club at genieclub2002@gmail.com to order**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GSGC MONTHLY MEETINGS

PLACE: CHAPIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

TIME: 10 AM

Presentations:

- August 14: What Your Ancestor's Neighbors Can Tell You – Melissa Barker
- September 11: The Problem Ancestor – Find the form on our website
- October 9: To Be Determined

GENEALOGY MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

NY State Family History Virtual Conference – September 25 & 26, 2021 – Register at [NYSFHC @ Home 2021](#). This conference features a wide variety of sessions to help you find more ancestors. Unlimited viewing of on-demand sessions runs September 1 through October 18. Live sessions on Saturday, September 25th, will be broadcast again on Sunday, September 26th, and will be available to watch on-demand after that date. ♦

Charleston South Carolina Family History Center Workshop – October 16, 2021 – from 9 – 3. It will be LIVE at the Center at 1519 Sam Rittenberg Blvd. The registration fee of \$15 includes a memory stick with all of the day's handouts. Bring an iPad or laptop that will accept the memory stick. ♦

**Due to the Coronavirus most – if not all – meetings/conferences are being held virtually. Please visit [www.conferencekeeper.org](#) for the most complete "Calendar and Collection of Genealogy Events" on the Internet. This is your chance to attend a meeting virtually you may have been unable to attend onsite because of its distance or cost. **

MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of each Month 10:00 AM at:

Chapin Library (*FamilySearch Affiliate Library*)

400 14th Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Due to Coronavirus check website for meeting location

Email - genieclub2002@gmail.com

Website - www.scgsgc.org

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Assistant Editor: Ann Hamilton

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Note: Please send your questions/suggestions/feedback to genieclub2002@gmail.com - Subject: "Newsletter."

► Become involved. Shadow a Board member. We welcome you. ◀

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