

Past Tracks



A Publication of the Southern Arizona Genealogy Society

March 2026
Volume 32 Number 6

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Contributors

Mike Day
Becky McCreary
Lucy Redding
Mary Martin

Southern Arizona Genealogy Society 50th Anniversary Open House

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Recreation Center at La Posada
(directions on page 29)

The Southern Arizona Genealogy Society can be traced to the Green Valley Genealogical Society and further back to an ancestor organization founded 50 years ago. To celebrate this history, instead of our March meeting, we will be hosting an open house for the broader community to come and get to know us better. The idea is that each of our classes, activities and focus areas will have a display and a representative to talk about what we do and answer questions. We would love to attract new members from La Posada, Green Valley and the entire Southeast Arizona community. Please see the poster on page 3 with the details of when and where we will celebrate

I will be there to talk about the DNA SIG and the Past Tracks Newsletter. Other SIG leaders will also be there. We will have a historical display, a Library table and other attractions. There will be door prizes and refreshments.

Please invite your friends and neighbors. They can drop by anytime during the two hours of the open house. This is a low-effort way for the family-history-curious members of our community to get a taste for what we do and how SAGS can help them explore their family stories.

President's Message

March A month of Transition



MICHAEL HARDY DAY

March is the last month of winter and the transition to spring. The vernal equinox is March 20, 2026. That is the day the Sun crosses the ecliptic and the length of daylight and night time is the same. It marks the beginning of astronomical spring, although meteorologic spring usually begins on the first of March.

As a teenager in Southeast Missouri, I always took a walk along country roads on 17 March to see the first green plants emerging from their winter sleep. As an adult, I have usually celebrated St. Patrick's day with corned beef and cabbage, often with Irish Soda Bread and Irish Butter. I have only a trace of Irish ancestry, but my African American daughter-in-law has 3% Irish ancestry... in America we are all a little Irish. My Irish friend says that corned beef and cabbage is a New York invention. In Ireland, they ate bacon and cabbage, but when the Irish came to New York, bacon was expensive but beef brisket was more affordable, so a substitution was made.

In the last month, I have been using ChatGPT to extract family data from multiple city and county histories that were written in the late 19th and early 20th century and can be found in digital form on websites such as Internet Archive. These resources have their problems... mainly focusing on pioneers and the prominent families of the community that could afford to buy these books, but they can yield family details and stories found nowhere else. I will be making a presentation to the GVR forum on "Using AI in Genealogy" on 4 March at the Desert Hills Center.

Mary Martin and I will be making two genealogy presentations in March. The first is an introduction to Genealogy at a virtual meeting sponsored by AZPM on March 18 at 6:00pm. The second is a talk for the Green Valley Rotarians on March 26 about Genealogy Myths.



SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENEALOGY SOCIETY

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

OPEN HOUSE

~ THURSDAY, MARCH 19 ~

LAPOSADA REC CENTER

685 S. LAPOSADA CR.—BLDG. #37

1:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

- ♦ DISPLAYS ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION AND CLASSES
- ♦ GENEALOGY/RESEARCH/LIBRARY DISPLAYS

DOOR PRIZES

REFRESHMENTS

PUBLIC IS INVITED!!



Monthly SAGS Meeting
16 April 2026 1:00 - 3:00pm
Rec Center at La Posada
Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and In Person)

First Speaker: Dale R. Spaulding - crafting a family history narrative for adults AND how to spark a child's interest in family history.

<https://dalespaulding.com/childrensbooks/>

Second Speaker: Irene Little (Member) My Mother's Citizenship Journey

Table Activity: Test your Civil War Era Knowledge

Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars for an all day event given by AZ GAB-Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board- to be held on Saturday, **March 21, 2026**. This full day of on-line presentations is free with excellent speakers from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

See our SAGS website, < azsags.org > for information about registration.

Last sidewalk sale of season at Continental Plaza is March 25- March 28, 2026. Hours: 9 am-4 pm.

We need volunteers to help with the SAGS table.

Please contact Janis Slaughter ,

<publicity@azsags.org> if you can help for just a couple hours to tell the community about SAGS and genealogy.

Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Calling for Volunteers!

SAGS needs volunteers to serve as:

- Past Tracks Editor
- SAGS Board Vice President
- Director of Membership

Please refer to the website for description of responsibilities and contact a member of the SAGS board if you would like to help.

Our need for volunteers is particularly critical at this time as we approach our annual election of officers. If we don't have help, we may reduce SAGS activities, such as reducing the number of Past Tracks we publish, having fewer monthly meetings or eliminating the Seminar.



Education Opportunities



Please inform the facilitators/instructors if you will attend their session. Some classes require a Zoom link. The latest SIG information is always on the [SAGS website calendar](#). You may contact Pat Edwards at education@azsags.org for more information.

Let's Talk Genealogy (SIG)

First Weds of each month: Mar 4; Apr 1; May 6

9:30 - 11:30

In-person Meeting

Genealogy can be confusing. Sometimes, you just need to be with some friends to talk about a research problem. Maybe you want to share a breakthrough you have been working on for years. That's the purpose of "Let's Talk Genealogy"— friends talking about genealogy and family history. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. Meeting location: La Posada Pavilion, Building #670, 2nd Floor, Synergy Room.

SIG Leader: Bob Pitcher; rpitcher1040@gmail.com

Storytellers: Writing Family Stories

Second Tuesday of each Fall/Winter months: Mar 10; Apr 14; May 12

10 - noon

In-person Meeting

The Storytellers class for SAGS members meets on the second Tuesday of the month October through May at Friends in Deed. This is a class for those who want to write to preserve their personal stories and those of ancestors. **This is not a drop-in SIG; you must register in advance to join the class.** For more information, please contact the instructor, Becky McCreary: rebeccamccreary764@gmail.com

Family Tree Maker SIG (Updated Schedule!)

Third Monday every other month: Mar 16; May 18

10:00am - 12:00 noon

Zoom meeting

Explore the features of FTM with a hands-on approach! An email with the Zoom meeting link will be sent out approximately 5 days prior to the meeting to those on the group email list. To have your name added to the group list, send an email to webmgr@azsags.org.

SIG Leader: Karen Feeney

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Beginning Genealogy SIG

Fourth Thurs of each month: Mar 26; May 28

3:00 - 4:00

* Hybrid Meeting: Green Valley Genealogy Library, and Zoom.

This meeting is open to non-members & members. It is a great way to get started with researching your family tree. This group meets the 4th Thursday of the month. For more details, contact Jon Otto, Group Leader, at jonotto48@yahoo.com and check the SAGS Events Calendar for future meeting dates.

* In-Person Meeting location: Green Valley Genealogy Library, 665 S. Park Centre Ave., Green Valley.

DNA Special Interest Group

Fourth Friday of each month: Mar 27; Apr 24; May 22

9:30 - 11:30

In-person Meeting

LaPosada Recreation Center, 685 S. LaPosada Circle, Bldg. #37, Green Valley, AZ

This SIG will start with the basics through the experience of its leader, Mike Day. Mike is a former teacher and technologist who brings a decade of experience as a user of DNA testing services and a career of understanding technologies. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Mike Day at michaelhday@me.com



Green Valley - Sahuarita Genealogy Library at La Posada Becky McCreary

Reading between the lines

When was the last time you used an actual phone book? One with residential phone numbers and addresses and business yellow pages? Many of us began our genealogy research in the days before the Internet and cell phones — we searched for addresses and phone numbers of contacts in phone books, not online.

So, I was surprised when a thin, bright yellow phone book for Green Valley, Rio Rico, and Nogales was in our mailbox a few weeks ago. Holding it, I had a strange feeling — what do I do with this? It was an anomaly. Opening it, it had the familiar soft paper of the even-thinner-now printed pages that I remembered. In addition to the residential phone numbers of those who have land lines, there was a page of Arizona area codes and one with U.S. states and capitals. One page caught my eye because it was so unusual in a phone book. *How To Get Back Into Reading*.

It is a smart idea I thought, but who is going to see that page? The tips, with explanation, included: Start Light; Go Through the First Three Chapters Right Away; Do it Daily; Make a “To Read” List, and ended with Go On An Adventure: Pick Up a Book It did get me to thinking about writing family stories and how important it is to read books, not just look up answers, to gather more knowledge for our research.

Too often in our research we rush through the information to find just what we need to answer an immediate question. We close the book and move on to another question or problem and choose another book for another “quick fix.” But there could be so much more to flesh out the character of the person you are researching and writing about.

An example — if you are writing about an Irish ancestor who left Ireland during the Great Famine, 1845 - 1852, you might know when they immigrated and where they settled once they arrived here. That is information. Static information. What does it tell you *about* the immigrant? To bring the person to life, you need background to tell the conditions of their life in Ireland at that time and even the emigration. What was it like to see and smell a country’s livelihood decimated by a blight? Added to it the political structure and control. An excellent book in our library is *All Standing - The Remarkable Story of the Jeanie Johnson, The Legendary Irish Famine Ship* by Kathryn Mills. (941.5081 H2mk) Don’t let the cover explanation misguide you. Most of the book is about the famine; not the ship that brought them to America. This book is high on my list of favorite historical non-fiction.

Did your ancestors travel West by wagon train? To get a “feel” for their lives, look at our library catalog on the website or visit the library! We are fortunate to have 7 of the 11 published volumes of *Covered Wagon Women : Diaries & Letters from the Western Trails*, by Kenneth Holmes. The diaries cover the mid-1800s.

Maybe an ancestor lived in Mississippi? Author Marion Garrard Barnwell collected and published stories of the past and present in *A Place Called Mississippi: Collected Narratives*. It is only \$5.00 on the Library SALE cart.

Stop by the Library Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. - noon to find hundreds of books to help “put flesh on the bones” of those who came before you.



*For
your
Reading
Pleasure*

The stories and articles written for *Past Tracks* are the property of the author and may not be used in any form without the written permission of the author.

Breaking Down my Brick Wall

Michael Day

Last November, I made a presentation at the SAGS November 2025 Meeting about my brick wall... the identity of the parents of my 2nd great grandfather George S. Aldrich (1812-1898). I described several approaches and repeated failures. I am happy to report that progress has been made. It is perhaps too early to claim victory but I am now busy gathering the documentation that makes the case for my new 3rd Great Grandparents.

Last year, I ended my talk with a list of 29 potential Aldrich families, derived from the 1820 census. These families each lived in Ontario County, New York and had a male child under the age of 10. After the presentation, I was able to find family trees online that eliminated all but 11 of these families from contention. Recently, I went on [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and searched for genetic relatives that were consistent with a 4th cousin relationship. 4th cousins have common 3rd great grandparents, the mystery parents of George S. Aldrich. One of these genetic 4th cousins was a woman named Aldrich with whom I share 11 centi-Morgans of DNA. She has a family tree that includes David and Freelove Aldrich of Farmington Township, Ontario County from before 1820, including her 2nd great grandfather Anson Mason Aldrich born in 1820. Her tree is lightly documented, but listed a George Aldrich born in 1814 who could be my ancestor. I wrote to her and she responded to my question about documentary evidence for David and Freelove having a son named George. She pointed me to a county history written in 1888 by Lewis Cass Aldrich (*History of Henry and Fulton Counties Ohio*). In this digitized book are biographical sketches.

On page 643 is the following paragraph about Anson Aldrich:

Aldrich, Anson Mason, Gorham, Ritters p.o., was a son of **David and Freelove (Mason) Aldrich** who were born and married in Farmington, Ontario county, N. Y. They had a family of eight children, four sons and four daughters, four of whom are now living: **George**, Anson M. (born August 5, 1820), Harriet and Eliza. One son, William, enlisted from Illinois, served during the war and died at the close; Angeline (Mrs. James Baker), Laura (Mrs. Phillip Clapp) and Homer are deceased. David, the father, died in 1859, and his wife in Cayuga county, N. Y., in 1861. Anson Mason Aldrich was married in 1847, to Mary Holbrook, who was born in Wayne county, N. Y. They have had a family of three children : Huldah S., William B., Frank G-. Mrs. Aldrich was a daughter of Samuel and Martha Hollbrook, who died when Mary was an infant. She was brought up by Samuel Paul, of Sodus, N. Y. Mr. Aldrich settled in Gorham, coming there from Ontario county, N. Y., in 1854, and became engaged in manufacturing lumber. He erected a steam saw-mill in company with James Baker, and in 1856 purchased his present homestead of eighty acres for which he paid \$1,600, and which is now finely improved and well tilled.

I have found wills and land records relating to David and Freelove Aldrich in the Ontario County Archives from the 1820's and a document regarding Freelove's residence in the Ontario County Poorhouse from January 1834 to February 1834. David and Freelove died in different states (David in Michigan after living in Ohio and Freelove in Cayuga county, New York)

Continued from previous page

so something must have happened to split them up before 1834. By that time, George would have been 22 years old and probably moved to Monroe County, New York where he married Emily Hayes in the 1830s. Their first son Edwin was born in 1836.

Here is the logic of this finding:

David and Freelove Aldrich are one of the 11 Aldrich families identified from the 1820 census and subsequent inspection of family trees.

Ms. Aldrich, my genetic 4th cousin is a DNA relative, not descended from George S. Aldrich but from Anson Mason Aldrich born in 1820. If we do not share a common 3rd great grandfather, Ancestry would not have identified our relationship as 4th cousin with a 63% probability. A more distant relationship is possible but less likely.

The biography of Anson Mason Aldrich in *A History of Henry and Fulton Counties, Ohio* by Lewis Cass Aldrich in 1888 identifies David and Freelove Aldrich as his parents and that he had 7 siblings. One of them, named George was alive in 1888. My George S. died in Pioneer, Ohio in 1898. He would likely have been in touch with other members of his family in Ohio in the 1880s.

According to at least one other family tree on Ancestry, David Aldrich is descended from the first Aldrich in Massachusetts, George Aldrich from Darbyshire, England, the patriarch of the famous Aldrich family of Rhode Island.

Phineas Hardy (1702-1776) and Son

Michael Hardy Day

In my mother's family, Phineas (sometimes spelled Phinehas) Hardy was my 5th great Grandfather. He lived in Westborough, Worcester County, Massachusetts and is connected to two important events of New England history. His wife, Prudence Warren (1709-1764) is descended from Richard Warren (1680-1628) (my 9th great Grandfather) by way of the Church family. Richard Warren was on the Mayflower that landed in Massachusetts in 1620. He was not a pilgrim, but rather a representative of the investors that paid for the passage of the pilgrims. Richard Warren signed the Mayflower compact, he survived the first winter that took half the pilgrims and was present at the first Thanksgiving. His wife and daughters arrived on the ship Ann two years later and had lots of children. You can learn a lot about them if you visit the Plimouth Patuxet Museums near Plymouth, MA and talk to the re-enactors in the village.

Phineas Hardy was also a selectman of Westborough and the chair of a committee that supported Samuel Adams and the Boston Rebellion. The letter written by that committee is reproduced below from *The History of Westborough, Massachusetts* by Heman Packard DeForest, 1891, pps.158-160.

At a Legal meeting of ye Freeholders & other Inhabitants of ye Town of Westborough, on Fryday, ye First Day of Janu", 1773, the following Vote passed (viz.), that a Committy of 7 men be chosen To take into Consideration ye Rights as Stated by ye Committee of Correspondence of ye Town of Boston, & ye Infringements and Violation of ye same, & to make Report at the Adjournment of this meeting (viz.), on Monday ye 4 Instant. S"- Committy Taking into consideration ye State of ye Colonists, and of this province in particular, & a List of ye Infringements & Violations of those Rights, & a Letter of Correspondence Voted by ye Freeholders & other Inhabitants of ye Town of Boston att their late Publick Town meeting, & by their Committee of Correspondence Transmitted to this Town, — Having considered the Same, are of Opinion that the Rights of ye Colonists, & of this Province in perticuler, as men & as Subjects, are well Stated in s" List, as ye same are fully supported & warranted by ye Laws of God & Nature & ye Royal Charter of this province. Under ye present critical and alaruming Situation of our publick affairs There is a loud call to Every one to awake from Security, & in Earnest strive to secure his Liberty, lest he politically perish. That as ye Oppressions complained of are of ye utmost consequence, & if not confronted will soon Termanate in ye Ruin of this Province, — Especially ye Extorting our moneys from us without our consent by our Selves or our Representative, & applying it to Uses which we Judge is determental to this Province, — it Appears Necessary that Every

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member of this Community, Qualified to vote in Town affairs, should at all times have a proper sense of them, more especially as ye Futer happiness of his Family, as well as him self, Depends Greatly on their being removed. For no Bought ware tyranny is Exercised, Opposition becoms a duty. As our fathers could, so can we plead our Loyalty j we have been, and now are, Ready to spill our Dearest blood in Defence of our King, Religion, & Constitutional Laws. We cannot but look upon it a hard Trial, yea greater than we can bear, if we cannot [be said to] Give full proof of our Loyalty Otherwise than by sacrificing those Rights & Liberties which we prize beyond Life itself. Therefore ye Inhabitants of this Town do Declare it to the world that they are far from being Easy under ye many Infringements and Intolerable Violations of those Rights and priveleges ; first, we Do therefore Instruct our Representative, when in General Cort assembled, that he use his Influence in Soliciting his Excelancy, ye Governor of this province, that [he] Joyne unitedly with this province, that my Lord Dartmouth and our most Gracious Soverring may be fully acquainted with ye Real Uneasiness which so justly fills ye minds of us his most Loyal people.

2ly, our Representative is hereby instructed to unite in such measures as shall pleas ye Governor of this province & ye Judges of ye Superiour Corts of the province, upon a constitutional Basis, & make them a Sutable Provision for their support; and that Nothing more seems Needfully by us to be Don, but to Leve ye Instructions given to ye prudant Manigment of our Representative; Reposing our confidence in him, that he will exert himself at all times, with ye other members of s"^ Court, in such measures as may have a Tendency to ye obtaining a Redress of all such Grevences as are Justly complained of, & ye Procuring to this Loyal people ye peceful Enjoyments of their Just Rights.

{Signed)

Phineas Hardy, Chairman of ye Comtnity,
Capt. Benjⁿ Fay, Ebenⁿ Maynard,
Danⁿ Forbes, Abijⁿ Gale,
Hananiah Parker, Dr. James Hawes.

One of the historians of Westborough wrote that Phineas could have been hanged for this letter, however, by that time, the British could only control part of Boston. The western villages of Massachusetts were united in their hostility to the British military. Phineas was already old and died 3 years later.

His son, also named Phineas Hardy, was a member of the Westborough militia. When the British army marched on Lexington and Concord on 18 April 1775, he answered the call to resist the British Army in their pursuit of leaders of the rebellion and efforts to capture and destroy military supplies reportedly stored in Concord. I was pleased to find his name on a plaque in the Westborough Minuteman Park.

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Plaque of Westborough Minutemen (author's photo)

Phineas Hardy, Jr. married Sarah Wyman in 1779. He and Sarah had 7 children, mostly boys. Their youngest, John Loring Hardy born in 1794 in Northborough, Massachusetts moved to Windham, New Hampshire with his wife Betsy Barker. He and Betsy had 6 children. Their 3rd child, John Loring Hardy II was born in 1828 and made the move to Storm Lake, Iowa around 1880 with his wife Rebecca Witham. He and Rebecca had 6 children. Their son John Loring Hardy III was a farmer and blacksmith in Sioux City, Iowa where my grandfather, Evan Alan Hardy was born in 1890. Evan went to Iowa State College and had a distinguished career in Agricultural Engineering.

AI (ChadGPT5) Summary of Phineas Hardy passages from DeForest 1891

- The book treats **Phineas Hardy** as a **notable Westborough resident** around the Revolutionary period—specifically stating that his name **led the signers** of a town reply to a **Committee of Correspondence**.
- Under the spelling **Phinehas Hardy**, he is recorded as holding **important town leadership roles** for multiple years: **Moderator** (1765, 1767, 1769) and **Selectman** (1758, 1763, 1765, 1770).
- A **Phineas Hardy, Jr.** appears on the town's **minute-company roll** prepared in 1775, placing a Hardy (likely a related individual) directly in the local mobilization at the opening of the Revolutionary War.

Three Families: the European Genealogy of San Sebastián, Jalisco, Mexico

Mary Martin

We learned a bit of unexpected genealogy on a recent trip to the remote mining town of San Sebastián, Jalisco, Mexico. Our visit to San Sebastián was a day trip from Puerto Vallarta.

This mining town sits in a narrow valley and has been the center of commerce for more than 300 gold and silver mines over the past 400 years. It was founded in 1605 by the Spanish. By the late 1700s, three European families—the Encarnación, the Aguirre and the Sánchez families-- not only dominated the government and the commerce of the town, but they also formed a pact to intermarry to continue to control the town. This endogeneity and the logic behind it is the same found in European royal families for hundreds of years.

The Museo Doña Conchita Encarnación (The Lady Conchita Encarnación Museum) of San Sebastian is housed in the Encarnación house which was built in 1774. Although the house has seen better days, part of it is now a museum devoted to the history of the town and these three families; family members still live in other parts of the house.

A member of the Encarnación (and Aguirre and Sánchez) family led our tour of the museum. Although there were no handouts and our Spanish is limited, her recitation of the family tree was filled with stories that were along the lines of “this man is my grandfather, but he is also my uncle and my cousin several ways; and this woman is my grandmother, but she is also my cousin and my aunt in several other ways.”

At another stop on our tour, we viewed the photo below of a European family that ran a coffee plantation near San Sebastián in the late 1800s. In the photo, the patriarch wears a large mustache. At the time, men of European descent wore such large mustaches simply because they could grow them. Most indigenous people of Mexico (and the United States) could not grow facial hair that could be styled as a handle-bar mustache. By displaying their facial hair, men of European descent sought to convey their status as people of European, and not Indigenous, ancestry.

In the photo, the two younger girls have matching dresses. These are school uniforms! They wore these dresses in the photo to demonstrate their status as girls with education. In those times, only the very wealthy could afford to send daughters to school. This family could afford to send two daughters to school!

Continued on next page



Figure 1 A few of the family photos from the Doña Conchita Encarnación Museum



Figure 2 Family photograph in the entrance of the coffee plantation operated by the Sánchez Alvarado family near San Sebastián since the 1500s; note the facial hair and the girls in school uniforms, both signs of status at the time. Although I did not notice it at the time, some family members may have been “photoshopped” in!

Southern Arizona Genealogy Society 2025-2026

Officers

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Director of Publicity: Janis Slaughter

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Green Valley-Sahuarita Genealogy Library

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Green Valley, AZ

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PLEASE NOTE

The Southern Arizona Genealogical Society (SAGS) is not affiliated with Green Valley Recreation (GVR) or with any religious organization. We are a non-profit educational organization, certified under IRC sec. 501(c) (3)

2025 - 2026 SAGS Membership Application

May be completed at azsags.org

Date _____

New/Renewal Individual (\$35)_____

Student (ages 12-21) (\$20)_____

Family (2 Adults, same address) (\$45)_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

*Email _____

2nd Name (if Family) _____

2nd *Email _____

2nd Phone _____

Return with payment to:

**Southern Arizona Genealogy Society
PO Box 1009
Green Valley, AZ 85622**

or drop off at the Genealogy Library

* To receive the SAGS newsletter, you must include an email address

Map and Directions to La Posada Rec Center



Map of La Posada Campus with Recreation Center at Western Edge. Entrance to Campus is off Continental on the East side.

La Posada, 350 E. Morningside Road, Green Valley, AZ 85614