

## Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

## A note from the President...

For the past few weeks I have been thinking about 2023 and wondering about a resolution. My only successful resolution, ever, was about a decade ago. My thought was to make a habit of saying "please" and "thank you". I still am not sure why it worked out for me but my current theory is that since it generated a positive response from most everyone I felt rewarded and therefore more likely to continue on. Most of you animal lovers will recognize this training technique and also know that it takes time and effort but the results are so satisfying.

Genealogy and family history follow this path as well, even though the positive resolution and early results are often punctuated with long periods of finding nothing or hitting a brick wall or any number of negative endings. How then can we move



forward and want to continue on to discover satisfactory answers to our genealogical dilemmas? The answers are countless and very dependent on the individual doing the work but this person (me or you) may simply not see a possible or new way forward. This is where our society of genealogists can shine.

What are your brick walls and stopping points? Will you write them down and bring them to the meeting? We can brainstorm and maybe, just maybe, give you a new path forward on that problem or just gently agree that it might be time to move onto a different person and path. Shall we give this idea a try in 2023? I say yes and will certainly bring a problem but I hope that others will try this as well. So, let us RESOLVE to discover new paths to answer old questions and CONTINUE to explore new ideas whenever possible. And, of course, have fun, camaraderie and good food as we go forward. — Judy Engelhart

## RootsTech 2023 Registration is Open & Free for Virtual Attendance

RootsTech 2023—March 2-4—will be like no other RootsTech, combining both an in-person and virtual experience. There truly is something for everyone at Roots-Tech, the world's largest genealogy conference. It will offer hundreds of online classes available either in-person in Salt Lake City, Utah, or virtually.

Featured keynote speakers include Azumah Nelson—a Ghanaian boxing legend who will share a message about the importance of identity, heritage, and determination in the pursuit of dreams; Diego Torres, an Argentinian singer, songwriter, producer, musician and actor; Maysoon Zayid, a comedian, actress, writer and disability advocate; Thais Pacholek, a Brazilian journalist, actress and television personality, who has led the fight for respectful childhood education; Matthew Modine, American film and television actor; Steve Rockwood, president and CEO of FamilySearch International; and a number of other food stars and personalities.

Also on the schedule are many genealogy noteables such as D. Joshua Taylor, president of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society; Judy G. Russell, the Legal Genealogist; Blaine Bettinger, author, intellectual property lawyer and genealogist; Lisa Louise Cook, producer of *The Genealogy Gems Podcast* and YouTube channel; Diahan Southard, author and founder of *Your DNA Guide*; Dr. Wanda Wyporska, chief executive of the Society of Genealogists; and David Allen Lambert, chief genealogist with the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

RootsTech 2023 will offer 200-plus on-demand class sessions, chat support and online research consultations, a virtual expo hall, and the popular "Connect with Cousins" using relatives at RootsTech and messaging. And sessions will be available to view and review throughout this year for those registered.

Registration is open at https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/registration/

Oct-Nov-Dec 2022

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Vol. 19 Issue 4

#### Upcoming Events:

10 Jan 2023 CGHS Holiday Celebration (Postponed from December) "Celebrating A New Year" LCL Cottonwood Room 5:30-8:30 p.m.

10 Jan 2023 "My Heritage's Latest Photo Innovations" Free Legacy Family Tree Webinar 12:00 p.m. MST

11 Jan 2023 "Proving Identity: Telling Two Same-Named People Apart" Free Legacy Family Tree <u>Webinar</u> 6:00 p.m. MST

19 Jan 2023 "Basics of Jewish American Genealogy" Register for this free webinar at <u>American Ancestors</u>; 1-2 p.m. MST

2-4 March 2023 "RootsTech2023" Virtual & In Person Salt Lake City Registration open at: https://www.familysearch.org /en/

Note: In order to enhance their classes, prepare for RootsTech, and create a better viewing experience, the Family History Center will not be holding any classes or webinars from December 2022 through March 2023. For past recordings, see the Family Search list of classes.



### Clay & Modern Technology Help Archaeologist Reconstruct a Stone-Age Swedish Woman

Information in this article was written by Nina Strochlic in **National Geographic** on 26 Feb 2022.

For 4,000 years, a woman lay undisturbed in a stone-lined grave amid the forests of northeastern Sweden. She had likely followed animal migrations through the trees and along the Indalsälven river. When she died in her thirties of an unknown cause, she was buried with a boy, perhaps her son, estimated to have been around seven years old. Fast forward to 2020, when Öscar Nilsson, an archaeologist who meticulously uses clay to reconstruct faces from thousands of years ago, was approached by curators from the Västernorrlands Museum in Sweden. The museum had in its possession the two skeletons, excavated a century ago from a hamlet known as Lagmansören.

The Stone Age pair were the oldest skeletons found in that region of Sweden, where harsh conditions don't lend themselves to preservation. The museum was building an exhibit tracing 9,500 years of human habitation in Sweden and wanted to show visitors the oldest face from the north—the woman from Lagmansören. But what would her face look like?

Over the past 20 years, Nilsson has become a pioneer of reconstructive archaeology, bringing more than a hundred long-deceased human ancestors to life. Building these faces gives him, and the millions who view his reconstructions in museums around the world, a portal to the past. He begins his work by layering more than a dozen muscles made of clay onto a 3D printed replica of the recovered skull. Then he places small pegs to indicate tissue depth, which varies based on the gender, age, weight, and ethnicity of the individual. These pegs hold up a layer of plasticine clay skin. Many features can be accurately predicted using the record left in bone. When Nilsson went about building the Stone Age woman's face, he considered what he already knew: She was just under five feet—short even for her time. She had protruding teeth, which shaped her mouth in a distinctive way. Her nose was a bit asymmetric; from her profile he could tell it was turned upwards. Her eyes were set low in the face, and the mandible bone—the lower jaw—was guite masculine. She'd possessed an interesting blend of male and female features, he thought. Since he started crafting these faces, 3D printing and DNA technology have advanced, allowing him to flesh out a new level of detail. DNA pulled from well-



Nillson studied historic migration patterns to determine that the woman likely had light skin and dark hair. She is clothed in tanned animal skins made with stone age techniques.

preserved bones can reveal the color of hair, skin, and eyes—three pieces of the reconstruction that were previously speculative. Now, they are among the most reliable. But in the case of the woman from Lagmansören, no readable DNA could be retrieved. Instead, Nilsson analyzed historic migration patterns. She lived at a time when farmers had relatively recently entered Scandinavia and begun mixing with hunter-gatherer groups. He determined she'd likely been light skinned with dark hair. After that process, which he says has been rigorously tested, Nilsson departs the realm of scientific probability and enters phase two: his imagination. Unlike gender, skin tone, and teeth, an expression cannot be preserved in bone. "I need to bring the face alive, so you actually get the impression there's someone looking at you within those eyes," he says. But he refrains from getting too creative—portraying a strong feeling like anger, for instance, is strictly forbidden, he says. What he can do is weave together emotions to give the sense that the face is in motion, and therefore, alive. The finished face is re-cast in a skintone silicone and Nilsson begins to add the details. When he thought about the woman's eyes, he considered the boy she'd been buried with. The boy's

skeleton had been too damaged to inform a recreation, but Nilsson wanted to include him. He imagined the boy was her son, and she was watching him as he ran ahead of her. They were likely hunter gatherers, traveling behind the animal migrations. Perhaps, he thought, they were on the way to winter camp. "She's not threatened, she feels at home, and she looks at this boy," Nilsson says. "It's a safe feeling, but also almost a bit cocky. Even though she's small, you wouldn't want to mess with her."

In past reconstructions, he's known his job was done well when a museum visitor leans toward the face to examine its details and then jumps back, uncomfortable with the closeness. It often happens when the two pairs of eyes—living and reconstructed—are around two feet apart.

"That's showing a collision in the brain," he says. "The logical part of the brain tells you this is fake, but the emotional experience is that someone is actually there." This reconstruction took Nilsson 350 hours to complete. "DNA and 3D printing are cool," Nilsson says. "But it's always [about] this emotional bond I and many people—experience when we look upon a reconstructed face. It's that connection that comes first."

#### Police Found Idaho Murder Suspect Using Public Genealogy Database

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#### (BREAKING NEWS from The Washington Examiner, 31 Dec 2022)

Police reportedly identified the suspect in the fatal stabbings of four Idaho students through genealogical DNA evidence. A law enforcement source familiar with the matter told CNN that police found unknown DNA at the scene of the killings. However, the DNA didn't match anything within the police system, so police utilized genealogical techniques. The unknown DNA was run through a public database, which identified relatives of the suspect. "Subsequent investigative work" done by police led to graduate student Bryan Kohberger, 28, being identified and arrested in Pennsylvania early Friday, 30 Dec. The suspect was a PhD student in criminal justice/criminology at Washington State University - not far from the University of Idaho - and had previously graduated from DeSales University in Allentown, according to the AP. Police tracked the suspect across country and surveilled the parent's house. Kohberger's lawyer has reported that he is innocent. Several high-profile cases have been solved by law enforcement using this method, which is up to 90% effective.

## Virginia to Host the 2023 National Genealogical Society's Annual Family History Conference

Mark your calendars for 31 May-3 June 2023 in Richmond, Virginia. For the National Genealogical Society 2023 Family History Conference, "Deep Roots ofa Nation." The conference gives genealogists and



family historians of all levels the insights necessary to take their research and

writing to new heights and make exciting new discoveries. Learn the latest from the best speakers in the genealogy community. Discover what genealogy companies are bringing to market. Gain insights from genealogy societies and organizations throughout the United States. Attend your choice of more than 110 lectures and special luncheons. Have fun at the SLAM! Idea Showcase reception and Expo Hall opening. Celebrate Virginia's deep roots with a special Friday evening event sponsored by the Virginia Genealogical Society. Designed for family history researchers at all levels — beginner, intermediate, and advanced — the conference lectures feature:

- -records and repositories in Virginia and neighboring states
- —resources and techniques for researching African American, Indigenous Peoples, Jewish, and other ethnic groups
- —local and federal government records including military, tax, and land records
- -the use of DNA to help determine relationships
- -methods to analyze and evaluate evidence
- —and much more.

## Maryland and Montana Become First States to Restrict Genetic Genealogy Searches

This article was written by Michele Taylor, editor-in-chief of **Forensic Magazine**, 30 June 2021.

Maryland and Montana have become the first U.S. states to pass laws that make it tougher for law enforcement to access and search consumer DNA databases for forensic genetic genealogy, or investigative genetic genealogy, purpos-es. Maryland senator Charles Sydnor (D) has been targeting investigative genetic genealogy since February 2019. One of his previous bills died, but House Bill 240 passed both chambers and Maryland governor Larry Hogan (R) did not sign the bill, but allowed it to become law. Effective Oct. 1, 2021, law enforcement in Maryland can use consumer genealogy websites, such as GEDmatch, 23and Me and Ancestry, only for the serious violent crimes of murder, rape, felony sexual offense or a public safety/national security criminal act.

Under the new law, law enforcement must seek written approval from a third-party non-suspect for collection of DNA and subsequent searching. If a third-party does not consent to providing a reference sample, law enforcement may not collect a covert sample. That changes slightly for a putative perpetrator. The law requires investigators seeking covert collection to have prior authorization from the court, which is predicated on establishing a justifiable risk to the investi-gation. If authorized, law enforcement must collect the sample without "intrusive surveillance and invasions of privacy," and efforts must cease after 6 unsuccessful months. Covertly collected DNA can only be subjected to an STR 9 (short tandem repeat) test to see if it matches the STR DNA profile from the original forensic sample. Any covertly collected DNA sample that does not match the target STR DNA profile cannot be uploaded to local, state or federal DNA databases. Additionally, genetic genealogists working on the investigation team will not be allowed to keep any records or materials pertaining to the case. The law also opens the door to forensic genetic genealogy for those already convicted of a crime. Under the bill, a defendant charged or convicted of a violent crime can file an affidavit for forensic genetic genealogy services for postconviction DNA testing. The court must first decide whether a genetic analysis of biological material from the crime scene or from human remains has the scientific potential to produce exculpatory or mitigating evidence. HB240 has now been endorsed by both the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the Maryland Sheriffs' Assn.

Under Montana's Bill, which was signed into law by the Montana governor, a search warrant is required for law enforcement to obtain search results from a consumer DNA database, unless the consumer previously waived their right to privacy. Additionally, investigators may not obtain familial DNA search results or search results from partial matching from the DNA identification index or a consumer DNA database without a search warrant issued by the court on a finding of probable cause. These two bills are the first in the nation to specifically target forensic genetic genealogy. 23andMe & Ancestry say they will only share information with law enforcement with a valid court order or search warrant.

## Revisiting an Old Friend: The USGenWeb Project—Online & Free Since 1996

This article was written by Donna K. Fitzgerald, in the Crossville Chronicle, Crossville, Tennessee, 5 Oct 2022.

This column is part of a series focused on family history research on a shoestring. Today I introduce you to another absolutely free resource for genealogy, The USGenWeb Project. [www.usgenweb.org].

#### What is the USGenWeb Project?

The USGenWeb Project was born in 1996, the brainchild of a group of genealogists who wanted to create totally free online resources for genealogical research. It is a volunteer-driven organization. Each website under the USGen-Web umbrella is individually created and maintained. In addition, there are special projects and even a USGenWeb Kidz Project featuring children's history and genealogy, an excellent resource for teachers.

There is a large cadre of volunteers at the state and county levels. <u>USGen-Web.org</u> has been named one of Family Tree Magazine's Best Websites since 2000 and is a recommended resource by the National Genealogical Society and various online genealogical newsletters and organizations.

The USGenWeb Project has thousands of sites and millions of web pages. It is used by several million visitors annually. Daily, hundreds of pages of new information, photos and transcribed records are added by thousands of dedicated volunteers.

The query boards make USGenWeb one of the largest single-interest groups on the internet, with more than 1 million participants.

The state and county sites may be hosted on different servers and contain a lot of information or just a little. You never know what unique things you'll discover, so just dive right in and check out your areas of interest.

#### What You Can Find

State and county sites might contain but are not limited to the following resources: historical society contributions, biographies, digital maps, family group sheets, cemetery transcriptions, message boards, transcribed census records, tombstones, deed records, local courthouse and government offices information, surnames of others researching similar family names, possible ancestor photos, and/or historical landscape photos.

In addition, you may find unique records about your ancestor that cannot be found elsewhere, such as transcriptions of privately held family Bibles.

#### How to Use It

There is no registration needed. All USGenWeb state and county sites are freely accessible to researchers without a login. You do not have to provide any personally identifiable information. Once you access the site, select a state from the drop-down menu at the top of the page. From there, you will find state-level details and links to each county site.

Pro tip: Bookmark the state and county sites in your browser that you frequently research for quick return access.

#### Crowdsourcing

The USGenWeb is always looking for new information to add from those willing to lend a hand. Please consider submitting your information, as it may help others. According to their website, these are the types of records needed:

-Cemeteries. Transcriptions, tombstone photos and historical markers. -Census records. Federal & state, free, slave, mortality and agriculture. -Church records. Membership lists, baptisms and other.

-Court records. County, federal, civil, probate, deeds and guardianship.

*—Family histories.* Biographies, obits and family photos.

*—Land records.* Land transfers, grants, surveyor's records and deeds.

*—Military records*. Muster rolls, service records, pension and rosters.

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## Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Believes Everyone Should Learn About Their Ancestral Roots to Learn About Yourself

This article was printed in **The Week** magazine, of 4 Nov 2022.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. believes everyone should learn about their ancestral roots, said Robin Rose Parker in The Washington Post. The Harvard historian and host of PBS's Finding Your Roots, 72, remembers having his own DNA analyzed , which revealed that he's "one of the relatively few African Americans who on his mother's side isnot descended from a Black woman, but from a white woman." That ancestor, who was Irish or English, was probably an indentured servant who had a baby a couple hundred years agowith a black slave—likely in Maryland, where Gates' family has its roots.

-Newspaper articles. Obits, marriage, local events and birth announcements.

-Occupational. Mining, accidents and railroad reports, and newsletters. -Tax records. Property, state, federal and local.

-Vital records. Births, deaths, marriages and divorces.

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According to Linda K. Lewis, national coordinator for the USGenWeb Project, if you are interested in supporting free genealogical research, USGenWeb will welcome you to join their community of volunteers.

Volunteer opportunities include contributing original content, answering researcher questions, helping find local resources, or maintaining a local website.

To volunteer, simply contact the state coordinator for your area of interest. You'll find their information on the state website. In addition, if you come across a site that indicates it is adoptable, you may volunteer to maintain that site.

Tracing your family's history, he believes, can be both fascinating and revealing. The way that you celebrate Christmas, the foods that you eat, the way that you worship, even the way that you use language: these things have been inherited, invisibly, from our ancestors," he says. "So the more you learn about those ancestors, the more you learn about yourself."

Beyond personal revelations, DNA ancestry analysis reveals that "we are all hybrids," Gates says. "At a time when the country is driven by political discord and xenophobia and ethnic scapegoating," learning about ancestry "is a healing mechanism. It is a way to remind Americans that we are all in this together."

## **Genealogy News You Can Use...**

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#### My Heritage Offers Sorting Abilities for Shared DNA Matches

My Heritage recently announced the addition of sorting abilities for Shared DNA Matches. It's one of several new improvements they are making to DNA Matches. Shared DNA Matches are a valuable tool for users interested in figuring out how they're related to a specific DNA match. The new sorting functionality enables you to sort your Shared DNA Matches based on the proximity of their relationship to you or to the DNA Match you're reviewing, and gain new insights. Sorting of Shared DNA Matches is unique to MyHeritage, and this new addition has already received praise from experts in the genealogy community. Diahan Southard of Your DNA Guide says, "SWEET!! This is one of my requested features and will make a big difference", and Janna Helshtein from DNA at Eye Level says, "This is an amazing feature, I love it!"

Previously, the Review DNA Match page showed a list of Shared DNA Matches that was pre-sorted based on the sum of DNA shared between you (or the person whose DNA kit you manage) and the specific match you're reviewing. Now, in addition to viewing Shared DNA Matches according to the total amount of shared DNA, you can also sort the list of shared matches based on the amount of DNA they share with you, or the amount of DNA they share with the match you're reviewing.

To check out the new sorting for Shared DNA Matches, visit the DNA Matches page, find the card of the match you want to review, and click "Review DNA Match." Scroll down the page to the section on Shared DNA Matches. You'll notice a new sorting icon on the top right. By default, Shared DNA Matches are sorted in descending order, according to the sum of DNA they share with you and the match you're currently reviewing. Click the icon to open the menu

and select how you wish to sort the list of Shared DNA Matches. If you select "Shared DNA with you," the shared matches will be sorted in descending order, based on the amount of the DNA they share with the kit you're currently working on. If you are viewing the shared matches for a DNA kit that you manage for someone else, this option will indicate that person's name in the dropdown. Likewise, if you select "Shared DNA with," the matches will be sorted in descending order according to the amount of the DNA they share with the DNA Match you're currently reviewing.

#### Usage

Shared DNA Matches is a premium feature that requires a site subscription on MyHeritage (Premium, PremiumPlus, or Complete). If you uploaded your raw DNA data to MyHeritage from another service, you can pay a one-time unlock fee of \$29 to access Shared DNA Matches, Ethnicity Estimates, Genetic Groups, and other advanced tools for DNA results such as the Chromosome Browser, Theory of Family Relativity<sup>™</sup>, and AutoClusters. Learn more about their subscription plans <u>here</u>.

#### Summary

Sorting Shared DNA Matches based on the new sorting options available allows you to pinpoint more closely how you're related to a DNA Match, by reviewing the list of Shared DNA Matches in different ways. They hope users find this useful and are able to gain new insights in their genealogy research.

#### 'Moo-ove over!"

A man walked into a photo shop and asked if they could touch up old photos. When told "yes," he handed over a pic-ture and said, "Those are my greatgrandfather's legs behind that milk cow. We have no pictures of great grandfa-

ther. Can you remove the cow so we can see what he looked like?' —From Family Tree Magazine

## Host Henry Louis Gates Jr. Previews New Season of "Finding Your Roots" on PBS

Despite the fast-moving digital world, it's one's family past that continues to pique interest. Every family seemingly has that one member who takes if upon themselves to go down the genealogy rabbit hole becoming an online sleuth or simply using 23andMe's DNA testing lab for ancestry roots. It's also this interest in our personal history that draws viewers to "Finding Your Roots," hosted by Henry Lewis Gates, Jr., which debuts its ninth season Jan. 3, 2023 on PBS.

Using genealogical detective work and cutting-edge DNA analysis revealing buried secrets and inspiring stories, the fascinating series of "Finding Your Roots" features influential actors, athletes and celebrities learning about their detailed family trees.

This season's list of guests includes actors Carol Burnett, Jamie Chung, Brian Cox, Billy Crudup, Claire Danes, Jeff Daniels, Viola Davis, David Duchovny, Richard Kind, Joe Manganiello, Tamera Mowry, Edward Norton, Julia Roberts and Danny Trejo, as well as comedian Niecy Nash. There's also pop star Cyndi Lauper, athlete and sportscaster Tony Gonzalez, journalists Jim Acosta and Van Jones, activist Angela Y. Davis and statesman Jeh Johnson.

Facebook Users Can Help to Decipher Place Names, Local Questions

For anybody with a Facebook profile, consider using place-based Facebook groups to help interpret bad handwriting, faded images, or any other type of hard-to-figureout writing or name. They always have members who live in the area who will recognize a misspelled place name, a cemetery name, etc. Many U.S. counties have their own Groups, plus there are ones for states, regions, etc. It's amazing the kind of help you can get just by asking and uploading the image that you can't figure out. For a huge list, regularly updated, with more than 13,000 FB pages and groups listed (with table of contents), go to <u>https://</u> socialmediagenealogy.com/



#### Cheyenne **Genealogical & Historical Society**

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Website: www.cghswyoming.org

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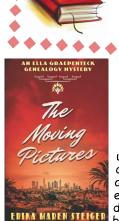
To contact CGHS or to submit newsletter suggestions and/or articles, send a note to wendywy04@aol.com

# Follow us on the Web at

and on Facebook at <u>https://</u> .facebook.com/pages/Cho orical-Society alogical-Hist

The Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society welcomes any new members and continues to wish all of its members healthy, productive genealogical research adventures! We encourage all members to pay their CGHS dues, participate in our programs, get assistance at the library, and invite friends & new members to join us!





## \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* "Check This Out" Family history-related fiction & nonfiction book reviews by CGHS members & others

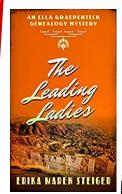
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<u>The Moving Pictures: An Ella Graepenteck</u> Genealogy Mystery—Book One By Erika Maren Steiger (c. 2021, 224 pages; Eiger & Co., New York, NY-fiction, mystery)

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Los Angeles genealogist Ella Graepenteck is used to surprises. Clients lie, and old documents can reveal uncomfortable information. Stumbling across a dead body, though, is a more surprising experience than usual, and it leads Ella into a dangerous web of secrets and suspicions going

back many generations. To find her way out, she will need all her professional skills, the help of eccentric relatives, and the trust of a detective with intriguing hazel eyes. It starts with a new client's fairly ordinary request. She wants to know who her grandmother's father was. Ella makes a routine ap-pointment to look at some 1920s movie memorabilia and lands in the middle of a murder investigation. It seems like a random piece of bad luck, so she tries to keep her focus on her work, but connections start to appear between the murder and Ella's research. The lead investigator considers Ella's discoveries mostly a nuisance, or an attempt to deflect suspicion from herself, but his partner, Detective Cormac Roth, is more open to her ideas. He starts to think she may actually have a knack for investigative work. Between his deductive skills and hers, they might be able to solve this perplexing crime. It could even be the beginning of a long and productive partnership, if her problematic family doesn't get in the way.



<u>The Leading Ladies: An Ella Graepenteck</u> <u>Genealogy Mystery—Book Two</u> By Erika Maren Steiger (c. 2022, 242 pages;

Eiger & Co., New York, NY—fiction, mystery)

When Detective Cormac Roth calls, asking for help solving a murder high in the Hollywood Hills, genealogist Ella Graepenteck is happy to oblige, and not just because she remembers his intriguing hazel eyes. Consulting for the police could be an exciting new branch of her career. Unfortunately, Detective Rafael Vasquez, Roth's partner and mentor, doubts the value of Ella's participation, but the best way for her to prove

him wrong is to crack this puzzling case. Ella's initial task is to clear up confusion about the victim's extended family and their ties to the luxurious house in which he was killed. She quickly unearths a family secret, which leads her to another one, and another. Her work keeps expanding, uncovering multiple potential mo-tives and throwing suspicion in different directions. Her well-honed research skills and her sometimes dangerous curiosity, along with some insight from her own eccentric relatives, guide Ella through a maze of information. If she can uncover the layers of deception in the history of this complicated family, she might find the pivotal clue that will solve the crime and show both detectives that she is indispensable —Book Reviews by Amazon & GoodReads

(Maren Steiger was born in San Francisco and has lived in a variety of places, including six U.S. states, Thailand, and North Macedonia, but she spent most of her childhood in Los Angeles and considers it her hometown. Her favorite thing has always been anything to do with books, and her second favorite thing is genealogy. She is delighted to be able to spend much of her time doing her favorite things in Southern California, her favorite part of the world.)