



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXVII No. 10 May- 2022

May Presentation:

Tuesday May 17, 2022 at 10 am

"Journey to the West of the West: Genealogical Treasures at the Sutro Library" (VIA ZOOM)

BY DVORAH LEWIS



Sutro library, the California State Library branch is located in San Francisco, has one of the largest genealogy collections west of the west (i.e. Salt Lake City). Sutro Library is not just the physical hub for the genealogy community, it is also a virtual hub. Come learn about the highlights of the genealogy collection, how to search online, and how to access once on-site.

Dvorah Lewis joined the California State Library in June 2017 as the Genealogical & Local History Librarian at the Sutro Library. She earned her Master's in Library & Information Science at UCLA. Her passion for archives and genealogy was inspired by an interview with her great Aunt Essie, the then eldest member of her family. She is excited to help researchers learn how to navigate the State Library's extraordinary collections and resources. Dvorah feels that by preserving the past we can understand the present and bring positive change to the future. ■

A link to the 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.

Sorry, I'd rather stay home and nurse an unhealthy level of devotion to my genealogy than socialize with people today.

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President's Message

By Steve Watty



Do you remember hearing as a child “listen to your grandparents”? Beyond the first catch phrase “respect your elders,” listening to your grandparents was a great piece of advice. If we really listened to these family members when they were alive, how many remarkable stories could have been recorded. As we do deep-

diverse research into our ancestors and find the details of their existence and the historical events that shaped their lives, now is the time to hear their stories.

A new application “LiveStory” within MyHeritage.com software is groundbreaking. The artificial intelligence software allows you to create animated videos and give a voice to your ancestors. The production process begins with a still photographic then typing the words you want the subject to project. Include a few photographs and documents to compete their story or biography. There is even the option to choose a voice from the drop-down menu. Hit save and let the software do its thing! After a few minutes, usually less than ten, the completed video is returned, and an email notification is received announcing that the job was completed.

This family storytelling feature provides a perfect medium for our family members that lack the enthusiasm for this exciting hobby. These short clips, usually 3-5 minutes in length, are easy to compile and fun to view. An example of this technology is provided in this link [Live Story](#). Have fun bringing your ancestors back to life! *[Ed.note: I had an unresolved problem with the link to the LiveStory so check your email for the link.]*

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Part of my job as Corresponding Secretary is to send out welcome, get-well and sympathy letters/cards to our members and their families. If you know of a member who should receive one of the above, please let me know through my email or phone number in the online Handbook. Thanks!

Barbara Shapas



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 2022

- 17 Tuesday—10am The May General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Dvorah Lewis on **The Surtro Library**.
- 24 Tuesday—10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

June 2022

- 21 Tuesday—10am The June General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Madeline Yanov on **The Tax Man Cometh: How Not to be Frightened of Using Tax Records**.
- 28 Tuesday—10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

July 2022

- 19 Tuesday—10am The July General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Sarah Cochran On **My DNA Brought Me to the Forest But Where Are All the Trees?**.
- 26 Tuesday –10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

August 2022

No Society activities are planned in August■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

*Steve Yount
Alison, Kaitlin and Ethlyn Yount
Karen Fox
John Luber
Norman and Kathryn Lescue*

ANY LUCK WITH THE 1950 US CENSUS?

Last month I sent out a request for your successes and failures with your first attempt at looking at the much touted and long-awaited 1950 US Census and here are the responses that I received.

Carol Turner wrote: Yes, I did. It was the first one I am on, but I was quite surprised at how easy it was to find myself and my family. I thought I was going to have to wait for volunteers to come up with an index like ten years ago. I enjoyed finding most of my forgotten neighbors. Now all I have to do is find the other side of the street!

Jill Zollinger wrote: I can say that I am truly blessed to have family that pretty much stayed in one place. Last night I decided to just see how difficult it would be to look up my grandparents on both sides. Well, within 15 mins I had found my mom and her parents in Hayward, right where I expected them to be (and was raised myself). I was able to send a copy of the sheet to my mom, brother and cousins. They are not into family history like I am, but to share this with them was fun. Then I thought, well let's try my dad and his parents. My dad was raised in Castro Valley and sure enough after about 8-10 clicks I had found him and his family. Now to move onto more challenging family members!

Karen LaDuca wrote: I have had different experiences, depending on where the families lived that I was searching for. I knew exactly where my mother and her family lived and it was a small town, so I went directly to Ancestry to browse. I input the state of New York, the county of Monroe and the town of Mendon. There were only 2 EDs and not too many pages in each so I just scrolled through and found them (and many other extended family members fairly quickly).

Next I wanted to find my father's family. I only know that they were living in the town of Bloomfield in Ontario county of New York but I didn't know exactly where. Bloomfield had several EDs and I didn't know if he lived in East or West Bloomfield. I tried out the ED finder on Ancestry which took me to a map with an outline of the districts. That would have been helpful if I had known where they lived. They lived in Massachusetts in 1940 so I didn't have an address to help me for 1950. So I started out with East Bloomfield and went through the pages with no luck. Then I went to West Bloomfield and they were the first family enumerated there. Too bad I didn't start there!

Then I went to look for my husband's family in Niagara Falls, New York. I know my mother and father-in-law were married and my sister-in-law was born in 1949, but he doesn't know where their house was located. I will have to ask my sister-in-law if she knows where it was. I do know where my husband's grandparents lived and I had the address for that. I used Steve Morse's website and put in the address. Because this is a big city, the result gave me 4 ED possibilities. There is an option to reduce the number of ED numbers by putting in cross streets and back streets by using a google map. I did that and got it down to the one ED where it was located. Once I clicked on the correct ED I found that I could choose NA-RA viewer, FamilySearch viewer or Ancestry. I chose Ancestry and was surprised to find that Ancestry does not yet have the image for this ED. So I selected FamilySearch and was able to find it quite easily.

While on the FamilySearch website I decided to do some reviewing [checking names for indexing] there. It is very quick and easy to do. You can choose the state you want to review and optionally a last name. When you choose a name, it will take you to a page that has that name to review but you will also do at least 20 names on that page.

Addendum: My husband did remember that they were living in a Lustron Home, but he didn't remember where it was. I used my friend Google to look for Lustron Homes in Niagara Falls NY and found lots of info on it. My father-in-law was a home builder and after WWII, Lustron was a prefab type construction home. LaDuca Builders got a franchise to build them in Niagara Falls. The first thing that popped up on Google was a listing on [realtor.com](https://www.realtor.com) for a Lustron home on Roselle Ave. on the corner of Deveau. That street name rang a bell with me and when I asked my husband he said yes that was it! I went to the census, found the ED and found them right away. Interesting that in the listing it said the house was built in 1951. I almost dismissed it because of the date but the street name made me take another look. The house existed ►

in 1950 when the census was taken!

Bob Thompson wrote: I was able to find my wife and myself in the 1950 census. I was able to find my ED through the SteveMorse website, but the actual entry was a little more of a challenge. The enumerator did not do things in order so I had to look through a couple of sheets. It was a hoot to see names of neighbors I hadn't thought of in decades. I wasn't able to find my wife's ED because her family lived outside the city limits in Mill Valley. I was able to find it when I did a search on her maiden name since her name wasn't as common as mine. When I tried a search on Thompson in the west Palm Beach census my family did not come up. I hope everyone was as successful as I was in finding their families.

Leslie Stewart wrote: I've been pretty busy, including taxes, so I decided to wait for checking the 1950 census, but your email inspired me to give it a try. My husband wanted me to find his listing where he was living in Minneapolis with a couple of great-aunts and a great-uncle. I started with Ancestry and found that their map for finding enumeration districts wasn't very good -- I knew the address and could compare with a current Google map, but the Ancestry map seemed to jump around and the controls weren't very good for zooming in on the area I wanted. I finally decided that the ED was 89-830, but when I went to the Ancestry 1950 census page to put in the state, county, city and ED, it didn't offer me Minneapolis in Hennepin County (which is where it is!) so I couldn't even get to the ED field.

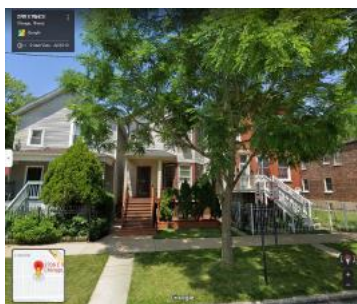
So then I switched to NARA and tried that, because Judy Russell (The Legal Genealogist) had written that she was impressed by NARA's site. I didn't see any way to find the ED on the NARA site, so I searched by Minnesota and Hennepin County and the names I was looking for: Littlefield, Bess; Vines, Joseph & Alice; and Stewart, James. You can search on only a first name or a last name, not both. The only Littlefield that came up was Bess's brother. There was no result for Vines, only Pines. There were 166 results for Stewart, too many to browse through.

I then looked at Steve Morse, which was super-easy! I plugged in the state, county, city, and cross streets, which confirmed the census district, and selected the FamilySearch records set and browsed through. The entry was out of order -- apparently there were a lot of homes where the census-taker had to go back - but I found what I was looking for: Littlefield, Bessie H, followed by Vines, Joseph and [Vines] Alice, then Stewart, James A.

Just to check to see what NARA's OCR thought those names were, I tried adding the ED from Ancestry to my Stewart search to see if that narrowed things down, and it did -- I found "Stewart Janes a" for James A Stewart. The other names were given as "Lettefield" for Littlefield; Vines (although the search didn't find that, it was in the list of names that showed below the page), and nothing at all for Alice since she had the last name from the line before and the indexing apparently doesn't show those.

I will definitely use Steve Morse for the others that I look for who are in cities. Like you, I have at least one rural address -- we were at a PO box in a tiny town in Maryland -- and that may be harder. But unless I run into something that just has to be checked immediately, I am going to work on other stuff right now and let everyone get things like "Littlefield" properly indexed before I do a lot more.

Steve Watty wrote: I've had good luck so far finding the family members I sought: myself and family (my first census) in Oakdale, CA, my wife where she lived in Concord, CA, and my maternal grandparents in Berkeley, CA. But the best find was my wife's paternal grandmother in New York City. Using Ancestry's "1950 Census district finder", I was able to find the enumeration district for the address the family had on the 1940 census. I had faith that they did not move, and it proved correct. Included on the census record was the widowed grandmother, her son hiding from the law (wanted in California), and a foster son which helped prove the relationship.



Ted Shapas wrote: It took a bit of sleuthing (Steve Morse's website helped a lot - <https://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html/>) to track down the right enumeration district (there are over 3,000 in Chicago!), but I did manage to find the 1950 census record for myself and my parents. At the time, we lived in a tiny, 2nd floor apartment on the southeast side of Chicago, and my father was a machinist at a nearby electric power plant. The Chicago Skyway is shown just to the east of our apartment on the Google map, but it hadn't been built when we lived there. The apartment is still standing, and looks pretty good!

As evidenced by census notations, many members of nearby families worked "at the mills", which meant the steel mills, mainly US Steel's South Works. That huge facility was just a few blocks to the East of our apartment, and at the time, it employed about 20,000 people. After we left this area and moved a little further south, I actually had a summer job at the South Works while going to college. It's completely closed now, victim to changing technologies and overseas production.

Julie Basel wrote: I was born in September of 1950 so I just missed the 1950 Census. I didn't have an address for my parents in April 1950, but I had found them previously in the Kansas State censuses of 1947 and 1951 in Olathe, Kansas, my hometown. I started my search in Olathe with the NARA database and had only limited success. My maiden name is House which is a word that appears frequently in the census enumerators' comments. The same is true for my mother's maiden name of South. The Machine Learning (AI) picked up too many hits on the words "house" and "south" for this database to be a good way to locate my family members although I did find my House grandparents and my South uncle.

My next step was to browse the Ancestry Census Collection. Olathe's population was only 5,500 with 9 enumeration districts in 1950. I spent about three hours going through each district. I found my grandparents again but still no Mom and Dad in Olathe. I then shifted my search to Bonner Springs, Kansas, my mom's hometown that is 10 miles from Olathe. In 1950, Bonner Springs' population was only 2,200 with 3 enumeration districts. I found my parents in the second district but the address was difficult to read. At that point, it occurred to me to check my birth certificate and there it was – the address on the census. Needless to say, I should have started with my birth certificate in the first place.

I then started the search for Jerry and his family in Dearborn, Michigan. The NARA search didn't find them in Dearborn but I did find both sets of grandparents in the Detroit NARA records. Dearborn at almost 95,000 was too big to manually review each enumeration district. Since Jerry knew his family's address in 1950, I used Steve Morse's website (stevemorse.org) to find the enumeration district (thanks to Bill George and the Family Search SIG for this tip). Once I had the correct district, I went to the Ancestry Census Collection and found Jerry and his family fairly easily. Jerry has shared the census page with his big brother, Jim, who is three years older. Jim remembers an amazing amount of detail about their house and the neighbors. The two of them have been reminiscing and documenting these stories.■

SRVGS Officer & Board Nominations for 2022-24

President	Steve Watty
1st Vice President	Scott Hefner
2nd Vice President (Programs)	Karen Olynger
3rd Vice President (Membership)	Julie Basel
Recording Secretary	Karen LaDuca
Corresponding Secretary	Barbara Shapas
Treasurer	Jill Zollinger

May is Membership Renewal Time!

This year you have two ways to renew your membership which will expire at midnight on June 1st.

Pay online by credit card or PayPal - log in to your SRVGS account and go to your Profile page. Click the green "Renew Membership" button to start the renewal process. Be sure to click the yellow "Buy Now" button at the bottom of the Print Order Confirmation page to complete your payment.

Pay by mail – print out the membership renewal form that is attached to this email and send it along with your check to SRVGS, P.O. Box 305, Diablo, CA 94528-0305.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Basel at jbasel@comcast.net.

I NEVER REALLY EXPECTED TO SOLVE THIS MYSTERY

By: *Leslie Stewart*

I knew that there was someone named Claire who might be interested in something I had discovered in my husband's family tree, but hadn't tried reaching out -- so I was delighted to get a message from her through MyHeritage, on an otherwise very difficult day. She wrote, "An addition you posted very recently has apparently solved a mystery regarding the parentage of my father. I'm 84 so you can imagine I never really expected to solve this mystery."

Claire is my husband's third cousin. My husband's maternal grandmother was a Hereford, and her father's sister, Lucy Ella Hereford, led an interesting life. Lucy was born in what is now West Virginia in 1855, moved as an infant to Missouri with her family, married in Deepwater, Missouri and went with her husband, Wellington Ormsby, and four small children to Socorro, New Mexico, around 1880. Their fifth child, Charles Robert, was born in New Mexico, and then Wellington died (one source says he was shot). Lucy apparently worked as a washerwoman in Socorro for several years, and their hardships may have had a lasting impact on the health of her youngest child. She returned to the Midwest, probably with the financial assistance of a successful contractor who married her right away, but the marriage was evidently not a happy one. About 1903 the family moved to Washington, where Lucy remained after her husband returned to Kansas a couple of years later.

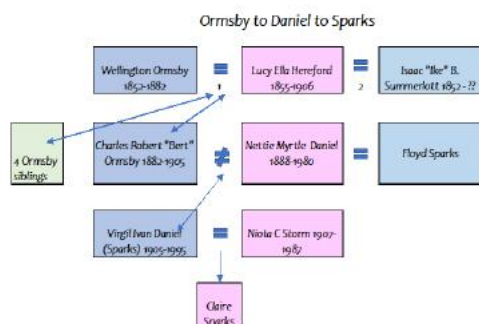
Three of the Ormsby children also moved to Oregon and Washington, including the youngest, known as Bert. In my first research on this family, I had learned that Bert died quite young, in jail in Walla Walla, Washington, awaiting trial for the rape of a young woman from Flora, Oregon. This information was from articles on GenealogyBank. Recently I revisited the family, confirming more details about the Socorro sojourn (although I still have no definite proof of Wellington's death) and in the process I researched Bert's death on Newspapers.com as well.



Walla Walla jail house ~1916. Bert would have been in the old one in the basement

The articles I found on Newspapers.com added quite a bit of detail to the story. Bert was working as a laborer in eastern Washington in 1904 when he met a young woman named Nettie Daniel, who was apparently visiting an uncle near Walla Walla. One article implied that Nettie may have been expecting marriage, but instead, her family brought suit on her behalf because she was underage. Bert fled, but in January 1905 he was brought back from Idaho to the Walla Walla jail to await trial. He had been suffering for years from some type of intestinal disorder, and in October he landed in the hospital for about a week. Soon after getting back to the jail, his cellmate, an accused murderer, received a gift of pies and pastries from his family. He and Bert gorged themselves, and within a day, Bert was dead. He was 23. (His mother Lucy died unexpectedly within a year, and two of them are buried together near Olympia, Washington.)

Reading further, I discovered that the reason Bert was still in jail in October awaiting trial, along with another accused rapist, was that both Nettie and the other girl had delivered babies. The joint trial had been set for the week after Bert died, to allow the new mothers to recover and travel. Well, that was a bit of a jolt for me – Bert was a father, and what happened to Nettie and the baby?



After a few dead ends – no obvious match in the 1910 Oregon census – I decided to try Oregon birth certificates. I knew the approximate birth date, because of the trial delay, and the name of the mother, and the likely location. Sure enough, I found a delayed birth certificate for a Virgil Ivan Sparks, mother's name Nettie Daniel, born September 1905 – in Flora, Oregon. Attached to the application was an affidavit from Nettie Daniel Sparks, explaining why Virgil's records were under Sparks when that was not his birth name of Daniel. She testified that

Cont'd on the last page...

May Update on Danville FHC ...

The Danville Family History Center *is open*—see hours below. Appointments are required so that proper distancing may be maintained and may be scheduled by calling (925)837-7010 or (925)360-9232. Chris reports that the FHC has lost more than half their staff and *they are seeking volunteers to staff the center*. Call Chris directly **(925)360-9232** if you'd like to discuss volunteering, if you want a same day appointment or you would like to see if she can accommodate an outside-of-posted hours, dependent on staffing availability. Fitted face masks are encouraged for everyone and required for the unvaccinated. Social distancing is always encouraged.

Hours of operation:

Monday 10am-1pm
Tuesday 7pm-9pm
Wednesday 1pm-4pm

The Concord FHC and the Livermore FHC are also open and no appointments are necessary. The Oakland Family Search Center (at the Oakland LDS Temple) is open now for limited in-person research by appointment only but Chris Engstrom understands that there is plenty of availability. Call them at (510) 531-3905. ■

Jean Blackmur, Founder of SRVGS

SRVGS was recently notified of the passing in 2019 of our founder, Jean Blackmur. In 1985, Jean and Patty Erickson were members of the Contra Costa Genealogy Society with evening meetings. Jean thought a society with day meetings would be helpful to many, especially retirees, and welcomed 25 people to a meeting at the Danville Library, half of whom were new to genealogy. A steering committee was set up to explore by-laws and an election for officers. Marilyn Fullam volunteered to be Secretary-Historian and Newsletter editor. She also served SRVGS for years, then moved and started a Sierra foothills genealogy group where she still resides. Jean and associates consulted the Oakland LDS genealogy library, and Dorothy Stanton organized resource materials and ancestor chart use. Annual dues were set at \$10. Jean was voted first president with Dorothy Stanton vice-president. In 1986, Jean and 8 other members took a first Salt Lake City genealogy trip for \$317 for flights and hotel 5 days! In 1986-7, Jean was replaced as president by

**Notes on Last Month's Presentation**

By Karen LaDuca

Our Quaker Ancestors: Their History and the Records They Left

By Annette Burke Lyttle

Ms. Lyttle gave us an in-depth look at The Society of Friends (Quakers) including the history of the Society, their beliefs, where they settled and their migration patterns, and the kind of records they left. The monthly meeting records are full of genealogically relevant information, including Certificates of Removal for when a family moved to another location and meeting.

It is important to note that in their records they did not name the days of the week or the months of the year, rather they called them by First month, First day, etc. In her handout, there is a chart that is helpful in determining the days and months. Note that the year is important as the beginning of the year changed in 1752, hence the first month changed from March to January and so on.

She also noted that Ancestry has the largest collection of digitized online records and FamilySearch has some. Important to remember is in searching the Ancestry catalog use the term Quaker (without an "s"). Many other records are held at Quaker colleges and university libraries, historical societies, etc. QuakerMeetings.com may be of help in locating them. A very informative presentation! ■

Remember that we record all of our Zoom meetings and presentations and we retain the recording on our website for members-only for a month. (We are limited to the amount of space we are allowed for Zoom recordings; and some of our speakers have restrictions on how long we make their presentations and handouts available.)

Patty Erickson and became first Parliamentarian. Jean encouraged members to become historians in their lifetimes. She started the first English SIG at her home in 1989 and organized member sales to meet rising costs of meeting-place rent and insurance. In 1990, SRVGS bid her farewell as she and husband moved back to their family home in Great Barrington, MA and she was granted the first SRVGS life membership.

Patty and Russ Erickson ■

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

In May 2022, the five SIGS will meet online. The Publishing SIG is using *Google Meet* and the rest, *Zoom*. All SIG members receive emails from their leaders on how to join each meeting. See details below.



Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday, May 4th (the 1st Wednesday), **10am - 12noon** in a Zoom meeting. You may contact Patty Erickson, the SIG leader at russpat@comcast.net.



Family Search - Monday, May 9th, (the 2nd Monday) **1 pm - 3 pm** in a Zoom Meeting. Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. You may contact SIG Leader Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Publishing - Thursday May 19th, (the 3rd Thursday) **10:30am - 12noon** via Google Meet. 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 May 16th, (the 3rd Monday) **1 - 3pm**, 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 May 25th, 10am - 12noon, (the 4th Wednesday) in a Zoom meeting. Members share information from a variety of sources. You may contact SIG Leader Cathy Tanaka at cathytanaka622@gmail.com. ■



Our Society has been asked if we would like to participate with a booth at this festival to promote interest in Genealogy and our Society. We are looking for volunteers to help man (and woman!) our booth on Sun and Mon May 29 and 30. Look for an email with more details as the date nears. It should be a lot of fun and an opportunity to share stories with fellow booth members at the same time. Check out the festival [here](#).



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

It's May, the month of Yes You May - learn so much genealogy.

☞ The California Genealogy Society Library, www.californiaancestors.org, is open for visits from 10-2 Wednesday thru Friday. Visitors must register in advance. Classes and events will continue online. Check website for details and to register for the following activities. Note any fees.

- On Tue. May 3rd from 3-4 Sean Heyliger will share **General Resources at the National Archives at San Francisco**.
- On Sat. May 7th from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy** group will meet. The focus of the meeting will be a **Genealogy Basics Overview**.
- On Sat. June 4th from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy** group will meet. The focus on the meeting will be on **Using the Census**.
- On Sat. June 18th from 1-3 Ron Madson will lead the **Family Tree Maker SIG** with a discussion on **Census Power Filtering, with "Cousin Russ"**.

☞ The Oakland Family Search Library, www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Library, is open by appointment only. Email fhcoakland@gmail.com or call 510-531-3905 for an appointment or to register for online classes. In addition, the website has links to online classes at the other Family Search Regional Libraries. The Family History 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 from 4-8 Jane Lindsey will provide **French Canadian Assistance**. No appt. required,
- On Thursdays from 11-6 there will be assistance for **Swedish** research. No appt. required.
- On Sun. Apr. 10, and 24th, May 1st, 15th, and 22nd and June 5th from 3:30 to 4:15 there will be a **FamilySearch Basic Course**. See website for details.
- On Wed. May 25th from 6-8 the **African American Research Workshop** will meet on Zoom. See the library website for the Zoom link.

- Coming soon **Chinese Research** meeting on Tuesdays from 1-5 PM.

☞ The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html offers webinars for **\$5.50** each. Register online in advance. The upcoming presentations are:

- On Sat. May 7th at 10 Daniel Horowitz will examine **Where There's a Will There's a Way ... to Research Your Family**.
- On Wed. May 18th at 6 Tara Shymansk will share **The Art of Slow Genealogy**.
- On Sat. June 4th at 10 Janice Lovelace will present **On and Off the Train: Pullman Porters and Maids**.

☞ 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 their webinars at their website.

- On Wed. May 4th, 11th and 18th Sheilagh Doefler, David Allen Lambert and Melanie McComb will present **Researching Loyalist Ancestors**. \$85
- On Tue. May 10th at 12 Dennis Duncan will share his book, **A History of the Index**.
- On Mon. May 16th at 3 William R. Cross will share his book **Winslow Homer: American Passage**.
- On Tue. May 24th and 31st at 10 Dr. Christopher Ridgway will explore **The Gardens and Landscapes of Castle Howard: Past, Present and Future**. \$50
- On Thu. May 26th at 12 Ann Lawthers will examine **New England Town Records**.

- On Wed. June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th Lindsay Fulton will discuss **Making the Most of the US Census**

 The Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center offers a number of webinars. Go to <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy> to see the current list and to register for them online. Also, explore the Genealogy Center Videos at <https://acpl.lib.in.us/explore-genealogy/our-services>. Currently the library is operating under Code Red protocols. However, recorded Genealogy Center programs can be found on the Genealogy Center section of the library's YouTube channel.

- On Tue. May 3rd at 11:30 Courtney Pinkard will share **Genealogy Research at the Alabama Department of Archives and History**.
- On Thu. May 5th at 3:30 there will be a discussion of **Continuing Use of the Genealogical Proof Standard and DNA**.
- On Tue. May 10th at 11:30 Ally Mellon will examine **Researching at the Mississippi Archives**.

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

- On Tue. May 3rd at 7pm Helen V. Smith will explore **Government Gazettes as a Genealogical Resource**.
- On Wed. May 4th at 11 Dana Leeds will present **Quickly Organize Your DNA Matches with the Leeds Method**.
- On Fri. May 6th at 11 Calvin Dark will explain **McMasters' Will: The Scheme That Made Us Virtually Free**.
- On Tue. May 10th at 11 MyHeritage will offer **Drawing Insights from Your Family Photos**.
- On Wed. May 11th at 5 Irene Heffran Monley will share **Finding Your Delaware Ancestors**.
- On Tue. May 17th at 5 Mark A. Wentling will explore **Five Wives & A Feather Bed: Using Indirect and Negative Evidence to resolve Conflicting Claims**.
- On Wed. May 18th at 11 Pauline C. Merrick will present **Indirect Evidence – A Case Study**.

- On Fri. May 20th at 11 Colleen Robledo Greene will share **Working More In-Depth with Mexican Civil Registrations**.
- On Tue. May 24th at 4am Jerome Malhache will present **1939-1945 parcours de prisonniers de guerre**.
- Also on Tue. May 24th at 11 Uri Gonen will offer **Jump-starting Your Research with Instant Discoveries**.
- On Wed. May 25th at 11 Seema Kenney will share **The Staff of the U.S. Census**.
- On Tue. May 31st at 7 Fiona Brooker will explore **The Bones- New Zealand Civil Registration**.
- On Wed. Jun 1st at 11 Michelle Leonard will examine **Using DNA to Solve Interlinked Mysteries**.

Here are some other webinars and podcasts that are online:

- Auntie Jen's Family Trees, Auntiejenstrees.blogspot.com/
- 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 re-

search 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. May 5th at 1:30 The Genealogical Society of Vallejo and Benicia, <https://gsvb.org>, will present Christine Cohen who will share **Cousin Baiting and Cousin Stalking** on a Zoom presentation. To register to attend send an e-mail to President@gsvb.org.
- On Mon. May 16th at 5 The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, <https://sfbajgs.org>, will hold its monthly meeting. Kate Eakman will explore **Adding Historical Context to Your Genealogy Research**. Register on the society's website.
- On Mon. May 9th from 7-8:30 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will host a Zoom meeting with Sharon D. Monson as guest speaker. She will discuss **Sailing to America: Passenger Lists Before 1900**.
- On Thu. May 12th from 6:30 – 8:30 Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net>, will have a Zoom Business Meeting and **Show and Tell Event**. Register on the society's website.
- On Tue. May 17th from 6:30-8:30 the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society, www.scchgs.org, will hold a virtual meeting. Cheri Hudson Passey will examine **Finding the Living: Genealogy in Reverse**. Registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/y3b8yyh7>.
- On Thurs. May 19th at 1 the Napa Genealogical Society, <https://napagensoc.org>, will have a Zoom meeting with Bruce and Barbara McLeod as guest speakers. They will share **Making the Most of Family Search Resources**. Register at <https://napagensoc.org/event-4539700>.
- On Fri. May 20th at 10 the Mt. Diablo Genealogy Society, <https://mdgs.webs.com>, will hold a Zoom meeting. Madeline Yanov will present **Western Migration Trails- Part 2**. Email mdgs.webs@gmail.com to receive the link for the meeting.

Upcoming Special Events

- From May 25-28, 2022 the California Genealogical Society will host the **2022 National Genealogical Society Family History Conference** at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento. Refer to <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>.
- From Aug. 19-27 the **Southern California Genealogy Society Jamboree** will hold three virtual conferences. Visit <https://genealogyjamboree.com> for further details
- From Sept. 12th-Oct. 17th the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society will hold its hybrid **New State Family History Conference 2022**. Register at <https://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nysfhc/2022>. ■



Changes to the Society's Standing Rules

The Standing Rules of the Society have been amended to reflect a number of changes in the operation of the Society:

- The Society will no longer produce hard copies of the newsletter or the handbook. The newsletter is emailed to all members on a monthly basis and the handbook is published to the members-only section of the website.
- The positions of Historian and Email Forwarder have been eliminated and the functions reassigned.
- The collection of dues is being transitioned to the anniversary date of the member joining the society. Existing members will continue to have a June 1 dues date, but members joining after June 1, 2022 will move to new dues date.
- The Danville Family History Center liaison person will have a free membership in the society.
- In recognition of the challenges of the pandemic the option of using a remote meeting system such as Zoom is allowed.

Member story cont'd from P.6

she had had the baby on her father's farm, and that she later married her husband and Virgil took the name Sparks but was never formally adopted. The one thing that Nettie did not include was the name of Virgil's actual father.

And that was when I knew that I had the missing piece of someone else's puzzle. I learned that Virgil had a daughter, Claire, who would not be able to use Nettie's information to find Virgil's father – but coming from the father's side, I knew who he was.

I added as much documentation as I could to the FamilySearch Family Tree entry for both Bert Ormsby and Virgil Sparks and connected them as father and son. Of course, I also put them into my own MyHeritage tree as well, and that was why I got Claire's grateful email a few weeks later. I've given her access to my tree to learn more about the interesting lives of some of the Ormsby family, and leads to the newspaper stories that put the puzzle together. Claire wrote, "I have always known since I was very young, this was a mystery. It was never talked about, and I was never brave enough to ask." Luckily, she got her answer anyway!■

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FIRST CLASS MAIL