



Engaging History

BY JANET BERNICE JEYS

GRANT BACIOCCO WAS ABOUT TO get engaged when he decided that a handed-down family ring wasn't enough.

"My mother gave me this ring, and I knew it had a history, but I wasn't familiar with the owner's name or anything else about it," says Grant. So what did he do? "I turned to Ancestry.com."

Grant learned about the original owner of the ring, Marshall Holt, a famous chemist who taught on the Island of Java, ran cattle ranches in New Mexico and Colorado, and lived in Holtwood mansion in San Rafael, California.

Sure, it's an interesting personal story, but is it enough to build a marriage and a radio drama around?

For Grant, one of the brains—and talents—behind *The Radio Adventures of Dr. Floyd*, the Internet's longest-running podcast, you'd better believe it.

The show, which takes inspiration from old radio adventures, history, and the 1960s cartoons that creators Grant and Doug Price grew up with, revolves around time travel as the evil Dr. Steve and his assistant, Fidget, run through the centuries stealing precious artifacts to sell on eBay. Dr. Floyd and his

protégé, Dr. Grant (yes, Baciocco), do what they can to stop the bad guys, and in the process listeners get to learn about historic events and famous people, including George Washington, Meriwether Lewis, Cleopatra, and even Marshall Holt.

To build an episode around the family ring, Grant and Doug sent Dr. Steve back in time to 1909 to steal the ring. But, by the end of the episode, Dr. Grant had proposed marriage using the real family heirloom and featuring girlfriend Suzie Chiasson's response on air.

"Learning about history and teaching it to kids has been so much fun," says Grant, "but this episode was obviously very special." You can hear it in its entirety at <www.doctorfloyd.com/category/time-machine/1900s/1909-marshall-holt>.

And for listeners, the series is special, too. Kids learn about history by experiencing entertainment like their grandparents and great-grandparents might have—through stories and words. All in all, it's an engaging take on family and history. And it's fun for everyone.

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