

The GSOC Newsletter

The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida

June 2020



GSOC President's Corner

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The FWB Library is open! We may not be able to meet, but we have access to all the new books GSOC has obtained over the last two years. We have received books from the Valparaiso Library, Pensacola Genealogical Library, donations, and from an estate. We have also purchased several books over the last 3 years.

The books that were on the back wall are now on the shelves behind the states section. The Library offered to move them to give us more room! There are ALOT of Military references, Scots/Irish and Immigrant books. We need to spread these books out, but they are useable. There are also a few 'how to' and surname books. Many of the books are not available online. Clues to your brick walls may be hidden in our own library!

I went down two weeks ago and shelved a cart of books from our latest acquisition. So, don your mask, and check out our books! The library requires masks, is taking temperatures and limiting the number of people in the building. They are open 10-4.



When you go to the library, please reshelve the books. They are in state order, but there is no order below that. If you do not put them back on the shelf, they call me to do it - so please reshelve!

Hint: Photograph the title page and publisher page of every book you look at, that way you know what you have already checked (think research log). When you get home, create a task in your software; list the books you checked and what you checked for.

If you find evidence, photograph the pages. Put the pictures of the book title, publisher info and evidence all in one document and print that to a PDF to store in your files.

Unlike a lot of researchers, I no longer list the date and what library I was at. So many books I got data from in the 80's are no longer in the library where I found it, so I make sure I have the title, author and publisher info. I use World Cat to see where the book is available now. I find that many of my old sources are ONLY available in Salt Lake City now. When I used them, they were in my county library. Just think of all the books we just received from the Valparaiso Library. I found a lot of evidence in Valparaiso. Now some of those books are in Ft. Walton Beach.

I was bored one day and decided to try my hand at creating a video. It is bad...but my cousins enjoyed it. So, if you are new to DNA, or just want to see another bad video, check out "Working with Your DNA Matches I" on my website – "letsdogenealogy.com". The video is in the gallery. To make it big, click on the four corners icon at the bottom right to enter full screen mode.

Future of GSOC

As a few of you know, Gerry and I have bought a place in North Fort Myers. We have an offer on the house here and hope to close by mid-July.

In normal times, I would be stepping down, but these times are not normal, and with agreement from the board, I will continue as President for the rest of the year. Most of what I do, can be done from anywhere. If the library opens, Mike or one of the other board members will lead the meeting, the same as if I were on vacation.

When Mike and I agreed to serve as President and Vice President in 2019, we agreed to one year. We were 'on a roll' with new members and programs, so agreed to continue in 2020. This is now the chance for the next leaders to come forward for GSOC. We will be looking for 2021 officers in the fall, but please, if you are willing to serve, come forward now.



Crestview Program

The Crestview Library conference room is open. Jodie Biles worked hard to put together a workshop on African American research for June 20th. The library even offered to record a video so that more patrons could see the program. Unfortunately, no one attended.



**I AM NOT ADDICTED
TO GENEALOGY**



**I CAN QUIT AS
SOON AS I FINISH
ONE MORE ANCESTOR**

Webinars (Free)/Website:

Familytreewebinar:

(Free through July 1, 2020):

https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=1227

<https://familytreewebinars.com/index.php>

Website to find British records:

<https://www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk/>

The Genealogist's Guide to Y-DNA Testing for Genetic Genealogy *by David Vance*

David Vance is able to explain Y-DNA testing in simple, sometime humorous terms that I could actually understand! If you are interested in T-DNA, consider this book.

<https://www.amazon.com/Genealogists-Guide-Testing-Genetic-Genealogy-ebook/dp/B085HFBFD5>

"DNA testing for clues to one's ancestry is perhaps the most exciting new development to hit genealogy since the invention of the census. Y-DNA testing can explore a paternal line back hundreds of thousands of years, but until now its use for genealogy has largely been masked behind complex and scientific test results.

In this first book for genealogists devoted solely to Y-DNA testing, David Vance explains this powerful tool for genealogy in easy-to-follow chapters. The book is divided into three sections: Section One introduces Y-DNA testing for those with no DNA testing experience at all; Section Two explains Y-DNA fundamentals for those just getting started or wanting to know what their test results mean to their genealogy; and Section Three touches lightly on the genetics and the science underlying this fascinating new field.

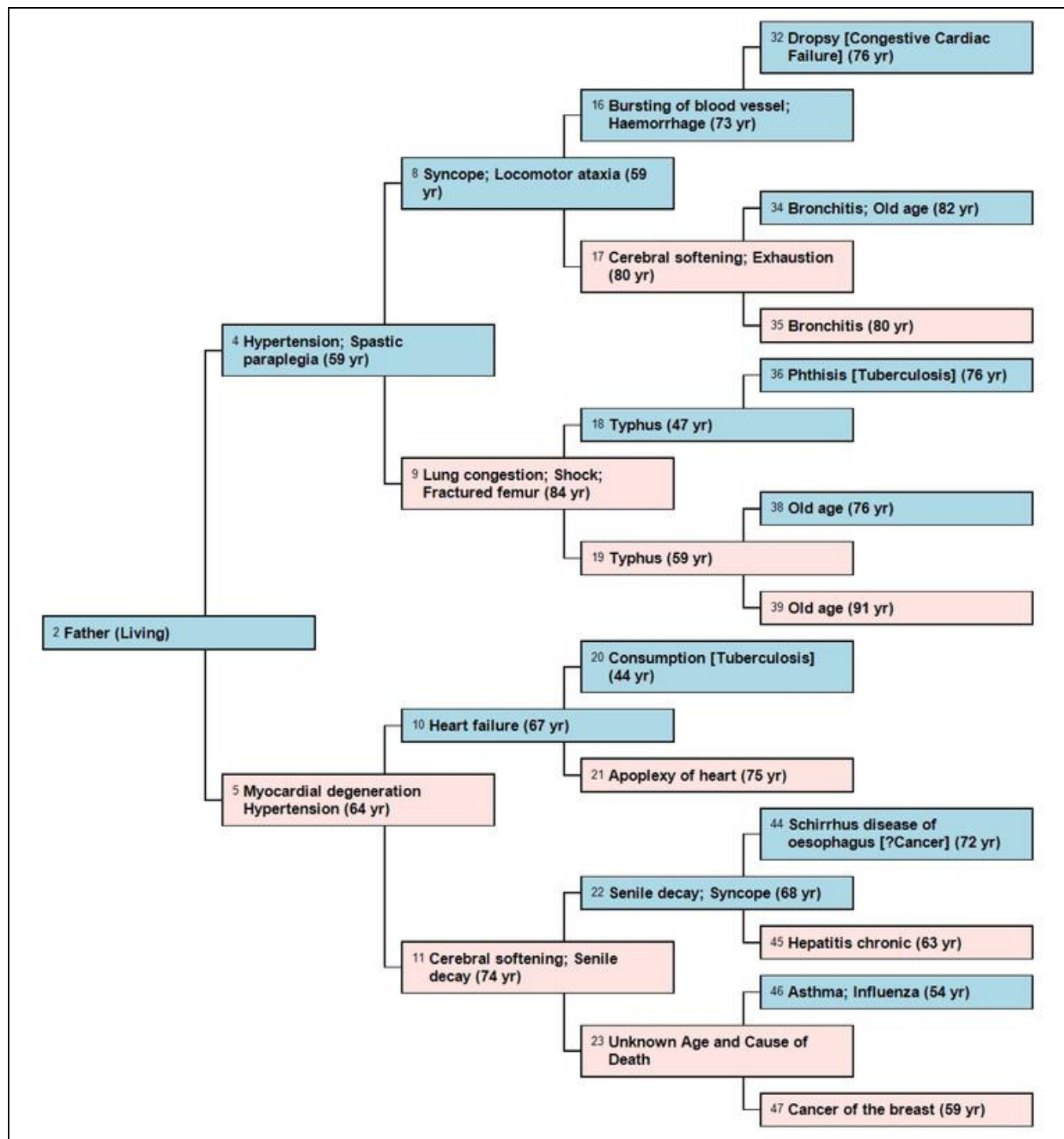
Written with humor and a genealogist's experience, The Genealogist's Guide to Y-DNA Testing for Genetic Genealogy is sure to become a well-thumbed reference for every genealogist looking to break through the mysteries of Y-DNA!" - Amazon.com.

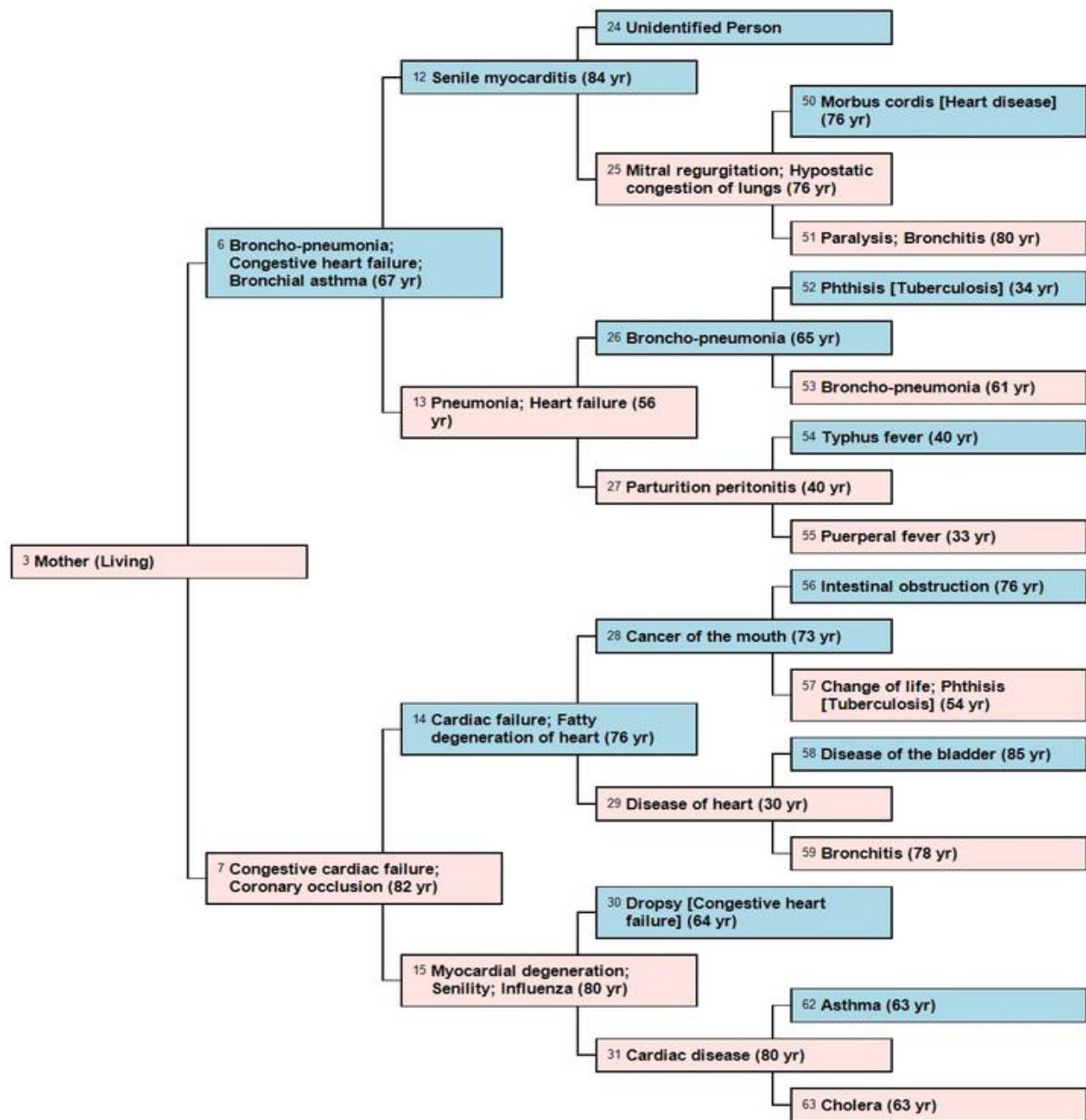
Cause of Death Pedigree Charts

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The cause of death of my ancestors has always been of particular interest to me, especially the antiquated terms used — for example, dropsy, phthisis, consumption. Although I've had these summarized in lists, seeing them in pedigree chart format is much more revealing.

My paternal and maternal charts through to my 3rd great grandparents are shown in Figures 1 and 2. I created these in Family Tree Maker, but instead of inserting the name, I inserted the cause of death (with my own interpretation in square brackets) and the age of death in parentheses, and formatted the chart to include Ahnentafel Numbers (with me, #1, as the root person).





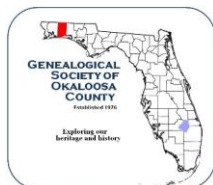
The cause of death of many of my ancestors in the 1800's was frequently due to conditions that are rarely issues today. Many died of infectious diseases, which are usually easily treated today with antibiotics or were transmitted mainly due to poor housing and cramped conditions. Several died due to complications of childbirth (sometimes along with the new baby), mainly due to lack of antenatal care and unhygienic practices.

Despite their difficult lives, it was reassuring to see that of the 60 ancestors where I know the cause of death that 33 (47.1%) lived to at least 70 years, 17 (28.3%) lived to at least 80 years, and 2 (3.3%) lived to over 90 years. Not all of these 60 ancestors are included in Figures 1 and 2. My oldest ancestor, **Sarah Dixon** (~1755-1849), my 4th great grandmother (who was also my most distant direct maternal ancestor), died of old age aged 94-95 years – and on the same day as her daughter, my 3rd great grandmother, **Elizabeth Hetherington** (1786-1849), who died of cholera.

Of my 7 (11.7%) relatives with known causes of death who died before they reached 50 years, 4 were due to infectious diseases (2 due to tuberculosis and 2 due to typhus fever – Note: typhus is *not* the same as typhoid) and 2 were related to childbirth. Infectious diseases (tuberculosis, typhus, influenza, and cholera) were the cause of death of 11 (18.3%) of my ancestors and cancer in 3 (5.0%) of them.

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