



GENIE BYTES

Volume 3, Issue 2

Grand Strand Genealogy Club

May 2022

Message from the Editors

Bonnie Kishpaugh & Ann Hamilton

Editor & Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Associate Board

Let's try this again! We're back!! On Saturday, May 14th, the Grand Strand Genealogy Club will return to Chapin Memorial Library. After meeting virtually for over two years 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! If you are still unsure about COVID, then you will also be able to Zoom.

With the help of your continued donations to the Genie Jar, we were able to replace our antiquated laptop with a new one and purchase a hand-held microphone to be used by our live audience so that Zoomers will be able to hear their questions and comments. A great big "THANK YOU" to all of you who made donations!

Kudos to those Board members who've spent many hours since October practicing at the library to make our comeback happen!

Can't wait to see our many GSGC friends at Chapin on May 14th! ♦

Remembering Chris Chandler

Christine Davis

Member, GSGC

Christine Davis, former professor at Georgian Court and Waldon University, has researched over 8,000 relatives and ancestors. She is amazed at how many, like her, were directly involved in math, science, and technology. This is the first of two stories of her most memorable ancestors that Chris shares with our readers. ~ Ann Hamilton

Chris Howard Chandler, MD [1948-1985] is my 3rd cousin: Chandler, 36, an ER physician from Sausalito, California, tried to scale 28,208-foot Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest peak, with his Australian wife, Louise Bremer Kemp, when he died Jan. 15 1985 of cerebral edema. This was his second climb of the Himalayan peak and executed without oxygen or assistance from Nepalese Sherpas. In 1976, Chris Chandler and Tom Cormack filmed their second autumn ascent of Mt. Everest during the American Bicentennial Everest Expedition for CBS Sports. They were the first to climb without a high-altitude bivouac camp. ♦



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Call for Genie Jar Donations

Members of the GSGC last met in person in March of 2020. Expenses such as maintenance of our website and Zoom subscriptions as well as payment of speakers and the *Ancestry* subscription for Chapin Library continue. Please help us. Mail your check or money order to Grand Strand Genealogy Club, 6529 Valene Court, Myrtle Beach, SC, 29572. Thank you, in advance, for continuing to support YOUR GSGC! ♦

Got Letters? The Center for American War Letters Wants 'em!

Ann Hamilton

Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes and Membership, GSGC Associate Board

A 1989 fire destroyed the memento-filled home of 20-year-old Andrew Carroll's family and fueled what became the Founding Director of the Center for American War Letters' lifelong passion. As an assurance that a remnant of the family's history remained, a cousin and WWII pilot sent Carroll a letter he wrote to his wife the day he'd visited a recently liberated Buchenwald. Carroll's reaction was visceral. So began his three-decades-long quest to collect and make accessible war letters and memorabilia. His wish: that all Americans might never forget.

After emptying the troves of family, friends, and acquaintances, Carroll sought the aid of--Dear Abby!?! Her column, published on Veterans Day 1998, produced an avalanche of donations.

Today, under Carroll's guidance, the **CAWL** is a unique physical and digital collection of 200,000+ war letters and memorabilia from every American conflict. The collection begins with handwritten missives composed during the Revolutionary War and continues on to audio letters from Vietnam and emails, texts, and video sent from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Housed at Chapman University in Orange County, California, and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and private donations, CAWL's coffers are supplemented by Carroll's authorship of a series of books and production of a play entitled *If All the Sky Were Paper* starring Gary Cole, Common, and Annette Benning, as well as the documentary *Letters from War* and the podcast *Behind the Lines*.

In March of 2021 the inaugural **Vietnam War Wing** of the companion all virtual, immersive museum opened.

If you, like me, have inherited letters from the front, fill out the submission **form**. Mail it and the letters to:

Attn: Andrew Harman, Archivist
Center for American War Letters Archives
Leatherby Libraries
Chapman University
One University Dr.
Orange, CA 92866

Know that your loved one's letters have found a safe haven. ♦

Unsung Hero: Cheri Hudson Passey

Charlene Carson

Vice President, GSGC Board Officer

Cheri is a real "Carolina Girl". Born in South Carolina, she was a military brat and traveled the world courtesy of the US Army, moving from military base to military base during her dad's long and honorable career.

Cheri didn't forget her roots and eventually settled back here in South Carolina, now the wife of Paul Passey, Cheri and Paul raised 11 children (this woman is remarkable!!) and they are currently the proud grandparents of 21 grandchildren!!

Her interest in genealogy began early and has maintained its hold on her for more than 35 years (and counting). Cheri's been the Chair of the Program Committee for the Grand Strand Genealogy Club for many years.

Her genealogical network reaches far and wide, enabling the Club to benefit from many nationally recognized genealogy presenters.

Cheri is well-known in genealogy circles as a professional genealogist, instructor, writer, and speaker in both national and international venues. She is the owner of **Carolina Girl, LLC**, an education and consultation service that offers clients a leg up when climbing their family tree. She has spoken at National Genealogical Society conferences, at RootsTech, and at many genealogical societies around the country.

In her spare time, Cheri hosts the *YouTube* genealogy chat show **GenFriends**. She is a genealogical researcher for the Eagle Investigative Service, Inc., a contractor for the US Army Past Conflict Repatriations Branch. She is the treasurer of GeneaBloggers and Vice President of Society & Organization Management for the National Genealogical Society, as well as a member of the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy Committee and an instructor for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Catch Cheri's class "Advanced Techniques for Mastering Online Searches and Uncovering Digital Records" with D. Josh Taylor as the coordinator in the fall of 2022.

Cheri is always willing to lend a hand or give advice--especially to new researchers! Her contributions to the Grand Strand Genealogy Club are a significant factor in the growth the Club has enjoyed over the years. ♦

Unsung Hero: Gail Reynolds

Marie Peacock

Second Vice President, GSGC Board Officer

Many years ago, I saw a listing in *The Sun News* of various group meetings. The item about the Grand Strand Genealogy Club caught my eye. I didn't know much about genealogy, but I thought it would be interesting. At my first Saturday session I met Gail Reynolds. She was teaching a class with the OLLI program for senior citizens at Coastal Carolina University. I signed up. I was hooked! Thanks to Gail, I learned how to begin genealogical research. I took many of her classes over the years and increased my knowledge. I'm no expert, but thanks to Gail and other Club members I'm enjoying finding out about my ancestors. ♦

A Cousin a Day Keeps the Boredom Away

Bob Dahlin

Technical Support, GSGC Associate Board

One of the things I enjoy about genealogy is discovering and "meeting" cousins I didn't know existed. I don't find one every day, but it amazes me how many unknown cousins I have! I've been able to meet some of these cousins in person, but others only through e-mail or *Facebook*.

I grew up near my mother's family in New Jersey and knew all my first cousins, some second cousins, and even some "removed" ones. I thought I knew mother's family fairly well! A few years ago, I received a DNA match. The person's surname was Canfield, my mother's maiden name. *Ancestry* gave her relationship as a 2nd-3rd cousin. Turns out, she's my second cousin once removed. She's descended from the brother of my maternal grandfather. This brother is in my tree but I didn't have information on any of his descendants. A few months later, I received another match. Again, *Ancestry* gave the relationship as a 2nd-3rd cousin. This woman turns out to be a second cousin and is descended from my maternal grandmother's sister. Her father is in my tree but I didn't know he had any children. With the help of both cousins, I've been able to fill in a lot of holes in my tree. I haven't physically met either of them, but we are *Facebook* friends and there's even a Canfield private group.

My father's family lived in western New York State. Because we lived in New Jersey, our once or twice a

year visits to dad's family included a 10-12 hour drive each way. I knew all my aunts, uncles, and first cousins on that side of the family--but not much more. One exception was my great aunt Ebba. When my grandfather became ill with Parkinson's disease, his unmarried sister Ebba came to America from Sweden to help my grandmother take care of him. She was quite a character, a seamstress who ran her own dress shop while she visited. When my grandfather passed away, she returned to Sweden. Two of my uncles and one of my cousins visited her. She introduced them to many of the other Swedish relatives.

Genealogy introduced me to all my extended family in Sweden. I became friends with some of them on *Facebook*. In 2019, my significant other and I decided to take a European vacation. We spent time in Hjo, Sweden, where many of my family live. One morning, four of my cousins took us on a tour of the farms the family leased when my grandfather was growing up. The farm Dalen (the valley, in Swedish) was the farm from which my grandfather took his surname. He believed Andersson was too common. We also visited the church where my great grandparents and other relatives (including my great aunt Ebba) are buried. The church dates from the 1600s and is amazingly beautiful. That afternoon we attended a family gathering at the home of one of my cousins where we met additional cousins I only knew as names in my family tree.

The cousins on my maternal grandmother's side are more obscure. With the help of some Swedish friends, I have been able to learn a lot about my grandmother's mother's family and have made passing *Facebook* contact with two cousins on her branch. They are not as friendly as my grandfather's family.

My latest "new" Swedish cousin is Ewa. She is my second cousin, twice removed, on my grandfather's side. She contacted me on *Facebook* and asked questions about my family tree. My father's cousin Eskil told her it was very complete. At 28, Ewa is building her own family tree on *MyHeritage.se*. It is refreshing to find someone of her generation who is interested in genealogy. So, my latest project is helping her by adding all her American cousins to her family tree.

I look forward to finding more cousins as my genealogical journey continues. ♦

Did You Know?

Charlene Carson informs us that on April 1, 2022, the *National Archives* in accordance with the “72-Year-Rule” released the 1950 United States Federal Census. Why 72 years?

The most common explanation--although not readily corroborated--was that 72 years represented the average lifespan at the time. The time was 1978 and the *National Archives* and the *U.S. Census Bureau* reached an agreement that provided privacy for personal identifying information in census records, other than to the individual or their legal heir for 72 years.

While the census information was released on April 1, 2022, there was/is still a lot of work to be done. *Ancestry* and *Family Search* have been working on technology to speed up the process of indexing the records. Currently, the projected completion date for the 1950 United States Federal Census is in the summer of 2022.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist in the indexing effort, go to [Family Search 1950 U.S. Census Community Project](#) and sign up. Visit the homepages of both [Ancestry](#) and [Family Search](#) for regular updates and information on the progress of the project.

Want to do more? Log in to [Family Search](#). Click on the “Get Involved” tab and then on “Indexing” to see the list of projects--basic to advanced, US-based, or international--that need volunteers. ♦

Gail Reynolds shares this helpful hint with our readers. The 1950 Census is free at [Ancestry](#). You will need to set up a free account at Ancestry if you do not have an Ancestry subscription.

1. Look up your ancestor’s street address in the 1940 Census.
2. Go to Ancestry’s “1950 Census Database.”
3. Click on the blue link that says “1950 Census District Finder” under “About U.S. Federal Census.”
4. Type in the street address, city or town, and county and state. Return.
5. Click on the blue district code.

Browse the pages of the chosen district (usually 20-30) for your family. ♦

It was recently announced that *PERSI* is going back to its home at the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library. You can now search *PERSI* from the [ACPL Genealogy Center](#) website for FREE. To learn more about searching *PERSI*, see the Genealogy Center’s webinar at <https://youtu.be/RN7gUzHdZ4o>. If you are not familiar with *PERSI*, please see the August 2021 issue of *Genie Bytes* for Gail Reynold’s article “So, What’s *PERSI* and How Do I Use It?” ♦

You can shadow any of our Board Officers or Associate Members. Try it you may love it! ♦

**Have a tip/tidbit you’d like to share? Please submit it to genieclub2002@gmail.com – Subject: “Tip/Tidbit.” We’d love to hear from you. **

State Guides

Rhode Island

(Source: State Guide Rhode Island by Taylor, M. A. Originally published in the Mar/Apr 2022/Vol.23, Issue 2, P. 33 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1790

First federal census: 1790

Birth and death records begin: 1630s (local); 1853 (state)

Marriage records begin: 1630s (local); 1853 (state)

Contact for vital records:

R.I. Dept of Health, Office of Vital Records. ♦

Texas

(Source: State Guide Texas by Crusco, K.M. Originally published in the Mar/Apr 2022/Vol.23, Issue 2, P.37 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1845

First federal census: 1850

Birth and death records begin: 1873 (county); 1903 (state)

Marriage records begin: 1837

Contact for vital records:

TX Dept. of State Health Services, Vital Statistics Section. ♦

Featured Book

Genealogist’s Handbook for New England Research, Sixth Edition Paperback – January 1, 2021 edited by Rhonda R. McClure. According to Bob Dahlin this book is a great resource for those doing research on New England ancestors. It gives an overall view of New England with resources listed by type and state. Included are URLs for on-line resources and physical addresses for non-digitized documents. Bob Dahlin has generously donated this book on behalf of the Club to the Chapin Library. Thank You, Bob! ♦

Featured Websites

BillionGraves has uploaded over 40 million GPS-tagged headstone images from over half a million cemeteries in 130 counties. Most of the website's features are free but it does offer a paid membership with extra tools. If you can't find your ancestor's resting place at *Find a Grave*, maybe you'll find it here. Bonnie Kishpaugh did! ♦

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. **

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GSGC MONTHLY MEETINGS

PLACE: CHAPIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

TIME: 10 AM

Presentations:

- May 14: Using Timelines for Genealogy – Shelley Murphy
- June 11: Writing Your Family and Ancestors Stories – Laura Hedgecock
- July 9: No Meeting – South Carolina Genealogical Workshop

SOUTH CAROLINA GRAND STRAND GENEALOGY CLUB (SCGSGC)

BOARD OFFICERS

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Past President: Darla Williams

Programs: Cheri Passey, Charlene Carson, Bob Dahlin

Technical Support: Bob Dahlin/Danny Sullivan

Webmaster: Judy Phillips

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

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

GENEALOGY MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

Virtual Journey Home Celtic Connections Conference – July 9 - September 30, 2022. Featuring well-known international and domestic speakers presenting on Irish, Scots-Irish, Scottish and Welsh topics. ♦

Family Search Family History & Genealogy Expo – July 23, 2022. Virtual informative fun-filled day viewing presentations, asking questions, and visiting vendor and society booths. – FREE! Check website for details. ♦

Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research (IGHR) – July 24 - 29, 2022. Virtual educational forum for the discovery, critical evaluation, and use of genealogical sources and methodology of intensive study. ♦

New York State Family History Conference 2022: Return to New York – September 8 - 10, 2022. The State's largest family history event featuring more than 40 educational sessions. Participate in-person or online. ♦

Salt Lake City Research Trip – October 17 - 22, 2022. Largest library of its kind with a staggering worldwide collection of records and help by *Ancestor Seekers* consultants. Check website for details and future research trips. ♦

Due to the Coronavirus most – if not all – meetings/conferences are being held virtually. Please visit **ConferenceKeeper 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

GENIE BYTES NEWSLETTER

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

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