



# Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society

## The Prospector: Helping You Dig Deeper for Your Roots

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### President's Message

By: Craig Smith



On September 16th the CCNGS membership voted for a new Board of Directors who will lead the Society for the next two years. Pat Saletore, Past President, delivered the oath of office and installed the new officers. Your new Board of Directors are:

President - Craig Smith  
VP - Education - Sam Giordano  
VP - Operations - Kharisma Rodriguez  
Secretary - Kelley Barrett  
Treasurer - C. J. Vadovic



L-R - C.J. Vadovic, Kelley Barrett, Sam Giordano, Craig Smith; not shown: Kharisma Rodriguez

### Welcome New Members

#### Third Quarter 2023

Lourdes Romero-Arroyo  
Peggy Hazen

Current CCNGS Membership: 132

I want to thank the past Board for the last two years of hard work and dedication. I also want to thank the volunteers for stepping up to keep our Society moving forward. I look forward to working with them and our members to ensure a vibrant and exciting Society.

# Meet your New Board of Directors

## President Craig S. Smith, A.A.E.



Member of Clark County Genealogical Society since 2017. Currently searching Minnesota, Nebraska and Missouri.

Career: USAF Retired 1991; Aviation Director, Des Moines International Airport; Airport guy for over 40 years.

Education: MS Aeronautical Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (1991); BS Aviation Management, Southern Illinois University (1988).

Served as Secretary, Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society, 2021 - 2023.

Family: Married 50 years to SuChing Smith, one son, three grand children, and three great grand children.

## VP-Education

### Ms. Sam Giordano



Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society, Past President. Researching the past 20 years in Eastern Europe, Midwestern States. Areas: Croatia, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

Former member of the Las Vegas PC User Group served as Chairperson of their Genealogy SIG.

Have served in all positions in the Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society, Henderson NV.

Heritage Room Volunteer on Saturdays from 9-12 at Henderson Public Library - Paseo Verde Library 280 S Green Valley Pkwy, Henderson, NV 89012

## VP-Operations

### Kharisma Rodriguez



Kharisma is a self-taught Genetic Genealogist. She is currently a Forensic Genetic Genealogist for the only lab in the world built specifically for forensic genetic genealogy, Othram Inc. At Othram, she works to identify John and Jane Does around the world and to bring murderers and rapists to justice using genetic genealogy. She also runs her own investigative genetic genealogy company, Red String Research. At RSR she solves adoption, NPE, and surprise parentage cases. She is forever learning about genetic

[Meet your New Board Members Continued](#)**Treasurer****C. J. Vadovic**

Product of a family with an interest in genealogy, primarily on the paternal side. Intrigued by rumors of Irish heritage, embarked on the journey to understand the previously unexplored maternal line. Beginning in 2017, researching Ireland, New Brunswick, Canada, Michigan, Wisconsin, Washington and Idaho utilizing Ancestry.com. Having trained colleagues on the wonders of a proprietary database for 25 years while employed, now exploring the wonders and challenges of Legacy Family Tree and best practices of sourcing! Joined CCNGS in 2023.

**Secretary****Kelley Barrett, Ph.D.**

A researcher, author, and certified Master Trainer, Kelley recently left behind a successful career in Human Resources to focus her time and attention on her lifelong passion for genealogy. Her current research interests include the Pacific Northwest, immigrant women in the cigar industry in New York City in the late 1800's/early 1900's, and Nevada ghost towns. In her free time, she is learning French and practicing Pilates. She resides in Las Vegas with her husband John and their two cats, Alexander and Hamilton.

## For Your Information

**National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims  
Nevada Southern Branch****Official Notice of the branch meeting:****Saturday, November 11, 2023**

**The Atomic Museum  
755 E. Flamingo Rd  
Las Vegas, NV 89119**

**For Additional Information: [trexhagan@gmail.com](mailto:trexhagan@gmail.com)**

## In Case You Missed It

**July 15, 2023**

**Beginning Genealogy Course - Lunch & Learn**

**By: John Meyer and Sam Giordano**

A great introduction on how to do genealogy research and build a family tree from the information you have collected. The course was designed for beginners but also helps all individuals become familiar with genealogical terms and where to search for ancestral information.

**August 19, 2023**

**Using Investigative Skill from the Financial World to Genealogy**

**By Kate Townsend**

Our August speaker, Kate Townsend, provided a presentation on **“Using Investigative Skill from the financial world to Genealogy.”**

Kate is a former professional investigator turned genealogist who specializes in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio genealogical research. For additional information her website is:

<https://familyhistoryinvestigations.com/about.html>

**September 16, 2023**

**Locating Civil War Records**

**By Brian Rhinehart**

Civil War soldiers often left a rich genealogical paper trail. Many of these records are tucked away at the National Archives in Washington DC. Learn what records are available for your ancestors only at the National Archives, what records are online already, and how to access all of them.

These records may unlock some of the family stories that have been forgotten over time, as well as break down a brick wall or two!

Brian is a genealogical researcher and speaker specializing in Civil War, War of 1812, and federal land records at the National Archives in Washington DC, and elsewhere.

He completed the Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (GenFed) at the National Archives in Washington DC. He attended the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh and graduated from the Boston University Genealogy Research Certificate program. Brian also completed the 18-month ProGen (Professional Genealogy) Study Group. He has experience with traditional genealogy research as well as DNA analysis with regard to adoption cases and ancestor searches.

## Sturgeon Family Reunion Celebrated in Springfield, Illinois

By Linda Miller

Dr. Linda Miller attended her Sturgeon and Allied Family Reunion in Springfield, Illinois August 17-18. The location was chosen so the family could learn more about Lincoln. This interest was sparked because the Thomas Sturgeon Jr family was a neighbor of Abraham Lincoln's grandfather in Louisville, Kentucky, during the Revolutionary War. Dr. Miller coordinated the reunion in 2018 in Louisville, Kentucky where both Abraham Lincoln's grandfather and Thomas Sturgeon Jr. are buried near each other.



The group was entertained by a Mary Todd Lincoln interpreter, Pam Brown. The riveting performance took the group back to the night of the play before the Lincolns left for the theater. The group visited the Lincoln home where the Lincolns lived prior to going to the White House. They also visited the Lincoln Presidential Library. Dr. Miller also visited the Daughters of Union Veterans headquarters.

Group with Mary Todd Lincoln interpreter

The Sturgeon Families have met in reunions starting in 1969. In 1974 the group formed the ongoing Sturgeon and Allied Families Association. The annual

## United States Marshals Museum Opens

By Dr. Linda Miller



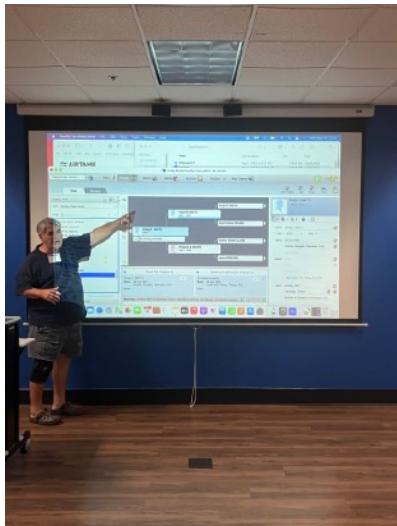
The United States Marshals Museum opened July 1 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. I attended the United States Marshals Service annual meeting which was held at the museum September 10-14. I have been researching the US Marshals since 1985 and wrote my doctoral dissertation on their role in civil disturbances in American history. I also wrote several teaching units. I donated materials from the late United States Marshal Lee Koury from Missouri (1981-1991). The museum put together an interactive exhibit on one of his international extraditions.

The museum has a research library that includes Ancestry. This helps you find out if you are related to a United States Marshal.

## Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group



CCNGS has formed a Special Interest Group (SIG) for members that are using the Family Tree Maker (FTM) software. The focus of the group is to help members learn the many features and options of the software and to get answers to your questions.



The group held their first meeting on Monday, September 18th. In all, ten CCNGS members enjoyed a nice introduction to FTM and had the opportunity to ask numerous questions about the software. Our own JT Stevens, an experienced user, provided members with some great information about the capabilities of the software.

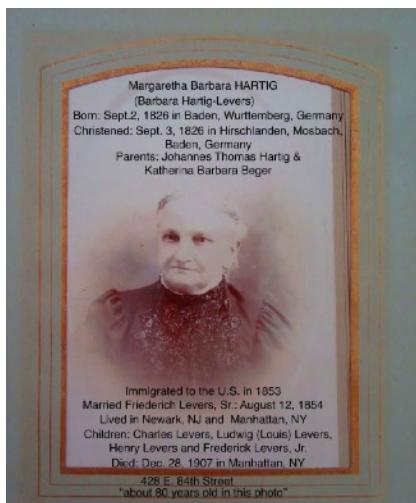
The Family Tree Maker representative at Ancestry, Mark Olsen, will be providing a presentation via Zoom on Monday, October 23rd at Noon. Mark will be providing an “**Introduction**” to FTM and will provide plenty of time for questions. He will also provide links for FTM discounts and conduct a drawing for one free FTM program.

Meetings will be held in the Program Room at the Paseo Verde Library. Questions can be directed to Craig Smith at [President@ccngs.org](mailto:President@ccngs.org).



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## Lenore Levers' Gold Coins by Claire Desmond-Ward



In her Journal, my Great Aunt Lenore Levers (1897-1988) shared a melancholy story from her childhood which occurred in 1907. In his Will (1893), Lenore's father had left \$5,000. to his granddaughter Rosa Levers "the daughter of his deceased son Henry".

When the time came to pay the inheritance (1907), my Great Aunt's and her sister's savings were used for the payment. They were 10 years and 13 years old!

My Great Aunt stated that Rosa and her mother (Caroline) lived "on the wrong side of the tracks and were not welcome in our house...there was much mystery and hush-hush about that part of the family." She wrote that "perfectly strange people wound up with the inheritance."

I began to research the backstory. Who were these relatives? What could I learn about Rosa Levers? Who were Rosa's parents? Were they really "perfectly strange people"? Why was the children's money used to pay the inheritance? What is the value of \$5,000. today?

Some facts that I did know were that Lenore and her sister lived with their parents Marie and Friedrich Levers, Sr. at 428 E. 84th Street in Manhattan. When Lenore and her sister were children, they "received \$2.50, \$5 and \$10 dollar gold pieces as gifts, which were banked".

I learned that Lenore had 3 uncles: Ludwig, Charles and Henry Levers (1857-1878) and all of them had died before Lenore was born. Henry Levers' life was perhaps, full of joy and tragedy...

When Henry was about 19, his girlfriend Caroline Jaiser (1856-1911) became pregnant. Their daughter Barbara Levers was born Sept. 14, 1876 in Manhattan. They named their daughter in honor of Henry's mother Barbara Hartig-Levers. Later, Henry and Caroline were married on Feb. 22, 1877 in Manhattan. Henry was 21 and Caroline was 20. On July 13, 1877 baby Barbara died at the age of 10 months. She was buried on July 16.

Henry died the following month on September 16, 1878 (cause of death unknown). Caroline became a widow at age of 22. However, one month later, Caroline gave birth to another baby named Rosa H. Levers (October 1878). (Note: Rosa would be Lenore's cousin.) Caroline Jaiser-Levers and her daughter Rosa moved home to live with her parents. Caroline's occupation was "dressmaker".

On July 16, 1880, Caroline married George Frederick Palmer. Caroline and George had 4 children named Blanche, George, Frederick, and Magdalene. Some documents, show Rosa H. Levers with the surname Palmer.

An unsupported detail on a genealogy website states that in 1895 George Palmer was "murdered in New York." I have not located supporting details.

## Lenore Levers' Gold Coins Continued

Lenore's father, Friedrich Levers, Sr., died in 1893. The directives in his Will would be carried out upon the death of his wife Barbara Hartig-Levers. In 1907, 14 years later, Barbara died of pneumonia and \$5,000. was needed to pay Rosa.

Lenore wrote "As I recall the amount of cash was not available without selling some property so Sis' and my bank accounts were used among other funds."

So adding to some existing funds, Lenore's and her sister's gold coins were cashed in and the money was raised and given to Rosa Levers Jaiser Palmer. The children's savings were wiped out! The value of that \$5,000. from 1907-2023 is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$163,311.70. Rosa died on March 23, 1909 only 2 years after receiving her inheritance. She died from "Tuberculosis Pulmonena" at age 31. Rosa's mother Caroline died two years later on June 22, 1911. Caroline's address was 330 E. 53rd St., NYC (1910 US Fed Census).

It is true that "perfectly strange people wound up with the inheritance." Those people would be Rosa's half-siblings.

After their mother's death, Blanche, George, Frederick and Magdalene pursued their mother's inheritance. There may have been contentious sibling rivalry for whatever money was left; the legal documents are available but would need explanation, so I will not comment. I can understand why my Great Aunt's family did not maintain friendship nor contact with Caroline's family. It is a melancholy

The basis of this anecdote was recorded in Lenore Levers' Journal (written about 1979). The information provided in this story was researched and collaborated by Claire Desmond-Ward.

My intention was provide data to support what is known about Henry Levers. Some documents were not located after dedicated research. All the research was done to the best of my ability. Please

### Examples of \$2.50, \$5.00 and \$10.00 Gold Coins



Sources: Lenore Levers' Journal Memories of 1897-1919 of Living at 428 E. 84th Street, Manhattan  
US Federal Censuses 1870, 1880 & 1910

NY State Census 1875

Marriage Records: Heinrich Levers 1877; Caroline Levers 1880

All Faiths Cemetery, Middle Village, Queens County, New York

New York Wills & Probate Records (1659-1999) of F. Levers, Sr., Barbara Levers, Caroline Palmer & Rosa H. Levers

## Future Lunch and Learn's Save the Dates

DATE	TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER(S)
Oct 23	12-2	Family Tree Maker SIG	Craig Smith
Oct 26	12-2	Get More Out of Ancestry	John Meyer
Nov 20	12-2	Family Tree Maker SIG	J.T. Stevens
Nov 30	12-2	Case study/Census Search	Sam Giordano
Dec 28	12-2	Breaking Down Brick Walls	Open Forum
Thurs., Jan. 25	12-2	It's the New Year – Let's get Organized	John Meyer
Thurs., Feb. 22	12-2	Beginning Genealogy	Sam Giordano John Meyer
Thurs., March 28	12-2	AI for Genealogy	Ben Kemper



**Case Study on Census Search:** This class is all about “exhaustive” research. Fact or Fiction that’s the question when using the censuses. This session will help you work thru some of the conflicting information you find in your research.

**Breaking Down Brick Walls:** Did you create the Brick Wall?? Is it an Artificial Brick Wall? Using your detective skills to help you find those answers.

**It's the New Year – Let's Get Organized:** How do we organize our “STUFF”? What system am I using (color coded?). Ways to get organized will be discussed.

**Beginning Genealogy:** This class will not only help beginners get started with their family research but will also serve as a review for those who have been researching for a while.

## Plan to attend the November 18, 2023 Monthly Meeting It's all about the Federal Censuses

On almost every genealogy type TV show, you'll note, starts with the genealogist saying to the client, "Let's look at the Federal Census!"

Censuses are filled with valuable information which initially may be overlooked. We will review the importance and meaning of this data.

However, the information on the census record is only as good as

1. What the informant provided
2. Who provided the information
3. The answers versus the instructions
4. What the Enumerator understood or was there a communication problem
5. The census record being legible

Also consider that some census records are missing or deliberately erroneous.

Mark your calendars, bring your questions and share your stories.

FREE links: <https://accessgenealogy.com/census/free-on-line-census-forms.htm>  
and  
[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/U.\\_S.\\_Census\\_Records\\_Class\\_Handout](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/U._S._Census_Records_Class_Handout)

Looking forward to seeing you,

Sam Giordano, VP-Education



# Happenings

## Here are 2023 Classes And Programs

Date: Saturday, October 21, 2023;

Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon p.m.

Topic: **"Open Mic Forum"**

Presenter: Diane Sinclair

Paseo Verde Library Meeting Room

Date: Monday, October 23, 2023

Time: Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Topic: **Family Tree Maker SIG**

Presenter: Mark Olsen, Ancestry

Paseo Verde Library Meeting Room

Date: Thursday, October 26, 2023

Time: Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Topic: **"Get More Out of Ancestry"**

Presenter: John Meyer

Lunch & Learn

Paseo Verde Library Meeting Room

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023;

Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon p.m.

Topic: **"It's All About the Federal Census"**

Presenter: Sam Giordano

Paseo Verde Library Meeting Room

Date: Monday, November 20, 2023

Time: Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Topic: **Family Tree Maker SIG**

Presenter: J.T. Stevens

Paseo Verde Library Meeting Room

Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023

Time: Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Topic: **"Case Study/Census Search."**

Presenter: Sam Giordano

Lunch & Learn

Paseo Verde Library Meeting Room

Date: Thursday, December 28, 2023

Time: Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Topic: **"Breaking Down Brick Walls"**

Presenter: Sam Giordano

Lunch & Learn

Paseo Verde Library Meeting Room

## Las Vegas Family Search Center

509 South 9th Street      702-382-9695

Located at the corner of 9th and Clark-Parking on 10th Street

Hours: Monday & Friday - 10:00 - 3:00 PM

Tuesday & Wednesday - 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

### Available Services

**16 Premium Family History Websites-** The following are free to use in the FamilySearch Library

- 19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive
- Alexander Street Press
- The American Civil War: Research Database
  - Letters and Diaries & Images, Photographs, Posters
  - Social and Cultural History Women and Social Movements in the United States
- American Ancestors - Library Rights
- Ancestry - Institution
- ArkivDigital
- FamilySearch Discovery Experiences
- FamNet
- Findmypast - Institution Version
- Fold3
- Geneanet
- Kinpoint - Premium
- MyHeritage - Library Edition
- Newspapers.com
- Paper Trail
- Puzzilla - Premium Services

### Digital Scanning Equipment for the following:

- **8 mm film & Super 8 film**
- **Photo and flatbed scanners**
- **Slides**
- **Audio Cassette Tape (mini and standard)**
- **VHS Tape**
- **Reel to reel audio tape**

### We offer these other services:

- **One on one personal help**
- **Classes: Ancestry, Fold3, FamilySearch/Tree, DNA**
- **Group Instruction by reservation**

