



# Ancient City Bulletin

Quarterly Newsletter of the St. Augustine Genealogical Society

ST. AUGUSTINE  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
PUBLICATIONS



July 2020

# **ANCIENT CITY BULLETIN**

July 2020

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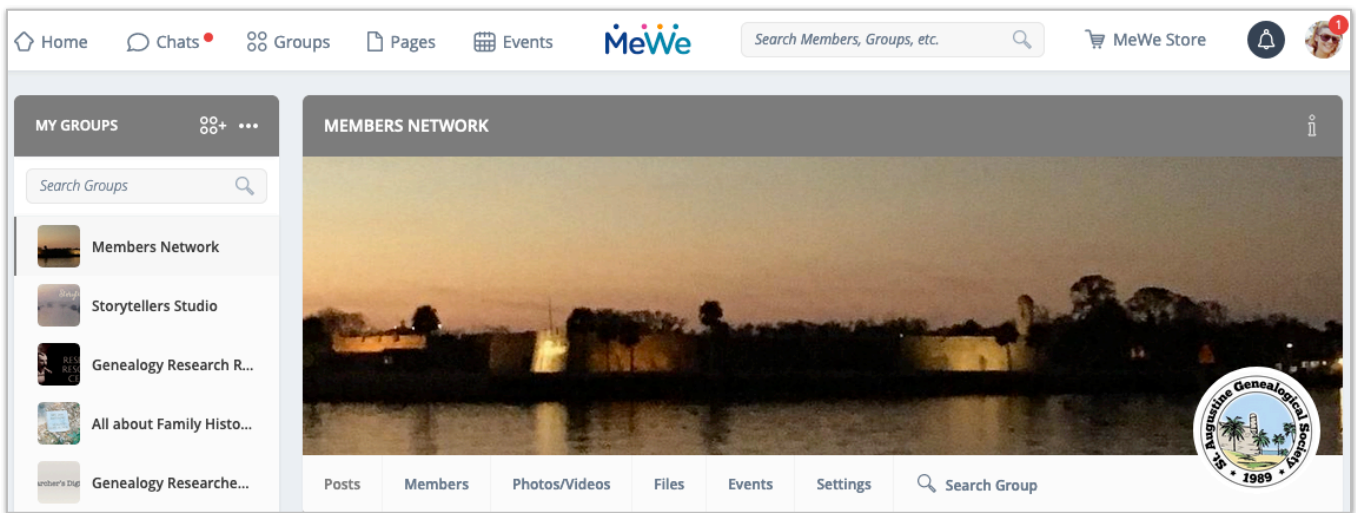
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# The Society Page

We still don't know how long before the Corona Virus is exterminated and our world can return to normal. That doesn't mean we can't work on our family history or stay in touch with other society members.

Our weekly Research Notes newsletter is currently focused on genealogy news, discounts, special offers and online events. If you are not already a Research Notes subscriber, email us at [sags.publications@yahoo.com](mailto:sags.publications@yahoo.com) and we will get you set up.

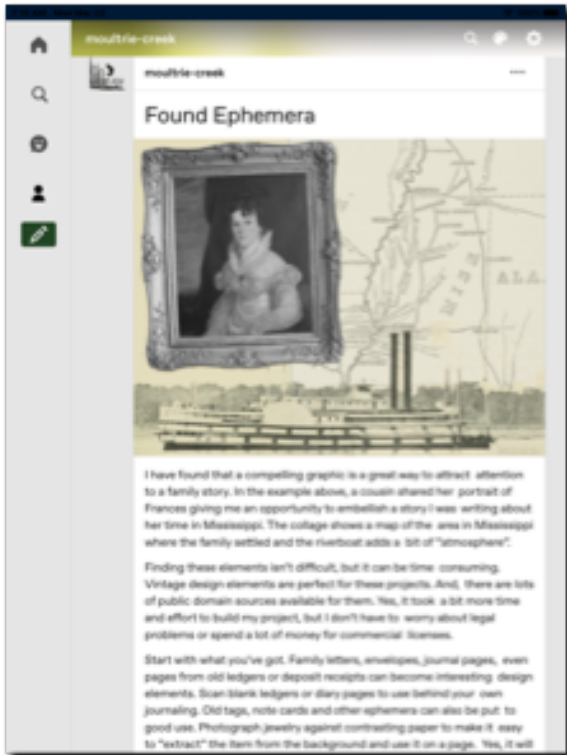
Don't forget our Facebook page, along with the Members Network group on [MeWe.com!](#)



The society would like to offer more research resources like this one but we do not have the staff to make it happen. We still need to fill a number of positions - Membership, Programs, Research, Communications and Facebook. If you are interested in filling one of these positions, contact Denise Olson or Pat Tanner.

# Introducing Tumblr

## Editorial Notes



Tumblr is part blog, part scrapbook, part social network and a great resource for genealogy researchers. Tumblr is free, easy to use and a lot of fun too. It supports many types of posts. Here you see a post with photos, graphics and text.

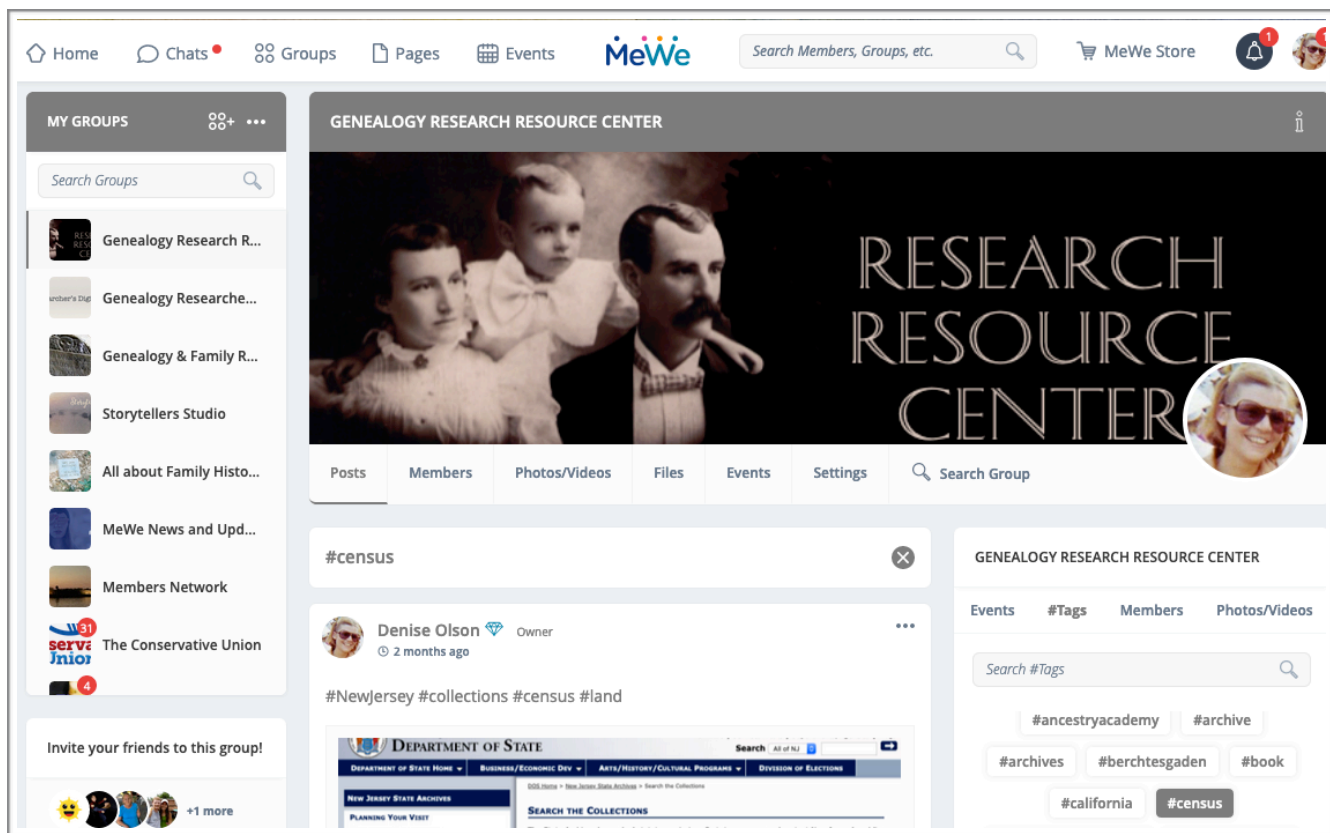
Tumblr is available on both your computer and your mobile devices. And, like many other blog platforms, you can follow other Tumblr blogs you find interesting. For example, [The American Parlor](#) remembers the people of America's past.

[Maps on the Web](#) is full of maps, charts and infographics while [Grave Matters](#) is full of photographs of interesting tombstones.

It isn't just individuals either. The [Florida Memory](#) Tumblr is full of maps, photographs, music and ephemera from Florida's state archives. You'll also find book clubs, Internet Archive, DPLA and more on Tumblr.

The best way to get started is to set up your account on Tumblr and then start browsing the posts others are posting. When you find a blog you find interesting you can follow it so that when a new post is published on that blog it appears in your timeline.

Want to learn more? The [Tumblr Help Center](#) is full of useful information to help you make the most of your Tumblr blog.



# Genealogy and MeWe

## Research Toolbox

The Research Resource Center on MeWe.com is quickly becoming an impressive resource for genealogical research and publishing. Since we don't know how long before things are back to normal, this group is open to the entire genealogy community and was created to make research resources available to researchers from their own homes.

The Resource Center uses hash tags to organize the content posted on the group. For example, if you are looking for posts discussing census records, just tap or click the #census tag (shown above in the panel on the right) and the screen will be redrawn so only posts tagged as census will appear in the timeline. Tap/click the X circle in the box at the top of the timeline to return the timeline to it's prior posts.

The menu just below the masthead graphic sends you to the various elements within the group.

Beginning at the left, you can choose to view the group's Posts, see who else is a Member of the group and access the Photos/Videos or Files posted in the group. There is also an Events feature making it possible to organize group chats, presentations and other online events.

There are many features making it possible for group members to add comments to the posts or chat with other members. The group chat feature supports text, voice and even video chats. The voice and video chats work best if you have a mobile device (iOS or Android). Install the free MeWe.com app, set up your account and you are all set to take advantage of the chat feature (text, voice or video) to get help or to participate in online programs.



You can even enjoy watching webinars when it is convenient for you. All you have to do is click on the start button. If your desktop computer doesn't have audio capabilities, it's best to use the mobile MeWe app (iOS or Android) for voice and video presentations.

There is a growing number of genealogy-related groups on MeWe. These include:

- \* Members Network (SAGS members only)
- \* Genealogy Researcher's Digital Toolbox
- \* Genealogy Research Center
- \* Genealogy One
- \* All About Family History
- \* Genealogy People Photos
- \* Genealogy & Family Research
- \* Scrapping Your Heritage
- \* Florida Cracker Style

# Unravelling Old Family Stories

Shared DNA, Shared DNA Matches & Most Recent Common Ancestors  
(MRCAs)

Margaret M. Nicholson, PhD

Upon receiving my own DNA results a few years ago, I was shocked to discover the paternal side of my biological family was different from the one in which I grew up. It wasn't a secret because no one knew. Only easily available genetic testing brought this information to the light of day. By the time the test results arrived, I had already built my legal and, for that matter, emotional family tree. My daddy, his parents, my cousins and all the dead Nicholson ancestors remain. I've added my biological father and his family because I've come to care about my "surprise" relatives. (See *My Surprise Family: Find Your Ancestry Story*.)

In contrast to my experience, many people grow up knowing their biological tree is different from their "growing up" family: they or a parent was adopted. Finding the people who belong in your biological tree is (usually) possible when there are sufficient shared DNA matches to locate the most recent common ancestor. Follow my effort to discover where unknown relatives among my DNA matches belong in my family tree. You may find this the an effort to unravel the facts behind an old family story.

## Determining where matches fit into a family tree?

When Debra Martin appeared, as a third or possibly a second cousin, in my DNA matches, I was reminded of the audio tape I recorded a half century ago of my maternal grandmother talking about her life. Nana was eighty-three then and would survive to ninety-four with mind intact. Our conversation began with the day of her birth—she was the third daughter born in the family home in Loysville, PA. Three brothers would follow to help on the large farm, but she grew up hearing her father's opinion that, "One girl is a whole girl, two girls is half a girl, and three girls is no girl at all." I loved listening to Nana ramble from one anecdote to another with her out-of-date phrases (e.g., see a man about a horse). Most of her stories were funny, but not all. Here's a fragment, adapted for clarity.

Nana: We were married only three years when he [Irvin Martin, my grandfather] had a baby to some woman. I heard it was a girl and then later on in years they moved to Carlisle.

Peggy [my nickname]: That would have been in 1917. And you found out about it?

Nana: Yes, the lawyer called me. They wanted \$1000. "Where was I going to get \$1000," I said. I told him I couldn't afford to pay that. They had Irvin in jail.

If the story is true, my grandfather fathered four daughters: The child born in 1917; my mother and aunt, born in 1920 and 1923; and Susan, born of his second marriage twenty-five years later. Could Debra be a descendant of Irvin's first daughter? Or was he unjustly accused? I don't doubt the story about Irvin being arrested and Nana paying to get him out of jail. (She talked the lawyer down to



\$500.) Knowing how women have been treated by the police in cases of non-marital sex, I'm impressed that this woman was taken seriously. I assume a baby was born in 1917, but back then there was no way to determine paternity.

I know Debra and I have a common ancestor because we share DNA, but will our "shared matches" be sufficient to determine our **most recent** common ancestor—the one from whom we inherited that shared DNA? And if so, is it my grandfather, Irvin Martin?

### A Mini-Lesson: Shared DNA & Shared DNA Matches

DNA is passed (down, not across) from ancestor to descendant, and the amount inherited decreases as the number of generations increases between any two relatives. The amount\* of shared DNA shows the approximate relationship such as parent and child, second cousins, or even first cousins once removed. Such high amounts of DNA are shared between parent and child (3330–3720 cMs) and full siblings (2209–3384 cMs) that it is relatively easy to determine the relationship.

The amount shared between grandparent and grandchild, aunt/uncle and niece/nephew, and half-siblings is so similar (1156–2311 cMs) that additional information is necessary to identify the relationship. Even in the case of parent and child, the amount of DNA doesn't reveal the nature of the relationship: their ages do.

The real challenge is in interpreting the shared amounts. We must give up our dependence on averages and recognize that the entire range for any set of relationships is valid. For example, the expected average for a grandparent is 1766 cMs, but a grandparent may share 2311 cMs with one grandchild and only 1156 cMs another. (The end points of the ranges vary depending upon which chart\*\* you view.) The ranges become more similar, as well as overlap, for distant relationships making identification of kinships more difficult.

"Shared DNA Matches" refer to more than two people who share a common ancestor. As you compare (triangulate) DNA matches with others, family groups emerge. Using this process, will help

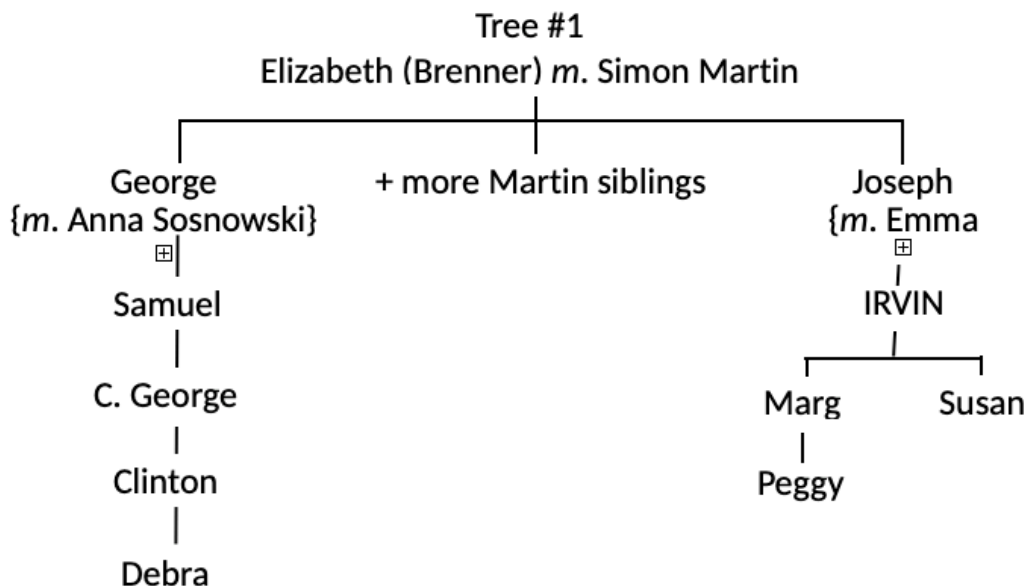
Which grandparent is the most recent common ancestor?

Debra Martin's shared matches with me include Susan, my sisters, and many others on the Martin side of the family. I sent messages to Debra sharing information about the Martin tree and practically begged her to get in touch. Why didn't she answer? Knowing her DNA results had recently arrived, I couldn't understand why she wasn't eager to communicate. In desperation, I floated some details of Nana's story which provoked a response. After a confusing and comical exchange of emails, Debra emailed the names of her father and his father.

Those two names were all it took to correctly place Debra in my Martin tree. Tree #1 shows that our **most recent** ancestors are Elizabeth and Simon Martin: Debra's third-great-grandparents, my second-great-grandparents, and Susan's great-grandparents. Their sons, George and Joseph, are

brothers, and now you can see why Debra is not a descendent of Irvin's. She does not share DNA with Irvin's mother Emma. Just as I do not share DNA with George's wife, Anna. (It should have been clear from the start that Debra was not a Garman—she had no shared matches with Emm's parents.)

Segments of the DNA Debra and I share derive from Elizabeth's and Simon's parents and their ancestors as well. My central Pennsylvania families produced large numbers in every generation, and new matches were showing up every day. It wasn't long before I came across another opportunity to unravel Nana's story. Which brings me to someone I will call Andrew.



A MINI-LESSON: COMMON ANCESTORS & MRCA

The difference between a **most recent** common ancestor and a common ancestor is the difference between your mother and your mother's sister. Your mother is the MRCA for you and your siblings because all the DNA from the maternal side of your family you inherited from her. (Don't forget that each sibling inherits different genes and are therefore not the same genetically.) Your maternal grandparents are the most recent common ancestors for you, your aunt, and her children—your first cousins. Your aunt is a common ancestor, but you didn't inherit any DNA from her. The genes you share are from her parents. These examples may seem obvious, but lay the groundwork for identifying more distant relationships such as third cousin or second cousin twice removed.

MRCA EXAMPLE

If Susan, my mother's half sister, and I hadn't known each other, our match of 1093 cMs on ancestry.com might have us believe we were first cousins. Learning we were only a few years apart supported such an assumption, especially since Susan is younger by four years. But we did know each other: I remember the first time I saw her in the arms of her father, my grandfather, Irvin. The range and expected average for a half aunt is similar to a first cousin. This is a reminder that DNA amounts without family tree information can only reveal so much.

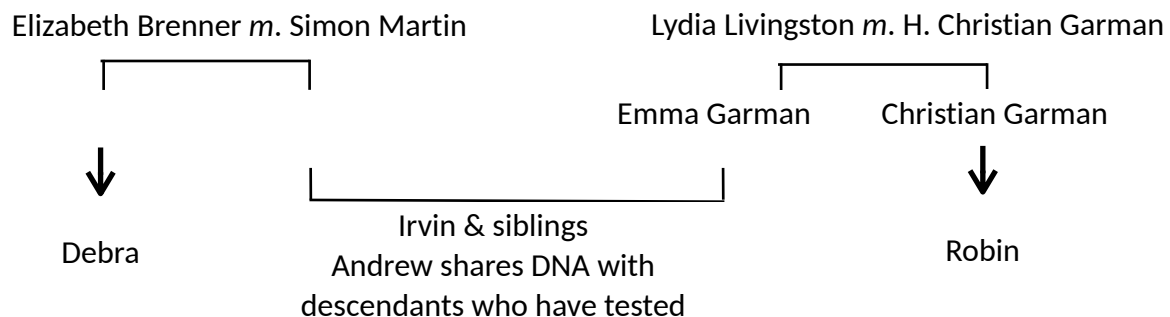
Tree #1 shows Susan inherited genes from her father and I inherited genes from my mother, Marg. Susan is not a descendent of my mother. The genes Susan and I share are from Irvin. Our **most recent** common ancestor is Susan's father, my grandfather. He is not our only common ancestor, just our most recent.

## A Garman-Martin descendent, but of which sibling?

In contrast to Debra's, Andrew's shared matches included Garman cousins. Tree #2 shows that Andrew shares DNA with all descendants (except the very youngest, but then neither do I) of Irvin's parents, Emma and Joseph Martin. The tree also shows that as Debra revealed Andrew's relationship to Joseph's parents: Brenner-Martin, his shared matches with our cousin Robin show his relationship to Emma's parents: Livingston-Garman. The question remains: is Andrew a descendent of Irvin or one of his siblings.? The answer will determine if our most recent common ancestor(s) is Irvin or Emma and Joseph Martin.

If the amount of DNA Susan and I each shared with Andrew was somewhat higher, we would be convinced he

TREE # 2



was proof that Irvin had produced that first daughter. We needed more information. Would Andrew respond to messages asking about his family?

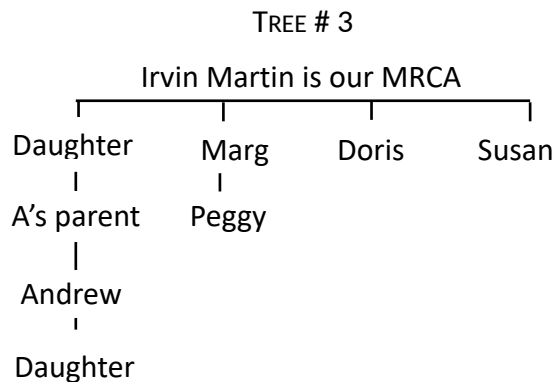
Andrew did reply, but having been placed for adoption at birth, he couldn't help with his family tree. He wrote that his parents were wonderful and said he was reluctant about searching for his birth parents for fear of seeming disloyal. His daughter had purchased the kit. I had been successful in locating birth parents for two others who shared links to their DNA with me. Perhaps someday I'll have the opportunity to broach the subject with Andrew. (See Sharing AncestryDNA Results)

So Susan and I did the best we could. To evaluate the amount of shared DNA, we estimated the number of generations between the "proposed" daughter born in 1917 and Andrew. Given his age, Andrew's parent may have been born about 1937. If so, Andrew would be Susan's half great-nephew and my half first cousin once removed. If Andrew was a descendent of one of Irvin's siblings, he would be Susan's first cousin twice removed and my second cousin once removed. I constructed a matrix of how much DNA is *expected to be* (from my favorite DNA chart) and *how much* was shared for these relationships.

Susan asked relatives how much DNA each shared with Andrew so we could plot their amounts too. DNA Chart #1 is only a portion of that entire chart. I have included the amounts from my two sisters as well, because we have the same cousin relationship (whatever that may be) to Andrew. As you can see, except for one sister whose shared DNA with Andrew (367 cMs) is outside the range (at least on the chart I use) for second cousin once removed, the shared amounts are not conclusive. Who do you think Andrew is descended from—my grandfather or my great-grandparents?

DNA Chart #1 Expected average/range of centiMorgans (cMs) compared to actual to determine a Most Recent Common Ancestor(s)		
	MRCA = Irvin	MRCA = Emma & Joseph Martin
Expected cMs if relationship =	Half Great Nephew 432 avg / 125-765 range	1st cousin twice removed 229 avg / 43-531 range
Actual shared =	Susan 401	Susan 401
Expected cMs if relationship =	Half 1st cousin once removed 226 avg / 57-530 range	2nd cousin once removed 123 avg / 0-316 range
Actual shared =	Peggy + siblings 243, 367, 282	Peggy + siblings 243, 367, 282

Did you determine Andrew is more likely to be a descendent of Irvin's than one of his siblings? Then we agree. I no longer doubt my grandfather, Irvin Martin, is Andrew's great-grandfather, having given birth to the 1917 baby girl who later moved to Carlisle. Tree #3 shows these relationships. For absolute proof we will need to locate biological matches for Andrew, as well as names, dates, and locations on written records, which will trace a path to Harrisburg, PA. Months after first communicating with Andrew, his daughter's name appeared in Susan's and my matches. Though it has taken a few years, she is reaching out to us. To be continued ...



If you have unknown DNA matches and an old family story to unravel, I hope you will be able to use the techniques introduced here to make progress. Confidentiality makes it difficult to show a detailed "how to," but I hope to create a slide-show for my new website: [NicholsonStories.com](http://NicholsonStories.com).

Comments and Questions: [MySurpriseFamily@gmail.com](mailto:MySurpriseFamily@gmail.com)

## Resources

Both the title of the resource and the tinyurl are links (in case one isn't working). If both fail, google the title of the resource.

### [NicholsonStories.com](#)

My new website! See additional genealogy articles, a blog, and a purchase button for My Surprise Family: Find Your Ancestry Story.

### [My Surprise Family: Find Your Ancestry Story](#)

A mystery, a memoir, and a manual available as a print book from Amazon.

### PROOF OF PATERNITY: THE HISTORY

What was available to determine paternity in 1917?

[AncestryDNA Matching White Paper](#) - Explains DNA between generations and shared matches.

The Genetic Genealogist - [My favorite DNA Chart](#)

[TheGeneticGenalogist.com](#) website is a wealth of information with numerous charts.

### [Sharing AncestryDNA Results](#)

Instructions for sharing a link to your DNA with another person.

# Florida Memory Update

## In the Archives

The Florida Archives have been busy this year updating their websites - [Florida Memory](#) and the [Florida Memory Tumblr](#). The results are quite impressive.

The Florida Photographic Collection at the State Archives has more than 200,000 digitized photographs and illustrations. This collection serves as an online portrait of the state by capturing photographs of Florida families, their communities, homes, work and pastimes.

High resolution scans or prints of any photograph in the collection are available for purchase. Floridians are encouraged to share their Florida photos to the State Archives for reproduction. You can contact them at [archives@dos.state.fl.us](mailto:archives@dos.state.fl.us).



The space programs are well documented in Florida's Archives. It may not help our genealogy efforts, but we will remember - and pass on - what an amazing effort it was and continues to be as our space programs move forward.

Another wonderful resource is the Florida Memory Archives at Flickr Commons (more on Flickr Commons in the next section).

# Flickr for Family History

Storytellers Studio



Flickr isn't just another photo-sharing platform. It's also a social network and, best of all, it's also home to an impressive collection of photo archives from around the world.

The Commons was launched in January 2008. It was originally a pilot project with the Library of Congress to help them learn more about the photographs in their collection. They had two main objectives:

1. To increase access to publicly-held photo collections
2. To encourage the public to contribute what information they may have about any photo displayed in The Commons.

Institutions also encouraged Flickr users to share what they knew about a photo in The Commons by adding tags and leaving comments about the photo.

Today there are more than 100 archives, institutions and libraries worldwide that are putting The Commons to good use.

Flickr Commons is also a goldmine for family historians. Do you have ancestors who lived in Scotland, Ireland or Britain? The National Library of Ireland is using The Commons to display items from their manuscript collections, prints, drawings, exhibitions and even photos

flickr You Explore Prints

Photos, people, or groups


Go back to the beta groups experience

News « Hide


Admins: Click to add an announcement to all group members (500 characters max)

Discussions


[Enjoy the Photos](#)

 You will notice that some of the photos in the collection are quite small. Just ...  
moultrecreek 7 months ago 0 replies


[Cha Cha Cha Changes](#)

 For those of you who have been away for a while, tell us what changes you did fi...  
moultrecreek 8 months ago 0 replies

[Post a new topic](#)

 SAHS/SJA Class of 1969 ...  
[+ Add Photos](#)

[Leave Group](#)



from library events. Even if you don't stumble on any ancestors, the photographs of places and things can still be quite useful.

Another way to use Flickr is create a Flickr Group. The group can be used to share memories as well as photos. Our St. Augustine High School class of 1969 held their 50 year reunion last year. The reunion committee put together a class reunion group on Flickr with





both old and new photos of our classmates. Our classmates can add text and photos. Even better, they can carry on conversations with their classmates if they wish.

Flickr groups are delightful ways to stay in contact with family, friends and classmates, but it is also a great place to meet cousins you never knew you had. A while back, I got an in-house message from a young man (6 years old) who wanted me to know that a photo I had in one of my Flickr collections was his great grandmother. She was my cousin by marriage. I still get occasional notes from him introducing other family members we have in common. Genealogy doesn't get better than that!

You can get started with Flickr at no cost. The Flickr Pro plan (\$60/year) may seem expensive, but it also serves as off-site storage for your entire photo collection. There are a number of other features included with the pro plan. You can also add the free Flickr app to your mobile devices so you can take photos and have them automatically uploaded to your Flickr account.

# Society Services

The Research committee supports our members with research assistance both at meetings or via our Facebook group. At the moment that position is vacant. We are looking for a member willing to fill that position and provide research support for our members.

Members are encouraged to join our members-only Facebook group - [SAGS Community Research Center](#). This group makes it possible for members to stay connected between meetings. You are encouraged to ask questions, share tips or just chat. Society staff are also posting news items, deals and resources that can help us all improve our research efforts.

Additional ways SAGS members can connect online include:

- [SAGS Online](#) - The society's public web site.
- [SAGS Support](#) - The society's members-only site offers weekly news updates, research support, 24/7 access to our publications library along with social networking features making it easy for members to stay connected between meetings.
  - [Research Notes](#) - Our weekly email update for genealogy news and deals along with links to useful resources and other articles. Research Notes arrives in your Inbox every Monday morning and past editions are available online in the Research Notes Archive at SAGS Support.
    - In addition to the SAGS Community Research Center, the society also maintains a public Facebook page providing information about the society and upcoming meetings.
    - The Members Network group at [MeWe.com](#) is also a members-only group offering genealogy news, resources and support for our members. [MeWe.com](#) has a growing number of genealogy-related groups covering a broad range of research topics.