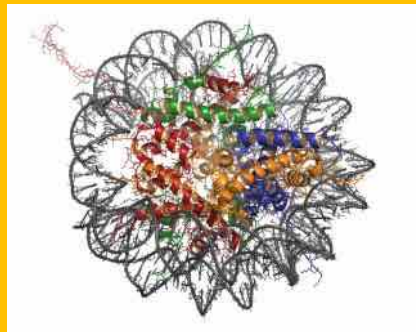


Volume 25 Issue 1

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SILICON VALLEY COMPUTER GENEALOGY GROUP

# PastFinder



## EPI genetics

**Nucleosome (molecular model):** The nucleosome consists of a DNA double helix (gray) wrapped around a core of histone proteins (red, green, blue, and orange). The structure and processes are complex.

## New ways to look at genetics

By Janet Brigham

At first, it seemed too amazing to be true. The earliest findings of a new science that came to be called *epigenetics* seemed to upend what we thought we knew about genetics, behavior, and what it meant to be part of a biological family.

The term said it all: *epi* means *on, over, or near*; and *genetics* refers to genes. *Epigenetics* refers to things happening outside what we usually think of as our genes.

This is how it works. We all learned in school about dominant and recessive traits — dark-haired parents tend to have dark-haired children. Blue-eyed parents tend to have children with a similar eye color. Every so often a redhead pops up in a family with no other redheads, and a child unexpectedly has brown eyes. We have come to explain that by thinking, well, his grandmother was Irish, or perhaps it's all the Norse folk in the Danish line.

This has happened in our grandkids, who have no redhead parents, but four of the grandkids have red or strawberry blond hair. Go figure. If we could trace the hair color of their ancestors, it would make sense. We trust in that.

The emerging science of epigenetics forces us to think differently about many traits and predispositions, beyond hair and eye color, which is to say, traits like temperament and the predisposition for risk of cancer. Even if an elevated risk for a certain disease isn't "in the genes," a condition may

emerge as time progresses, pointing not toward a genetic cause as we understand it, but toward a less obvious inherited relationship.

Some years ago, a seedy horror movie called *The Bad Seed* (starring, among others, Dennis Hopper, the actor who played Paul Drake in the old Perry Mason TV series) showed a murderous child whose grandmother also was a murderer. Chilling, *non?*

It might not work that way, as it turns out. Events in our ancestors' lives can change the way our own genes are *expressed*, or in other words, how they are turned off or on. Substances outside the actual genetic material (hence the prefix *epi*) could have been affected by our ancestors' life events. When these ancestors passed along our genetic inheritance, which are ingredient in our DNA, they also passed along these potential triggers through the process of *epigenesis*.

It could work like this: A young woman experiences near-starvation during a war or a famine. (Remember that

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Outside and Inside

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- **Whadya think this is? page 5; answer, 8**
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# New ways to look at genetics (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

although we may be well fed, many others are not, and many of our ancestors were not.) The stress and trauma affect her not only physically and emotionally, but also leave an imprint on the genes she passes on to the next generation. Her traumatic time could affect how her descendants' genes are *expressed*, or which ones are turned off or on.

Let's say she goes on to have six children. Perhaps not all of them would be affected. Perhaps her four sons grow up without developing any complications based on her stressful period of deprivation. But her two daughters do grow at risk for complications. If the daughters experience their own highly stressful events, that might trigger some disease process in them that otherwise would be *latent*, or unexpressed. The two daughters then might develop a disease that their brothers never have.

Not only that, but the trigger could be passed on to that next generation, and the one after that. We do not know yet from the field of epigenetics how many generations can carry the "wrapper" around the genes that can trigger the expression of the gene.

Is this genetic? Yes, in the way we define genetics as what we inherit biologically from our ancestors. No, in the sense that it's not embedded in our DNA. It isn't embedded in it; rather, it's wrapped around it. Like a piñata full of candy, these epigenetic predispositions might not spill their contents without some provocation.

What does this mean?

It means that we don't just inherit traits from our ancestors and learn behaviors from our parents, like we learned when we studied genetics in science class decades ago. Although yellow frogs do beget more yellow frogs, more complex traits can have complex origins. Even what are called "complex behaviors" can be transmitted through epigenesis.

One of the recent findings about epigenetic effects is that gene expression (or, in other words, the triggers that turn on genes) can be affected by such a simple behavior as meditation. The act of meditating can help you heal by affecting which of your genes are "expressed" or triggered into activation.

The take-home message is simpler than it might seem. A family historian, or even a professional genealogist, does not have the tools to determine which events and behaviors are driven strictly by genes, which by epigenetics, and which by learning and experience. From the outside, without scientific research, we cannot know which influence is at work. For that matter, we struggle to understand how five married daughters with medium to dark brown hair produce five grandchildren (50% of the total) with red or strawberry blond hair, with no known redheads in the daughters' or their spouses' recent ancestries.

Since even hair color, which ought to be determined in a straightforward way as explained through Mendelian genetics, is baffling, it's no wonder that complex behaviors are genetically baffling.

What we *can* identify is patterns of familial (or family-related) traits and behaviors.

The risk in looking for patterns is that we sometimes tend to be quite willing to take credit for our ancestors' traits and accomplishments. If we had a courageous ancestor who distinguished himself or herself in battle, for example, it is easy to be proud of

this, as if somehow we ourselves were involved. We may be tempted to believe that this means we also are courageous.

The problem is that traits such as courage involve complex behaviors and character, which cannot be studied simply; we do not know if such traits are familial, or are in the genes. We do know that family stories and values are transmitted across generations, such that we may grow up hearing stories of our pioneer ancestors and may believe that we are superior beings because we come from "pioneer stock."

This may be true, or may not. It depends not only on the pioneers, but also on the intervening generations and on our own choices and proclivities.

Some of the traits determined through inheritance do not determine who we are, fundamentally. Life offers us many choices, including the option to emulate much about our ancestors. Teasing apart genetics from familial influences can be an impossible

(Continued on page 3)

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**The risk in looking for patterns is that we sometimes tend to be quite willing to take credit for our ancestors' traits and accomplishments.**

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# New ways to look at genetics (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

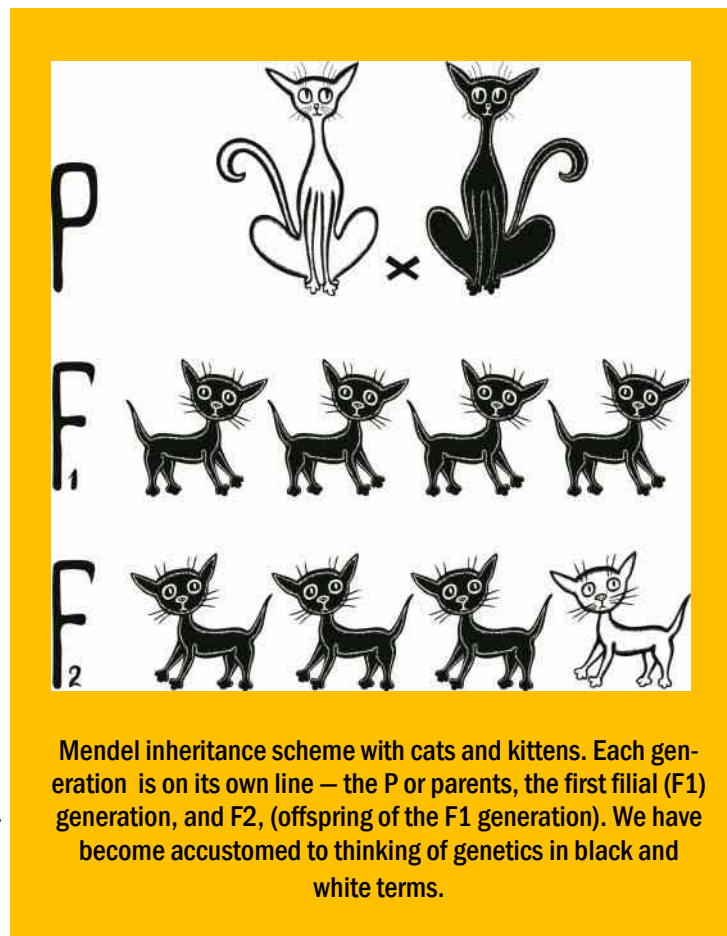
task. For example, having an ancestor who served in a war may inspire patriotism and courage in us, but this does not mean it is in our genes, or is even a trait that can be expressed in genes. Being inspired by an ancestor may mean we identify with the ancestor and want to live in a way that is consonant with that ancestor's life.

I have ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War, and an ancestor who helped spawn a tax rebellion after that war. It is sometimes tempting, but I can't honestly blame any of my occasionally disruptive behaviors on my fourth-great-uncle, as convenient as it would be. Also, I've seen no pattern of rebellion-launching in the generations beyond him.

It's interesting to have such an ancestor; I'd like to discover and tell his story more fully. But his harrowing life is influential in ways that probably are not genetically driven. Scientists have identified no single gene for rebelliousness in the face of tyranny.

In fact, scientists have not identified single genes for much of anything we would consider personality or temperament. However, it appears clear that complex "systems of genes...work in concert to express a personality trait." (Kraus, 2013).

So when a celebrity on *Who Do You Think You Are?* gazes on an ancestor's grave and wonders what ancestral traits have come down through the generations — courage, bravery, kindness, generosity?—we should remember that these traits might not have a direct genetic component, as Dr. Kraus explained. Knowing that such people existed may change us,



however. Their lives infuse and influence our humble spheres as we learn about our heritage.


I have not fought in a war and have not launched a rebellion against tyranny, but knowing that my fourth-great-grand-mother's brother did those things has taught me that the everyday ancestors of everyday me were capable of heroism and tenacity, even in the face of a death sentence (which was reprieved and pardoned by newly elected Massachusetts Governor John Hancock, he of the legible, sizable signature).

Now, if I could only sink far enough into my heritage to be as diplomatic as my

mother and as practical as my father. . .

## Further reading

Fell, Robert, and Frago, Mario F. (2012, 4 January). Epigenetics and the environment: emerging patterns and implications. Accessed at <ftp://classes.waynesburg.edu/Biology/Marietta%20Wright/bio%20406/extra%20credit%20assignment/epigenetics%201.pdf> (*Technical, authoritative overview in Nature Reviews/Genetics*, vol. 13).

Kraus, Michael W. (2013, 11 July). Do Genes Influence Personality? A summary of recent advances in the nature vs. nurture debate. Accessed at <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/under-the-influence/201307/do-genes-influence-personality> (*Accessible, readable overview of the role of genetics in personality*). 



# How I found it Looking for Aunt Ruth

By Richard Rands

Some months ago, my wife, Janet, told me a story about her Uncle John, who was born in Genesee, Idaho, in 1894. John was not the only musician in the family, but he took his musical ability more seriously than the others.

He married a young woman named Mary Esther in South Bend, Washington, on 11 August 1918 and, according to newspaper accounts, enlisted in the Army on the same day. Since WWI ended one month later, on 11 November 1918, perhaps he foresaw a short career in the Army to take advantage of benefits to supplement a musician's meager income. Furthermore, the 1920 U.S. Census a year and a half later lists John in Chicago, Illinois, as a married boarder, working as a vocal teacher, but without Mary Esther. In fact, Mary Esther has yet to be found anywhere else in the same census.

Janet mentioned this story to me because she recalls that Aunt Ruth always sent her nieces presents for holidays when Janet was a child, but Janet cannot recall hearing anyone mention Aunt Ruth's maiden name. Aunt Ruth always sent friendly letters to John's family. Then when Aunt Ruth died, Janet's family were all remembered monetarily in Ruth's will. Janet wondered if I could help discover Aunt Ruth's maiden name, which would lead to pinning down the genealogy of this thoughtful woman.

Since Ruth died in Ft. Worth, Texas, our first effort was to search Texas vital records for any clues

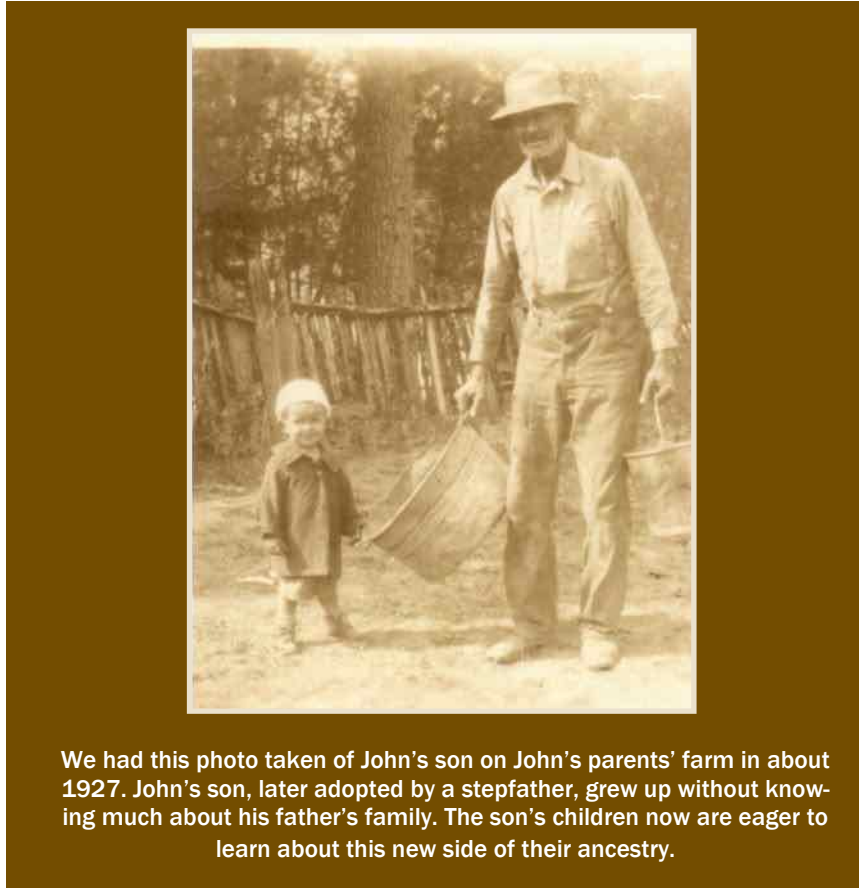
about her birth place, birth date, or family details. Ruth had no children of her own, and Janet could not meet the requirements from VitalChek as a descendant. Although VitalChek was willing to take Janet's payment, VitalChek was unwilling to provide any information about Ruth.

Furthermore, we did not succeed in an effort to send for a copy of Ruth's Social Security SS-5 form from the Social Security Administration, on which a Social Security Number applicant was required to fill in parents' names and birth places. The request resulted in SSA finding only an OAC-790 form, which does not include parents' information. To make matters worse, the SSA failed to include the OAC-790 form with their reply. Numerous tele-

phone calls to the SSA proved fruitless. Every voice mailbox at every department was full, every time I called.

That meant we were on our own to uncover the details of fondly remembered, kind Aunt Ruth. With so little information about Ruth, we followed a logical plan of attack to trace every bit of information possible for Uncle John, including when and where he was divorced from Mary Esther, when and where he married Ruth, and his death in January 1965.

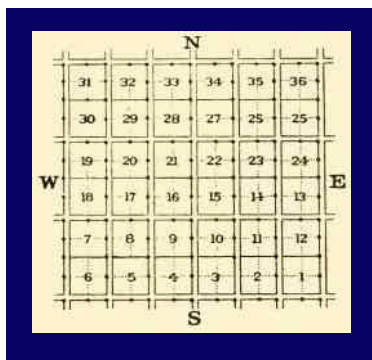
Family lore added a few important details: In 1913 John entered Oberlin College in Ohio to study music, then taking a job as head of the Music Department at Oklahoma A&M in 1923. Janet's father had recalled that John had borrowed money from his parents to



We had this photo taken of John's son on John's parents' farm in about 1927. John's son, later adopted by a stepfather, grew up without knowing much about his father's family. The son's children now are eager to learn about this new side of their ancestry.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Whaddya think this is? Homesteads? Street layout?



We continue here a new feature in the *PastFinder*, “Whaddya think this is?” Each issue now includes an item, fact, photo, or document that is significant for genealogical and family history research. So, whaddya think this is? (For the correct answer, see page 8.)

- A. A game board for Genealogy Is My Game players.
- B. Section numbering scheme for the U.S. Homestead Act land patents.
- C. Brigham Young's street numbering system for Salt Lake City, Utah
- D. Section numbering scheme for the Dominion Land Survey land sections.

## How I found it *(continued)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

study music in Paris, France (and had never paid it back), and that John and Mary Esther had a son in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in May 1924. Re-creating these lives is a prime task for a genealogical timeline listing every event in John's and his family's lives. The technique can lead to amazing surprises.

First I scoured relevant census records with no new results. Hours searching through old newspapers online turned up account of several of John's musical performances in Uniontown, Pennsylvania; Ardmore, Oklahoma; and Ft. Worth, Texas. A chance hit on New York City passenger lists for August 1926 reported that John had returned alone from Paris on the ship *De Grasse* and listed his home as Stillwater, Oklahoma. This detail added confidence to the notion that John was divorced, or at least estranged, from Mary Esther before 1926, and that their son had remained with his mother.

About this time, Janet turned up some correspondence that had been in Janet's mother's possession. Among the letters was a mention that Mary Esther had remarried and that the son had been adopted by his stepfather, meaning that the son's records would be listed under the stepfather's surname.

We had hoped an obituary for John would include information about Ruth, his surviving spouse, but the only mention was that John was survived by “the wife.” Ruth had sent the family the text of the funeral sermon and eulogy delivered at John's funeral, but they also contained no hint of Ruth's surname and ancestry.

We found copies of newspaper articles about herself. She was honored for her work with prisoners and economically disadvantaged individuals in the Ft. Worth area. Her letters indicated that she was a deeply religious and morally committed individual who was actively engaged in a Christian community church.

Without finding the necessary information in Ruth's letters and John's obituary, we turned back to public records. When I could not locate John in the 1930 U.S. Census, I turned to the city directories for Ft. Worth, Texas, only to discover that he was not listed there until 1933. His occupation in 1933 was as a voice teacher at the Myrtle Dockery School of Fine Arts, but he was not listed among vocal instructors in the directory.

It was here that we encountered the first major surprise. John was listed with a spouse named Margaret. No one in the family had mentioned to Janet's generation that John had an additional marriage in between Mary Esther and Ruth.

I followed John in the Ft. Worth city directories through 1946, each one indicating that his spouse was Margaret. By that time, his occupation began to include being an assistant professor of music at Texas Christian University (TCU). TCU yearbooks for 1946, 1949, and 1960 showed him on the faculty, but other editions did not list him. The 1949 City Directory indicated that his spouse was Ruth, rather than Margaret. There was no hint regarding why the change from Margaret to Ruth; Ruth remained listed as his spouse until 1960. John died in 1965.

The timeline listing each of these events quickly grew to more than 50 entries, each adding a clue here and there, but still nothing definitive about Ruth.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# How I found it *(continued)*

Name	Date	Event	Age	Place	Address	Comment	Source
Wilkinson, Frances E.	1863-03-08	Birth	0				Death Certificate, Texas Death Index, 1903-2000, Vol. 061, image 397
Brigham, John Wilson	1894-12-08	Birth	0	Genesee, Latah, Idaho			Idaho Birth Index, 1861-1912
Seumour, Mary Esther		Birth	0	Pennsylvania?			
Janet, Margaret		Birth	0				
Brigham, John W.	1900-06-28	1900 US Census	5	Latah Co., Idaho	Little Pollach		Dist. 0076, image 6
Miller, Ruth Jewel	1910-01-14	Birth	0	Texas			SSDI
Brigham, John W.	1910-05-07	1910 US Census	15	Latah Co., Idaho	Little Pollach		Dist. 0189, image 5
Brigham, John W.	1913	Entered Oberlin College		Oberlin, Ohio		majorred in several branches of music	"The History of the Brigham Family", page 244
Brigham, John W.	1917-06-05	WWI Draft Reg.	22	Genesee Idaho		Single, student	WWI Draft Reg. Book B, image 281
Seumour, Mary Esther	1918-08-11	Marriage		South Bend, Pacific, Washington		to John W.	Washington Marriage Records, 1865-2004, image 17
Brigham, John W.	1918-08-11	Enlisted in Army		South Bend, Pacific, Washington			"The History of the Brigham Family", page 244
Brigham, John	1920-01-XX	1920 US Census	29	Cook Co., Illinois	Chicago Ward 21, 10 Elmo St	married, boarder, vocal teacher	Dist. 1162, image 29
Brigham, John W.	1920-08-29	misc performance		Shady Grove Park, PA	near Uniontown, Pennsylvania	1st tenor, Kaufmann Male Quartet	"Music Trade Review", 4 Sep 1920
Brigham, John W.	1923	Hired by Oklahoma A&M		Stillwater, Payne, Oklahoma		head of Music Dept.	"The History of the Brigham Family", page 244
Brigham, John W.	1924-04-17	Private concert		Ardmore, Oklahoma	Ardmore Hotel	Sang tenor	Ardmore newspaper, April 7, 1924
Brigham, John, Jack, Edward	1924-05-31	Birth of son	0	Stillwater, Payne, Oklahoma			"The History of the Brigham Family", page 244
Seumour, Mary Esther		Divorce		prob. Oklahoma		from John W.	
Brigham, John W.	1925-02-20	singing performance		Stillwater, Payne, Oklahoma		Sang at funeral for wife of a Oklahoma A&M graduate	<a href="http://genforum.genealogy.com/okk/ps/infmessage91228.htm">http://genforum.genealogy.com/okk/ps/infmessage91228.htm</a>
Brigham, John W.	1926-08-27	Passenger List	31	New York City	Stillwater, Oklahoma (3110 Washington St)	Arr. From Le Havre, France	Ancestry.com Image 421 (ship-De Grasse)
Seumour, Mary Esther		2nd marriage				to Mr. Barth	
Gertha, Margaret		Marriage ?		prob. Oklahoma or Texas		to John W.	
Miller, Jewel B.	1929	City Directory		Fl Worth, Texas	h 3411 Purington av	relief cashier	Ancestry.com image 329
John W. Brigham, no name	1930	City Directory		Fl Worth, Texas			Ancestry.com
Miller, Jewel B.	1930	City Directory		Fl Worth, Texas	r 3411 Purington av	cashier, Texas Elec Serv Co; living with mother, Eleanor B.	Ancestry.com image 324
John W. Brigham, no name	1930	US Census					Ancestry.com
John W. Brigham, no name	1930	TCU Yearbook		Fl Worth, Texas			Ancestry.com image 29
John W. Brigham, no name	1932	City Directory		Fl Worth, Texas			Ancestry.com
Brigham, John W. Margit	1933	City Directory		Fl Worth, Texas	h 811 May Apt 8	Voice teacher, Myrtle Dockery School of Fine Arts	Ancestry.com image 102
Brigham, John W. Margit	1935	City Directory		Fl Worth, Texas	h 103 12 W. 3rd	Brigham Music Studios	Ancestry.com image 100
Miller, Eleanor B.	1935-06-06	Death		Fl Worth, Texas	3411 Purington Ave	housekeeper, widow, father: William Wilkerson, mother: unknown, bur. Greenwood	Death Certificate, Texas Death Index, 1903-2000, Vol. 061, image 397
Miller, Jewel B.	1935	City Directory		Fl Worth, Texas	h 3411 Purington av	cashier, Texas Elec Serv Co	Ancestry.com image 295
Brigham, John W. Margit	1936	City Directory		Fl Worth, Texas	h 2260 Hurley Ave	Brigham Music Studios	Ancestry.com image 102
John W. Brigham, no name	1937 - 1940	City Directory		Fl Worth, Texas	Name listing missing	not listed in occupations	
John W. Brigham, no name	1940	1940 US Census					

The 50+-line timeline for Uncle John has columns for Name, Date, Event, Age (at event), Place, Address, Comments, and Source. Creating a chronological timeline of Uncle John's life helped us see that the family apparently had been unaware of his separation or divorce from his first wife, his marriage to a second wife, and the events in the early life of his son, who now lives in the United States. Names are obscured here because some individuals are living.

*(Continued from page 5)*


Then Janet found a letter among her mother's effects that opened the floodgates. It was a letter dated January 2001 from the executor of Ruth's estate notifying the family of the monetary amounts that had been granted to each member of the family, \$10,000 to her mother and another aunt, \$750 each to Janet and Ruth's other nieces. Janet long ago had misplaced her own copy of the letter.

A careful reading of the details clarified that the executor was John's only son, born to him and Mary Esther, now grown and living in Florida; it included a telephone number. The letter was 12 years old, so the telephone number was a long shot, but we genealogists are used to long shots.

I sat down and dialed the number. A woman named Betty answered. After I explained the purpose of my call, I asked if she knew the man who had been

the executor of Ruth's estate. Her answer was the kind that raises the hair on the back of my neck. She said, "Yes. He's sitting right next to me on our veranda. He is my husband, and unfortunately he has severe dementia, but I know all about Ruth."

It turned out that Ruth and Mary Esther had become quite friendly and had corresponded frequently over the years. Within a few days, Betty sent me a detailed email giving us Ruth's maiden name, Margaret's maiden name, and other significant details that provided the clues we needed to trace Ruth's ancestry.

Some of the records may not be available, but all of the entries in the timeline—including some from correspondence that easily could have been discarded when Janet's parents' effects were sorted and cleaned out—culminated a fascinating journey with odd turns and new relationships to cousins, well worth the effort. 



# Ask the Doctor Making treasures last

**Q** Someone in the family has given me a diary of our grandmother from a century ago. I am delighted, but now that I have it, I don't know what to do with it. Any suggestions from The Doctor?

You are right to worry about doing the right thing with such a priceless document.

Start by keeping it in a dry, safe place, away from moisture, light, and sticky little fingers covered in peanut butter. Then think about how best to share it with others in the family. As much as we may like to think that these things become ours when we are so fortunate as to receive them, you are not her only living descendant. Sharing is in order.

The obvious next step, once you have it preserved safely, is to consider who would appreciate it, and how you can make it more permanent for succeeding generations.

Assuming it is handwritten, an obvious step is to transcribe it. That might not be as simple as it sounds — you should use rules of transcription for genealogists, to do right by the original record.

Elizabeth Shown Mills has authored a guide for transcription as part of the Board for Certification of Genealogists toolkit ([www.bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/skbld961.html](http://www.bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/skbld961.html)).

The idea is to maintain the flavor and content of the original document while making it readable and comprehensible with marks such as brackets ([ ]).

As you transcribe, you will find many terms that demand explanation. For example, a diary recently transcribed by The Doctor includes mention of a “dime dance.” The Doctor’s research has shown that this might refer to dances for which admission was a dime, or perhaps to dances with hostesses who danced for a dime, including giving dancing instructions. This will require some further research.

The diary also mentions family and friends serving in the military. Investigating the history of their military units and locations can provide context for the content.

The Doctor was able to identify the employer and business location of the diarist, using city directories and busi-

ness directories from the period.

This makes for much more compelling reading than a straight transcription alone would provide.


The entire document now can be published either as a word processing document or through a self-publishing site.

Until everyone mentioned in the diary or affected by the diary is deceased, it's best not to put such materials on the web for public view. A private, password-protected website would be an option, as long as the material would not serve to divide the family, hurt feelings, or bring up issues that are better left private.

Remember that a diary is a candid document that was not written for wide readership. A person might write “What a jerk!” about someone one day and then decide to marry the person the next. It may be best not to leave Grandma or Grandpa permanently labeled as a jerk when the relationship was simply in the process of solidifying.

**Q** We've collected many decorative items over the years that remind us of our travels and our experiences as a family. How can we tell our descendants about these treasures (invaluable to us, though few of them have monetary value)? We just put away our holiday decorations and kept wishing we could give our family an appreciation for the memories associated with them.

Start with a camera — even a camera phone. Take pictures of your decorative items. Then put the images in a word processing file (or slideshow program, photobook software, or whatever) and describe how you came by each object and why it is meaningful to you. If someone made one for you, include information about who made it and when it was given to you. Then share your document.

As an example: Pictured here is an ornament my faithful sidekick and I bought years ago. Somehow we flew home with it from Washington, D.C., without breaking it. It seems to be one tough bird. It catches light and reminds us of hummingbirds in our yard. 



A glass hummingbird ornament from the U.S. National Museum of Natural History; it is now a family treasure.

# What didja think it was? And were ya right?

ANSWER to question posed on page 5: D. . Section numbering scheme for the Dominion Land Survey land sections.

The 1871 Dominion Land Survey (DLS) is the method used to divide most of Western Canada into one-square-mile (2.6 km<sup>2</sup>) sections for agricultural and other purposes. It is based on the layout of the Public Land Survey System used in the United States, but with the numbering started in the southeast corner rather than the U.S. method, which started in the north east corner.

This technique of numbering

## Upcoming meetings

The group meets monthly except December, on the second Saturday of the month from 9 to 11 A.M. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 875 Quince Ave., Santa Clara, California (see map at right). The group is not affiliated with any church or other group.


### 11 January 2014, 9–11 A.M.

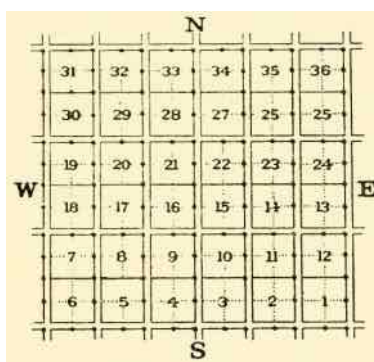
- Dealing with family lore (Richard Rands)
- Archive.org: full of surprises (Janet Brigham)
- Reunion 10 for Mac Users (Pat Burrow)
- Reunion for Mac, Basics (Pat Solomon)
- Research with Lesly (Klippel)
- Getting Started in Genealogy (Carleen Foster)

### 9 February 2014, 9–11 A.M.

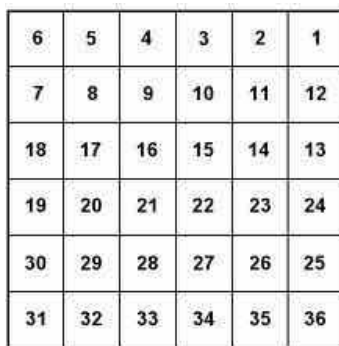
- Genealogy/technology (TBA)
- Reunion 10 for Mac Users (Pat Burrow)
- Reunion for Mac, Basics (Pat Solomon)
- Research with Lesly (Klippel)
- Getting Started in Genealogy (Carleen Foster)

directions is *boustrophedonal*, that is, turning like oxen in ploughing.

The U.S. section system also is boustrophedonal, but starts at the upper right (see below, bottom image) rather than the bottom right. Or, in other words, the U.S. system starts at the northeast corner, whereas the Canadian Dominion system starts at the southeast corner. 



**Dominion system**



**U.S. system**

## PastFinder

First place, Major Society Newsletter, 2013  
First place, Local Society Newsletter, 2012  
National Genealogical Society

Website: [www.svcgg.org](http://www.svcgg.org)

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95153-3670

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Leland Osburn	Education administrator
Pamela Erickson	Assistant editor
Betsy Shafer	Assistant editor
Allin Kingsbury	Editor emeritus/ past president

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Meeting site has ample free off-street parking, with a wheelchair-accessible entrance at the front.

## About the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group

SVC GG is the former Silicon Valley PAF Users Group, a nonprofit group of some 600 genealogy enthusiasts. We are based in Silicon Valley in the Bay Area of northern California; members live all over the world.

SVC GG offers classes, seminars, and publications to help family his-

torians improve their skills in using technology for genealogy research.

*PastFinder* is published monthly except December. It is distributed at meetings to members and mailed to others after the meetings. Members can receive the newsletter digitally by emailed link. 