



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXVIII No. 1 June - 2022

Jun Presentation:

Tuesday Jun 21, 2022 at 10 am

"The Taxman Cometh: How Not to be Frightened of Using Tax Records " (VIA ZOOM)

By Madelaine Yanov



Tax records holds a surprising amount of information about our ancestors. Because taxes are collected yearly, they are considered an “annual census.” They can help you find missing ancestors and fill in gaps in your ancestors’ lives when censuses or vital records don’t exist. However, tax records are totally under-utilized by genealogists. This presentation will cover why tax records are important and what help you can obtain from using them. You will also find out what facts are found in them, and what types of tax records exist. This talk will mainly focus on poll or “tithe”, land, and personal property tax records, however early income tax records will be men-

tioned. You will also learn where these records are found and receive tips for researching tax records. Don’t be afraid to use tax records. It doesn’t need to be a horror story.

Madelaine Yanov, the owner of Time Travel Genealogy, has more than 30 years genealogy experience, specializing in American research but is familiar with European genealogy, specifically Irish, British, Slovak and Russian with a little German on the side. She has also been instrumental in locating and helping to reunite adoptees with their birth parents.

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.

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President's Message

By Steve Watty



Another SRVGS year is in the books and it seems like “Groundhog Day.” Every month this year was a repeat of the previous month as the society was only able to meet on Zoom for our General Meetings. Zoom came through again for our Special Interest Groups, but other society functions were limited or non-existent due to pan-

demic restrictions.

If it was not for Zoom our society, like many others, may not have survived the last two and a half years. We embraced the Zoom technology early on, tried to keep our members informed via our website and newsletter, and sought out ways to engage everyone. We had to be doing something right as the society continued to grow during this time. Thank you, SRVGS members, for staying with us during these troubling times.

There is a light at the end of this tunnel; we are hopeful that some in-person meetings will be allowed in the coming months. We also acknowledge that enhanced technology will be required to retain and attract members that live out of the area or due to other circumstances cannot attend in-person meetings. A “hybrid” meeting format is under study that will give us the opportunity to provide this service. We expect to roll out this combination In-Person/Zoom platform later this year or early next year.

The officers and board members for 2022-2024 were approved during the May General Meeting. A listing of these dedicated members can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Please give these members your continued support and constructive input. Please remember that volunteerism for these and other society business offices is the norm for SRVGS, and everyone should consider one of the open positions.

Wishing all our SRVGS members an extremely healthy, safe and productive 2022-2023. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

September 2022

- 20 Tuesday—10am The September General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Margaret Melaney on **The 1890 Census is Gone...Destroyed by Fire and Water.**
- 27 Tuesday –10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Cindy Horn

Kappy Venezia

MEMBER STORY

MILWAUKEE LIVING

By: Sharon Clay

Ed. Note: As amateur genealogists we are all encouraged to ask questions of our elders and get their stories down for future generations to enjoy, but we forget that we have our own stories that need to be captured and saved for our own descendants. (Some of us have even become "those elders".) To that end we have a SIG devoted to getting those stories down "on paper" and published. This month Publishing SIG member Sharon Clay was encouraged to submit one of her stories for our newsletter. I hope you love it as much as I did.

"Sharon— PLEASE, go downstairs and wait for me on the porch. I'll only be a few more minutes. Then we can go to Aunt Dorothy's".

I must have made Mom upset that morning, before we walked 2 long blocks to the bus so I could go to my aunt's house. So, I went down the stairs of our house, and waited on the bench on the porch.

We lived at 1917 South 76th. St. in West Allis, a suburb of Milwaukee. The house was two storied; we lived upstairs, and my friend Roberta and her family lived downstairs. To get upstairs we went through the door on the right side of the porch and the stairs curved to the left about 2/3 of the way up. Then if you went straight ahead, you went into our living room, which had curtained windows on left that looked onto the street below. If you went to the right at the top of the stairs, you went into Mom and Dad's bedroom (where I got to sleep that one night when they stayed up all night putting hot packs on my arm when I got blood poisoning). At the other end of their bedroom was the entrance to the kitchen—which spread across the whole back of the house. That was where Mom tried to get me to eat rutabagas and parsnips by putting lots of butter on them. The butter was good, but I didn't learn to like rutabagas until I got much older. I still don't like parsnips.

If you went through the living room, THEN to your right, you went into the dining room; and at the end of that, to the left was my tiny bedroom. There was just enough space in there for my little bed. The ceiling slanted down, and Dad couldn't stand up straight if he was at the head of my bed. But it was OK for him to sit by the foot of the bed and play with the Scotty dog magnets he brought me that time when I had measles. He would put one magnet on top of a piece of paper and the other

on the bottom of the paper and make the top doggie dance around. It made measles not so bad.

Behind the wall of my bedroom, by the kitchen was the door to the back porch, where we kept an ice box. The ice man came up the back stairs and delivered a block of ice on Mondays and Thursdays and left it in the ice box. It kept our food cold.

Out on the front porch I waited for Mom to come down. But, she didn't come as quickly as I thought she should. So I started looking for something to do. I knocked on Roberta's door, but nobody answered. I didn't want to go down the street to Joyce's house because if Mom came down she wouldn't know where I was. But two doors away was the over-crossing where the street went over the railroad tracks. Mostly freight trains ran on those tracks, and I loved to watch them run clickety-clack under the road. And that day, I thought I'd like to see if there were any trains coming. When I got to the bridge, I looked down at the tracks and there were no trains. But as I looked through the concrete railing, I thought about that barrier and wondered if I could cross that bridge on the OUTSIDE of the railing.

Mom hadn't come down yet as I could see the door from the edge of the bridge, so I walked to the other side, near the ice cream store, and viewed the bridge from the outside of the rail. The other side didn't seem that far back toward my house. And surely, I could inch my way across before a train came and scared me. I stepped hesitantly to the rail, one foot on the bottom support, and then the next. The upper cement rail just reached my forehead at the level of my eyes. I started to slowly move across, one step at a time, hanging on tightly to the posts. I moved around the rough cement vertical posts, then two or three

more steps, and another vertical square post. Section by section, I moved across. Whew, I got to the middle. There was no turning back. It hadn't crossed my mind that one slip and I'd be down on the tracks. All I thought about was those sections by section as I moved across. Now only the last half to go. At this point it seemed like a lot farther than it looked at the beginning. Step by step, I made my way across, and then stepped carefully off at the end.

I looked back at my accomplishment. Wow! I did it. And no trains came. That was really fun! But scary. I thought it was a great achievement for someone only 4 years old. I'll bet no one else had



ever done that—even someone older! I scampered back to the porch, and was sitting there primly when Mom came down a few minutes later. I wasn't going to tell her the wonderful thing I had done, but unfortunately, the lady across the street saw me and she told my Mom the next day. No, I didn't get

spanked, but I was royally chastised. And I only did it that one time. I guess even a 4 year old has some sense. At least I did. ■

SRV Genealogical Society 2022-2024 Election Results

Congratulations and a big thank you to the following members that volunteered to fill important positions for the society during the next two years. Welcome to our board new officers, Scott Hefner and Jill Zollinger. The society also needs to thank our outgoing board members, Ted Shapas and Mark McLaren for their many years of service and dedication.

SRVGS Officers for 2022-24

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



Jun Update on Danville FHC ...

The Danville Family History Center (2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo) 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. ■



Notes on Last Month's Presentation

By Karen LaDuca

“Journey to the West of the West: Genealogical Treasures at the Sutro Library”

By Dvorah Lewis

The presentation by Ms. Lewis was full of information on what is in the Sutro library collection and how to access it. And there is a wealth of information in the handout which is on our website in the members only section. Sutro has a 9 century collection and they don't charge for services. No library card is needed. No food, drink or binders are allowed in the library. You may bring loose paper, flash drive and laptop and/or cellphone. Ms. Lewis left many of us anxious to make a trip to the Sutro Library. We are sorry that Ms. Lewis will be transferring to the Sacramento Library and we won't see her there. She is a very enthusiastic ambassador for the genealogy collection there. ■

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.)

Have you renewed your membership yet?

Membership renewals for 2022-2023 are **due by Jun 1st**. There are two ways for you to renew - on our website or by mail.

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.



OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Steve Watty
president@srvgensoc.org

1st Vice President:
 Scott Hefner

2nd V.P. Programs:
 Karen Olynger
 Wayne Mortensen
 Barbara Thurston
 Karen LaDuca
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3rd V.P. Membership:
 Julie and Jerry Basel
membership@srvgensoc.org

Treasurer: Jill Zollinger

Corresponding Secretary:
 Barbara Shapas
secretary@srvgensoc.org

Recording Secretary:
 Karen LaDuca

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor: Barbara Thurston

Calendar Coordinator:
 Bill George

Education Coordinator:
 Kathy Javdani

Webmaster: Bob Venter
webmaster@srvgensoc.org

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

In Jun 2022, four of 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, Jun 8th (the 2nd Wednesday), **10am - 12noon** in a Zoom meeting. You may contact Patty Erickson, the SIG leader at russpat@comcast.net.



Family Search - There will be NO meeting in Jun because our leader will be travelling. Come next month on the 2nd Monday 1-3pm. Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. You may contact SIG Leader Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Publishing - Thursday Jun 16th, (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.

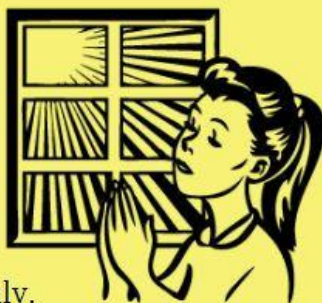


DNA - Monday Jun 20th, (the 3rd Monday) **1 - 3pm**, in a Zoom meeting. This SIG assumes a basic knowledge of Genealogical DNA testing and therefore is only open to those who have completed the SRVGS Intro to DNA class or an approved equivalent. You may contact SIG Leader Mark McLaren at greatscot@earthlink.net.



German Research - Wednesday Jun 22nd, 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. ■

God grant me the
 serenity to accept
 the ancestors I
 cannot find,
 the courage to find
 the ones I can,
 and the wisdom to
 document thoroughly.



Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Wherever you are in June, it's a great time and place to learn more 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 Sat. Jun 4th from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will meet. The focus of the meeting will be on **Using the Census**.
- On Sat. Jun 18th from 1-3 Ron Madson will lead the **Family Tree Maker SIG** with a discussion on **FTM Power Filtering**.
- On Wed. Jun 22nd at 6:30 the **Roots Magic Users Group** will meet.
- On Sat. Jul 2nd from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will meet. The focus of the meeting will be on **Vital Records**.

☞ 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 Wed. Jun 22nd 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. Jun 4th at 10 Janice Lovelace will present **On and Off the Train: Pullman Porters and Maids**.
- On Wed. Jun 16th at 6 Edward Swieczewski, Jr., will share **Have No Fear-Understanding Data for DNA is Here!**

☞ 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. Jun 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th Lindsay Fulton will discuss **Making the Most of the US Federal Census**. \$125
- On Tue. Jun 7th from 12-1 Ann Leary will share her work, **The Foundling: A Novel**.
- On Sun. Jun 12th from 12-1:30 Jonathan Krasner will explore **Lakes, Lanyards, and Learning: The Story of New England Jewish Summer Camps**.
- On Thu. Jun 16th from 1-2 Meaghan E. H. Siekman will examine **Researching Enslaved Ancestors**.
- On Fri. Jun 17th from 12:30-1:30 David Lambert will discuss **New Hampshire Resources**.
- On Mon. Jun 20th at 3 Annette Gordon-Reed will share her new work, **On Juneteenth**.
- On Thu. Jun 23rd from 12-1 Rhonda R. McClure will explore **Anniversary of the Four Courts**

Fire in Dublin.

- On Thu. Jul 7th at 10 Laura Thompson and Betsy Prioleau will discuss **Women in the Gilded Age: Two Authors' Insights.**

Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the free events will be posted on the NEHGS website the following day.

 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 31st 2:30-3:30, Kay Spears will present **Preserving your History through Scanning**
- On Tue Jun 2 6:30-7:30, a basic to intermediate session presented by Sara Allen, **Working with Autosomal DNA Matches Part 2**
- On Tue Jun 7 2:30-3:30, Melissa Tennant will present **Tips for Searching Newspapers.com**
- On Tue Jun 9 6:30-7:30, Dvorah Lewis will present **Journey to the West of the West: Genealogical Treasures - at the Sutro Library**
- On Tue Jun 14 2:30-3:30 Irene B Walters will present **Research with the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research (Houston)**
- On Thu Jun 21 6:30-7:30 Let's talk **Junteenth** will be presented.
- On Tue Jun 21 2:30-3:30 Sara Allen will present **Finding the Unknown Parents of Your Ancestor**
- On Thu Jun 23 6:30-7:30 Tina LaFreniere will present **Who Are All These People?** How you CAN figure out identities of people in your photos.

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

- On Wed. Jun 1st at 11 Michelle Leonard will examine **Using DNA to Solve Interlinked Mysteries.**
- On Fri. Jun 3rd at 11 Ari Wilkins will explore **Studying Free People of Color in Apprentice Records.**
- On Tue. Jun 7th at 7 Helen V. Smith will discuss **Government Gazettes as a Genealogical Resource.**
- On Wed. Jun 8th at 5 Elizabeth Williams Gomoll will present **Documents + DNA+ Methods + a Little Bit of Luck: Combining Tools to Find Biological Family.**
- On Tue. Jun 14th at 11 Shahar Tenebaum will share **Identifying Common Ancestors with DNA.**
- On Wed. Jun 15th at 11 Jared Hodges will share **Advanced Lightroom Techniques for Photo Editing.**
- On Fri. Jun 17th at 11 Janice Nickerson will examine **A 19th Century Ontario Enigma – A Case Study.**
- On Tue. Jun 21st at 5 Denise E Cross will discuss **Negative Evidence: Making Something Out of Nothing.**
- On Wed. Jun 22nd at 11 Paul Milner will explore **Irish Emigration to North America: Before, During and After Famine.**
- On Tue. Jun. 28th at 11 MyHeritage will offer **Celebrating Family Events with MyHeritage.**
- On Wed. Jun 29th Rick Sayre will present **A Deep Dive into the Map Collections of the Library of Congress.**
- On Fri. Jul 1st Char McCargo Bah will discuss **Ole Master Record All Us in the Good Book – Using the Slave Owner's Bible Records.**

Here are some other webinars and podcasts that are online:

- Auntie Jen's Family Trees, ajejenstrees.blogspot.com/ and ajejenstrees.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. Jun 2nd at 1:30 The Genealogical Society of Vallejo and Benicia, <https://gsvb.org>, will present Steven Morse who will share **From**

DNA to Genetic Engineering: Everything That You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask as a Zoom presentation. To register to attend send an e-mail to President@gsvb.org.

- On Sun. Jun 12th from 1–2:30 the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, <https://sfbajgs.org>, will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom. Hal Bookbinder will answer **Why Did Our Jewish Ancestor Leave a Great Place Like the Pale?** Register on the society's website.
- On Mon. Jun 13th from 7-8:30 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will host a Zoom meeting with Karen LaDuca as guest speaker. She will discuss **How to Research Your Ancestors in Italian Records**.
- On Thu. Jun 9th from 6:30–8:30 Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net>, will have a Zoom meeting featuring Melinda Kashuba. She will discuss **Using maps in Genealogical Research – Part 2**. Register on the society's website.
- On Tue. Jun 21st from 6:30-8:30 the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society, www.scchgs.org, will hold a virtual meeting. Mary Eberle will explore **Using DNA to Find Birth Parents**. 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 Dvorah Lewis as guest speaker. She will present **Journey to the West of the West: Genealogical Treasures at Sutro Library**. Register at <https://napagensoc.org/event-4539700>.
- On Fri. Jun 17th at 10 the Mt. Diablo Genealogy Society, <https://mdgs.webs.com>, will hold a hybrid meeting. Check the website for details. Email mdgs.webs@gmail.com to receive the link for the meeting.

Upcoming Special Events

- On Jun 24th and 25th the Ontario Genealogical Society (Canada) will hold the **Ontario Ancestors Virtual Conference – The Past, The Present, and The Future**. Visit <https://conference2022.orgs.on.ca> for further details.
- From Aug. 19-27 the Southern California Genealogy Society Jamboree will hold three virtual conferences. Visit <http://genealogyjamboree.org> for

further details

- From Aug. 21– 24 the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies will hold the **42nd IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy - Where We Lived** as a virtual conference. Visit www.iajgs2022.org for further detail.
- 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>. ■

Dear Ancestor,
I may not have
found you today,
but?
It's a 3-day
weekend &
I bought snacks.

4YourFamilyStory.com

DEAR ANCESTOR

Your tombstone stands among the rest;
Neglected and alone.
The name and date are chiseled out
On polished, marbled stone.

It reaches out to all who care
It is too late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist
You died and I was born.

Yet each of us are cells of you
In flesh, in blood, in bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse
Entirely not our own.

Dear Ancestor, the place you filled
One hundred years ago
Spreads out among the ones you left
Who would have loved you so.

I wonder if you lived and loved,
I wonder if you knew
That someday I would find this spot,
And come to visit you.

Twisted Twigs on Gravelled Branches

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