



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XLII No. 4 October - 2026

October Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 10 am

Hidden In Plain Sight (via Zoom)

Katy Bodenhorn



Hidden in Plain Sight deals primarily with using websites like FamilySearch that have large collections of unindexed records and how to navigate them. They're online, but it's not always obvious and it's not always intuitive how to use them. This is often true of records such as deeds and probate/other court files. I'll also be covering FamilySearch's new "Full Text Search" tool in this lecture.

Katy Bodenhorn is a freelance genealogist and the owner of Katy Bodenhorn Genealogy Research, LLC. She is the former genealogy director at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and has a B.A. in Family History & Genealogy from Brigham Young University. Katy's past experience also includes research firm

Legacy Tree Genealogists, where she spent over seven years as a senior researcher and editor. Katy lives in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out to all members a few days prior to the meeting. If you have any friends or family that would like to attend, have them contact Scott Hefner at president@srvgensoc.org prior to the meeting for the link. If you have any Zoom questions or issues, please contact Scott at 925-765-7184 or Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com.

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW WEBSITE!	7
CONTACT INFORMATION	8
DANVILLE FSC HOURS	14
EDUCATION	10
EVENTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES	12
MARK YOUR CALENDAR	8
MEMBER'S ARTICLE	3
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	9
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS	14



President's Message

By Scott Hefner



As you probably know, our September General Meeting was not conducted in Zoom, as has been the norm for the last few years. Instead, we reserved a picnic area in a local park and met in person. Dubbed the “Fall

Gathering”, the meeting was held at Hap Magee Ranch Park, and featured delicious refreshments, a presentation by Beverly Lane on the history of the Magee family, an interactive guessing game featuring unique facts about other members, and lots of socializing and conversation among the attendees.

For those of you who were able to attend, it was a great opportunity to meet new people, catch up with other members, learn a few new things about local history and other members. As you may be aware, we have wrestled with the question of Zoom meetings versus in-person meetings for some time. On the one hand, Zoom meetings are great because they allow people to attend and participate no matter where they live. Zoom meetings have also opened up tremendous opportunities to have speakers from essentially anywhere in the world and at very low cost. On the other hand, there is little doubt that many or most of us enjoy the personal contact and connection that Zoom can't offer and that you only get through in-person meetings.

Our challenge as an organization is to find a balance between the two options. Currently we default to the Zoom platform for the reasons mentioned above, but we also seek opportunities to meet in person: the Holiday Gathering/Cookie Exchange, our Annual Meeting, the Field Trip to the Oakland Family Search Center, and the recent Fall Gathering to name the most recent examples. Also, some of the Special Interest Groups meet on Zoom, but several others prefer to get together in person. We have also discussed in our Board Meetings the possibility of hosting so-called

“hybrid” meetings where there will be an in-person meeting, but the speaker and those who prefer to do so can attend via Zoom. We have experimented with this approach but have not yet decided how much effort to commit to this and what the interest might be among our members.

I would like to encourage all of you to share your thoughts on our meeting format, your desire for more in-person gatherings (along with any suggested destinations), and your interest in having at least some of our General Meetings be hybrid meetings (how many of you would attend the in-person portion if it was available?). Please send me any thoughts, suggestions, or questions you might have about this issue and I will be happy to share and discuss with the rest of the Board. ■

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Carlynn Williams

Honey Pettigrew

Member Article**A Tale of Two Lucretia Lillies****By Karen Bowdren LaDuca**

I had long known that my 4th great grandmother was named Lucretia Lillie and that her parents were Joshua Lillie and Polly Parker. My cousin's wife had done the research years ago, much of it through interviews with elderly family, and I verified it as best I could with the meager records in NY state from 1800-1880. Imagine my surprise when I looked at my Lucretia Lillie on the FamilySearch Family Tree a few years ago and suddenly found another husband listed for her with several children I had never heard of! My Lucretia already had 3 husbands. I had never heard of this 4th one.

Some background: "My" Lucretia Lillie was born 3 Feb 1805 in Bethel, Vermont to Joshua Lillie and his 2nd wife Polly Parker. Joshua's first wife Lucretia Buckman died in March 1803 leaving 3 young children. Joshua married Polly Parker in March 1804. Joshua moved his family to what is now Pittsford, NY in about 1809. Lucretia married Joseph F. Smith in about 1823 and they had 3 sons: David Smith (1824), Henry Bryan Smith (1826) and Joshua Lillie Smith (1827). Lucretia and Joseph may have lived in Cattaraugus County, NY for a short time as this was where their first child was born, but their second two sons were born in Mendon, NY which was a town bordering Pittsford where her parents lived. Joseph died in 1830 and Lucretia married his brother David Smith but then David died in 1835. About 1836 she married William Parson who became the guardian for her 3 sons. She and William had 4 children together between 1837 and 1845. After the death of Lucretia's father Joshua Lillie in 1848, the Parson family along with Lucretia's mother, Polly Parker Lillie moved from Mendon, NY to Cooper, Kalamazoo, Michigan, where most of her siblings had also relocated. Polly died in 1863 and Lucretia died in 1878. They are buried in the same cemetery in Cooper MI.

The "other" Lucretia Lillie was also from Vermont and the family claimed the same birthdate and parents in a DAR application that I found in the database. This Lucretia married Nathan Banister possibly about 1819 and they had 10 children between the years of 1820 and 1845. They had lived for a while in Perry, Genesee Co., NY and then by about 1834 moved west to Ohio and finally headed to Iowa. Lucretia Banister died in 1848 along the way near Chemung, Illinois and was buried by the trail.

When I saw this 4th husband on the FamilySearch Tree and studied this family, I realized that these had to be two different women named Lucretia Lillie and they couldn't be sisters. They were married to different men and were having children in two different places at the same time and they died 30 years apart in different places. I separated the two women on the tree about 5 years ago and contacted some of the people who had entered information on the Lucretia married to Nathan Banister. They were descendants of the Banister family. They agreed that these were two different women and that they had no real proof that the birth record from Bethel, VT was for "their" Lucretia. There is one descendant who is still actively working on trying to determine who the parents of Lucretia Lillie (sometimes written Lilley) were and she keeps in touch when she makes new discoveries. I was hoping that perhaps this Lucretia was a cousin, a daughter of one of Joshua's many brothers, so that it would not negate the DAR application that was made in the past. The patriot was David Lilley/Lillie, Joshua's father. However, this appears not to be true according to the research of the Banister researcher. We are likely related many generations back in the Lillie line.

Now to prove that "my" Lucretia Lillie was the daughter of Joshua Lillie and Polly Parker. Joshua Lillie is part of a line that leads back to John Alden and Priscilla Mullins of the Mayflower, a line that had

Member Article

A Tale of Two Lucretia Lillies (cont'd)

never been proven. Last year I decided it was time to prove the line by applying to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. The challenge to this is that my ancestors left New England, where there are plentiful town vital records, to New York where birth, marriage and death records were not required until 1881. I had to turn to wills, guardianship papers and land records along with some newspaper articles to prove my line in the time period of 1809-1881. Church records were minimally useful, as the church my ancestors attended burned along with all the records.

Lucretia's generation was the first generation that had to be proved in my Mayflower line as the previous ones had already been proved. And it fell right in that difficult time period in NY State. I had traveled to the Rochester NY area about 13 years ago and visited the Surrogate Court for Monroe County where I was able to use their computers to search for and download records of my ancestors which included wills and guardianship papers. Sadly, there was no will for Lucretia's first husband Joseph Smith. I found a will for David Smith, the second husband of Lucretia Lillie. It did not name his brother Joseph as the first husband of Lucretia, but it does refer to "Lucretia's sons", not as his own sons. This was an important distinction since Lucretia's first two husbands were brothers, so both named Smith and her sons also had the surname of Smith. Also included in this packet are guardianship papers for Lucretia's 3 sons which named their birthdates in 1824, 1826 and 1827 because they were minors when their stepfather died. That was a great find since birth records were not required in NY until 1881. Other points to note are that Lucretia's father Joshua Lillie signed the guardianship papers and her third son was named Joshua Lillie Smith, more proof that Joshua Lillie was Lucretia's father. Also, the guardian was Lucretia's third husband William Parson.

More recently, I discovered that full text search was a great help in finding land records in Pittsford and Mendon, NY. I was able to follow the purchases by Joshua Lillie and ultimately the sale of his land in 1849, a year after his death in 1848. This one was a goldmine of family information, as all of his children were selling the land as a group. It must have passed to them in his will, but I have not yet found that document. It names all of his children and their spouses and where they were all living at the time. Many of them had already moved to Cooper, Kalamazoo, MI, but some were still living in Mendon, NY including Lucretia and her husband William Parson. It mentions in the deed that one square rod of land where Joshua Lillie is buried will not be included in the sale. This single grave is now part of Mendon Ponds Park, a county park. There is also a separate indenture that the purchaser of the land will pay to Polly Lillie \$1,463 dol-

To the Surrogate of the County of Monroe :

THE PETITION of *William Parson & Lucretia Parson, his wife*

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH,

That *David Smith* of the town of *Mendon* in the county of Monroe, died in or about the month of *April* 1835; that he left personal *Real* property, and *three* infant child/ren to wit:

David Smith aged 12 years, November 22nd 1836
Henry B. Smith aged 11 years, the 9th day of February 1837
Johna L. Smith aged 9 years, September 5th 1836
 (The said *Lucretia* is the mother of said children, *David* of said dec'd) and that the said infant/s reside in the county of Monroe, and have no guardian.

Your petitioner is desirous that *the said William Parson* of the town of *Mendon* in the county of Monroe, may be appointed Guardian to the said infant/s to the end that *their* estate may be managed to the best advantage. That the personal property of the said infant/s does not exceed the sum of *one hundred* dollars, and the annual value of the real estate of said infant/s does not exceed the sum of *fourty* dollars.

Your petitioner therefore prays that the said *William Parson* may be appointed Guardian as aforesaid, and will ever pray, &c.

William Parson
Lucretia Parson

Dated, Feb. 4, 1837

Member Article

A Tale of Two Lucretia Lillies (cont'd)

lars annually on the 1st of April for the rest of her life. Shortly after these transactions took place William and Lucretia Parson along with her mother Polly Lillie moved to Cooper, MI as was earlier mentioned.

Now that the link between Lucretia Lillie Smith Smith Parson and Joshua Lillie and his wife Polly was proven, I turned to proving the next generation. Without any marriage records for any of Lucretia's 3 marriages, I needed to prove David's parentage. Her 2nd husband David's will and the guardianship papers helped to establish that David (the son) and his brothers Henry Bryan Smith and Joshua Lillie Smith were her sons, but their father's name was never mentioned in any of these records. The birth dates in the guardianship papers establish that all 3 boys were born before the death of Joseph F. Smith in 1830. So next I turned to the land records again to see what I could find. The 3 oldest brothers of Joseph Smith and Lydia Farnum were Joseph (Jr), David and Truman. Joseph and Lydia arrived in Bloomfield, Ontario, NY in about 1805 with their children who had been born in Connecticut and Vermont. They later moved to Mendon NY (neighboring towns) in about 1817. Truman bought 61 acres and 2 rods, a part of lot #7 in Mendon in 1824. He sold it to his brother David in Dec 1828. In Feb 1829, Joseph Jr. bought 50 acres in the north part of lot #36. These two lots will be important as the Smiths liked to keep land in the family. Joseph died in Sep 1830 and no will has been found but it is assumed that the land passed to his wife Lucretia. Lucretia marries David Smith but he dies in 1835. In his will he leaves his land to Lucretia to use as long as she is unmarried. In Oct 1848, after Joshua Lillie dies in August, Lucretia and William Parson sell the north part of lot #36 (her first husband's land) to Lucretia's son, David Smith. On the same day David and Henry Bryan Smith buy out their brother Joshua Lillie Smith's part of the two lots previously owned by their father Joseph Smith and their stepfather, David Smith. The two brothers David and Henry Bryan continue to sell parts of these two lots back and forth over the years.

David Smith (the younger) married Laura Elizabeth Dodd in 1850. Proving the marriage for which there was no record was made possible by the fact that they married before the 1850 census was taken and there was a column that was marked to indicate that they had married within the year. In 1851 they had twin girls Alice Lucretia and Alma Elizabeth, followed by another set of twins in 1852 Howard D. and Emogene J. By 1879 all of the children were married and Alice and her husband Lucius Levette Lewis were living with David and Laura and helping to run the farm. Again, proving the marriage of Alice and Lucius (my direct ancestors) would have been almost impossible except for the fact that when the family sold the homestead in 1974 and were clearing out the house, they offered to give me my great-grandmother's baptismal certificate which was in a frame. When I took it out of the frame, in an envelope behind it was the marriage certificate for her husband's parents, Alice Smith and Lucius Lewis from 1879. The church had long ago burned with all of its records.

In 1888 David and Lucius built a beautiful Victorian home on lot 7. By then Alice and Lucius had a son Smith Osborne Lewis born in 1880 who spent a great deal of time with his grandfather David. When David Smith died in 1903, his land including the house, passed to his daughter Alice L. Lewis and when she died 20 years later, the land and house passed to her only child Smith O. Lewis. He had married in 1911 and brought his bride to live in this same house.



Member Article

A Tale of Two Lucretia Lillies

Smith and his wife Bertha raised their 9 children in this home which was also the site of many Smith family reunions. Attached to a newspaper article about one of these reunions was a history of the David Smith family written by David's daughter Alma Smith Schearer. This helped to solidify the story of those difficult to prove generations.

My grandmother was the second child born to Smith and Bertha. Four generations of the David Smith family had lived in this house and another 2 generations (myself included) spent many hours there visiting with our grandparents and great-grandparents. This is a picture of the Smith O. Lewis family. Smith O. Lewis was the grandson of David Smith and the one that inherited all the land purchase by David Smith's father and stepfather. Smith and his wife Bertha Sackett are seated and my grandmother Gladys Marion Lewis is one of the older girls standing behind them, second from the right. This photo was taken about 1940. ■





Our Website, www.srvgensoc.org, Has a Whole New Look and Feel!

You may have read about our efforts to update the website—a project required by our vendor to bring the site up to date and move away from a framework that is being phased out. Well, that work is now complete, and we encourage you to check it out!

As you probably know, much of our website is available to the general public. We also have a Members-only area that requires you to log in.

Members: You Must Reset Your Password!

The first time you access the Members-only area of the new website, you will need to reset your password.

Click Login, and then click “I forgot my password.” Enter your email address—the same address to which this newsletter was sent—and you will receive an email containing a link to create a new password.

Once you have created your new password, log in using your **username** and **new password**. If you can't remember your username or are having trouble logging in, email our Membership Chair, Julie Basel, at membership@srvgensoc.org.

Take a Look Around

Spend some time exploring the new website. Click on the menus and drop-down options to become familiar with the new organization and features.

We welcome your suggestions, ideas for additions, corrections, and recommendations for improvements. Please keep in mind that we may not be able to implement every suggestion because of limitations in the website software. Some suggestions may also be implemented gradually after the new site goes live, depending on the resources available to do the work.

So, go ahead and send in your comments, ideas, suggestions, and corrections to Bill George at webmaster@srvgensoc.org. You get the idea—we'd like to hear from you! Read further if you want more detail on what is included.

Some Useful Features

Responsiveness: The system automatically is responsive to different size devices like smart phones, tablets, laptop and desktop computers. There are a half-dozen browser width points that alter how the page is displayed. A vertical formatted smartphone is the narrowest, and a large screen computer is the widest. To test, on a computer viewing our website, continually narrow the window width and notice how the content adjusts. Typically, blocks of horizontal content will stack vertically. This works quite well on smartphones, to the point that it's enjoyable to view our website on cell phones. Previously, on smaller devices content would just decrease in size or extend past the edge of the window.

The Hamburger: On wider devices, you will see a horizontal menu at the top of the screen. On less wide devices a “Hamburger”, 3 horizontal lines in a small green box will appear, when clicked, will produce a vertical menu on the left and “+” signs on the right, that when clicked, expands the menu and turns the “+” into a “-“. Clicking “-“ contracts the menus.

Drop Down Menus: Just hovering over a menu selection will cause submenus to appear. This allows quite rapid navigation. For selections that have a submenu, click (or tap) on them will cause an information menu with explanations of each selection. This makes the system very quick to navigate, but provide explanations if needed.

cont'd on p. 14

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR****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

- 1 Holiday Party and Cookie Exchange, details forthcoming as the date approaches. Note this is a new date!
- 22 No Board Meeting this month.

January 2027

- 19 On Tues-10am the January General 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.■

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- President:** Scott Hefner
president@srvgensoc.org
- 1st Vice President:**
Karen LaDuca
- 2nd V.P. & Programs Committee:**
Karen Olynger
Karen LaDuca
programs@srvgensoc.org
- 3rd V.P. Membership:**
Julie Basel
membership@srvgensoc.org
- Treasurer:** Jill Zollinger
- Corresponding Secretary:**
Julie Basel
secretary@srvgensoc.org
- Recording Secretary:**
Caren O'Donnell

NEWSLETTER TEAM

- Editor:** Barbara Thurston
- Calendar Coordinator:**
Bill George
- Education Coordinator:**
Kathy Javdani
- Webmaster:** Bill George
webmaster@srvgensoc.org

February 2027

- 16 Tues-10am, the February General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Sylvia Tracy Doolos will present **Hook 'Em and Reel Them In. How to Get DNA Matches to Respond.**
- 23 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.■

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS FOR OCTOBER, 2026

By: Bill George, SRVGS SIG Coordinator

In October, 2026, our six Special Interest Groups are all meeting at their normal dates/times, except the in-person German SIG which is meeting at the Danville Family Search Center from 1-2:45pm. Bill George The AI will not be continuing to host the AI Sig and so its meetings have been suspended pending a new leader stepping up to host it. 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, Monday Oct. 12th, (the 2nd Monday) from 1-3 in a Zoom meeting. Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. You may contact SIG Leader Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Irish/Scottish Research, Wednesday, Oct. 14th, (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, Oct. 21st, (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 Oct. 19th, (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, Oct. 15th (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.



German Research SIG, Wednesday, Oct. 28th, (the 4th Wednesday) from 1-2:45 (usually 11:30-1:30) at the Danville Family Search Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo. If you would like to attend, please contact SIG leader Karen LaDuca at kblquilts@comcast.net to sign up and receive details. ■



AI SIG, has been suspended until further notice unless/until we have a volunteer to lead the group. No more meetings are planned at this time.



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Welcome to October. It's Family History Month with so much new to learn.

☞ 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. Oct. 3 from 10-12, in a hybrid format the **Intro to Genealogy** class will discuss **Using the Census**.
- On Sat. Oct. 10 from 1-2:20, Laura Grotz will explore **Creating Research Plans with AI**. Hybrid presentation.
- On Sat. Oct. 17 from 10-12, Sandra Huber will lead the **San Francisco SIG** online meeting. Contact sfsig@californiaancestors.org for more information.
- In addition, on the 17th 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 Wed. Oct. 21 from 4:30-6, Marisa Louis Lee will answer **What's Online at the National Archives**. Hybrid presentation.
- On Sat. Oct. 24th from 10-11:30 and 1-2:30 CGS and Los Californianos will present **Los Californianos: Early California Population**

Project and & Alta California Tips. Hybrid presentation.

- 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.
- On Wed. Oct. 28 from 6:30-8, the **RootsMagic Users Group SIG** with Keith Montgomery will meet online. Contact Keith at kmontgomery@californiaancestors.org to register.
- On Mon. Oct. 26 from 7-8:30, the **DNA Skills SIG** with Mark McLaren will meet online. Contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net for details.
- On Sat. Nov. 7 from 10-12, in a hybrid format the **Intro to Genealogy** class will discuss **Vital Records**.
- 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.
- ☞ 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.
- On Wed. Oct. 7 from 1-2, Robert Jackson will host the **German Genealogy SIG**. In person.

- On Wed. Sept. 7 from 2-2:15, a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. On Zoom.
- On Wed. Oct. 14 from 2-2:15, a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. On Zoom.
- On Wed. Oct. 21 from 1-2, Jared Weaver will lead the **Danish SIG**. In person.
- On Wed. Oct. 21 from 1-2, Esta Weaver will lead the **Norwegian /Swedish SIG**. In person.
- On Wed. Oct. 21 from 2-2:15, a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. On Zoom.
- On Wed. Oct. 28 from 2-2:15, a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. On Zoom.
- Also, on the 28th from 6-8, the **African American Workshop** will be held in person.

Visit www.familysearch.org/en/centers/oakland-california/learning-resources for a wealth of other genealogy research support.

 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.

- Elizabeth Peay and Jennifer Shakshober will present **Researching Connecticut Ancestors: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy**. \$150
- On Thu. Oct 1 from 3-4:15, Jayne Anne Phillips will share her book, **Small Town Girls: A Writer's Memoir**. \$15
- On Tue. Oct. 6 from 11-12, Rhonda McClure will describe **Organizing Your Research**. \$25

- On Thu. Oct. 8 from 12-1, David Lambert will discuss **Applying to Colonial Lineage Societies**.
- On Fri. Oct. 9 from 1-2:15, Jeff Groff will explore **Creating Winterthur: The Museum, Garden, and Library**.
- On Tue. Oct. 13 from 3-4, Linford Fisher will share his book **Stealing America: The Hidden Story of Indigenous Slavery in U.S. History**.
- On Thu. Oct. 15 from 11-12, Melanie McComb will present **Jewish Patriots in the American Revolution**. \$15
- On Fri. Oct. 16 from 2-3, Andre Kearns will share his new book **Finding Cornerstone Stories: Uncovering Inspiration in Your Family History**.
- On Thu. Oct. 22 from 2-3:15, David Reynolds and Ryan Woods will discuss their book **Two Ships: Jamestown 1619, Plymouth 1620 and the Struggle for the Soul of America**. \$15 or \$50 including signed book.

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 Fri. Oct 2 at 11, Kathryn Hogan will examine **Migration Pathways Between Canada and the United States You Haven't Considered**.
- On Tue. Oct. 6 at 6, Paul Woodbury will answer **Paternal or Maternal Where Does This Match Fit?**
- On Wed. Oct 7 at 8:30 a.m., Kimball Carter will share **Photo Restoration Using Free and Paid Tools Like Never Before**.
- Also, on the 7th at 9:45, Gordon McBean will describe **Cameras My Ancestors Held and What They Tell Us**.
- In addition, on the 7th at 11, Angela Andrieux will present **Generations in Focus: Preserving**

Family Memories Through Photography.

- On Fri. Oct. 9 at 11, Julia Anderson will explore **They Came from Virginia: A Case Study in African American Research and Methodology**.
- On Tues. Oct. 13 at 11, **MyHeritage** will hold a webinar.
- On Wed. Oct. 14 at 11, Alison Spring will explore **Scottish Genealogy: Finding and Understanding Civil Registration Records**.
- In addition, on the 14th at 5, Andrew Redfern and Fiona Brooker will offer **From Data to Dialogue With AI 1 of 5: Turning Data Into Stories**.
- On Fri. Oct. 16 at 11, Sarah Pettyfer will examine **Fleet Marriages: Tracing Clandestine Weddings in the UK**.
- On Wed. Sept. 16 at 8:30am, Melissa Barker will explore **MyHeritage Collection Catalog: Navigating a Great Genealogy Resource Without Getting Overwhelmed**.
- On Tue. Oct. 20 at 5, Karen Stanbary will present **Eureka! Confirmacion del Lineaje Ancestral: Data and Documents Prove a Mexican Ancestor**. (A 2026 Reisinger Lecture)
- On Wed. Oct. 21 at 11, Karen Stanbary will discuss **DNA in Action 5 of 6: Ruling Out Competing Hypotheses**.
- Also, on Wed. Oct. 21 at 5, Andrew Redfern and Fiona Brooker will present **From Data to Dialogue with AI, 2 of 5: Writing with AI – Biographies, Blogs, and Case Studies**. For webinar members.
- On Fri. Oct. 23 at 11, Dave McDonald will share **Essential Skills for New Genealogists, 5 of 12: Let Your Fingers Do the Walking – Local Directories of All Sorts**.
- On Tue. Oct. 27 at 11, Diane Henriks will offer **Essential Photo Tools for Every Genealogist's Toolbox: MyHeritage Edition**.
- On Wed. Oct. 28 at 11, Andrea Bentschneider will share **German Genealogy: Reconstructing Families Without Church Records**.
- Also, the 28th at 5, Andrew Redfern and Fiona

Brooker will present **From Data and Dialogue with AI 3 of 5: Creating Visuals – Images, Charts, and Timelines**. For webinar members.



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. Oct. 6 at 11:30-3:30, Rachael Scott will present **Born A Slave, Died Free: How William Got His Name Back**.
- On Thu. Oct. 8 at 3:30-4:30, Curt Witcher will discuss **Putting the History in Our Family Histories**.
- On Tue. Oct. 13 from 11:30-12:30, Tina Beaird will share **Maps and Trails: Common Migration Paths from the 17th Through the 19th Centuries**.
- On Thu. Oct. 15 from 3:30-4:30, Brian Rhinehart will answer **Was My William Smith in the Civil War?**
- On Fri. Oct. 16 from 6-3, **The Genealogy Education Network** will present a free day of genealogy webinars.
- On Wed. Oct. 21 from 3:30-4:30, the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogical and the Allen County Library will discuss **Your Family History Starts Here With AI: the launch of the NEIJS & ACPL Genealogical Center AI SIG**.



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?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwtrWl_IBMJszRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6)

[list=PLwtrWl_IBMJszRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwtrWl_IBMJszRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6)

Events from Local Societies

- On Sat. Oct. 3 from 10-11, the **Contra Costa County Genealogical Society**, <https://cccgs.net>, will hold its Fall Seminar *for members only* via Zoom. Michael A. Willis, the guest speaker will share **Finding Binkey: When Research Questions Become a Road Map to the Enslaved**. Register under events on the society's website
- On Sat. Oct. 10 at 10, the **Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group**, www.svcgg.org/meetings.html, will hold its monthly meeting on Zoom. See website for details and to register.
- On Mon. Oct. 13 from 7-8:30, the **Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society**, www.l-ags.com, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. Madeline Yanov, the guest speaker, will discuss **Witches Among Us**. Preregister at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/64811234567?pwd=PTQoa5aQ2-hl2p5z2r1dQ#registration>
- On Tue. Oct. 20 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 **Lisa Medina** will explore **Las Californias: Alta, Baja, and Beyond**. See the society's website under events to register.
- On Thu. Oct. 15 at 1, the **Napa Valley Genealogical Society**, <https://napagensoc.org>, will hold its monthly meeting in the hybrid format. **Annette Lyttle**, the guest speaker, will present **Understanding Ancestral Migrations Using Settlers' Guides**. Register on the society's website.
- On Tue. Oct. 27 at 10, the **Sacramento German Genealogy Society**, <http://sggs.us> will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. The guest speaker, **Barbara Schmidt** will discuss **Beyond Facebook: Using Social Media to Advance Your Genealogy Research**. Register on the society's website
- In October the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, www.sfbajgs.org/calendar.html, will have its monthly meeting via Zoom. Check its website for further information and to register.

Upcoming Special Events

- 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**. Refer to their website for details.
- 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/>.
- On Sat. Nov. 14 the **Scottish Indexes** will hold its next full day conference on Zoom. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/2417898618963/WN_N_1-NvzZQ6i18UP5omZq2A.
- On March 4-6 the hybrid **2027 RootsTech Conference** will be held in Salt Lake City. Register at www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration ■

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. ■

Our New Website is here! (cont'd)

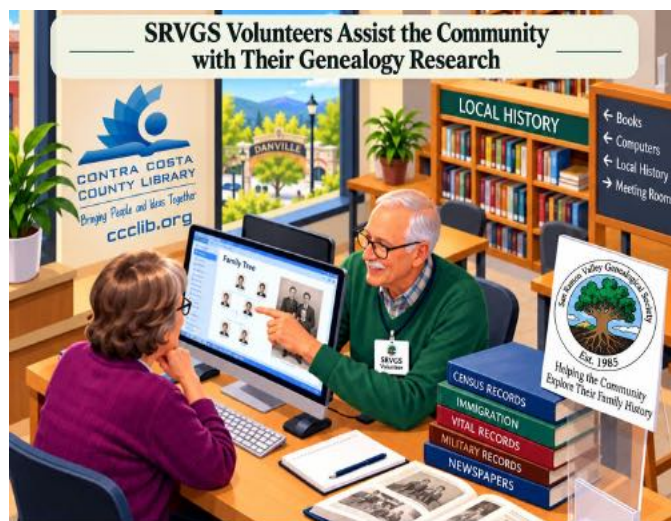
Photo Galleries: Bob Venter who maintained our website before the upgrade has a knack for assembling photos and produced our Legacy Photo Album (in the Members section). He has also put together (in the Members section) Board of Directors, Group Leaders and Support Personnel and more recent social events, including our Fall Gathering at Hap Magee. Thank you Margaret Goetze for the Hap Magee photos.

Pay by Credit Card: You can now use a regular credit card for payments. Julie Basel and Jill Zollinger set this up.

Newsletters: All our monthly newsletters from our founding in 1985 to the present are available to the public. We think they're a good advertisement for the group. Barbara Thurston configured most of the 420+ newsletters.

Events: The new system has a nice built-in way to display upcoming meetings. We are displaying 10 at a time. Clicking (or tapping) the titles gives more detail.

Our Web Team, Julie Basel, Barbara Thurston, Bob Venter and Bill George, hope you enjoy the new website. ■



Genealogy Help at the Danville Public Library

400 Front Street, Danville, CA.



Second Tuesday of Each Month • 10 am – 1 pm

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@sbcglobal.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. ■