



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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A Message from Our President



During these trying times with self-isolation and social distancing it is understandable that our members are concerned about the effects of the current coronavirus. This note is written only one week into the county's extreme measures to contain and hopefully flatten the curve on new virus cases. The future is unknown, but the estimated timeline back to normalcy is changing daily. Since "older" people, which are most of our members, are the most vulnerable SRVGS will continue to follow public health mandates. These would include eliminating the monthly General and SIG group meetings until we are given the all-clear signal. We will attempt to update the membership on any society changes and updated news through our website, blast emails and the monthly newsletter. It is our hope that our membership and the public at large can weather this event and return to their normal lives, sooner rather than later.

This downtime, while in self-isolation, provides everyone with ample time to complete the 2020 Federal Census. I received my census form in the mail on March 19 with the magic code allowing me to login online and complete the questionnaire. The process was simple, quick and really, really disappointing. I know I will not be around when the results of my input are available (in 72 years) but I know my descendants will be frustrated with the amount of information contained in this census. Oh sure, they will know where I lived, my proper name, age, and the names/relationships of anyone else living at my residence but very little else. Nothing was asked about my birth location or my father/mother and where they were born, my occupation or income questions, the type of details we treasure as family historians. At least our predecessors were not afraid to ask the hard questions on previous census forms and were able to provide a more detailed snapshot into the lives of our ancestors, those that we research today. Wishing all our members a safe return to our future social gatherings.

Steve Watty



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani



Hope this article finds you well and as always ready to learn more about family history. Now with no outside activities to distract us, we have an opportunity this month to focus on webinars, blogs, podcasts and books. This is also a good time to examine in depth the websites of the various societies that we have joined and the societies that are listed in past education articles. Most have specific treasures and leads that we can explore. Let's start:

 You can check the Family Search website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars. April's numerous webinars are listed at: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

 The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), www.scsgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- On Sat., Apr. 4th from 10-12 Julie Goucher will present **Foundations to Researching in Europe**.
- On Wed., Apr. 15th from 6-7 Jill Morelli will explore **Dissecting a Civil War Pension- Union & Confederate**.
- On Sat., May 2nd from 10-11 David Dowell will discuss **When Prussian Grandpa Contributed No DNA, Can We Find Out Who Did?**

SCGS also offers the following webinars at their website for free to the public.

- **Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides National Archives** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **Neither Filmed or Scanned: NARA Treasurers Await** by Kerry Bartels
- **Military Records at the National Archives** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **The Many Facets of the National Archives Website** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes. ►

- **How to Get the Most Out of a Genealogy Conference** by George Morgan.
- **National Archives Website Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.

 The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), www.Americanancestors.org/education/online 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

- On Thurs., Apr. 16th at 12 Jean Maguire will present **Get the Most from American Ancestors...from home!**
- On Thurs., April 30th at 12 Curt DiCamillo will share **Treasures of New England Historic Genealogical Society**.

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

 The National Archives, www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/events offers a Genealogy Tutorial, Genealogy Research topics and a variety of charts and forms.

 The DAR Library at www.dar.org offers two different types of programming. The Library Lecture Series features authors discussing their historical work and the Genealogy 101 Series offers presentations on a variety of genealogical topics led by the professional genealogists on staff at the DAR or by other experienced genealogists. Both series are held throughout the month on Saturdays and are free to the ►

public. See the upcoming schedule here:
www.dar.org/libraryevents



Ancestry.com offers online courses. Some are FREE, while others require a subscription.

- You can READ about it at: <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy>
- And at: <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy/courses>
- Also at: <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy/courses/skills>



Legacy offers numerous free webinars every month. Go to www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register. March's webinars include:

- On Wed., April 1st at 11 Mags Gaulden will share **Betty Jeans Story – Forensic Genealogy, DNA and Adoption.**
- On Wed., April 8th at 5 Michael L. Strauss will explore **Decoding Social Security: Providing Benefits to our Ancestors.**
- On Fri., Apr. 10th, at 11 Rick Sayre will examine **The General Land Office Website - A Genealogical Gem.**
- On Tue., Apr. 14th, at 11 James Tanner will present **Jumpstart Your MyHeritage Family Tree with Instant Discoveries.**
- On Wed., Apr. 15th, at 11 Janice Lovelace will explore **Was Great Grandmother Really Native American?**
- On Tue., Apr. 21st, at 5 Rebecca Whitman Koford will share **Maryland State Archives Decoded.**
- On Wed. Apr. 22nd, at 11 Rick Voight will give an **Introduction to Vivid-Pix RESTORE**
- On Tue.. Apr. 28th at 11 Ran Snir will examine **Working with DNA Segments on MyHeritage.** ►

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SRVGS is on Facebook!

Click on the link below or go to:

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

- On Wed., Apr. 29th at 11 Mark Lowe will explore Road Crews and Jury Selection: **How Do We Find Where Our Ancestor Lived and Their Neighbors.**
- On Fri., May 1st at 11 Wayne Shephard will present **The Future is Still in the Past: An Introduction to Online Parish Clerks in the United Kingdom.**



Here are some other webinars and podcasts that are online:

- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio
<http://extremegenes.com/>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast:
<http://genealogyguys.com/>
- Genealogy Boot Camp:
http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm ►

- Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems
<http://lisalouisecooks.com/podcasts/>
- Thomas MacEntee's
www.abundantgenealogy.com
- Judy Russell's:
www.legalgenealogist.com
- blog.familyhistoryfanatics.com

On-line Books and More

Let's learn and enjoy good free books on numerous topics and much more at Internet Archive www.archive.org. This treasure of a site has launched **The National Emergency Library** with over 1.4 million volumes. This emergency library will be open through June 30th. Go to: <https://archive.org/account/signup>

American Ancestors, www.americanancestors.org, is currently providing free access to everyone of their **Digital Collections**. Go to library@nehgs.org ■

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FIRST CLASS MAIL