



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

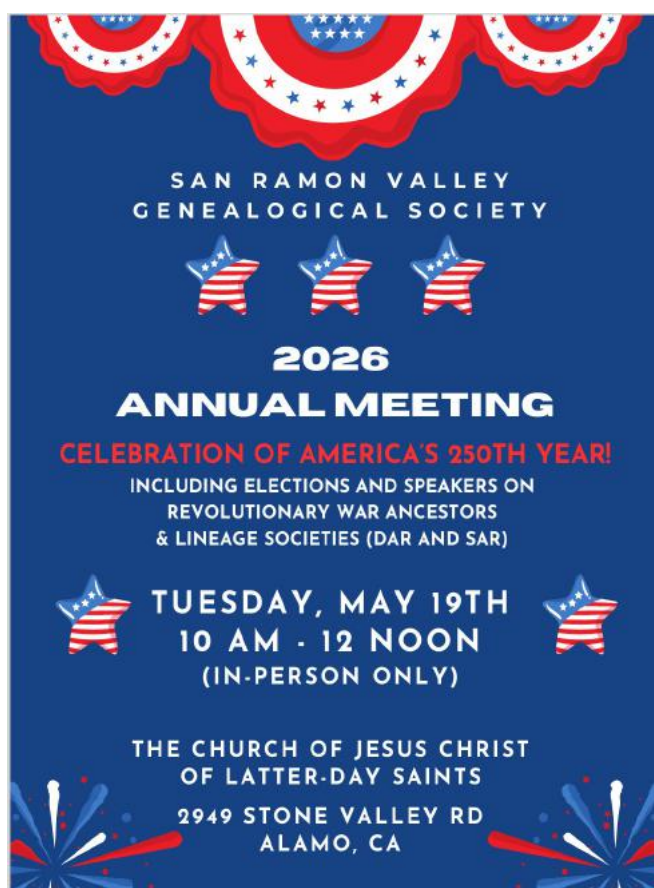
Vol. XLI No. 10 May - 2026

May Meeting

Tuesday, May 19th, 2026 at 10 am

250th Anniversary of USA

In-Person Meeting



SRVGS Annual Meeting

All members are invited to the in-person Celebration of America's 250th year at the Danville FamilySearch Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd, Alamo, California 94507. A slate of Board members will be presented and voted on. Speakers will include:

- Derek Brown from the SAR Lineage Society
- Guest: Tom Silva , President and Historian of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter CASSAR)
- Virginia Rood and Jill Zollinger representing the DAR
- SRVGS Members will be presenting research on their Revolutionary War Ancestors
- Karen Olynger presenting a short program on Feeding the Patriots
- Bill George and Bob Venter presenting the new SRVGS website

Light Refreshments will be served.

Note: Our May meeting will be an In-person meeting. There will be no recording. ■



President's Message

By Scott Hefner



Many of us have heard stories about our ancestors that have evolved into family legends. Often these are short on specific facts (names, dates, locations) and documentation, but are generally just hearsay with an unknown amount of truth behind them.

These stories are mysterious and intriguing and may in fact be one of the motivations that got us started in genealogy research in the first place. I have had one of these legends floating around in my consciousness for many years, but have been stumped as to how to go about determining how much truth there was to it, if any.

The basic legend was that one of my ancestors from someplace in Germany, in some indeterminate time in the past, was a member of a royal family of some sort. This ancestor is reputed to have married a commoner and as a result was forced to abdicate or was disowned by said royal family. With no time period specified, no family name known (supposedly on my maternal grandmother's side), and the region in Germany unclear, it was difficult to know where to start an investigation.

It turns out that the path to discovery lay in the normal course of researching my ancestors, with a big boost from AI tools and access to data sources that have only been available in recent years. My journey started with tracing the maternal side of my family. My maternal great-grandmother's maiden name was Haecker. The Haeckers were from a town in the Palatinate called Klingenstein, but my 4X great-grandfather emigrated with his wife and family to the United States in 1832, eventually settling in Ohio. His wife's maiden name was Zundel, and as I began tracing her family it suddenly got more interesting.

The Zundels were a prominent family in Wiersheim, and I uncovered an intriguing story about the wife's first cousin. This was one published account I came across:

"John Eberhardt Zundel, who was born in 1771, migrated to America in 1802, under rather

unusual circumstances. He was the son of the Baron Zundel of Wurtemberg and succeeded in infuriating his father by marrying a servant girl in a society where class difference was of great importance. Baron Zundel considered John's decision a family disgrace, forcing John and his lovely young wife, Julianne, to flee their village. Baron Zundel's rage was so great, however, that he continued to search for the young couple, finding them six years later. Upon discovery, the two were exiled from Germany. They fled to America taking their family with them. John received 11,000 marks from Baron Zundel per year, with the stipulation that John agree to never return to his native country of Germany."

So here I had published confirmation of my family legend, matching the scant details I had been told almost exactly. However, stories like this that are handed down across generations sometimes get embellished with the retelling, and details may get changed or obscured. The tools that are now available can quickly and dramatically be used to prove, disprove, or clarify the details of a legend. In this case, German church records from Archion and Ancestry, as well as AI queries, provide more documentation to correct misinformation and paint a clearer picture of what happened. First, I found that "Baron" Zundel was actually Mayor Zundel, still a high position but not quite royalty. Second, Julianna's father was a judge and a wealthy farmer, so she was not a servant girl but was in fact Johann Zundel's social equal. Third, their marriage was not "secret" but was recorded and published in official church and town records. Fourth, the couple continued to live in Wiersheim for 18 years after their marriage and had five children. AI was also very helpful in providing explanations for why numerous "facts" may have really been misinterpretations of reality, such as how the couple's departure from the Lutheran church and subsequent conversion to a cult may have affected their decision to emigrate and their financial position.

My main takeaways from this experience are that family legends may contain at least a kernel of truth but are often exaggerated and misstate facts, and that AI can be enormously helpful in separating fact from fiction and in connecting the dots of what and why events actually occurred. If you have any of these legends floating around in your family, there's never been a better time to find out how true they might be. Happy hunting! ■

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!■

Do you have a Revolutionary War Veteran ancestor?

In getting ready for our country’s 250th anniversary in July, your board members thought it would be an interesting project to collect the names and information on the patriot ancestors of our membership. If you know this information for any of your lines, please submit the following information for us to include in our database: your name, the name of your patriot or Loyalist ancestor, your relationship to the ancestor, BMD info, any service info that you have and any additional information that you wish to share.

If you don’t know yet, and have ancestors who lived in the colonies in the mid to late 1700’s, now is the time to do some research! Let us know if you need help.

Send submissions or questions to Karen LaDuca at kblquilt@comcast.net and our committee will get to work on putting the information together to post on our website. We would like to have this available for our May general meeting which will be focused on America 250.■

SRVGS Elections

SRVGS Elections are coming up at our May in person meeting. In keeping with our constitution and by-laws we are publishing the slate of officers to be voted on.

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2026-2028

President: Scott Hefner
1st Vice President: Karen LaDuca
2nd VP (Programs): Karen Olynger
3rd VP (Membership): Julie Basel
Recording Secretary: Caren O’Donnell
Corresponding Secretary: Julie Basel
Treasurer: Jill Zollinger

The Election will take place at the May General meeting on 19 May 2026■

IN THIS MONTH’S NEWSLETTER

CONTACT INFORMATION	5
DANVILLE FSC HOURS	14
EDUCATION	7
EVENTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES	10
MARK YOUR CALENDAR	5
NOTES ON APRIL MEETING	4
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE	2
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	6
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS	9

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Annette Breingan

Lynette Lombardo

Notes on April 21st Presentation

Reuniting Families with Lost Photos

By Margaret Goetze ...



Kate Norton Kelley, known as the Photo Angel, has a mission to reunite photos with families and their descendants. It all started in 2021 when sorting photos with her mom. A number of the photos were not relatives however they were labeled. She enjoyed the thrill of looking on genealogy websites to rehome the photos with families of these people. Soon she was hooked and started visiting antique stores to purchase labeled photos with the intent of finding their relatives.

Her paternal grandmother Hazel Norton inspired her love of genealogy. Hazel was a member of the Connecticut Society of Genealogist and taught Kate the basics of genealogy. Her maternal grandfather, Walter Straun was a veteran, who proudly displayed photos of ancestors.

Kate created the website for Photo Angel to help inspire others to reunite photos and share their stories. She has been featured on television and multiple social media venues with multiple YouTube videos. There is also a Private Facebook group you may request access to join.

She regularly uses Ancestry, FindAGrave and MyHeritage too, but with less success. She learned that not everyone is interested in old photos. They could be going digital and don't need the physical copy. In some cases, there are painful memories. Some people are wary of scams and hesitant to respond. Some people respond weeks to year later. People who regularly use genealogy sites are more likely to be interested. Photos can also be donated to a Historical Society or Museum.

Although she loves looking in antique stores, they can be hit or miss. You want to have labels for the people, so you have a basis to work with. In one store, after learning what Kate does, the owner brought out an old album full of labeled pictures. It was a light ship recovery on the Columbia river in Oregon/Washington. Kate found a museum that had a display of ship wrecks and was thrilled to receive the album.

She loves to reunite the photos with people in person when possible. Their joy and excitement are incredible. One man brought his laptop, and he shared information on all the people in the pictures.

Kate has reunited photos with people in all fifty states and over six other countries. Since antique stores purchase their inventory from many locations, the pictures may not be from the local area. She organizes her work into four categories: New Photos, Pending, Challenges and To Be Mailed. Kate doesn't charge the recipients and donations to support her work may be made via The Photo Angel website.

I've enjoyed reuniting photos of my grandmother's siblings with their descendants in Canada. It's a fun way to build connection with relatives I've never met – and in one case I was sent a photo of my grandmother and grandfather likely when they first met. I had never seen it before and it was such a thrill! Photos provide an incredible link to our ancestors and another fulfilling aspect of genealogy. ■



Did you go to RootsTech, either in person or virtually? Did you listen to any presentations that impressed you or you think were worthwhile spreading the word to the rest of our membership? Just send me a line or two on the presentation and why you thought it was memorable and I'll publish your comments in upcoming issues.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 2026

- 19 Tuesday-10am, the May meeting will be a General Meeting to be held in person at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Alamo.
- 26 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

June 2026

- 16 Tues-10am, the June General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Scott Norrick will present **America at 250 Years! Researching Your Scott Norrick Revolutionary Ancestors** via Zoom
- 23 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

July 2026

- 21 Tuesday-10am, the July General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Allison Singleton will present **The Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library, Indiana, Overview of Collections and Supporting research of America's 250th year**

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

August 2026—No meeting or Board Meeting this month

September 2026

- 15 Fall Picnic at a local park, details forthcoming as they become available

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:
 Barbara Shapas
secretary@srvgensoc.org

Recording Secretary:
 Margaret Goetze

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor: Barbara Thurston

Calendar Coordinator:
 Bill George

Education Coordinator:
 Kathy Javdani

Webmaster: Bill George
webmaster@srvgensoc.org

- 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■

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS FOR MAY, 2026

By: Bill George, SRVGS SIG Coordinator

In May, 2026, all seven Special Interest Groups will meet at their normal dates/times, All SIGs meet on-line, except for the in-person German SIG which is meeting at the Danville Church of Latter Day Saints. All meet during the day except the AI SIG which meets at 7pm on Zoom. 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 below to be added to their monthly announcement email. Guests are welcome, but encouraged to join the Society.



FamilySearch SIG, Monday, May 11th (the second Monday) from **1-3pm 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, May 13th, (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, May 20th, (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 May 18th (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, May 21st (the 3rd Thursday) **10:30am - 12 Noon in a Google Meet meeting**. Contact Kathy Javdani at kjisc@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, Monday, May 25th (the 4th Monday) from **7-9pm in a Zoom meeting**. Learn the many aspects of AI used for Genealogy. See also a website <https://aisig.ancstor.org> that will have helpful AI URLs and an agenda. You may contact SIG leader Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



German Research SIG, Wednesday, May 27th, (the 4th Wednesday). This is an in-person meeting only, no Zoom to be held at the Danville Church of Latter Day Saints, 2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo. Members share information from a variety of sources. You may contact SIG leader **Karen LaDuca** at kblquilts@comcast.net for more info. ■



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

It's May. What a perfect month to learn more family history!

☞ The California Genealogy Society Library, www.californiaancestors.org, is open on Thursday through Saturday from 10-2. Refer to the society's website for specific procedures for Saturday visits and to register for the following activities. The Library will be closed on May 23rd in observance of Memorial Day. Note any fees. Also, visit the society's website for access to available recordings and videos. CGS Members are no longer required to register for most events. Members can log into the CGS website, and find Zoom, handout and survey links directly before the event. If you prefer to register and to receive the reminder emails, you may continue to do so. The speaker may not have handouts ready until the evening before the event.

- On Sat. May 2 from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a hybrid meeting. The topic will be **Genealogy Basics Overview**.
- On Sat. May 16 from 10-12 Sandra Huber will lead the San Francisco SIG via Zoom. Contact sfsig@californiaancestors.org for more information.
- In addition, on the 16th from 1-3 Ron Madson and Karen Halfon will host a hybrid session of the **FamilyTree Maker SIG**. Register at the <https://ftm-sig.org> or contact Ron at 650-576-4495 or Karen at 415-922-225 for further information.
- On Wed. May 20 from 4:30-6 Linda Okazaki will discuss **Once Upon a Time...Creating Compelling Stories Out of Mundane Facts**. This will be a hybrid presentation. Live online via Zoom or in person at the Oakland FamilySearch Library.

- On Sat. May 23 from 10-11:30 Craig Siulinski and Laura Bajuk will host the **Eastern European SIG** meeting via Zoom.
- On Mon. May 25 from 7-8:30 the **DNA Skills SIG** with Mark McLaren will meet online. Contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net for details.
- On Wed. May 27 from 6:30-8 the **RootsMagic Users Group SIG** with Keith Montgomery will meet online. Contact Keith at kmontgomery@californiaancestors.org to register.
- On Thu. May 28 from 4:30-6 Leo Escamado will share **Adventures in Filipino American Genealogy**. This will be a hybrid presentation. Live online via Zoom or in person at the Oakland FamilySearch Library.
- On Sat. Jun. 6 from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a hybrid meeting. The topic will be **Using the Census**.
- The Mayflower Descendants SIG is no longer meeting. Contact Robert 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. Many classes are available both in-person and via zoom. A button to join each Zoom is on the website. Here are some (but not all...):

- On Wed. May 6 from 2-2:15 a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. Hybrid.
- Also on the 6th from 1-2 Robert Jackson will lead the **German Genealogy SIG**. In person.
- On Tue. May 12 from 11-12 Cindi Thompson will host the **Hawaiian Research Discussion SIG**. In person.
- On Wed. May 13 from 2-2:15 a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. Hybrid.
- On Wed. May 20 from 1-2 Jared Weaver will host the **Danish SIG**. In person.
- Also, on the 20th from 1-2 Esta Weaver will lead the **Norwegian/Swedish SIG**. In person.
- In addition on the 20th from 2-2:15 a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. Hybrid.
- On Wed. May 27 from 2-2:15 a staff member will offer the **15 Min. Weekly Tip: AI Use for Genealogy**. Hybrid.
- Also on the 27th from 6-8 Electra Kimble Price will lead the **African American Workshop**. Hybrid.

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, such as their on-demand previously aired courses and presentations. If you have questions or feedback, contact Online Educa-

tion. Register for its webinars on the society's website.

- On Tue. May 5, 12, 26, and June 2 from 3-4:30 Rhonda McClure and David Lambert will present a series of sessions on **Tracing Scottish Ancestry: Records, Resources, and Research Strategies**. \$125
- On Thu. May 7 from 12-1 Melanie McComb will discuss **Breaking New Ground: How Land Records Can Help in Family History Research**.
- Also, on the 7th from 3-4:15 Anna Quindlen will share her novel **More Than Enough: A Novel about DNA Testing**. \$15
- On Fri. May 8 from 1-2:15 Curt DiCamillo will discuss **Forged in Revolution: Paul Revere's Sons of Liberty Bowl**.
- On Sat. May 16 from 11-12 Hallie Kirchner will explore **Germans in the Revolution: Hessians and Patriots**. \$15
- On Mon. May 18 from 3-4 W. Fitzhugh Brundage will share his book **A Fate Worse Than Hell: American Prisoners of the Civil War**.

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.

 The Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center offers many webinars. Go to <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy> to see the current list and 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. May 5 from 11:30-12:30 Logan Knight will examine **Freedom's Debt: Guide to Revolutionary War Pensions**
- On Tue. May 12 from 11:30-12:30 Ms. Jude will discuss **From Yorkshire Coal Miner to American Professor**.
- On Thu. May 14 from 3:30-4:30 Mark Belloni

will explore **Old Homes, New Discoveries: How to Research Historic Properties.**

- On Tue. May 19 from 11:30-12:30 Sara Allen will present **Researching Modern-Day Adoptions.**
- On Thu. May 21 from 3:30-4:430 Mica L. Anders will offer **Beyond 1870: Finding Ancestors Our African American Ancestors Beyond the Brick Wall.**

 Legacy offers numerous free webinars every month. Go to <https://familytreewebinars.com> to register.

- On Fri. May 1 at 11 Paula Stuart-Warren will share **Insight into State Archives: ARCs, IRADs, ONAHRs, and Other Branches.**
- On Wed. May 6 at 12am Michelle Patient will examine **Early Europeans in Aotearoa New Zealand: Settlers Before 1840.**
- In addition, on the 6th at 8:3 Sabine Akaboyov will offer **Top 8 Resources for Jewish Genealogy in Germany.**
- Also, on the 6th at 9:45 Deborah Long will present **Out of the Whirlwind: Resources for Holocaust Research.**
- Finally on the 6th at 11 Kaye Prince-Hollenberg will discuss **Top 10 Free Resources for Jewish Genealogy.**
- On Fri. May 8 at 11 Margaret Roberts will explore **Researching in Cheshire.**
- On Tue. May 12 at 11 Paula Williams will examine **Cousins, Clusters, and Clues: Using MyHeritage DNA for Your Genealogical Mysteries.**
- On Wed. May 13 at 11 Yetunde Moronka Abiola will present **Caribbean Genealogy: Tracing Ancestors in Jamaica, Haiti, and Panama.**
- On Fri. May 15th at 11 Nefi Arenas Salazar will examine **From Swords to Settlers Conquistador Ancestors in 16th Century New Spain.**
- On Tue. May 19 at 5 Patti Lee Hobbs will discuss **Common-Sense Principles for Establishing Genetic Relationships.**

- On Wed. May 20 at 11 Blaine Bettinger will explore **Advanced Topics in DNA 3 of 5: Advanced Relationship Analysis.**

- On Wed. May 27 at 5 Taneya Koonce will share **Build It to Last: Why Family History Archive is Essential – and How to Organize It With Ease.**

- On Tue. Jun 2 at 11 Linda Yip will offer **Your Family Tree, Everywhere: Mac and iOS Genealogy Solutions.**

 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=PLwtrWI_IBMJszRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6

Events from Local Societies

- 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.
- On Mon. May 11 from 7-8:30 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will host a Zoom meeting. Sara Cochran, the guest speaker, will present **Missing: Reward! Locating Widows, Spinsters and Bachelors**. The link to register for the meeting is on the site under speakers.
- On Thu. May 14 at 6:30 the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net>, will hold its annual meeting entitled **250th Anniversary Show & Share**. Participants are encouraged to share ancestors' experiences in early America. Register under events on the society's website.
- On Tue. May 19 from 6:30-8 the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, <https://scchgs.org>, will hold its monthly meeting on Zoom. Guest speaker Carla Zimowski will present **The Journey: Mapping Your Ancestors**. Register under events on the society's website.
- On May 21 at 1 the Napa Valley Genealogical Society, <https://napagensoc.org>, will hold its monthly meeting in the hybrid format. The guest speaker, James Baker, will share **Genealogy Unplugged – When Offline Records are the Best**. Register on the society's website.
- On Sat. May 9 from 1-5 in a hybrid **Spring Seminar the Genealogical Forum of Oregon** will host Fritz Juengling. He will discuss **Researching Your Norwegian and Swedish Roots**. Register at <https://gfo.org/learn/spring-seminar-2026.html>
- From May 27-30 the **National Genealogical Society 2026 Family History Conference** will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana in a hybrid format. Register at <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>
- From June 12-17 (In-person Courses In Pittsburgh, PA) and from June 22nd-26th (Virtual Courses) the **GRIP Genealogy Institute** will take place. For details and to register visit the website <https://grip.ngsgenealogy.org/>
- From Aug. 6 -9 the **Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania** will hold its **PaGE 2026 Virtual Conference**. For details and to register visit the website at <https://events.genpa.org> .
- 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 will hold its hybrid **2026 Fall Conference from Raleigh, NC**. Save the date registration details to follow.
- On Nov. 6 and 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

Upcoming Special Events

will host its first virtual conference, “**Italian Genealogy: The Boot and Beyond**”. For more information, go to: <https://www.italiangen.org/events/> ■

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 anticipate it will be available by June 2 with a planned go live June 15. 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, so stay tuned. This is the first announcement of what we anticipate will be several.

If you would like to take a peek at this work in progress, follow this link, <https://sb-srvgs.ens-205.com/>. 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@sbcgloba.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. ■