



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XLI No. 5 November - 2025

November Presentation

Tuesday, Nov. 18th, 2025 at 10am

“Detecting Genealogical Fraud & Fantasy”

By Melinda Kashuba”

(Via Zoom)



This program explores how misinformation enters family history, from innocent mistakes to deliberate deception. Unsourced “name collecting,” fabricated pedigrees, estate scams, and mass-market heritage books have all lured researchers into false lineages. This presentation highlights notorious frauds, like Gustave Anjou, who manufactured ancestral connections for profit. To counter these risks, genealogists can rely on the Genealogical Proof Standard, thorough documentation, and critical analysis of conflicting evidence. DNA testing, especially Y-DNA, provides a modern check against fraudulent claims. Yet new threats—such as AI-generated records—make vigilance

more important than ever. Skepticism, careful use of original sources, and adherence to ethical research practices are the best defenses against genealogical fraud, ensuring our family histories remain trustworthy and meaningful.

Melinda Kashuba is a professional genealogist and owner of Kashuba Research Services, a genealogical and historical research company. Her popular book, *Walking with Your Ancestors: A Genealogist's Guide to Using Maps and Geography*, joins a long list of articles in numerous genealogical magazines and other publications. See our website (www.srvgensoc.org) for more info on Melinda, her history, education and formidable qualifications. ■

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.

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President's Message

By Scott Hefner



In addition to bringing cooler weather and beautiful fall colors, the months of October and November also contain several holidays and commemorations of historically and culturally significant events.

Columbus Day/ Indigenous People's Day occurs on October 12. This holiday has evolved over the years, and has become controversial recently. When I was young, we were taught that Columbus was a hero and learned the rhyme, "In fourteen hundred and ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue". Over the years, the general attitude towards Columbus has become more nuanced, recognizing that he didn't really discover, or even land in, America. He actually landed in the Bahamas on October 12, 1492, thinking he had found India, and most reports are that he wasn't very nice to the natives, to say the least. On the other hand, there is little doubt that his voyage of discovery was a risky undertaking, and the aftermath had a lasting impact on the so-called "New World" as it paved the way for European immigration and settlement.

As nearly everyone knows, especially children, Halloween is celebrated on October 31. Now associated primarily with candy and costumes, Halloween was brought to America by Irish and Scottish immigrants in the 19th century, and was first celebrated by the Celtic people 2,000 years ago. It was always connected with death, spirits, ghosts and witches, although over time those connections have become more lighthearted and less terrifying. Of course, as Gay Scott reminded in last year's October presentation, "The Witchcraft Crisis of 1692", one of the darkest chapters in American history involved the Salem Witch Trials, in which 200 people were charged with being witches and 20 were executed. While there isn't a direct connection to Halloween this was a stark reminder that superstition and a belief in the existence of witches could easily lead to hysteria and tragedy.

One of the most notable and celebrated events in American history was the voyage of the May-

flower and the subsequent celebration of the first Thanksgiving. Fleeing religious persecution, 102 Pilgrims and Puritans set sail across the Atlantic, landing in Massachusetts on November 21, 1620. Only 53 of 102 Mayflower passengers lived through the harsh first winter, and it was notable that the good relationship they had established with the local Wampanoag tribe and their leader, Massasoit, made it possible for any to survive. In late September or early October of the following year, the surviving settlers gathered in Plymouth with 90 members of the Wampanoag to celebrate their first fall harvest. This is widely considered to be a foundational event in American history, and established the basis for the Thanksgiving holiday we celebrate today.

Although it's extremely rare for any Americans to trace their ancestral roots back to Christopher Columbus, it's estimated that 10 million Americans have an ancestral line that connects to a passenger on the Mayflower. Even more surprising, it's estimated that 15 million Americans can trace their ancestry to someone who was involved in the Salem witch trials in some way. But regardless of genealogical connections, these people and events are closely tied to the American culture that we all share. ■



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society
SRVGENSOC.ORG



Do you have boxes filled with photos and don't know what to do with them?

We can help! Reserve an hour during the times listed below, we will scan and restore your photos, documents & artifacts for you.

SRVGS in partnership with the Danville FamilySearch Center at 2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo, CA

November 10-19, 2025

Monday: 10am-1pm & 6:30pm-9pm

Tuesday: 2pm – 5pm

Wednesday: 1pm – 4pm

Contact: Steve Watty at

swattygenealogy@gmail.com

For details





PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

SRVGS

HOLIDAY
GATHERING
& COOKIE
EXCHANGE!

Reconnect with genealogy friends!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

2:00 - 4:00PM

At the LDS church gymnasium

2949 Stone Valley Road

Alamo

Refreshments will be served!



Notes on the October Speaker, Thomas MacEntee Photo Organizing and Preservation: You Can Do It!

By Margaret Goetze



Thomas MacEntee joined us for the second time this year to provide us with tips to organize and preserve our priceless family photos. (Ed. Note: Thomas is retiring from presentations this year so this one may very well be one of his last. Though I understand he still has other irons in the fire so check out his website)

Remember to download the handout included in the meeting invitation and is also on our website. It contains details of his recommended steps and links to an extensive resource list, not necessary or possible to repeat here. He covered the following categories:

- Creating a Photo Digitization and Preservation Plan
- Taking Inventory, Sorting and Organizing Photos and Media
- A Crucial Decision: Do-It-Yourself (DIY)? or Send It Out?
- Tips for Outsourcing Digitization Projects
- Tips for DIY Digitization Projects
- Storing Digital Image Files
- Technology Review: What's New and What's a "Must Have"
- Miscellaneous Tips and Tricks■

Cookie Exchange Logistics

As the days get closer to our annual Cookie Exchange & Holiday Gathering, to be held on Tuesday, December 2nd from 2pm to 4pm, I am asking for a few volunteers to join the event committee. Anyone able to help please reach out by contacting me at wtheobaldwork@yahoo.com or call my cell at (925)766-6705. We will schedule a zoom meeting in the next few days to go through our preparation for the event.

We have already procured one of the more important parts for the event, that is the meeting space, same as last year. We have use of the large gymnasium space at the Danville LDS Church along with adequate tables and chairs.

We have in our hospitality inventory stockpile, from prior years and the 40th Anniversary party, table coverings, cups and glasses, punch and water containers. The committee needs to finalize the event advertising and promotion schedule, table decorations, SIG/Freebie tables as well as party prizes.

We are hoping to have 50+ members and guests "pouring" into the hall to enjoy the shared treats, social time with fellow members and some genealogy games. Participants will be supplied with a take-home box for the leftover treats and recipe copies for the special creations.

I cannot forget last year's Lace Cookies, they were so delicate and good, those members that partook of them were well identified by the powdered sugar all over the front of their sweaters. Would we dare to have a contest for the top three cookies in the layout? Maybe not, all are winners!

Thank you
Weldon Theobald, Hospitality Chairman■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 2025

- 18 Tuesday-10am, the November General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Melinda Kashuba will present **Detecting Genealogical Fraud & Fantasy**
- 25 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

December 2025

- 2 There are no regularly scheduled meetings this month, however we will be having a holiday party and our traditional cookie exchange on Tuesday December 2 at the Danville LDS Church.

January 2026

- 20 Tuesday-10am, the January General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Sara Cochran will present **Who Needs It Anyway? Getting Around the Missing 1890 Census.**
- 27 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

February 2026

- 17 Tuesday-10am the February General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Katy Bodenhorn will present **Hidden in Plain Sight ... Plus Using "Full Text Search" Tool on Family Search.org.**
- 24 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

March 2026

- 17 Tuesday-10am the March General Meeting will be as a Field Trip/Excursion to the Family Search Cen-

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Calendar Coordinator:
 Bill George

Education Coordinator:
 Kathy Javdani

Webmaster: Bill George

ter in Oakland.

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

April 2026

- 21 Tuesday-10am, the April General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Kate Norton Kelley will present **Reuniting Families with Lost Photos**
- 28 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome. ■

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS FOR NOVEMBER, 2025

By: Bill George, SRVGS SIG Coordinator

In November 2025 all seven Special Interest Groups meet on line except the German SIG which meets in person at the Danville FamilySearch Center. The meeting schedule is adjusted for the Thanksgiving holiday such that the Italian and German SIGs have moved up 1 week. All SIGs meet during the day except the AI SIG that meets at 7pm, on Zoom. All SIG members receive emails from their leaders on how to join each meeting. If you'd like to attend a SIG for the first time, contact the SIG leader to be added to their monthly announcement email. Guests are welcome, but encouraged to join the Society.



FamilySearch SIG, Monday, Nov. 10th, (the 2nd Monday) from **1:00pm – 3:00pm 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, Nov. 12th, (the 2nd Wednesday) from **10:00am-12:00noon 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, Nov. 12th, (the 2nd Wednesday, this month only) **1:00pm—3:00pm 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, Nov. 17th (the 3rd Monday) **1:00pm-3:00pm** 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, Nov. 20th. (the 3rd Thursday) **10:30am - 12:00pm 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, Monday, Nov. 24th, (the 4th Monday) from **7:00pm—9:00pm in a Zoom Meeting**. Learn the many aspects of AI used for Genealogy. See also a website <https://aisig.ancestor.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, Nov. 19th, (the 3rd Wednesday, this month only) from **1:00pm—2:45pm** at the Danville Family Search Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd., Alamo. **This is an in-person meeting only, no Zoom**. Members share information from a variety of sources. You may contact SIG Leader **Karen LaDuca** at kblquilts@comcast.net. ■

MEMBER ARTICLE

AN *UPSTAIRS-DOWNSTAIRS* SURPRISE IN MY MOTHER'S FAMILY HISTORY

BY HAROLD BRADLEY

Driven by the thrill of the unknown, genealogical researchers are always looking for new discoveries, patiently (or impatiently) searching for unexpected family stories. For example, I never thought that I would encounter an Upstairs Downstairs-like (or Downton Abbey-like) episode in my mother's family history. Both of these television dramas explored the lives of upstairs noble families and their downstairs servants with an emphasis on the enormous social and economic chasm between these two groups of people in the Edwardian age and on into the 1920s with Downton.

I knew that my maternal Barnes ancestors lived in the village of Amport in Hampshire, UK during the Victorian era. The upstairs people in Amport lived in Amport House, the country estate of John Paulet, the 14th Marquis of Winchester and his wife Mary, the Marchioness of Winchester. As possessor of the oldest surviving marquise in the country, the Marquis of Winchester was considered the Premier Marquis of England.¹

I also knew that my Barnes forebears were strictly downstairs (or out-of-doors) folk. According to UK census records (1851-1881), my great-great-grandfather, Edward Barnes (1779-1839), was a laborer and also the parish clerk of St. Mary's Church Amport. My great-great grandfather, Edward Barnes (1817-1863), was a woodsman. My great grandfather, Edward Barnes (1848-1913), was a gardener. You can never have too many Edwards!

My own grandfather, Percy Barnes, followed in his father Edward's footsteps, becoming a gardener himself and then a jack-of-many-trades after he immigrated to Canada in 1907. Percy's wife-to-be, Elizabeth Lydia (Lil) Green had worked as a servant and nurse maid for a family in East London before she followed Percy to Canada in 1908. Percy and Lil were married in St. Catharines, Ontario in 1909, and my mother was born there in 1913.

A Family Bible in My Mother's Family

The "Upstairs Downstairs" surprise in my maternal family tree came to light with an intriguing bible that

my grandfather brought with him from England—a book that is still in our Canadian Barnes family today.² The bible belonged to my grandfather's aunt, Fanny Barnes, who had married William Henry Norman at St. Mary's Church Amport on Christmas Day in 1865. Our Canadian Barnes contingent was intrigued as to why the Marchioness of Winchester had presented the book to Fanny, especially with this cordial inscription on the bible's flyleaf:

*Fanny Norman
On her wedding day
Xmas day
1865*

*From her sincere well wisher
The Marchioness of Winchester*

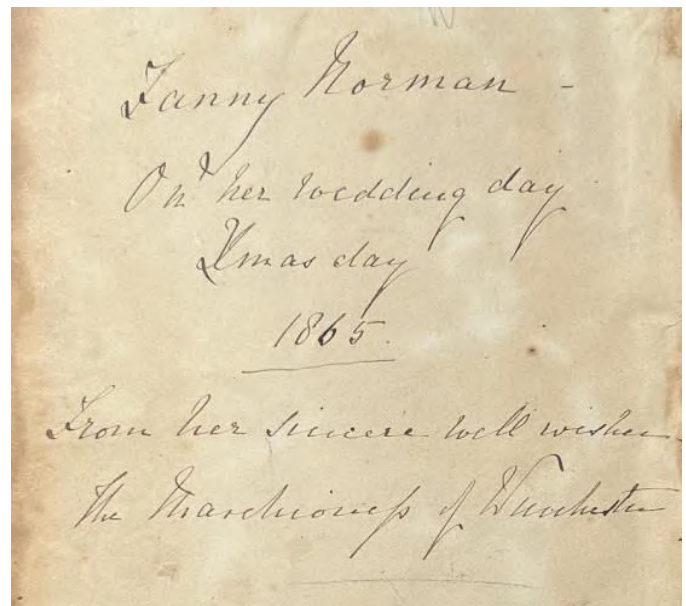


Fig 1: Inscribed flyleaf of the bible presented to Fanny Norman by the Marchioness of Winchester, December 26, 1865

The bible sent me sprinting to Ancestry.com where I quickly found the Norman/Barnes wedding notation with additional details including William's age (full age = over 21) and profession (plasterer), Fanny's age (19), William's residence (South Molton, Devonshire), the couple's signatures, and three witness signatures (Mary Winchester, Joseph Andrews, and Ann Parfett).

MEMBER ARTICLE

AN *UPSTAIRS-DOWNSTAIRS* SURPRISE IN MY MOTHER'S FAMILY HISTORY
(CONT'D)

1865 Marriage solemnized in the Church in the Parish of Amport in the County of Southampton

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
116	Dec ^r 26 th	William Henry Norman	24	Bachelor	Plasterer	South Molton, Devon	John Norman	Plasterer
		Fanny Barnes	19	Spinster		Amport	Edward Barnes	Workman

Married in the Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by me, John Barnes

This Marriage was solemnized between us, William Henry Norman and Fanny Barnes in the Presence of us, Mary Winchester, Elizabeth Winchester, Thomas Winchester

Fig 2: The wedding of William Henry Norman & Fanny Barnes as recorded in Amport St. Mary's Church, December 26, 1865

Fanny Barnes, William Henry Norman, and the Marchioness of Winchester

Family bibles can be valuable sources of genealogical information, and our Barnes bible contains many scribbled Barnes and Norman births and deaths, but the bible also raised questions. How did Fanny Barnes of Amport, Hampshire come to marry William Henry Norman of South Molton, Devon? Why was the Marchioness of Winchester a witness at their wedding, and why did she give the couple an inscribed bible?

Enticing William Henry Norman from Devon to Hampshire in 1865 was straightforward. The Marquis of Winchester was soon to be engaged in extensive renovations of St. Mary's Church in Amport. A new entrance and porch were to be built on the north side. The north transept was to be rebuilt, a vestry added, and the nave extended with a new circular window in its gable end.³ All this work required skilled tradesmen and craftsmen including plasterers like William. He probably met Fanny while working on the church, and they were married on the job site. As for Fanny and the Marchioness, I wondered if Fanny might have joined the downstairs staff at Amport House in the early 1860s when she was in her late teens. I do not know what her role might have been in the grand house—possibly a kitchen/scullery maid, a laundry maid, or a dairy maid. She might even have been a nursemaid helping to care for the Marchioness's three children in 1865 (Augustus,

age 7; Lilian, age 6; and Henry, age 3), like my grandmother, Lil Green, in East London, 1901. Whatever Fanny was, whatever she did, she might have caught the eye of Mary Winchester, especially if Fanny was responsible for the Winchester's children.



Fig 3: The Marchioness of Winchester with her two eldest children by Camille Silvy, albumen print, 28 February 1861, National Portrait Gallery Ax51656

Of course, the lady of the house might just have noticed that someone on her staff was to be married on Christmas Day, and she dropped by to celebrate the event. Indeed, Christmas Day and Boxing Day were two days that working class

MEMBER ARTICLE

AN *UPSTAIRS-DOWNSTAIRS* SURPRISE IN MY MOTHER'S FAMILY HISTORY
(CONT'D)

people in Victorian England could probably count on as holidays. Moreover, churches often offered their services free or at reduced rates around Christmas, so multiple church weddings were common at this time of year.⁴

My interest in Fanny and the Marchioness recently led me to contact the Hampshire Record Office and Archives to find out if they had manorial staffing records for Amport House in the early 1860s. After a thorough search through the county records (as well as the National Archives), the archivist came up empty-handed and could only suggest that the records had not survived. I greatly appreciated their efforts and wasn't surprised by this, but I was stopped in my tracks by yet another puzzling occurrence.

The Death of the Marchioness of Winchester

Mary Paulet, the Marchioness of Winchester, died young, suddenly, and unexpectedly on September 5, 1868 at age 40—only three years after she had attended the Barnes/Norman nuptials. She was buried in the churchyard at St. Mary's Amport on September 12, 1868. The following revelatory obituary appeared in a local newspaper on the same day as her funeral. The announcement tells us something about Mary's character.⁵

We regret to announce that the Marchioness of Winchester died suddenly last week. Her ladyship, who was in her 40th year, was the eldest daughter of Baron Rokeby, and was married to the present Marquis of Winchester in 1855. By her constant acts of kindness and general delight in doing good to those who required it she was much beloved in and around the village of Amport, and her death will be lamented by many, as she did everything in her power for the good of those around her. Her funeral was arranged to take place this day (Saturday) in the most private manner.

Even more to my surprise, I found two extraordinarily adjacent entries in the 1868 burial register at St. Mary's in Amport. Here I found my very own woodsman, Edward Barnes, the father of Fanny Barnes (and my great-great grandfather). Edward had died just two weeks after the Marchioness—yet another connection between the upstairs Paulets of Amport House and my downstairs & out-of-doors Barnes ancestors.

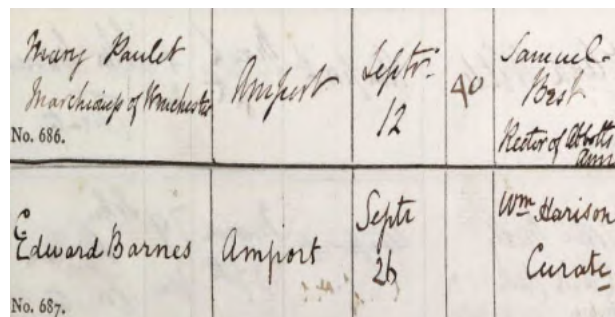


Fig 4: The burials of Mary Paulet, Marchioness of Winchester, and Edward Barnes, woodsman, recorded in Amport St. Mary's Church, September, 1868

Peeling bells for weddings and tolling bells for funerals have echoed over Amport since 1662 when the first two bells were installed in the square, central belfry of St. Mary's Church. Four more bells were added over the years, rendering a ring of six bells now for local and national occasions, appealing to all.⁶

In researching this story, Amport St. Mary's burial register served as the Great Leveler in my genealogy toolkit. The register recorded people of every class and rank in the same way, making them all equivalent despite their differences or social status. I have learned a lot from our old family bible and the "upstairs downstairs" surprise in my mother's family history.

For more information about Amport and the Marquisate of Winchester, see Marigold M. Routh's history entitled *Amport: The Story of a Hampshire Parish*, Bass Printers, Stockbridge, 1986.

2 The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments: Translated out of the original tongues: and with the former translations diligently compared and revised, by his Majesty's special command. Oxford: Printed at the University Press for the British and Foreign Bible Society, 1861.

3 See Routh, 85.

4 <https://thecowkeeperswish.com/2018/12/08/christmas-weddings-in-victorian-england/>

5 *Salisbury & Winchester Journal and General Advertiser*, Saturday, September 12, 1868 (British Newspaper Archive).

6 Brochure entitled "The Parish Church of St. Mary, Amport," (2004), acquired at the church.

(Ed. Note: I took the liberty of Googling Amport House and the picture is on P. 16)■

A PUBLISHED MEMBER

SHARON DUDA

Local Author News!

Danville resident, first-time author and SRV Genealogical Society Member, Sharon Beth is announcing the release of her debut book,

Autumn Leaves



Sharon and her husband, Nathan, moved to Danville in 2015, where their two teenagers now attend high school. Although Sharon began writing at a young age, she felt called to pursue her love of teaching. A 2005 college graduate, she has dedicated many years to the field of education; most recently serving her community as a substitute and paraeducator for SRVUSD, and as a lead Pre-K teacher for United Methodist Preschool, where she combined her passion for education and storytelling.

A few years prior, life took an unexpected turn when Sharon received an email with surprising DNA results. After years of confusion, disbelief, and a whirlwind of emotions, she felt called to share her family's story in hopes of helping others who have experienced something similar. After two years of dedication—from the first draft to countless hours spent with a coach, developmental editor, proofreaders, and designers—all leading to publication, *Autumn Leaves* was finally born. It is a deeply personal project that captures Sharon's emotional journey through the highs and lows of her DNA discovery.

In addition to teaching and writing, Sharon enjoys reading, sewing, gardening, spending time with her family (especially with Nathan on their weekly date nights in town), volunteering in the community, and genealogical research. Her years of research recently led her to become a member of the *San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society*, where she connects with others who share her passion for genealogy. Within the SRVGS, she's also part of the Publishing SIG, where members exchange ideas and resources about publishing, researching, and preserving documents.

Through her writing, Sharon blends her faith, love of family and life experiences with a desire to inspire and engage readers. Continuing her passion for storytelling, she is already planning her next book. *Autumn Leaves: A DNA Memoir* is available now for purchase on Amazon and IngramSpark. For more information, visit www.sharonbeth.net or follow Sharon on Instagram [@authorsharonbeth](https://www.instagram.com/authorsharonbeth).

A PUBLISHED MEMBER (CONT'D)

SHARON DUDA

Local Author News!

Autumn Leaves Synopsis

What if your search to discover your roots unearthed a secret buried for over sixty years—one that would not only rewrite your family's story forever, but shatter the heart of someone closest to you?

At just twenty-two, Sharon embarked on a journey to learn about her family's heritage. Over time, she became the family's historian, carefully documenting generations of stories, photographs, and shared memories.

Then, seventeen years later, a DNA test revealed a shocking truth that left Sharon questioning all she thought she'd known, and she was faced with one of the toughest decisions of her life: to reveal the truth and risk upending the life of someone dear to her, or keep this secret to herself?

This raw and honest narrative follows Sharon's journey to uncover the truth and discover a family she's never met. Through tales of love across social and religious divides, *Autumn Leaves* takes readers from the 1950s tenements of New York's Lower East Side to a glittering hotel in Connecticut and the world of burlesque, and on to present-day California—all woven together by a diamond necklace and a haunting song of lament.

For fans of Margo Reilly's *When You Shake the Family Tree* and *Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro, *Autumn Leaves* is a testament to the power of faith, love, and forgiveness, which heals the hardest truths.



Sharon's family■



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani



It's November, the month to give thanks. Let's be grateful for so many learning opportunities.

 The California Genealogy Society Library, www.californiaancestors.org, is open 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. Note any fees. Also, visit the website for access to available recordings and videos.

- On Sat. Nov. 1st from 10-12, the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a hybrid meeting. The topic will be **Vital Records**.
- On Sat. Nov. 8th from 1-2:30, Cindy Thomson will discuss for **CGS Members: Projects That Took On A Life Of Their Own**. Register on CGS site.
- On Sat. Nov. 15th from 10-12, Sandra Huber will lead the **San Francisco SIG** via Zoom. Contact sfsig@californiaancestors.org for more information.
- In addition, on the 15th 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 Sat. Nov. 22nd from 10-11:30, Craig Siulinski and Laura Bajuk will host the quarterly meeting of the **Eastern European SIG**. Register on the CGS site.
- On Mon. Nov. 25th from 7-8:30, the **DNA Skills SIG** with Mark McLaren will meet online. Contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net for details.
- On Wed. Nov. 26th from 6:30-8, the **RootsMagic Users Group SIG** with Keith Montgomery

will meet online. Contact Keith at kmontgomery@californiaancestors.org to register.

- On Sat. Dec. 6 from 10-12, the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a hybrid meeting. The topic will be **Organizing Your Family History Work**.
- 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. Many 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.

- On Sat. Nov. 1st from 11-12, Lee Pearce will facilitate a session on **Computer Language Tools for Chinese**. In Person.
- On Sun. Nov. 2nd from 2-2:30, the **FamilySearch Tip of the Week** will be shared. Hybrid.
- On Tue. Nov. 4th from 10:30-11, another **FamilySearch Tip of the Week** will be offered. Hybrid.
- On Wed. Nov. 5th from 10:30-10:45, a staff member will offer a **15 Minute AI Tip of the Week**. Hybrid.

- Also, on the 5th from 11-12, Sue Severson will present **DNA Part 3-Breaking Through Genealogy Brick Walls**. Hybrid.
- On Thu. Nov. 6th from 6:30-7:30, Debbie Hunt will lead the **Italian Research Discussion**. In Person.
- On Sun. Nov. 9th from 2-2:30, a staff member will present the **FamilySearch Tip of the Week**. Hybrid.
- On Tue. Nov. 11th from 10:30-11, a staff member will offer the **FamilySearch Wiki Tip of the Week**. Hybrid.
- On Wed. Nov. 12th at 10:30, a staff member will offer a 15 -minute **AI Tip for the Week**. Hybrid.
- On Sun. Nov. 16th from 2-2:30, a staff member will present the **FamilySearch Tip of the Week**. Hybrid.
- On Tue. Nov. 18th from 10:30-11, a staff member will offer the **FamilySearch Wiki Tip of the Week**. Hybrid
- Also, on the 18th from 11-12, Roger Prince will lead the **Scotland Research Discussion**. In Person.
- On Wed. Nov. 19th from 11-12, a session on **What's New in Genealogical Technology** will be present. Hybrid.
- Also on the 19th, Nov. 19th from 1-2, Jarod Weaver will lead the **Danish Research Discussion**. In Person.
- In addition, on the 19th from 1-2, Esta Weaver will host the **Norwegian/Swedish Discussion**. In Person.
- On Tue. Dec. 2nd from 10:30 to 11, a staff member will offer the **FamilySearch Wiki Tip of the Week**. 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. If you have questions or feedback, contact Online Education. Register for its webinars on the society's website.

- On Tue. Nov. 4th, 11, 16, 25 and Dec. 2 from 3-4:30 David Lamber, Elizabeth Peay and Melanie McComb will present **For Those Who Served: Military Research From Colonial Conflicts to World War**. \$125.
- On Wed. Nov. 5th from 11-12:30, Damian Shiels will discuss his book **"Green and Blue" Irish Americans in the Union Military, 1861-1865**. \$15.
- On Thu. Nov. 6th from 12-1, Rhonda McClure will explore **Planning a Research Trip to New England**.
- On Mon. Nov. 10th from 3-4, David Nasaw will discuss his book **The Wounded Generation: Coming Home After World War II**.
- On Wed. Nov. 19th from 3-4:15, Eric Foner will examine his writing history work over five decades and **"Our Fragile Freedoms"**. \$15.
- On Fri, Nov. 21st from 3-4:15, Curt DiCamillo will moderate a discussion of the **Beauport, the Sleeper-McCann House: A Designer's Dream**.

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. Nov. 4th from 11:30-12:30, Lori Samuelson will explore **Artificial Intelligence & Ancestry: Navigating the Future of Genealogy**.
- On Tue. Nov. 11th from 11:30-12:30, Logan Knight will examine **Pennsylvania German Passenger Lists from 1727-1808: A Users' Guide**.
- On Thu. Nov. 13th from 3:30-4:30, Scott Lee will share **Effective Use of Ancestry.com**.
- On Tue. Nov. 18th from 11:30-12:30, Allison DePrey Singleton and Elizabeth Hodges will discuss **Pathways to Belonging: Citizenship, Rights, and Records Through History**.
- On Thu. Nov. 20th from 3:30-4:30, Jens Clegg will present **Discovering Pennsylvania Dutch Ancestors**.
- On Tue. Nov. 25th from 11:30-12:30, John Beaty will explore **Mayflower Genealogy**.

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

- On Tue. Nov. 4 at 6 AM, Liliane Hierro will present **Explorer vos racines au Luxembourg: archives locales et ressources MyHeritage**.
- Also, on the 4th Maggie Gaffney will offer **Finding Your Family's Footprints In Ireland**.
- On Wed. Nov. 5th at 11, Judy Russell will examine **Informed Consent: DNA's Essential Ethical Underpinning**.
- On Fri. Nov. 7th at 11, Craig Scott will present **Stump Craig: U.S. Revolutionary War**.
- On Tue. Nov. 11th at 6, AM Antonio Alfaro de Prado will share **Claves Para Localizar a Nuestro Primer Antepasado de Espana**.
- Also, on the 11th Marine Soulas will discuss **Unlocking French Archives: A Guide On How Archives Are Organized And What You May Find On MyHeritage**.
- On Wed. Nov. 12th at 5, Michael Strauss will explore **Researching Your Colonial War Ancestors**.

- On Fri. Nov. 14th Nicholas Dixon will share **Researching Your Norfolk Ancestors**.
- On Tue. Nov. 18th at 4am Elisabeth Zetland will offer **Le Genealogie Au Bout Des Doigts: Explorez l-application mobile MyHeritage**.
- In addition, on the 19th at 5 Michelle Goodrum will present **Using Homestead Records to Tell Your Ancestor's Story**.
- On Wed. Nov. 19th at 11 Tina Beaird discuss **Spirit of St. Louis: Military & Civilian Records at the National Personnel Records Center**.
- On Fri. Nov. 21st at 11 Lisa Medina will explore **University Archives in Mexico: Manuscripts, Photos, and Theses, Oh My!**
- On Tue. Nov. 25th at 6am Debbie Gurtler will share **Busquedas Eficaces en FamilySearch**.
- On Tue. Dec. 2nd at 6am Yann Guillerme will offer **Construisez, Enrichissez Et Partagez Votre Arbre Sur Filae.com**.
- Also, on the 2nd Paul Milner will examine **English DNA Matches: Tools For Quickly Building Modern Trees**.

☞ 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>

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

- On Sat. Nov. 1st at 11, the **Solano County Genealogical Society**, www.scgsca.org, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. The guest speaker,

Melinda Kashuba, will examine **Using Maps and Geography in Genealogy**. Register under events on the society's website.

- On Thu. Nov. 6th at 1:30, the **Genealogy Society of Vallejo-Benicia**, <https://gsvb.org>, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. Tina LaFreniere, the guest speaker, will present **How to Use The Related Faces Website**.
- On Nov. 10th from 7-8:30, the **Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society**, www.l-ags.org, will host a Zoom meeting. Madeline Yanov will be the guest speaker. She will explore **What Did Daddy (And Mommy Do? Locating Family Members in Old Business Records – Part 1**. The link to register for the meeting is on the site under speakers.
- On Thu. Nov. 13th at 6:30, the **Contra Costa County Genealogical Society**, <https://cccgs.net>, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. The guest speaker, Lisa Vogel answer **Point of Origin: How to Find Your Ancestral Village**. Register under events on the society's website.
- On Thu. Nov. 20th at 1, the **Napa Valley Genealogical Society**, <https://napagensoc.org>, will hold a monthly hybrid meeting. Thomas MacEntee, the guest speaker, will share **Genealogy Do Over-A Year of Learning From Mistakes**. Register on the society's website.
- On Sun. Nov. 16th from 1-3, **San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society**, www.sfbajgs.org/calendar.html, will have its monthly meeting in person at the Oakland Family Search Center at 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland. The meeting will focus on **learning how to digitize hundreds of photos in a short time and about the free tools and resources available at the library**. Register on the website.
- On Sat. Nov. 22 from 10-12, the **San Mateo County Genealogical Society**, www.smccgs.org, will hold its monthly meeting at the San Mateo Public Library in the Oak Room. The guest speaker Grant Din will present **The History and Architecture of San Francisco's Chinese American Neighborhoods**. Register on the society's website under calendar.

Upcoming Special Events

- From Nov. 7-8th the Texas State Genealogy Society will hold its virtual 2025 Family History Conference. Register at www.txgs.org/2025conf
- From Nov. 9-16th David Lambert, Rhonda McClure, and Melanie McComb will lead the American Ancestors Salt Lake City Research Tour, \$1,250+. See site for details. <https://www.americanancestors.org/events/salt-lake-city-research-tour-2>
- From February 1 – 8th, 2026, Matt Berry will lead the **California Genealogy Society's Research Tour to Boston**. There are only 15 spaces available. For details and to Register by October 31 go to www.californiaancestors.org/2025-boston-research-trip/
- From March 5-7th **RootsTech 2026** will be held in a hybrid format. Registration is now open at www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration . ■



St. Mary's Amport, www.geograph.org.uk



Something different
for an upcoming
meeting...!

For our March Meeting we are taking a trip to tour the Oakland FamilySearch Center and its extensive resources.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 17, 2026

TIME: 10:00 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.

WHERE: 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602

We will have a guided overview of the FamilySearch Center, its many resources and meet the volunteers available to assist with your research.

If you've never been to this location, you'll be impressed with all they have available. Even if you have been, there will surely be something new that you didn't know about.

You are welcome to stay onsite the rest of the day to further your research and get assistance from their many volunteers.

If you are interested in Carpooling we will meet at the Danville Sycamore Park and Ride at 9:15.

If you plan to attend, or have questions, please email Karen Olynger at karenolynger@gmail.com and let her know:

- your name and phone number even if you plan to drive separately so we know how many people to expect.
- If you want to Carpool, and if you can be a Driver let her know how many people you can drive.
- If you plan to leave after our initial session, or plan to stay longer for research.■



Present Day: Amport House, near Andover, Hampshire, UK.
Continued from P.9, courtesy of Google

British Peerage in order of rank

British nobility, in the United Kingdom, members of the upper social class, who usually possess a hereditary title. The titled nobility are part of the peerage, which shares the responsibility of government (House of Lords). The peerage comprises five ranks, which are, in descending order:

- Duke
- Marquess
- Earl
- Viscount
- Baron

Below the peerage are honorary ranks that include baronet and knight, two classes that bear similarities to the nobility but which are generally not regarded as such.¹ See the reference below for more detailed info. ■

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/British-nobility>

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. 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
 6:30pm – 9:00pm
 Tuesday..... 2:00pm – 5:00pm
 Wednesday.... 1:00pm – 4:00pm

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

Closed major holidays, including Labor Day, Thanksgiving week, and the last 2 weeks of December.

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. ■