Can your genealogy research benefit by DNA testing? Who should you test? What test is best? Diahan Southard, owner of Your DNA Guide and national speaker on DNA, will address these and other questions at the SGS Fall Seminar to be held October 18th at Fairview School. 844 NE 78th St, Seattle, WA 98115. Diahan will present on three topics for the day, all geared to a broad level of knowledge by the members of the audience:

1. Ruling the World with Mitochondrial DNA
2. YDNA Testing is EVERYONE (yes, you!)
3. Charting Your Course through Autosomal DNA Testing
4. SGS Case Studies: Real life examples from people you know!

I had a chance to interview Diahan (pronounced Diane) by email.

How has DNA testing helped your personal family search?
"I remember my first autosomal DNA success. I contacted a man listed as my second cousin. After a brief exchange we realized that he was my dad’s cousin. They used to play together as young boys, but then a divorce in the family made their visits less frequent, and then they had stopped all together. The DNA that I shared in common with him belonged to my great grandmother. She was a woman I never knew, but had seen pictures of. Somehow, seeing that shared piece of DNA between me and my dad’s cousin, knowing that it belong to our shared relative, made me feel like that was all real. I didn’t have a genealogical breakthrough, or find a lost ancestor, but I made a very important connection."

You were one of the leaders in the concept that using DNA could be helpful to genealogists. Explain how and why you came to that conclusion.
"It all started in the basement of the Benson building on BYU campus. I was volunteering in a laboratory on campus, working for Dr. Scott Woodward on samples exhumed from a cemetery in Egypt. Dr. Woodward gathered all of us lab rats, as we were affectionately called, together and explained an idea. The idea was based in the problem with the ancient Egyptian samples. This cemetery was not attached to any particular place; it was on its own in the desert. To complicate matters, there were both common and well-to-do burials. Few other clues remained as to the origins of these people. Dr. Woodward had the revolutionary idea that we could create a database of correlated genetics and genealogy. That way we could take the DNA from the mummies in the sand of Egypt and compare them to the database to find out who they were and where they came from, and possibly even reconstruct how they ended up where they did.”
Interview with Diahan Southard, continued:

Do you think that DNA testing will one day be a component of an “exhaustive search”, Genealogical Proof Standard element no. 1? and if so, why?
“ABSOLUTELY! In fact, Judy Russell just posted an article about this exact topic: http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2014/08/03/dna-and-the-gps/. There are certain absolutes in DNA testing that cannot be procured through paper research. There are even more hints and clues, that while not absolute, are certainly able to add a necessary depth and dimension to your research that cannot be obtained in any other way.”

What are the components of DNA that are the hardest to explain to a lay audience and what methods do you find most successful to use?
“Autosomal DNA is definitely the trickiest. There is just so much uncertainty. Much of the work is in weighing the options. You are much more reliant on traditional genealogical methods, and almost entirely reliant on collaboration with your matches. You have to be much more organized and be able to devote much more time if you want to really make some headway. However, having said that, I find that most people can come to one of my classes and walk away with enough knowledge, and more importantly, confidence, that they can do this! I use a lot of analogies to make things easier. With autosomal DNA testing, I find that you can use it like you use your computer. Can you turn it on, access your email, and find your favorite sites on the internet? Then you can use autosomal DNA testing in your genealogical research. Of course, there will be those who can run complicated programs and make their computer stand up and dance (ok, not really). They will be able to use advanced tools to understand the intricacies of the DNA testing and perhaps be able to answer a few more questions than the average person. You don’t have to know that much to be successful. All you need is an interest and a little bit of confidence. I can give you both.”

Thanks, Diahan. We look forward to your presentations on the 18th of October.

1/2 PRICE BOOK SALE A SUCCESS!

Last month SGS Library Committee conducted a successful 1/2 Price Book Sale. The committee has been reinvigorated with the receipt of two large donations of materials. The Materials Review Committee set out to identify the books to keep, the books to sell on eBay and the ones to place in the sale. Many people assisted in the preparation for the event, including cataloging and shelving the intake books, identifying duplicates and determining if any needed, and were worthy of, preservation strategies.

The establishment of the Library Fund and money raisers such as the sale will enable the committee to identify gaps in the collection, make strategic purchases, have some unique items preserved professionally and buy cataloging materials.

The sale yielded over $400 for the Library Fund. Congratulations.
The SGS Board discussed and acted on the following topics over the last three months:

- received the report on the Spring Seminar. Evaluations were generally positive except for the sound system.
- accepted $872 for new purchases and preservation of the library from the Library Raffle at the Spring Seminar.
- passed a resolution to use a mail delivery service to label, bundle and mail the Bulletin twice a year. Lake Union Mail was selected as the successful bidder from three submitters.
- appointed Dr. Reiley Kidd a Library Trustee. He will serve on the Archives Committee.
- received $2291.89 in direct and stretch donations through the GiveBig donation program.
- reviewed the budget and voted to accept the 2014-2015 budget and present to the membership at the annual meeting (28 June 2014).
- reviewed various bank accounts and voted to consolidate several small and virtually inactive funds.
- agreed to allow Jean Roth to rent the pop-up tent for the Deutschesfest (September 18-21) for $25.
- discussed raising seminar fee.
- appreciated when Jean Roth volunteered to temporarily assume the responsibilities of Education Director until Karen Thompson Young can assume the duties due to her illness.
- agreed to have a booth at the LDS Family History Expo in November on the east side. Exact date and time have not been announced.
- assumed their official duties in June 2014:
  - Marilyn Rose – President
  - Janice Lovelace – Vice President
  - Jean Roth – Secretary
  - Fran Lewis – Treasurer
  - Jill Morelli – Director of Publications
  - Karen Thompson – Director of Education
  - Julia Marconi – Director of Membership
  - James Ryan – Director of Operations
  - Daniel Harmon – Director of Library
  - TBD – Director of Volunteers
  - Phyllis Christianson – Nominations
  - Julie Brekke – Nominations
  - Ellen Blackstone – Nominations
  - Glenda Cassutt – Nominations
  - Richard Morrill – Nominations
- announced that Dona Bubulis would handle eBay sales
- sent out membership renewals to all present members and those who had lapsed in the last 5 years.
- charged each office holder to set up advisory committees. Please consider volunteering for any of the committees if asked.

In a letter written “Jany 14th, 1861” to “Cousin Jeff” concerning the writer’s brother-in-law,

“———, a Presbyterian minister, but from a fall in which his brain was affected, he was compelled to abandon the ministry and is now practicing medicine.”


Sometimes a little more clarity would help. In an article describing why the District of Columbia’s statistics of the “mentally retarded” in the District were particularly low in the 1880 DDD Schedule:

“…one factor related to these low rates was that retarded patients hospitalized at St. Elizabeth’s were counted as mentally ill. Another may have been that a sizable proportion of the District’s population was comprised of adults who had migrated to the District to seek public employment.”

SGS had an information booth at the Seattle Scottish Highland Games in Enumclaw on July 26th and the 27th as part of our community outreach program. Scottish and Irish books from the SGS Library were displayed for viewing and our volunteers helped answer questions on tracing their Scottish, Scots-Irish, and Irish Ancestry. Gloria Morrison and Jim Ryan carried the SGS Banner during the Parade of Clans which was viewed by a large grandstand audience.

Thank you to our SGS volunteers: Jean A. Roth, Pat Younie, Jim Ryan, Linda Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Howie, Janice Lovelace, Steven and Gloria Morrison, Richard Ambur, Donna Gordon, Karen Portzer, Annette Dwyer, Pam Hillman, John Griffin, and Joe Herron.

Parade of Clans. Gloria Morrison and Jim Ryan are carrying the SGS flag. “Old Nessy” follows!

Photos used with permission from Steve Morrison
SGS FALL QUARTER CALENDAR: 2014

Unless stated otherwise, events are held at the Seattle Genealogical Society Library. SGS classes are free to SGS members and are $5 for nonmembers. Call SGS at 206-522-8658 for information about program cancellations or closures due to adverse weather conditions. This listing is subject to change or additions. For up-to-date information, access the SGS website: http://seattlegenealogicalsociety.org/

September 2014

1  Monday; SGS Library closed for Labor Day

6  Saturday, 10:15 – 12:15, CANADIAN AND IRISH INTEREST GROUPS; David Robert & Jean A. Roth, leaders; a joint meeting of the two SIGs; “The Irish in Canada.”

6  Saturday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, GERMAN INTEREST GROUP; Jean A. Roth, leader; “The Germans in Canada.”

7  Sunday, 1:30 pm -4:00 pm, “Using Newspapers for Family History,” Ginny Sommarstrom.

9  Tuesday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, SGS WRITERS GROUP; New writers groups are forming all the time. contact Jean Roth (jeanaroth@juno.com) to be placed on the list for the next group.

13 Saturday, 10:15 – 12:15, COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP; Ida Skarson McCormick, leader

14 Sunday, 1:30 pm -4:00 pm, “Identifying and Dating Old Photographs,” Marilyn Rose.

23 Tuesday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, SGS WRITERS GROUP; New writers groups are forming all the time. contact Jean Roth (jeanaroth@juno.com) to be placed on the list for the next group.

28 Sunday, 1:30 pm -4:00 pm, “I Found My Family on the Internet— Now What Do I Do?” Jill Morelli. How to determine credibility of what you find and then how to use the information effectively.

October 2014

4  Saturday, 10:15 am - 12:15 pm, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP, David Roberts.

5  Sunday, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm; “Caveat Emptor, Part II: Fakes, Scams and Bad Research Sites: Avoiding the Pitfalls in Genealogical Research,” (includes ancestry.com Family Trees), Jean A. Roth.

7  Tuesday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, SGS WRITERS GROUP; New writers groups are forming all the time. contact Jean Roth (jeanaroth@juno.com) to be placed on the list for the next group.

11 Saturday, 10:15 – 12:15, COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP; Ida Skarson McCormick, leader

12 Sunday, 1:30 pm -4:00 pm, “Soldiers, Spies & Farm Wives: The Changing Roles of Women During the Civil War,” Jill Morelli.

18 Saturday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm; SGS Fall Seminar, “Using DNA in Genealogy,” Diahan Southard. See article on first page.

21 Tuesday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, SGS WRITERS GROUP; New writers groups are forming all the time. contact Jean Roth (jeanaroth@juno.com) to be placed on the list for the next group.

25 Saturday, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm, IRISH INTEREST GROUP; Jean A. Roth, leader; “Irish Emigration and Immigration.” (Held a week later due to Fall Seminar)
October 2014, continued

25 Saturday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, GERMAN INTEREST GROUP; Jean A. Roth, leader; “German Emigration and Immigration.” (Held a week later due to Fall Seminar.)

25 Saturday, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm, DNA INTEREST GROUP (Last meeting of 2014) Wedgwood Presbyterian Church, 8005 35th Ave. NE, Seattle.  “Workshop: Using Third Party Tools from gedmatch.com and DNAGedcom.com with your Autosomal DNA Results,” Bring your own laptop or tablet to access your own results.

26 Sunday, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm, “Illness & Death,” Dr. Reiley Kidd. Illness and death were a part of our ancestors lives in ways we can only imagine. Learn about pandemics and diseases including ancient terms used in death records and how they may have affected your ancestors.

28 Tuesday, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm, “Voices from Beyond the Grave: Stories from Seattle Cemeteries,” Amber Case, Come celebrate Halloween week with local taphophile Amber Case who will share the history of burial grounds in Seattle and highlight the stories behind several of those buried within. She will also provide some helpful tips in doing your own cemetery research.

November 2014

2 Sunday, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm, Halloween Party & Open House, “Listening to Tombstones Talk,” Jean A. Roth. We’ll tiptoe through some cemeteries and see how you can use what you find in your research.

4 Tuesday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, SGS WRITERS GROUP; New writers groups are forming all the time. contact Jean Roth (jeanaroth@juno.com) to be placed on the list for the next group.

8 Saturday, 10:15 – 12:15, COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP; Ida Skarson McCormick, leader

8 Saturday, LDS Family History Expo; Eastside location TBA, Free Family History Workshops with many classes and exhibitors. Event is held in early November; consult Expo website to confirm date and times. Canadian Interest Group will not meet this month.

9 Sunday, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm, “Using the Non-Population Censuses,” Jill Morelli. The many and varied non-population censuses, both state and federal, add richness to our understanding of our ancestor’s lives. Learn what you can find in these little used records.

15 Saturday, 10:15 – 12:15, IRISH INTEREST GROUP; Jean A. Roth, leader; “Basic Irish Genealogical Research and Tips.”

15 Saturday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, GERMAN INTEREST GROUP; Jean A. Roth, leader; “Basic German Genealogical Research and Tips.”

16 Sunday, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm, Program TBA; refer to the website calendar for further information

18 Tuesday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, SGS WRITERS GROUP; New writers groups are forming all the time. contact Jean Roth (jeanaroth@juno.com) to be placed on the list for the next group.

27 Nov - 1 Dec

SGS closed for Thanksgiving holiday.
DECEMBER 2014

2
SGS Library open.

2
Tuesday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, SGS WRITERS GROUP; New writers groups are forming all the time. contact Jean Roth (jeanaroth@juno.com) to be placed on the list for the next group.

6
Saturday, 10:15 – 12:15, CANADIAN INTEREST GROUP; David Robert, leader.

7
Sunday, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm, Holiday Open House. All are welcomed.

7
Sunday, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm, “True or False? Unraveling Family Myths,” Jill Morelli. Analyzing family traditions to assess plausibility and, hopefully, discovering “genealogical truth.”

13
Saturday, 10:15 – 12:15, COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP; Ida Skarson McCormick, leader

16
Tuesday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, SGS WRITERS GROUP; New writers groups are forming all the time. contact Jean Roth (jeanaroth@juno.com) to be placed on the list for the next group.

20 Dec - 6 Jan
SGS closed. Have a very happy holiday.

FOUR MIGRATION TIMELINES…
1840-1865: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Migration_Timeline_1840_to_1865%28National_Institute%29
1920 - present era: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Migration_Timeline_1920_to_the_Present%28National_Institute%29

Pat Younie discussing Scottish genealogy with an attendee of the Scottish Highland Games at the SGS booth.
Volunteer of the Quarter: Annie Wright

Congratulations to our Volunteer of the Quarter: Annie Wright. Annie has been a volunteer for the Society for two years and was urged to join by her friend, Charlotte Wixon, a long-time member. She started her volunteer work by helping Charlotte when she served desk duty. In 2013, Annie joined the Library Committee where she has been active in the recent weeks cataloging the backlog and the recent donations. She, along with other members of the Library Committee, prepared the 1/2 Price Book Sale, which for Annie involved identifying the duplicates of the Society’s materials, pricing and communicating with other societies about the sale.

Annie started doing genealogy about six years ago when she received a letter from a woman who wanted to be buried next to her beloved grandfather but the available plots were “owned” by Edward, a son who had no children and never married. Annie identified some of the claimants to the plot, and got their signatures of release. In the process, she discovered that Edward was her Grandfather’s brother, and as she says, “I was hooked!”

In the next few years Annie would like to prove that she is a Mayflower descendant and even perhaps descended from royalty. On her maternal side she continues to search for the records prior to the marriage in April 1872 of her great grandmother, Hannah Wilimine “Minnie,” daughter of Carl Henke. No record of the birth or confirmation has been found in the village or in neighboring ones.

Congratulations and our sincere thanks to Annie Wright for all she has done for the Society.