

MT. DIABLO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Digger



September/October 2015

2015/16 MDGS BOARD MEMBERS



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New Meeting Time and Location Coming in January!

Have you had trouble parking for our monthly meetings? We've listened to your feedback and...

In order to avoid the crowded parking issues at Creekside Clubhouse, and to give our speakers less of a late afternoon commute on Fridays, we are implementing the following changes, effective **January 2016**.

New Meeting Time:
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Place:
Fairway Room, Creekside Clubhouse

Our meetings at the 1:30 time will continue through November 2015 and the time for our December 2015 luncheon will be announced soon.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Stella Cade and Phil Lendaris

Researching:

Wire/Weir, Haley, Lendaris, Schroder

For questions or information about MDGS, please contact
Stan Wells at stanwells@sbcglobal.net.

In The News

Five Free Genealogy Things You Can Do on Ancestry.com

Posted by Diane Haddad, *genealogyinsider*, *Family Tree Magazine*, July 2015

Did You Know?

I'm happy to pay for something of value to me, and subscription genealogy sites are worth their weight in old records to a genealogist who can't spend a lot of time or money renting and scrolling microfilm, or traveling to repositories around the country.

But I also need to watch my pennies just as much as the next person, so I really appreciate it when the genealogy information or tool I need is available for free. You might be surprised to find that Ancestry.com has some very useful free tools.

You'll need [free guest registration](#) to access these free features. A guest registration doesn't require entering a credit card number (and it's different from a free trial, which does require payment information).

- You can [create your family tree](#) and upload records from your computer to your ancestors' profiles. (Viewing those "shaky leaf" hints, though, is a subscriber benefit.)
- You can use the [Family History Wiki](#), which has the text from two genealogy reference books that were published by Ancestry: *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* and *Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources*.
- You can search and post on the [message boards](#), which exist for surnames, places and topics (such as Cemeteries, Spanish-American War, etc.).
- You can [search and view transcribed information from select free indexes](#). Many indexes were created by the World Archives Project, Ancestry.com's volunteer indexing program. Others might be provided in partnership with another organization, or are "web records" that link to a third-party website. You can view record images for free in a few databases, such as the 1880 and 1940 US censuses, but most of the time, a guest user who clicks to view a record image will get a prompt to subscribe. [Click here to search Ancestry.com's Free Index Collections](#).

You can use Ancestry Library Edition at a library, if one near you offers it, to access most of the records on Ancestry.com. Notable exceptions include the Passenger and Immigration Lists Index (especially helpful for finding early immigrants; many genealogy libraries have older, printed versions of this index) and the Periodical Source Index (which indexes genealogical journals and magazines).

Scrivener

By Lisa Alzo, *Internet Genealogy* and *Your Genealogy Today* author

Just what is this program called Scrivener that everyone keeps talking about? And how can you use it for your genealogy and family history projects? Let *Internet Genealogy* and *Your Genealogy Today* contributor, Lisa A. Alzo, show you how to get started with this combination word processor and project management tool. Watch her free video at <http://www.lisaalzo.com/seminars/webinars-for-genealogists/> to learn how Scrivener can seamlessly take you from idea to outline to finished product. Then, pick up a copy of Lisa's Scrivener for Genealogists QuickSheet for Windows or Mac - just \$8.95 in the [Your Genealogy Today/Internet Genealogy Store](#) to have all the tips, tricks and quick commands you need to master this powerful program in no time!

Whether you are a blogger, an aspiring author, or a genealogist looking to share your family history findings, Scrivener is the must-have tool to help you plot, organize, and publish your writing!



In The News

To Celebrate Labor Day: 10 Jobs That Are Obsolete

From MyHeritageblog

Did your great-grandfather cut ice for a living? Perhaps your grandmother was a switchboard operator and connected calls from house to house? There are so many professions that our ancestors once followed that are now extinct today. Here are 10 examples of professions that no longer exist:



1) A **scissors-grinder** was a street merchant that sharpened the blades of knives and scissors. He would call out in the streets or knock at the doors to try and get business. He worked the stone grinding wheel with his foot using a treadle.



2) **Hemp dressers** worked in the linen industry separating the coarse part of flax or hemp with a hackle. They were also known as hacklers.

3) **Bobbin boys** worked in textile mills in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Their job consisted in bringing bobbins to the women at the looms, and then collecting the bobbins that were full with spun cotton or wool thread.



4) **Book peddlers** were travelling vendors. Also known as "book canvassers," they went door-to-door selling books. For many rural Americans, this was their only way to obtain new reading material.



5) A **breaker boy** was a coal-mining worker in the United States and United Kingdom. They separated impurities from the coal by hand.

6) A **Gandy dancer** was an early railroad worker whose job was to lay and maintain railroad tracks. In England they were called "navvys." Their nickname comes from the methodical dance movements of the railroad workers.



7) The **iceman** was someone who collected surface ice from lakes and rivers during the winter. It was then stored in ice houses year-round and sold in blocks as a pre-refrigeration cooling method.

8) Until the '60s in some places, **switchboard operators** connected phone calls from house to house by inserting phone plugs into the appropriate jacks. George Willard Croy became the world's first telephone operator when he started working for the Boston Telephone Dispatch Company in January 1878, while Emma Mills Nutt became the first female telephone operator when she began working at the same company on September 1, 1878.

In The News

Best Genealogy Software: Which Should You Choose and Why

By Lisa Louise Cooke, *Genealogy Gems*



Just about every major genealogy website these days lets you build your family tree from scratch right on their website. But you may wonder what will happen to millions of carefully-constructed trees if the company goes out of business or the site goes down.

Before the days of internet genealogy, researchers organized family history findings on their home computers in specially-designed software. These programs generated .GED files (called GEDCOMs), a universal file type that allowed researchers using different software to share their findings. Software like this still exists. These days it can communicate your research to any genealogy sites you care to share with—by using those same GEDCOM files.

If you do choose to build your family tree online, make sure you can download your tree anytime as a GED file. Keep this file as a backup both on your computer and in a second location (like cloud storage). But my recommendation is to build your tree at home, in your own software. Then you can upload or synch your data to your favorite genealogy websites whenever you want—and you never lose control of your research.

Choosing the Right Software

There are lots of family history programs out there, and all of them will serve your basic needs. But you only need ONE. What's the best genealogy software? It depends on how much you want to spend and how sophisticated you want your database to be. In many cases, you can order the product or purchase a digital download. I really don't think you need the physical boxed product. All the help you need is online. All of these products offer a free demo that you can download to try it out before you buy.

FREE AND EASY: [Family Tree Builder by MyHeritage](#) helps you stay organized with streamlined screens to work in and doesn't require a lot of startup time. Family Tree Builder offers lots of family history charts; custom reports; helps you share your data and pictures on a CD or DVD; allows you to back up your files to CD or DVD; and includes genealogy apps for mobile devices. Download the software FREE at the above link.

TOP SELLER-PC: [Family Tree Maker](#) is from the folks at Ancestry.com, so you should always be able to easily synch your results online at that site.

PC OPTION WITH GREAT REPORTS: If you're looking for great printed reports that you can share, and loads of free online help videos, then [RootsMagic](#) is a great choice. (and we are honored to have RootsMagic as a sponsor of *The Genealogy Gems Podcast*.) And they now have an iOS app.

Some of the differences you'll find between these products is the types of reports and charts they produce. So if that's important to you, you can try the demos and see which you like. But again, I really don't think you can go wrong with any of these products. They are all well established and supported.

AFFORDABLE MAC OPTION: [iFamily for Leopard](#) is the most affordable at \$29.95. There's a free demo you can try before you buy.

TOP-SHELF MAC OPTION: [Reunion 10](#) is fairly pricey at \$99.00. If you're interested in Reunion, I highly recommend that you listen to [Episode 51](#) of *The Genealogy Gems Podcast*. In that episode you can listen to a review of Reunion 9 by Ben Sayer, the MacGenealogist. And if you want to compare iFamily against Reunion to see what you're getting for your money, you can also listen to [Ben's review of iFamily](#) in *Genealogy Gems Episode 53*.

For Your Information

Rookie Mistakes

From FamilySearch Wiki

We love new family history researchers. They add enthusiasm and idealism to our community. We offer this list to help them. But, it's easy to make rookie mistakes. We've compiled a list from our users to help all of us improve our skills.



- [1 Rookies search individuals](#)
- [2 Rookies are inclined to be poor note keepers](#)
- [3 Rookies can jump to conclusions which aren't supported by evidence](#)
- [4 Rookies may assume an ancestor's name has only one correct spelling](#)
- [5 Rookies frequently have vague research goals](#)
- [6 Rookie researchers jump between families too often](#)
- [7 Rookies occasionally "start" their research on ancestors in the distant past](#)
- [8 Rookies may assume no record of an event exists if not found in their first search](#)
- [9 Rookies overlook hidden relatives and neighbors](#)
- [10 Rookies avoid discussing contradictory evidence](#)
- [11 Rookies don't think about sharing their research](#)
- [12 Rookies don't sharpen the saw enough](#)
- [13 Rookies have a tendency to expect too much and give up too early](#)
- [14 Related Content](#)

A Date Guide to English Genealogy

[GenealogyInTime Magazine](#) Newsletter - 8 March 2014



Success in finding ancestors often comes from two things: knowing when types of records exist and knowing where to find these records. This multi-part article provides a reference timeline for English genealogy records.

[A Date Guide to English Genealogy Part I](#) provides an introduction to English genealogy records and identifies available records to the end of the 1600s. [Part II](#) covers English genealogy records from the beginning of the 1700s to 1837. [Part III](#) covers English genealogy records from 1841 to the present.

Here's just a little taste of the amazing amount of information you'll find in these articles.

1500 – Oxford University began collecting and publishing alumni records, known by their Latin name Alumni Oxonienses. The list of records from 1500 to 1886 can be found online and searched for free. [\[Alumni Oxonienses 1500-1714\]](#) [\[Alumni Oxonienses 1715-1886\]](#).

1538 - Local clergy in each parish of the Church of England (Anglican Church) were tasked with the responsibility for keeping vital records (baptism, marriage and burials) of everyone in their community. A group known as the Online Parish Clerks has put online free historic parish records from several English counties. [\[Online Parish Clerks\]](#) Online parish records can also be searched using the free [Genealogy Search Engine](#).

1620 – The Mayflower sails for Massachusetts, where the Pilgrim Fathers founded the Plymouth Colony in New England. You can consult the Mayflower Society for details on Mayflower descendants. [\[Mayflower Society\]](#).

And, that's just the tip of the iceberg of information you'll find here. You won't want to skip this one!

October is Family History Month

For Your Information

OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

“Bringing your Ancestors Back to the Future Using 21st Century Tools”

[Contra Costa County Genealogical Society](#) presents their inaugural **Fall Fling Genealogy Seminar**, 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! Register and support our local genealogical societies.

WHEN: Saturday, October 17, 2015; 8:30AM – 4:00PM

WHERE: St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA.

Kathryn M. Marshall, PhD has written many biographical sketches of pioneers as well as editing historical reference books and published historical maps. She was the Director of the Lodi California Family History Center and is a member of the Advisory Board for the California Pioneer Heritage Foundation. Katherine will be speaking on the following topics:

- Changing Boundaries and Lost Ancestors
- Locating your Ancestors with Animap, Historic MapWorks, BLM and Google Earth,

Dr. James M. Baker, PdD, CG is a Board Certified Genealogist specializing in Midwest U.S., Early American and German research. He is also a regular contributor to the National Genealogy Society (NGS) Magazine and is a frequent genealogy lecturer at local, regional and national conferences. James will be speaking on the following topics:

- 2015 Genealogy Staying Current with your research: Up-to-Date Tools and Resources,
- Expanding Frontier: Can You Find the Early 1800's US Data On-Line?

PRE-REGISTRATION \$25 CCCGS Members \$30 Non-Members
LATE REGISTRATION/AT DOOR \$35

[Click here for more information and to register.](#) Pre-registration must be received by October 1, 2015.



Saturday, October 3, 2015

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Program with speakers & performance to begin at 11 a.m.

Where: Immigration Station at Angel Island State Park

Join California Genealogical Society for the launch of the [Nikkei Angel Island Pilgrimage](#) to rediscover the little-known history of the Japanese and Japanese American legacy at Angel Island, where 85,000 persons of Japanese descent - the second largest immigrant group - landed between 1910 to 1940, before setting foot in America.

For Your Information

California Genealogical Society & Library 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland

CGS offers their [Beginning Genealogy Series](#), which is designed to help the new genealogist build a good foundation of knowledge of genealogy research practices and gain understanding and experience with the most commonly used sources of family data. Experienced genealogists are welcome to refresh their knowledge and learn something new.

[Register for the series of four classes](#) which will be presented on consecutive Saturday's from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Fee: non-members \$50 (with discount if joining during series).

Saturday, Oct 24: Vinnie Schwarz will provide an overview that will cover genealogy best practices for reliable and trustworthy family trees and help attendees understand the world of genealogical resources beyond the Internet.

Saturday, Oct 31: Jeff Vaillant will focus on vital records and how to estimate, calculate and find most basic records of ancestors' lives: birth, marriage and death records and will include cemetery research

Saturday, Nov 7: Maureen Hanlon will delve into census records, how census data was collected and why that means it's not always easy to find your ancestors records. Strategies for overcoming spelling, transcription and other barriers will be discussed,

Saturday, Nov 14: Jane Lindsey will explore the world secondary sources: those books, maps, societies, libraries and other sources that will provide a fuller picture of ancestors' lives, validate and also help uncover more of the data from primary sources.

NOTE: This series of classes will also be presented on Wednesday afternoons, beginning October 21st, from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. at the Oakland Family Search Library.



Concord Family History Center "HOW TO CLASSES"

FREE classes are held on the **3rd Saturday** of each month, January - September at 10 am.
The **September 19th** class will be **Are You Compiling a Family History or a Work of Mythology?**
presented by Jan Siddoway.

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

MDGS Digger – September/October 2015

MDGS Calendar

Friday, September 18, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Creekside Clubhouse, Rossmoor

Speaker: Richard Rand

Program: "Censuses; Very Helpful Tools for Genealogists"

2015 MDGS Schedule

- Oct 16:** Susan Goss Johnston,
"Seeking City Slickers in Lesser Known Records"
Nov 20: Lisa Gorrell, "City Directories"
Dec 18: Holiday Event



Lunch with our Speaker

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.



**MDGS
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