



Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society

The Prospector: Helping You Dig Deeper for Your Roots

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President's Message

Happy New Year to all of our members! This is the traditional time in our culture to make “resolutions” to accomplish better things in the upcoming 12 months. Can I make some suggestions? Come on, you knew I was going to do that.

All during our term as a board of directors, beginning in October 2021, I have promoted the practice of

Participation

I have seen a little increase in the amount of discussion taking place in our meetings. This is a great thing. Let us remember that genealogy, while not a full contact sport, is not a spectator sport either. One must actively work on the process. Similarly, being a member of an organization is not a spectator sport either. If you want a group like this to function smoothly, you have to have members who contribute time and energy to the operation of the organization. So once again (and until I see an incoming board forming), I am going to ask for five volunteers to man the Board of Directors. Managing the communications, the Heritage Room, the informational meetings and classes and keeping our Society right with the State of Nevada doesn't just happen by

MAGIC

Welcome New Members

Fourth Quarter 2022

New Members:

Chris Kraffert
Karen Kraffert
Linda Pierson

Current CCNGS Membership: 129

You are never alone in the position. Really. Five people are voting board members and you can include non voting members as necessary. Or you can name committee chairs or delegate jobs. Former members of the Board don't disappear into the ether after their terms end. They are helpful people who gave up their time to do their stint for the Society. They care enough about it to help you when

[Note from the President \(Continued\)](#)

YOU are a board member. And if you commit early, you can “apprentice” to the job you choose. So don’t use that as a lame justification for telling me you can’t commit to being a board member. The effort it takes doesn’t swallow your life or stretch your abilities. You don’t have to be afraid you can’t do it because you have no experience. There is no such thing as “professional board members.” You don’t have to be Superman or Wonder Woman to preside over our meetings or balance our checkbook or any of the other tasks that devolve upon the members of our Board. So don’t throw that *blatant excuse* back at me either.

So let’s look at the real reasons members don’t volunteer for board positions. Is it fear of failure? What kind of catastrophic failure can happen in a genealogy society? Let’s think about that... You could face a pandemic. The internet goes down and you have to carry on with a meeting? Computer glitches happen? Only a few people come to a stated meeting because your meeting room had to change? How about family emergencies and illness on the Board? Board members disappear on you without notice? Wait... Was that the last two or three years of meetings? Does our Board of Directors feel like failures?

No!

We weren’t expecting those things to happen, but they did and we got through them without too much fuss. And we felt stronger for having dealt with these little irritations. Well...the pandemic was a really BIG irritation, but hardly our fault. So what would have constituted a

Failure

Fire, flood, riots, even those are first off, really unlikely, secondly not our fault, and thirdly pretty irrational fears. Are the members going to rebel against your Board’s management? OK, so let’s review our constituency. You would have to try really, really hard to piss off our constituency that much. Genealogists thrive on frustration...it’s what we do. How about we dispense with this excuse? Failure may always be an option, but it is a lot easier and way less work to succeed as a board member in CCNGS.

Are you running out of excuses yet? Too busy?

Please

Really? You are there for the meetings anyway. Going to a board meeting is just another hour—sometimes not even that. Taking care of the minutes, the checkbook, arranging classes or speakers are really not that big an investment of time. Unless you are working full time, with four children under five and an invalid parent...maybe you should revise your excuses.

MAYBE

You should look seriously at what you could be doing for the Society beyond just enjoying the meetings. Maybe you would appreciate the meetings and doing genealogy a lot more if you volunteer for an office. Or take a currently unfilled position like membership chair, events chair or hospitality. Self satisfaction is a side effect of participation. Think about it...

Save the Date

February 25, 2023

MyHeritage genealogist, Daniel Horowitz is visiting Las Vegas. He will be giving presentations for the Clark County Genealogical Society (CCNGS), the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada (JGSSN) and at the FamilySearch Library. See dates and times below.



Daniel is the Expert Genealogist from MyHeritage. He speaks at genealogy conferences around the world. He has been dedicated to genealogy since 1986. He was the teacher and the study guide editor of the family history project "Searching for My Roots" in Venezuela for 15 years. Daniel is involved in several crowdsource digitization and transcription projects and holds a board level position at the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA)

Saturday, Feb 25, 10:00 AM at Paseo Verde Library

Exploring Billions of Historical Records on MyHeritage's Search Engine

The MyHeritage Search Engine is a state-of-the-art tool for finding historical records that mention your ancestors. Discover the advanced technology behind the scenes and learn how to take full advantage of the search engine's robust features to explore the lives of your ancestors.

Sunday, Feb 26, 1:30 PM at FamilySearch Library

Research Jewish & Israel Genealogical Resources on the Internet

Learn about the main repositories for Jewish and Israeli Genealogy available on the internet. This program will illustrate how to search efficiently in different databases, Jewish (JewishGen, GesherGalicia, JRI-Poland) and not-Jewish (FamilySearch, Ancestry, MyHeritage), to find the information you are looking for. In this session, you'll also discover many rich resources for learning about your ancestors who lived in, passed through, or died in Israel.

Sunday, Feb 26, 3:30 PM at FamilySearch Library

MyHeritage Latest Features Overview

MyHeritage is at the forefront of innovation in genealogy and is constantly introducing new and exciting features to help users take their research to the next level. In this session, Daniel will give a walkthrough of the latest and greatest from MyHeritage and show you how to make the most of these features: searching for new records, latest DNA features, the tools to improve your photos and create amazing DeepStories.

2023 GENEALOGY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

By Sam Giordano, CCNGS Past President

May your New Year be filled with many new discoveries and help you break down of those BRICK" walls!

If you make New Year's Resolutions, consider those things that are truly attainable.

Here are a few to consider:

1. To attend Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society monthly meetings.
 - a. January 21, 2023 – “Getting Acquainted with the Genealogy Proof Standard.” a presentation by Jeanette Sheligo.
 - b. CCNGS meets on the third Saturday of every month at 10a.m. at the Paseo Verde Library.
 - c. NOTE: **Saturday, February 25** Mark your calendars as this is a date change from our usual meetings.
2. To attend Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society classes
 - a. Lunch & Learn - Save the date: Thursday, February 23 at Noon-2pm
3. Revisit the following websites:
 - a. Cyndi's List - <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/>
 - b. Steve Morse - <https://stevemorse.org/>
 - c. Top Ten Websites - <https://www.similarweb.com/top-websites/category/hobbies-and-leisure/ancestry-and-genealogy/>
4. Create the habit of researching daily
5. Don't forget to focus on a brick wall for the year

Hopefully these recommendations will give you a jump start to a year filled with discoveries that you will share with fellow researchers.

Happy Hunting



Gary Parriott Selected for November Salute Our Troops on Channel 3

By Dr. Linda Miller

Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society member Gary Parriott was selected as the November nominee for the Salute our Troops on Channel 3 News Las Vegas. He was nominated by Dr. Linda Miller. Both are historical re-enactors and have been seen in costume at various SAR and DAR and LGAR functions. Dr. Miller's nomination focused on that aspect. His segment appeared on November 18 and the interview was conducted by Dana Wagner. It can be seen on the Channel 3 News website under features, Salute our Troops. Or try this link:

<https://news3lv.com/sponsored/salute-our-troops/salute-our-troops-meet-gary-parriott>



Nevada Southern Branch National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims Conference

By Dr. Linda Miller

The Nevada Southern Branch National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims held their annual Thanksgiving themed conference. Several other genealogical societies were also in attendance. Dr. Linda Miller, Branch Governor, conducted the meeting.

Governor General Bill Allerton gave the opening remarks via zoom from New Orleans. He gave an update on what was happening in the national society. The keynote speaker was Lea Filson, via zoom from Plymouth, Massachusetts talking about the restoration of the Pilgrim Meeting House. She is the President and CEO of "See Plymouth" the official tourism office of the town and county of Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Nevada Southern Branch is one of the societies contributing to the restoration.



WikiTree: DNA Connections

by Dreama Brower, 17 November 2022

WikiTree is all about building a free single, world-wide family tree by carefully evaluating sources and incorporating DNA. For an introduction to WikiTree, see my article in the fourth quarter 2021 newsletter. This article is about utilizing DNA to confirm ancestral relationships to support traditional genealogical research.

It may be possible to confirm family relationships by comparing DNA test results with other carriers of your ancestor's DNA. Results can be uploaded by using GEDmatch, yourDNAportal, or Family Tree DNA. (Tests with AncestryDNA and 23andMe can also be utilized by first uploading them to GEDmatch.)

WikiTree's Ancestor Confirmation Aid reveals other descendants of your ancestors whose DNA test could be used to scientifically confirm relationships in your family tree. An ancestor's profile will provide hints to possible DNA cousins who have identified a relationship thru genealogical research.

DNA Connections

It may be possible to confirm family relationships with [Ancestor] by comparing test results with other carriers of his Y-chromosome or his mother's mitochondrial DNA. However, there are no known yDNA or mtDNA test-takers in his direct paternal or maternal line. It is likely that these autosomal DNA test-takers will share some percentage of DNA with [Ancestor]:

- ~6.25% [ME]: Family Tree DNA Family Finder, GEDmatch [kit#] [compare], FTDNA [kit#] [test details]
- ~6.25% [name]: Autosomal DNA Test, GEDmatch [kit#] [compare] [test details]
- ~3.12% [name]: AncestryDNA, GEDmatch [kit#] [compare], Ancestry member ID [test details]

Once you have identified a DNA match, you will need to determine your relationship through traditional genealogy or family history. Connection and Relationship Finder aids support this comparison. By entering two WikiTree IDs you can see how they are related and where a common ancestor has been identified on the common tree.

If a comparison of your DNA and your ancestral genealogy supports a relationship that is at least within a third or second cousin twice removed, a DNA match can be confirmed on WikiTree. (https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:DNA_Confirmation)

If your match is beyond a third cousin, Triangulation is required to match distant cousins on a single segment of DNA that is at least 7cM long. Seven cM is a bare minimum and presumes that the cousins' relationship back to their most recent common ancestor(s) is well documented. Triangulation requires three descendant lines between the cousins and their common ancestor. (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Triangulation>)

To help "cousins" find each other, most of the DNA testing companies have a place on their website where you can add a link from your profile to your WikiTree profile.

(https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:DNA_Matches)

Edit Family

Father: Thomas Morgan

[ID: <](#) [\[replace/remove father\]](#)

father is [non-biological](#)

father is [uncertain](#)

father is [confident](#)

father is [confirmed with DNA](#)

What is PERSI?

by Sherri Sinclair, Vice President - Operations

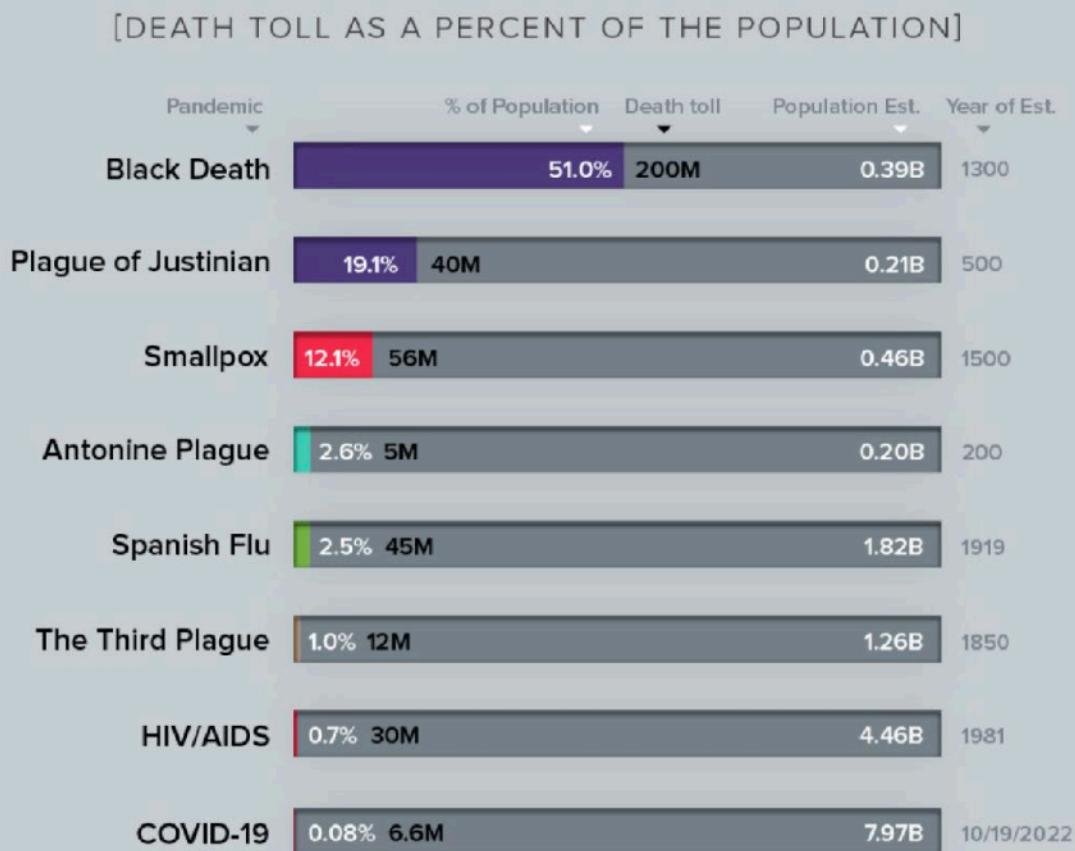
Jane Neff Rollins, our speaker at our Nov. 19th meeting, suggested accessing PERSI to look for articles specific to the Spanish Flu pandemic in 1918-19 and its effect on your ancestors. PERSI is a genealogy tool offered by the Allen County (Ind) Public Library. According to ACPL, "PERSI is the premier subject index for genealogy and local history periodicals and is produced by the staff of The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library. This valuable resource provides more than 3 million citations to readily available periodical sources."

To access PERSI, go to <https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/>, click on Research, then click on Genealogy, then click on Periodical Source Index PERSI. A tutorial is located on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN7gUzHdZ4o&t=250s>

Spanish Flu Pandemic - Follow Up to November Meeting

Provided by CCNGS Member Drama Brower



Phonetically Speaking...

by Sam Giordano, CCNGS Past President

If you are researching your ancestors on FamilySearch.org or Ancestry.com, the first thing is typing the surname in the search box. Isn't it frustrating when you get "zero" results or a list of names that are not exactly the surname you are looking for?

Some of the causes:

1. Pronunciation
 - a. did your ancestor have a very thick accent
 - b. did your ancestor have any type of speech impediment
2. Did your ancestor want to spell the surname the way others did
 - i. Eskra instead of Iskra
3. Did your ancestor translate the surname to English
 - i. Schwarz to Black; Piekarz to Baker; Leblanc to White
4. Did the clerk recording the name
 - i. have very poor penmanship
 - ii. have a hearing problem
 - iii. not understand foreigners and their accents
 - iv. Misspelled the surname
 - v. Spelled the surname phonetically
5. Shapes of letters impact transcribing – B, R, G, Y
 - a. Do letters extend above the line
 - b. Do letters extend below the line

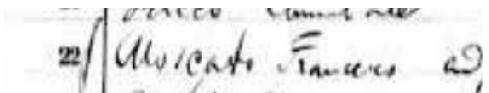
When searching:

1. Use Surname and Alternate Names
2. Use Wildcard(s) in your searches
 - c. * is for many characters
 - i. Example: John*
 - d. ? is a single character
 - i. Example: Johns?n

[Phonetically Speaking \(Continued\)](#)

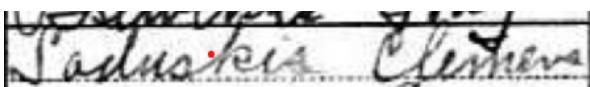
Below are examples of an indexing errors:Name:

Name: Francesco Alsscato
[Francisco Moscato]



Name:Clemens Taduskis

[Clemens Saduskis]



You might want to consider using the Soundex. The FamilySearch Wiki describes: Soundex is a phonetic index that groups together names that sound alike but spelled differently, for example, Stewart and Stuart. This helps searchers find names that are spelled differently than originally expected, a common genealogical research problem.

I hope you this article is helpful and will lead you to finding that elusive ancestor. I have included several links with more information and resources to help with your research.

Happy Hunting!!

Volunteers Needed

Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society is seeking volunteers interested in leading or assisting with organizing a Clark County wide Genealogy Fair or Seminar in the Fall of 2023. Volunteers will be working with the other genealogical societies in Clark County as they coordinate location and Fair programs.

Interested volunteers should contact Craig Smith at secretary@ccngs.org for more

Happenings

Here are 2023 Classes And Programs

Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 (Noon)

Topic: **“Getting Acquainted with the Genealogy Proof Standard”**

Presenter: Jeanette Shelia

Monthly Meeting

Paseo Verde Library Meeting Room

NOTE: Monthly Meeting Date Change

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Paseo Verde Library

Topic: **“Exploring Billions of Historical Records on MyHeritage’s Search Engine”**

Presenter: Daniel Horowitz

Paseo Verde Library Meeting Room

Monthly Meeting

Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023

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

Topic: **“New Remodel and New Services at the Las Vegas FamilySearch Center”**

Presenter: Mark Waite

Paseo Verde Library Meeting Room

Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023

Time: Noon - 2 p.m.

Topic: **“There is more to Family Search than you Expected”**

Presenter: John Meyer

Paseo Verde Library Meeting Room - Lunch and Learn

Date: April 15, 2023

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

Topic: **“Cool Your Jets Just Long Enough to Plan the Perfect Genealogy Trip”**

Presenter: Bridget M. Sunderlin

Paseo Verde Library Meeting Room

Monthly Meeting

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
- Video Taping of Personal Stories in our Heritage Room

