

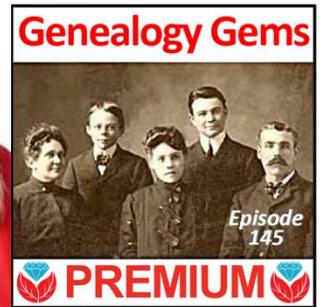
Genealogy Gems Premium Podcast

Episode #145

by Lisa Louise Cooke

In this episode:

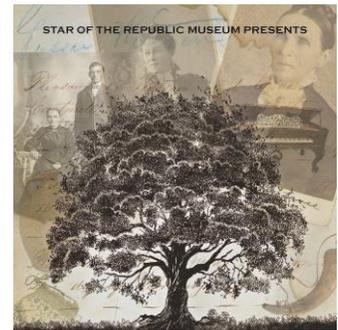
- A new Premium member shares her family disaster stories (TWO in the same family!) in response to Sunny Morton's Johnstown Flood story.
- The Genealogy Gems Book Club interview with international best-selling novelist Annie Barrows, talking about *The Truth According to Us*, and how we all must make sense of what's true in the past.
- Your DNA guide Diahn Southard shares a great case study about mixing autosomal and mtDNA information to solve family mysteries.
- Lisa introduces a museum curator who has done some great genealogical sleuthing to tell the stories of Texan family heirlooms now on display.
- Lisa weaves in her own tech tips, research strategies and web resources that will help you be a more thorough and efficient genealogist, including Google (and more) for researching major disasters online and how to create your own Google Books cloud library.



IN THE NEWS: BEHIND THE SCENES AT MUSEUM EXHIBIT

[Heirloom Genealogy exhibit](#) at the Star of the Republic Museum, Washington, Texas

Q&A with Shawn Carlson, Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Star of the Republic Museum



3 ARTIFACTS AND THEIR STORIES

A QUILT: One of the artifacts I researched was a red-on-white appliqué quilt. It was made in 1805 in Vermont and donated by the quilt-maker's 3x great granddaughter who lived in Houston.

It should have been easy to figure out the lineage by the inscription on the quilt—but it wasn't. There were two Cynthia Tuckers and two Pearl Browns in the family and one quilt owner had been married a couple of times and used a nickname. So it took a bit of sorting out. The research was all done using census data,



but it all came back to the inscription on the quilt for final verification.

A CHILD'S SUIT: Another item in our collection is a small buckskin suit that belonged to a little boy named Edward Clark Boylan. He was born in New Orleans in 1840 and died three years later near Galveston, probably from yellow fever. We knew his birth and death dates from his sister's descendant who donated the suit, but not much else. I found some cryptic notes in our files taken by a previous curator and was able to trace Edward to Captain James Boylan who was captain of the ship Brutus during the Texas Revolution.



I found a passenger list from 1839 with Captain Boylan, his wife, and daughter traveling from Puerto Rico to New York:

Mrs. Boylan would have been pregnant with Edward during that voyage. The year that Edward died, his father was mentioned frequently in the newspapers as he led a flotilla of ships out of Campeche. He was probably not present when little Edward died.”

M. P. O'Brien, Stationer, No. 1 Nassau-street, corner of Wall.

DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK—PORT OF NEW-YORK.

I, *Milton Mercier* do solemnly, sincerely, and truly *swear* that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the Duties of New-York, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Brig James M. Cott.* whereof I am Master, from *Guayama P.R.*

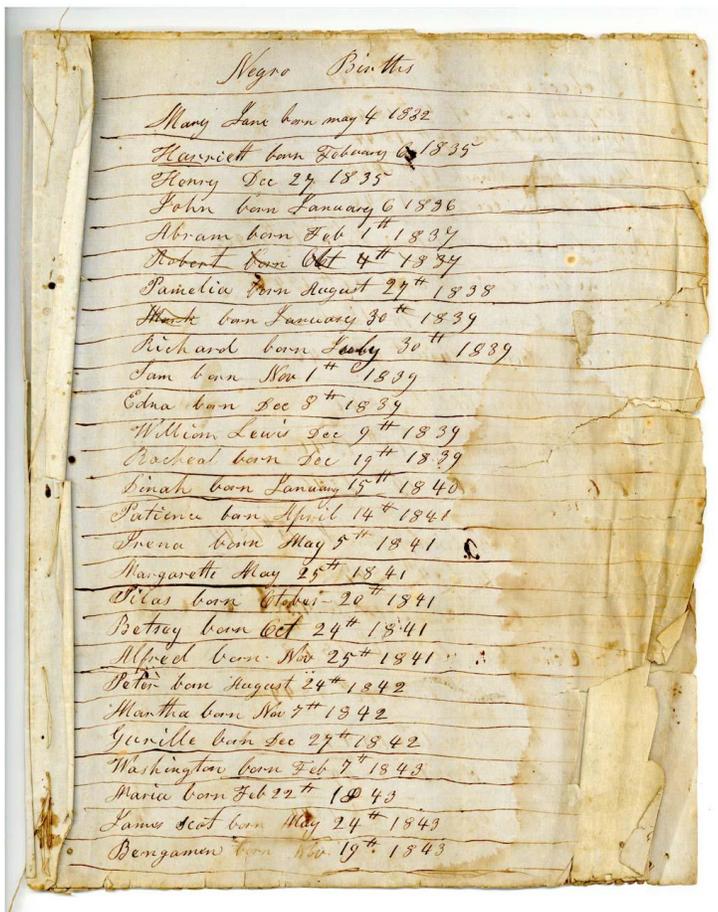
Shewn to the *7 Nov 39* 18 *39*.

before me, *J. P. O'Brien*

Mag or Manifest of all the Passengers taken on board the *Brig James M. Cott.* whereof *Milton Mercier* is Master, from *Guayama* burthen *170 1/2* tons. *Milton Mercier*

NAMES	AGE		SEX.	OCCUPATION.	The country to which they severally belong.	The country in which they intend to become inhabitants.	Died on the voyage.
	Years.	Months.					
<i>James M. Boylan</i>	<i>38</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Mariner</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>Texas</i>	
<i>J. M. Boylan</i>	<i>25</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>do</i>		
<i>Lucretia Boylan</i>	<i>7</i>		<i>do</i>		<i>do</i>		
<i>Steph. Miller</i>	<i>25</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Planter</i>	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	
<i>John Brown</i>	<i>26</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Merchant</i>	<i>New York</i>	<i>United States</i>	
<i>M. P. O'Brien</i>	<i>15</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>	
<i>J. P. O'Brien</i>	<i>11</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>	
<i>John Smith</i>	<i>40</i>		<i>Female</i>	<i>Doct.</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>	

LIST OF SLAVE BIRTHS: (See image on following page) “One of the most interesting items we’ve received in recent years is a slave birth record that was part of a family collection. The donor’s ancestors were early settlers of Washington County. The slave record was interesting because it listed birth dates from 1832 to 18 65. Out of curiosity, I tried tracking some of the slaves to see if I could find living descendants. I started with the 1870 census—looking for African Americans with the surname of the plantation owner and first names that matched the slaves in the birth record. I was able to follow through on one of the names to find a living descendant. She and her family came to visit the museum and see the birth record of their ancestor. While the family was visiting, during last year’s Texas Independence Day celebration, the donor of the slave record also visited the museum and the two families were able to meet.”



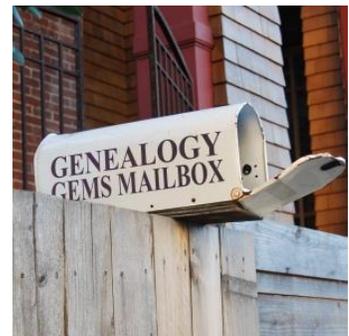
ADVICE FROM A CURATOR:
“Learn about the artifacts you have and match them to their owners. There is plenty of information online that will help you identify and date artifacts. Knowing the date of an artifact helps you determine who had it in the past.”

MAILBOX: DISASTERS IN NATALIE'S FAMILY

[Premium Podcast episode 143](#)

[Natalie's article in the Bugle](#) on her relative in the Eastland disaster (story starts on page 5)

Blog post: [Chilling historical video footage found](#)



View of Eastland taken from the fire tug in the river, showing the hull resting on its side on the river bottom. Wikimedia Commons image. [Click to view.](#)

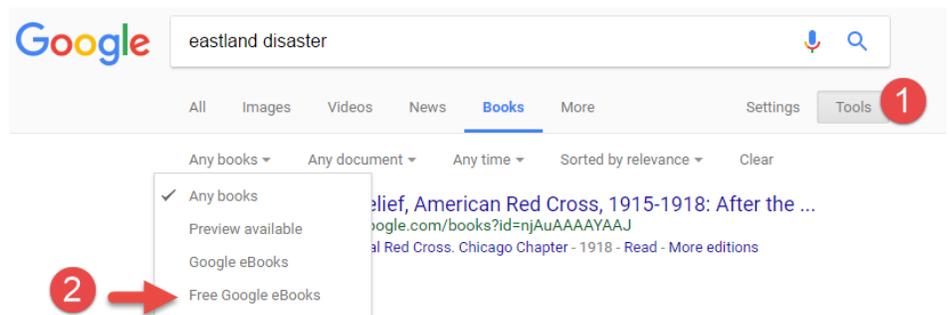
Lisa's suggestions for researching family disasters:

1. Start with Google searches.
 - a. [Eastland Disaster Historical Society website](#)
2. Dig deeper with [Google Books](#)
 - a. [American Red Cross final report on disaster relief aid](#)
 - b. Search for free books only: see step-by-step below
3. Set up Google Alerts so you don't miss new information as it comes online
 - a. [How to set up Google Alerts](#)
 - b. [How to get the most out of your Google Alerts for genealogy](#)
4. Search YouTube separately
 - a. [Chicago Tribune video documentary](#) `<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/F-Sso-6z7Y8" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>`
 - b. [Eastland Disaster Historical Society animated re-creation of disaster](#) `<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/b4jc79KMwNQ" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>`
5. [Gendisasters.com](#)

HOW TO SEARCH GOOGLE BOOKS FOR FREE BOOKS ONLY

After performing a search in [Google Books](#):

1. Click Tools under the search box.
2. Under the "Any books" dropdown menu, choose Free Google eBooks.



[Watch a free video tutorial](#) on finding free e-books on Google

`<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/c_XZ3us-BZs" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>`

Periodical Source Citation Index (PERSI) for searching for articles in historical and genealogical magazines and journals: [Click here](#) to learn more about it

TECH TIP: CREATE A CLOUD LIBRARY ON GOOGLE BOOKS

1. Open your web browser and log in to your Google account.
2. Go to play.google.com/books.
3. Click Upload files.
4. Select files from your computer folders or drag them into the box. (Click on My Drive to select files from Google Drive.)
You can choose epub documents or

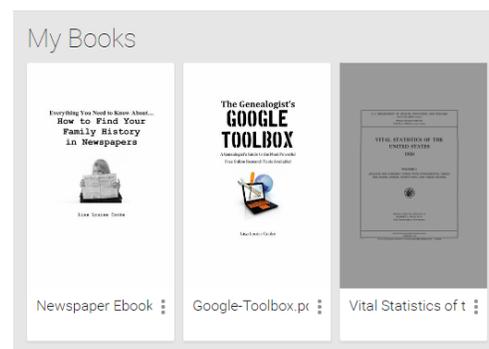
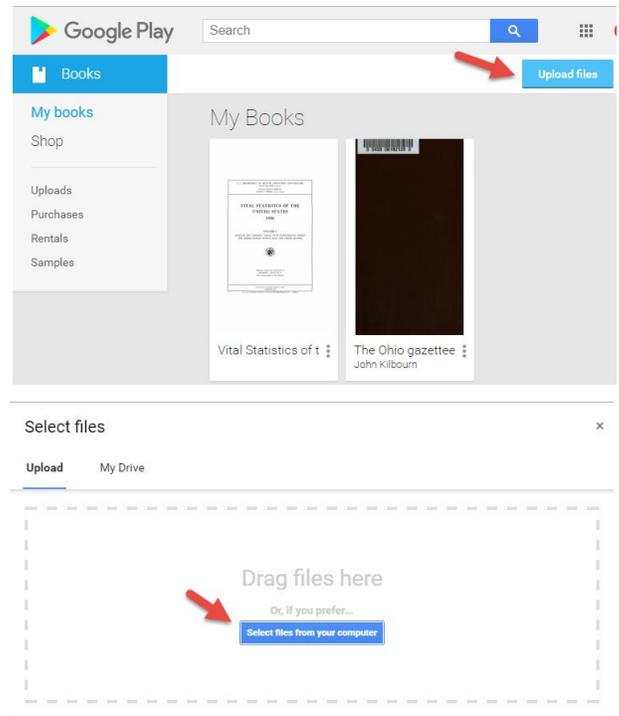
PDFs.

Good to know:

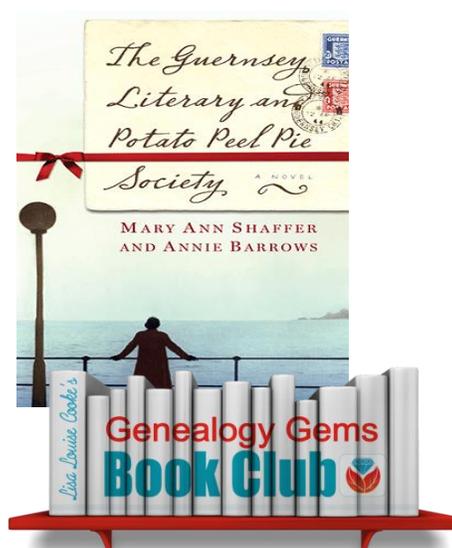
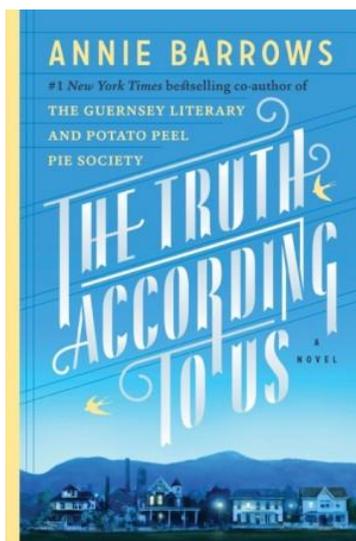
- It may take a minute or two to upload an entire book, and you may or may not get a pretty picture of the cover.
- You can't yet search within books you upload, just with books you purchase from Google. You can't tag them or organize them into libraries yet.
- You can upload 1000 books into your Google Books cloud-based library. These are only visible to you with your login; you're not sharing them with the world.

Available as e-books in the Genealogy Gems store:

- [The Genealogist's Google Toolbox](#)
- [Mobile Genealogy: How to Use Your Tablet and Smartphone for Family History Research](#)
- [How to Find Your Family History in Newspapers](#)
- [Genealogy Gems Ultimate Research Strategies](#)
- [Evernote for Windows for Genealogists](#) Quick Guide
- [Evernote for Mac for Genealogists](#) Quick Guide
- [MyHeritage.com Cheat Sheet](#)
- **NEW** Irish Guides (**get BOTH and SAVE**)
 - [Preparing for Success in Irish Records Research](#)
 - [Irish Civil Registration and Church Records](#)
- [10 DNA Guides by Diahan Southard](#), available individually or in bundles



GENEALOGY GEMS BOOK CLUB INTERVIEW: ANNIE BARROWS



- [The Truth According to Us](#)
- [The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society](#)
- Visit the [Genealogy Gems Book Club webpage](#) to see more books we love!
- [Everyone Brave is Forgiven](#) by Chris Cleave, a former Genealogy Gems Book Club featured title, is now available in paperback at a very reasonable price.

DNA GEM FROM DIAHAN SOUTHARD

My family recently visited the Jelly Belly Factory in northern California. Of course at the end of the tour they funnel you into their gift shop where you feel compelled to buy jelly beans and other sundry treats. My favorite part of the big box we bought were the recipes on the side to turn the already delicious variety of flavors into even more palatable options.



This got me thinking about DNA, of course!

Specifically, I was thinking about the power of combining multiple test types to get a better picture of your overall genealogical relationship to someone else.

If you will recall, there are three kinds of DNA tests available for genealogists: autosomal DNA, mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), and Y chromosome DNA (YDNA). Much of the focus these days is on how to use the autosomal DNA in our family history research. I guess this is because the autosomal DNA covers both sides of your family tree, so it is seen as a catchall for our family history. While it is a very powerful tool for

our research, it can also be a bit overwhelming to try to determine how you are related to someone else.

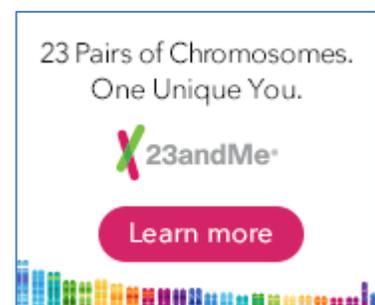
Let's look at an example from my own family history. My mom matched with Tom at 23andMe. Their predicted genealogical relationship, based on how much DNA they shared, was second cousins. To begin we need to understand which ancestor could be shared by people who are genetic second cousins. To figure it out, you can count backwards, like this: people who share parents are siblings, sharing grandparents makes you first cousins, while sharing great-grandparents makes you second cousins. So if my mom and Tom are true second cousins (meaning there aren't any of those once-removed situations going on- but that's a subject for another time), then we should be able to find their common ancestor among their great-grandparents. Each of us has eight great-grandparents.

Because we can't usually narrow down shared DNA to a single person, but rather to an ancestral couple, we are really just looking at four possible ancestral couple connections between my mom and Tom. My mom doesn't have any known ancestors, as she was adopted, so we can only evaluate Tom's line. Tom was kind enough to share his pedigree chart with us, and he had all four of his couples listed. But how do we know which one is the shared couple with my mom?

Now, for those of you without an adoption, you will have some other clues to help you figure out which of the four (or eight, if you are looking at a third cousin, or 16 if you are looking at a fourth cousin) ancestral couples is shared between you and your match. Start by looking for shared surnames. If that comes up short, evaluate each couple by location. If you see an ancestral couple who is in a similar location to your line, then that couple becomes your most likely connecting point. What then? Do genealogy!! Find out everything you can about that couple and their descendants to see if you can connect that line to your own.

However in my mom's case, we didn't have any surnames or locations to narrow down which ancestral couple was the connection point between our line and Tom's. But even if we had locations, that may not have helped as Tom is very homogenous! All of his ancestors were from the same place! But we did have one very important clue: the mitochondrial DNA, which is partially evaluated by 23andMe. Remember mtDNA traces a direct maternal line. So my mom's mtDNA is the same as her mom's, which is the same as her mom's etc.

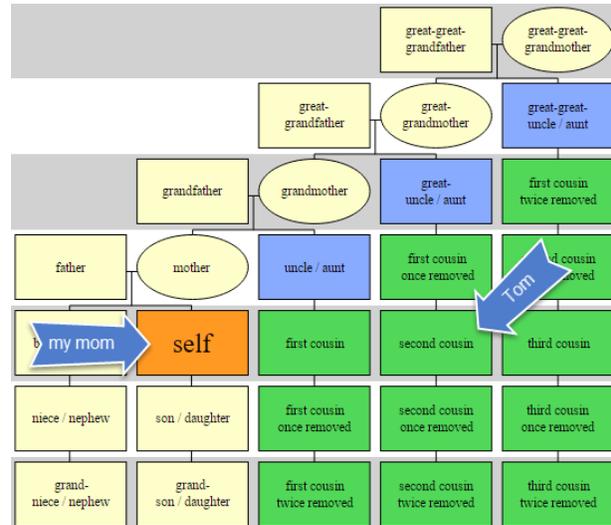
At [23andMe](https://www.23andme.com) they don't test the full mitochondrial DNA sequence (FMS) like they do at Family Tree DNA. For family



history purposes, you really want the FMS to help you narrow down your maternal line connection to others. But 23andMe does provide your haplogroup, or deep ancestral group. These groups are named with a letter/number combination. My mom is W1.

We noticed that Tom is also W1.

This meant that my mom and Tom share a direct maternal line – or put another way, Tom’s mother’s mother’s mother was the same as my mom’s mother’s mother’s mother. That means that there is only one couple out of the four possible couples that could connect my mom to Tom: his direct maternal line ancestor Marianna Huck, and her husband Michael Wetzstien.



Now you can only perform this wondrous feat if you and your match have both tested at 23andMe, or have both taken the mtDNA test at Family Tree DNA.

Just as a Popcorn Jelly Belly plus two Blueberry Jelly Bellies makes a blueberry muffin, combining your autosomal DNA test results with your mtDNA test results (or YDNA for that matter) can yield some interesting connections that just might break down that family history brick wall.

Guides to help you do these tests:

- [Autosomal DNA for the Genealogist](#)
- [Mitochondrial DNA for the Genealogist](#)
- [Next Steps: Working with your Autosomal DNA Matches](#)



PROFILE AMERICA: [Voter Registration](#)

PRODUCTION CREDITS

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