



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXVI No. 1 June - 2020

This Month's Presentation:

June 16, 2020

INTERVIEWING YOUR FAMILY

Presented by: GRANT DIN
(This will be via ZOOM video)

Grant's presentation will focus on the preparation for the interview, how to be ready for unexpected opportunities and the unexpected findings. He also has tips for recording the interview.

Grant Din has been researching his and other families' histories for about 40 years, since he was told by a cousin that he is in the 36th generation of Gongs from his ancestral village in Southern China. His research has taken him all over California and to Asia. He has worked most of his life in the non-profit sector, including work for the Angel Island immigration Station Foundation, and currently consults on community fundraising, historical, and genealogy projects. Grant completed the Certificate in Genealogy Research from Boston University and moderates an online group on Chinese American family history research. He has spoken to organizations and libraries throughout California, loves to help others find their roots, and his articles have been published in the newsletters of the National Genealogical Society and California Genealogical Society (CGS). Grant recently became a member of the board of directors of CGS and was on the team of researchers for an upcoming film about the Chinese seamen who survived the Titanic, called *The Six*.

Information about our ZOOM video

Please refer to Steve Watty's May 17th e-mail message for preliminary information regarding this ZOOM video presentation. Steve's message also included an attachment with Frequently Ask Questions. Look for additional details regarding this meeting and a link to connect online to be provided a few days before the meeting via the blast email system to all SRVGS members. For last-minute help, call Steve Watty at 925-766-6706 or e-mail Bill George at: williamcgeorge@gmail.com ■

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

June 2020

- 2 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held via ZOOM video.
- 16 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The June General meeting will be via ZOOM video

July 2020

- 7 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held at a place and method yet to be determined. All members are welcome.
- 21 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting is to be determined ■

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

We are working through "Shelter in Place" guidelines due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and on site meetings where people physically attend, have ceased. Some SIG groups are going on-line with SIG members notified by their SIG leaders. For now (May 28, 2020) the FamilySearch, Irish, DNA and German SIGs will be meeting in June on-line via ZOOM at their "normal" meeting date/times. Publishing and Legacy SIGs have no current plans to meet. To be safe, check with your SIG leader if you are planning on attending any SIG meetings in June, 2020.

An honest, poor, but otherwise unremarkable man and his loving, tender-hearted wife, though long forgotten and lost to history, may have been the ancestors who are most worthy of our admiration today.— **Laurence Overmire**

[Digging for Ancestral Gold: The Fun and Easy Way to Get Started on Your Genealogy Quest](#)



President's Message

By Steve Watty



I sure hope that this message in the SRVGS June Newsletter finds all of our members safe and healthy. The Coronavirus experience is something like we have never seen before, but we adapt. Many of us took the stay-at-home health mandate seriously. The published results for this self-isolation, i.e., limited illnesses and minimal deaths, in the surrounding area are encouraging. Some additional retail and manufacturing, houses of worship, and best of all golf courses are beginning to open. Unfortunately, beauty parlors, libraries and large gatherings are still not allowed. Because of these limitations, our physical general meeting scheduled for June 16, 2020 has been cancelled. In its place, as previously announced, we are going to experiment with an online Zoom meeting. We anticipate short opening remarks beginning at 10:00 a.m., followed by a presentation provided by Grant Din on *"Interviewing Your Family"*. A link to this Zoom meeting will be sent to the membership a few days before this June 16, 2020 online meeting.

The election results are in for our 2020-2021 fiscal year. Not surprisingly, all board member candidates (all ran unopposed) were elected to their office. I thank all our members that returned their ballots using the many options available.

The SRVGS Newsletter editor position will transition from Bob Venter to Barbara Thurston beginning with the September 2020 publication. The Society and all the members owe Bob a special "Thank You" for the many years he organized and published our newsletter. His diligence toward contributor timelines has to be commended. Bob's professional knowledge in the presentation of the subject matter produced a monthly newsletter that was always appreciated by the membership and the local genealogy community alike. Thank you, Bob, for your dedication to SRVGS and contribution to the growth of our society. ■



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

I hope this article finds you well as we start to gently modify our shelter in place routine. Still, with few outside activities to distract us, we continue to have opportunities to focus on webinars, blogs, podcasts, books and more. Also, it remains 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.

June's numerous webinars are listed at: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family History Library Classes and Webinars](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars)



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

- On Wed., Jun. 17th from 6-7 Thomas MacEntee will explore **The Other Census- US State Censuses**
- On Wed., Jul. 15th from 6-7 Seema Kenney will discuss **Julian to Gregorian: When and How Our Calendar Changed.**

SCGS also offers the following webinars at their website 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. Register online.

- On Tues., Jun. 2nd from 1-2:15 Phil Brown will discuss **Return to the Catskills.**
- On Fri., Jun. 5th from 1-2:15. Curt DiCamillo will explore **The English Garden: Perfection on Earth.**
- On Mon. Jun. 8th from 3-4 author Honor Moore will share her book **Our Revolution: a Mother and Daughter at Mid-Century.**
- On Thurs., Jun. 11th from 12-1 Ann Lawthers will present **First Steps in Family History.**
- On Tues., Jun. 16th from 1-2 Michael Hoberman will examine **From Teeming Zion's Fertile Womb: The Curious Career of Judah Monis.**
- On Thurs., Jun. 18th from 12 -1 Rhonda R. McClure will discuss **Getting Started in Portuguese Genealogy.**
- On Tues., Jun. 30th from 1-2 Michael Hoberman will explore **Jewish Life in Rural New England.** ►

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. June's webinars include:

- On Tues., Jun. 2nd at 7, Paul Milner will present **Sources for Landed and Titled People**.
- On Wed., Jun. 3rd at 11, Jonny Perl will answer **What are the Odds? An online tool that can help solve DNA Puzzles**.
- On Tues., Jun. 9th, at 11, James Tanner will discuss **How Members of the LDS Church Can Benefit from the Family Search / MyHeritage Partnership**.
- On Wed., Jun. 10th at 5, Gail Bankenau will explore **Using DNA to Answer Real Research Questions: Three Case Studies**. ►

- On Fri., Jun. 12th at 11, Diahn Southard will share **Your DNA Questions Answered Live with Diahn**.
- On Tue., Jun. 16th at 5, David Ouimette will explore **Genealogical Treasures in Irish Archives**.
- On Wed., Jun. 17th at 11, Joshua Taylor will present **Bridging the Gap: Finding Ancestors in the United States between 1780 and 1840**.
- On Tue., Jun. 23rd at 11, Daniel Horowitz will discuss **Working with SuperSearch to Find the Correct Historical Record**.
- On Wed., Jun. 24th at 11, Colleen Robledo Greene will share **Utilizing the HathiTrust Digital Library for Family History Record**.
- On Tue., Jun. 30th at 7, Fiona Brooker will examine **The 1939 Register for Family Historians**.
- On Wed., Jul. 1st at 11, Jill Morelli will explore **Finding a Father for Molly – Using DNA**.

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/>
- Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems: <http://lisalouisecooks.com/podcasts/>

Lisa also has an hour genealogy chat on YouTube at 9 am on Thursdays entitled Elevenses.

- Genealogy Boot Camp: http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm
- 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 every one of their Digital Collections. Go to library@nehgs.org

ConferenceKeeper.org, www.ConferenceKeeper.org, lists conferences, events, calls for papers, contests, grants, volunteer opportunities, tours and more. ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani

Please note that some conferences are opting to hold virtual presentations instead of their usual on-site conference. Visit the conference site for registration and updates.

⇒ From Sept. 2-5th at Kansas City, the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) <http://fgs.org> will hold the conference **Blazing Trails In the Heart of America**. As of now this conference is still listed as on-site.

⇒ From Sept. 10- 12th at Albany, New York the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society will hold the **2020 New York Family History Conference**. Virtual participation is available at: www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org and click on events. ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

Let's all extend a warm Welcome to our newest member

Judy McGriff

Please look for her at our meetings and welcome her to our Society.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Steve Watty
president@srvgensoc.org

1st Vice President:
Ted Shapas

2nd V.P. Programs:
Wayne Mortensen
Karen Olynger
Barbara Thurston
programs@srvgensoc.org

3rd V.P. Membership:
Jerry & Julia Basel
membership@srvgensoc.org

Corresponding Secretary:
Barbara Shapas
secretary@srvgensoc.org

Recording Secretary:
Russ Erickson

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter
webmaster@srvgensoc.org

Calendar Coordinator:
Bill George

Education Coordinator:
Kathy Javdani

Webmaster: Bob Venter
webmaster@srvgensoc.org



SRVGS is on Facebook!

Click on the link below or go to:

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

I Am My Own Grandpa!*author unknown*

Many many years ago when I was twenty three, I got married to a widow who was pretty as could be. This widow had a grown-up daughter Who had hair of red. My father fell in love with her, And soon the two were wed. This made my dad my son-in-law And changed my very life. My daughter was my mother, For she was my father's wife. To complicate the matters worse, Although it brought me joy, I soon became the father Of a bouncing baby boy. My little baby then became A brother-in-law to dad. And so became my uncle, Though it made me very sad. For if he was my uncle, Then that also made him brother To the widow's grown-up daughter Who, of course, was my stepmother. Father's wife then had a son, Who kept them on the run. And he became my grandson, For he was my daughter's son. My wife is now my mother's mother And it makes me blue. Because, although she is my wife, She's my grandmother too. If my wife is my grandmother, Then I am her grandchild. And every time I think of it, It simply drives me wild. For now I have become The strangest case you ever saw. As the husband of my grandmother, I am my own grandpa!

Elusive Ancestor*by Merrell Kenworthy*

I went searching for an ancestor. I cannot find him still. He moved around from place to place and did not leave a will. He married where a courthouse burned. He mended all his fences. He avoided any man who came to take the U.S. Census.

He always kept his luggage packed, this man who had no fame. And every 20 years or so, this rascal changed his name. His parents came from Europe.

They should be upon some list of passengers to U.S.A., but somehow they got missed.

And no one else in this world is searching for this man. So, I play geneasolitaire to find him if I can. I'm told he's buried in a plot, with tombstone he was blessed; but the weather took engraving, and some vandals took the rest.

He died before the county clerks decided to keep records. No Family Bible has emerged, in spite of all my efforts. To top it off this ancestor, who caused me many groans, Just to give me one more pain, betrothed a girl named JONES.

**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305**

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