

# MT. DIABLO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## The Digger



April 2015

### 2014/15 MDGS BOARD MEMBERS



**President**  
Stan Wells

**Vice-President**  
Open

**Rec Secretary**  
Mary Ellis

**Treasurer**  
John Gilbert

**Program Chair**  
Margaret Ready

**Publicity Chair**  
Susan Rush

**Membership Chair**  
Shirley Skaredoff

**Directors**  
Bob Wolf  
Gayle Schiller

**Newsletter**  
John Bedecarre  
Carol Wegener

### The President's Message

By Stan Wells

Nominations for MDGS officers and two Directors are to be presented to the membership at the May 15th general meeting. The officers consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Recording Secretary and the Treasurer.

A nominating committee is being formed and will present a slate for consideration at that meeting. The future success of the Society depends upon the contribution of

its members, so we ask you to give consideration to participating in one of these positions if you are approached by the committee.

In addition to these positions we will need volunteers for the programs, publicity and membership committees. Sharing in the activities of the program committee will give you the opportunity to influence the types of presentations in the coming year that support your personal interests. Publicity and membership committee undertakings are essential to the continued growth of the society. Programs such as our new MDGS website and our personal workshops have become activities of these committees.

See page 3 of this issue for descriptions of all positions.

The society also needs help in the production of "The Digger", our very informative and valuable monthly newsletter. Carol Wegener has been handling the lion's share for the last 5 years and is no longer able to do it on her own. If you have computer skills and are willing to work with Carol to keep this great publication going, please contact her at [cwegener@earthlink.net](mailto:cwegener@earthlink.net) or Stan at [stanwells@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stanwells@sbcglobal.net). We really need help or we will need to go to bi-monthly issues.



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

# MDGS News

## April Speaker



Our speaker this month will be Trisha Bomar, on the topic "Finding Answers in Online Newspapers". Trisha is Vice President of the Sonoma County Genealogical Society.

Trisha will tell us about her favorite free and pay websites for newspaper research, including Wikipedia, Google Newspaper Archives and Newspapers.com.

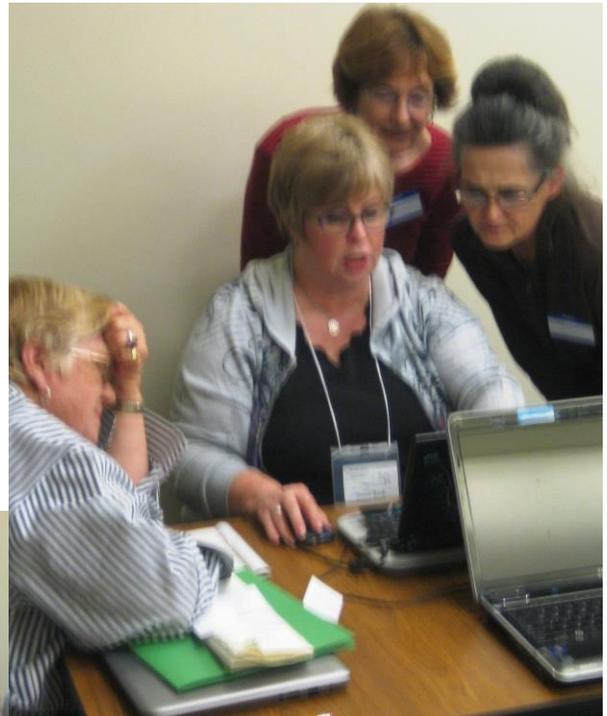
"The extent of online newspapers today is massive." While many of us know names and dates for our ancestors, "newspaper articles can help bring that ancestor to life by telling us their story".

## First MDGS Beginners Workshop A BIG Success

The first MDGS Beginners Workshop was held on March 24th at a meeting room in the Creekside complex at Rossmoor. Twelve attendees were guided through the steps of establishing their genealogical research with the help of five experienced Board members.

The program included a review of the research process itself, as well as a detailed explanation of the various forms used to collect information and data. Board members were able to work directly with the attendees in understanding source documents and methods for gathering and organizing their material.

In addition, many were able to get "hands-on" support in exploring various computer programs through live "on-line" activity.



This initial program was oversubscribed. So those who were put on the waiting list will be contacted to participate in the second workshop being planned for May.

# MDGS News

## **BOARD POSITIONS, OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

Election of officers and board members of the society will be held in June. The success of the Society depends upon the degree of participation by our members. If the administration and planning activities are shared by many, then the time demand on all becomes less. Support the society by volunteering to participate.

The Board of Directors is composed of the four elected Officers, two Directors elected from the general membership, the immediate Past President, the Newsletter editor, and the chairpersons of the three Standing Committees. The following is a brief description of the duties of the Officers and Board positions:

1. President - The president is the principal executive officer and official spokesperson for the Society.  
Duties include:
  - Preside at all meetings.
  - Sign all contracts and other non-financial instruments.
  - Appoint ad-hoc committees as required, and serve as an ex-officio member of each.
2. Vice-President Duties include:
  - Assist the President as required;
  - In the absence of the President shall assume the office of the President and perform its duties;
  - Act as an ex-officio member of the Program Committee.
3. Recording Secretary Duties include:
  - Record the minutes of the business portion of all general meetings and Board of Directors meetings;
  - Maintain custody of all important non-financial documents;
  - Make reports requested by the Board of Directors and sign official documents when required.
4. Treasurer Duties include:
  - Have custody of all funds derived from dues and other sources and keep an accurate record;
  - Disburse monies in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Directors;
  - Prepare a budget and reports as required by the Board of Directors.
  - Act as an ex-officio member of the Membership Committee.
5. Program Committee Duties include:
  - Research and plan all speaker presentations for meetings based on member interest;
  - Plan and arrange speaker travel, AV and handouts;
  - Disburse speaker bio/topic information to Publicity and the Digger.
6. Membership Committee Duties include:
  - Maintenance of membership applications and information;
  - Recruitment of new members;
  - Maintain membership badge program;
  - Provide greeter and staff reception table at meetings.
7. Publicity Committee Duties include:
  - Publicize all MDGS activities;
  - Develop and post flyers and displays regarding MDGS activities;
  - Communicate MDGS news and programs to other genealogical societies in the area;
  - Develop a society website.

**We need your help! Please send us your contact information below, and check or circle (above) a position or area in which you'd like to participate.** You can return this form to one of the board members at the reception table at the meeting or email Stan Wells, President at [stanwells@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stanwells@sbcglobal.net).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Contributions

## **You Can Run, But You Can't Hide**

*By Vernor Laursen, Diablo Valley Mac User Group- Genealogy SIG*

The Diablo Valley Mac User Group has a Genealogy SIG that meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month (except for November and December) in Pleasant Hill. We promote the use of Reunion for our database and we try to help each other with research on our ancestors. This leads you to other parts of the world in another time. How do you do that? You can use Ancestry, at a cost, go to a Family History Library or go on line using FamilySearch. Here is an example.

My wife, Nadine, has a grandfather who went by the name of John Patrick Kinnare. He said that he was from Ireland and his mother was Ellen Rutledge from Ely, England or on another form, Emma Shingles. On several occasions he gave his birthday as October 18, 1886. He said that he entered the US through North Portal North Dakota after being in Regina, Canada. Much of this information was in his application for citizenship in 1918. He married Bertha or Barbara in LA in 1910 and had two sons and a daughter. In 1918 Bertha died in the 1918 flu epidemic and the family was split. One son was killed in WW II in Europe and did not have any children. The second son married and had one son. The daughter, who was advertised for adoption, married and had two daughters. He never completed his application for citizenship, but when he applied for social security, he stated that he was born in San Francisco and his records were lost in the earthquake and fire. Really?

Jack or John told one of his sons "My name was not Kinnare, but you will never be able to find my real name." As the reader can gather, some of the information was correct and we know that his surname was not Kinnare. The first record of Jack Kinnare in the United States was when he married Bertha in LA in 1910. They were living in Sacramento when Bertha died. He lived in Lake and Humboldt Counties. There are no records of John Patrick Kinnare or Ellen Rutledge in Ireland. He was consistent on his birthday. He said that he lived in Cork, Ireland. No records of Jack's sailing from Cork. Anyone who left Ireland sailed from Cork. Where do we go and what was his real surname?

Can we find Jack using DNA? Jack had one grandson, Mike and the male line goes from father to son. Nadine arranged for Mike to have his DNA tested by Family Tree DNA. There were three distinct hits on Mike's DNA, but there were no family trees with the Kinnare name. One of the hits was Burgess in Australia. It is quite possible that the Burgess family had come from England.

Nadine has access to Ancestry.com and she searched census records around Ely England. She found, after a lot of research, that Emma Shingles Burgess and Robert Burgess had a son, John Burgess born about 1887. In the 1901 census John was living with his grandmother, Ellen Rutledge. To date Nadine has not found any records of the death of Emma Burgess. There are records that show that Robert Burgess emigrated from England and was living in Regina, Canada. She found John Burgess on a ship bound for Canada.

The evidence is that both John Patrick Kinnare and John Burgess lived in the North American Continent. Are they the same person? We know that they both were born in 1886 to 1887. Both had the same names of their mother and probably grandmother who came from the same Ely, England. It appears from the records that his mother and father disappeared from John Burgess life before he was 12 years old. We find that Robert Burgess left England and went to Regina, Canada. Why did John Kinnare change his name? The family story is that there was a gunshot wound in one of his legs and that the law was looking for Jack under his original name.

If Nadine's research is correct she has added John's parents, grandparents and great grandparents to her family tree. However, she no longer has any Irish ancestors.

What is your story about your ancestor or ancestors? Where did they live? As you can see from above, John or Jack did not provide us with information about their families and travels. Have you written about your parents and your family? Do it now so there are no questions about you, like Nadine has about John Patrick Kinnare Burgess.

If you would like more information about the Diablo Valley Mac User Group, contact Vernor Laursen at [vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net).

# Contributions

## Tips for Beginners

By John Bedecarre, Digger Editor

Many people are looking for direction in starting their family history. So we thought we'd share some suggestions to help beginners get started on their research. You might want to keep this handy to share with friends, neighbors, or family members who might ask you for help.

#1. **Gather all the information you already have.** Family names and relationships. Dates you already know (or can estimate). Documents you have or can access. The more information you have to build on, the easier the job of finding more information.

#2. **Add personal information and stories** that have been handed down and may provide clues for research.

#3. **Start recording the information systematically**...on a chart or form that you can build on.

#4. If you are computer literate and have a computer, or access to a computer, **get a genealogy software program** (Rootsweb, Reunion, etc.) and start the job of entering the data you are generating.

#5. **Go to your local Family History Center** (Concord, Alamo, Oakland, etc.). Trained volunteers will be happy to sit with you, give you ideas, walk you through their online resources (Family Search, etc.). When not busy they will spend hours of unhurried assistance. These centers are run by the LDS church, but all are welcome.

#6. **Take a genealogy class.** Adult Education programs offer genealogy classes. The California Genealogical Society (in Oakland) and local Family History Centers offer classes every month. Also, check out the many online webinars with information and tips to help you researching. The Digger often publishes many that are available online.

#7. **Visit Contra Costa County Library in Pleasant Hill**, which is the location of the Heritage Room, Contra Costa's main genealogy library, including over 3000 research items. Almost all libraries have material that might be of use to anyone.

#8. **Google** is an excellent source of information, with access to vast amounts of research material and ideas.

#9. Use **online resources** such as Ancestry.com. Although they are a subscription service, there are many free sources such as [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), [Rootsweb](http://Rootsweb), [Cyndi's List](http://Cyndi's List), and many more.

#10. **Hire a genealogist.** Check with Google, Ancestry, your local or regional society, or for a genealogist in the locale where your ancestors lived.

---

## Have you been to a local Family History Center lately?

Here are the locations closest to Walnut Creek.

### Danville

2949 Stone Valley Rd.

Alamo, CA

Phone: 925-552-5920

Hours: Mon 1-4pm; Tue 7-9pm; Wed 10am-4pm, 7-9pm; Thu 10am-1pm

### Concord

2700 Concord Blvd.

Concord, CA

Phone: 925-686-1766

Hours: Tue 9am-5pm; Wed 9am-8pm; Thu 9am-5pm; Sat 9am-1pm

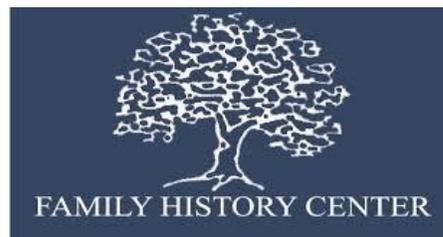
### Oakland

4766 Lincoln Avenue (lower level of the Oakland LDS Visitors Center on Temple Hill)

Oakland, CA

Phone: 510-531-3905

Hours: Tue, Wed 10am-9pm; Thu, Fri, Sat 10am-4pm



# In The News

## Genealogy in Multimedia

By Stewart Blandón Traiman, From the CGS Newsletter [CaliforniaAncestors.org](http://CaliforniaAncestors.org)



Recently I came across a YouTube video by CGP Gray entitled [Your Family Tree Explained](#). I'm a fan of CGP Grey's content, though most of his material is not about genealogy. But this got me thinking of what other great resources might be found in Videos or Podcasts.

Here's a short list of YouTube channels that are dedicated to Genealogy:

- [National Genealogical Society](#)
- [Family Search](#)
- [RootsMagic TV](#)
- [Family Tree Magazine](#)
- [Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems](#)

Genealogy Podcasts:

- [The Genealogy Guys](#)
- [Genealogy on Demand](#)
- [GENi Podcast](#)
- [Irish Roots Cafe Genealogy and History](#)

---

## Top 10 Websites for German Genealogy Research

From *Family Tree University Newsletter*, January 2015

In this era of globalization, it's easy to think of ourselves as citizens of the world. If you turn the clock back a century, though, you'll see people took a much more regional view. Italians considered themselves Sicilians, Sardinians, Tuscans or Venetians. Regional loyalties in America helped start the Civil War. And the people we now call Germans referred to themselves as anything but.

In those days, you were Prussians and Bavarians, Palatines and Hessians, Saxons and Swabians - who all spoke various dialects of German and were united only in their dislike for each other. Because finding a German immigrant's village of origin is so crucial to genealogical research, this more provincial view can be helpful in narrowing the search from "Germany" to a more-manageable area.

Family Tree University instructor, James Beidler, taught an online course on German Genealogy 101 which included key research strategies and online resources.

Check out his top websites for German genealogy discoveries (Note: Some are in German, so we recommend you use the Translate feature on your [Google Chrome browser](#)):

- [Cyndi's List: Germany/Deutschland](#)
- [German Emigrants Database](#)
- [Emigration from Southwest-Germany in Landesarchiv Baden-Wuerttemberg](#)
- [Evangelical \(Protestant\) Church in Germany Archive](#)
- [Evangelical Central Archive, Berlin](#)
- [FamilySearch: A Genealogical Handbook of German Research](#)
- [Find Your Roots in Germany](#)
- [Genealogy in Pfalz](#)
- [Genealogy.net German Genealogy: Regional Research](#)
- [LEO German-English Dictionary](#)

# In The News

## Finding FREE Irish Genealogy Books Online

From [Family Roots Publishing Newsletter](#), March 3, 2015

If you have Irish ancestry – as 34.5 million Americans do – then you're in luck when it comes to finding free online resources that help with your ancestral search. In fact, there's a website that's dedicated to making these scattered resources more easily accessible. That site is called simply [Free Irish Genealogy eBooks](#). It's an Index to about 4000 free online books and journals on the topics of Irish, Irish-American, Irish-Australian and Irish-Canadian Genealogy – all of which can be read online, and many can be downloaded.

Most of these items are very old and out-of-print, out-of-copyright, or only printed in very short print-runs and nearly unavailable in traditional paper format.

The following links are found on the home page of Clarke's [Free Irish Genealogy eBooks](#) site:

### Pedigrees:

- \* [Irish Pedigrees A – C](#)
- \* [Irish Pedigrees D – K](#)
- \* [Irish Pedigrees L – O](#)
- \* [Irish Pedigrees P – Z](#)
- \* [Pedigree Resources](#)

### Family Histories:

- \* [Irish Clans, Tribes and Septs](#)
- \* [Irish Family Histories A – H](#)
- \* [Irish Family Histories I – Z](#)
- \* [Irish-American Family Histories A – C](#)
- \* [Irish-American Family Histories D – H](#)
- \* [Irish-American Family Histories I – M](#)
- \* [Irish-American Family Histories N – Z](#)
- \* [Irish-Australian Family Histories](#)
- \* [Irish-Canadian Family Histories](#)



### Diaspora:

- \* [Irish Diaspora Australia; Great Britain; New Zealand; South America; General](#)
- \* [Irish Diaspora – North America Canada – By Province; General; Caribbean; United States – By State; U.S.A.](#)

### Resources:

- \* [Almanacs and Directories By City, County, Province; Ireland](#)
- \* [Church – Records Registers by County; Irish Exiles in France; General](#)
- \* [Guidebooks Genealogy; Travel; Connacht; Leinster; Munster; Ulster; Ireland](#)
- \* [Journals Genealogical; Church; Irish-American; Legal; University; Miscellaneous](#)
- \* [Nobility and Landed Gentry Memoirs of the Nobility; Directories; Estate, Family Papers, Manuscripts, Memoirs; Heraldry; Hunting, Shooting and Fishing; Lordships, Manors; Seats, Houses, Castles](#)
- \* [Holdings of Irish Family and Estate Papers](#)
- \* [Irish Genealogy Resources Census – By Year – General; Commerce and Industry; Graves – Ireland – By County – Overseas – By Country – Graves General; Libraries; Maps; Newspapers; Passenger Lists; Place Names; Prison; School; Surname – Change of; Surnames; University; Births, Marriages, Deaths; Obituaries, Memorials – Wills, Deeds; Bibles; Voters \(NEW!\); Miscellaneous](#)
- \* [Some mention of... ; Family Histories and Biographies Not Found](#)
- \* [Surnames – List of surnames – found a ways down on the Free Irish Genealogy Books page.](#)
- \* [Search Free Irish eBooks & Donate to the Site](#)

---

---

WELCOME NEW MEMBER – DORIS BROAD

---

---

# For Your Information

## Concord Family History Center Open House/25th Birthday

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Concord FHC, 3700 Concord Blvd.

[Check the Concord FHC page](#) for details as they become available.

---

## Back to the Future--Blasting to the Past with the Tools from the 21st Century

*From CCCGS Diablo Descendants Newsletter, April 2015*

The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society presents their inaugural genealogy **Fall Fling**, a daylong seminar on Saturday, October 17. Speakers will be James Baker and Kathryn Marshall. There will be exhibits, a raffle and silent auction with some really great prizes, and more!

### SAVE THE DATE!

WHEN: Saturday, October 17, 2015; 8:30AM – 3:00PM  
WHAT: CCCGS Fall Fling Seminar  
THEME: Back to the Future: Blasting to the Past with Tools from the 21st Century.  
WHO: James Baker and Kathryn Marshall  
WHERE: St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA.

---



## Concord Family History Center "HOW TO CLASSES"

**FREE** classes are held on the **3rd Saturday** of each month, **January - May at 10 am**.  
The **April 18th** class will be **Rookie Mistakes** presented by Susan Shoemaker.

Concord Family History Center  
3700 Concord Blvd, Concord.  
Questions – call Jackie Hein at 827-4729

---

## The Weekly Genealogist Survey

*From New England Historic & Genealogical Society newsletter, American Ancestors*

A recent survey asked if you use an online or desktop software program to compile your family history research. 4,530 people took the survey. More than one answer could be selected. The results are:

- 2% Ancestral Quest
  - 1% Ancestris
  - 47% Ancestry.com Family Tree Maker**
  - 50% Ancestry.com online family tree**
  - 18% FamilySearch.org online family tree**
  - 2% Family Tree Builder
  - 3% Findmypast.com online family tree
  - 3% Geni.com online family tree
  - 1% Gramps
  - 1% Heredis
  - 11% Legacy Family Tree
  - 1% MacFamilyTree
  - 6% Master Genealogist
  - 6% Personal Ancestral File
  - 7% Reunion
  - 13% RootsMagic**
  - 3% WikiTree
  - 7% I use a software program not listed above
  - 6% I don't use an online or desktop program to compile my family history research.
-

# For Your Information

## Tips on Researching Land Records

Have you researched your ancestors land holdings yet? It can seem a little confusing at first, but with a little 'inside information' you'll be able to sort it out very soon. The following information on land distribution is particularly relevant following the Revolutionary War.

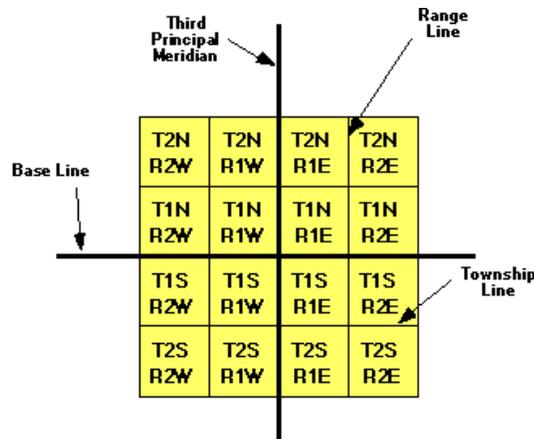
In the **State-Land States**, the state made the land grants. This included the original 13 colonies (CT, DE, GA, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, SC, PA, RI and Virginia), then HI, KY, ME, TN, TX, VT, and WV. Gridded surveys were rarely done and a system of metes and bounds was employed. Rocks trees, streams, even neighboring landowners were connected. Distance was measured in 16½ foot lengths (aka, poles, perches or rods). 320 poles equaled one mile. Compass bearings were often used (30 degrees south, etc.). You can see that this is not an exact measure and often gaps or crossings occurred.

In the **Public-Domain States** the federal government distributed the land. This was done in the other 30 states. Land was described in the Federal Township and Range System, which used surveyed meridians, baseline, townships and ranges. These public lands were given as Federal Land Grants to be homesteaded or purchased. Also important tracts were given as Military Bounty Lands rewarding Revolutionary and War of 1812 Veterans.

Shown below are three charts that graphically display how the Federal Township and Range System works.

### Chart One: Shows how the township is identified in reference to a Principal Meridian.

Example: T2N, R1E refers to Township 2 North of the Baseline, Range 1 East of the PM.



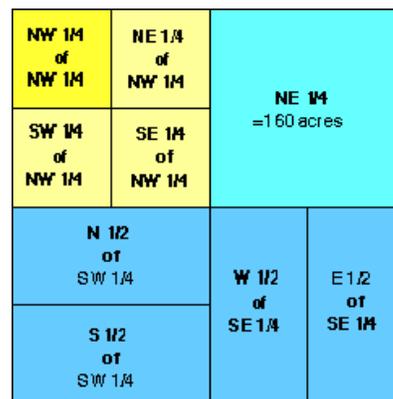
### Chart Two (below left): Display of Section Numbers in the Township and Range System.

Each township has 36 sections of one square mile.

There are 640 acres in each section.

The numbers go 1 to 36 as shown in the center yellow section.

35	36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31	32
2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5
11	12	7	8	9	10	11	12	7	8
14	13	18	17	16	15	14	13	18	17
23	24	19	20	21	22	23	24	19	20
26	25	30	29	28	27	26	25	30	29
35	36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31	32
2	1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6	5



### Chart Three (above right): Shows how the sections, quarters, halves and halves of quarters can be laid out.

# MDGS Calendar

**Friday, April 17, 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Creekside Clubhouse, Rossmoor**

**Speaker: Trisha Bomar**

**Topic: "Finding Answers in Online Newspapers"**

**2015 MDGS Speaker Schedule**

**May 16:** Karla Henderlong & Madeline Yanov,  
"The Taxman Found Your Ancestor, Can You?"

**Jun 19:** Janice Sellers, "What is Forensic Genealogy Really?"

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

**August** No Meeting



**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**