



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXX No. 7 February - 2025

February Presentation

Tuesday Feb. 18th, 2025 at 10 am

“Germans to America’s Midwest 1848-1900” (Via Zoom)

By Scott Norrick



Over 46 million Americans have some German ancestry. The largest German immigration wave to America was 1848-1900, and the majority of those that came then settled in America’s Midwest. This presentation will examine the reasons why so many Germans were leaving their homeland during this period as well as why so many settled in America’s Midwest. In addition, the presentation will cover:

- German immigration trends
- Ports of departure and arrival
- Midwest German hotspots
- Local example of German settlement
- Cultural influences brought to the Midwest
- Top sites for researching your German ancestors .

Scott Norrick’s passion is connecting people to their past. His areas of expertise include research in the American Midwest along with the immigration to the Midwest from Britain, Ireland, and Germanic countries. He also does significant research into Civil War records. He has an undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and a graduate degree from Northwestern University. With over 30 years of family history research experience, he is familiar with all the latest and time-tested genealogical tools. He has presented to dozens of genealogical societies, history centers, and libraries. He is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Scott@AncestralPast.com, www.ancestralpast.com

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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.



President's Message

By Scott Hefner



Like most people I've been watching the fires in Southern California with shock and horror, witnessing the unimaginable destruction of thousands of homes and whole neighborhoods and towns. There have been many natural disasters in American history: the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, the Johnstown Flood of 1889, the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, the Oakland Hills fire of 1991, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the Camp Fire of 2018 that destroyed the town of Paradise, just to name a few. For most of us these were events that happened in the past, in other places and/or to other people. They have become part of our shared history, commemorated on their anniversary, and their names imprinted on our memories. But while we remember the event and the tragedies involved we sometimes forget these were real people, just like us, whose lives were disrupted and changed forever, often in a matter of minutes or seconds.

As genealogists and amateur historians, we often view these types of events as especially significant because of their impact on an area, a population, migration patterns, etc. They may become evidence in helping to explain why our ancestors moved to where they did, why some of them disappeared from records, and other questions that come up in our research. Of special concern to us are the fires that occurred and resulted in lost and irretrievable records, such as Census data, military files, and Church records of births, deaths and marriages. Of course, fires like those in Southern California also result in more personal losses of keepsakes, photos, and documents that may be gone forever.

All of this being said, one of the lessons from these disasters is that they can happen sud-

denly and almost without warning. We've all been encouraged many times, and I for one have not heeded the warnings like I should have, but we need to think about what we have in our homes that we would hate to lose and that would truly be irreplaceable. Make plans and preparations to be able to collect and take those things with us if we had to evacuate on short notice. As modern genealogists, many of our documents may be stored electronically or in the cloud, so physical records may not be as critical as they once were. But original photos, videos, letters, birth and marriage certificates and other documents may still be of great sentimental value and important to us.

For me, though, the most important lesson I've come away with is to appreciate life, family and friends today, because there is no guarantee about the future. ■

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

**Let's all extend a Warm Welcome to
our newest member,**

**Cheryl Olson,
and returning member after a long
absence,
Veronique Schutz**

Save the Date

On May 20, 2025 from 11-2

Our 40th Anniversary Party is in the planning stage. It will be in person at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo

Lunch will be served.

Activities, speaker and other details yet to be finalized.



Notes on the January 2025 Presentation

By Margaret Goetze

“Travel Your Tree: Walking in Your Ancestors’ Footsteps by Lisa M. Vogele ”

Traveling in your ancestors’ footsteps holds a unique adventure for everyone. Whether you have traced your relatives back hundreds of years, or you are an adoptee who’s taken a DNA test, heritage travel is scalable to all budgets and locations. Lisa Vogele, a professional genealogist and certified travel planner, gave us a fun presentation full of ideas to consider, with trusted suppliers and tips, to make the planning process smoother.

Lisa provided a handout that was included in the meeting invitation so if you have not read it yet, I recommend downloading a copy for future reference. It contains a full page of resources to assist us. The meeting recording will also be on our website for thirty days.

Her Roadmap highlights three steps: Research and Planning, which help you maximize your Enjoyment, and the value of your trip.

The Research checklist highlights key times for actions to take, ensuring you are far enough along in your genealogical research before going, and many steps to help with your travel research.

Planning, and organizing all the items on your itinerary, can be done with free trip planning tools such as Tripit.com. There is value in booking tours, hiring a guide, driver or driver/guide especially where you do not speak the local language. You might want to hire a professional photographer for an hour to obtain high quality photos for now, and your future descendant’s genealogical reference.

Seeking out your existing relatives can be invaluable even if you have not yet met them. They are often as curious about us as we are about them. APG (Association of Professional Genealogists) can help you find a local genealogist fluent in the native language to initiate contact and make introductions for you. Messaging people through Ancestry.com and

FamilySearch is another way to make connections with distant relatives, or people managing trees for them.

As of 2025, the United Kingdom now requires a visa for people traveling with a US Passport into the UK. The ETA, or Electronic Travel Authorization, will also be required if you are changing planes in the UK. You may apply online, and it is valid for two years.

Enjoy is the most important part of your trip. Be sure to bring several copies of your pedigree chart, copies of old family photos especially with your common relatives, contact cards to leave behind so you can be contacted later, small gifts for your new relatives, and DNA kits that new relatives may be willing to take to expand your tree.

Lisa emphasized how important it is to Leave time for Luck. This means having open blocks of time where you can sit in a local café and talk to people with your family tree in hand. In smaller towns, they may be able to guide you to people that will help with your research. Serendipity often happens when we allow time for it. I have heard several stories from friends who left time open, and connections magically unfolded with access to hidden local records, or photos of you as a child that were sent back to family in the home country.

Lisa was a very knowledgeable and interesting speaker. Her website TravelYourTree.com can

Notes on the November 2024 Presentation (cont'd)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (CONT'D)

provide you with more information about her services including travel planning, trips, reunion planning and the latest tips for your trip planning.

As an experienced business traveler, I learned new things. When traveling out of the country, take the time to register with the State department. Should an unexpected disaster or emergency happen, they will know your location. You can be updated and even potentially evacuated as needed. For the non-travelers, she also explained how to use Google Maps to be an "armchair" traveler to virtually walk in your ancestors' footsteps visually while still at home. After Lisa's presentation I have renewed excitement about planning my next trip – I hope you do too!■

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE

By: Bill George, SRVGS SIG Coordinator

Our society hosts seven Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to assist members with specialized research areas. These groups focus on topics such as Irish, German, and Italian ethnic research, DNA studies, Publishing, and AI technology. Additionally, one group is dedicated to exploring the FamilySearch free research site, which includes a 1.6-billion-person family tree and a vast array of free research databases.

How to Learn More:

For detailed information about each SIG and many research tips, visit our website at <https://srvgensoc.org>. Navigate to the "SIGs" section and select the group that interests you.

Monthly Notices:

Each month, SIG leaders send advance notices about upcoming meetings. These notices include detailed instructions for joining the sessions, especially for online meetings.

- Online Meetings: Most SIGs meet online, making it convenient for members to participate from anywhere.
- In-Person Meetings: The German SIG is the only group that meets in person.

Starting a New SIG:

If you have a particular research interest not currently covered, you're encouraged to start your own group. Meetings can be held online or at the Danville FamilySearch Center. Hosting a SIG is a fantastic opportunity to deepen your knowledge and share it with others.

Potential Topics for New SIGs:

- Software for recording research offline, such as Family Tree Maker, RootsMagic, or Legacy Family Tree.

Take advantage of this opportunity to connect with like-minded researchers and expand your skills!■

In Memoriam

Sadly we report that member Norman Lescure passed away last August; and long time member (since 1999) and active participant Suzanne Johnston passed away at the end of December, 2024. Our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 2025

- 18 Tuesday-10am, the February General Meeting will be held via Zoom link. Scott Norrick will present **Germans to the Midwest, 1848-1900.**
- 25 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

March 2025

- 18 Tuesday-10am, the March General Meeting will be held via Zoom link. Bob LaPerriere MD will present **Women's Issues on the Overland Trail.**
- 25 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

April 2025

- 15 Tuesday-10am, the April General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Tom MacEntee will present **Getting the Most out of Census Records.**
- 22 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

May 2025

- 20 Tuesday-10am, the May General Meeting and **40th Anniversary Celebration** will be held in person. Details forthcoming.
- 27 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

June 2025

- 17 Tuesday-10am, the June General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Evan Wilson will present **"Putting Your American Ancestors on the Map".**
- 24 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome. ■

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Scott Hefner
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Recording Secretary:
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NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor: Barbara Thurston

Calendar Coordinator:
 Bill George

Education Coordinator:
 Kathy Javdani

Webmaster: Bill George
webmaster@srvgensoc.org

The California Genealogical Society is having a special meeting for Tri-Valley members and member 'wannabes' at the Virginia Bennett Room at Dublin Public Library 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin, CA 94568, Thursday, February 13, 10:30am-12:00pm

"Please join us as we share genealogical interests, resources and research. Discover additional benefits that your CGS membership can offer." Contact [Roger Prince](mailto:Roger.Prince@CaliforniaAncestors.org), rprince@CaliforniaAncestors.org for more info.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS FOR FEBRUARY 2025

By: Bill George, SRVGS SIG Coordinator

In February, 2025 we have seven Special Interest Groups meeting at their normal dates/times. All SIGs meet on-line, except for the in-person German SIG at the Danville FamilySearch Center from 1pm - 2:45pm. 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, February 10th, (the 2nd Monday) from **1:00 pm – 3:00 pm 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, February 12th, (the 2nd Wednesday) **10:00 am - 12:00 pm in a Zoom meeting**. They share information from the internet, journals, DNA and books. Leslie Stewart is the SIG leader. You may contact Leslie at lwvleslie@gmail.com.



Italian SIG, Wednesday, February 19th, (the 3rd Wednesday) **1:00 pm—3:00 pm 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.

[This Photo](#) by



DNA SIG, Monday February 17th, (the 3rd Monday) **1:00 pm - 3:00 pm in a Zoom meeting**. This SIG assumes a basic knowledge of Genealogical DNA testing and therefore is only open to those who have completed the SRVGS Intro to DNA class or an approved equivalent. You may contact SIG Leader Mark McLaren at greatscot@earthlink.net.



Publishing SIG, Thursday, February 20th, (the 3rd Thursday) **10:30 am - 12:00 pm in a Google Meet meeting**. Contact Kathy Javdani at kijsc@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, February 24th, (the 4th Monday) from **7:00 pm—9:00 pm 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, February 26th, (the 4th Wednesday) from 1-2:45pm at the Danville FamilySearch Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road, 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.



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

It's February, the month of love. And, of course we love learning more family history.

☞ 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. Feb. 1 from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a hybrid meeting. The topic will be **Using the Census**.
- Also, on the 1st from 1-2 Robert Trapp will host the **Mayflower Descendants SIG** in person at the CGS library. Contact Robert at r1946@aol.com for more information.
- On Sat. Feb. 15 from 10-12 Sandra Huber will lead the **San Francisco SIG** via Zoom. Contact sfsig@californiaancestors.org for more information.
- Also, on Feb. 15 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 Sat. Feb. 22 from 10-11:30 Craig Siulinski and Laura Bajuk will host an online meeting of the **Eastern European SIG**. Register at EESIG Registration on the SIG section of the CGS website.
- On Mon. Feb. 24 from 7-8:30 the **DNA Skills SIG** with Mark McLaren will meet online. Contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net for details.
- On Wed. Feb. 26 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. Mar. 1 from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a hybrid meeting. The topic will be **Vital Records**.

☞ 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. The SIGs include

- On Wed. Feb. 4 at 11 **German Research Discussion** with Robert Jackson. In person only.
- Also, on the 4th at 6:30 **Intro to Vital Records** with Lisa Gorrell. Hybrid.
- On Thu. Feb. 6 at 11 **Writer's Block? Using AI to Break the Block** with Rudiger Wolf. Hybrid.
- Also, on the 6th at 1 **Italian Research Discussion** with Debbie Hunt. In person only.
- On Sat. Feb. 8 at 11 **Chinese Official 9 Level Civil and Military Titles** with Lee Pearce. In person only.
- On Tue. Feb. 11 **FamilySearch 102: Using the Research Wiki** with Kara Brewer. Hybrid.
- On Thu. Feb. 13 at 11 **Using Powerpoint to Create a Story Video** with Rudiger Wolf. Hybrid.

- Also, on the 13th **FamilySearch 102: Using the Research Wiki** with Debbie Hunt. Hybrid.
- On Tue. Feb. 18 at 11 **Scotland Research Discussion** with Roger Prince. In person only.
- Also, on the 18th at 1 **How to Migrate Family Trees in FamilySearch** with Rudiger Wolf. Hybrid.
- On Wed. Feb. 19 at 1 **Danish Research Discussion** with Jared Weaver. In person only.
- On Thu. Feb. 20 at 11 the **Photographs SIG** with Rudiger Wolf. In person only.
- Also, on the 20th at 1 **Italian Research** with Debbie Hunt. Hybrid.
- On Wed. Feb. 26 at 11 the **DNA SIG** with Sue Severson. In person only.
- Also, on the 26th at 1 the **Norwegian SIG** with Sue Severson. In person only.
- On Thu. Feb. 27th at 11 **Using MyHeritage Tools: Colorization, etc.** with Rudiger Wolf. Hybrid.
- On Fri., Feb. 28 at 11 **Intro to FamilyTree Maker** with Jody Copeland Harle. Hybrid.
- On Tue. Feb. 4 from 3-4 authors Justene Hill Edwards and Kenyatte D. Berry discuss their book **“Savings and Trust: The Rise and Fall of the Freedman’s Bank”**, \$42 for broadcast and signed book.
- On Thu. Feb. 13 from 12-1 from Rhonda McClure will explore **Researching Famine Irish Ancestors in Ireland’s Poor Law Unions**.
- On Fri. Feb. 21 from 10-11:15 Robert O’Byrne will discuss **The Irish County House: A New Vision**.
- On Tue. Feb. 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 3-4:30 Rhonda McClure, Eileen Pironti, Melani McComb and Judith Lucey will examine **Finding Irish Origins: A County is Not Enough!** \$125
- On Thu. Feb. 27 from 3-4 David Levering Lewis will discuss his book **“The Stained Glass Window: A Family History as an American Story, 1790-1958”**.
- On Fri. Feb. 28 3-4:30 from Curt DiCamillo will share **J. P. Morgan: Banker, Collector, Renaissance Prince**. \$15

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.

🔗 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 Feb. 6-8 from 6-3 Judith Lucey, Todd Pattison and Fitch Henry will hold the Online Research Workshop: **Preserving Your Family History Research: Documents, Bound Volumes, & Photographs**. \$375

🔗 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. Feb. 4 from 11:30-12:30 Bryan Mulcahy will examine **Misleading Genealogical Records, Citations and Sources**.
- On Tue. Feb. 11 from 11:30-12:30 Simon Davies will offer **Give Your Past a Future – An Introduction to WeAre.xyz**.
- On Thu. Feb. 13 at 3:30 Lindsey Harner will present

The Genealogy Proof Standard in Action – Finding the Parents and Siblings of a Civil War Ancestor.

- On Tue. Feb. 18 from 11:30-12:30 Taieno Kaiser will explore **DecipherInk: Language Learning for Genealogists**.
- On Tue. Feb. 20 at 3:30 Elizabeth Hodges will answer **Who Walked These Streets? How to Build an Online Platform for Historic Neighborhood**.
- On Tue. Feb. 25 from 3:30-4:30 Jessica Conklin will discuss **Searching for the Smith's: A Case Study**.

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

- On Tue. Feb. 4 at 5 Helen Smith will share **Oops! Married Twice (at the same time) Case Studies**.
- On Wed. Feb. 6 at 11 Blaine Bettinger will present **Foundations in DNA 1 of 5: Introduction to DNA and Genetic Genealogy**.
- On Fri. Feb. 7 at 9 Diane Richard will offer **50 State-Level Digitized Memory Platforms You Don't Want to Miss!**
- Also, on Fri. Feb. 7 at 11 Michael Leclerc will examine **Researching Your LGBTQ+ Ancestors**.
- On Wed. Feb. 11 at 11 Phoebe Cooper explore **Norwegians in the New World: Tracing Norwegian Immigrants in the American Midwest**.
- On Tue., Feb. 18 at 5 Diane Boumenot will discuss **Applying Research Standards to the Census**.
- On Wed., Feb. 19 at 11 Bonnie Mucia will share **Navigating the Mayflower Families Silver Books: A Guide for Genealogists**.
- On Fri., Feb. 21 at 9 Gail Blankenau will present **Research Your Roots in Alsace Lorraine**.
- Also, on the 21st at 11 Christine Woodcock will offer **Soldiers, Squatters and Settlers**.
- On T Feb. 25 at 11 James Tanner will present **Enhance Your Family Tree Accuracy with MyHeritage's Timeline and Consistency Checker**.

- On Wed. Feb. 26 at 11 Judy Russell will share **Shootout at the Rhododendron Lodge: Reconstructing Life-Changing Events**.
- On Thu. Feb. 27 at 6 am Kathleen Roy will present **Trouvex vos ancetres dans les recensements canadiens sur MyHeritage**.
- On Fri. Feb. 28 at 9 Paul Woodbury will discuss **From Spit to Screen: The Journey of Your DNA Sample**.
- Also, on the 28th Diana Elder will explore **Streamlining Genealogical Research Plans with AI: A Step-by-Step Guide**. (for webinar members)

The State Historical Society of Missouri has produced nearly 100 On-Demand programs through its virtual program series and past recorded 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.

- Auntie Jen's Family Trees, <https://Auntiejentrees.blogspot.com>
- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio <https://extremegenes.com/blog>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast www.genealogyguys.com
- Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems <https://lisalouisecooke.com/podcasts>
- The Genealogy Squad <https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogysquad/>
- Lisa also has a genealogy chat on YouTube at 9 am on Thursdays entitled **Elevenses**.
- Thomas MacEntee's www.genealogybargains.com
- Judy Russell's www.legalgenealogist.com

- Family History Fanatics
www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/blog
- Connie Knox <https://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.
- Html://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
- monthly meeting on Zoom. The featured speaker, Annette Burke Lyttle, will present **Genealogical Proof for the Everyday Genealogist**. See the society's website for details.
- On Mon. Feb. 10 from 7-8:30 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will host a hybrid meeting. The guest speaker, Sara Cochran, examine **Grandma Said What? Gathering and Verifying Your Family's Oral History**. The link to register for the meeting is on the site under
- On Thu. Feb. 13 from 6:30-8 to 12 the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net>, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. The guest speaker, Tina LaFreniere, will share **Related Faces Can Help Identify Unknown People in Old Photos**. Register under events on the society's website.
- On Sat. Feb. 15 at 1 the Sonoma County Genealogical Society, <https://scgsonline.org>, will hold its monthly hybrid meeting. Lisa Gorrell, the guest speaker, will offer **Tips for Breaking Bricks Walls**. Go to <https://scgsonline.org/event-604858> to register. Note Zoom access opens at 12:45.
- On Thu. Feb. 20 at 1 the Napa Valley Genealogical Society, <https://napagensoc.org>, will hold its monthly hybrid meeting. Tina LaFreniere, the guest speaker, will present **How Related Faces Can Help Identify Unknown People in Old Photos**.
- On Tue. Feb. 25 at 10 the Sacramento German Genealogical Society, <https://sggs.us/eventListings.php?nm=54>, will meet. Helga Frank, the guest speaker, will discuss **Genealogical Research in Bavaria: a brief historical review and research possibilities**.

Events from Local Societies

- On Sun. Feb. 2 the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, www.sfbajgs.org/calendar.html, will have its monthly meeting on Zoom. Stephen Morse will discuss **The Julian Calendar and Its Importance to Genealogists**. Register on the website.
- On Thu. Feb. 6 at 1:30 the Genealogy Society of Vallejo-Benicia, <https://gsvb.org>, will have its

Upcoming Special Events

- On Feb. 28 and Mar.1 the California Genealogical Society will sponsor an **Irish Research Seminar**. Feb. 28th will feature 30 consultations and March 1 will offer in-person lectures. Details to follow.

- From March 6-8 RootsTech 2025 will be held live in Salt Lake City and online. Register at www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/?cid=EM-00042619&lid=65end1fdkdk.
- From May 23 – 26 the National Genealogical Society will hold its **2025 Family History Conference – Tales & Trails in Louisville, Kentucky.** Go to <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/> for details and registration.
- The GRIP Genealogy Institute, <https://grip.ngsgenealogy.org>, will be offering a series of virtual courses from June 22-27 and the in-person courses from July 13-18 in Pittsburgh, PA from May 23 – 26. Go to <https://grip.ngsgenealogy.org/#schedule> for details and registration. ■

Did You Know....?

Our Society's website has lots of pictures of past events as well as our Board members, available to our members. Once you login, you will be presented with a menu with several options including Photos. Why not take a look at the photos particularly if you were unable to attend any of these in-person events such as the 2024 Holiday Party and Cookie Exchange. And while you're there, cruise around some of the other pages you've not visited in a while or at all.

Classic Peanut Butter Blossom Cookies

★★★★

Prep	Total	Servings
60 MIN	60 MIN	36



Ingredients

1/2 cup granulated sugar
 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
 1/2 cup butter, softened
 1 egg
 1 1/2 cups Gold Medal™ all-purpose flour
 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

Additional granulated sugar

About 36 Hershey's Kisses
 Brand milk chocolates, unwrapped

Steps

- Heat oven to 375°F. In large bowl, beat 1/2 cup granulated sugar, the brown sugar, peanut butter, butter and egg with electric mixer on medium speed, or mix with spoon, until well blended. Stir in flour, baking soda and baking powder until dough forms.
- Shape dough into 1-inch balls; roll in additional granulated sugar. On ungreased cookie sheets, place about 2 inches apart.
- Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Immediately press 1 milk chocolate candy in center of each cookie. Remove from cookie sheets to cooling rack.

Below is a re-run of last month's recipe with a major correction in case you missed the email with the missing ingredient. See below...

Ginger Molasses Cookies
 makes 2 1/2 dozen Donna Kennedy

2 c Flour
 2 tsp soda
 2 tsp ginger
 1/4 c unsalted butter (at room temp)
 1 c firmly packed dark brown sugar
 1 egg
 1/4 c dark molasses
 2 tsp grated orange zest
 granulated sugar

1 1/2 tsp Cinnamon
 1 tsp Cloves
 1 tsp Salt
 1/2 c SHORTENING

1. Mix together flour, soda, ginger, cinnamon, cloves and salt in bowl - set aside.
 2. Combine shortening, butter + brown sugar in large bowl and beat until fluffy. Add egg, molasses and orange zest - beat until blended.
 3. Reduce speed to low, add flour mixture and mix just until incorporated. Cover + refrigerate 1-8 hours.
 4. Preheat oven 350° - lightly butter baking sheets.
 5. Roll dough in 1 1/4" balls + roll in sugar.
 6. Bake until pale golden and cracked on top but still soft - 12 min.

Danville Family Search Center
2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo
Phone: (925)552-5920

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 – 1pm

.....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, Thanksgiving week, and the last 2 weeks of December.



The World's Largest Family History Conference is coming up March 6-8, 2025 and it is both Virtual and In Person again this year! Register now—Ctrl-click the link for [Roots Tech registration](#). Note that the Virtual is FREE again this year. The In-Person fee is \$129 for the 3 days. You can also go to the [FamrootstechilySearch](#) site for detailed info on the event. Don't miss this marvelous event.



SRVGS is on Facebook!

Click on the link below or go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/srvgensoc>

HELP! HELP! HELP!

Our society realizes many of us are faced with that familiar brick wall, or maybe we need suggestions on where to look after we've begun chiseling into the bricks.

Under New Member Resources on our website, <https://srvgensoc.org>, is a list of our society members willing to help in specific areas (ALL members can use this, not just new.) You can also send a query to the email: secretary@srvgensoc.org

We want to help!