



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XLII No. 3 September - 2026

September Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 10 am

Fall Gathering: Mix & Mingle

***In Person* at Hap Magee Park in Danville, CA**



Beverly Lane Presents: History of Hap Magee Ranch Park

Beverly will be giving us a History of Hap Magee Ranch Park at our Mix and Mingle event this month.

Beverly Lane is a local historian, published author, and curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. She helped

found two regional history groups: the Contra Costa History Alliance and the Tri-Valley History Council. Lane served as the Mayor of Danville and the Director in Central Contra Costa for the East Bay Regional Park District from 1994 to 2022. She is also a member of the Anza Trail Foundation which promotes the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and the Friends of San Ramon Creek.

Hap Magee Ranch Park: 1025 La Gonda Way, Danville

Directions from the South: Take I-680 N to Exit 40, El Cerro Blvd in Danville, turn left on to El Cerro Blvd, then right on to La Gonda Way and continue to Hap Magee Ranch Park.

Directions from the North: Take I-680 S to Exit 40, El Pintado Road in Danville, turn right on to El Pintado Road, then right on to La Gonda Way and continue to Hap Magee Ranch Park.





President's Message

By Scott Hefner



Those of us who are genealogy enthusiasts often feel a little puzzled that other friends and family don't share the same enthusiasm about discovering our ancestors and building our family trees. We often bemoan to each other that when we start to talk about it or share an exciting (to us) discovery with others, the response is a yawn or glazed-over eyes. It's hard for us to accept but it is clear that not everyone finds this process as fascinating as we do. So it's always exciting when we find a friend or a family member who expresses excitement and interest in starting the journey to learn more about their family history. It brings back memories of when we started that journey and can serve to rekindle our own enthusiasm. I was fortunate in the last month to experience this feeling twice.

The first situation involved a friend I hadn't seen in years who I met for a cup of coffee. Among many things we discussed, I mentioned my involvement with the local genealogy society. She perked up and told me her daughter had developed a serious interest in researching her family, recently acquiring a license for Ancestry and getting started. My friend and her daughter have interesting and complex backgrounds involving Native American, Armenian, Japanese, and a number of other ethnic groups. While I'm busy with my own family research, I found it intriguing to get involved in trying to help her discover her stories. I offered to answer questions and provide advice and guidance to her and her daughter if they wanted it. She was grateful and I'm hoping she takes me up on the offer.

The second person was a first cousin that was very close to my youngest sister but whom I hadn't seen in several years. She too had recently started a subscription to Ancestry and had taken some baby steps on her journey. She told me she had another cousin who had done a lot of work on her mother's side so she knew quite a bit about that branch of her family, but she said she knew almost nothing about her father's side and was eager to get started. Of

course, I offered to share with her my tree and what I had learned through my own research. I've shared bits and pieces so far and she's been very excited. I also discovered that she had had extensive conversations with my grandfather and my grandmother's sister, and while some of the details were fuzzy gave me stories and color that I wouldn't have had otherwise. She also helped me solve a mystery that I had wondered about for many years involving a close friend of her dad's that I heard mentioned many times when I was young but really knew very little about. With her information I was able to find census and property records, newspaper stories, and obituaries for this friend and his family, and satisfy my long-held curiosity.

As we all know, genealogy can be a lonely pursuit, and it can start to feel like no one else cares but you. It is reassuring and satisfying to discover that there are others who do care and who share your enthusiasm, and I would encourage you to continue reaching out. ■

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

CONTACT INFORMATION	8
DANVILLE FSC HOURS	15
EDUCATION	10
EVENTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES	13
MARK YOUR CALENDAR	8
NOTES ON JULY MEETING	4
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	9
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS	14
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS	3

Irish/Scottish SIG Welcomes English & Welsh Descendants!

Were your ancestors “just plain English” or from Wales? You’re invited to join the Irish/Scottish SIG meetings, where we recognize that there is more to the British Isles than Scottish clans or Irish townlands. Contact Leslie Stewart at lwvleslie@gmail.com to be put on our SIG email list. We’d also like to hear from you if you have been interested in this group but had a schedule conflict – we are considering changing the timing of the meeting so now is the time to speak up!■

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

**Holly Sauer
Ana & Ed Streegan
Richard Caula
Keith Carsten**

Free Genealogy Research Assistance

Provided by the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society (SRVGS) in partnership with the Danville Library on **Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, 10am-1pm.**

- **Get Help With:** Starting/Researching/Documenting your Family Tree using online genealogy tools
- **Bring:** What you know (names, dates, places, documents) & Your questions!
- **Location:** Danville Library, 400 Front Street, Danville, CA. (925) 314-3750.

Genealogy docents from SRVGS (srvgensoc.org) will be available to help you take your research further.

Sept



Bill George is on the mend...

Many of you may be aware that Bill George, our webmaster extraordinaire, coordinator of our new website/upgrade and leader of 2 of our SIGs, Family Search and AI, and tech-support-at-large suffered a devastating injury in July that necessitated a hip replacement. He is evidently well on the way to recovery after spending a stint in rehab and is now home using some assistance with walking.

As you know Bill volunteers with all of the above tasks, but in order to keep up with his PT, keep the new website on schedule and avoid stressing over the SIGs, he will not be holding the Family Search SIG and AI in September. In addition he is going to cease holding the AI SIG going forward. Bill says, “...as developments are exploding. It’s kind of like an industrial revolution and discoveries for the most part are outside the scope of Genealogy. It is very easy to access AI SIG handouts at <https://aisig/ancestor.org>.”

We wish you well, Bill, and thank you for all you do for our Society!

Notes on July 14 Zoom Meeting “Researching Revolutionary-Era Ancestors at the Allen County Public Library”

Allison DePrey Singleton Genealogy Services Manager, ACPL Genealogy Center

By Caren O'Donnell



Whether you're researching possible Revolutionary-Era Ancestors or others in your family tree, the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) provides a wealth of genealogy resources. Located in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the ACPL GENEALOGY CENTER is the second largest in the U.S., second only to Salt Lake City. Allison DePrey Singleton, who discovered her love for family history at the early age of 16, took us on a robust tour of the library's GENEALOGY CENTER website (<https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>).

Some of our “virtual stops” included: AmericanAncestors.org, Fold3, NewspaperArchive.com, Our Military Heritage, Periodical Source Index (PERSI) and many others. In addition to website resources, the ACPL Genealogy Center also offers free “Ask a Genealogy Librarian” service and other consultation services, genealogy events (many are free), a monthly “Genealogy Gems” newsletter, all accessible through the ACPL Genealogy Center website.

The ACPL Genealogy Center is also active on social media, including a Facebook page and the ACPL Genealogy YouTube channel with more than 450 videos! Our SRVGS Programs Director, Karen Olynger, closed Allison's presentation with some great advice: “Get to the ACPL homepage and just start playing around!”

In case you missed Allison's presentation on July 21st, the recording is available in the Member Login section of <https://srvgensoc.org/> until August 31, 2026. (There is not a handout for this presentation. In Allison's words, “the handout is the website”.)

Editor's Note: This was a particularly detailed and information-packed presentation, and I for one, have watched the recording once even though I was present and I may even watch it again!



Member Article

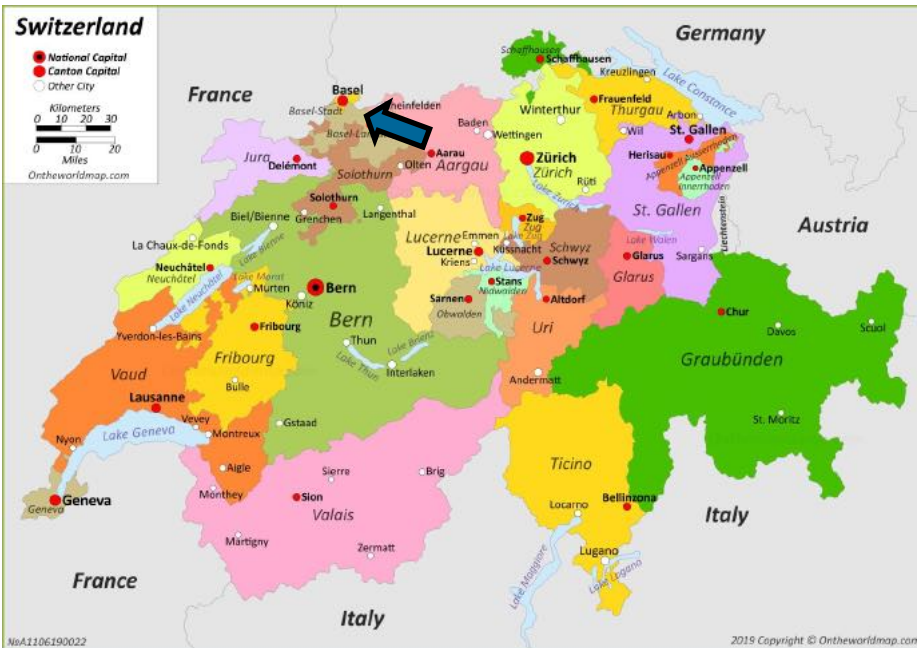
Finding Itingen

By Kathy Javdani

Growing up, I had known that my maternal great grandfather, Mathias Christen, had immigrated to the United States from Itingen, Switzerland. Two of his daughters had separately visited his village in the mid-20th century and met with his family who still lived there. I hoped to do the same.

An opportunity presented itself, in the spring of 2024 when my husband and I, along with our eldest daughter, her husband and his parents, booked a tour of the Rhine which began in Basel, Switzerland. Now was probably my only opportunity to visit Itingen. I just had to find it. Unfortunately, both great aunts who had visited the village had since passed away and none of my cousins who I contacted had connections with the village or knew exactly where it was. My quest was on.

My family had always pronounced the name of the village as Itigen. However, while searching for its exact location; I found a town of Ittigen northwest of Bern and a village of Itingen southeast of Basel. Searching for clarification, I noted that numerous U.S. Censuses identified Mathias' birthplace as only Switzerland and his mother tongue as German. This information was applicable to both locations. With his name misspelled as Wathias Christen, his Declaration of Intention for U.S. citizenship noted only that he was renouncing his allegiance to Switzerland. His daughter Margaret's delayed birth certificate listed his birth as Ittingen, Baseland, Switzerland. On FamilySearch.org I found that he was baptized in Sissach, Basel-Landschaft on 12 June 1859. Sissach is town a few miles south of Itingen.



I now was more confident that Mathias was from Itingen, Basel-Landschaft. To further verify that Itingen was indeed his hometown, I located his mother's home village of Ramlinsburg, Basel-Landschaft which is 3.7 kilometers from Itingen. In addition, she had married Mathias' father, Eduard Christen, in Frenkendorf which not far from both Itingen and Ramlinsburg.

Once I had Mathias' home village established, I began to search for more information about his family in Switzerland. The FamilySearch Wiki article on Switzerland referenced the Genealogical and Heraldic Society of Basel (GHGRB). When I initially contacted the Society German, I used Google Translate because I do not know German. I received a very helpful response from a member of the Society. He had located six generations of Mathias' family. He also verified the location of Mathias' parents' wedding in Frenkendorf. In addition, he suggested checking censuses and land records of the area. He noted that archives for the region are located in Liestal which is a short train ride from Basel. Finally, he offered to do further research, transcribe, and serve as a guide for a nominal charge.

On my own researching on the internet, I found that the Christen family in Itingen currently operates a transport service. I emailed the company and a Christen whose gmail account was listed separately. Regrettably, I did not receive a reply from either.

Member Article

Finding Itingen (cont'd)

Next, again using Google Translate, I contacted the Itingen municipal government at their website, <https://www.itingen.ch/>. In my message I stated that I was looking for information about the Christen family from Itingen. I provided details for both Mathias and his parents including the time period I was researching. Again, I received generous responses. Unfortunately, the passports and residence permits from that time period are now illegible. However, the municipality has written a book of over 300 pages about Itingen. My excitement over this book was somewhat dampened when I learned that the book could not be shipped overseas and had only been published in German. Also, the municipal offices were only open Monday through Friday. The only day that I could possibly visit Itingen was on a Saturday. The municipal clerk was more than understanding. He arranged for me to pick up a copy of the book at the village's Saturday "marktstand". In an email, he included a picture of the building that was behind the market and noted that I could give the payment for the book to anyone. I assumed that this was a farmer's market. But I had no idea how large it was. However, I was looking forward to the adventure.

Itingen is only a 20-minute train ride from Basel. I envisioned arriving there on a Saturday in June with my Itingen town map downloaded from the internet, a picture of the "marktstand" building, the email from the village representative written in German to serve as an introduction, and a printout of my Christen family tree. I would casually stroll through the village of 2,400 souls and savor the moment.

When I shared my plan with my daughter, she was aghast. Even though I am a seasoned traveler,

there was no way that she would have her mother hop on a random train, disembark at God knows where, in a foreign country where she doesn't speak the language. She was definitely coming with me. So, my husband thought that he should go too. My son-in-law and his parents thought that an excursion in the Swiss countryside would be a wonderful way to spend a morning. So, my solo stroll was replaced by an entourage descending on a tranquil Swiss village.

With my trusty map in hand, I led my group from the Itingen train station to the "marktstand". As we advanced, I overheard my daughter ask her dad if I had any idea where I was going. I found myself in eager anticipation almost running to the center of the village. A quick turn

onto another main street and a fast jaunt up an incline and we stood in front of the "marktstand". The market consisted of about 8 booths selling local produce and homemade articles. With my introduction in hand, I approached a lady at her booth. As I said "guten morgan", I motioned for her to read my email. She appeared shocked. Suddenly another woman's voice shouted "America, America". I responded "Ja, Ja". The voice disappeared for a moment, then reappeared with my copy of the book. I immediately, thanked her and paid for the book in Swiss francs.

By this time, my husband and daughter had wandered off to explore the village and take pictures. My son-in-law, his parents and I explored the market, then went in search of some coffee. Just a few doors down from the market we found a café that is only open Saturday mornings from 9-12. It was magical. After ordering some coffee and croissants, Brigitte, the owner, inquired in halting English what brought us to Itingen. When I



Member Article

Finding Itingen (cont'd)

explained that I was trying to learn more about my great grandfather's family and his hometown, she was eager to help. I unrolled my family tree and shared that two of my great aunts had visited Itingen many years earlier. Brigitte and her assistant declared that a Christen relative who was born in the last 1920s, had probably met them. I was astonished that they knew the birthdates of many people in the village. Brigitte also pointed out the location of the original Christen house and the building that housed the current Christen family transport business both which my husband later photographed. As Brigitte and I talked, my son-in-law's mom, Linda, shared a conversation with another customer who had lived in Brooklyn, New York. My son-in-law, Shawn, talked with a young tech couple and their young son, who had spent a few years at Yale and who now lived in Itingen for the country atmosphere and commuted to Basel for work. Shawn's stepfather, Ray, happily sat and enjoyed great coffee and delicious croissants. As we left, Brigitte insisted that we take more croissants and chocolate as a gift.

While in Itingen, I didn't meet any of my family members, but I certainly wanted to include Brigitte as a cousin. By early afternoon my entourage was headed back to Basel. Linda was already commenting that our excursion was to be one of the highlights of our trip.

Although on my visit to Itingen, I did not connect with any Christen cousins, I came away with a wealth of knowledge and a sense of the village culture. The people are warm and courteous. The village is immaculate and well maintained with some homes over 300 years old. I sensed some of my family's culture. The Itingen history book is a genealogical treasure. It contains numerous references to the Christen family. Unbeknownst to me, a Christen was one of the founders of the village in 1624 and members of the family have continued to live there until the present. The book even contains a photograph of my fourth great grandfather.

I'm so happy to have found Itingen and in the process more of myself. ■



The Christen House



An Itingen village street



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 2026

- 15** Tues-10am we will gather for the Fall Picnic at Danville's Hap McGee Park, details on p.1 of the newsletter including directions.
- 22** Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

October 2026

- 20** Tues-10am, the October General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Katy Bodenhorn will present **Hidden in Plain Sight...Plus using "Full Text Search" tool on FamilySearch.org**
- 27** Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome

November 2026

- 17** Tues-10am, the November General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Sharon Duda will present **Writing the Stories We Don't Want Lost.**
- 24** Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

December 2026

- 8** Holiday Party and Cookie Exchange, details forthcoming as the date approaches.
- 22** **No Board Meeting this month.**

January 2027

- 19** On Tues-10am the January General

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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 Karen LaDuca

2nd V.P. & Programs Committee:
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Treasurer: Jill Zollinger

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 Julie Basel
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Recording Secretary:
 Caren O'Donnell

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor: Barbara Thurston

Calendar Coordinator:
 Bill George

Education Coordinator:
 Kathy Javdani

Webmaster: Bill George
webmaster@srvgensoc.org

Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Pamela Brigham will present **Where We're At and Where We're Going - Changes in Genealogy, Access to Records On Line and AI .**

- 26** Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.■

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2026

By: Bill George, SRVGS SIG Coordinator

In September, 2026, we have **five** of **seven** Special Interest Groups meeting at their normal dates/times. All SIGs meet on-line, except for the in-person **German** SIG which is meeting at a member's home in Danville for their annual Oktoberfest celebration. **Family Search** and **AI** will **not** meet in September. All SIG members receive emails from their leaders on how to join each meeting. If you want to attend a SIG for the first time, contact the SIG leader listed.



FamilySearch SIG, will not be meeting this month. Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. You may contact SIG Leader Bill George at wiliamcgeorge@gmail.com. Bill hopes to resume in October but check our website and newsletter next month for any update.



Irish/Scottish Research, Wednesday, Sept. 9th, (the 2nd Wednesday) from **10-12 Noon in a Zoom meeting**. They share information from the internet, journals, DNA and books. Leslie Stewart is the SIG leader. You may contact Leslie Stewart, SIG Leader, at lwvleslie@gmail.com.



Italian SIG, Wednesday, Sept. 16th, (the 3rd Wednesday) **1-3pm in a Zoom meeting**. Share and learn new techniques for researching your Italian ancestors. Please contact Karen LaDuca at kblquilts@comcast.net to be provided the Zoom link to the meeting.



DNA SIG, Monday Sept. 21st (the 3rd Monday) from **1-3pm in a Zoom meeting**. This SIG assumes a basic knowledge of Genealogical DNA testing and therefore is only open to those who have completed the SRVGS Intro to DNA class or successfully completed Mark's Basic Skills Quiz. You may contact SIG Leader **Mark McLaren** at greatscot@earthlink.net.



Publishing SIG, Thursday, Sept. 17th (the 3rd Thursday) from **10:30am - 12 Noon in a Google Meet meeting**. Contact Kathy Javdani at kjjsc@aol.com for info on how to join the meeting. Share information and ideas on how to publish and preserve your research. **Francie Lloyd**, is the SIG Leader and can be reached at frances_lloyd@comcast.net.



AI SIG, is being suspended starting in September unless we have a volunteer to lead the group. No more meetings are planned at this time.



German Research SIG, Wednesday, Sept. 23rd, (the 4th Wednesday). **from 11:30-1:30** This is our annual Potluck Oktoberfest luncheon at a member's home in Danville. If you would like to attend, please contact SIG leader **Karen LaDuca** at kblquilts@comcast.net to sign up and receive details. ■



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Yes, it's September. It's time to get back to learning, especially family history.

-  The California Genealogy Society Library, www.californiaancestors.org, has moved to its new location at 1841 Berkeley Way in Berkeley. It will be open at its usual times: 10 AM – 2 PM Thursday through Saturday. Visit the society's website for access to available recordings and videos. Please note any fees for activities. CGS Members are no longer required to register for most events but can continue to do so at the CGS website under Education and Events where non-members can also register for most events. Members can log into the CGS website, and find Zoom, handouts and survey links directly before the event. The speaker may not have handouts ready until the evening before the event.
- On Sat. Sept. 5 from 10-12, in a hybrid format the **Intro to Genealogy** class will discuss **Genealogy Basics Overview**.
 - On Sat. Sept. 5 from 1-2:30, in a hybrid presentation, Joseph Cerney will share his book, **The Bootlegger's Daughter: A San Francisco Tale**.
 - On Sat. Sept. 5 from 10-12, in a hybrid format the **Intro to Genealogy** class will discuss **Using the Census**.
 - On Wed. Sept. 16 from 4:30-6, on Zoom, Karen Treiger will discuss her book, **Searching for Self in the Stories of My Jewish Ancestors**.
 - On Sat. Sept. 19 from 10-12, Sandra Huber will lead the **San Francisco SIG** online meeting. Contact sfsig@californiaancestors.org for more information.
 - In addition, on the 19th from 1-3, Ron Madson and Karen Halfon will host a hybrid session of the **FamilyTree Maker SIG**. Register at the <http://-ftm-sig.org> or contact Ron at 650-576-4495 or Karen at 415-922-225 for further information.
 - On Sun. Sept. 20 from 2-4, CGS and Los Californianos members are invited to a **free field trip to the Moraga Adobe House**. See CGS website to register.
 - On Mon. Sept. 21 from 7-8:30, the **DNA Skills SIG** with Mark McLaren will meet online. Contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net for details.
 - On Wed. Sept. 23 from 6:30-8, the RootsMagic Users Group SIG with Keith Montgomery will meet online. Contact Keith at kmontgomery@californiaancestors.org to register.
 - On Tue. Sept. 24 from 2-4, CGS members are invited on a **field trip to Sutro Library led by Jane Lindsey**. See CGS website to register.
 - On Sat. Sept. 26 from 11-12:30, the quarterly meeting of the **Irish SIG** will be led by Maureen Hanlon and Keith Montgomery. This will be a hybrid meeting.
 - On Sat. Sept. 26 from 1-2:30, on Zoom Reem Awad Rashmawi will present **From Arrival to Archive: Immigration and Naturalization Records Part 2**. \$5 for non-members.
 - The Mayflower Descendants SIG is no longer meeting. Contact Robert Trapp at rtrapp@californiaancestors.org for help with Mayflower ancestry and how to join The Society of California Mayflower Descendants.
-  The Oakland FamilySearch Center has been closed for renovations starting June 1, 2026 and is re-opening on Sept. 1, 2026. Check the website of Oakland Family Search Center, www.familysearch.org/en/centers/oakland_california/classes, for a long list of free in-person and hybrid classes and SIGs. The FSC

offers classes and research groups on a variety of family history topics. Some are led by individuals who are members of partner organizations, such as the California Genealogical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Mayflower Society, and others. *Visit the FSC in person for their Open House on Sat. Sept 19 from 10-2.*

- On Wed. Sept. 2 from 1-2, Robert Jackson will host the **German Genealogy SIG**. In person.
- On Wed. Sept. 2 from 2-2:15, a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. On Zoom.
- On Wed. Sept. 9 from 2-2:15, a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. On Zoom.
- On Wed. Sept. 16 from 1-2, Jared Weaver will lead the **Danish SIG**. In person.
- On Wed., Sept. 16 from 1-2, Esta Weaver will lead the **Norwegian /Swedish SIG**. In person.
- On Wed. Sept. 16 from 2-2:15, a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. On Zoom.
- On Sat. Sept. 19th from 10-2, the newly remodeled **Family Search Center will hold an open house**.
- On Wed. Sept. 23 from 2-2:15, a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. On Zoom.
- Also, on the 23rd from 6-8, the **African American Workshop** will be held in person.
- On Wed, Sept. 30 from 2-2:15 a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. On Zoom.

 The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes, has a growing online series of presentations, library, and more. These include their

on-demand previously aired courses and presentations. If you have questions or feedback, contact Online Education. Register for webinars on the society's website.

- On Tue. Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 3-4:30, Rhonda McClure, Judy Lucey, and Melanie McComb will present **Tracing Women in Your Family Tree**. \$150
- On Wed. Sept. 9 from 3-4, Valerie Fridland will discuss her book, **Why We Talk Funny: The Real Story Behind Our Accents**.
- On Fri. Sept. 11 from 1-2:15, Victoria Johnson will share her book, **Glorious Country: How the Artist Frederic Church Brought the World to America and America to the World**.
- On Sat. Sept. 12 from 11-12, Sheilagh Doefler will explore **Tracing Loyalist Lineages: Sources and Strategies**. \$15
- From Sept. 13 to 20 David Lambert, Rhonda McClure and Melanie McComb will lead the **Salt Lake City Research Tour**. See Events page of the NEHGS, for details and registrar.
- On Wed. Sept. 23 from 3-4, Eugene Robinson will share his book, **Freedom Lost, Freedom Won: A Personal Story of America**.

Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the free events will be posted on the NEHGS website the following day. Many courses with fees are available on demand following their initial presentation.

Legacy Family Tree Webinars offers numerous free webinars every month. Go to <https://familytreewebinars.com> to register for presentations for this month.

- On Wed. Sept. 2 at 12 AM, Shauna Hicks will examine **Top 5 Websites for Western Australia Family History**.
- Also, on the 2nd at 7 AM, Diana Elder will discuss **Using AI to Answer the Big 3: What, Where, and Why of Ancestor Locations**.
- In addition, on the 2nd at 8:30 AM, Nicole Dyer will explore **Top 5 Tools for Transcribing**

Handwritten Historical Documents.

- Again, on the 2nd at 10 Thomas MacEntee will present **Using AI to Analyze Land Records and Reconstruct Family Narratives.**
- On Fri. Sept. 4 at 11, Kaye Ford will share **U.S. Great Lakes Region Accreditation: A Genealogical Treasure Trove.**
- On Wed. Sept. 9 at 7 AM, Alec Ferretti will examine **Novel NYC Records.**
- Also on the 9th, at 8:30 AM, Kay Bodenhorn will discuss **5 Ways Tax Lists Can Assist Your Pennsylvania Research.**
- Again, on the 9th at 10, Kory Meyerink will list **10 New Tools for Pennsylvania Research.**
- In addition, on the 9th at 11:30, Dana Palmer will offer **Top 10 Websites for Ohio Genealogy.**
- On Fri. Sept. 11 at 11, Nick Barratt will explore **Researching in Middlesex.**
- On Tue. Sept. 15 at 5, Claire Ammon will present **Against the Peace and Dignity of the Commonwealth.**
- On Wed. Sept. 16 at 8:30 AM, Melissa Barker will explore **MyHeritage Collection Catalog: Navigating a Great Genealogy Resource Without Getting Overwhelmed.**
- In addition, on the 16th at 10, the **MyHeritage Webinars** will present **A MyHeritage Webinar.**
- Also, on the 16th at 11 Daniel Horowitz will offer **Fresh Tools for Smarter Genealogy on MyHeritage.**
- On Fri. Sept. 18 at 11, Lisa Medina will share **Husband, Father, and Revolutionary: The Case of Ramon Trevino.**
- On Tue. Sept. 22 at 11, James Tanner will discuss **MyHeritage Family Trees: A Guide to All Features.**
- Wed. Sept. 23 at 7, Jonny Perl will present Using **'What Are the Odds? Plus' (WATO) to Solve DNA Mysteries.**
- Also, on the 23rd at 8:30, Jennifer Zinck will examine **Connecting with DNA Matches: Us-**

ing Tools and Technology for Collaboration.

- Adding to the 23rd at 10, Paula Williams will offer **Leafless but Not Hopeless: Identifying DNA Matches Without Trees.**
- In addition, on the 23rd at 11, Jerome Spears will present **Visual Phasing and Genetic Recombination: A 7-Generation Study.**
- On Wed. Sept. 30 at 7 AM, Candace Marx will share **The Widow Won, the Barkeep Lost: Using Historical Context and the FAN Club to Enrich Your Family Stories Method.**
- In addition, on the 30th at 8:30, J. Mark Lowe, will offer **Manuscripts and Timelines: Finding Ancestors in Personal Papers.**
- Also, on the 30th at 10, Jenny Hansen discuss **Taming Same-Name Research.**
- Finally, on the 30th for members only, at 11:30, Elizabeth Shown Mills will present **Unreasonably Exhaustive Research: Finding a Mother & a Father for a Man of Common Name, Born c1788, Virginia.**

The Allen Public Library's Genealogy Center offers many webinars. Go to www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy to register online. Also, explore the Genealogy Center Videos at <https://acpl.lib.in.us/explore-genealogy/our-services>. Recorded Genealogy Center programs can be found on the Genealogy Center section of the library's YouTube channel.

- On Tue. Sept. 1 from 11:30-12:30, Michael Traynor will share **Genealogical Myths: Legends, Lies, and Lineage.**
- On Tue. Sept. 8 from 11:30-12:30 Allison DePrey will offer **Getting Started With Family Search.**
- On Tue. Sept. 15th from 11:30-12:30, Allison DePrey will discuss **Beyond the Wayback Machine: Using Internet Archive for Genealogy.**
- On Tue. Sept. 22nd from 11:30-12:30, the library will present **Beyond the Name: Discovering Records with FamilySearch – Full Text Search..**

 The State Historical Society of Missouri has produced nearly 100 On Demand programs through its virtual program series and past events. Freely available through the Society's website, <https://shsmo.org>, on demand topics include genealogy, art, scholarship, signature lecture series, and more.

Here are some other webinars, blogs, and podcasts that are available.

- Auntiejenstrees.blogspot.com
- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio <https://extremegenes.com/blog>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast www.genealogyguys.com
- The Genealogy Squad www.facebook.com/groups/genealogysquad
- Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems <https://lisalouisecooke.com/podcasts>
- Thomas MacEntee's www.genealogybargains.com
- Judy Russell's www.legalgenealogist.com
- Family History Fanatics www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/blog
- Connie Knox <http://genealogytv.org>
- Www.amyjohnsoncrow.com

And there's more....

The following are sites with large amounts of valuable information:

- The National Archives- www.archives.gov/research/genealogy offers a genealogy tutorial, genealogy research topics and a variety of charts and forms.
- The DAR Library – www.dar.org/national-society/genealogy provides help on the variety of genealogical topics. Also see the upcoming events schedule at www.dar.org

- The Sutro Library hosts the Bay Area Genealogy Calendar, www.library.ca.gov/sutro/genealogy/calendar This calendar provides information about events throughout the Bay Area.
- ConferenceKeeper.org lists conferences, events, calls for papers, contests, grants, volunteer opportunities, tours and more. To sign up to receive *Tami at Conference Keeper* which lists events that have been recently added, go to mail@sendfoxmail.com.
- The Sacramento Public Library Genealogy Program has a YouTube channel. Visit its playlist at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwtrWl_IBMJszRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6

Events from Local Societies

- On Thu. Sept. 10 at 6:30, the **Contra Costa County Genealogical Society**, <http://cccgs.net>, will have its monthly meeting via Zoom. Annette Burke Lyttle, the guest speaker, will discuss **Our Quaker Ancestors: Their History and Records They Left**. Register under events on the society's website
- On Sat. Sept. 12 at 10, the **Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group**, www.svcgg.org/meetings.html, will hold its monthly meeting on Zoom. Leah Larking will discuss **Using the Banyan DNA Tool**. Register on the society's website.
- On Mon. Sept. 14 from 7-8:30, the **Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society**, www.l-ags.com, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. Roger Prince, the guest speaker, will examine **Transcription and Abstraction of Original Records**. The link to RSVP is on the site under speakers.
- On Tue. Sept. 15 from 6:30-8:30, the **Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society**, <https://scchgs.org>, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. Guest speaker Marilyn McPhie will share **Finding and Sharing the Stories in Your Family History**. See the society's website under events for details.
- On Thu. Sept. 17 at 1, the **Napa Valley Genealogical Society**, <https://napagensoc.org>, will hold its monthly meeting in the hybrid format.

Diana Elder, the guest speaker, will present **Understanding AI in Genealogy**. Register on the society's website.

- On Mon. Sept. 28 at 4:30, **The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society**, www.sfbajgs.org/calendar.html, will have its monthly meeting via Zoom. Guest speaker, Johathan Dorfan, will discuss **Bringing Jewish History Back to Birzai**. Check its website for further information and to register. Register on the society's website.

Upcoming Special Events

- From Sept. 9-11 the **New York Genealogical and Biographical Society** will hold its virtual **2026 New York State Family History Conference**. Visit www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nysfhc-2026-registration for further information and to register.
- From Sept. 16-18 **We Are Cousins** will hold its **9th We Are Cousins Virtual Genealogy Conference**. Register at <https://wacconference.com/>
- On September 18 and 19 the **North Carolina Genealogical Society**, www.ncgenealogy.org, will hold its hybrid **NCGS 2026 Fall Conference** in Raleigh, NC. Save the date registration details at www.ncgenealogy.org/fall2026/
- On Oct. 17 and 18 the **British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa**, www.bifhsgo.ca/2026-conference, will hold its **2026 Virtual Conference** entitled **Flittin' Day: Forces That Moved Our Scottish Ancestors**. Save the date registration details to follow.
- On Nov. 6-7 the **Texas Genealogical Society**, www.txsgs.org, will hold its hybrid **2026 TxSGS Family History Conference**. Registration details to follow at www.txsgs.org/2026
- On Nov. 16 the **Italian Genealogical Group** will host its first virtual conference, **Italian Genealogy: The Boot and Beyond**. For more information, go to <https://www.italiangen.org/events/>. ■

Want to Help or Do You Need Help?

We are developing a **New Members Section** for our web site, along with some helpful information for beginning/intermediate genealogists. We have begun a list of members to be included who have volunteered to assist members:

- Steve Watty - General Research
- Francie Lloyd - Getting Started in an Organized Manner
- Karen LaDuca - Italian Research, Dutch Research
- Kathy Javdani - California Research
- Bill George - FamilySearch.org
- Barbara Thurston - Jewish Research
- Ted Shapas - Polish and Lithuanian

If you have an area of expertise and would like to help newer members please contact Karen LaDuca at kblquilt@comcast.net or Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com to have your contact information added. This will be listed exclusively in our members-only section of the <https://srvgensoc.org> website. Thank you for helping.

Any members looking for help in a specific area can also contact us and we will try to connect you with someone who can assist. ■

*Genealogist: I disturb the dead
and irritate the living.*

New things coming to our website...

When was the last time you visited our Society's website www.srvgensoc.org? A totally volunteer committee within our Society, headed up by Bill George and Bob Venter, has taken on the task of bringing our website into the 20th-21st century and making it more pleasing to the eye and easier to navigate.

It is not a trivial task even though our website vendor has provided us a template. It involves creating new screens for all of the features we currently have including the membership, photos, events, calendar, etc. and of course, the newsletter including every issue published, and transferring all the data over so it displays correctly.

We anticipated it would be available for viewing by mid June with a planned go live July or August. Our vendor is evidently backed up and it seems that though we will be ready, our vendor will not be. We will keep you posted and announce the official "going live". Going live may involve some downtime, i.e. unavailability of the website, but that is still to be determined and of course there will be notifications in this newsletter and by special emails, so stay tuned.

If you would like to take a peek at this work in progress, follow this link, <https://sb-srvgs.ens-205.com/>. No logins available yet. We welcome any suggestions, ideas for additions, corrections and improvements, but be aware that we may not be able to implement them based on the limitations of the software itself. It may also be that we may implement suggestions as we go along after the go-live based on resources available to do the work. So go ahead and send in your comments and ideas to [Bill George](#) for improvements, suggestions, corrections...you get the idea.■

Danville Family Search Center

2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo

Phone: (925)552-5920**

**** The FSC has been having phone issues that are still not resolved. Contact Kevin Ganschow at (925)209-5489 or gans5@sbcbglobal.net if you need to reach the FSC, ask questions, or schedule time at the FSC.**

The Family Search Center is open for business. There have been no changes to the hours for 2026. See scheduled open hours below. The FSC contains nine computers (with flash drive slots), scanners, a printer, lots of reference books, Wi-Fi access, and friendly docents to help you along your genealogy path! Digital resources include:

- ◆ Alexander Street (US social and cultural history)
- ◆ American Ancestors (from New England Historic Genealogical Society)
- ◆ Ancestry Institution
- ◆ ArkivDigital (Sweden)
- ◆ FamilySearch
- ◆ FamNet (New Zealand)
- ◆ Findmypast (United Kingdom)
- ◆ Geneanet (France, Belgium, Netherlands)
- ◆ Fold3 (military)
- ◆ Geneanet (France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Sweden, and Germany)
- ◆ Goldie May (organizing tools)
- ◆ MyHeritage Library Edition
- ◆ Irish Ancestors
- ◆ Newspaper Archive
- ◆ Paper Trail (19th century westward American migration documents)
- ◆ Puzzilla
- ◆ 19th Century British Library Newspapers

Hours are:

Monday.....10:00am – 1:00pm

Note Monday eve hours cancelled due to unavailability of volunteers to staff it.

Tuesday..... 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Wednesday.....1:00pm – 4:00pm

Appointments outside of normal hours may be arranged by calling (925)837-7010.

Note that the FSC is always looking for volunteers to man the center during the above hours. This is a good opportunity to help others and get some of your own research done. ■