



GENIE BYTES

Volume 5, Issue 1

Grand Strand Genealogy Club

February 2024

Message from the Editors

Bonnie Kishpaugh & Ann Hamilton

Editor & Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Board of Directors

We made it — five years since publishing our first issue of *Genie Bytes*! Look at Did You Know? to see one of our many accomplishments. We couldn't have done this without our members supporting us with articles, tips/tidbits, books, websites, etc. Thank you all!

If, like us, neither your hearing nor your vision is 20/20 and you're a slow scribbler to boot, then you'll remember those times you've attended an excellent GSGC presentation and felt certain you've missed a salient point. That's how we felt following Gail Reynolds' information-packed response to Susan Malinowsky's Problem Ancestor. That is, until Christine Davis, a long-time and now long-distance GSGC member emailed Ann her suggestion for this month's article on brick wall-breaking strategies. We're presenting the single article as a three-part series so you'll have an opportunity to put the strategies into practice gradually. Then, next October when a new member presents a problem, gather your notes from Gail's presentation and Christine's articles from this and our May and August issues, and offer to help! ♦

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Message from the Editors and "The Passing of Judy Phillips"
- 2 "Shadows, Backups, and Replacements Needed!" and Featured Websites
- 3 "Strategies to Break Down Brick Walls," Part 1 of 3, MN/NJ State Guides, and Did You Know?
- 4 "GSGC Mentoring Program" and Dear Miss Genie
- 5 "Introducing Our 2024 Officers" and "2022-2023 Accomplishments" – Dick Temple
- 6 Featured Books, Call for Genie Jar Donations, Club Officers and Board Members, Club Details, and Disclaimer

The Passing of Judy Phillips

Ann Hamilton

Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Board of Directors



"We're a good team, aren't we?" Judy asked Dennis Fitzgerald and me as we wrapped up our month's-long partnership revising the GSGC's Bylaws. Judy was, first and foremost, a team player.

Judy's teammates included the wee children with whom she played as a substitute teacher and her coworkers who described Judy as "dedicated and caring." They included family members far and wide reunited thanks to Judy's efforts. They included the ancestors she honored by authoring *The Spinney Family Genealogy*. They included, us, the members of the GSGC.

Judy showed up for her GSGC team. A fixture at monthly meetings, she always sat in the front row so she'd miss neither a sight nor sound. More importantly, Judy was the team member who always volunteered. No "ask" was beyond her acceptance. For several years the GSGC's webmaster, she also was quick to stack a chair at meeting's close. While teammates played it safe, Judy was fearless. She travelled twice—alone—to Ireland to walk in her forefathers' footsteps and, I hope, to raise a pint in their honor.

Your teammates at the GSGC raise one in yours. Rest in peace Judy Phillips.

Read Judy's obituary and leave a tribute at [McMillan-Small Funeral Home and Crematory](#). ♦

Shadows, Backups, and Replacements Needed!

Ann Hamilton

Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Board of Directors

The Officers and Members of the Board who requested shadows, backups, or replacements in '23 do so again in '24. Being a **shadow** is GSGC's equivalent of a tree trial. You're under no obligation to take the position. Like it? Become a **backup** in training to **replace** the person who currently serves.

Pat Bernschein~~1st year as Webmaster.

Have you created a text box in Word? Have you entered text in the box? If so, you can be the MASTER of GSGC's software-free, web-based website! NO CODING NECESSARY! **Shadow** Pat as she updates the site. Like what you see? Be Pat's **BACKUP**.

Lois Butler~~16 years as Historian.

If you're a scrapbooker, a shutterbug, and an in-person attendee at GSGC meetings, you're the perfect **REPLACEMENT** for Lois who, due to health concerns, has been unable to attend meetings in person for many months.

Dennis Fitzgerald~~7 years as Secretary.

If Word is installed on your computer, if you're a regular meeting attendee who doesn't mind adding Board meetings to your calendar, and if you've got 4 to 5 hours to spare each month, consider becoming Dennis' **REPLACEMENT**. The Club provides a template to assist with note-taking.

Bonnie Kishpaugh~~5 years as Genie Bytes Editor.

Do you have a nose for news? Do you want its presentation to be accurate and attractive? Have you created text boxes in Microsoft Word? Bonnie's template with preset styles is easy to use. Highlight your text. Select your style. Voila! **Shadow** Bonnie. Be her **backup**. Become her **REPLACEMENT** as editor of *Genie Bytes* when she steps down.

Michelle Kosinetz~~1st year as Membership Registrar.

The Membership Registrar must be comfortable with Word and Excel. The registrar should also own a laptop that can be brought to meetings as well as a printer. Owning a scanner is handy. Because Michelle must be at every meeting, she'd appreciate a **BACKUP**.

Anne Laymon~~7 years as Treasurer.

"Easy peasy!" That's how Anne Laymon describes her position as treasurer. Should you decide to be Anne's **BACKUP**, you'll need to be familiar with Excel to complete the end-of-the-year spreadsheet. Being comfortable with a calculator is essential and you'll also need a printer and copier. Enjoy writing checks and depositing money to the GSGC account.

Susan Perhala~~11 years as Office Depot Rewards Coordinator.

Handling our rewards program is an easy and fun way to help the Club. Creating a personal rewards account on line allows one to keep an eye on things and print out the rewards certificates when they appear. Susan spends less than an hour a month gathering empty cartridges from Club members and turning them in to Office Depot--but she's been doing it for 11 years. She's ready to welcome a **REPLACEMENT**.

Danny Sullivan~~2 years as Technical Support Supervisor.

Danny's eager to share what he's learned since he replaced Bob Dahlin two years ago. He's looking for someone who's willing to be his **BACKUP** at one Monday morning Board meeting and one Saturday morning general meeting for approximately 5 hours a month.

Willing to volunteer? All positions are gender-neutral. So, follow this link: <https://www.scgsgc.org/board-position-descriptions>. Scroll down the page to find a detailed description of each position. ♦

Featured Websites

Nancy Launi's paternal family is from Sicily. She suggests using [Portale Antenati](#) for Italian civil and church records. She uses *Family Search* to find church records not in Antenati. On [Facebook](#), Nancy joined two groups that assist with Sicilian records/translations, and general advice. Thank you, Nancy, for contributing to the "Featured Websites" section of our newsletter. ♦

[The National Library of Ireland](#) was established in 1877 by The Dublin Science and Art Museum Act. They have a free collection of images of birth, marriage, and burial registers from many Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland, dating from the 1700s to about 1880. Explore the [registers](#) by parish; click on the map to get started. You may hit a pot of gold! ♦

Strategies to Break Down Brick Walls

Christine Davis, Ed. D.

Member, GSGC

Part 1 of 3: Search Tools

Locating missing ancestors and records can be frustrating for both new and experienced researchers. The good news is there are viable strategies for any frustrated genealogist.

- 1. Start over by reviewing what you already know.** Revisit census, church, court, deeds, legal, probate, tax, wills, ship lists, immigration/naturalization, draft, and war records. Make a list of what is known [timeline or chart] and formulate a specific **Research Plan** to locate what is missing. TIP: Select a preferred research plan template to plan and organize research needs. This will promote a more efficient and effective use of research time. Code whether **online** or **onsite** research is needed.
- 2. Review old and search for new records using a variety of search engines.** *Bing, Chrome, Dogpile, DuckDuckGo, Explorer, Firefox, Google, HotBot, Lycos, MetaCrawler, Safari, Yahoo*, etc.: each utilizes different web crawlers so they may locate new webpages or links. TIP: Implement research short cuts to narrow your search: dashes [to exclude a word], quotation marks [for exact word/phrase search], tilde [synonyms], rel and link [similar or specific sites], two periods/dots [range of dates/numbers], or a minus sign [to exclude a word/phrase].
- 3. Use a middle name, initials, nicknames, and variations in spelling in any genealogical search.** *FamilySearch, Ancestry, FindMyPast, Ellis Island, CastleGarden, MyHeritage*, State/National genealogical/archive websites, and *DAR/ SAR*: each has developed a research guide for searching records in foreign countries. Even foreign records are now available online – TRANSLATED! TIP: Use *Google Go* for those in need of translation. [This was how I broke my wall!]. Take advantage of genealogical wikis, as well as filters or advance search tools including Google videos, books, and images. Check back periodically for new hints! ♦

State Guides

Minnesota

(Source: State Guide Minnesota by Crume, R. Originally published in the Jan/Feb 2024/Vol.25, Issue 1, P. 33 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1858

First federal census: 1850

Birth and death records begin: 1870 (county); 1900/1908 (state)

Marriage records begin: 1849 (county)

Contact for vital records:

MN Dept. of Health, Office of Vital Records ♦

New Jersey

(Source: State Guide New Jersey by Koch, A. Originally published in the Jan/Feb 2024/Vol.25, Issue 1, P.37 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1787

First federal census: 1790 (first extant: 1830)

Birth and death records begin: 1848 (state)

Marriage records begin: 1848 (state)

Contact for vital records:

NJ Dept of Health, Office of Vital Statistics and Registry. ♦

Did You Know?

RootsTech--the largest genealogy conference in the world—is being held from 29 February – 2 March 2024 in Salt Lake City. GSGC's own Cheri Passey will be there to conduct sessions on three topics and partner with others on two more.

Topics addressed by Cheri and her partners are plan creation for exhaustive research, quality programming for society growth, tackling new research locations, genealogy jobs, and writing about uncomfortable discoveries. Cheering her on in person will be our President Charlene Carson and new member and Family Search Center Director Lynn Samuelson.

Can't travel 'cross country? Select from 200+ of the 1500+ sessions and watch from the comfort of your home for up to three years. Get digital syllabi and class handouts, too. For FREE! Visit now! ♦

Our very own GSGC's *Genie Bytes* is available to researchers at the [Allen County Public Genealogy Center](#). At Cherie Passey's suggestion, Bonnie Kishpaugh contacted the library asking if they would like to add our newsletter to their *Serial Collection*. They said definitely. Yay! ♦

**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. **

GSGC Mentoring Program

Bob Dahlin

Mentoring Coordinator, GSGC

One of the benefits of being a member of the Grand Strand Genealogy Club is the ability to participate in our Mentoring Program.

What is Mentoring?

According to *ChatGPT*, mentoring is a dynamic and collaborative relationship between an experienced and knowledgeable individual (the mentor) and a less experienced or knowledgeable person (the mentee). The mentor provides guidance, support, and advice to the mentee, helping them develop specific skills, knowledge, or personal growth. This relationship is often characterized by open communication, trust, and a commitment to the mentee's success.

How can Mentoring help your genealogical research?

A Mentor can help you:

- If you are new to genealogy and need help getting started
- If you are trying to decide what software/websites are best for you
- If you are confused about DNA and your results
- If you need help with resources for a particular state or country
- If you have a problem finding information on a particular ancestor or branch of your tree
- If you need help organizing your research
- If you just want someone more experienced to give you feedback on your findings

How to Request a Mentor

You can request a Mentor by filling out a "Mentor Request Form" available on the club website (<https://scgsgc.org>) or at the sign-in table at our monthly meetings. You can also send a message to the club e-mail address (genieclub2002@gmail.com). Remember that mentoring is a dynamic partnership. Don't expect the mentor to do all your research for you. Rather the mentor will show you how to develop the skills to do it yourself.

How to Volunteer as a Mentor

You can volunteer to become a Mentor by filling out a "Mentor Volunteer Form" available on the club website (<https://scgsgc.org>) or by sending a message to the club e-mail address (genieclub2002@gmail.com). I have learned in my years of teaching that by teaching someone, you learn more about the subject yourself. Mentoring is collaborative!

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." ~Lao Tzu ♦

Dear Miss Genie

My niece recently gave birth to a son. This would be my **great nephew** or **grand-nephew**. But what relation would that son be to my daughter? Is he a second cousin?

Answer: [AncestrySupport](#) explains in simple terms the usage of great and grand. Your niece's son would be your **grand-nephew**. According to the *Cambridge Dictionary*, approved spellings are grand-nephew, grandnephew, and grand nephew. Microsoft disapproves of the latter.

As to the relationship between your daughter and your niece's son, they would be **first cousins, once removed**. This means that they are from different generations, with your daughter being in the same generation as your niece and your niece's son being in the next generation. For you and all our members, the following websites show various charts which explain different relationships.

- [North of Ireland Family History Society](#)
- [Janealogy](#)
- [The Loftin Family Genealogy Website](#)

Hopefully, this answers your question.

By the way, the terms great- and grand-nephew are not capitalized unless they precede a given name. Microsoft doesn't recognize great-nephew. ♦

**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. **

Introducing Our 2024 Officers

Ann Hamilton

Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Board of Directors

President: Charlene Carson

I began researching my Polish ancestry over 25 years ago. I attended my first GSGC meeting in 2010 and initially volunteered for webmaster and membership duties for 3-4 years. I provided technical support for GSGC's first live, interactive webinar with Dear Myrtle, and continue to provide technical support as needed. Over the years, I have also served as vice president (2-3 years) and president (2017-2018). I've been a volunteer at the Family Search Center for 10+ years and also prepared and presented classes for Chapin library on *Genealogy 101*, *FamilySearch* and *Ancestry* as tools for research. Finally, I enjoy mentoring members, new and old, and assisting them as they become competent and confident genealogists.

Vice President: Claire Fleming

Twenty-five years ago, I began researching my family. Today I'm rewarded for my effort with a three-volume history including ancestors from Belgium, England, Germany, and Italy, as well as New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania that is near completion. Three years into my research, I became one of the founding members of the GSGC. Club presentations and member discussions helped me to become comfortable with the research process and to realize hoped-for results. In return, I've given back to the Club as a presenter, as a member of the program committee, and, in 2009, as president. More recently, I've taught OLLI classes on researching Colonial America.

Secretary: Dennis Fitzgerald

I've been working on genealogy for over thirty years. My efforts have focused on my family from Illinois and my wife's family from Wisconsin. My family tree includes over 35,000 persons and I've prepared genealogies for over ten non-family members. In so doing, I've visited genealogy libraries and archives across the country. I joined the Grand Strand Genealogy Club in 2006 and I've been an active member since that date promoting Club activities in the media and working on special projects. I served as president of the Club in 2014 and as secretary for six years.

Treasurer: Anne Laymon

My dad's research into his family's history included taking Polish classes and traveling to Poland with my mom on a 3-week trip in 2001. I picked up on his interest

and eventually acquired all his digital records from *Family Tree Maker* and *Ancestry*. I attended my first Genie Club meeting after I saw a notice in the newspaper about the topic: "Using Facebook for Genealogy." I was hooked and became a member. I had previously been a treasurer for a local cardiology support group and in 2017 I volunteered to take over the treasurer's position. I've held that position ever since. I've filled in a few times as secretary and now I'm also distributing certificates of appreciation to our presenters. I skip very few meetings because I learn something new every month!

2022-2023 Accomplishments

Dick Temple

President 2022-2023, Ex Officio Member, GSGC Board of Directors

This article is being submitted as a "thank you" to the Club members for their support and giving me the honor to serve as their President.

LUCKY 13?

As mentioned in the February 2022 *Genie Bytes*, I was the Club's THIRTEENTH President. Actually, 13 has long been my favorite number and while growing up I wore number 13 on all of my sports uniforms.

During my time as President, I think my biggest accomplishment was in communication. Besides texts, emails, and phone calls, this meant reviewing and responding to Club correspondence in a timely manner. Additional accomplishments occurring during my tenure include:

- Updated the Club's bylaws
- Improved the content, formatting, etc., on the Club's website and Facebook page
- Initiated a hybrid process, connecting In Person and Zoom participants during the Covid era
- Developed an online process to complete our annual member application requirement
- Celebrated the Club's 20th anniversary, since its inception in 2002
- Purged 96 non-participating members from our roster, thereby reducing our workload
- Gained 15 new members, increasing our current total to 109 active members
- Revised and improved the speakers Certificate of Appreciation awards
- Through member contributions, was able to maintain previous levels of the Club funds
- Personally interjected humor in every meeting, especially needed during these difficult times. ♦

Featured Books

Crafts, Hannah. *The Bondwoman's Narrative*, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Grand Central Publishing, 2003. In 2003, scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. helped publish what was thought to be the first novel ever written by an African American woman. Drawn from a manuscript dating from the mid-1800s, the book topped the NYT best seller list for months. ♦

Hecimovich, Gregg. *The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts: The True Story of The Bondwoman's Narrative*. HarperCollins, 2023. Twenty years later, Hecimovich's extensively researched *Life and Times...* proves that the *Narrative* was, indeed, the work of a fugitive slave. It breathes life into this extraordinary woman and reveals how she exchanged slavery for freedom, family, and a long, happy life. ♦

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! ♦

SOUTH CAROLINA GRAND STRAND GENEALOGY CLUB (SCGSGC)

OFFICERS

President: Charlene Carson
Vice President: Claire Flemming
Secretary: Dennis Fitzgerald
Treasurer: Anne Laymon

BOARD MEMBERS

Historian: Lois Butler
Membership: Michelle Kozinetz
Newsletter: Bonnie Kishpaugh, Ann Hamilton
Past President: Dick Temple
Programs: Cheri Passey
Technical Support: Danny Sullivan
Webmaster: Pat Bernschein

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

Lanyards (\$5 ID Badge Holder; \$2 Ribbons + \$.25 each additional ribbon) – See Marie Peacock or email the Club at genieclub2002@gmail.com to order

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GSGC MONTHLY MEETINGS

PLACE: CHAPIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY/VIA ZOOM

TIME: 10 A.M.

PRESENTATIONS:

- February 10: Introduction to Goldie May Software-Power Tool for Genealogists — Richard Miller
- March 9: Intro to U.S. Church Records: Why We Care Where Grandma Went to Church — Sunny Jane Morton
- April 13: Using Fact in Fiction — Nathan Dylan Goodwin

GENEALOGY MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

Ontario Ancestors 2024 Conference: An Interactive Experience: Explore, Engage & Enjoy! – June 14-15, 2024.

The first in-person (Toronto) OGS Conference in five years. Registration is open. OSG is delighted to announce their first confirmed marquee speaker is DNA evidence specialist Blaine Bettinger! Check website for further details. ♦

The Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society's 50th Anniversary Conference: Tracing Our Western

Pennsylvania Roots: The Journey of Our Ancestors –

June 21-22, 2024. Early bird in person and virtual registration March 1 — April 30, 2024. Check website for pricing, speakers, and updates. ♦

**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 at 10:00 a.m. at:

Chapin 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: Ann Hamilton
Published: Quarterly (February, May, August, November)

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

Disclaimer: This newsletter is for informational purposes only, published exclusively for GSG Club members; contributors submit material under the assumption of copyright compliance and understand both content and length are subject to edits. Listed Websites are informational and are the intellectual property of those site owners - not the newsletter publisher - and the editors cannot certify the accuracy of the material published on any linked site."