



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XLI No. 3 September - 2025

September Presentation

Tuesday, Sept. 16th, 2025 at 10am

“Genetic Genealogy Case Studies”

(Via Zoom) By Dawn Kosmakos



Dawn will be sharing three interesting but very different case studies: one involving an unknown father mystery with multiple unexpected twists, another detailing the recent identification of a John Doe, and a third highlighting how she uncovered the identity of her own great-grandfather's biological father.

Dawn Kosmakos is a professional genetic genealogist based in the Bay Area, where she lives with her software engineer husband and two college-age sons. Her passion for genetic genealogy began in 2016, when she solved the mystery of her own unknown biological father. Since then, she has helped hundreds of clients uncover their roots and better understand their DNA results. Through her company SunriseDNA, she offers compassionate, ethical and research-focused support for those navigating DNA surprises or seeking unknown family identifications.

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



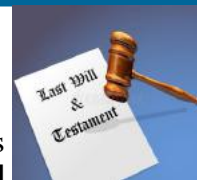
As I imagine is the case for most of us, my first foray into genealogy was a solo effort. I started with a computer program for family history, and began my research using the data files that came with it, then branched into online databases, which were pretty limited at the time. Nearly all of my research efforts consisted of me sitting at my computer and exploring and learning on my own.

A few years ago I decided to join a genealogy group to see what benefit there was in meeting with others who shared an interest in family history. Of course, I chose the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society and it has opened up a whole new world for me. First, there have been a string of excellent speakers, experts in a particular aspect of genealogy research who have shared their knowledge with us and given us tips and pointed us to sources of information we may not have known about. Second, there are the SRVGS members who have always been willing to share their experiences and knowledge with other members and provide any assistance they can. Third, there are the SIGs that focus on a particular area of interest, such as German, Irish, or Italian genealogy, publishing, Artificial Intelligence, etc. I have only joined a couple of groups but have found them a great source of support, helpful suggestions, and stimulation. I always leave meetings with a headful of ideas and things I want to try.

Lastly, I have found the wider genealogy community to be very generous with their time and helpful, from our own FSC volunteers to Facebook groups and other genealogy societies. We should all be grateful for the tremendous amount of experience and knowledge that exists in our genealogy communities and for the willingness of the possessors to share and help others. Speaking for myself, I have harbored a fair amount of guilt for so far being a recipient of this sharing activity but have not been a significant contributor. I have resolved to change that in the future and try to do more to help others in their research, and I would encourage eve-

ryone to consider that themselves. This is a great community to be part of, and it will require active participation from everyone if it is to continue to thrive.■

August is almost over, but it's not too late....



August is recognized as "National Make a Will

Month", a time to encourage individuals to create or update their wills. It's a reminder to plan for the future and ensure your wishes are legally documented, providing peace of mind for you and your family. Many resources, including Freewill (<https://www.freewill.com/>) offer free tools and information to help with the process.

For genealogists, this also means making sure your will addresses the disposition of your genealogical research materials, including physical documents, digital files, and research tools, so their legacy is preserved and accessible for your heirs and future researchers. This includes specifying who should inherit specific items (including passwords), how to find, organize and store your collection, and whether to donate materials to libraries or archives. While August is almost over, this is an important project to work on any time of the year! ■

Suggestion Box

Do you have any suggestions for speakers or subjects you would like to hear at our monthly meetings? Karen Olynger, our Programs Committee Chair is always on the lookout for speakers and subjects, but foremost she wants to ensure that our presentations are meeting your needs. You can direct your suggestions to her directly karenolynger@gmail.com or to the entire committee at programs@srvgensoc.org. ■

Notes on the July Speaker

By Margaret Goetze

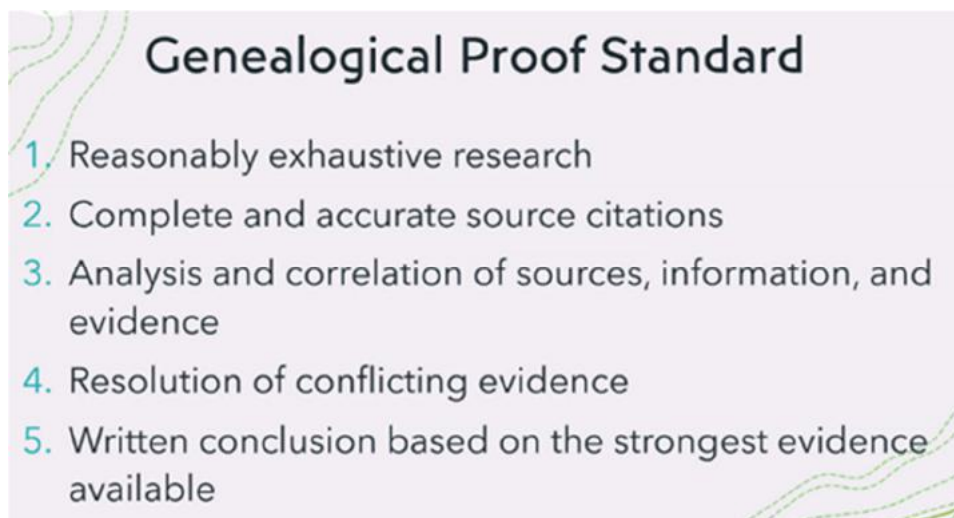
Genealogical Proof for the Everyday Genealogist

By Annette Burke Lytle

How do we know if the facts we have uncovered about our ancestors are correct? How do we avoid attaching somebody else's ancestors to our family tree? The Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) is our guide to producing reliable research results. Annette Burke Lytle introduced the Genealogical Proof Standard to help keep our research moving in the right direction and to avoid errors and frustration.

Annette holds the Certified Genealogist® credential and has been a full-time genealogist since 2012. She provides professional genealogical services in research, education, and writing via Heritage Detective LLC. She speaks on a variety of genealogical topics at the national, state, and local levels and loves helping people uncover and share their family stories.

The replay is on our website for thirty days or until the next speaker, and a detailed summary was included in the Zoom meeting invite so take the time to download and review it.



Many of us have tried the shotgun approach of searching for records and falling into the maze of rabbit holes. As much fun as they can be, she recommends we divide our work into Research Projects:

1. Focus on an Individual, Relationships and/or Events and Activities. Define your research question. An example is:

Who were the parents of Charles Nathan Boone who was born about 1857 in Woodstock, McHenry Illinois?

2. Gather all the data and put it in a timeline.

She likes to put the data in a spreadsheet such as below:

Date	Location	Event	People	Notes	Source
1881-12-03	Iroquois County, Illinois	Application for marriage license	Charles N. Boone, 24, and Loretta M. Hunt, 22	No indication of parents' names.	Iroquois County Illinois County Clerk, marriage license application no. 3593, 3 December 1881, Boone-Hunt; Iroquois County Genealogical Society, Watseka, Illinois, photocopy in files of author.
1881-12-03	Iroquois County, Illinois	Marriage	Charles N. Boone and Loretta M. Hunt	No indication of parents' names. This record is an index; need to find the original.	"Illinois, U.S., Marriage Index, 1860-1920," Iroquois County, Boone-Hunt, 3 December 1881; database, Ancestry (https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1438871:60984).
1900-06	Iroquois Village, Concord, Iroquois, Illinois	Census	Charles N. Boon, 43 (b. May 1857 in Illinois) married 18 years, father b. New York, mother b. Vermont, occ Stone Mason, renting a house; "Lorella" M. Boon, wife, 41 (b. May 1859 in Illinois) mother of 10, 7 living, parents b. Ohio; children Frank, 16, "Vernia," 13, Annie, 11, Mabel, 9, Avery, 7, Margret, 4, Gerald, 1.	It seems there may be two children I wasn't aware of.	1900 U.S. census, Iroquois County, Illinois, population schedule, Concord Township, sheet B3, ED 9, dwelling 70, family 71, Charles N. Boon; imaged, Ancestry (https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/12243186:7602).
1910-04-16	Concord, Iroquois, Illinois	Census	Charles Boone, 53, married 29 years, b. Illinois, father b. New York, mother B. New York, occ stone mason (wage earner), farm owned free and clear, 6 on ag schedule; "Loretta" Boone, wife, 51, mother of 8 children, 7 living, b. Illinois, parents b. Illinois; children at home: Mabel, 19 (school teacher), Avery, 17, Margeret, 14, Jerrie, 11	No extra children on this census.	1910 U.S. census, Iroquois County, Illinois, population schedule, Concord Township, sheet 3A, ED 70, dwelling 68, family 68, Charles Boone; imaged, Ancestry (https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/5385060:7884).

3. Analyze the reliability of information you already have. Then do Locality Research to learn what records are available for the relevant time and place. It helps you understand the records that you find. The FamilySearch wiki is an excellent place for locality research. Examine information for all the counties and locations the person lived in.

4. Create a Research Plan to guide you to the sources that are likely to help answer the Research question. It can be updated when new sources become known. Use online trees with care and suspicion.

5. Review the suggested Sources and Evidence to determine if they help us answer the question. Gather all information from those sources and update your Excel timeline.

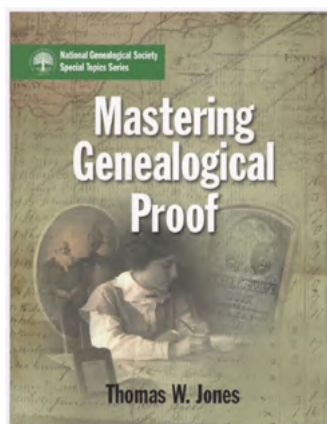
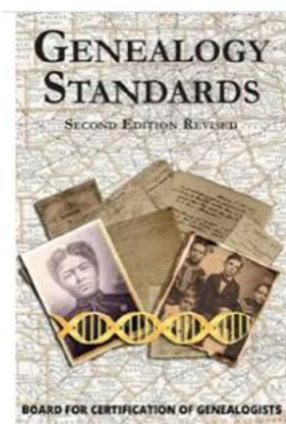
6. Once enough evidence is gathered and you resolve inconsistencies and conflicts, what remains is a Conclusion supported by the evidence.

7. Finally create a written Conclusion so your work is defined and includes your sources. Many people skip this step, however it is useful for you in the future. It needs to show the research, the reasoning, it contributes to the larger genealogical world and becomes a part of your family history.

Annette documents the findings in Family Tree Maker for every fact. She also writes a Research Report to herself and adds documents in footnotes, so it does not get separated. You may write the citations once and then copy paste and put in your timeline.

Ancestry has Source Citations where you can enter them into the tree. Family Tree Maker will synchronize with Ancestry. In FamilySearch, use the Sources Tab to enter details. We can upload our written Conclusions into either tool and in FamilySearch you can also load a document into Memories.

She also highly recommends two books. GPS, the Genealogical Pro Standard, is a guide for all of us (second edition). Everyone should have it on their desk to help with effective research and to avoid errors. She consults her copy regularly. Mastering Genealogical Proof is full of practical exercises and is also an excellent guide. ■





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 2025

- 16 Tuesday-10am, the September General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Dawn Kosmakos will present **Genealogical Case Studies**.
- 23 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

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, details (time and place) to be announced as the date approaches.

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.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Scott Hefner
president@srvgensoc.org

1st Vice President:
 Karen LaDuca

2nd V.P. & Programs Committee:
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3rd V.P. Membership:
 Julie Basel
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Treasurer: Jill Zollinger

Corresponding Secretary:
 Barbara Shapas
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Recording Secretary:
 Margaret Goetze

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor: Barbara Thurston

Calendar Coordinator:
 Bill George

Education Coordinator:
 Kathy Javdani

Webmaster: Bill George

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 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. ■

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2025

By: Bill George, SRVGS SIG Coordinator

In September 2025 all seven Special Interest Groups meet at their normal dates/times. All SIGs meet on-line, except for the in-person German SIG that is getting together at a member's home this month for an Oktoberfest potluck. 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 want 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, Sept. 8th, (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, Sept. 10th, (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, Sept. 17th, (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 kblquilts@comcast.net to be provided the Zoom link to the meeting.



DNA SIG, Monday, Sept. 15th (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, Sept. 18th, (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, Sept. 22nd, (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, Sept. 24th, (the 4th Wednesday) from **11:30am—2:00pm** at a member's home for an **Oktoberfest Potluck Celebration**. You must be signed up in advance for this event. **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 . ■



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani



September – school is back in session. Let's start learning more.

☞ 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. Sept. 6th from 10-12, the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a hybrid meeting. The topic will be **Genealogy Basics Overview**.
- On Sat. Sept. 6th from 6:30-8, Kelvin Brewer will present **Artificial Intelligence with FamilySearch** for Discoveries and Breakthroughs on Zoom.
- On Sat. Sept. 13th from 1-2:30, there will be a CGS Members Report: **DNA Surprises** on Zoom.
- On Sat. Sept. 20th from 10-12, Sandra Huber will lead the **San Francisco SIG** via Zoom. Contact sfsig@californiaancestors.org for more information.
- In addition, on the 20th from 1-3, Ron Madson and Karen will host a hybrid session of the **Family Tree 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 Mon. Sept. 29th from 7-8:30, the **DNA Skills SIG** with Mark McLaren will meet online. Contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net for details.
- On Wed. Sept. 24th 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. Sept. 27th from 11-12:30, Susan McKee will lead the **Irish SIG** Zoom meeting on **Using**

Irish Naming Convention to Discover the Delany Family.

- On Sat. Oct. 4th 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

☞ The website of Oakland Family Search Center, https://www.familysearch.org/en/centers/oakland_california/classes has recently been updated. Check the website 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. Sept. 3rd at 10:30, a staff member will offer a **15 Min Ai Tip of the Week**. Hybrid.
- Also, on the 3rd at 11, Robert Jackson will lead the **German Research Discussion Group**. In person.
- On Sat. Sept. 6th from 10-2 pm, the **FamilySearch Center** will hold an **OPEN HOUSE**. All are welcome.
- On Sun. Sept. 7th at 2, a staff member will present **Getting Started Part 1**. Hybrid.

- Tue. Sept. 9th at 11, Roger Prince will lead the **Scotland Research Discussion Group**. In person.
- On Wed. Sept. 10th at 10:30, a staff member will offer a **15 minute Ai Tip for the Week**. Hybrid.
- Also, on the 10th at 11, a staff member will present **Getting Started Part 1**. Hybrid.
- In addition, on the 10th at 1, Esta Weaver will lead the **Norway /Sweden Research Discussion Group**. In person.
- Also, at 1 on the 10th, Jared Weaver will host the **Denmark Research Discussion Group**. In person.
- On Sun. Sept. 14th at 2, a staff member will present **Getting Started Part 2**. Hybrid.
- On Wed, Sept. 17th at 10:30, a staff member will share a **15 minute Ai Tip for the Week**. Hybrid.
- Also, on the 17th at 11, a staff member will offer **Getting Started Part 2**. Hybrid.
- On Sun Sept. 21st at 2, a staff member will present **Getting Started Part 3**. Hybrid.
- On Wed. Sept. 24th at 10:30, a staff member will provide a **15 minute Ai Tip for the Week**. Hybrid.
- Also, on the 24th at 11, a staff member will share **Getting Started Part 3**. Hybrid.
- On Sat. Sept. 27 from 11- 3, a staff facilitator will offer the **Getting Started Workshop** (All three parts repeated with in-person help) Hybrid.
- On Sun. Sept. 28 at 2, Rudiger Wolf will discuss the **FamilySearch Memories App**. 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 Fri. Sept. 12th from 10-11:15, Cur DiCamillo will moderate **Lost Gardens of London**.
- On Tue. Sept. 16th from 3-4:15, author Bryon Burrough will discuss his book **The Gunfighters: How Texas Made the West**. \$15+
- On Thu. Sept. 18th from 12-1, David Lambert will present **Grave Matters: Basics of Cemetery Family History Research**.
- On Tue. Sept. 23rd from 2-3, author Molly Beer will share her book **Angelica: For Love and Country**.

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. Sept. 2nd from 11:30-12:30, Kristen Merryman will explain **How the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center Makes Local History Accessible**.
- On Tue., Sept. 9th from 11:30-12:30, Mark Olsen will share **What's New in Family Tree Maker**.

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

- On Wed. Sept. 3rd at 2 am Janet Few will explore **Ancestors on the Margins: Tracing Misfortunate Ancestors in Britain**.
- Also, on the 3rd at 7:15 am, Ursula Krause will

present **Finding Your Ancestors in German Directories.**

- In addition, on the 3rd at 8:30 am, Andrea Bentschneider will share **Exploring Mecklenburg's Rich History and Genealogical Treasures.**
- Also, on the 3rd at 9:45 am, James Beidler will discuss **German Genealogy: Latest and Greatest Websites and Tools.**
- More on the 3rd, at 11 am, Ute Brandenburg will offer **The Emperor's New Code.**
- Finally, on the 3rd at 12:30 pm, Warren Bittner will examine **Eight Little-used Published German Sources.**
- On Tue. Sept. 9th at 5 am Elisabeth Zetland will share **Webinaire MyHeritage en Francais.**
- On Wed. Sept. 10th at 7:15 am, Thomas MacEntee will discuss **Creating an Ancestor Sketch.**
- Also, the 10th at 8:30 am, Rhonda Lauritzen will offer **Manage Large Writing Projects Through Optimistic Start, Muddled Middle, and Triumphant Finish.**
- In addition, on the 10th at 9:45, Amie Tennant will share **The Five Writing Scripts of the World.**
- Also, on the 10th at 11 am, Bonnie Mucia will present **Using Historical Context in Your Genealogy Writing: A Gettysburg Soldier Case Study.**
- Finally, on the 10th Nathan Dylan Goodwin will answer **How to Write a Genealogical Crime Mystery Story.**
- On Fri. Sept. 12th at 11, Mia Bennett will explore **Researching Gloucestershire.**
- On Tue. Sept. 16th at 5, Angela Harris will present **Finding Frank Henry Hill.**
- On Wed. Sept. 17th at 7:15, there will be **A MyHeritage Webinar.**
- Also, on the 17th at 8:30, Lisa Alzo will share **10 Surprising Things I Discovered About My Ancestors Using MyHeritage.**
- In addition, on the 17th at 9:45 James Tanner

will offer **MyHeritage's OldNews.com is Good News for Genealogists.**

- Finally, on the 17th at 11, Richard Hill will discuss **Mastering the MyHeritage DNA Test.**
- On Fri. Sep 19th at 11, Nefi Arenas Salazar will examine **Mexican Immigration Records Through the Centuries.**
- On Wed. Sept. 24th at 7:15 am, Carol Ansel will answer **Just What IS the AGBI Anyway?**
- Also, on the 24th at 8:30 am, Billie Fogarty will explore **School Censuses: What, When and Where.**
- In addition, on the 24th at 9:45, Sharon Gillins will present **Research Treasures from W.P.A.**
- And, on the 24th at 11, J. Mark Lowe will discuss **Discovering Old Land Surveys, Deeds and Probates.**
- Finally, on the 24th at 12:30, Cathy Wallace will share **12 Ways to Use Gravestone Clues to Grow Your Family Tree.**
- On Fri. Sept. 26th at 9, Christine Woodcock will present **Removing the Rebels: Peter Robinson's Settlement of Irish Immigrants to Upper Canada.**
- On Fri. Sept. 26 at 11, Nicole Dyer will examine **Disclosing Use of AI Writing Assistance in Genealogy.**
- On Wed. Oct. 1 at 2 am, David Ryan will offer **From the Ashes: The 1922 Irish Public Record Office Fire and Irish Genealogy.**
- In addition, on the 1st, Blaine Bettinger will present **Foundations in DNA 5 of 5: Understanding Ethnicity Estimates.**

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

 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://lislouisecooke.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. Sept. 4th at 1:30, the **Genealogy Society of Vallejo-Benicia**, <https://gsvb.org>, will hold its monthly meeting at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum at 734 Marin St., Vallejo. It's guest speaker, Thomas Snyder, will discuss his book, **Mare Island Naval Hospital, a History, 1864-1957**. In person only.
- On Mon. Sept. 8th from 5-6:30, **San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society**, www.sfbajgs.org/calendar.html, will have its monthly meeting on Zoom. Marisa Louie Lee will present **Exploring the National Archives Site for Family History Research**. Register on the website.
- Also, on Sept. 8th from 7-8:30, the **Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society**, www.l-ags.org, will host a Zoom meeting. Scott Norrick will be the guest speaker. He will discuss **Germans to America's Midwest, 1848-1900**. The link to register for the meeting is on the site under speakers.
- On Thu. Sept. 11th from 6:30–8, the **Contra Costa County Genealogical Society**, <https://cccgs.net>, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. The guest speaker, Allison Deprey Singleton speaker, will explore **How to Use the Alameda County Public Library and PERSI Index from Home**. Register under events on the society's website.
- On Sat. Sept. 17th at 11, the **San Mateo County Genealogical Society**, www.smccgs.org, will hold its **Annual Potluck Picnic at Flood Park, 215 Bay Rd., Menlo Park**.

- On Thu. Sept. 18th at 1, the **Napa Valley Genealogical Society**, <https://napagensoc.org>, will present at a hybrid meeting. William Moore, the guest speaker, will share **Grapes of Wrath Meets American Graffiti**. Register on the society's website.
- On Sat. Sept. 20th from 1-3, the **Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society**, www.scchgs.org, will hold its monthly hybrid meeting. The guest speaker, Ron Chan, will present **Digitizing and Documenting Family History**. Register on the society's website.

Upcoming Special Events

- On Sat. Sep 13th there will be a free **Scottish Indexes Virtual Conference**. For details and to register go to www.scottishindexes.com/conference.aspx
- From Sept. 12-14th mitoyDNA.org will present the 4th annual virtual East Coast Genetic Genealogy Conference. For details and to register go to <https://ecggc.org/>
- From Sept. 17-19th the **8th We Are Cousins Virtual Genealogy Conference** will be held. For details and to register go to <https://wacconference.com/>. For details and to register go to [Register for the 8th We Are Cousins Virtual Genealogy Conference](#)
- From Sept. 19-20th the **New York Genealogy and Biographical Society (NYG&BS)** will hold its 2025 **New York State Family History Conference** using a hybrid format. For details and to register go to <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nysfhc/about>.
- 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>.
- 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/ ■

SRVGS Treasury Report Audit Completed for 2025

In accordance with the Standing Rules of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society, Section D. 8., during the month of July 2025 the First Vice President in the capacity of Auditor, Karen LaDuca, reviewed the financial records for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Treasurer, Jill Zollinger, provided the monthly statements of activity for this fiscal year, a transaction register for the same time period, reconciliation reports and the bank statement for the month of May 2025 showing the ending checking account balance, as well as a Budget vs. Actual report. She was available to answer questions during the process.

The Treasurer's books are well organized in spreadsheets. The monthly statements of activity are always available on a Google Sheets spreadsheet shared with the entire Board of Directors. Transaction registers were examined and found to be correct, in balance and in agreement with the monthly statements of activity.

Financial records for the 2024-2025 fiscal year are found to be in good order.

Karen LaDuca, SRVGS first Vice President and Auditor

Special Interest Groups by Bill George

We continue to add new members to our society, so I invite you, new to the group, to notify our Special Interest Group Leaders to add you to their SIG notification lists. They will email you about the next SIG meeting date, time and details.

We have a wide variety of SIGS and you may always join more than one. Our website <https://srvgensoc.org> has a list of all 7 upcoming SIG details and of course this newsletter strives to publish the latest dates and times of each meeting.

SIGs are the quickest way to get help and questions answered. And, you can help others with what you've learned. If you have any questions about any of the SIGs, contact Bill George, our SRVGS SIG Coordinator at wiliamcgeorge@gmail.com

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, September 9th, 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.



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Marc Jensen
Bob and Susan Esposito
Sharon Beth Duda

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 coming up, 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.