



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXX No. 3 September - 2024

September Presentation

Tuesday Sept. 17th, 2024 at 10 am

Travel Your Tree: Walking in your Ancestors' Footsteps (via Zoom)

By Lisa M. Vogeles



Don't know where overseas your family originated from? This presentation covers a variety of sources to explore to locate your ancestor's point of origin before arriving in the United States. Examples and strategies will be provided including: Resources for locating town of origin, strategies for name changes, tips for boundary changes, and overcoming handwriting & spelling challenges.

Lisa Vogeles is a professional genealogist and Certified Travel Advisor (CTA). She is the Chief Tree Climber at Travel Your Tree: Where Ancestry

Meets Adventure, a full-service family history research, travel planning & custom tour operator. She is passionate about traveling in the footsteps of your ancestors to make or re-establish connections of personal, historical significance. In 2016, Lisa authored Food & Folklore: A Year of Italian Festivals, a guidebook to assist travelers with incorporating heritage festivals into their itineraries, get off the beaten path, and experience local culture through food and historic events. She earned a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University in 2019 and a Certified Travel Associate (CTA) credential from The Travel Institute. Her travel tips have been featured in the Huffington Post, 1000 Travel Tips, and her travel blog <https://LisaLovesToTravel.com>. She holds a Master's degree from Clemson University, was raised in Connecticut, and resides in Colorado. ■

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A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out to all members a few days prior to the meeting. If you have any friends or family that would like to attend, have them contact Scott Hefner at president@srvgensoc.org prior to the meeting for the link. If you have any Zoom questions or issues, please contact Scott at 925-765-7184 or Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



President's Message

By Scott Hefner



Embracing the Future: The Transformative Impact of AI on Genealogy Research

As the president of our esteemed genealogy society, I am thrilled to share insights into how artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the field of genealogical research. In recent years, AI technology has made significant strides, offering unprecedented opportunities to uncover and preserve our ancestral histories with greater accuracy and efficiency than ever before.

The Current Landscape of AI Technology

AI has become an integral part of various industries, from healthcare to finance, and its applications continue to expand rapidly. With advancements in machine learning, natural language processing, and data analytics, AI systems are now capable of processing and interpreting vast amounts of data with remarkable speed and precision. These technologies have matured to a point where they can recognize complex patterns, translate and transcribe documents, and even predict future trends based on historical data.

In the context of genealogy, these capabilities are particularly valuable. Genealogists often grapple with massive archives of records, including birth certificates, marriage licenses, census data, and historical documents written in multiple languages and scripts. AI technology is now adept at navigating these challenges, making the process of tracing lineage more accessible and efficient for researchers and enthusiasts alike.

AI's Role in Enhancing Genealogy Research

One of the most significant contributions of AI to genealogy is in the digitization and indexing of historical records. Machine learning algorithms can quickly scan and categorize millions of documents, enabling researchers to locate relevant in-

formation with ease. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology, powered by AI, has improved dramatically, allowing for accurate transcription of handwritten and printed texts, even those that are centuries old and in deteriorating condition.

Moreover, AI facilitates the translation of records in foreign languages, breaking down linguistic barriers that have historically hindered genealogical research. Advanced natural language processing tools can interpret and translate complex texts, including those in archaic dialects, thereby broadening the scope of accessible information for researchers worldwide.

DNA analysis is another area where AI has made a profound impact. Sophisticated algorithms analyze genetic data to identify familial connections and ancestral origins with high precision. These tools can detect subtle genetic markers and compare them across extensive databases to construct detailed family trees and uncover previously unknown relationships. AI-driven platforms also provide predictive insights into genetic traits and health predispositions, adding another layer of depth to our understanding of ancestral heritage.

Challenges and Ethical Considerations

While the advancements are exciting, it's important to acknowledge and address the challenges and ethical considerations associated with AI in genealogy. Data privacy remains a paramount concern, especially when dealing with sensitive genetic information. Ensuring that data is handled responsibly and securely is crucial to maintaining public trust and safeguarding individual rights.

Additionally, there is a need for continual improvement in AI algorithms to handle inaccuracies and biases in historical records. Collaborative efforts between technologists, historians, and genealogists are essential to refine these systems and ensure the integrity and reliability of the information they produce.

Looking Ahead

The integration of AI into genealogy research heralds a new era of discovery and connection. As these technologies continue to evolve, we can expect even more innovative tools and methods to emerge, making it easier for individuals to explore and understand their familial histories. Our society remains committed to embracing these advancements, providing education and resources to help our members leverage AI effectively and responsi-



President's Message (cont'd)

bly in their genealogical pursuits.

In conclusion, AI offers powerful capabilities that enrich and streamline the exploration of our ancestral roots. By harnessing these technologies thoughtfully, we open doors to deeper insights and connections, preserving our collective heritage for future generations to discover and cherish.

Note: As I started to write down my thoughts on the topic of AI and genealogy, it occurred to me I should ask an AI model for its perspective. The above text was produced by ChatGPT based on the following instructions I gave it: "You are president of a genealogy society. Write a 500 word article about the current state of AI technology, with special focus on genealogy research". After viewing the output, I decided I couldn't really improve on it and decided to print it as is.

If you are as intrigued by this technology as I am, please consider joining the new AI SIG being formed by our Society to explore the possibilities for AI and to learn how to use it to help in your genealogy. Bill George is helping to start the SIG but would be happy to have someone else lead it, so if you are extremely interested in the topic your involvement would be much appreciated. ■

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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

Mehry Adrangi Astaneh

Rea Nakanishi

Why I Volunteer at a Family Search Center. You Could Too!

By Karen LaDuca

I have been volunteering once a week at the Livermore FSC for almost 10 years. It started back when I needed to order microfilms from Salt Lake to research my husband's family and I was going to the FSC every week to use the microfilm readers and the films. It didn't take long for them to ask me if I wanted to volunteer since I was there every week anyway. I agreed and am so glad I did.

I have learned a lot from other volunteers and have gained confidence in the use of familysearch.org and all of their partner sites. There are so many records on FamilySearch that are locked for my home computer due to archive agreements that I can access while I am volunteering, not to mention the partner sites that I can access without a subscription while I am at the FSC. I enjoy working with others when they come in for help, but often there is plenty of time to do my own research. It is nice to have a set block of 3 hours every week that I can devote to genealogy and I look forward to that time.

Most of the FSC's lost volunteers during the pandemic closures and have had a hard time filling those spots. Danville FSC has had the added problem of having to close during the roof repair on the church during which they lost some more volunteers. If you could spare 3 hours once a month, twice a month or once a week, they could really use your help. You will receive training, so don't be concerned if you feel you aren't a FamilySearch expert. Not everyone who uses the FSC needs help. Many just need to use the computers, but the FSC can't stay open without volunteers. Check your calendar and volunteer! Call Kevin Ganschow at 925-209-5489 or email at gans5@sbcglobal.net if interested in learning more. ■



Notes on Our July 2024 Presentation—AI and Genealogy: The Basics and a Bit Beyond by Steve Little

Notes by Margaret Goetze

Steve Little, the AI Program Director for the National Genealogical Society, provided us with background on the rapid evolution of AI technology, its limitations and how to get started using it. The replay recording and handout are on our website if you missed his excellent presentation full of insights and tips.

The learning curve to build basic skills is a minimum of 20 hours which is best done with at least 20 minute “conversations” with one of the top three options available today: GPT-4o, Claude 3 Opus, or Gemini 1.5. You can start with the free version and upgrade to a paid version for more capabilities, about \$20 per month, as your usage increases.

Rather than expecting it to independently find the information you need to open up your brick wall, use it for the repetitive tasks that will save time to help you. Try these four use cases.

- **Summarize** – Provide the tool text or a document and ask it to give you a summary. There are limits on the size of the document or text you can give it, and they do not have direct access to external databases such as FamilySearch or Ancestry.
- **Extract** – Ask it to pluck every fact from a document such as a land record or will.
- **Generate** – To create more, ask it to write a family history story as a novel or poem. .
- **Translate** – He recommends Transkribus for language translations, however it can change the look and style of a document. .

Prompts are the specific directions given to the AI tool. They include a Role, a Goal, a Text, a Task and a Flask. Here is the example in the handout:

- **Role:** You are an expert genealogist and experienced data scientist.
- **Goal:** Your goal is to extract structured data from a provided obituary.
- **Text:** Find below the text from an obituary for John Smith in the July 20, 1923, NY Times p. 18.
- **Task:** Extract any explicitly stated relationship information; including a quote that supports that information.
- **Flask:** Format your response as a CSV file and display that in a code window for easy copy-and-paste.

The tools have been trained by reading 6000 years of writing so they have a good ability to predict what the next word in a sentence should be. ChatGPT 4 can now pass the Bar Exam with 90% accuracy. It is not mature at reading handwriting, and is better with print or block handwriting. Speech recognition is mature, however it could be 2 months to 20 years to gain maturity translating handwriting into text.

So, how do we avoid Hallucinations or the information that we know isn't correct? Learn the Jagged Frontier of AI capabilities of what it can and cannot do well as you gain experience. It is powered by a Large Language Model (LLM) which is a statistical tool used to predict language without understanding it, so it will produce “statistically plausible” answers that are incorrect. He cautioned us to avoid asking for information we don't know as the risk is that if incorrect, we won't realize it. We need to verify the responses provided.

Rather than looking for the magic silver bullet, look for AI to save you 6 minutes on a repetitive step in your research. As we start our personal AI learning, we will find where to save time using the tools.

(cont'd on p.6)

MEMBER STORY

A BROTHER FOR HENRY

By: Leslie Stewart

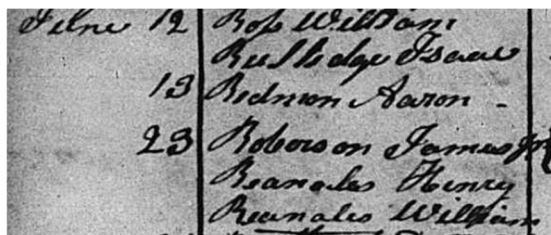
One of my biggest brick walls has been my husband's ancestor, Henry Reynolds, c.1778-1849. He appeared in Kentucky shortly after it became a state, and the first official record we were sure belonged to him was his marriage to Nancy Sallee in 1808.

I found some references to a Henry Reynolds in indexes for tax rolls for Adair County and its predecessor county, Green, back as far as 1802 and maybe 1800, but couldn't be sure it was the same man. The Reynolds Family Association provided information on a deed for Henry Reynolds buying property in 1804, but again, was it the right Henry? Or was it another Henry, who was probably the brother of a William Reynolds in the same area?

After almost a year tracing all of the living males from that Reynolds line in hopes of finding someone who would take a YDNA test, with no success, I gave up on that strategy. Encouraged by a webinar on using tax rolls from Virginia and Kentucky, I started digging into recently available original tax rolls from Green and Adair counties. I also searched deeds for land purchases, using FamilySearch's new full text search tool, although the multiple spellings for Reynolds made that a challenge. I made a spreadsheet of what I found about both Henry and William.

In the 1795 tax/tithe list for Green County, there is a William Reynolds listed. He is shown as a male over 21, a landowner, with one other white male between 16-21 in the household and 2 blacks. Henry would have been 17 at the time if the 1778 birthdate is correct. William continues to show with the same household listing in 1796 and 1797. There is no existing tax roll for Green County in 1798. In 1799 William shows up without a younger male and without land (probably an error, based on general sloppiness of this roll!).

In 1800, Henry Reanales (Reynolds), 1 white



male over 21 with no land, is listed on the line directly above William, who shows only 1 white male over 21 in his household. In 1801 Green County lists, the same Henry & William are shown. (After 1801, when Adair was split off from Green, there are no listings in Green County for William and/or Henry.)

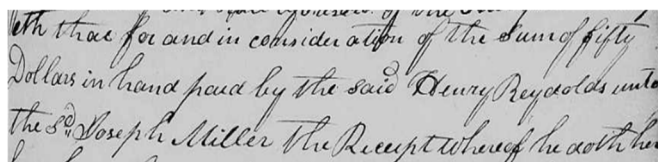


Adair County, KY Courthouse

In the 1802 tax/tithe list for Adair Co, both William Reynolds and Henry Reynolds are shown. As in Green County, this Henry was not a landowner and had no teen-aged men in the household or slaves. William was a landowner; he also had no teen-aged men or slaves in the household.

Given the fact that William had a teenaged male in his household for the same years that Henry would have been between 16-20, until 1799 or 1800, and that Henry then makes an appearance in the tax rolls in extremely close proximity to the listings for William, it seemed likely that they were related.

I then looked to see whether I could trace the land in the 1804 deed to "my" Henry. The seller was Joseph Miller, known by the RFA to have been an associate of William Reynolds and



the group of settlers who came to Kentucky together. There was no other Henry Reynolds in the county in 1804, so the buyer was almost certainly William's brother Henry.

My Henry didn't make a will, but searching for land records after his death, I found two in which land that he had owned was being sold by

MEMBER STORY (CONT'D)**A BROTHER FOR HENRY**

his heirs. In one of these deeds, his son James Henry Reynolds, my husband's direct ancestor, purchased three plots of land from his siblings, who had evidently inherited them from Henry. The detailed description of one of the three lots matched, almost word for word, the description in the 1804 deed.

William's brother Henry had bought this land in 1804; my Henry had owned it at his death and it was then acquired by his son James Henry. Therefore, William's brother Henry was my husband's ancestor Henry.

After talking with members of the Reynolds Family Association about this research, I sent out another message to the wife of a Reynolds descendant who had not responded about asking her husband to take a YDNA test. After weeks of silence, I recently got an answer – yes, her husband would take a test! She has joined the association already, and everyone is excited to learn whether the YDNA will support the paper research that ties William and Henry together.

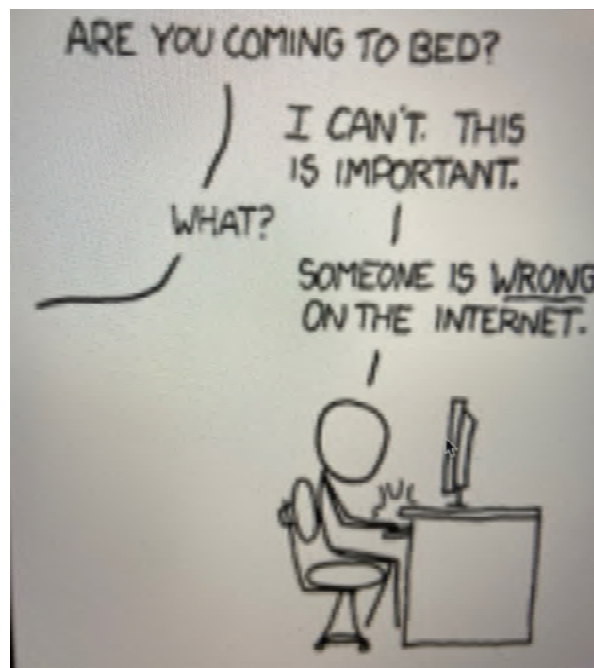
Although Henry stayed in Kentucky, William moved to TN about 1805, where he raised his family, including a son named Henry. The hunt for parents for William and Henry continues. ■

Our ancestors were overworked and undereducated so that we might be underworked and overeducated.

**Notes on Our July 2024 Presentation—
AI and Genealogy: The Basics and a Bit
Beyond (cont'd)**

There is a difference between asking Google and AI a question versus doing research. Research includes a comprehensive exploration of a topic including examination of multiple sources using a systematic methodology. Since this is not how a LLM works, he cautioned us not to expect it to do “research”. As we ask for information, receive useful responses and continue our conversation with AI, it learns from us and will remember what we ask it.

Steve recommends we sign up for free accounts with OpenAI (ChatGPT), Anthropic (Claude), or Google (Gemini) to explore the tools. There is also a Facebook group “Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy” with ongoing AI genealogy discussions to learn more. ■



Seriously, how many times have you spent hours trying to prove that someone else's tree is wrong. I know I have!....Karen Olynger

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR****September 2024**

- 17 Tuesday-10am, the September General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Lisa Vogel will present **Travel Our Tree: Walking in Your Ancestors' Steps**.
- 24 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

October 2024

- 15 Tuesday-10am, the October General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Our own Gay Scott will present **The Witchcraft Crisis of 1692**
- 22 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

November 2024

- 19 Tuesday-10am, the November General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Bob LaPerriere, M.D will present **Women's Issues on the Overland Trail**.
- 26 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

December 2024 Holiday Gathering and Cookie Exchange. Exact date TBD.

January 2025

- 21 Tuesday-10am, the January General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. Lisa Vogeles will present **Walking in Your Ancestor's Footsteps**.
- 28 Tuesday-10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. All members are welcome.

February 2025

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

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Scott Hefner
president@srvgensoc.org

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webmaster@srvgensoc.org

When a woman really loves a man, he can make her do anything she wants to do.



Announcing the New Artificial Intelligence (AI) Special Interest Group (SIG) Meeting!

We're excited to introduce our first evening AI SIG, which will take place on Monday, September 23rd, 2024, at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

About the AI SIG: This group is perfect for anyone interested in exploring the potential of AI in genealogy and beyond. Whether you're just starting out or already familiar with AI tools, this SIG will provide valuable insights and hands-on experience.

What to Expect:

- **Introduction to AI:** Learn how AI can assist in your research by generating responses to your queries in plain English.
- **Practical Applications:** Discover the best websites to use, how to craft effective prompts, and the differences between free and paid AI services.
- **Interactive Sessions:** Engage in discussions and experiments to see how AI can enhance your genealogical research.

Meeting Details:

- **Date & Time:** Monday, September 23rd, 2024, at 7:00 PM (PST)
- **Location:** Zoom (link will be provided via email)
- **How to Join:** All SRVGS members will receive a one-time email with the Zoom link. If you'd like to be added to our ongoing notification list, please let us know. Non-members are also welcome to request the Zoom link.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the fascinating world of AI and see how it can support your genealogical research. We look forward to seeing you there!

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George, SRVGS SIG Coordinator

In September, 2024 we have several changes. The Family Search SIG will NOT meet as the SIG leader will be on a Cruise. A new SIG, the AI SIG, will meet on the 4th Monday, in the evening, from 7-9pm via Zoom. All SIGS meet on-line, except for the in-person German SIG at the Danville FamilySearch Center from 1pm - 2:45pm. All SIG members receive emails from leaders on how to join each meeting. If you want to attend a SIG for the first time, contact the SIG leader to be added to their monthly announcement email. Guests are welcome but encouraged to join the society.



FamilySearch - Cancelled this month only. The Host is on vacation. This SIG usually meets the 2nd Monday from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm in a Zoom Meeting.



Irish/Scottish Research, Wednesday, September 11th, (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.



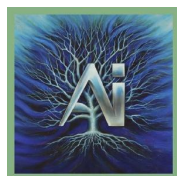
DNA, Monday, September 16th, (the 3rd Monday) 1:00 pm - 3:00pm in a Zoom meeting. This SIG assumes a basic knowledge of Genealogical DNA testing and therefore is only open to those who have completed the SRVGS "Intro to DNA" class or an approved equivalent. You may contact SIG Leader Mark McLaren at greatscot@earthlink.net.



After a successful first meeting in June, we are open to new members! The **Italian SIG** will meet on **Wednesday September 18th, (the 3rd Wednesday) 1:00 pm—3:00 pm** via Zoom. Zoom meeting details will be mailed to members before the meeting. Please contact Karen LaDuca at kblquilt@comcast.net with questions or to join. ■



Publishing, Thursday, September 19th, (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 September 23rd, (the 4th Monday) from 7:00pm-9:00pm in a Zoom Meeting. Learn the many aspects for 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, Wednesday, September 25th, (the 4th Wednesday) 1 - 2:45 pm, at the Danville FamilySearch Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd, 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



Yes, it's September and time for a new semester of learning. There is so much information available.

☞ 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.

- Sat. Sept. 7 from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a Zoom meeting. The topic will be **Genealogy Basics Overview**.
- On Wed. Sept. 11 from 6:30-8 Lisa Gorrell and Jacqueline Henderson will host the **CGS Members Roundtable** – an online group discussion session.
- On Fri. Sept. 20 from 10:30-11:30 Robert Trapp will guide the **Mayflower Descendants SIG** in person at the CGS library.
- On Sat. Sept. 21 from 10-12 Sandra Huber will lead the **San Francisco SIG** via Zoom.
- Also, on Sept. 21 from 1-3 Ron Madson and Karen Halfon will lead a hybrid meeting of the **Family Maker SIG Tree**. 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. Sept. 23 from 7-8:30 the **DNA Skills SIG** with Mark McLaren will meet online. Contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net for details.
- On Wed. Sept. 25 from 6:30-8 the **RootsMagic Users Group SIG** with Keith Montgomery will meet. Contact Keith at kmontgomery@californiaancestors.org for meeting location..
- On Sat. Sept. 28 from 10 – 11:30 Craig Siulinski and Laura Bajuk will host the **Eastern European SIG** online. Contact Craig at cassleuth@gmail.com for more information.
- Also, on the 28th from 1-3 Maureen Hanlon and Keith Montgomery will host the quarterly online meeting of the **Irish Ancestry SIG**. See CGS website for details.
- In addition, on the 28th Carly Morgan will share

Cemetery Photography at a Zoom meeting. Register on the CGS website.

- On Sat. Oct 5 from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a Zoom meeting. The topic will be **Using the Census**.

☞ Contact the Oakland Family Search Center, www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Center/Classes_and_Workshops for an appointment, to register for classes and /or workshops. Check the website, email fhcoakland@gmail.com or call 510-531-3905 for details. The website also has links to online classes at the other Family Search Regional Libraries and BYU as well as Root-sTech classes. In addition, the Family Search Library in Salt Lake presents several webinars each month.

- In September CGS and OFSC volunteers will host 13 **Tips & Talk** sessions. These are hybrid discussions at the Oakland FamilySearch Center held at various times and dates. Go to the OFSC website for more information on specific topics and to register for sessions.
- Jane Lindsey will provide **French Canadian Assistance** by appt. She will also share information at 3 Tips & Talk sessions this month.
- On Thursdays from 11-6 there will be assistance for **Swedish Research**. No appt. required.
- On Wed. Sept. 25 from 6-8 the **African American Research Workshop** meeting will be held on Zoom.

The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), <https://www.scgsgenealogy.com/programs> offers a variety of webinars and programs. Register online in advance.

- On Sat. Sept. 7 from 10-11 Lianne Kruger will discuss **Daughters of the King to Mothers of a Nation**.
- On Wed. Sept. 18 from 6-7 Dede Huang will examine **Chinese Exclusion's Hidden Impact on Non-Chinese Family Histories**.

 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 Tue. Sept. 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 3 – 4:30 David Lambert, Melanie McComb and Rhonda McClure will share **Expert Strategies for Breaking Down Genealogical Brick Walls**. \$125
- On Fri. Sept. 6 at 10 Martin Williams will discuss his book, **The King is Dead, Long Live the King!: Majesty, Mourning and Modernity in Edwardian Britain**.
- On Mon. Sept. 9 from 3 -4 author John Kaag will share and discuss his book, **American Bloods: The Untamed Dynasty That Shaped a Nation**.
- On Thu. Sept. 19 from 3-4:15 Edward Ayers will share his book **American Visions: The United States, 1800-1860**. Fee.

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 Public Library's Genealogy Center offers many webinars. Go to <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy> to register online. Also, explore the Genealogy Center Videos at <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/our-services>. Recorded Genealogy Center programs can be found on the Genealogy Center section of the library's YouTube channel.

- On Tue. Sept. 3 from 11:30 -12:30 Christina Clary will explore **From Maryland to Kentucky: The Catholic League of Families**.
- On Tue. Sept. 10 from 11:30 – 12:30 Alicia Lowry will share **A Case Study: Combining FAN Club Research and DNA to Break Through Brick Walls**.
- On Thu. Sept. 12 from 3:30- 4:30 Jamie McManus Mayhew will offer **Hidden Treasures: Unleashing the Full Potential of Family Search's Catalog**.
- On Tue. Sept. 17 from 11:30-12:30 Kaitlyn Pauley will present **Pioneers and Pedigrees: Early Western New York Research**.
- On Thu. Sept. 19 from 3:30-4:30 Scott Tribble will examine **Unlocking Paternal Ancestry Through Y-DNA Tests**.
- On Tue. Sept. 24 from 11:30- 12:30 the library offers **Family History Sprint: Q&A to Accelerate Your Brick Wall**.

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

- On Tue. Sept. 3 at 7 Christine Neumann will present **Efficient Genealogy: Streamline Your Research with TextExpander**.
- On Wed. Sept. 4 at 11 Lynn Turner will explore **Prepping for and Researching at the FamilySearch Library**.
- On Fri. Sept. 6 at 7:15 AM Roberta Estes will share **Six Ways to Figure Out How We're Related**.
- Also, on the 6th at 8:30 AM Bryna O'Sullivan will question **Elizabeth Matson – the Wife of Timothy Mather born 1711 or Timothy Mather born 1747?**
- In addition, on the 6th at 9:45 AM Gena Philibert-Ortega will offer **10 Things You Don't Know About Cemeteries**.
- And, on the 6th at 12:30 Lisa Lission will present **MyHeritage**.

- On Wed. Sept. 11 at 5 Andrew Redfern will examine **AI and Family History: Extending Beyond the Basics.**
 - On Fri. Sept. 13 at 7:15 AM Kirsty Gray will present **Luff in the Devon Cottages: Exploring A One-Place Study.**
 - In addition, on the 13th Paula Stuart-Warren will explore **The Neighbors Knew: Strategies for Finding YOUR Ancestral Details in THEIR Records.**
 - Also, on the 13th at 9:45 Mary Kircher Roddy will demonstrate **Translating German Newspapers – As Easy as Eins, Zwei, Drei.**
 - And, on the 13th at 11 Nicka Smith will share **Finding Joan Lee: The Saga Continues.**
 - On the 13th at 12:30 Vidar Overlie will present **Explore Millions of Norwegian Historical Records.**
 - On Tue. Sept. 17 at 5 LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson will provide **A Myriad of Slave Databases.**
 - On Wed. Sept. 18 at 11 Jonny Perl will offer **Practical Chromosome Mapping: Gaining Insights from Segments of DNA.**
 - On Fri. Sept. 20 at 7:15 AM Diane MacLean Boumenot will examine **The Real Life of New England Vital Records.**
 - In addition, on the 20th at 8:30 AM Paul Woodbury will share **Broken Branches: How to Detect Cases of Misattributed Parentage in Your Family Tree.**
 - Also, on the 20th at 9:45 Tara Shymanski will demonstrate **Using the Hudson Bay Company Records for Genealogy Research.**
 - And, on the 20th at 11 Lisa Medina will examine **Researching in Jalisco.**
 - On the 20th at 12:30 Maureen Taylor will provide **5 Ways to Make the Most of MyHeritage.com Photo Tools.**
 - On Tue. Sept. 24 at 5 AM Elisabeth Zetland will present **Webinaire MyHeritage en Francais.**
 - On Wed. Sept. 25 at 11 Alec Ferretti will share **Buried in the Federal Records Center: Uncovering XC Pension Files.**
 - Fri. Sept. 27 at 7:15 AM Melissa Barker will explore **Church Records in Archives.**
 - Also, on the 27th at 8:30 AM Katherine Schober will offer **Top 10 Tips for Working with the Old German Handwriting.**
 - And, on the 27th at 9:45 Natalie Bodle will discuss **Irish Landed Estates.**
 - In addition, on the 27th at 11 Nitay Elboym will present **Reuniting Sisters Separated During WWII After 70 Years.**
 - On the 27th Elizabeth Shown Mills will explore **Finding Origins & Birth Families: Methods That Work.**
 - On Tue., Oct 1 at 7 PM Helen Smith will share **Oops! Married Twice (at the same time) Case Studies in Bigamy!**
-  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://Auntiejenstrees.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://lisalouisecooke.com/podcasts>
 - The Genealogy Squad <https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogysquad/>

- Lisa also has a genealogy chat on YouTube at 9 am on Thursdays entitled [Eleveses](#).
- 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. Sept. 5 at 1:30 the **Genealogy Society of Vallejo- Benicia**, <https://gsvb.org>, will have its monthly meeting on Zoom. The featured speaker, James Baker will present **Finding the Hardest Ones, Part 1**. Visit the society's website for details or contact the society at 707-334-0675 or president@gsvb.org.
- On Sat. Sept. 7 at 11 the **Solano County Genealogical Society**, www.scgsa.org, will have its monthly meeting via Zoom. Curt Witcher, the guest speaker, will discuss **Making the Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne Your Research Assistant**. Send an email to the society at scgs@scgsa.org before 4 pm on Sept. 6 to request a Zoom link invitation.
- On Mon. Sept. 9 from 5 – 6:30 the **San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society**, www.sfbajgs.org/calendar.html, will have its monthly meeting on Zoom. Sharon Fingold will explore **Untangling Threads and Breaking Through Brick Walls**. Register on website.
- On Mon. Sept. 9 from 7 -8:30 the **Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society**, www.l-ags.org, will host a Zoom meeting. The guest speaker, our own Mark McLaren, will present **Scotland and Northern Ireland Research**. The link to register for the meeting is on the site under 'speakers'.
- On Thu. Sept. 12 from 6:30 -8 the **Contra Costa County Genealogical Society**, <https://cccgs.net>, will hold its monthly meeting on Zoom. Guest speaker Linda Yip will discuss **My Connection to the Wing Sang Company and Its Choice as the New National Museum**. Click under events on the society's website to register.
- On Tue. Sept. 17 from 6:30-8:30 the **Santa Clara Historical & Genealogical Society**, www.scchgs.org, will hold its monthly meeting as hybrid format via Zoom and in person at Santa Clara Central Park Library, Redwood Room. Gena Philibert-Ortega will present **Ephemera: Scraps of Your Ancestor's**

Life. See the society's website for details.

- On Thu. Sept. 19 at 1 the **Napa Valley Genealogical Society**, <https://napagensoc.org>, will have Sean Heyliger as their guest speaker at their hybrid meeting. Sean will provide **Genealogical Resources at the SF National Archives**. Register under 'events' on the society's website.
- On Fri. Sept. 20 from 10-12 the **Mt. Diablo Genealogy Society**, <https://mdgsclub.my.canva.site/> will hold its monthly meeting with a hybrid format via Zoom and in person at Rossmoor. Evan Wilson will present **Pinpointing your American Ancestors on a Map**. See the society's website for details.

Upcoming Special Events

- On Sept. 7 the **Scottish Indexes Conference XXV** will be held. There will be a number of presentations via Zoom throughout the day. Go to www.scottishindexes.com/conference.aspx for further details and to register.
- From Sept. 11th - 13th the **7th WAC (We Are Cousins) Virtual Genealogy Conference** will take place. Register at <https://wacconference.com/register>.
- On Sept. 20th and 21st the **New York Genealogical and Biographical Society**, www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org will hold its hybrid **New York State Family History Conference**. For details go to www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nysfhc/about.
- From Sept 24-29 the **36th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences Conference** will meet in person in Boston. For details go to www.americanancestors.org/events.
- From Sept. 29 – Oct. 5 Stewart Traiman and Evan Wilson will lead the **2024 CGS Salt Lake City Research Trip**. See the CGS website for details.■

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Family Search Center Update

The FSC has been closed for the month of August and prior to that due to roof leaks, but Kevin Ganschow says that he hopes to have the FSC open with regular hours including, hopefully, some evening and weekend hours by the second week in September.

Contact Kevin at gans5@sbcglobal.net or at 925-209-5489 if you have any questions or want to arrange a time to go in or, best of all, if you want to volunteer in the FSC.

If the cost of living continues to rise, newly-weds may have to do without some of the things their parents could never afford.