GENIE BYTES

Volume 7, Issue 4 | Grand Strand Genealogy Club | November 2026

Message from the Editor

Bonnie Kishpaugh
Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Member of the Board

This now completes seven years of my publishing *Genie Bytes*. I could not have achieved all this without the help of my co-editors Chris Davis in 2020 and Ann Hamilton in the ensuing years.

How it all began. In the Fall of 2019, I first pitched the idea of a club newsletter to our Board as a way to help our members and to keep them informed as to the latest in genealogy research. The Board members loved the idea so Chris and I proceeded to put together a prototype which they enthusiastically accepted. This was how *Genie Bytes* got its start.

As many of you may know, I have decided to retire as Editor of *Genie Bytes*. At 79, this old lady can no longer keep up, especially after losing Ann.

I want to give a great big "thank you" to everyone who has contributed over the years. It was greatly appreciated! This isn't goodbye since I will still be attending the monthly meetings. See you there! ♦

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Finding Dora

Bonnie Kishpaugh
Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Member of the Board

I knew her story but didn't know her name…now I do!

My curiosity or should I say my journey all started with my great uncle Raymond Peter Herbrick, my maternal grandmother's brother. During one of my visits with Uncle Raymond and his wife, Aunt Sarah, I asked if they would like to take a road trip back to the area where he was born. My Aunt Sarah encouraged him to go with me but she said she would stay home. We made plans for me to pick him up at his home in Andalusia, Bucks County, PA on July 17, 1982 and take the approximately two-hour ride to the Pottsville area located in Schuylkill County, PA. We had a wonderful day together! Uncle Raymond showed me the graves of some family members buried at Odd Fellow Cemetery, the family "homestead" on Water Street in Pottsville where he had spent much of his childhood, and the eighty-eight-acre farm once owned by my great great grandfather, Ludwig Wendel Herberich. The farm was in Tumbling Run Valley about halfway between Orwigsburg and Tamaqua. When Wendel emigrated from Alsace-Lorraine, he didn't like working in the mines so he saved his money and made many purchases of small parcels of land from his neighbors.

Uncle Raymond was 78 at the time, so it was an exhausting day for him, but he enjoyed every minute so much that on my next visit to his home, he gave me a twenty-three-page hand written story of his family. It was titled "The Stories I Heard as a Youngster at the Fuchs' Homestead" by Raymond Herbrick.

One of the stories that intrigued me was about one of the grandchildren of Wendel Herberich's first family (which I never knew he had) who died between Christmas and New Year's while living at his farm. Uncle Raymond's original stories were handwritten and parts

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were somewhat faded and hard to read probably due to his pen running out of ink. After he gave the stories to me, I made a typed copy of them and Uncle Raymond's story of Wendel's granddaughter follows below.

"My grandfather died the winter of 1888. It happened this way. One of the grandchildren of his first: family was living at the farm. She must have been about two or three years anyway she was sick at Christmastime. She just about recognized the Christmas decorations on the tree. She died between Christmas & New Year's. My grandfather and his son-in-law went to the cemetery and dug the grave. They had to clear away three feet of snow first to get to the earth which was not frozen at this time, usually the earth is frozen hard, but in 1887 the snow came very early and put a blanket over the earth and prevented it from freezing. He caught a cold and it developed into pneumonia and died three weeks later. My grandmother then sold the farm and moved into Pottsville on Water St."

My search for Wendel's granddaughter began with *Ancestry* by clicking on *Search* in the task bar then choosing *Birth, Death & Marriages* from the drop-down menu. In case my uncle's memory was not accurate I entered the *Birth* as 1884 (+/- 2 years) with the *Death* as Dec 1887 (+/- 1 year), *Location* Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, and *Gender* Female. I found one of the results intriguing. It was a *Find a Grave* record for a Dora W. Barthel with a birth date of 2 Nov 1883 and a death date of 25 Dec 1887. She fit the profile of approximately two or three years old and dying at Christmas time. Also, the place of burial was St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Middleport which is where Tumbling Run Valley is located. Wendel was German Lutheran so this made sense. Alas, it didn't give me any other information as to who her parents were!

I also performed a search in *FamilySearch* but could not find a record using the same criteria as I did in *Ancestry*. I then tried entering the last name of Barthel with a birth place of Pennsylvania, birth range of 1883 to 1884 (exact) and a death place of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania and a death range of 1887 – 1888. The result was the same *Find-a-Grave* record I already had from the *Ancestry* search. (I usually do not have much luck using *FamilySearch* unless I have name/place/dates.)

Now that I had a last name from the headstone on *Find a Grave*, I was able to find her parents, Louise Herbrick and Peter Barthel by clicking on the *Find a Grave* record in *Ancestry* which then took me to the *Detail* screen that has *Suggested Records* on the right side. There was a Trinity Lutheran Church record with matching birth and death dates for Dorothea Louisa Barthel not Dora W. Barthel as listed in the *Find a Grave* record. The gravestone was not readable so that is probably how the initial was misread. The Church record listed her parents as Louise and Peter Barthel.

Since Wendel's last name could be spelled different ways, I did a search with his first name and Herb* for his last name. I clicked on the *Find a Grave* record that came up and again looked at the *Suggested Records*. There I found among the listed records the 1850 census with his name as "Wendle Heisbritz" and his first wife, "Dorathea." I would have never found that record if I hadn't looked at the *Suggested Records*. I now knew this little girl had been named for her grandmother!

I was so excited I had solved the mystery of this little girl! Now on to solving the many other mysteries in my Uncle Raymond's stories.

Since both my parents had passed away when I got married in 1985, I asked my Uncle Raymond who was very precious to me to give me away at my wedding. He gladly accepted!

Unfortunately, he passed in 1992 and one of my regrets is I never sat down with him to go over his stories or ask him questions about missing or incomplete information; e.g., What was Wendel's brother's name who immigrated with him but went his separate way to Baltimore, MD? To this day I have never found him. This is one of the many questions I should have asked! ♦

Research Trips: Not Everything Is Online!

April Havens
Member, GSGC

Over the years I have kept a list of potential research facilities to help me uncover more information about my ancestors. I try to plan a research trip at least once or twice a year. In 2026 I planned multiple trips!

My first trip started with an acronym coined by Elizabeth Shown Mills: FAN club (Friends, Associates, and

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Neighbors). When I found out about the Davis Lee McWhorter papers housed at the **Joyner Library in Special Collections at East Carolina University**, I knew I needed to get there and research our FANs of the Price, Moore, McCollum and Howie ancestors!

In April 2026 while returning from a trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C., I was determined to stop and research in the Joyner Library. I had already utilized the finding aid and knew which boxes I wanted to review. I completed the request form online and picked my research time frame. Accessing the library was easy. The parking garage is just steps away from the library. It was exciting to be back on a "college campus," there was so much going on!

Once inside the library, I located the *Special Collections Room*, checked in and was taken to a research room and specified table. The curator brought me one box at a time and instructed me on how to use the scanner. *(which was very nice I might add).* After four hours, I had located information on my families, scanned several pages and a large map. I never would have been able to access this information if I had not scheduled an on-site trip to East Carolina University and the Joyner Library. I offered a donation but was politely declined as it was a public college library. Check college libraries in the state you are researching, you never know what may be waiting in the library!

Anna Nelson McWhorter's "Woman's Christian Temperance Union" Pledge



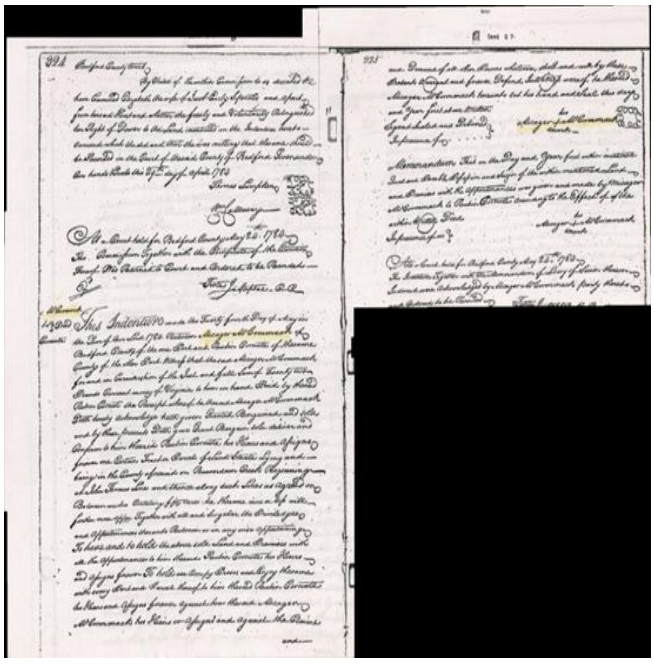
* *

My second trip evolved from a "family trip" into West Virginia. I had a need to go to Bedford County, Virginia to research my mother's McCormick family. My sister and her husband wanted to take a trip to West Virginia to ride the New Tygart Flyer, a vintage diesel-powered locomotive. I am always up for an adventure so I asked her if we could stop at the **Bedford County, Virginia Museum and Genealogy Library** as we would be returning home from that direction. Knowing we would only have half a day for research, I planned accordingly! Little did my sister know she would be recruited as a researcher to maximize our visit!

The museum and library are located on Main Street in downtown Bedford with an adjacent parking lot. Once inside, we sent the husbands off to look through the museum portion (*and to check for any McCormick's in the exhibits*) while my sister and I dug into the research library. We found the staff to be very helpful.

We spent approximately 3 hours digging through family files, checking indexes in books and acquiring some much-needed marriage information. Success! I purchased a needed historical map, paid for my scans and left a donation. I encourage everyone to NOT overlook county museum's, genealogical libraries and historical societies! ♦

1784 Indenture for McCormick



N.B. This series will continue on either the Club's website or FB page.

The Eleanor Brown Mystery

Jean Brennan
Vice President, GSGC Officer of the Board

One of the things I enjoy most about genealogy is the challenging opportunity to review the records as a private investigator. Often, other *Ancestry* members' family trees do not give you the answer — you must figure out what the records are trying to tell you.

The Eleanor Brown mystery is a great example of such investigative sleuthing. It began with a DNA match with a cousin who didn't have a public family tree. We had quite a few shared matches which were connected to my "Brown" line, so I wrote her to inform her I thought we must be related through the "Brown" family. She wrote back and said she had a grandmother named Eleanor Brown, but she really didn't know anything about her. That gave me somewhere to start.

I began to search for "Shared Matches" who had Eleanor Brown in a public tree. As luck would have it, I found one family member with a public tree that listed Eleanor Brown. Her tree listed information about an Eleanor Brown, born in McKeesport, Allegheny County, PA in August 1880. This "Shared Match" had included census records from 1900 to 1940. That was helpful because now I had a little more information to work with.

Except there was a problem. The census records themselves said something different. They consistently gave Eleanor's birthplace as Illinois. That detail caught my attention. Why would the census record consistently state Eleanor was born in Illinois and this family member identified McKeesport, Allegheny County, PA as her birthplace?

I looked at a map to see exactly where McKeesport, Pa was located and found it was right near Pittsburgh. I knew of no relatives in Pittsburgh. Our Brown family was from Lehigh, Northampton County, Pa not the Pittsburgh area. I started wondering if McKeesport PA was where Eleanor lived as an adult — not where she was born.

I then ran into another problem. The earliest census record for Eleanor was the 1900 census. At that point her married name was Eleanor Biddle. The 1890 census wasn't available because of a fire in 1921 in the Department of Commerce building. The 1880 census couldn't help me identify Eleanor directly because she was born in August 1880, about two months after the census was taken.

I then had to think about what generation Eleanor would fall into in my Brown Family Tree. I hypothesized that she could be from a brother of my 2nd Great Grandfather, Joseph H Brown. That's when I really started paying attention to Edwin Brown. Census records showed Edwin was living in McKee, Adams County, IL in 1880. Eleanor's census records from 1900 to 1940 stated she was born in Illinois and Edwin Brown was in Illinois in 1880. This timeline was beginning to make sense.

Then I found another interesting piece of information. Edwin's obituary said he had nine children, but I only had eight children listed for him in my family tree. When I looked at their birth years, there was a big gap between two sons, Sylvester in 1878 and Ellsworth in 1885. Could Eleanor be the missing child from my list?

I couldn't just assume it was. I needed something which would connect Eleanor to Edwin. So, I started going through the obituaries of Edwin's children and that's when I found what I considered my smoking gun. The obituary for Edwin's son, Howard Nelson Brown, listed a sister named Nellie Biddle. Nellie is a nickname for Eleanor and Biddle was Eleanor's married name.

This was a hard piece of evidence not to ignore, but then I found something else which made the whole thing even more interesting. I found a newspaper article about the Biddle family going to visit relatives in Hutchinson, Kansas. Why did that matter? Because Hutchinson, KS was where Edwin Brown and his family moved after their brief stay in McKee, Adams, IL. It was also where Eleanor's father and members of her family were eventually buried. Now I had multiple records pointing in the same direction.

- The DNA match led me to Eleanor.
- The shared matches pointed me toward the Brown family.
- The census records said Illinois.
- Edwin Brown was in Illinois in 1880, prior to moving to Hutchinson, Kansas.
- Edwin was supposed to have nine children, but I only had eight.
- There was a gap in the children's birth years that could fit Eleanor perfectly.

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- Then Howard Brown's obituary gave me Nellie Biddle, Eleanor's nickname and married surname.
- The newspaper article showed Eleanor Biddle's family visiting relatives in Hutchinson, Kansas — the same place connected to Edwin Brown and his family.

At this point, I felt pretty confident I had found her. Eleanor "Nellie" Brown Biddle was the missing ninth child of Edwin Brown.

What I find interesting about this case is no single record handed me the answer. I had to find and analyze all the little clues and ask whether they made sense together. This is the part of genealogy I really enjoy. It's not always about finding a tree that says, "here is your ancestor." Sometimes it's about looking at what you know, noticing what doesn't make sense, and then asking: "What would have to be true for all of these clues to fit together?" In this case, the answer was hiding in a name most people probably wouldn't have paid much attention to: "Nellie" Biddle**.** That little name opened the door to solving the mystery of Eleanor Brown and enabled me to connect with more of my cousins from afar. ♦

Featured Websites

Charlene Carson suggests using the ***MyHeritage* Wiki** website which includes Genealogy research by location, Genetic origins, Naming traditions, Primer on historical records, and How-to guides. Everything you need to know when researching in an unfamiliar state/country! ♦

At our April meeting a new member requested information on Spain, Cuba and Germany. I found the following websites.

CubaGenWeb for Cuba research but it also has links to other websites useful to Cuban Genealogy including Spain Genealogy Resources. It is chock full of information for both Cuba and Spain.

At **Archion** you can find your German Protestant ancestors among more than 200,000 digitized church books from 25 different archives. In the May 2026 issue of *Genie Bytes*, we featured "Matricula Online" which holds German church records from Catholic parishes.

Hope all of this helps with your research! ♦

Would you like to find someone who has what you need and will do a free lookup for you? That's what you'll find at **Books We Own** — A Look-Up Resource for International Genealogical Research. This website is a list of resources owned/accessed by individuals who are willing to look up genealogical information and e-mail or snail mail it to others who request it. The project began in 1996 as a way for members of the ROOTS-L mailing list to share their resources with one another. Today, there are approximately 1250 volunteers.

Be sure to click on the "helpful tips" link to learn how to make a request. Also click on "Other Resources" on the menu bar to explore other sites. Happy Hunting! ♦

DNA Painter is an easy-to-use tool that can help demystify your DNA results. It is very user friendly with free webinars to help you navigate the website. Most features are free but a $55 annual upgrade gets you even more.

According to Blaine Bettinger "DNA Painter is an easy-to-use tool that helps genealogists make sense of DNA testing. By mapping segments of DNA to chromosomes, we can begin to see which ancestors gave us which pieces of DNA, and thus how new matches are related. As a result, DNA Painter has quickly become an essential tool for genealogists!"

Our very own Phyllis Hughes who is the coordinator for the club's DNA Special Interest Group loves this site! ♦

Did You Know?

In the November/December 2026 issue of FamilyTree Magazine, our very own Cherie Hudson Passey has published an article entitled *A Close Reading: Analyze records — and fulfill your ancestral quest — by understanding these key (sometimes conflicting) best practices*. Way to go Cherie! We're so lucky to have you in our club. Congratulations! ♦

In 2027 our Grand Strand Genealogy Club will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary! Go back and take a look at the January 2020 issue of *Genie Bytes* where one of the club's founding members, Gail Reynolds, relates the club's history. ♦

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

Featured Books

Roser, Susan E. *Mayflower Marriages, Mayflower Births and Deaths (two volumes), Mayflower Probates, and Mayflower Increasings*. Genealogical Publishing Company, 1996. According to *GenealogyBank* "This unique collection provides an accurate and reliable summary of all that is presently known about the passengers of the Mayflower for the first three generations in America — names, dates, places, spouses, children, etc. Unique to Roser's work, each third-generation listing includes references to records or sources that will help you find fourth generation children. These source records make it easy to search and cross-check for potential clues of your Pilgrim ancestors." If you have ancestors who came over on the Mayflower, you will probably be happy with this collection. ♦

Family Tree Magazine. *Find Your U.S. Ancestors: State-by-State Guides from Family Tree Magazine: Volume 1: Eastern U.S.* Yankee Publishing Inc., Paperback, 2026. According to Amazon "This book's 28 state-by-state guides will help you research your American ancestors who lived east of the Mississippi River. Each chapter (originally published in *FamilyTree Magazine*) contains guidance on a state or territory's history and genealogy records." ♦

Howe, Samuel Storrs (Author), Lloyd, Frederick (Author), Parvin, Theodore Sutton (Creator). *Annals Of Iowa*. Hutson Street Press, 2025. According to Amazon "This book presents a rich collection of historical records and articles documenting the history of Iowa and the Midwest. Published in collaboration with the State Historical Society of Iowa, the journal covers a broad spectrum of topics, from significant historical events to biographical sketches of notable Iowans." This is an essential resource. ♦

McClure, Rhonda R. *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, 6th Edition*. Published by NEHGS, Paperback, 2021. According to Amazon "This new full-color edition is an extensive update of an indispensable resource for those researching in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Research basics, unique resources, repository locations, and extensive county and town information (maps, dates established, parent counties, parent and daughter towns, other names, and more) are now uniformly presented for each state. This user-friendly redesign also restores useful information from the 4th edition such as earlier probate districts in Connecticut." This is a "must have" for researching in the six New England states! ♦

Grand Strand Genealogy Club 2027 Presentation Schedule

- **January 9** — Getting the Most Out of AI for Genealogy Research — V. Susan Hutchinson
- **February 13** — Genie Fair
- **March 13** — Open Discussion: How Do You Maintain Your Family Tree and Organize Your Documents?
- **April 10** — Family Archives — Melissa Baker
- **May 8** — Chapin Memorial Library: A *FamilySearch* Affiliate Library (bring laptops) — Charlene Carson
- **June 12** — Heirloom Plants — Blaine Bettinger
- **July 10** — Round Table (call for topics in advance)
- **August 14** — Genealogical Research with the *Ancestry* Library Edition (bring laptops) — Bob Dahlin (may have to switch dates)
- **September 11** — Open Discussion: How Did You Get Past a Roadblock? Tips On Looking More Closely at Some Records.
- **October 9** — House History — Marian Pierre Louis
- **November 13** — Jumping the Pond: Connecting Immigrants to Their Homeland — Mary Kircher Roddy
- **December 11** — Year Review and Holiday Party ♦

Call for Genie Jar Donations

Members of the GSGC last met solely 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! ♦

State Guides

Iowa

(Source: State Guide Iowa by King, R. Originally published in the Nov/Dec 2026/Vol.27, Issue 6, P. 33 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1846
First federal census: 1840 (as territory); 1850 (as state)
Birth and death records begin: 1880
Marriage records begin: from formation (county); 1880 (state)
Contact for vital records:
IA Dept of Public Health. ♦

Maine

(Source: State Guide Maine by Jamieson, B. J. Originally published in the Nov/Dec 2026/Vol.27, Issue 6, P.37 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1820
First federal census: 1790 (as part of Massachusetts)
Birth and death records begin: 1600s (local); 1892 (state)
Marriage records begin: 1600s (local); 1892 (state)
Contact for vital records:
ME Dept. of Health and Human Services. ♦

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/via Zoom
Time: 10 a.m.
Presentations: (subject to change)

- November 14: DAR — Researching Mayflower Ancestors — Bonnie Wade Macia
- December 12: Year-End Wrap Up
- January 9: Getting the Most Out of AI for Genealogy Research — Suzy Hutchinson

Genealogy Meetings/Conferences

Olympia Genealogical Society 2027 Annual Seminar – "Researching English Records" with Paul Milner – February 6, 2027. Four virtual ($) presentations on Parish Registers, Parish Chest, Probate System and National Archives. Check website for details and registration. ♦

Roots Tech 2027 – March 4-6, 2027. The conference will be in person in Salt Lake City ($129) and virtual (FREE!). Registration now open. Check website for details. ♦

National Genealogical Society 2027 Family History Conference – Lakesides & Legacies – May 19-22, 2027. The program will be packed with new sessions for everyone from beginners to seasoned professionals. Held in Madison, Wisconsin, home to the Wisconsin Historical Society. Check website for details and registration. ♦

** 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.**

South Carolina Grand Strand Genealogy Club (SCGSGC)

Officers

President: V. Susan Hutchinson
Vice President: Jean Brennan
Secretary: Linda Murphy
Treasurer: Anne Laymon

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Historian: Lois Butler
Membership: Michelle Kozinetz/Pat Bernschein
Newsletter: Bonnie Kishpaugh
Past President: Charlene Carson
Programs: Cheri Passey
Technical Support: Bob Dahlin/Ray Caputo
Webmaster: Pat Bernschein/Susan Malinowsky

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

Lanyards ($5 ID Badge Holder + 2 Ribbons. Additional Ribbons $.25 each) – See Richard Maclary or email the Club at genieclub2002@gmail.com to order

Meetings

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at:

Chapin Memorial Library (*FamilySearch* Affiliate Library)
400 14th Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Meetings held both at Chapin Library and via ZOOM

Email - genieclub2002@gmail.com
Website - www.scgsgc.org

Genie Bytes Newsletter

Editor: Bonnie Kishpaugh
Assistant Editor: Vacancy
Published: Quarterly (February, May, August, November)

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

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