



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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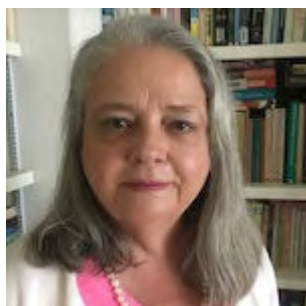
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February Presentation:

Tuesday February 20, 2024 at 10 am

“How can Historical Context Genealogy help my Family History?”

By Margaret Kapustiak



Your Family's Genealogy often meshes with the local history of various towns, cities & countries. Or are you just tired of only seeking names, dates and places? Are you interested in the "why" and "how" and "who"? Or proving/disproving "family lore". We will provide you with websites and other sources you can use to seek local history and uncover details on your family. Please feel free to share how your own use of history or historical events has helped you already. Please share, because your suggestions might well help others.

Margaret (Peg) Kapustiak's presentations are designed to provide you with extremely practical tips, ideas, links and sources. She has been a Genealogist/Family Historian for 44 years and has researched her family history in the Chicago area, the Midwest, New England, and New York state plus ten countries in both Europe and Asia, when she lived overseas. She has provided over 158 talks to 47 different organizations both nationally and internationally in the past 22 years. She is the author of one book and 48 research articles and currently volunteers at five historical/genealogical organizations. ■

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

Make A Difference



We need you!

Every two years in May the SRVGS holds the election of officers for the Board. This is an election year and a new board will be set in June for the 2024/2026 term. All of the current Board members have been in their current positions for at least the past two-year term, some serving multiple terms. Volunteerism has been a key component throughout our history leading to a successful, growing, and vibrant society. But this can only continue with ongoing commitment, active support, and volunteers from our members.

Now we need you to step up, volunteer for a Board or Committee assignment. Training, support, and appreciation will be given to any member willing to commit a few hours each month. Join the team, share innovative ideas, and let your voice be heard. Call or email any member of the board, they are available to answer any of your questions or discuss the responsibilities for any desired position.■

An in-law is someone who has married into your family; an out-law is an in-law who resists letting you do their genealogy!

If your family members won't talk about a particular relative, a seasoned genealogist knows they are keeping mum about something very interesting.

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. ■

RootsTech is coming back this 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.



rootstech

“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/> ■

MEMBER STORY

WHAT HAPPENED TO DR. RAGON?

By: *Leslie Stewart*

This was supposed to be a routine records search for a death date for someone who was otherwise pretty well-documented, until it wasn't.

Harry Edward Ragon, my second cousin twice removed, was born in Bath, Maine in 1865, and joined his father's successful dental practice in his 20s. Harry married Maud May Matthews early in 1895 and later that year they had a son, Theos Paul Ragon, usually known as Paul. Harry and Maud divorced in December 1903 and Maud moved to California, leaving Paul with his father and paternal grandmother. All three were in the household in 1910, but by 1920 the grandmother had died, Paul was living on his own, and I couldn't find Harry. Had Harry died, and if not, where was he?

I couldn't find any more Maine records for Harry after 1910, but when I went to Newspapers.com and searched, I found some startling information. In October 1916 he had gotten married in Vermont. Harry was now 51; his new wife, Amy Clive Hagarty, was 32, divorced and with a young son. The Ragons were making plans to convert a large touring car to what we would now call a camper, to travel the country so that Amy, a professional artist from England, could paint American scenes.

Alas, only a few months later the Bath papers were full of a shocking story about Dr. Ragon. He and his new family had relocated to Biddeford, a few miles down the coast, while waiting for spring weather to travel. In January 1917, his stepson rushed into the street late at night calling for help. Dr. Ragon had swallowed three bichloride of mercury tablets and was deathly ill. These are the undisputed facts.

The disputed facts included whether Dr. Ragon had done this deliberately or accidentally

Dobell' Solution	50c	Depree's Fumigators	40c
Creolin	50c, \$1.00	Milk Magnesia.....	25c, 50c
100 Bernay's Antiseptic Bichloride of Mercury Tablets	35c	Robinson's Patent Bar- ley.....	30c, 60c
Germicidal Soap	25c	Borden's Malted Milk	50c, \$1.00, \$3.75
Synol Soap.....	35c, 65c		

in the dark, whether he had also tried to make his wife take some of the caustic drug (she had burns on her mouth), and whether he was on the road to recovery after prompt medical attention, or whether he was on his deathbed. His wife sent several letters to the papers with her side of the story, the police refused to back down from theirs, and apparently several members of the Loyal Order of Moose in Bath went to Biddeford to help and talked freely to reporters. It was literally a nine-day wonder and then the story suddenly dropped out of sight, and so did the Ragons.

Had Harry died? There was no obituary, but I couldn't find the Ragons anywhere in Maine or neighboring states.

I brought the FAN Club¹ into operation and started looking into Amy and her son. As I researched Amy, Ancestry produced a small record that proved to be invaluable. It was an index card from an English newspaper, and it listed her as "Isted, Amy Clive, or Edwards or Rusgrove, mother of Isted, Tracey Arthur Hagarty". No mention of Ragon, but here were Amy C and her son Tracey. I found that when Amy and Tracey (or Tracy) came to the US in 1913, they had joined her first husband, Howard Isted, in Quincy, MA., before the family moved to the Bath area. The passenger list helpfully included ages in years and months for both of them.

However, after researching all of the hints that Ancestry gave me, I still could not find Harry or Amy in Maine after the 1917 incident, except for a puff piece for Amy's art that appeared later that year. The next record for either was when an Amy Edwards married Alfred Rusgrove in England in 1931. (Without that newspaper index card, I would have discarded this record.) But there was no Amy Edwards in Maine in 1920. How did she

**DENTIST TAKES THREE
TABLETS BICHLORIDE
MERCURY IN WATER**

From the Biddeford Daily Journal, Sat Jan 6, 1917,

get from Ragon to Edwards? And where was Harry Ragon?

Finally I searched the 1920 census for Tracy, no last name, mother Amy, no last name, with a birthplace of England for Tracy and his age in 1920. No luck in Maine, but a naturalization intention for Tracy A. Isted from 1922 was filed in Boston, so I tried the search in Massachusetts. The first result was for Tracy A. Edwards, living in Salem with his mother Amy C. Edwards and his father -- Harry E. Edwards, not Harry E. Ragon. (Knowing what I know now, I can find Amy C Edwards in the 1920 census in Salem – but I didn't make the double jump of changing both name and state).

Almost everything matched the Ragon family. Amy was an "artiste and sculptress" doing marine art and statuary, but Harry was no longer a dentist, instead also doing marine art. The Biddeford paper had mentioned their shared interest in painting. However, the census taker had been told that all of the family had been born in England and had come to the US in 1917 and were still aliens.

Once I found Harry E. Edwards, Ancestry quickly popped up records for his death in Massachusetts in 1927 and a FindAGrave site with his death date but no birth date (not surprising). If Harry's son Paul knew where they were, and when Harry died, he didn't tell the newspapers during his frequent visits to Bath. However, I believe the records show what happened to Dr. Ragon—he ended his days in Salem, as the artist Harry Edwards.

¹The FAN club is a genealogy search strategy developed by Elizabeth Shown Mills— usually shown as Friends-Associates-Neighbors and can be seen with an additional F for Family.■

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 or three pages or so. Publication will be determined by when I receive it and by space available.

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****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 with Lunch included.
- 28 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

June 2024

- 16 Tuesday-10am, The June General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Kim Richardson will present **A New Strategy for Brick Walls.**
- 23 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.■

**Notes on Last Month's Presentation****By Karen LaDuca****Connecting Faces Through Time****By Tina La Freniere**

Ms. LaFreniere gave a presentation on using her subscription service called Related Faces and what it can do for you in helping to identify unknown people in your family photos. She did not charge a speaker fee and also gave a coupon code that can be used by anyone in our society until 2/16/24. Her company uses computer measurements of faces in the photos uploaded to her website to help to identify unknown faces by comparing them to known faces from your family photos and from their database of photos uploaded by others or available from libraries or other sites. She gave us many examples of how she used this technology to solve identifications in her own family.

There are several pages of her handout that are helpful whether you use her service or not. She discussed how best to digitize your photos (smartphone, digital camera or a photo scanner, NOT a document scanner) and if you are using a camera, how to get the best result. There is a whole page on digitizing photos. This is very helpful even if you do not need to identify unknown people.

There is also a full page of websites that can help in dating photos by paper type or by the clothing worn by the people in the photos. ■

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.

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webmaster@srvgensoc.org

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE*By: Bill George*

In February 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 Feb. 14th, 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 Feb 12th, 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 williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Publishing - Thursday Feb 15th, (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 - Monday Feb 19th, 1-3pm, (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.



German Research - Wednesday Feb 28th, 1-2:45pm, (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.

**SRVGS is on Facebook!**

Click on the link below or go to:

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



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani



Happy February and Valentine's Day. Let's share the love we have for our ancestors as we research this month.

☞ 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. Feb. 3rd from 10-12, the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a Zoom meeting. The topic will be **Using the Census**.
- On Wed. Feb. 14th from 6:30-8, Lisa Gorrell and Jacqueline Henderson will host the **CGS Members Roundtable** – an online group discussion session.
- On Sat. Feb. 24th from 11-12:30, Lisa Gorrell will discuss **How to Leave Your Genealogy: Don't Let It Get Thrown Away!** via Zoom with viewing through March 24th.
- On Fri. Feb. 16th from 10:30-11:30, Robert Trapp will lead the **Mayflower Descendants SIG** in person at the CGS library.
- On Sat. Feb. 17th from 10-12, Sandra Huber will host the **San Francisco SIG** via Zoom.
- On Sat. Feb. 24th from 10-11:30, Craig Siulinski and Laura Bajuk will lead the quarterly online meeting of the **Eastern European SIG**. For more information refer to EESIG Registration or contact Craig.
- Also, on Feb. 17th from 1-3, Ron Madson and Karen Halfon will lead a hybrid meeting of the **Family Tree Maker SIG**. Fee for non-members. Register through the FTM-SIG website or contact Ron Madson (650) 576-4495 or Karen Halfon (415) 922-2255
- On Mon. Feb. 26th 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. 28th from 6:30-8, the **RootsMagic Users Group SIG** with Keith Montgomery will meet online.

- On Sat. March 2nd from 10-12, the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a Zoom meeting. The topic will be **Vital Records**.

☞ To contact The Oakland Family Search Library, www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Library/Classes_and_Workshops. 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 6:30 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. Feb. 28th from 6-9, the **African American Research Workshop** meeting will be held on Zoom.

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

- On Sat. Feb. 3rd at 10, Lisa Lisson will offer **Cemetery Clues: 7 Steps to Comprehensive Research**.
- On Wed. Feb. 21st at 6, Kate Townsend will

explain Court Records Research Without the Law Degree.

 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 Thu. Feb. 1st from 12-1, Danielle Rose will explore **Finding Enslaved African American Ancestors in New England**.
- On Tue. Feb. 6th from 12-1, David Lambert will discuss **The Great Migration Study Project Continues: Season 3, 1636-1638**.
- Also on Feb. 6th from 3-4:15, Lisa Belkin will share her book, **Genealogy of a Murder**. \$12.50 for a ticket, \$45 for a ticket and a signed book.
- On Wed. Feb. 7th, 14th and 21st Melanie McComb will examine **Demystifying DNA: Getting Started With Genetic Genealogy**. \$85
- On Thu. Feb. 8th from 12-1, David Lambert, Rhonda McClure and Melanie McComb will engage in a **Family History Roundtable: Traveling for Your Research**.
- On Fri. Feb. 9th from 10-11:15, Curt DiCamillo will present **The Revival of the British Country House**.
- On Sat. Feb. 10th from 11-12:30, Cecile Engeln, Kyle Hurst and Sharon Buzzell Inglis will discuss **Writing & Publishing Your Family History**. \$125.
- On Mon. Feb. 12th from 3-4:30, Kendra Field, Vincent Brown, and Kerri Greenidge will present **Introducing 10 Million Names: Recover. Restore. Remember**.
- On Thu. Feb. 15th from 12-1, Rhonda McClure will explore **Records and Resources at Library and Archives Canada: Inline and On-site**.
- Also, on the 15th from 3-4, Cassandra Good

will share her book, **George Washington's Heirs and the Making of America**.

- On Fri. Feb. 23rd from 1-2:30, Curt DiCamillo will examine **American Versailles: Philadelphia's Lynnewood Hall**. \$35.
- On Sat. Feb. 24th from 7-2, Cynthia Evans, Danielle Rose and Jonathan Hill will present **Getting Started in African American Family History Research**.
- On Mon. Feb. 26th from 3-4, Ilyon Woo along with Peggy Precely will share her book, **Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom**.
- On Wed. Feb. 28th and Mar. 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th Sheilagh Doerfler, Judith Lucey, Rhonda McClure, Melanie McComb and Eileen Pironti will examine **Using Irish Land Records in Your Family History Research**. \$125.
- Available for purchase until Feb. 29th **Law & Order: Using Court Records in Your Family History Research** presented by Melanie McComb, David Lambert, and Rhonda McClure. \$115
- Available for purchase until Feb. 29th The Society of Friends: Research Quaker in Records. \$85

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 Thu. Feb. 1st from 3:30-4:30, Shannon Combs-Bennett will explore **DNA Matching Made Easy on MyHeritage**.
- On Tue. Feb. 6th from 11:30-12:30, John Boeren will share **Genealogy in the Netherlands – An Introduction**.
- On Thu. Feb. 8th from 3:30-4:30, Melissa Barker will offer **Museums Have Records Too! Locating Your Ancestors**.

- On Tue. Feb. 13th from 11:30-12:30, Hillary Delaney will examine **Tracing the Path of African Americans from Enslavement to Freedom.**
- On Wed. Feb. 14th from 4-5, Michael Lacopo will present the **ACGSI Hybrid Program: How to Overcome Brick Walls in German.**
- On Thu. Feb. 15th from 3:30-4:30, Curt Witcher will discuss **Native American- First Nations Genealogy Research.**
- On Tue. Feb. 20th from 11:30-12:30, Kaitlyn Jarnagin will share **Using Permanent.org: Preserving the Digital Legacy of Your Family.**
- On Thu. Feb. 22nd from 3:30-4:30, Logan Knight will offer **A Beginner's Guide to Romanian Genealogy.**

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

- On Fri. Feb. 2nd at 11, Ari Wilkins will present **African American Research 101 – Post -Civil War to Present (Part 1 of 3).**
- On Tue. Feb. 6th at 5, Andrew Redfern to explore **From Trial To Transformation: Building a Convict's Life Though Multiple Records and Data Sets.**
- On Wed. Feb. 7th at 11, Paul Woodbury will share **Anchors Are the Way: Leveraging Multiple forms of DNA Evidence in Your Research.**
- On Wed. Feb. 14th at 11, Thomas MacEntee will examine **AI and Genealogy: Trouble Ahead?**
- On Fri. Feb. 16th at 11, Mia Bennett will present **Introduction to County Research in England.**
- On Tue. Feb. 20th at 5, Jerry Smith will discuss **Metes & Bounds Land Plats Solve Genealogical Problems.**
- On Wed. Feb. 21st at 5, Elizabeth Gomoll will examine **Genealogy Smart Start, Things I Wish I'd Known.**
- On Fri. Feb. 23rd at 11, Elizabeth Shown Mills will explore **Finding Females: Wives, Mothers, Daughters, Sisters & Paramours.**
- On Fri. Mar. 1st at 11, Joe Saunders will share

Researching in Cumberland and Westmorland.

 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://lislouiscooke.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=PLwtrWl_IBMJszRsNrcDauSLtHwGWXeQ6R

Events from Local Societies

- On Thu. Feb. 1st at 1:30, the Genealogy Society of Vallejo-Benicia, <https://gsvb.org>, will have its monthly meeting at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum. Jose Mendoza, the guest speaker, will discuss **Funeral Customs and Traditions**.
- On Mon. Feb. 12th from 7 -8:30, the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will host a hybrid meeting at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Livermore and via Zoom. The guest speaker, Melinda Kashuba will explore **Using Maps in Genealogical Research, Part 2: How Maps are Essential to Successful Genealogical Research**. The link to register for the meeting is on their site under speakers.
- On Thu. Feb. 8th from 6:30 -8, the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net>, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. Guest speaker Michael Wil will present **From Slave to Soldier: What Civil War Records Can Tell You About Your Ancestors**. Register under events on the society's website.
- On Tue. Feb. 20th from 6:30 -8:30, the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society, <https://scchgs.org>, will hold its general hybrid meeting at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, Redwood Room and via Zoom. The guest speaker, Judy Russell, will examine **From 1619 to Juneteenth – Slavery and the Law Before the Civil War**. See the society's website to register.
- On Sun., Feb. 11th from 1-2:30, the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, www.sfbajgs.org/calendar.html, will have its

monthly meeting on Zoom. Stephen Morse, the guest speaker, will examine **Phonetic Matching: An Alternative to Soundex with Fewer False Hits**.

Other local Societies have not published their February meetings at newsletter publication time.

Upcoming Special Events

- 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 www.rootstech.org.
- From May 16th-18th NGS will hold its **2024 Virtual Family History Conference**, Expanding Possibilities, Register at conference.ngsgenealogy.org
- From June 23rd-28th the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburg (GRIP), www.gripitt.org, (part of NGS) will hold its virtual conference.
- From July 21st-26st the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), ighr.gagensociety.org, will hold a virtual conference.
- From Sept. 11th-13th the 7th WAC (We Are Cousins) Virtual Genealogy Conference will take place. Register at wacconference.com/register. ■

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

Family Search Center Changes

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