



# Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

## Tree Tips

*Researching the World*

November 2010

Vol. 26, No. 11

## Embracing Your Feminine Side

### A Case Study Combining Traditional Sources and mtDNA Testing

If these questions have ever been uttered by you during one of those impossible genealogical research projects, then you don't want to miss SBCGS's November 20th program featuring professional genealogist and lecturer, **Cheryl Diane Davis Storton**.

- What can I do when I come to the end of the paper trail?
- What is mtDNA, anyway?
- When should I consider testing for mtDNA?
- Who should I test?
- How can the results help me go around this frustrating "brick wall" in my family history?

In addition, Cheryl will highlight some helpful hints for locating family historical records drawing upon her ten-year search for parents of Martha Ann Brasil Dyer who died in 1864 in Saline County, Arkansas, and her search to find a living direct line female descendant who would agree to take the DNA test.

A former junior high and high school teacher in world history, English, and French, Cheryl is also a member of the San Luis Obispo Genealogical Society where she served on the Seminar committee, Ways and Means Committee, as Program Chair, and as society President.

A longtime researcher on her own family, Cheryl has also assisted many others in their genealogical research. She's completed more than 30 courses at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City from 1995-2009, including classes in

New York, Midwestern, and Irish Research; Utilizing Land Records Effectively; Wills and Probates; and Internet Research. She also lectured at the Southern California Genealogy Jamboree in Burbank in 2010.

Members Note: December is traditionally "Member Share Month." And we need your input: stories (brief!), memorabilia, newspaper articles, photos to display, anything!! Call Marie Sue Parsons 895-4866 with ideas.

- *Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society Meeting*
- *Saturday, November 20*
- *9:30 A.M. — Noon*
- *First Presbyterian Church*  
*21 E Constance Ave.*  
*Santa Barbara, CA*

There is ample free parking in the church's lot and the facility is handicapped accessible



### Special Interest Groups

You are welcome to the open specialty groups (SIGS) that meet prior to the general meeting:

9:30 AM **Computer Genealogy Interest Group** meets under the leadership of Merna McClenathen.

9:30 AM **Beginning Genealogy Group** meets under the leadership of Arlene Doty.

9:30 AM **DNA Group** is for those interested in DNA as a genealogical tool. Look for the DNA sign.

9:30 AM **German Ancestry Group** meets under the leadership of Cari Thomas. Call Cari, 965-5523, for details.

9:30 AM **Scan Your Photos and Documents—For FREE!** Bring your photos and we'll scan them for you and discuss scanning tips and tricks; bring a flash drive to take your scans home with you. Thanks to Rosa Avolio, Kathie Morgan, and Dorothy Oksner for offering this new SIG!

10:00 AM **Coffee and Refreshments** will be served. Check out the publications, creative gift ideas, and holiday traditions and memories

### Calendar

#### *Board Meeting*

Friday, November 19, 8:30 a.m., at the Sahyun Library

#### *November General Meeting*

Saturday, November 20, 9:30 - Noon, at First Presbyterian Church, State & Constance

## From the President's Desk: Coincidence??

After last month's General Meeting, the speaker, Dr. Jeffrey William Krause remarked on the "extreme" coincidence of a first time guest to a SBCGS meeting society hearing his Odyssey-themed talk that included a small family from Norway that arrived in Iowa in the mid-1880's: "'Hillesland' is NOT a common name," he said.

What are the chances that one of the surnames that a guest is researching would be the very one that he guest speaker is also researching? If the surname is Smith, Johnson, Williams, Jones or Brown chances are great that you also have one of them in your pedigree chart. But it's doubtful you're actually "cousins."

However, if the surname is Hillesland or Coldiron (my great-grandmother's maiden name), you know you could very likely connect.

After last month's general meeting Jeffrey Krause and the guest compared notes and, sure enough, they are 4th cousins once removed (their common ancestors are a gg-grandparent and ggrandparent). They were immediately able to exchange valuable family history information.

But here's rub: they discovered this only because the two shared their surnames, one as a guest speaker and the other as a first-time visitor. While those meeting roles are somewhat unique, how many of us attend meetings or SBCGS functions and ask the person next to us about their research areas & interests (knowing they will likely ask YOU the same)?

Share your names, research areas, brick walls, pedigree charts, and successes with fellow members every chance you get and discover the joy of finding a cousin in the SBCGS. On the heels of Halloween, this spooky kind of thing called "synchronicity," "coincidence," or "magic," happens all the time when

people share their family histories; your ancestors are helping you find them! **Mary Hall, President**

## Win a \$20 SBCGS Sales Table Gift Certificate!

Each completed Surname Card submitted offers you the chance to win a \$20 Gift Certificate for the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society Sales Table. Drawing will be held at the end of the General Meeting. Need not be present to win, but you must fill out a Surname Card to have a chance! Enter early and often!

## e-Updates

During the past year we have been using an e-mail management service, Constant Contact, to send you information about our monthly meetings, seminars, special classes, perks of membership, and social events. You should have received many of these updates by now. If not, and if you would like to receive them, please send your email address to Sue Ramsey at <edsue.dlt@gte.net>

## Library Hours

- SBCGS Sahyun Library Hours  
316 Castillo Street  
Phone: 805-884-9909  
Sunday: 1-4 PM  
Tuesday: 10 AM-3 PM  
Thursday: 10 AM-3 PM  
Friday: 10 AM-3 PM

*The Sahyun Library will be closed for the Thanksgiving holidays, November 25, 26 and 28 (Thursday, Friday, Sunday).*

- LDS Library Hours  
2107 Santa Barbara St.  
Phone: 805-682-2092  
Wednesday: 10 AM-6 PM  
Thursday: 10 AM-6 PM  
Friday: 9 AM-3 PM  
Saturday: 9 AM-12 Noon

# Thank YOU!

The 2010 Family History Month was celebrated in style with eight free classes offered to SBCGS members and an all day open house open to the public. Many, many thanks need to go out to the instructors of the classes: Jim Friestad, Art Sylvester, Rosa Avolio, Dorothy Oksner, Kathie Morgan, Sue Ramsey, Diane Sylvester, Mary Hall, Louise Matz, and Merna McClenathan. And, another round of thanks must be extended to the people who helped with the open house: Marjorie Wilser, Debbie Kaska, Gwen Patterson, Marj Friestad, Jim Friestad, Kathie Morgan, Marie Sue Parsons, Mary Forsell, Rosa Avolio, Deborah Winant, Gail Miller, Cari Thomas, Paula Williams, and Karen Torp

## For Information, Call:

- President: Mary Hall, 687-7403  
Library Director: Kathie Morgan, 682-4456  
Librarian Scheduling: Marsha Martin, 967-1146  
Newsletter Address Corrections: Diane Nelson, 964-4181  
Book Buy: Louise Matz, 967-7353  
Vice President, Membership: Sue Ramsey, 967-1670  
Ancestors West: Dorothy Oksner, 684-3048, ox@silcom.com  
Adult Ed Genealogy Classes:  
Jan Cloud, 965-7423  
Louise Matz, 967-7353  
Cari Thomas, 964-5523  
Sales Table: Kristin Ingalls, 682-3499  
Vice President, Programs: Marie Sue Parsons, 964-9176  
Tree Tips: fjordhest@cox.net; Deadline: 3rd Sat. of the month

## Keep in Touch

SB County Genealogical Society Web Page:

[www.sbgen.org](http://www.sbgen.org)

SBCGS Blog: <http://sbcgs.blogspot.com/>

Library e-mail address:  
[info@sbgen.org](mailto:info@sbgen.org)

Updates on Our Library's New Wing  
<http://sbcgsconstruction.blogspot.com/>

## Membership

Below are our newest members:

### New and Returning Individuals:

Barbara Lyon  
Goleta, CA

Gage Ricard  
Santa Barbara, CA

Gayle Rosenberg  
Santa Barbara, CA

### Family Membership:

Brian Burd & Frances Malinoff  
Santa Barbara, CA

### Renewing at higher levels are:

#### Friend (\$50)

Catherine Gainey

### Correction from October Tree

#### Tips:

New member, Roberta Walling,  
not Robert

## Stealth Column: Who Really Reads Tree Tips?

1. What are Rosa, Kathie, and Dorothy offering for FREE at November's meeting?
2. What happened at the meeting in October when two people shared a family surname?
3. Which days will the Sahyun Library be closed over the Thanksgiving holiday?
4. What is the URL for going straight to the most up-to-date info on the construction of the library's new wing?

Send your answers to:  
[events@sbgen.org](mailto:events@sbgen.org).

People with 4 correct answers will be entered in a drawing to win a \$20.00 gift certificate from the Sales Table.



## Half and Half Book Buy Program

**Missing Pieces-How to Find Birth Parents & Adopted Children**, by Drake. This search and reunion guidebook provides the researcher with tools to demystify the process of adoption research. Cost: \$30; 1/2 cost: \$15. Needed: \$15.00.

**The German Element in the Northeast: PA, NY, NJ & New England**, Kerner & Tolzmann. The author provides an in-depth portrait of the German element throughout the US about 1848. A wealth of historical & biographical information is provided. Cost: \$26; 1/2 cost: \$13. Needed: \$13.00.

**Slave Ancestral Research: It's Something Else**, by Fears. In the spirit of Alex Haley this author shows how to use public records to solve her family research. All ethnic groups can learn from her research. Cost: \$40; 1/2 cost: \$20. Needed: \$20.00.

**In Search of Your Asian Roots, Genealogical Research in Chinese Surnames**, by Chao. Discusses history & origins of Chinese surnames; provides genealogical analysis the most popular surnames; provided a bibliography for Chinese surnames. Cost: \$34; 1/2 cost: \$17. Needed: \$17.00.

**Vital Records of Sandwich, MA to 1885**, Vols. 1 & 2, by Kardell & Lovell. NEHGS. This special purchase completes our set. Starting with the earliest BMD records in 1647 through 1885. Cost: \$30; 1/2 cost: \$15. Indexed. Needed: \$15.00.

**York (PA) Area Photographers 1840-1997, & The Casket & Coffin Books of Skelton & Sneft 1880-1888**, York, PA. Two unusual publications for York Co., PA! The casket book has the original copy & indexed. "Photographers" has biographies of more prominent ones, studios and suppliers. Cost: \$22; 1/2 cost: \$11. Needed: \$11.00.

**Immigrants and Aliens-A guide to sources on UK immigration and citizenship**, by Kershaw. Several eras of immigration into the UK are discussed. Where and how to locate the documents is explained. Cost: \$22; 1/2 cost: \$11. Table of Contents & Index. Needed: \$11.00.

### Members pay 1/2 – Book Fund pays 1/2.

Please send contributions to:



SBCGS, c/o Louise Matz,  
P.O. Box 6103, SB 93160



Suggestions welcomed!  
Email: [Lmgen2@cox.net](mailto:Lmgen2@cox.net)

SPECIAL THANKS TO MEMBERS WHO MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
1/2 & 1/2 BOOK BUY PROGRAM!

Sue Stevens Margaret Ramirez

Dinah Mason



## Happy Thanksgiving!

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## Cool websites to help in your research:

**Great Irish maps** that show even the little villages. Click on the town and each click narrows it down to the smaller villages. <http://maps.osi.ie/publicviewer/>

New genealogy website from the **Allen County Public Library**. Everyone should check this website. <http://www.genealogycenter.org>

Data from the **Norwegian National Archives** and private individuals who have contributed Norwegian records. There is also a message board. [www.digitalarkivet.no](http://www.digitalarkivet.no)

Good website!! Organized by state and county. Expanding to include **the UK and Ireland**. [www.linkpendium.com](http://www.linkpendium.com)

**Delaware County PA**...contains many types of records. [www.co.delaware.pa.us/depts/archives.html](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/depts/archives.html)

**Arizona vital records**. Birth 1855-1934 Death 1844-1959 <http://genealogy.az.gov>

**Massachusetts** birth, marriage, and death records from 1841 to 1910. Also an ongoing project to index immigrants who came through the Port of Boston. [www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm)

**Information on the Barbara Tunnels** where the German government kept their most important documents. <http://www.theworld.org/2010/08/13/the-barbara-tunnels>

**United States**...storing US government documents in Kansas. <http://www.rileycountyks.gov/index.aspx?NID=425>

Do you have an interesting website to share? Please email the information to **Sharon Wilson** at [swilsons@cox.net](mailto:swilsons@cox.net) so we may include it in the next issue. Your input helps to keep this column interesting!!!

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