



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXX No. 9 April - 2025

April Presentation

Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 at 10am

“Creating an Ancestor Sketch” (Via Zoom)

By Thomas MacEntee



Census records are one of the most important types of genealogical records, containing a wealth of information you may not find in vital records and allowing you to track your ancestors' progress over time. Join Thomas MacEntee for a deep dive into census records and learn some tips and tricks for extracting as much information as possible from each record.

Thomas MacEntee is a tech-savvy genealogist, founder of GeneaBloggers and Genealogy Bargains. With a background in IT and certification from Boston University, he has delivered 1,200+ lectures on digital genealogy, helping researchers use modern tools and affordable resources to explore family history.

Thomas has a library of presentations that are available. His web site is <https://genealogybargains.com>; his email address is hidefgen@gmail.com. ■

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 wiliamcgeorge@gmail.com.

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President's Message

By Scott Hefner



The broader genealogy community most of us are active participants in is largely focused on researching and documenting our ancestors from North America and Europe. The volume of available records, documents, and photographs is staggering, and online accessibility to it seems to grow by leaps and bounds every day. There is obviously enough here to keep all of us fully engaged for the rest of our lives.

Of course, we know this is only a part of the whole picture; Europe and the Americas represented about 26 percent of the world's population over the last 500 years. There is undoubtedly a tremendous amount of data on the other 74 percent that doesn't factor into our research at all. For many, and for me in particular, this "other 74 percent" holds special interest and a new set of mysteries to be explored. While my own ancestors were clearly in the 26 percent group, my wife is of Japanese heritage; she and both of her parents were born here, but all of her grandparents were born in Japan.

For my kids' sake, since this is half of their ancestral line, but also because I find it intriguing and fascinating, I've started dabbling a little in researching this Japanese branch. It is eye-opening to realize there is almost a parallel universe for this Japanese American group, much as there is for other ethnic subgroups. Of course, there are commonalities with any genealogy research: census records, business directories, immigration and ship passenger lists, military records, newspapers, etc.

But there are unique aspects that present additional challenges, the most obvious being language. Not surprisingly, many of the letters, newspapers, and other documents that you would rely on in your research are written in Japanese, which is a definite disadvantage for an English speaker like me. I'm also uncertain how to effectively search for terms or names when the source material is pages of Kanji characters. Google Translate and AI are enormously helpful tools in this regard, but it still complicates

research efforts.

Another thing I've discovered is that there is almost certainly a rich source of my wife's family history in Japan, but Japanese privacy laws will make it difficult or impossible to access. The cornerstone of Japanese genealogical research is a document called a "koseki", which is a family registry that records births, deaths, marriages and other vital events. It's been required by Japanese law for families to maintain their koseki since 1872, and these would obviously be a treasure trove of research information. However, you need to determine the exact City Hall of Record for the family, and access to the koseki is generally restricted to direct family descendants only.

It's impossible to overstate the impact of WWII on nearly all aspects of the lives of the Earth's population. While minor in the overall picture, one specific event had a unique impact on Japanese Americans and their genealogical history. Japanese Americans on the

West Coast ethnic Japanese were forced to leave their homes and were "relocated" to a number of what were essentially prison camps throughout the U.S. Most were given from 48 hours to a week to gather their belongings, dispose of property, and report to an assembly point. They were only allowed to take with them whatever they were able to carry. It's almost inconceivable that a significant amount of family history, photographs, and documents didn't get lost during the chaos of this process. In addition there was a strong disincentive to retain anything that could be used to infer any kind of ties or loyalty to Japan. We'll never know how much genealogical gold was lost forever during this period.■

Are you an NGS Member? Would you like to be?

If you are over 65, have Medicare and have a Medicare Advantage plan or a Medicare Supplement you may be eligible for reimbursement of your NGS dues or a free membership. You should check the NGS website (www.GrouponGroup.com/NGS) and then you can decide if you want to join. It would basically be a free membership which would give you free access to Newspaper Archives.



Notes on the March 2025 Presentation

By Margaret Goetze

“Women’s Issues on the Overland Trail” by Bob LaPerriere, MD ”

Dr. Bob LaPerriere is a retired medical doctor from the Sacramento area involved with a number of historical societies including the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society (SSVMS). They have one of the two medical museums in the State of California with the Museum of Medical History. The recording of his presentation will be on our website for thirty days.

Life on the trails that our ancestors followed as they moved from east to west was difficult and full of challenges on a daily basis. Men wanted to move west to improve their lives while women were in their childbearing years with more inclination to stay put to raise their families where they had community. Many women moved reluctantly and often were not well prepared.

Women’s presence improved overall cleanliness, hygiene and the quality of meals that were prepared for the travelers on their journeys.

Medicine in the 1800s was practiced before common sanitation methods began. Bob shared many remedies that lack supportive scientific evidence today. The use of leeches was common. To keep your mouth fresh, people would rinse their mouth with their urine in the morning. Many people got dysentery, known as bloody flux due to bloody diarrhea, from drinking water contaminated with feces.

They lacked clean drinking water and fresh produce and often developed scurvy. Symptoms included fatigue, body lesions, inflamed gums, swollen feet and legs. Alkaline water and dust were challenging for people and livestock.

A book on Family Medical Recipes described 43 ailments with homespun treatments. They used bark and roots, quinine, castor oil, laudanum and liniments. Tincture of Opium is the main ingredient of laudanum. The only time to contact a doctor was for nosebleeds, smallpox, gravel (kidney stones), and inflammation of the bowels.

A ship’s box, or medicine box, would be filled with jars of cures. They used blue mass (a preparation of mercury), whiskey, and onions mashed in sugar for cough syrup. When you got something in your eye, a solution of gunpowder in water was used for an eye wash. Ingesting a roasted mouse was thought to help cure your measles. Mold from cheese was used to treat open sores and this was possibly a forerunner of penicillin.

Superstitions were highly active. Tie a stocking around your neck at bedtime to treat a sore throat. Even the different types of wagons were blamed for diseases. If the children contracted an illness traveling in that type of wagon, surely it was to blame.

Trauma and accidents were also common – snake bites, drowning, Indian skirmishes, stampedes, and falls. Wagon wheels or oxen feet crushed bones. Compound fractures without an amputation were 100% fatal due to infection. Survival rates improved to 50% with an amputation, although they did not have anesthesia during the procedure.

Mortality rates were 6% while traveling from east to west and nearly 25% died within six months of reaching their destination. After Bob’s presentation, we have an even greater understanding of what our ancestors endured and thankfully survived. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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-11am, the May General Meeting and **40th Anniversary Celebration** will be held in person and on Zoom. 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.

July 2025

- 15 Tuesday-10am, the July General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Annette Burke Lyttle will present **Genealogical Proof for the Everyday Genealogist.**
- 22 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

August 2025—No meeting this month

September 2025

- 16 Tuesday-10am, the July General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Annette Burke Lyttle will present **Genealogical Proof for the Everyday Genealogist.**
- 23 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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October 2025

- 21 Tuesday-10am, the July 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■

23 AND ME

By: Barbara Thurston

I started out thinking I would write an objective article on the issues without making any recommendations as to what you should do with your DNA data at 23andMe. It wasn't as simple as I thought it would be since there appears to be a myriad of articles on the subject, so here are some pros and cons from the media and from some of the well known DNA experts.

23andMe, a prominent consumer genetic testing company, recently filed for bankruptcy, raising significant concerns about the privacy and security of its customers' genetic data. The company, once valued at \$6 billion, struggled to convert its genetic technology into a profitable business model, leading to its financial downfall. A major concern following the bankruptcy is the potential exposure of sensitive genetic information. In 2023, a data breach compromised the genetic data of 6.9 million customers, highlighting vulnerabilities in data security.

With the company's assets, including its extensive genetic database, up for auction, there is apprehension about how new owners might utilize this information. Potential uses could include applications in life insurance, long-term care policies, and mortgage decisions, raising ethical and privacy issues.

Privacy experts and state attorneys-general recommend that customers take proactive steps to protect their genetic data. These steps include deleting their 23andMe accounts, opting out of research programs, and requesting the destruction of their DNA samples. While federal laws like the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act (GINA) offer some protection, gaps remain, leaving genetic data potentially vulnerable.

In summary, the bankruptcy of 23andMe has intensified concerns about the security and future use of consumer genetic data. Users are advised to take measures to safeguard their information, given the potential risks associated with data exposure..

Here is Blaine Bettinger's take from his Facebook Group **Genetic Genealogy Tips and Techniques**:

"What should we do now that 23andMe has filed for bankruptcy and CEO Anne Wojcicki has resigned (to be in the running to pursue the company as an independent bidder)? **For now, as of March 2025, I am not deleting my data or anyone else's data from 23andMe. I am not currently concerned about any risk to my raw DNA data or personal information at 23andMe.** That could possibly change, although it is extremely difficult to envision a scenario where my DNA data currently housed at 23andMe is out of my control or available in ways I haven't authorized. This would be a massive violation of the ToS (to which a purchasing entity would indeed be bound) and would subject that purchasing entity to massive lawsuits and financial liability under state and federal laws.

For more, see this AP article: Also see the 23andMe press release (), indicating that "[there are no changes to the way the Company stores, manages, or protects customer data.]" Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation out there. For example, the California Attorney General has **NOT** recommended that people delete their 23andMe data, he has only issued a warning and reminded everyone that they have a legal right to delete data if they so wish (see). Might our "DNA be sold to the highest bidder" as the people looking for clicks want us to believe? Sure, but that has happened before at both FTDNA and Ancestry.

tryDNA, for example, and none of us noticed anything. **I think genetic genealogists should WANT their 23andMe data to be sold to the highest bidder so that the database survives!**

A new owner does not mean we suddenly lose access to our data or that our data somehow becomes public domain.

Beware blog posts or articles that are hype or based on hype; unfortunately we're going to see them because they're great clickbait. Beware anyone that tells you that your data is "at risk" of being beyond your control, as they likely are reacting out of fear and do not understand the situation. Now is NOT the time to panic, it is the time to be calm, watch, and listen. **Please remember that this is NOT LEGAL ADVICE.** I am an attorney, but I am not your attorney.

Blaine Bettinger's short bio: Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D., is a professional genealogist specializing in DNA evidence and the use of artificial intelligence for genealogical research. He is the author of the long-running blog The Genetic Genealogist, and frequently gives presentations and webinars to educate others about the use of DNA and artificial intelligence.

Here's an opinion from Arthur Caplan, Ph.D. Bioethicist

[Arthur Caplan](#), head of the division of medical ethics at NYU's Grossman School of Medicine, has been critical of 23andMe for decades.

"My advice is get your data out of there. I would not leave it there, and it might be too late," Caplan said. He said he was not about the use of DNA and artificial intelligence; omyr;;ohrmvr.surprised by the announcement, [having predicted it in January](#).

"They were more interested in getting data, saliva, to resell," Caplan told CNET. "It was marketed and received as a cute hobbyist sort of thing. But that wasn't really the goal that gave it the billions of dollars of value it once had." Caplan said the company's business model promised ancestry information that he believes was not reliable to begin with. "I don't think the science was very good," he said, adding with a sale of the company, there's no legal obligation to ensure customer privacy under another owner. The risks, Caplan said, is that the data could be used in ways people who've handed over their saliva can't anticipate.

"DNA information is very sensitive -- it can tell you things about paternity, it can lead government agencies to come after you that you didn't think about," he said. "The genetic data could be used

And one more from TheDNAGeek (aka Leah Larkin) published March 25, 2025

"As you may have heard, on Sunday, March 23, 2025, 23andMe entered a voluntary restructuring under Chapter 11 of the United States bankruptcy code. Simultaneously, Anne Wojcicki resigned as CEO.

Predictably, the media had a field day with this story, stoking panic and urging users to delete their data. Muckraking news outlets even falsely claimed that the Attorney General of the State of California told users to do just that.

This is simply not true. You can read AG Rob Bonta's statement for yourself here. Rather, he "reminds Californians of their right to direct the deletion of their genetic data under the Genetic

Information Privacy Act (GIPA) and California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA). Californians who want to invoke these rights can do so by going to 23andMe's website." He's not warning anyone to do anything; he's reminding us of our legal rights. It's up to us to decide whether to exercise them.

Many friends, clients, and readers have reached out to me privately to ask for advice. Ultimately, it depends on your comfort level with uncertainty, but here's my thinking:

- I am not deleting my kits. At least not yet. I'll let you know if I do.
- Under California law, we'll still have the right to delete our kits a week or a month or a year from now, so I'm not going to make any rash decisions.
- 23andMe's Chapter 11 restructuring was voluntary, not forced. That's a good thing. We know the company is in financial trouble, not least because of an attack in 2023, but not so much trouble that it's shutting down. Instead, it's restructuring and looking for a buyer to continue its mission.
- As 23andMe themselves say in an open letter to the community, the company continues to operate as normal—with the same user access and privacy protections as before—while it looks for a buyer.
- Anne Wojcicki resigned so that she can bid to buy 23andMe herself. She co-founded the company and hasn't given up on it.
- 23andMe was a Gold Sponsor at RootsTech 2025 in early March. Not only have they not abandoned the genealogy community, they announced new features, like updated diasporic genetic groups, historical matches, records and archives hints, and (to come) ancestry reconstruction.
- Lest we forget, 23andMe is the only major DNA database that hasn't been sold at some point. Ancestry was purchased by the Blackstone Group in 2020, and the world did not end. Nor did it end in 2021, when MyHeritage was acquired by Francisco Partners and FamilyTreeDNA by myDNA. GEDmatch has been sold twice: to Verogen in 2019 and again (as a subsidiary of Verogen) to Qiagen in 2023.
- Most importantly, everything that happens from here on out will be supervised by a US Bankruptcy Court. We're not going to wake up tomorrow to find out that our data is owned by an offshore shell corporation for space aliens wanting to clone us.

That said, if you want to delete your data, that's your choice entirely. The California AG's statement explains how. Be sure to download your raw data first and store it in a secure place for future use. You can also gather your match data using a third party tool like DNAGedcom for only \$5/month. Many users will upload their raw data to other sites, like MyHeritage, FamilyTreeDNA, and GEDmatch. However, they should be aware that US federal agents operate in those sites, often against Terms of Service and user consent restrictions. It's highly likely that agents of other governments and entities are doing the same.

Leah Larkin's bio from her website: Leah Larkin earned her Ph.D. in biology from the University of Texas at Austin, where she used DNA to study the relationships among different species. She has worked in both academia and scientific publishing and applies those research skills daily to solving genealogical questions using DNA.

Note that our Society is not making a recommendation to you regarding your data at 23andMe. However we do recommend that you do the research and do what you feel is most comfortable for you. Steps to delete your data have been published in many newspapers including the Contra Costa Times and the San Ramon Valley Times among others. ■

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS FOR APRIL 2025

By: Bill George, SRVGS SIG Coordinator

In April, 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're wanting 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, April 14th, (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, April 9th, (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, April 16th, (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 kblquilt@comcast.net to be provided the Zoom link to the meeting.



DNA SIG, Monday April 21st, (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, April 17th, (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, April 28th, (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, April 23rd, (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 kblquilt@comcast.net . ■



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Welcome to April, a month of renewal. So, let's begin with a plethora of options for learning.

☞ 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. April 5 from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a hybrid meeting. The topic will be **Organizing Your Family History Work**.
- Also, on the 5th from 1-2 Robert Trapp will lead the Mayflower Descendants SIG in-person at the CGS Library. Contact Robert at rtrapp@californiaancestors.org for more information.
- On Sat. April 19 from 10-12 Sandra Huber will lead the **San Francisco SIG** via Zoom. Contact sfsig@californiaancestors.org for more information.
- In addition, on the 19th 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 Mon. April 21 from 7-8:30 the **DNA Skills SIG** with Mark McLaren will meet online. Contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net for details.
- On Wed. April 2 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. April 26 from 10-11:30 Stewart Traiman will present via Zoom **The Leeds Method Can Unlock DNA Mysteries**.

- On Sat. May 3 from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a hybrid meeting. The topic will be **Genealogy Basics Overview**.

☞ 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 Tue. April 1 at 11 Kara Brewer will explore **Research-Do It Right the First Time**. Hybrid. (This session will be repeated on April 17th and 22nd at 11.)
- On Wed. April 2 at 11 **German Research Discussion** with Robert Jackson will meet in person.
- Also, on the 2nd at 6:30 Lisa Gorrell will explore **What's in the News? Your Ancestors in the Newspapers**. Hybrid.
- On Thu. April 3 at 1 Sue Severson will discuss **DNA Part 2- Making Sense of Your DNA Matches to Expand Your Family Tree**. Hybrid.
- On Wed. April 9 at 1 Jane Lindsey will offer **Got Genealogical Questions?** In hybrid.
- In addition, on the 9th Ralph Severson at 6:30 Ralph Severson will share **Portuguese Records and Naming Traditions**. Hybrid.

- On Thu. April 10 at 1 Sue Severson will discuss **DNA Part 3 -Breaking Through Genealogy Brick Walls**. Hybrid. (This session will be repeated at 6:30.)
- On Tue. April 15 at 11 Denise Plaskett will examine **FamilySearch 104: Best Practices for Person Pages**. Hybrid. (This session will be repeated with Bruce McLeod at 6:30 on April 17.)
- On Wed. April 16 at 11 Jennifer Dix will offer **Intro to Genealogy**. Hybrid.
- On Wed. April 16 at 1 Jared Weaver will lead the **Danish Research Group**. In person only.
- On Fri. April 18 at 11 Kelvin Brewer will offer **Find Help with AI Search on Family Search**. Hybrid.
- On Wed. April 23 at 1 Esta Weaver will lead the **Norwegian Research Group**. In person only.
- On Fri. April 24 at 11 Jennifer Dix will discuss **Using Premium Newspaper Databases**. Hybrid.

Visit www.familysearch.org/en/centers/oakland-california/learning-resources for a wealth of other genealogy research support.

 The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes, has a growing Online series of presentations, library, and more. If you have questions or feedback, contact Online Education. Register for its webinars on the society's website.

- On Tue. April 1 at 6 authors Lee Hawkins and Martha S Jones will lead a discussion on **The Power of Learning Your Family History**.
- On Wed. April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 3 Sheilagh Doerfler, David Lambert and Melanie McComb will present **Revolutionary War Research: Tracing Patriot and Loyalist Ancestors**. \$125

- On Fri. April 4 at 1 Curt DiCamillo will explore **Baroque Style in the English Country House: Drama, Luxury, Opulence**. \$15
- On Mon. April 7 at 1 Hannah Zaves-Greene will present **Tracing the History of Boston Jews, Disability and US Immigration Policy**.
- On Thu. April 17 at 12 Robert Battle will examine **Best Published Resources for Colonial New England Research**.
- In addition, on the 17th at 3 Alan Crawford will discuss his book, **"This Fierce People: The Untold Story War of America's Revolution in the South"**. \$12.50, \$44.50 with signed book

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. April 1 at 11:30 Judy Muhn will share **Ancestors Calling! Luck, Research and Science**.
- On Tue. April 8 at 11:30 Aryn Youngless will discuss **From Research to Novel Using Genealogical Research to Write Creative Nonfiction and Historical Fiction**.
- On Thu. April 10 at 3:30 Lisa Vogeles will explore **Getting Started With Italian Genealogy**.
- On Tue. April 15 at 11:30 Desiree Funston will examine **Researching the Big Sky: Montana Genealogy**.
- On Thu. April 17 at 3:30 Allison Barnhart will share **The Family History That Wasn't: How a Hidden Discovery Redefined Our Identity**.
- On Tue. April 22 at 11:30 Sara Allen will present

Verifying Your Genealogical Tree with DNA Results.

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

- On Thu. April 3 at 2pm Diana Elder will examine **DNA Meets the Paper Trail: Pedigree Triangulation Strategies for Early 19th Century Research.**
- Also, on April 3 at 3pm Robyn Smith will discuss **Breathing Life into Ancestral Stories: Using Social History in Genealogical Research.**
- In addition, on the 3rd at 4pm Drew Smith will offer **Organizing Your Genealogy Files.**
- On the 3rd at 5pm Andrew Redfern will explore **GPTs for Family History: Unlocking the Potential of AI.**
- On the 3rd at 6pm Janice Nickerson will share **Seven Sources for Seeking Scoundrels.**
- On the 3rd at 7pm Paul Milner will present **Understanding and Benefitting from Process Changes to England's Civil Registration for B/M/D Certificates.**
- On the 3rd at 8pm Cyndi Ingle will share **Links That Last: Managing and Understanding URLs.**
- On the 3rd at 9pm Michelle Patient will discuss **Fathers: Other Research Strategies.**
- On the 3rd at 10pm Shauna Hicks will offer **Discover MyHeritage from Down Under.**
- Finally on the 3rd at 11pm Gregory Kontos will explore **Tracing Female Ancestors in Greek Genealogy Research.**
- On Fri. April 4 at 12midnight Andrea Bentschneider will present **Engagements, Weddings, Marriage Contracts, and Divorces in 19th Century Germany.**
- Also, on the 4th at 1am Bruce Durie will share **Scottish Costume – The Kilt: Fact, Fiction, and Pure Fantasy.**
- On the 4th at 2am MyHeritage will present **A MyHeritage Webinar, an update.**
- On the 4th at 3am Andrea Bentschneider will discuss **Subjects, Citizens, and Serfs: Unpacking Germany's Historical Social Order.**
- On the 4th at 4am Janna Helshtein will explore **DNA Testing: When the Unexpected Knocks on Your Door.**
- On the 4th at 5am Boumenot will list **15 Top Tips for Colonial New England Research.**
- On the 4th at 6am Lianne Kruger will share **"FamilySearch Catalog" The Sears Christmas Catalog for Genealogists.**
- On the 4th at 7am Alec Ferretti will offer **Advocacy for Genealogy.**
- On the 4th at 8am Nicole Dyer will examine **From Research to Writing: AI Tools for Genealogists.**
- On the 4th at 9am Rick Crume will offer **How to Use MyHeritage to Get the Most Out of Your DNA Test Results, Even If You've Already Tested Elsewhere.**
- On the 4th at 10am Natalie Webb will explore **Boosting Your Genealogy Research How to Leverage the Google Translate Chrome Extension.**
- On the 4th at 11am Gena Philibert-Ortega will discuss **Names in Thread: Signature Quilts and Genealogy.**
- On the 4th at 12noon Shelley Murphy will present **Dispelling the 1870 Brick Wall Myth: African American Ancestry Before the Federal Population Census.**
- On the 4th at 1pm Nathan Dylan Goodwin will present **The Science Behind the Stories: Using Genetic Genealogy in Crime Fiction.**
- On Tues. April 8 at 7pm Cathie Sherwood will present **Finding Great-Granny's Family: Four Words and DNA.**
- On Wed. April 9 at 11am Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D. will present **Foundations in DNA 2 of 5: Understanding and Using Y-DNA and mtDNA**
- On Fri. April 11 at 11am Paula Stuart-

Warren will present **Neglected Gold in Older Genealogical and Historical Periodicals.**

- On Tues. April 15 at 5pm Sharon Hoyt will present **“A Matrimonial Advertiser:” Tracing the Treacherous Trail of an Early 20th Century Romance Scammer.**
- On Wed. April 16 at 11am Rhonda Lauritzen will present **Beautifully Lay Out and Print Your Family History Book on Any Budget.**
- On Fri. April 18 at 11am Peggy Clemens Lauritzen will present **Community Research Using the National Register of Historic Places and the Historical Marker Database.**
- On Tues. April 22 at 11am Gal Zrihen will **Digging Deeper Into Your DNA: Exploring Roots in the Distant Past with My Heritage’s Ancient Origins**
- On Wed. April 23 at 11am Daniel Loftus will present **Hot Off the Digital Press: Utilising Substack for Blogging and More.**
- On Fri. April 25 at 11am Thomas MacEntee will present **Translating, Transcribing and Summarizing Documents using AI.**
- On Wed. April 30 at 11am Kathryn Lake Hogan will present **Invaded! The Fenian Raids and the Canadian Response**

 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://http://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=PLwtrWI_IBMJszRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6.

Events from Local Societies

- On Thu. April 3 at 1:30pm the **Genealogy Society of Vallejo-Benicia**, <https://gsvb.org>, will hold its monthly meeting on Zoom. The featured speaker, Mark McLaren, will discuss **Scottish and Northern Ireland Genealogy Research**. See the society's website for details.
- On Sun. April 6 at 1pm the **San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society**, www.sfbajgs.org/calendar.html, will have its monthly meeting on Zoom. Basya Petnick will present **Oral History: Interviewing Family Members**. Register on the website.
- On Thu. April 10 from 6:30 – 8pm the **Contra Costa County Genealogical Society**, <https://cccgs.net>, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. The guest speaker, Tina Beaird will present **Scotland's Resources: There's More to Scottish Research Than Scotland's People**. Register under events on the society's website.
- On Sat. April 12 the **Sonoma County Genealogical Society**, <https://scgsonline.org>, will have its monthly meeting via Zoom. Check the society's website for details and registration.
- On Mon. April 14 from 7 -8:30pm the **Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society**, www.l-ags.org, will host a hybrid meeting. The guest speaker, Kate Penney's subject will be: **Squeezing All the Facts Out of Your DNA Matches**. The link to register for the meeting is on the site under speakers.
- On Tue. April 15 from 6:30–8pm the **Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society**, www.scchgs.org, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. The guest speaker, Mark Thompson, will examine **Photo Research With AI**.
- On Thu. April 17th at 1pm the **Napa Valley Genealogical Society**, <https://napagensoc.org>, will present Mary Kircher Roddy on Zoom. Her topic will be **Bagging a Live One: Reverse Genealogy in Action**. Then on Tue. April 29th at 6 Tom MacEntee, the guest speaker, will discuss **After You're Gone: Future Proofing**

Your Genealogical Research. Register for both presentations on the society's website.

- On Sat. April 26 at 10:30am the **San Mateo County Genealogical Society**, www.smccgs.org, will hold its monthly meeting on Zoom. The topic will be **General Land Office" Getting the Most Out of the BLM/GLO Website**. Register on the society's website.

Upcoming Special Events

- On April 5 from 6am – 2 pm the **Virtual Celtic Connections Conference 2025** will take place via Zoom. Register at <https://celtic-connections.org/regportal.html>
- On May 17 from 8-12:30 the **American-Canadian Genealogical Society** will hold the **ACGS Spring Conference** on-line. Registration closes on May 10. To register go to <https://acgs.org/spring-conference-2025/>
- 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.
- From June 22-27 the **GRIP Genealogy Institute**, <https://grip.ngsgenealogy.org>, will be offering a series of virtual courses 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.■

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.

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.



Did you go to RootsTech2025? Margaret Goetze did. And she reports that she thoroughly enjoyed it and thought it was well worthwhile. Many of the sessions are available to you now on-line in the comfort of your own home. You can search on various subjects to find the sessions of interest to you. Here are some stats on sessions by topic:

• Getting Started	560
• AI	190
• German	59
• FamilySearch	570
• Ireland	41
• Scotland	21
• Poland	20
• DNA	279

SRV Genealogical Society Constitution and By-Laws Changes — submitted by Julie Basel, Membership

The SRVGS Board of Directors proposes the following changes to the Constitution and By-Laws:

Article III Section B.

~~Annual dues shall be payable June 1, and delinquent on August 1. A delinquent member shall be dropped from the membership rolls and no longer receive Society publications.~~

“Memberships will be renewed annually on the anniversary date of the member join date and delinquent after a two-month grace period. Existing members as of May 31, 2022 will have an annual expiration date of May 31st. A delinquent member shall be dropped from the membership rolls and no longer receive Society communications/emails.”

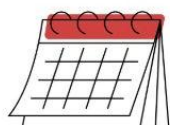
Article III Section E.

The ~~membership~~ and fiscal year of the Society shall run from June 1 through May 31.■

**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society**

Annual Meeting and 40th Anniversary Celebration!

**Lunch, door prizes, games,
speakers!**



In person and Zoom!

**Tuesday,
May 20th**

11 AM - 1 PM

More Info

**At the LDS Church, 2949
Stone Valley Road, Alamo,
CA. RSVP to Weldon
Theobald,
wtheobaldwork@yahoo.com**

