



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIX No. 2 July - 2023

July Presentation:

Tuesday July 18, 2023 at 10 am

“Beware of the Enchanted Forest: Perils & Pitfalls of On-line Trees” (VIA ZOOM)

BY JEAN WILCOX HIBBEN



When is it safe to get information from an online tree? Here we will discuss where these trees can be found, how to assess them for reliability, how to cite them, how to use them for clues to further your research, and more. Not all online trees are created equal, but most can be evaluated with a few simple steps: don't become victim to the enchantment of an apparent pot of gold. Good for beginner to intermediate researchers.

Jean Wilcox Hibben; PhD, MA, former So. Cal. college speech professor (MA – Speech Communication; PhD – Folklore), is a national speaker and author. A member of the DAR, she is the former director and current staff trainer for the Corona, CA Family History Center, has worked on background research for two genealogy television programs, and was a host for podcasts on social history. A former Board-Certified genealogist with over 40 years of research experience, she is a former board member of APG and past president of its So. Cal. Chapter; newly elected board member of the So. Calif. Gen'l. Soc.; president of the Corona Genealogical Society, as well as webmaster for that same organization; and participant on a number of other society boards. Jean writes the “Auntie Jeff” column for the Informer, the newsletter of the Jefferson County NY Genealogical Society. Her website: <https://circlemending.org/>. ■

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



As we sneak into these dog days of summer should we expand our genealogical research horizons? Does it seem that we often get in a rut while doing our research? Maybe we just need a break from a steady diet of rehashing our own history and reallocating time to assist others with their research.

Be it volunteering at the local Family Search Center, helping another society member, family member, friend or even a client, here are a few thoughts:

Share the excitement: Genealogy research is a thrilling pursuit, and being able to share that excitement with others can enhance our own enjoyment. Helping someone uncover their family history and witnessing their joy and gratitude can be contagious and uplifting.

Connect families: Assisting others with their genealogy research often involves connecting them with long-lost relatives or discovering previously unknown branches of their family tree. Facilitating these connections can be a deeply meaningful experience as you witness the bonds and relationships being reestablished across generations.

Preserve heritage: Genealogy research helps preserve and honor family heritage. By helping others delve into their family history, you are assisting them in understanding their roots, traditions, and cultural background. This preservation of heritage is valuable for future generations who can learn about their ancestors and maintain a connection to their past.

Solve mysteries: Genealogy research often involves solving mysteries and uncovering intriguing stories. Being part of someone's journey as they uncover family secrets, solve puzzles, or reveal fascinating tales can be incredibly gratifying. It is like being a detective, piecing together fragments of the past and bringing forgotten stories back to life.

Build connections: Genealogy research often creates connections not only with the past but also with living relatives and other researchers. Collaborating with others in the genealogy community,

sharing knowledge and resources, and supporting each other's research endeavors can foster a sense of camaraderie and create lasting friendships.

In summary, helping others with genealogy research is a fulfilling endeavor that allows us to share the joy of discovery, connect families, preserve heritage, solve mysteries, and build connections. It is a beautiful way to contribute to the collective understanding of our shared human history. ■

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. ■

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

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

Ildiko Ronyal-Harris

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 Rudiger Wolf at 925-699-7040 or rhwolf@hotmail.com. He will provide more information and coordinate with you. ■

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR****July 2023**

- 18 Tuesday—10am The July General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Jean Wilcox Hibben on **Beware of the Enchanted Forest: Perils & Pitfalls of On-line Trees.**
- 25 Tuesday—10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

August 2023 There are no meetings in August.

September 2023

- 19 Tuesday—10am The September General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Lisa Alzo on **Diseases, Disasters, Distress: Bad for your Ancestors, Good for Genealogy.**
- 26 Tuesday—10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

October 2023

- 17 Tuesday—10am The October General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Jennifer Holik on **Research a Veteran: Exploring the Basics of Military Research, Part 1 of the Research Strategy**
- 24 Tuesday—10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

November 2023

- 21 Tuesday—10am The November General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Jennifer Holik on **Research a Veteran: Exploring the Basics of Military Research, Part 2 of the Research Strategy**
- 28 Tuesday—10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

December 2023

There are no meetings in December, however our Holiday Party is planned but not firmed up yet. We will post it here and on our web-site when the date, place and time are definite■

**Notes on Last Month's Presentation**

By Karen LaDuca

Finding the Story Hidden Behind the Facts

By Pam Vestal

So many of us feel that we need more than just our ancestors' names and dates to tell their stories of their lives. But without any family stories passed down, or some lucky find in a newspaper, how can we add some richness to our ancestral stories? Ms. Vestal had several suggestions for us.

Set the Scene - learn all you can about the time and place where your family lived. Include a look at local laws, political climate, etc.

Use a timeline - look at your ancestor's lives in chronological order including those of their FAN network. Include a look at local and world events, economic climate, etc.

Study the thinking of the past - thinking of the time period was influenced by what they had to deal with. Newspapers can be very helpful.

Study the details - Go back over all the documents that you have for your ancestor and examine every detail thoroughly.

Ms. Vestal gave us many examples of the ways she used these steps in her research and also gave some excellent resources in her handout. ■

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.

You are our living link to the past. Tell your grandchildren the story of the struggles waged, at home and abroad, of sacrifices made for freedom's sake. And tell them your own story as well, because everybody has a story to tell.

—George H. W. Bush

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE*By: Bill George*

In July, 2023 SIG dates are “normal”, 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 July 12th, 10am-12 (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 July 10th, 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 July 20th (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 July 17th, 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.



German Research – Wednesday July 26th, 1-3pm, (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.

**SRVGS is on Facebook!**

Click on the link below or go to:

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

A COUPLE OF BEGINNER'S LESSONS

By: Susan Hanck

I had a big AHA moment when I hadn't been doing genealogy for very long.

I was trying to find out my paternal grandmother's maiden name. So, I contacted one of my first cousins, Mary Lee, whose mother had been the favorite of Grandma Britton. I was sure she must know and she did. Mary Lee was delighted that someone else was interested in the family history and she sent me a marriage license for our grandparents. She told me that I owed her Big Time for that and she was right. It was a gold mine! It had Joseph Francis Sheridan, of Omaha Nebraska, age 22 years (which was 6 years off) born in St. Joseph, Missouri, son of Solomon Neill Sheridan and Anna Mary Byrne, marrying Genevieve C. Fuhs of Omaha, Nebraska, age 17, (she once told me he swept her off her feet) born in Harlan, Iowa; daughter of John Fuhs and Mary Helen Hattering.

What more could you ask for in one document?

First of all, I had no idea that my father's grandfather was Solomon Neill Sheridan. We had always heard of Dad's Uncle Sol, a well known writer and foreign correspondent, but we didn't know that he was named after his father. I went to the San Bruno National Archives and found my great grandfather on the 1850 census. That was my

first big thrill in genealogy, seeing his name and the family listed there. That got me hooked, but that wasn't my AHA moment. So the information I had so far led to finding cousins on the internet and eventually to my second cousin who had joined DAR and had tons for records for that branch of the family, even the Solomon Neill Sheridan family Bible!

But what about Grandma Britton's side? No one had information on her folks. I searched the census records indexes, the internet sites for Shelby County and couldn't find anything in Harlan, Iowa. I found a couple of Fuhs families, but not a good match. I couldn't even find a Hattering family anywhere in Iowa.

Meanwhile, I searched what was available then on the internet and found her on the Social Security Death Index. I remembered that the experienced researchers always said get the originals, so I thought "Why not". It was only \$7.00 then and a click of the mouse made it really easy.

After a while, quite a long while, I finally got a letter in the mail from the Social Security Administration with a copy of her Social Security application. I thought "Well I'll take a look and file it away" because I already knew all the information it would have.

Now, here comes my AHA moment! The application had her name and the address I knew

A COUPLE OF BEGINNER LESSONS (CONT'D)

By: Susan Hanck

well, since my father grew up there and we had played there as children. It had her date of birth which I already had. It stated that she born in HARPER Iowa, not HARLAN, as the marriage license stated, her father's name was John Fuhs but her mother's name was Helen WOLTERING, not HATTERING. I had misread the marriage license on that one.

If I had been more observant, I would have seen that what I thought was an "H" did not match the other "H" on the document and was actually a "W". The "a" still looked like an "a" and the "l" could have been either part of the double "t" or the "l" that it was meant to be.

This brand new information led me to finding census records for the Woltering and Fuhs families in Keokuk County, Iowa; John Henry Woltering's will, which proved he was indeed Mary Helen's father, property records and more.

My cousin, Mary Lee was thrilled to learn all the new information. And in April we took a train ride to Iowa and saw Harper and the places where John Fuhs and John Henry Woltering worked and lived.

So the moral of the story is "Even if you think you know it all. Get the records" They are a little more expensive now, but they could be well worth it. You might be surprised.

Happy Hunting. ■

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.

Save the Date!



We are planning an in-person (gasp!), live, face-to-face picnic for October 3, 2023, contingent on our getting the site reserved. Food and refreshments to be served. Stay tuned and check back here for more details and confirmation of the date.

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

If you have an area of expertise and would like to help newer members please contact Karen LaDuca at kblquilts@comcast.net or Bill George at williamcgeorge@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. ■



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani



Welcome to July. It's a wonderful summer month to learn more family history.

☞ The California Genealogy Society Library, www.californiaancestors.org, now is open from 10-2 Wed – Fri and 10 – 4 on the 3rd Sat. No reservations are needed. Please email visit@californiaancestors.org by 7 pm the day before you plan to visit to say you are coming. 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. July 1st from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will have a Zoom meeting. The topic will be **Vital Records**.
- On Sat. July 15th from 10-12 Sandra Huber will host the **San Francisco SIG**.
- On Sat. July 15th from 1-3 Ron Madson and Karen Halfon will lead a hybrid meeting of the **Family Tree Maker SIG**. Fee for non-members.
- On Wed. July 18th from 6:30-8 Lisa Gorrell and Jacqueline Henderson will host the **CGS Members Roundtable**.
- On Fri. July 21st from 10:30-11:30 the **Mayflower Descendants SIG** will meet in-person at the CGS library.
- On Sat. July 24th from 7-8:30 the **DNA Skills SIG** with Mark McLaren will meet online. Contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net for details.
- On Wed. July 26th from 6:30-8 the **RootsMagic Users Group SIG** with Keith Montgomery meet online.
- On Sat. Aug. 5th from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will hold a Zoom meeting. The topic will be **Organizing Your Family History Work**.

☞ 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. The Family Search Library in Salt Lake City also presents a number of webinars each month. Check the Oakland Family Search Library website for a list of numerous online webinars and classes.

- On Wednesdays at 11am and 7pm CGS and OFSC volunteers will host **Tips & Talk**, information discussions in person at the Oakland FamilySearch Center.
- Jane Lindsey will provide **French Canadian Assistance**. Appt. only.
- On Thursdays from 11-6 there will be assistance for **Swedish Research**. No appt. required.

☞ The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), www.scsgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html offers a variety of webinars. Register online in advance. The upcoming presentation for July is:

- On Wed., July 19th at 6 Sara Cochran will share the **National Archives at Riverside: A Virtual Tour**.

☞ 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 at its website.

- On Thu. July 6th from 12-1 Danielle Rose will explore **Researching Black Patriots and Loyalists During the Revolutionary Era**.
- On Fri. July 7th from 1-2 Curt DiCamillo will present **William Waldorf Astor: American Tycoon to English Lord**.

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. July 6th from 6:30-7:30 EDT **Unlocking Your Paternal Ancestry through Y-DNA** will be discussed.
- On Tue. July 11th 2:30-3:30 pm EDT **Hopping the Pond: Researching in Germany: What You Need to Know and Websites to Help - Part 1** will be discussed.
- On Thu. July 13th 6:30-7:30 pm EDT **Chicago Genealogy Research** will be discussed.
- On Tues. July 18th 2:30-3:30 pm EDT **Hopping the Pond: Researching in Germany: What You Need to Know and Websites to Help - Part 2** will be discussed.
- On Thu. July 20th 6:30-7:30 pm EDT **The New California Pioneer Certificate Program Honoring Early Settlers of the State** will be discussed.
- On Tue. July 25th 2:30-3:30 pm EDT **Researching Genealogy at the Midwest Genealogy Center** will be discussed.
- On Thu. July 27th 6:30-7:30 pm EDT **Casting a Wide Net: Researching Your Ancestors in the - Eastern Canadian Provinces** will be discussed.

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

- On Wed. July 5 at 11am PDT, Cheri Hudson Passey will speak on **Collateral Research-The Secret Sauce to Finding Family Records**
- On Fri. July 7 at 11am PDT, LaDonna Garner will speak on **8 Brick Wall Busters for Mid-**

west African American Ancestors

- On Tue. July 11th at 11am PDT, Diane Henriks will speak on **See Your Family In a Whole New Light!**
- On Wed. July 12th at 5pm PDT Craig R. Scott will speak on **Indentured Servitude in the Mid-Atlantic States.**
- On Fri. July 14 at 11am PDT Geoff Rasmussen will speak on **Celebrating 2,000 Webinars! Plus, 10 tips you can use today.**
- On Tue. July 18 at 5pm PDT Margaret R Fortier will speak on **Andiamo! Finding Your Italian Family.**
- On Wed. July 19 at 11am PDT Elizabeth Williams Gomoli will speak on **I Hate Conflict! Mediating Sources that Don't Agree.**
- On Fri. July 21 at 11am PDT Lisa Medina will speak on **Tracing Ancestors through Revolutionary Mexico.**
- On Tue. July 25th at 11am PDT Katharine Andrew will speak on **A Deep Dive into U.S. City Directories at MyHeritage**
- On Wed July 26th at 11am PDT J. Mark Lowe will speak on **Why We Should Look at In-Laws When Doing Genealogical...**
- On Fri. July 28th at 11am PDT Elizabeth Shown Mills will speak on **Problem-Riddled Carolina Backcountry.**
- On Tues Aug 1st at 7pm PDT Helen V. Smith will speak on **Six Top Sites for Queensland Research**

Please check the <https://familytreewebinars.com> for the webinars upcoming in August.

 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, however there are far too many to list here. Visit their website to see what's available.

 Here are some other webinars and podcasts that are online:

- 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://lusalouisecooke.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.

Events from Local Societies

- On Thu. July 6th at 1:30 The Genealogy Society of Vallejo and Benicia, <https://gsvb.org>, will present a Zoom meeting. Guest speaker **Madeline Yanov** will share **Ancestral Road Trips Part 1**. On Thu. Aug 3 at 1:30 **Madeline** will present **Part 2 of Ancestral Road Trips**. To attend send an e-mail to GSVBzoom@gmail.com to request an invitation.
- On Thu. July 13th from 6:30-8 the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net>, will have Pam Vestal as its guest speaker at its Zoom meeting. Pam will discuss **Tracking Down your Eastern European Ancestors, Part 2**. Register under events on the society's website.
- On Mon. July 10th from 7-9pm the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will host a Zoom meeting with Christine Cohen as guest speaker. She will speak on **Homesteading: Land For All**. Register at the l-ags website.
- On Mon. July 3 at 11am the Napa Valley Genealogical Society, <https://napagensoc.org>, will hold a Zoom Round Table Discussion on **Military Families**. Register on the society's website.
- On Fri. July 21st at 10am the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, <https://mdgs.webs.com> will hold a hybrid meeting on Zoom and at the Fireside Room at Gateway in Rossmoor. The guest speaker, Anne Gillespie Mitchell on **Hidden in the Shadows: Researching Women Before 1850**. For the Zoom presentation email mdgs.webs@gmail.com at least 2 days prior to the meeting to receive the link.
- On Sat. July 15th at 1pm the Sonoma County Genealogical Society, <https://scgsonline.org>, will hold its Zoom meeting beginning at 12 with the presentation starting at 1. Linda Harms Okazaki, the guest speaker, will share **Organize Your Family History Research**. Register on the society's website.
- On Tue. July 18th from 6:30-8:30 the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society, <https://scchgs.org>, will hold its General Meeting. Marisa Louie Lee will present **Exploring Genealogical Research on the National Archives Website**. See the society's website for registration details.

- On Sun. July 16th from 1-2:30 (confirm time) the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society <https://sfbajgs.org> will host Melissa Barker speaking on **The ABC's of Researching Your Ancestor's School Records**. Register on their website.

Upcoming Special Events

- From Aug 1st -3rd the **Foundation for East European Family History Studies** will hold a hybrid conference in Salt Lake City and on Zoom. For more details visit feefhs.org.
- From Aug 24th -26th the **Genealogical Society of Hispanic America** will hold a hybrid conference in Salt Lake City and on Zoom. For more information and to register visit <https://www.gshaa.org/>
- From Oct. 9th – 14th there will be a **California Research** Trip to the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. Early-bird pricing now available. For information visit <https://californiaancestors.org/2023-salt-lake-city-research-trip>. ■

The Ditches of Nevada City

This book recommendation came to our Society because it may be of interest to our members particularly for those who may have ancestors involved in the California Gold Rush. This book has just been published and is available as an eBook or in hard copy. Follow the link below if you want to see a more detailed description of the book and a review of the book from the Donner Summit Historical Society.

<http://www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org/pages/bookreviews/DitchesofNevadaCity.html>

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!

Attention History Buffs

A special silent auction will be held on July 15 at the Contra Costa Historical Society booth at the downtown Martinez Maker's Market.

This auction will focus on a small collection of rare/unusual books with topics such as Bay Area bridges, Engineering, Public Works, and historic Bay Area planning documents.

The small collection of 20-25 specialty books is gently used and comes from the archives of the Contra Costa County Historical Society.

Details of the silent auction:

Date: Saturday, July 15, 2023

Time: Bidding starts at 11:00 a.m., bidding closes at 2:00 p.m.

For more specifics about the collection, you may call or text the APWA NorCal Chapter Historian John Mercurio at (925) 876-0327.

To my children:

Never make fun of having to help me with computer stuff.

I taught you how to use a spoon.

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 world-wide. Henceforth the name is changing from *Family History Center* to *Family Search Center*.

Rudy Wolf is the new interim director of the Danville FSC. Current hours are below but look for changes soon. Appointments are not needed.

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

What apps are available at the FSC nearby?

For the last couple of months I have published a list of the premium websites available at the Oakland FSC but come to find out that the list is different from those available at the Danville and Livermore FSC's. Karen LaDuca has very kindly taken the task on to identify what is available locally and this is what she has come up with. In the meantime, I'm going to try and find out why the list is different from the Oakland FSC. So look here for an update on this subject, but meanwhile, here's what you can use locally....

- 19th Century British Library Newspapers
- Alexander Street - American Civil War
- American Ancestors - New England Genealogical Society
- Ancestry Institutional
- Arkiv Digital - Swedish research
- FamNet - New Zealand research
- FindMyPast - UK research
- Fold 3 - military records
- Geneanet
- Irish Ancestors - John Grenham's website
- MyHeritage Library Edition
- Newspaper Archive
- Paper Trail - overland trails to the West
- Puzzilla■