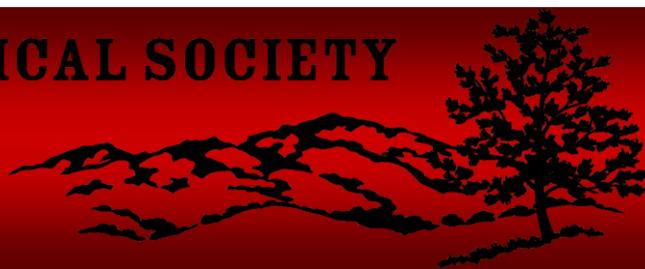


# MT. DIABLO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## The Digger



February 2015

### 2014/15 MDGS BOARD MEMBERS



**President**  
Stan Wells

**Vice-President**  
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### Free MDGS Workshop to Advance Your Skills

We've had such a tremendous response to our upcoming free Hands-On Genealogy Workshop! Since we want to keep the sessions small to enable one-on-one assistance and support, we will be scheduling additional sessions to accommodate everyone who is interested.

This 2 hour workshop will help beginners get organized with basic genealogy forms – Pedigree Charts, Family Group Sheets, etc.

If you've wanted to start a genealogy program on your computer, we will introduce you to software that will organize your data and allow you to print reports.

Or maybe you've already started a tree online, but have questions or problems. Bring your information on your laptop, or a flash drive, or in documents or books, and we'll try to help.

Although our first workshop in March is full, please let us know if you would like to participate and we'll sign you up for one of our future sessions. If you would like to register or would like more information, please call **Laura Sanchez at 925-946-1620.**

Starting in March, nominations will be accepted for our Board of Directors. The job entails meeting once a month and volunteering to help on various committees. Please consider donating a little time to make our society the best it can be. Contact President Stan Wells at [stanwells@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stanwells@sbcglobal.net).



For questions or information about MDGS, please contact Stan Wells at [stanwells@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stanwells@sbcglobal.net).

# MDGS News



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Marcia Cutter**

*Researching:* Dudley, Hohusen, Heida (AZ, KS)

**Gretchen Hansen**

**Judith Watkins**

*Researching:* Norfleet (KY); Bresnahan (Ontario, CN)

## It's Not Too Late – Renew Now!

We're excited to say that almost 80% of our members have renewed. Our Board works hard to bring our members new information to help with their family history research.

However, if you haven't renewed this year, this may be the last Digger newsletter we will be sending you. It's not too late. If you've enjoyed our speakers and The Digger, complete and mail the enclosed application -- or bring it to the next meeting.

## February Speaker

The featured speaker at our February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will be Virginia Kysh, reporting on her recent trip to Salt Lake City to attend the 2015 RootsTech Conference, a three day event which combines the latest innovations and information in genealogy and technology.

RootsTech is the world's largest family history event with over 200 classes, lectures and demonstrations to find and preserve your family history. You are sure to hear about some great new tips to help with your research. Also see the article in this issue of the Digger with links to some of the free conference lectures.

## MDGS 2015 Speakers

The Program Committee has been working diligently to find interesting and popular speakers for our upcoming meetings. Here are some of the confirmed speakers and topics.

- Mar 20: Shirley Riemer, "German Genealogy Research"
- Apr 17: To Be Announced
- May 15: Karla Henderlong and Madeline Yanov, "The Taxman Found your Ancestor, Can You?"
- Jun 19: To Be Announced
- Jul 17: Francine Lloyd, "Daughters of the American Revolution"

## MDGS Treasurer's Report – February 2014

December Balance	1944.78
<u>Income:</u>	
From Membership Dues/Donations.....	782.00
<u>Expenses:</u>	
January Speaker and Meeting Setup.....	95.00
Current Balance	2631.78



# Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society

## 2015 Membership Application

*Your membership runs from January through December. Memberships renewed after September 2014 will be applied to 2015 dues.*

*Please Print Clearly*

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Rossmoor? \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MDGS has my permission to publish my name, contact info and surnames/locations I'm researching in an MDGS member directory.  YES  NO

Individual membership \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional support for the Digger is appreciated ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount paid ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues entitle you to attend monthly MDGS meetings and to receive The Digger newsletter. Please attach your payment and send to **MDGS, P.O. Box 2062, Walnut Creek, CA 94595**, or bring with you to the monthly meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

### MEMBER INFORMATION

Surnames and locations you are researching:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MDGS has my permission to publish the surnames & locations I'm researching in The Digger.  
 YES  NO

Would you be interested in participating in a "Hands On" Workshop to learn new ways to organize your research online?  YES  NO

Brick walls or problems:

\_\_\_\_\_

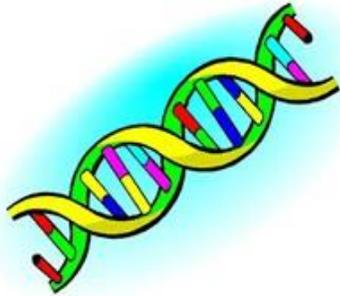
Would you be interested in serving on our Board or volunteering in other club areas?

\_\_\_\_\_

# In The News

## Sorting out the DNA Tests Available for Genealogy -- Which One Should I Use?

By Kimberly Powell, [About: Genealogy](#), July 29, 2014



DNA tests are quickly gaining in popularity as a tool used by genealogists to help corroborate or expand their family tree. Increased test options and a wider variety of testing companies offer many options, but also confusion, for genealogists. Which DNA test will best help you answer the questions you have about your ancestry?

What's most important for the genealogist is which part of your DNA is being examined. DNA tests can help you learn about your paternal and maternal ancestry. There are also tests that can help you determine whether you are of African, Asian, European or Native American descent.

### Y-DNA Tests

**Used For:** paternal lineage only

**Available To:** males only

Y-DNA tests specific markers on the Y-Chromosome of your DNA known as Short Tandem Repeat, or STR markers. Because females do not carry the Y-chromosome, the Y-DNA test can only be used by males. It passes down directly from father to son.

The results from the tested STR markers determines your Y-DNA haplotype, a unique genetic code for your paternal ancestral line. Your haplotype will be the same as, or extremely similar to, all of the males who have come before you on your paternal line -- your father, grandfather, great-grandfather, etc. Therefore, once you have tested your Y-DNA STR markers, you can use your haplotype to verify whether two individuals are descendants from the same distant paternal ancestor, as well as potentially find connections to others who are linked to your paternal lineage. A common application of the Y-DNA test is the [Surname Project](#), which brings together the results of many tested males with the same surname to help determine how (and if) they are related to each other.

Learn more: [Y-DNA Testing for Genealogy](#)

### mtDNA Tests

**Used For:** Deep (distant) maternal lineage

**Available To:** females; males testing their mother's lineage

[Mitochondrial DNA \(mtDNA\)](#) is contained in the cytoplasm of the cell, rather than the nucleus, and is only passed by a mother to both male and female offspring without any mixing. This means that your mtDNA is the same as your mother's mtDNA, which is the same as her mother's mtDNA, and so on. mtDNA changes very slowly so it can determine general relatedness better than close relationships. If two people have an exact match in their mtDNA, then there is a very good chance they share a common maternal ancestor, but it can often be hard to determine if this is a recent ancestor or one who lived hundreds or even thousands of years ago. You can also use an mtDNA test to learn more about your ethnic ancestry, or to trace your maternal lineage to one of the Seven Daughters of Eve, prehistoric women who shared a common maternal ancestor named Mitochondrial Eve.

A range of mtDNA tests are available that analyze different regions of the mtDNA sequence. It is important to keep in mind that a male's mtDNA comes only from his mother and is not passed on to his offspring. For this reason, the mtDNA test is only useful to females, or for a male testing his mother's lineage.

Learn more: [mtDNA Testing for Genealogy](#)

**Sorting out the DNA Tests Available for Genealogy continued...**

# In The News

## Sorting out the DNA Tests Available for Genealogy continued...

### Autosomal DNA Tests

**Used For:** Ethnic ancestry, plus relative connections on *all* branches of your [family tree](#).

**Available To:** males and females

[Autosomal DNA \(atDNA\)](#) tests look at [genetic markers](#) found in the 22 chromosome pairs which contain randomly mixed DNA from both parents, basically all chromosomes except the sex chromosome, although some testing companies are now also providing data from the X chromosome as part of this test as well. Autosomal DNA contains almost the entire genome, or blueprint, for the human body; where we find the genes that determine our physical characteristics, from hair color to disease susceptibility. Because autosomal DNA is inherited by both men and women from both parents and all four grandparents, it can be used to test for relationships in all family lines.

As a genealogy application, autosomal testing was originally introduced as a tool for determining biogeographical origins, or the percentage of various population groups (African, European, etc.) that exist in your DNA. Labs are now, however, offering extended family autosomal testing, which can help verify biological relationships through the grandparent generation, and potentially point to ancestral matches back as far as five or six generations, and sometimes beyond.

Learn more: [Autosomal Testing for Genealogy](#)

### Which DNA Testing Company Should I Use?

The answer, as in many areas of genealogy, is "it depends". Because different people test with different companies, many of which maintain their own databases of tested individuals, you will achieve the greatest chance of useful matches by either being tested, or sharing your DNA results, with as many companies as possible. The big three used by the vast majority of genealogists are [AncestryDNA](#), [Family Tree DNA](#), and [23andme](#). [Geno 2.0](#), sold by National Geographic, is also popular, but it tests purely for ethnic heritage (deep ancestry) and is not useful for learning about possible ancestors during a reasonable genealogical timeframe.

Some companies do allow you to enter results from outside DNA tests into their database, while others do not. Most allow you to download your raw data, and if the company does not offer this feature you may be better off looking elsewhere. If you can only afford to be tested by one company, then the International Society of Genetic Genealogists (ISOGG) has fairly up-to-date charts and information in their wiki for comparing the testing offered by different companies to help you choose the right company and test for your goals:

- [Y-DNA testing comparison chart](#)
- [mtDNA testing comparison chart](#)
- [Autosomal DNA testing comparison chart](#)

See Also: [Factors to Consider When Selecting a DNA Testing Company](#)



# In The News

## Getting Out of Your Genealogy Rut

Excerpt from Curt B. Witcher, *Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library*, January 31, 2015

Genealogists often joke about the many variations to the “file by pile” method they use to organize research notes, correspondence, photographs and other family documents. Whether it’s a virtual pile characterized by numerous poorly labeled and inconsistently used folders found on various drives and USB devices, or an actual pile of papers across the dining room table, we are pretty confident that this is not a best practice. The challenges of deploying such a practice are many. Key among those challenges is that “file by pile” tends to put us in a rut. There are techniques which can help one get out of this “genealogical rut.”



**First, commit to being more of an investigator than a stuff-gatherer.** If someone came to your home or office, would the evidence found convict you of being a genealogical investigator or a person who simply collects stuff? Tending toward being more of an investigator would mean that one had a consistent routine that is followed in research activities: gathering evidence, properly and completely recording that evidence with all appropriate sourcing, and analyzing that evidence to uncover new research leads. All three activities (gather, record, analyze) can help one get out of the rut of not finding as much data and not remembering whether a particular hypothesis about who our ancestors are has been examined.

**Genealogy Do-Overs.** Recently I had the great benefit of hearing Thomas MacEntee talk about “genealogy do-overs.” One picks an ancestor and starts over by examining every document gathered about that person as well as all the conclusions that were drawn from the data in those documents. We know how easy it is to make assumptions and fall into comfortable ruts by looking for the same kinds of records and interpreting different pieces of data in the same manner. Although Thomas’ thirteen week online course has concluded, there are many interesting tips one can find on his website: [www.genealogydo-over.com](http://www.genealogydo-over.com).

**Doing the History Eliminates the Mystery.** I have a presentation I give at genealogy conferences and seminars titled, “Doing the History Eliminates the Mystery.” In it, I emphasize how enlightening, and really critically important, it is to not focus so narrowly on gathering expected or typical documents, but rather, to take appropriate time to explore the history of both the geographic location and time period in which one finds one’s ancestors living. Knowing why an area was settled and the reasons for towns being established is vital in knowing what records were kept and during what time periods, where individuals sold their wares, and where ancestors may have found spouses, or escaped from the brutalities of life in a particular region. Knowing if there was “gold fever,” a war being waged, a depression impacting abilities to provide the most basic food and shelter—all and more are critical in setting one’s ancestors in the proper context and in setting-up the most research success.

**More Genealogical Education.** Still another rut-buster is to treat yourself to more genealogical education. It’s easy to say you only have enough time and resources to gather records. The truth is one can’t afford not to engage in lifelong learning in genealogy. There are engaging learning opportunities in nearly every corner of the country. In just over a week, the Federation of Genealogical Societies and RootsTech are sponsoring a huge genealogical and technological education event in Salt Lake City. More than fifteen thousand are already registered. Too late for you to attend in person? No problem—numerous sessions are being streamed live with more being available for online viewing shortly after the conference. (*Digger Editor’s Note: see page 8 of this issue for links to these online talks*).

Finally, take full advantage of technology by challenging yourself to sign up this year for a genealogy webinar on a topic you know nothing about—that, too, will get you out of your genealogical rut. I know you will be surprised at what you learn, and very glad you did.

# For Your Information

## **\*\*Important\*\* -- Digging For Your Roots 2015**

*From CCCGS Newsletter, Diablo Descendants, February 2015*

For those of you who may not have heard, the iconic 'Digging for Your Roots' seminar **has been cancelled**. The Concord Family History Center has put on the day-long seminar every October since 1993 and has decided to discontinue it. Efforts are being made to continue it, perhaps elsewhere. Please let us know your thoughts on this. This well-attended seminar 'made a difference' to thousands of genealogists over the years and will be greatly missed. It was where I first heard about our society and more than a few of our members have taught classes there over the years. Board member Jackie Hein has our thanks and appreciation for heading it up all these years.

Karla Henderlong, President, Contra Costa County Genealogical Society  
[cccgs.ca@gmail.com](mailto:cccgs.ca@gmail.com)

## **"Who Do You Think You Are?" Celebrity Guests Announced for Spring 2015**



TLC has announced the celebrity guests for the Spring 2015 season of "[Who Do You Think You Are?](#)", the series that explores the family histories and genealogies of famous folks.

Here they are, in order of expected appearance on the series:

- TV personality [Julie Chen](#) takes the series to China.
- Singer [Josh Groban](#) learns about an astronomer ancestor.
- Actor [Angie Harmon](#) learns a family member might have fought under George Washington.
- Actor [Sean Hayes](#) discovers his father's side of the family in Ireland.
- Actor and director [Tony Goldwyn](#) explores the maternal side of his family.
- Actor [America Ferrara](#) traces roots in Honduras.
- Actor [Bill Paxton](#) learns about his family history in the American Revolution.
- Singer [Melissa Etheridge](#) searches for paternal ancestors in Quebec.

The series will premiere **Sunday, March 8** (a different date from TLC's previously announced Feb. 24).

## **Do You Hear What Your Records Are Saying?**

*From Ancestry.com, Insider Scoop, January 2015*

You've copied the facts from that new record, but have you heard the story it's trying to tell? Join Juliana for 5 minutes for tips on teasing those stories out of the records you've found. [Click here](#).



## **"Genealogy Roadshow" on PBS**

Have you been watching the second season of this popular TV show that started in January? From descendants of the infamous pirate Blackbeard to heroes of the Holocaust, PBS' GENEALOGY ROADSHOW is broadcasting from St. Louis, New Orleans and Philadelphia and uncovering many family secrets.

The last regular episode of this season is on Tuesday, February 17. But, if you miss that one, look for the upcoming episode **Best of Genealogy Roadshow (February 24 at 8:00pm)**. This episode will feature an array of the most intriguing stories from both seasons of the series. From immigrant voyages and famous ancestors to murder mysteries and family connections, the episode will revisit the journeys in cities across the country as people uncover their family histories.

# For Your Information

## RootsTech 2015 Sessions You Can Watch Online for Free

Feeling left out because you couldn't go to this week's RootsTech conference in Salt Lake City (Feb 12-14)? Well, you have two opportunities to obtain much of the information that was presented. This month's speaker at our MDGS meeting on Feb 20 is Virginia Kysh sharing many of the top tips and information she gleaned from her experience at the conference.



Secondly, as in previous years, RootsTech is making available many of the presentations online for FREE! Take the opportunity to listen to some of the top professional genealogists and speakers in the field. [Sessions that are currently available for online viewing are:](#)

- **30 Pieces of Tech I Can't Live Without** by D. Joshua Taylor, President of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.
- **Building a Genealogy Research Toolbox** by Thomas MacEntee, professional genealogist, blogger, educator, author and moderator of Legacy Family Tree Webinars.
- **Getting Started in Genetic Genealogy** by Diahn Southard, genetic genealogist.
- **What's New at FamilySearch** by Devin Ashby, FamilySearch Project Manager.
- **You've Mastered the Census and Basic Search, What Next?** By Karen Auman, Assistant Professor of History at BYU.
- **Bring Your Ancestor Back to the Future** by Anne Leishman, family historian, genealogist, BYU Class of 2015.

The list of RootsTech sessions you can watch online may grow over the next few days, [so keep an eye here.](#)

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## California Genealogy Society Ongoing Classes

**Beginning Genealogy Classes** are offered on a regular basis at the California Genealogical Society and Library. Classes are free for members. Non-members pay a small fee.

FIRST SATURDAY of every month  
2201 Broadway Oakland, CA 94612  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

You don't have to be a beginner to benefit from the Beginner classes. They are happy to tailor each session to the experience and needs of the participants so everyone comes away with new knowledge.

Here are other upcoming available classes:

**Saturday, March 28** Finding Living Women on the Internet with Ron Arons.

**Thursday, April 23** Introduction to Photoshop™ for Family History with Ron Madsen.

To register, [visit our Eventbrite profile page](#) to see the latest class additions and descriptions.

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## Do You Have a Family Story for the Digger?

Do you have a story or interesting item from your family history that we could print in The Digger? We'd love to print articles that make the Digger a reflection of our membership. You can email to Carol at [cwegener@earthlink.net](mailto:cwegener@earthlink.net).

# For Your Information

## Concord Family History Center "HOW TO CLASSES"

**FREE** classes are held on the **3rd Saturday, January through May at 10:00 am.**

The **February 21st** class is **The Taxman Found your Ancestor, Can You?**

Presented by Karla Henderlong and Madeline Yanov.

Concord Family History Center

3700 Concord Blvd, Concord.

Questions – call Jackie Hein at 827-4729



## Scots-Irish Family History Research Seminar

*Presented by the California Genealogical Society*

**Holiday Inn & Suites Oakland Airport**

**77 Hegenberger Road, Oakland**

**Sunday, March 29, 2015**



Are you one of the more than 34.8 million Americans who can claim Irish or Scots-Irish ancestry? If so, our **Scots-Irish Family History Research Seminar** is right for you!

This all-day event will feature presentations by Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt of the Ulster Historical Foundation in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Topics for this lecture-filled day include:

- Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research
- Records Related to the Different Churches in Ireland
- Using land records: Griffith's Valuation, Tithe and Estate records
- Emigration from the North of Ireland to North America and the Sources for its Study
- The Ulster Plantation: Sources for 17th Century Families in Ireland (not just Ulster)
- Solving Your Brick Walls: Practical Internet Tutorial and Resolving Research Problems

In addition to all of the presentations, the registration fee includes:

- Buffet breakfast
- Buffet lunch
- Afternoon snack
- Coffee, tea, & water throughout the day
- Free parking in the parking lot and free shuttle service from the Oakland Coliseum BART stop.

The 2009 version of this seminar was very popular, so book your seat now. [Register here.](#)

## San Francisco History Expo, February 2015

The Old Mint

Fifth and Mission, San Francisco

The **5th Annual San Francisco History Expo** will occur at the Old Mint on February 28 and March 1, 2015. The California Genealogical Society is proud to be participating in this event. The details aren't finalized, but we'll share them as soon as they're available. In the meantime, visit the

[San Francisco History Expo's Facebook page](#) to see the latest information and updates.



**MDGS Digger – February 2015**

# MDGS Calendar

**Friday, February 20, 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Creekside Clubhouse, Rossmoor**

**Speaker: Virginia Kysh**

**Program: "Highlights from RootsTechConference2015"**

The world's largest family history event with over 200 classes, lectures and demonstrations in using technology and digital tools to find and preserve your family history.



## **Upcoming Speakers**

Mar 20: Shirley Riemer, "German Genealogy Research"

Apr 17: To Be Announced

May 15: Karla Henderlong, Madeline Yanov, "The Taxman Found Your Ancestor, Can You?"

Jun 19: To Be Announced

Jul 17: Francine Lloyd, "Daughters of the American Revolution"

## **Lunch with our Speakers**

Each month (except August and December), members and guests are invited to attend lunch with that month's speaker, held at 11:30 a.m. at the Rossmoor Diner, located at 1908 Tice Valley Blvd., in the Rossmoor Shopping Center. Lunch reservations need to be made by the Thursday before the meeting. Contact Susan Rush at 925-674-0929 or e-mail her at [gen4you@astound.net](mailto:gen4you@astound.net).

**MDGS  
PO Box 2062  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595**