



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XLI No. 4 October - 2025

October Presentation

Tuesday, Oct. 21st, 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



As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, genealogy societies and historical organizations nationwide are gearing up to play a leading role in the commemoration. The semiquincentennial—also called America250—offers a unique opportunity to situate family histories within the broader national story, and many local and state groups are already planning events that will draw genealogists, history lovers, and community members alike.

National-level support and resources

The **National Genealogical Society** has embraced the semiquincentennial as a call for genealogical organizations to “invite everyone to explore their past and their connection to the nation's history.” NGS has published an **America250 Toolkit** with ideas for programming, outreach, and partnerships.

Meanwhile, the **American Association for State and Local History** (AASLH) is serving as a coordinating resource, offering a **250th Anniversary Program Handbook** with dozens of low-cost program ideas tailored for small and medium-sized history groups. It also publishes the **Making History at 250 Field Guide**, which offers thematic frameworks (e.g. *Unfinished Revolutions*, *We the People*, *Power of Place*) to help societies connect local stories to national themes.

At the federal level, the **National Archives** has launched a Declaration250 initiative and website (<https://www.Declaration250.gov>) that will coordinate archival exhibits, discussion series, and online resources tied to the Declaration of Independence and American history more broadly.

Across the country, many genealogy and local historical societies are taking the lead in programs that blend public engagement with archival and family-history content:

Here are a few ideas our society might adopt or adapt:

- **Local “America250” family-history fairs:** Invite members and the public to bring family documents, photos, and stories; run mini-workshops in census research, DNA trails, or military records.
- **Lectures or webinars** tied to the national themes (e.g. *We the People*)—featuring local histories or underrepresented groups.
- **Collaborations with local archives or libraries** to mount exhibits of early settlers, Revolutionary War soldiers, or immigrant families in your region.
- **“Ancestor of the Nation” projects:** Invite people to submit ancestors who lived during the founding era and display their stories—on your website, in printed brochures or in exhibit panels.
- **Partnering for community celebrations or parades**, so that genealogy and history groups are visible in the larger civic commemoration.
- **Oral-history campaigns:** Collect and preserve interviews or memoirs from elders that reflect family memories of national events, migration, or community change.
- **School outreach:** Offer modules or teacher workshops that help students connect their family histories to national history in the semiquincentennial year.

2026 is a once-in-a-generation moment to make genealogy part of the broader national story. By offering local and personal narratives, societies can help neighbors see how their own families tie into the fabric of the American experiment. As a small, local society we don't anticipate staging any elaborate events or programs. However, there will likely be a range of activities such as those listed above, sponsored by local, state, and national groups that we can be involved in, either as a society or as individuals. As we move into 2026, we can expect the excitement about America250 to grow, and as amateur genealogists/historians, many of us will be looking for ways to get involved and contribute to the celebration. It should be a fun year! ■

Notes on the September Speaker Dawn Kosmakos

Genetic Genealogy Case Studies

By Margaret Goetze

Dawn Kosmakos is a Genetic Genealogist who started her genealogy work after she discovered her father was not her birth father. Genetic Genealogy is defined as the use of autosomal (such as Ancestry) DNA combined with traditional genealogy to determine relationships between people. It is used to identify NPEs (non-parental events)/Adoptees, unidentified remains, suspects of violent crimes and brick wall ancestors.

Be sure to download the handout included in the meeting invitation. It contains Tips and Tricks for research when nothing else makes sense. The presentation recording will be on our website for 30 days if you missed our meeting.

Dawn presented the stories of three case studies. The scenarios were 1) Her great grandfather's unknown father, 2) A John Doe found in Clearwater Florida in 1993, who they were able to identify years later, and 3) a complicated story of 3 closely-related adoptees and how they were related. The third story originally looked straightforward but had numerous surprises as the research unfolded.

Her Tips and Tricks for research include:

- Use "In Common With" tools beyond basic clustering of DNA Matches. You may need to build multiple trees for relatives of matches in order to confirm or eliminate a line of people.
- Pay attention to the ages of people in addition to the amount of shared DNA. If they are older, it means something quite different than if they are a younger person.
- Draw it Out. Seeing connections visually is a big help in your research.
- Locations are important – are people close enough geographically to connect, or if not, they might be ruled out.
- Don't get stuck on one person, move on and after further research, you may have more pieces to fit things together.
- Use segment triangulation on GEDmatch or MyHeritage to confirm connections from a specific ancestor. GEDmatch was used to identify the Joe Doe. When his son was notified, he was very grateful to finally know what had happened to his father over 30 years ago.
- Follow the unlikely leads as they could be the route you need, or you'll learn what to eliminate.

Her handout includes a list of many sites to use to identify records for research including living people. She also mentioned Namus.org (*editor's note: I was unable to reach this site successfully*) as a resource for missing and unidentified people to look for someone who is missing in records after a period of time in the US.

Dawn's suggestion was helpful for me, and even though it didn't have the missing grandfather we were looking for, it did move me to search on Ancestry SSI death records using the exact birth date and location. Since the man was referred to as "son living in Tampa" in an obituary in 1969 - I started with a 10-year window. I finally found him using his mother's maiden name for his surname and my two-year search was over. It also led me to additional records under his changed surname, so we now know more about his life. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 2025

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

November 2025

- 18 Tuesday-10am, the November General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Thomas MacEntee will present **Photo Organizing and Preservation—You Can Do It!**
- 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.**

March 2026

- 17 Tuesday-10am the March General

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Calendar Coordinator:
 Bill George

Education Coordinator:
 Kathy Javdani

Webmaster: Bill George

Meeting will be held via Zoom Link.
 Speaker and Subject TBA.

- 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 OCTOBER, 2025

By: Bill George, SRVGS SIG Coordinator

In October, 2025 all seven Special Interest Groups meet at their normal dates/times, on-line, except for the in-person German SIG that meets at the Danville FamilySearch Center. All 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, Oct. 13th, (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, Oct. 8th, (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, Oct. 15th, (the 3rd Wednesday) **1:00pm—3:00pm in a Zoom meeting**. Share and learn new techniques for researching your Italian ancestors. Please contact Karen LaDuca at kblquills@comcast.net to be provided the Zoom link to the meeting.



DNA SIG, Monday, Oct. 20th (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, Oct. 16th. (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, Oct. 27th, (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, Oct. 22nd, (the 4th Wednesday) from **11:30am—2:00pm** 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 kblquills@comcast.net. ■



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

October is here. It's Family History Month which is filled with new opportunities for family research.

☞ 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. Oct. 4th from 10-12, the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a hybrid meeting. The topic will be **Using the Census**.
- On Wed. Oct 8th from 6:30-8, Denise Plaskett will explore **Discover More: Leveraging FamilySearch's Cutting-Edge Tools** on Zoom.
- On Sat. Oct. 18th from 10-12, Sandra Huber will lead the **San Francisco SIG** via Zoom. Contact sfsig@californiaancestors.org for more information.
- In addition, on the 18th from 1-3, Ron Madson and Karen 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. 22nd from 6:30-8 the **RootsMagic Users Group SIG** with Keith Montgomery will meet online. Contact Keith at kmontgomery@californiaancestors.org to register.
- On Fri. Oct. 24th from 11-12, via Zoom Elizabeth Winslow will offer **Guide to Creating a Family Legacy Book**.
- On Sat. Oct. 25th from 11-11:30, Linda Okazaki will examine **Two Case Studies: Recreating the Lives of Our Immigrant Ancestors**.
- On Mon. Oct. 27th 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. 1st from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a hybrid meeting. The topic will be **Vital Records**.
- 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 Wed. Oct. 1st at 10:30, a staff member will offer a **15 Minute Ai Tip of the Week**. Hybrid.
- Also, on the 1st from 11-12, Rudy Wolf will demonstrate **The Uses of the "Memories" App**. Hybrid.
- In addition, on the 1st at 1, Robert Jackson will lead the **German Research Discussion Group**. In person
- On Wed. Oct. 8th at 10:30, a staff member will offer a **15 Minute Ai Tip of the Week**. Hybrid.
- Also, on the 8th from 11-12, Sue Severson present **DNA Part 1**. Hybrid.

- On Sat. Oct. 11th from 11-12, Lee Pearce will explore **Jiappu – Chinese Records**. In Person.
 - On Sun. Oct. 12th from 2-2:30, a staff member will present the **FamilySearch Tip of the Week**. Hybrid.
 - On Tue. Oct. 14th from 10:30-11, a staff member will offer the **FamilySearch Wiki Tip of the Week**. Hybrid.
 - On Wed. Oct. 15th at 10:30, a staff member will offer a **15 minute AI Tip for the Week**. Hybrid.
 - Also, on the 15th from 11-12, a staff member will discuss **What's New in Genealogical Technology**. Hybrid.
 - In addition, on the 15th, from 1-2:30, Jared Weaver will lead the **Danish Research Discussion**. In person.
 - Finally, on the 15th, from 1-2:30, Esta Weaver will lead the **Norwegian/Swedish Research Discussion**. In person.
 - On Sun. Oct. 19th from 2-2:30, a staff member will present the **FamilySearch Tip of the Week**. Hybrid.
 - On Tue. Oct. 21st from 10:30-11, a staff member will offer the **FamilySearch Wiki Tip of the Week**. Hybrid.
 - On Wed. Oct. 22nd at 10:30, a staff member will share a **15 minute AI Tip for the Week**. Hybrid.
 - Also, on the 22nd from 11-12:30, a staff member will discuss **Eating the Genealogical Elephant – An Organized System for Genealogical Research**. Hybrid.
 - On Tue. Oct. 28th from 10:30-11 a staff member will offer the **FamilySearch Wiki Tip of the Week**. Hybrid.
 - On Wed. Oct. 29th at 10:30 a staff member will provide a **15 minute AI Tip for the Week**. Hybrid.
 - Also, on the 29th from 11-12:30, Sue Severson will present **DNA Part 2- Making Sense of Your DNA Matches to Expand Your Hybrid Family Tree**. Hybrid.
 - On Sat. Nov. 1st from 1-12:30, Lee Pearce will share **Internet and Computer Language Tools for Chinese**. In person only.
-  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 Fri. Oct. 3rd from 10-11:15, Curt DiCamillo will moderate **Highlights from Austen & Turner: A Country House Encounter**.
 - On Wed. Oct. 8th from 3-4, Kathleen DuVal will share her book **Native Nations: A Millennium in North America**.
 - On Wed. Oct. 15th from 3-4:15, Karin Wulf will discuss her book **Lineage: Genealogy and the Power of Connection in Early America**. \$15.
 - On Thu. Oct. 16th from 12-1, David Lambert will offer **Clues of Service: Determining the Military Service of Your Ancestors**.
 - On Fri. Oct. 17th from 10-11:15, Curt DiCamillo will explore **Castle Howard's 21st Century Renaissance**.
 - On Wed. Oct. 22nd, from 11-12:30 Rhonda McClure will examine **Who's Who?: Same Name, Same Place, Same Time**. \$25.
 - On demand: Curt DiCamillo will present **Greed, Lust & Murder: King Henry VIII, the Tudor**

Court, and How it Changed England Forever. \$15.

- On demand: Curt DiCamillo will share **from Plinth to Pen: How the English Country House Inspired the Writings of Jane Austen.** \$15
- On demand: Lindsay Fulton, Kristi Sahkade and Christopher Child will explore **Researching and & Verifying Mayflower Ancestry.** \$125
- On demand: Robert Charles Anderson will discuss **The 17th Century Great Migration to New England and Beyond.** \$125.

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. Oct. 7th from 11:30-12:30, Helene Prokop explore **Unlocking the Past with Transkribus: AI Tools for Genealogy and Historical Research.**
- On Tue. Oct. 14th from 11:30-12:30, Rhonda Lauritzen will share the **Curious Call of Place: Telling the Stories of People and Places.**
- On Thu. Oct. 16th from 3:30-4:30, Megan Young will present **Documenting Your Sources: The Key to Credible Genealogy.**
- On Tue. Oct. 21st Logan Knight will explore **Digging into Military Records: Genealogy Research with Fold3.**
- On Thu. Oct. 23rd from 3:30-4:30, Jens Clegg will examine the **History of Spanish Language.**

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

- On Wed. Oct. 1st at 2am, David Ryan will present **From The Ashes: The 1922 Irish Public Record Office Fire and Irish Genealogy.**
- On Wed Oct 1st at 11am, Blaine Bettinger will present **Foundations in DNA 5 of 5: Understanding Ethnicity Estimates**
- On Fri. Oct. 3rd at 11, J. H. Fonkert will offer **Ten Tantalizing Resources and the Lessons They Teach.**
- On Tue. Oct. 7th at 7am Yann Guillerme will discuss **Filae: las maison des archives originales francaises.**
- On Wed. Oct. 8th at 11, Diahna Southard will answer **Geoff's Got ANOTHER Brick Wall! What Can DNA Do for it?**
- Also, on the 8th at 5, Katherine Schober will provide **7 Essential Tips for Starting German Genealogy.**
- On Fri. Oct. 10th at 11, Orice Jenkins will discuss **Betsy Grant: A Fight for Freedom, Land, Education, and Love.**
- On Tue. Oct. 14th at 7am, Francisco Gomez will explore **Como utilizar la Nueva Busquedas de Texto en FamilySearch.**
- Also on the 14th at 6pm, Shauna Hicks will share **Using Australian Post Office Directories in MyHeritage.**
- On Fri. Oct. 17th at 8:30am, Jennifer Zinck will examine **Resolving Conflict: A Key to Sound Genealogical Conclusions.**
- In addition, on the 17th at 3, Karen Stanbary will present **Eureka! Confirmacion del Lineaje Ancestral: DNA and Documents Prove a Mexican Ancestral Lineage.**
- On Tue. Oct. 21st at 7am, Marie Cappart will offer **Explore vos racines en France: methodes et ressources en ligne avec les collections de MyHeritage.**
- In addition, on the 21st at 5pm, Nicole LaRue will share **James C. Ward's Eldorado: A Coast to Coast Identity Case.**
- On Wed. Oct. 22nd at 11, Amy Harris will share the **Early British and Irish Census**

Project.

- On Fri. Oct. 24th at 11, Art Taylor will offer **Organize Digital and Digitized Photos & Documents Using AI** (webinar members.)
- On Tue. Oct. 28th at 7am, Ivan Gastanaga will present **Que busca un adoptado durante la busqueda de origenes?**
- Also, on the 28th at 11, MyHeritage will present **A MyHeritage Webinar.**
- On Wed. Oct. 29th at 11, Kory Meyerink will explore **Colonial New York Research.**
- On Fri. Oct. 31st at 11 Colleen Robledo Greene will discuss **Using Google Earth Web to Tell Your Family History Migration Stories.**

 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://lusalouisecooke.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=PLwtrWl_IBMJszRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6.

Events from Local Societies

- On Thu. Oct. 2nd at 1:30, the **Genealogy Society of Vallejo- Benicia**, <https://gsvb.org>, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. Mark Olsen, the guest speaker, will present **FamilyTree Maker Update.**
- On Sat. Oct. 4th from 10-1, the **Solano County Genealogical Society**, www.scgsca.org, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. The guest speaker, Michael Willis, will share **From Slave to Soldier: What Civil War Records Can Tell You About Your Ancestors.** Register under events on the society's website.

- On Oct. 13 from 7 -8:30, the **Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society**, www.l-ags.org, will host a Zoom meeting. Christine Cohen will be the guest speaker. She will discuss **Fishing in Every Pond: Baiting Cousins**. The link to register for the meeting is on the site under "Speakers".
- On Thu. Oct. 16th at 1, the **Napa Valley Genealogical Society**, <https://napagensoc.org>, will hold a monthly hybrid meeting. Diane Dillon, the guest speaker, will share her participation in **Gen-Fed 20.4 Gen-Fed is the Genealogical Institute on Federal Records**. Register on the society's website.
- On Sat. Oct. 18th from 10-1, the **Contra Costa County Genealogical Society**, <https://cccgs.net>, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. The guest speaker, Fran Shockley, will explore **Solving Family Mysteries with BanyanDNA**. Register under events on the society's website.
- On Sun. Oct. 19th from 1-2:30, **San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society**, www.sfbajgs.org/calendar.html, will have its monthly meeting on Zoom. The guest speaker, Jeanette Rosenberg will share **How to Research Your Jewish Ancestors in the UK**. Register on the website.
- On Sat. Oct. 18th from 10-12, the **San Mateo County Genealogical Society**, www.smccgs.org, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. Pam Vestal will present **Teasing Out the Hidden Story Behind the Genealogical Facts**. Register on the society's website under calendar.
- Tue. Oct. 28th the **Sacramento German Genealogy Society**, <https://sggs.us> will hold its scheduled meeting. Check the website for details.

Upcoming Special Events

- On Oct. 18th the **Iowa Genealogical Society (IGS)** will hold its **2025 Fall Conference: Archives Across America – Unlocking National and Midwest Genealogy Resources**. For details and to register for this virtual conference go to <https://iowagenealogy.org/detail/eventDetail.php?er=455>.
- On Oct. 24th and 25th the **North Carolina Genealogy Society** will hold its hybrid 2025 Fall Conference. For details and to register go to <https://>

ncgenealogy.com/fall2025 . \$89

- From February 1 – 8, 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 5-7 RootsTech 2026 will be held in a hybrid format. Registration is now open at www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration . ■

Did you know we're available to help you...?

Free Genealogy Research Assistance provided by the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society (SRVGS) in partnership with the Danville Library on **Tuesday, October 14th, 2025, 10am-1pm**, (and every 2nd Tuesday of the month!)

- Looking for your ancestors?
- Want to do a little genealogy research?
- Could you use some help or direction?

Bring your questions to the Danville Library, 400 Front Street, Danville, CA. (925)314-3750. Genealogy docents from SRVGS (www.srvgensoc.org) will be available to help you take your research further with print resources from the library's genealogy collection or online.



Try this website for fun!connectedmytown.org

When you land on this website you will see the question “Are you related to famous people in these places?” followed by step by step instructions. Although this may not be a part of FamilySearch, I think it is linked to the Family Tree. Note that this will only work if your ancestor is in the FamilySearch Family Tree.

First you select from one of the 51 locations that are currently pinned on the map or the list below the map. You can also email them to add a pin for other towns. Then you enter your deceased ancestor’s name and state where they died. You can also do an advanced search where you can add birth state and year, and death year, as well as spouse.

I saw that there is one pin for Mayflower 1620 and since I am working on my Mayflower application, I put in a couple of names in my line. I entered Joshua Lillie died in New York and the correct name came up first in a list of about 20 options. When I click on his name it gives me a list of 12 people that he is related to who were Mayflower passengers. It gives a short blurb on each person. Priscilla Mullins Alden was the only direct Mayflower ancestor. The others were related but the common ancestors were many generations back in England.

When you click on one of the related people you get a chart similar to the “Relatives Around Us” app from FamilySearch with the common ancestor at the top. In this case you can click on any person in the chart and it will take you to a page about that person in ancestors.familysearch.org that has a great deal of interesting information. I’ve been told that if a person has one line to the Mayflower, they likely have more, but so far I’m only finding John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, and of course, Priscilla’s father William Mullins. I may need to enter the wives of some people in this line going back to discover others.

I entered my Civil War ancestor Benjamin Franklin Lewis to see who he is related to from Boston. I found a big list of notable people, including Emily Dickinson, Clara Barton, Susan B. Anthony, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Amelia Earhart, Louisa May Alcott, Julia Child, and both John and Abigail Adams. This could take you down some entertaining rabbit holes.

From Karen LaDuca

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.