



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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January Presentation:

Tuesday January 16, 2024 at 10 am

“Connecting Faces Through Time ”

By Tina LaFreniere

(VIA ZOOM)



Every day that passes bits of photographic family history are sold, thrown out, or otherwise discarded, because people inherit unlabeled photos, and the person who knew who was in the photos has passed. Tina’s presentation, **Connecting Faces Through Time – How Related Faces Can Help Identify Unknown People in Old Photos** will step you through how to identify unknown people in old photographs by utilizing the features of Related Faces. This presentation discusses the basics of how facial recognition works, the importance of properly digitizing your photos and how to do it with just a cell phone, shows techniques for making positive identifications and matches, and covers real-world examples. Related Faces is

easy and intuitive to use, yet the technology is powerful. Tina’s goal is for Related Faces to become a place where people can recapture their family history and reconnect with long-lost family members, brought together by the faces of their ancestors.

Tina LaFreniere is the founder and CEO of Related Faces Technologies. She a graduate of The University of Houston where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance. Tina began her genealogical journey over 17 years ago and along the way she has inherited thousands of photos from her family, hundreds with no identification. These photos were the inspiration for Related Faces back in 2018 when she conceived the idea for Related Faces. Related Faces was launched in February of 2022 and was issued a U.S. Patent in October of 2022. Tina is a member of the Genealogical Society of Collier County, Florida, the National Genealogical Society and The Photo Managers Group. Related Faces is a Family Search Registered Solutions Provider. ■

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 Steve at president@srvgensoc.org prior to the meeting for the link. If you have any Zoom questions or issues, please contact Steve Watty at 925-766-6706 or Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com.

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President's Message

By Steve Watty



The year 2023 is in the books and the society had another successful year. Our membership remained steady in the 125+ range, which shows the continued draw that genealogy has on our past members and provides the ability to attract new members. We continued with the Zoom platform for our general meetings which provided access to our members throughout the world. Another advantage of Zoom is the ability to attract world-renowned speakers which our Program group was able to schedule.

Continued member interaction is a goal of the society and Zoom only provides a limited amount of person-to-person communication. During 2023, two in-person events were added to the schedule, an October picnic/tour of the Dublin Pioneer Cemetery and the December Holiday Gathering and Cookie Exchange. Both events were well attended, but we always hope that more members will take advantage of these events in the future. We hope to continue in-person events during 2024, possibly on a quarterly basis.

Our special interest groups (SIGs) continued to meet either on Zoom or in-person. This shows the ongoing commitment of our various SIG leaders and the interest our membership has in these genealogy themed groups.

I am sure that 2024 will have its challenges, but I am confident that the board, committees, and our membership will overcome any obstacles and make this another year to remember. Happy New Year to everyone and hope to see you on Zoom for the January 16, 2024 general meeting. Our keynote speaker will be Tina LaFreniere presenting "Connecting Faces Through Time." ■

Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional

The Best Genealogy Websites, published by Family Tree Magazine

Ted Shapas sent in this link to the best genealogy sites for various purposes such as:

- Best Family Tree and Sharing Websites
- Best US and Canadian Genealogy Websites
- Best Genetic Genealogy Websites
- Best Cemetery Websites, and several more

<https://familytreemagazine.com/best-genealogy-websites/>

Check it out, there may be just the site you are looking for. ■

Attention all passionate genealogists!

You have an opportunity to share your knowledge. The Danville Family History Center is looking to expand hours into Sunday afternoon to make it easier for those who cannot attend during the weekday. If you have an interest in helping others, please contact Kevin Ganschow, at gans5@sbcglobal.net or at 925-699-7040. He will provide more information and coordinate with you. ■

Dublin Picnic Photos added to Photo Album

Your Society Photo committee is pleased to announce that photos taken at the Dublin Picnic and Cemetery Tour of last month, have been up-loaded to the Society's on-line photo album. These photos are courtesy of Bill George and show all the participants enjoying the beautiful weather, refreshments, and surroundings, as well as some of the scenes from the tour. You may view these pictures by logging-in to the Society website at: www.srvgensoc.org and then clicking on the "Photo Album" link in the left margin. That takes you to the photo album where you can then click on the "Special Events" button and then scroll down and click the "2023 Dublin Picnic" button in the left margin. As usual, for a closer look, you may enlarge any photo by simply clicking on it. Clicking it again will return it to its normal size. Enjoy.

Hmmm, I wonder if we have pics of the Holiday Party. Watch here for an update next month.

A PRESENT FOR MY MOTHER-IN-LAW

By: Karen Olynger

Just when you think its time to give up searching because there are no records to be had, our October 2023 speaker, Jennifer Holik gives a presentation to our society that totally breaks through a seemingly solid brick wall that many of us have faced. The National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri had a devastating fire in 1973 which just about wiped out all of the U.S. Army records. Any request to them always came back...no records because of fire.

My mother-in-law had been looking for her older brother's U.S. Army World War II records. Although he passed in 1978, she was always curious about his service and that curiosity had not waned even though she was now almost 95 years old. She had moved to California in the early 1960s and he had moved in the 1950s to the east coast to become an artist of some repute and a college instructor. Their contact wasn't as close as she'd hoped during the following years and they had never spoken about his actual military service.

Richard "Dick" Wilson Ireland had joined the service in June 1943 and was discharged in December 1945 as were many servicemen following the end of the war in August 1945. The family story had him based with the U.S. Army in the European theater. In reality, he had served in the U.S. Army Air Force based out of the west coast and saw action in the Air Offensive Japan. He was awarded two Bronze Stars for that campaign.



This information was found in Dick's home state of Indiana in the state archives. Many servicemen were given a monthly compensation by the state Indiana for a limited time following the War. His DD214, or the WWII Equivalent, gave all his training including mastering the Morse Code, gunnery school, duty stations, medals and awards. He had been a radio operator and mechanic/gunner on the B-29. The B-29 was the only aircraft in which the radio operator manned a turret gun and operated the signal flare mortar. He was also important serving as the

initial first aid provider for any injured crewmember. Source: The Radio Operator-Gunner Enlisted Crewmember During WWII, author: SMSgt. R. W. Holley, SNCOA Student, 19 February 1992. Senior Master Sargent in Air Force...Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy. After hearing Jennifer's presentation to our Society, (10/17/2023, Topic "Research A Veteran: Exploring the Basics of Military Research, Part 1 of the Research Strategy.") I was given hope that maybe, just maybe, Dick's home state would have something and yes, they did. After a short consultation with Jennifer, I was given the tools to follow the path to true documented records. Within an hour or two I was provided with the records by a staff archivist who required only his full name, birthdate and birthplace.

Needless to say, this information was very important to my MIL and to her younger sister. Family stories usually have a kernel of truth but the truth was still even more meaningful as they recall the life and contribution of their older brother. ■

Editor's note: This article is from one of our members. I encourage all of you to write a short story to be published in a future issue of our Newsletter. There must be something that you are proud of finding, a breakthrough that has been long coming or even a funny, interesting, or possibly ironic story about one of your ancestors. It can be as short as a paragraph or two or as long as two pages or so. Publication will be determined by when I receive it and by space available.

Middle age is when a guy starts turning off the lights for economic reasons, rather than for romantic reasons.

Carmelitas

from Julie Basel

Makes 24 bars

2 c. flour

2 c. old-fashioned oats

1 ½ c. salted butter, softened

1 ½ c. packed dark brown sugar

2 tsp. vanilla

1 ½ c. soft caramels (4 4.5-oz. bags of Werther's)

¼ c. whole milk

1 c. semisweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350°. Line 13"x9" pan with foil and butter bottom and sides of pan.

In large bowl, mix flour, oats, butter, brown sugar and vanilla until crumbly. Press half of mixture into bottom of the prepared pan. Bake oat base until golden brown, 10-12 minutes. Let cool 10 minutes.

In a small saucepan over low heat, cook caramels and milk, stirring until smooth, about 5 minutes. Pour caramel mixture over oat base, then scatter chocolate chips over caramel layer. Top with reserved oat mixture.

Bake Carmelitas until oat crumble is golden brown and the caramel is bubbling around the edges, about 25 minutes. Let cool in pan until room temperature. Refrigerate about 30 minutes before cutting to ensure that caramel filling is set.

RootsTech is coming back next year (Feb 28-Mar 2, 2024) and registration is now open. It will be both on-line and in person, with a fee of \$109 for the 3 days to attend in person, or *FREE* to virtual attendees. Go to [Roots Tech Registration](#) to sign up for in-person or virtual.



“What’s RootsTech?”, you say? It is a worldwide genealogical conference sponsored by Family Search, taking place in Salt Lake City and in your computer room at home. There are >200 on line sessions as well as >250 sessions only available in SLC. There will be exhibitors, of interest to you if you attend in person, and nationally and internationally known speakers. If you want to know more or register go to <https://www.familysearch/rootstech/>

Do You Have Irish or Scottish Ancestors? Join our SIG

The Irish & Scottish Research SIG, originally the Irish group, is one of the first special interest groups in SRVGS, and the longest continuously meeting SIG. Patty Erickson, a charter SRVGS member, led this SIG at her home since 1994 with shared genealogy books and journals and home baked treats until 2020, when we went to Zoom meetings due to Covid. Meetings now continue on Zoom due to traffic and widespread members. Our members ancestors are from varied counties in Ireland and Scotland.

Members subscribe to varied genealogy internet sites and the Septs magazine. They are experienced in the use of Catholic and other church records as well as USA records of all types once ancestors were in this country. Some families came through Canada, so early Canadian records have been researched.

We have studied the early history of Ireland and Scotland and their interactions with England and the invasions of Cromwell and other English leaders, as well as the effect of the 1840s potato famine on immigration to the USA. The early 1920s Dublin battle for Irish freedom from England cost genealogists major losses of records for Ireland.

Our SIG members are congenial, warm, and helpful and have become long-term friends. Members help each other, and especially new members, with research tips and indicate places to look on the internet. Mark McLaren, with occasional help from Bill George, has managed and led the ZOOM meetings. For SRVGS members, Patty can be reached at russpat@comcast.net. ■

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!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 2024

- 16 Tuesday-10am The January General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Tina LaFreniere on **Connecting Faces Through Time, Using AI for Facial Recognition**

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

February 2024

- 20 Tuesday-10am The February General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Margaret "Peg" Kapustiak on **How Can Historical Context Genealogy Help My Family Tree?**

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

March 2024

- 19 Tuesday-10am The March General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Janice Sellers on **Jewish Research: Why is this Research Different from all Other Research?**

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

April 2024

- 16 Tuesday-10am, The April General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Robert M. Wilbanks IV on the subject of **Heading West, Starting Fresh: Our Ancestors and American Expansion.**

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

May 2024

- 21 Welcome Back! The Annual General Meeting/Elections will be held in person.
- 28 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.■



Notes on Last Month's Presentation

By Karen LaDuca

Research a Veteran, Part 2

By Jennifer Holik

This second presentation focused mainly on World War II research and additional sources of information on veterans once the basic research has been done for an individual. Ms. Holik reiterated that you should look for other unit numbers, not just the discharge unit number to be able to do a complete story on your ancestor.

With those unit numbers in hand, you can begin to search for unit records, after action reports, unit histories, unit journals, unit diaries and general orders. These will give a more complete view of what happened with the units. You can look for these at the National Archives, Fold3, branch specific websites and reunion groups as well as at military museums. If your ancestor was an enlisted soldier, you may also want to look for information on the officers of the unit. Their records may have more detail than the records of the enlisted men.

She also noted that files which were burned in 1971 are now being worked on to see what can be salvaged. And that the National Archives in St. Louis also has some civilian records. The handout for this presentation also has some valuable listings of resources, both books and websites.

With these two presentations, we were given a very thorough look at the process of doing research on military veterans from World War I through the Vietnam War. Ms. Holik is also very willing to answer questions via email. ■

The recording and handout from this session are available by logging in to the member section of our web site. They will be available for one month. Ed Note: I just checked and I see the links for both of Jennifer's presentations on our website—so if you missed them, here's your chance to catch up but make it quick—especially after reading Karen O's member story on p3.

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE*By: Bill George*

In January 2024, the SIGs are all meeting on schedule. The Publishing SIG is using Google Meet for their on-line meetings. The German SIG is meeting in person. All SIG members receive emails from their leaders on how to join each meeting.



Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday Jan. 10th, 10-12noon (the 2nd Wednesday) in a Zoom meeting. They share info from the internet, journals, DNA and books. Patty Erickson is the SIG leader. You may contact Patty at russpat@comcast.net.



Family Search - Monday Jan. 8th, 1-3pm, (the 2nd Monday) via Zoom. Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. You may contact SIG Leader Bill George at wiliamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Publishing – Thursday Jan. 18th (the 3rd Thursday), **10:30-12noon** in a Google Meet meeting. Contact Kathy Javdani at kjjsc@aol.com for info on how to join the meeting. Francie Lloyd, is the SIG Leader and can be reached at frances_lloyd@comcast.net.



DNA - the next meeting is Monday Jan. 15th, 1-3pm, (usually the 3rd Monday), 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.

**SRVGS is on Facebook!**

Click on the link below or go to:

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



German Research – Wednesday Jan. 24th, 1-2:45pm, (Usually the 4th Wednesday) at the Danville Family Search Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd, Alamo. Members share information from a variety of sources. You may contact SIG Leader Karen LaDuca at kblquilts@comcast.net. ■



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani



Happy New Year! Here's wishing you great breakthroughs in your research. Let's get started.

☞ The California Genealogy Society Library, www.californiaancestors.org, is open from 10-2 Thursday and Friday and 10-4 on Saturday. Refer to the society's website to register for the following activities. Note any fees. Also, visit the website for access to available recordings and videos.

- On Sat. Jan. 6th from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a Zoom meeting. The topic will be **Genealogy Basics Overview**.
- On Wed. Jan. 10th from 6:30-8 Lisa Gorrell and Jacqueline Henderson will host the **CGS Members Roundtable** – an online group discussion session.
- On Sat. Jan. 20th from 10-2 Bill O'Neil will lead an in-person session on **Book Repair Techniques**. \$30-\$35.
- On Fri. Jan. 19th from 10:30-11:30 Robert Trapp will lead the **Mayflower Descendants SIG** in person at the CGS library.
- On Sat. Jan. 20th from 10-12 Sandra Huber will host the **San Francisco SIG** via Zoom.
- Also, on the Jan. 20th from 1-3 Ron Madson and Karen Halfon will lead a hybrid meeting of the **Family Tree Maker SIG**. Fee for non-members.
- On Mon. Jan. 22nd from 7-8:30 the **DNA Skills SIG** with Mark McLaren will meet online. Contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net for details.
- On Wed. Jan. 24th from 6:30-8 the **RootsMagic Users Group SIG** with Keith Montgomery will meet online.
- On Wed. Jan. 31st from 11-2 Jane Lindsay will lead a **field trip** from CGS members of the **Oakland Family Search Center**.
- On Sat. Feb. 3rd from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a Zoom meeting. The topic will be **Using the Census**.

☞ To contact The Oakland Family Search Library, www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/

[Oakland California FamilySearch Library/Classes and Workshops](http://OaklandCaliforniaFamilySearchLibrary/ClassesandWorkshops). Email fhcoakland@gmail.com or call 510-531-3905 for Information or to register for online classes and workshops. In addition, the website has links to online classes at the other Family Search Regional Libraries and BYU as well as RootsTech classes. In addition, the Family Search Library in Salt Lake City presents a number of webinars each month. Check the Oakland Family Search Library website for a list of numerous online webinars and classes.

- On the 1st and 3rd Wed. at 11, 2nd and 4th Tue. at 11, and the 3rd Wed. at 6 CGS and OFSC volunteers host **Tips & Talk**. These are in-person discussions at the Oakland FamilySearch Center. Go to the OFSC website for more information on specific topics and to register for a session.
- Jane Lindsey will provide **French Canadian Assistance**. Appt. only.
- On Thursdays from 11-6 there will be assistance for **Swedish Research**. No appt. required.
- On Wed. Jan. 3rd at 11 **Getting the Most From a Visit to OFSC**.
- On Wed. Jan. 3rd at 6:30 **Gearing-up for 2024: Use Free Subscriptions and Records at OFSL**.
- On Tues. Jan. 9th at 11 **How-to Series: Scotland's People**.
- On Wed. Jan. 17th at 11 **Adding Historical Information to Enhance Your Family Genealogy**.
- On Wed. Jan. 17th at 6:30 **10 Million Names Projects** <https://10millionnames.org>
- On Wed. Jan. 24th from 6-9 the **African American Research Workshop** meeting will be held on Zoom.

- On Tue. Jan. 30th at 11 **How to Series: Searching Images on FamilySearch.**
- TBD **Introduction to 20th Century Immigration.**

☞ The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html offers a variety of webinars. Register online in advance.

☞ The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), www.americanancestors.org/events has a growing Online Learning Center that offers educational resources for both guest users and NEHGS members. It contains subject guides on a variety of genealogical topics, informative videos, webinars, online courses, and more. If you have questions or feedback, contact Online Education. Register for its webinars on the society's website.

- On Wed. Jan. 3rd, 20th, 17th, 24th and 31st from 3:4:30 Jonathan Hill, David Lambert, Melanie McComb and Elizabeth Peay will share **Researching American Revolutionary War Patriots.** \$125
- On Fri. Jan. 5th from 1-2 Curt DiCamillo will moderate **Classical Shindig: Amateur Artist-ry from Two New Orleans Gentlemen.**
- On Tue. Jan. 9th from 3-4 Benjamin Taylor will share his book, **Chasing Bright Medusas: A Life of Willa Cather.**
- On Thu. Jan. 11th from 12-1 James Heffernan will discuss **Lithuanian Research: Back to the Old Country.**
- Also, on the 11th from 2-3 Charlotte Gray will share her book, **Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons: The Lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill and Sara Delano Roosevelt.**
- On Fri. Jan. 12th from 10-11:15 Adrian Tinniswood will discuss his book, **Imagine: Rock 'n Roll, Movie Stars & the British Country House.**
- On Thu. Jan. 18th from 12-1 Joseph McMillian will explore **Dos and Don'ts of Creating a Coat of Arms.**
- On Thu. Jan. 25th from 12-1 Kyle Hurst will present **Writing a Register-Style Sketch.**

- On Sat. Jan. 27th from 11-12:30 Todd Pattison, Judith Lucey and Gabrielle Roth will share **Virtual Preservation Roadshow: Documents, Bound Volumes & Photographs.** \$85
- On Tue. Jan. 30th from 3-4 Rachel Swans will share her book, **The 272: The Families Who Were Enslaved and Sold to Build the Catholic Church.**

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. Jan. 2nd from 11:30-3:30 John Beatty will explore **Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors.**
- On Thu. Jan. 4th from 3:30-4:30 Sara Allen will discuss **DNA Ethnicity Results FAQs.**
- On Tue. Jan. 9th from 11:30-12:30 Tabitha O'Connor will share **Saving Your Memories One Photo at a Time.**
- On Wed. Jan. 10th from 4-5 Amy Crow will present the **ACGSI Hybrid Program: Citing Sources Without Stressing Out.**
- On Thu. Jan. 11th from 3:30-4:30 Lori Hostuttler will examine **Exploring Genealogy Resources at the West Virginia and Regional History Center.**
- On Tue. Jan. 16th from 11:30-12:30 Berian Elias will discuss **Learning About the People's Collection Wales: A Digital Participatory Archiving Programme.**
- On Thu., Jan. 18th from 3:30-4:30 Victoria and Jeremy Frankel will explore **Getting Started with Jewish Genealogy.**

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

- On Tue. Jan. 9 at 11 Tal Erlichman will share **The**

Latest Photo Feature from MyHeritage.

- On Wed. Jan. 10th at 5 Cathie Sherwood will discuss **A Military Heritage: Finding Your British Army Lineage in pre-20th Century Records.**
- On Tue. Jan. 23rd at 11 Marie Cappart will examine **How to Trace Your French Ancestors with MyHeritage Resources.**

 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/p/1950-census.html>
- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio <https://extremegenes.com/blog>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast www.genealogyguys.com
- Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems <https://lislouisecooke.com/podcasts>
- Lisa also has a genealogy chat on YouTube at 9 am on Thursdays entitled **Elevenes**.
- 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 offers help on the variety of genealogical topics. Also see the upcoming events schedule at www.dar.org/libraryevents.
- The Sutro Library hosts the Bay Area Genealogy Calendar, www.library.ca.gov/sutro/genealogy/calendar. The calendar provides information about events throughout the Bay Area.
- Conference Keeper, <https://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_IBMJszRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6R

Events from Local Societies

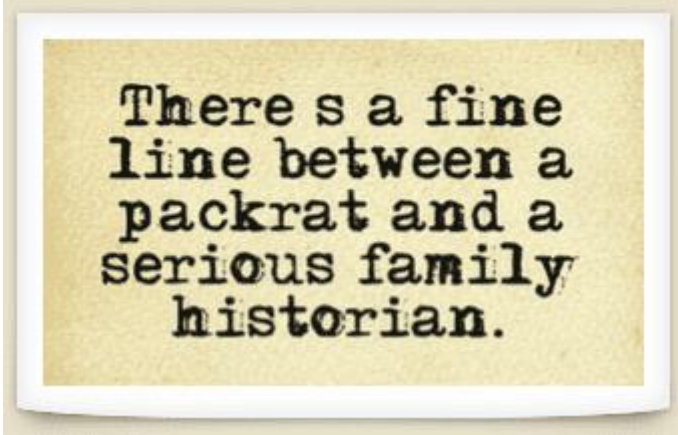
- On Thu. Jan. 4th at 1:30 the **Genealogy Society of Vallejo- Benicia**, <https://gsvb.org>, will have its monthly meeting on Zoom. Mark Olsen, the guest speaker, will discuss **FamilyTree Maker**.
- On Mon. Jan. 9th from 7 -8:30 the **Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society**, <https://www.l-ags.org/>, will host a hybrid meeting. The guest speaker, Melinda Kashuba will explore **Using Maps in Genealogical Research, Part 1: How Maps are Essential to Successful Genealogical Research**. The link to register for the meeting is on the site under speakers.
- On Thu. Jan. 11th from 6:30 -8 the **Contra Costa County Genealogical Society**, <https://cccgs.net>, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. Guest speaker Grant Din will present **In Search of Records of Chinese Railroad Workers**. Register under events on the society's website.
- On Tue. Jan. 16th from 6:30 –8:30 the **Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society**, <https://scchgs.org>, will hold its general meeting via Zoom. The guest speaker, Judy Muhn will share **No Dead Ends: Finding Your Way Through Family Roadblocks**. See the society's website to register.

- On Fri. Jan. 19 at 10am the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will hold its general meeting in person and via Zoom. Their speaker will be Nancy Loe on the subject of “**European Immigrant Ancestors: Their Experiences and the Records**”. Email mdgs.webs@gmail.com to get attendance info.
- On Mon. Jan. 22nd from 4:30-6:30 the **San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society**, <https://sfbajgs.org/calendar.html>, will have its monthly meeting on Zoom. Steve Jaron, the guest speaker, will examine **Unlocking the Past: Exploring Dutch Ashkenazi Jewish Ancestry**. See the society’s website to register.

Other Societies have not published their meetings at this time.

Upcoming Special Events

- From Jan. 22nd -26th the **Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy** will hold its **29th Annual Conference, Elevate Your Genealogical Education to New Heights**. The conference will be virtual. Register at <https://slig.ugagenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=524>
- From Feb. 29th -March 2nd, the **RootsTech 2024 Conference** will be hybrid with presentations both in person at Salt Lake City and online. Register at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>
- From May 16th-18th NGS will hold its **2024 Virtual Family History Conference, Expanding Possibilities**. Register at <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org> ■



There s a fine
line between a
packrat and a
serious family
historian.

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

Family Search Center Changes

You may have noticed the new name. The Church is standardizing the naming worldwide. Henceforth the name is changing from *Family History Center* to *Family Search Center*.

Kevin Ganschow, gans5@sbcglobal.net, has been appointed the new Director of our Danville FSC, replacing interim Director Rudy Wolf who has been transferred to the Oakland FSC. Current hours are below but look for changes soon. Appointments are not needed.

Monday 10-1
Tuesday 2-5
Wednesday 1-5

Want to Help or Do You Need Help?

We are developing a **New Members Section** for our web site, along with some helpful information for beginning/intermediate genealogists. We have begun a list of members to be included who have volunteered to assist members:

- Steve Watty - General Research
- Francie Lloyd - Getting Started in an Organized Manner
- Karen LaDuca - Italian Research, Dutch Research
- Kathy Javdani - California Research
- Bill George - [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)
- Barbara Thurston - Jewish Research
- Ted Shapas - Polish and Lithuanian

If you have an area of expertise and would like to help newer members please contact Karen LaDuca at kblquilt@comcast.net or Bill George at wiliamcgeorge@gmail.com to have your contact information added. This will be listed exclusively in our members-only section of the <https://srvgensoc.org> website. Thank you for helping.

Any members looking for help in a specific area can also contact us and we will try to connect you with someone who can assist. ■