



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXVIII No. 2 July - 2022

July Presentation:

Tuesday July 19, 2022 at 10 am

**"My DNA Brought Me to the Forest But Where Are All the
Trees?" (VIA ZOOM)**

BY SARAH COCHRAN



cy.

Genealogical DNA tests are bringing thousands of new cousins to our attention, but many of them don't have trees yet, or the trees aren't attached to their test. Learn some new techniques for figuring out where how these individuals connect with you. (Focus is on Ancestry.com results system).

Sara is a full-time professional genealogist with over twenty-eight years of research experience. Her research has taken her into nearly every state in the USA and Ireland, Italy, Austria, and Britain. She especially enjoys breaking down brick walls for her clients, discovering the stories of black sheep ancestors, and helping individuals preserve their photographic legacy.

Sara holds a Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate, a Bachelor's Degree in Library Science, and is an alumnus of the ProGen Study Group. She is a member of multiple lineage societies, the Association of Professional Genealogists, and the Genealogical Speakers Guild. She also volunteers at the National Archives Riverside office.

You can find her online at [TheSkeletonWhisperer.com](https://www.TheSkeletonWhisperer.com).

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.

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

CONTACT INFORMATION	4
EDUCATION	5
EVENTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES	7
FHC—DANVILLE AVAILABILITY	3
MARK YOUR CALENDAR	2
NOTES OF THE LAST PRESENTATION	3
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	4
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS	7
WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS	3



President's Message

By Steve Watty



Summer memories – As we transition into the dog days of summer I am reminded of my early childhood. From my early grade school days every summer had the same schedule following the end of the school year. Living in Antioch, CA the family would pack up our belongings and head to the mountains. You

see, my father was a schoolteacher and enjoyed the whole summer away from work. In the early 50s my father and a good Army buddy bought two lots in the small town of Strawberry on highway 108 above Sonora. During the 50s and 60s family cabins were built with the use of our child labor. These were good times; “work hard and play hard” was my father’s motto.

Our morning chores had to be completed before we were able to go swimming in Pinecrest lake or fishing in the Stanislaus just a short walk down the hill. Yes, we missed our school friends back home, but made new friends in this peaceful recreation area. Throughout junior high and high school we continued this tradition. My father, a man of extreme energy, always needed a project and continued enhancing the cabin and grounds the remainder of his life. Some compared the cabin to the Winchester Mystery House as some projects were questionable and entertaining. As I grew older, I took jobs in the local grocery store and later as a lifeguard at the pool. My parents retired to our cabin after my father’s retirement and lived there until my parents’ health declined. The cabin was left to my two siblings and me upon my parents’ deaths and continued to be used with the next generation of family members. They now have their own memories to cherish. What summer memories do you have? Can you put a story together for this newsletter? We are always looking for articles from our members, so during these dog days, put pen to paper or type to the cloud and share your memories.

We have one more General Meeting before our summer break. On July 19, Sara Cochran will present “My DNA Brought Me To The Forest But Where Are All the Trees?” We will then take a break during August and reconvene on September 20 for another informative presentation by Margaret



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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.**
- 27 Tuesday –10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

October 2022

- 18 Tuesday—10am The October General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Nancy Loe on **Researching Ancestral Locations in Prussia.**
- 25 Tuesday –10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

November 2022

- 15 Tuesday—10am The November General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Sherri Hessick on **Beginning Native American Research with Emphasis on Cherokee Records**
- 22 Tuesday –10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom

December 2022

No formal meetings will be held, However the Cookie Exchange may be held—decision to be made later in the year depending on Covid restrictions. ■

Melaney on “1890 Census Is Gone ”

Please check the SRVGS website often for any updates to meeting schedules or other society news. Enjoy your summer, stay safe and healthy. ■

The Latest July Update on Danville FHC from Chris Eberts-Engstrom

The Danville Family History Center (2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo) has had an increase in patrons and that really makes our staff happy. We can accommodate 4 patrons/shift but have not yet had more than 2 patrons/shift.

Our hours remain: **Mon 10-1**
Tues eve 7-9
Wed 1-4

All staff are vaccinated and willing to mask up if it makes patron(s) comfortable. Unvaccinated patrons are asked to mask up. We continue sanitizing work stations and common surfaces between patrons.

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.■

Have you renewed your membership yet?

Membership renewals for 2022-2023 are **due by Jun 1st**. Note that an email will be sent in the first week of July to all members who have NOT renewed yet. 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.



Notes on Last Month's Presentation

By Karen LaDuca

"The Taxman Cometh or How Not To Be Frightened of Using Tax Records"

By Madeline Yanov

Ms. Yanov's 16-page handout is a treasure trove of information that is not to be missed! She outlined the type of information that can be had from tax records as well as the various types of tax records that might be available: Poll taxes (AKA head or tithe taxes), Land taxes, Personal property taxes and Federal income taxes. Since most taxes were collected yearly, they can be like a yearly "census" for men. Also noted was that in some states men "aged out" of the tax rolls so finding them missing at a certain point didn't necessarily mean that they had died. In this instance you should check the state's tax laws. The state by state list of links to tax records will be particularly useful. If you have never thought of researching in tax records, this presentation will make you anxious to try it.■

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

Alex Haley: in all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep to know our heritage—to know who we are and where we have come from.

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Scott Phillips

Jennifer Johnson-Phillips

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

In July 2022, four of the five SIGS will meet online. Note that the Irish/Scottish SIG is meeting at 2pm this month. The Publishing SIG will not meet in July but will meet in August. All SIG members receive emails from their leaders on how to join each meeting. See details below.



Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday, July 13th, (the 2nd Wednesday), 2-4pm in a Zoom meeting. You may contact Patty Erickson, the SIG leader at russpat@comcast.net.



Family Search - Monday, July 11th, 1-3pm, (the 2nd Monday), . Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. You may contact SIG Leader Bill George at wiliamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Publishing – Will NOT meet in July but WILL meet in August on the 18th (confirm exact date with Francie or Kathy), 10:30-12noon. 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 18th, 1-3pm, (the 3rd Monday), in a Zoom meeting. This SIG assumes a basic knowledge of Genealogical DNA testing and therefore is only open to those who have completed the SRVGS Intro to DNA class or an approved equivalent. You may contact SIG Leader Mark McLaren at greatscot@earthlink.net.



German Research – Wednesday July 27th, 10-12noon, (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. ■

**SRVGS is on Facebook!**

Click on the link below or go to:

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



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani



It's July, a perfect time for vacations and learning 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. July 2nd from 10-12, the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will meet. The focus of the meeting will be on **Vital Records**.
- On Sat. July 16th from 1-3, Ron Madson will lead the **Family Tree Maker SIG** with a discussion on **Media Best Practices & All New Way Scan In For FTM**.
- On Wed. Jul 26th at 6:30, the **Roots Magic Users Group** will meet.
- On Sat. Aug 6th from 10-12, the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will meet. The focus of the meeting will be on **Organizing Your Family History Work**.
- On Tue. Aug 9th at 6-7:30, Lisa Gorrell will discuss **Researching Your Farming Ancestors**.

☞ 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. Jul 27th from 6-8, the **African American Research Workshop** will meet on Zoom. See the library website for the Zoom link.

- Coming in the fall **Chinese Research** will be 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 presentation is:

- On Wed. July 20th at 6, Michael Strauss will share **Deeds Not Words: Records of the Merchant Marines**.

☞ 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 Wed. July 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th from 6-7:30 Rhonda R. McClure will discuss **Researching Your French-Canadian Ancestors**. \$115
- On Thu. July 7th from 12-1, David All Lambert will explore **Researching War of 1812 Veteran Ancestors**.
- On Thu. July 7th from 10-11, Esther Crain will moderate **Women in the Gilded Age: Two Authors' Insights**.
- On Fri. July 8th from 1-2:15, Curt DiCamillo will moderate **Early Art Collecting in Renaissance Venice**.
- On Tue. July 12th, 19th, and 26th from 6-7:30, there will be a series of classes on **Building Your Genealogical Skills**. \$85
- On Thu. July 14th from 3-4, Bill Griffeth will review his new book, **Strangers No More: A Memoir**.
- On Thu. Jul 23rd from 11-12:30, Rachel Adams, Sally Benny, Chloe Jones and Amanda Opalenik

will present **Digitizing Your Family History Collections**. \$85

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.

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

- On Fri. July 1st at 2pm, Char McCargo Bah will share **Ole Master Record All Us in the Good Book – Using the Slave Owner's Bible Records**.
- On Tue. July 5th at 7, Carol Baxter will discuss **The Madness of 'Mc' Surnames**.
- On Wed. July 6th at 11, Jonny Perl will answer **What's New at DNA Painter**.
- On Tue. July 12th at 11, Gal Zrihen will delve into **Exploring Your Ethnicities on MyHeritage**.
- On Wed. July 13th at 5, Janet Thomson will explore **Montana Genealogy Treasures**.
- On Fri. July 15th at 11, Henrietta Martinez Christmas will examine **Colonial Spanish & Mexican Censuses & Census Substitutes**.
- On Tue. July 19th at 5, Carolyn L. Whitton will present **Ancestors' Religions in the US**.
- On Wed. July 20th at 11, Jared Hodges will share **One Hour to Master Your Camera Settings**.
- On Tue. July 26th at 11, Tal Erlichman will discuss **MyHeritage's Latest Photo Innovations**.
- On Wed. July 27th at 11, DearMYRTLE will answer **Is It Possible to Retire From Genealogy?**

gy?

On Tue. Aug 2nd at 7, Benjamin Hollister will present **Finding Mob: Researching Indigenous Australian Family History**.

 Here are some other webinars and podcasts that are online:

- Auntie Jen's Family Trees, AuntieJenTrees.blogspot.com/ and AuntieJenTrees.blogspot.com/p/1950-census.html
- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio [https://extremegenes.com/blog](http://extremegenes.com/blog)
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast www.genealogyguys.com
- Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems [https://lusalouisecooke.com/podcasts](http://lusalouisecooke.com/podcasts)
- Lisa also has a genealogy chat on YouTube at 9 am on Thursdays entitled **ElevenSes**.
- Thomas MacEntee's www.genealogybargains.com
- Judy Russell's www.legalgenealogist.com
- Family History Fanatics www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/blog
- Connie Knox [https://genealogytv.org](http://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](http://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. Jul 7th at 1:30, The Genealogical Society of Vallejo and Benicia, <https://gsvb.org>, will present Jefferey Vaillant in a Zoom format. He will discuss **Methodology & Thorough Research to Uncover a Family Secret** as a Zoom presentation. To register to attend send an e-mail to President@gsvb.org
- On Mon. July 11th from 7-8:30, the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will host a Zoom meeting with Gena Philibert-Ortega as guest speaker. She will share **The WPA: Sources for Your Genealogy**. Register on the society's website.
- On Thu. July 14th from 6:30–8:30, Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net>, will have a Zoom meeting featuring Gena Philibert-Ortega. She will discuss **The Roots That Tragedy Leaves Behind**. Register on the society's website.
- On Tue. July 19th from 6:30-8:30, the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society, www.scchgs.org, will hold a virtual meeting. David Ouimette will present **Celebrating Family History Around the Globe**. Register on the society's website.
- On Thu. July 21st at 1, the Napa Genealogical Society, <https://napagensoc.org>, will present a pre-recorded presentation from American Ancestors on **Creating a Research Plan for Cluster Research**. This appears to be for members only.
- On Wed. July 20th at 10, the Mt. Diablo Genealogy Society, <https://mdgs.webs.com>, will hold a hybrid meeting. Gena Philibert-Ortega will explore **Maybe I'm to Blame: The Silent Troubles of Female Ancestors**. Email mdgs.webs@gmail.com to receive the link for the meeting.

At my age, I've realized two things. You can't teach common sense...and you can't fix stupid!

Upcoming Special Events

- 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>. ■



If you take a trip to Salt Lake City and you don't ski...you might be a genealogist.

Ed Note: a reminder to all that there will be NO newsletter published for August. Expect the next issue at the beginning of September.