

CVGS RESEARCH GROUP NOTES – 8 March 2023

by Randy Seaver

A) Upcoming CVGS Events

- 1) CVGS DNA Interest Group Meeting – Wednesday, 15 March, 12 noon PDT on Zoom. Hosted and moderated by Randy Seaver. Please register at <https://chulavistagenealogysociety.wildapricot.org/event-5196675>. Zoom links will be sent to registrants on Sunday and Tuesday before event.
- 2) CVGS Education Chair Meeting – Tuesday, 21 March, 1 p.m. PDT at Bonita-Sunnyside Library in Bonita CA (4375 Bonita Rd). In-person meeting hosted by Susi Pentico. The topic is “Tennessee.” No Zoom coverage.
- 3) CVGS General Meeting – Wednesday, 29 March, 12 noon PDT on Zoom. Hosted by Randy Seaver and Karen Smith. Speaker is Jen Baldwin on “*Mapping Your Way Through Your Family History.*” Please register at <https://chulavistagenealogysociety.wildapricot.org/event-5196682>. Zoom links will be sent to registrants on Sunday and Tuesday before event.
- 4) CVGS Newsletter published and sent to Members via email on Sunday, 5 March. It is not available yet on the CVGS website.

B) Recent Genealogy News

- 1) [RootsMagic Version 9 Introduced.](#) “RootsMagic 9, the latest version of the award-winning genealogy software, which makes researching, organizing, and sharing your family history easy and enjoyable. With the release comes an update to the free “RootsMagic Essentials” product and a limited-time discount offer for both new and existing users.”

[RootsMagic 9](#) is \$39.95 retail for new users, \$30 to upgrade from RM7 or RM8, \$20 to upgrade through 10 March.

- 2) [Ancestry.com Announces New Features: Storymaker Studio and DNA Compare.](#) “StoryMaker Studio (for web browser and mobile app) is a centralized, one-stop destination to curate facts, images, records and memories and tell the stories of your family history. With this new tool, members can upload and enhance photos and images, record and upload audio files (for the first time on Ancestry), integrate photos with audio, and publish their Ancestry Stories to their trees, on their personal social channels and within the Ancestry community. We all have a storyteller inside us but with Storymaker Studio you can become the storymaker for your family’s history.”

StoryMaker Studio is in the dropdown menu on your Ancestry Family Tree with your tree name on it in the upper left-hand corner. The “Photo Lines” feature is new, but only shows 4 photos in your ancestral line. You can Tag Photos (write captions) for your images in your tree. You can write Family Stories for your ancestors.

- 3) [MyHeritage Introduces Color Coding for Family Trees.](#) Color codes four grandparent lines of ancestors on Pedigree View and Fan View. “We previously implemented color coding in Fan

view of the family tree as well as the Family Tree Timeline. We have now added this feature to Family view and Pedigree view as well, and have made several significant enhancements to better understand the relationships in a family tree, such as indication of blood relationships and the ability to view relationships and relationship diagrams when viewing family trees where you aren't a member, including the trees of Smart Matches™ and DNA Matches.”

4) **RootsTech 2023 is Over (2-4 March) – see Family Search Recaps at [Innovators, Unite!—RootsTech 2023 Recap, Day 1; Communities, Unite!—RootsTech 2023 Recap, Day 2; Generations, UNITE!—RootsTech 2023 Recap, Day 3.](#)**

5) **The RootsTech 2019 to 2023 videos are online for free at the On-Demand button - <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/search>. You can use the “Search” box at the top of the page to select a topic. You can use the “Year” filter for a specific year. You can use the “Speaker” filter to find a specific speaker’s content.**

6) **[Family Tree Maker Version 2019](#) (for Mac and Windows) has been updated to Build 24.2.0. This is a free upgrade to FTM 2019. FTM 2019 is \$79.95 for new users.**

7) **[Drew Smith’s New Book, *Generation-by-Generation* was published.](#)**

8) **[Ancestry to Delete WorldConnect Trees and Shut Down RootsWeb Mailing Lists – Prepare NOW.](#)**

C) Randy’s Work

1) **Purchased, downloaded, registered and installed RootsMagic 9 software, and tested it out. There are a few bugs, but the new features work well. There is an update (Version 9.0.1) which fixed some of the bugs.**

2) **Purchased, downloaded, registered and installed Family Tree Maker 2019 (Version 24.2.0), downloaded (synced) my Ancestry Member Tree to it, and tested it.**

3) **Virtually Attended All Three Days at RootsTech 2023. Watched about 30 Class Sessions online. Downloaded many handouts (click on each session – if a handout is available, it is at the bottom of the page). Visited the virtual Expo Hall twice – mainly to review new products.**

Favorite classes included (no order):

- **Craig Miller - What's New at FamilySearch in 2023 (42 minutes)**
<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/whats-new-at-familysearch-in-2023?lang=eng>.
- **Cheri Hudson Passey - Finding the Living: Genealogy in Reverse (61 minutes)**
<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/finding-the-living-genealogy-in-reverse>.
- **Diahan Southard - Help! My Ancestors Were Related to Each Other (13 minutes)**
<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/help-my-ancestors-were-related-to-each-other>.
- **Julie Miller - Utilize Descendant Research to Discover Unknown Family Members (11 minutes)** <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/utilize-descendancy-research-to-discover-unknown-family-members>.
- **Beth Taylor -- Are You Your Own Brick Wall? Common Genealogical Mistakes and How to Overcome Them:** <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/are-you-your-own-brick-wall-common-genealogical-mistakes-and-how-to-overcome-them>.

- Diahn Southard - My Messy Complicated Birth Roots Story:
<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/my-messy-complicated-birth-roots-story>.
- Janet Hovorka, Diahn Southard, Crista Cowan - DO GENEALOGY Step-By-Step:
<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/do-genealogy-step-by-step>.
- Diahn Southard - Shared DNA Matches - the only DNA Tool You will Ever Need:
<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/shared-dna-matches-the-only-dna-tool-you-will-ever-need>
- Kelli Jo Bergheimer - DNA Misconceptions:
<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/dna-misconceptions>

All 2023 On-Demand classes will be available until RootsTech 2024 – see the list at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/search>.

2) Wrote three daily RootsTech Recap posts (plus six press releases):

- [Randy's Day 1 \(Thursday, 2 March\) #NotAtRootsTech2023](#);
- [Randy's Day 2 \(Friday, 3 March\) #NotAtRootsTech2023](#);
- [Randy's Day 3 \(Saturday, 4 March\) #NotAtRootsTech2023](#)

D) Group Questions and Challenges:

1) There were many comments from attendees about attending RootsTech virtually or in-person. Marshall and Colin attended in-person, and talked about meeting vendors, speakers, and other attendees. They attended some classes – mainly ones not shown virtually. They also visited the Expo Hall and saw some new and interesting exhibitors and their products.

2) Shirley, Dorene, Janet, Chuck, Nancy, Linda P., and Linda S. attended virtually and enjoyed the speakers and their presentations. The Keynote talks were inspirational. Some of the talks were humorous, most had useful information, and some were challenging. Everyone learned something.

3) Several attendees worked with the Relatives at RootsTech (available until 31 March) to help determine how they were related to other attendees. Marshall met several 9th cousins in-person and met a man who knew the vicar in an English town that is one of Marshall's ancestral homes.

4) Shirley noted that she has trouble getting to her family trees on RootsWeb WorldConnect.

4) If you have more ideas for research topics, brick wall challenges, etc., please contact Randy by email.

E) Useful Genealogy Blog Posts:

- 1) [Celebrating 40 Years of Family History Discoveries](#) by [Ancestry Corporate Blog](#).
- 2) [Daniel's Favorites: 10 MyHeritage Features Our Genealogy Expert Can't Live Without](#) by Daniel Horowitz on [MyHeritage Blog](#).
- 3) [Drew Smith's New Book Has Been Published](#) by George G. Morgan on [The Genealogy Guys Blog](#).
- 4) [How to Organize Your Family History: Paper Documents](#) by Elizabeth Swaney O'Neal on [Heart of the Family](#).
- 5) [Comparing the Five Major Newspaper Websites for Genealogy](#) by Sunny Jane Morton on [Family Tree Magazine](#).
- 6) [Genealogy Information in Church Records](#) by Kenneth Marks on [The Ancestor Hunt](#).
- 7) [My GPC Library, New Online Subscription Service: A Review](#) by Linda Stufflebean on [Empty Branches on the Family Tree](#).
- 8) [Are there really genealogy research brick walls?](#) by Paula Stuart-Warren on [Genealogy by Paula](#).
- 9) [Genealogy in 2023: Are you up to speed?](#) by James Tanner on [Genealogy's Star](#).
- 10) [50 Genealogy Items in Immigration Records](#) by Kenneth Marks on [The Ancestor Hunt](#).
- 11) [Four genealogy habits to create now](#) by Janine Adams on [Organize Your Family History](#).
- 12) [Are You Leveling Up Your Genealogy Research?](#) by Linda Stufflebean on [Empty Branches on the Family Tree](#).
- 13) [10 Best Strategies for Researching "Brick Wall" Ancestors](#) by Elizabeth Swaney O'Neal on [Heart of the Family](#).
- 14) [Finding and Using Digital Collections for Genealogy](#) by Gena Philibert-Ortega on [Legacy News](#).
- 15) [Happy Presidents Day 2023! 20 Are My Cousins](#) by Randy Seaver on [Genea-Musings](#).
- 16) [RootsTech 2023 – Truly United](#) by Roberta Estes on [DNAeXplained - Genetic Genealogy](#).

For more, read Randy's Best of the Genea-Blogs series at <https://www.geneamusings.com/search/label/BestofGeneaBlogs>.