

MT. DIABLO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Digger



November/December 2015

2015/16 MDGS BOARD MEMBERS



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New Meeting Time and Location Coming in January!

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.

MDGS Holiday Event in December

“**Holiday Traditions**”, our annual holiday event will be held on Friday, December 18, in place of our monthly meeting. This year it will be a potluck **Dessert and Coffee Social**. See more event information in this issue of The Digger.



Pay Your Dues Now for 2016

Why wait until January? We've included a Membership Application in this issue of The Digger. Send in your renewal now and it's active through all of 2016.

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

MDGS News

Rossmoor Club Mailbox and New MDGS Mailing Address

MDGS now has a club mailbox in the Rossmoor Administration Bldg. at Gateway. Members can drop off applications, dues, correspondence in the mail box titled "Mt. Diablo Genealogy".

For those who mail in applications, dues, correspondence, the new address is:

Mt. Diablo Genealogy, 1001 Golden Rain Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Note: The name of the club mailbox is **Mt. Diablo Genealogy**. Mail should be addressed accordingly; however, checks can still be made out to MDGS.



The Membership Committee needs your help!

The Membership Committee is in need of volunteers to man the check in table at our monthly meetings. We need one or two people to assist:

1. Members with checking in and retrieving their badges.
2. Guests in filling out the Guest Forms and name tags.

If you feel you would be able to assist us at our monthly meetings held the 3rd Friday of the month, please contact Nickie Allen (Membership Chair) at enicaa@comcast.net.

November Speaker

Local veteran genealogist **Lisa Gorell** will present tips on how to glean the most information through the use of **City Directories**. Lisa has a great deal of experience in digging for information in these publications.

Although information on an ancestor's birth, marriage and death are important, facts such as a person's occupation help develop a fuller picture of that individual's life. Such bits of information are often included in directories and are occasionally overlooked by genealogists.

Recording Secretary for the California Genealogical Society & Library and past President for the Contra Costa Genealogical Society, Lisa Gorell also volunteers at the Contra Costa History Center in Martinez. Her research specialties include federal records, naturalization, Library of Congress and court records, among others.



2016 Speakers

We are in the process of booking speakers for 2016. Here's what we have so far:

- Jan15: Melinda Kashuba – Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
Feb19: Pamela Erickson – Indentured Servants
Mar18: Kay Speaks – Passenger Lists
Apr15: Diane George – How to do a Google Search
Jul15: Gena Ortega – Genealogy Roadshow

Welcome New Members

Kathryn & Don Cardinal researching: Fisher (KS or MO); Renfro (OK).

Kathleen Doherty researching: Resnikoff (Czech & Russia; Barthelmas (Toronto).

Ed Manning researching: Edward F. Manning (Homestead, PA).

Donald S. Merson researching: Merson (Scotland); Chalmers, Ogston, Lawrence, Lossing, Hall, Robertson (US), Stowe (England).

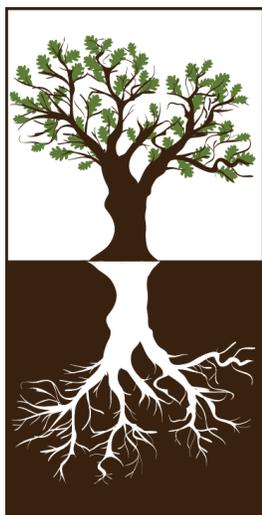
Urania Moran

Liz Ruppel researching: Sullivan, Boyiages, Ruppel, Curtan

Gladys Warr researching: Merrill, Fleming, Hawk

Mary Sue Zimmerman





Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society

2016 Membership Application

Your membership runs from January through December. Memberships renewed/paid after September 2015 will be considered dues paid for 2016.

Please Print Clearly

New Member [] Renewal []

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Rossmoor? _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

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 **Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, 1001 Golden Rain Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94595**, or you can drop off applications at the Rossmoor Administration Bldg., or bring with you to the monthly meeting.

MEMBER INFORMATION

Surnames and locations you are researching:

MDGS has my permission to publish **my name, contact info and surnames/locations** I'm researching in The Digger & in the MDGS member directory on our website. [] YES [] NO

Would you be interested in participating in a "Hands On" workshop to learn new ways to organize your research online? [] YES

Would you be interested in "One on One" clinics to help with brick walls or problems?
[] YES

Would you be interested in serving or volunteering? [] YES

[] Board [] Publicity [] Programs [] Membership [] Digger [] Hospitality

MDGS News



HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

MT. DIABLO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Holiday Dessert & Coffee Social

December 18, 2015

1:30— 3:00

Fairway Room



Bring your favorite family **dessert** to share (to serve 6-8).

Tell about a special **holiday memory**.

Bring a special **holiday item** to show at your table.



MDGS News

The Society needs your help!

The organization is separated into committees so that administration activities can be divided over a larger portion of the membership.

We need your participation in the following committees. The idea is to break-down the committee's activities into small tasks that will not put a heavy chore on any single individual.

Please signify that you are willing to lend a hand in a small way to keep the Society working for all.

Add your name alongside one or more of the following committees that you are willing to support.

PUBLICITY:

PROGRAMS:

MEMBERSHIP:

HOSPITALITY:

DIGGER:

Your contact information:

PHONE:

EMAIL:



In The News

5 Strategies for Locating Your Ancestor's Immigration Record

By Kimberley Powell, *About.com*



Discovering an ancestor's name on a passenger list not only provides a vital link to the old country, but also brings to mind the uncertain journey and many sacrifices our ancestors must have made as they left their home, possessions, friends, and family for a new life in a new land. However, poor handwriting, misspelled or changed names, and a lack of information, can often make this a daunting task.

1. Narrow Down the Arrival Date

The [1930](#), [1920](#), [1910](#) and [1900 U.S. federal census](#) recorded the year of immigration, when applicable. For earlier census records, the place of birth may prove useful in narrowing down the date of immigration in situations where some children were born in the U.S. and others in the old country. [Obituaries](#) may detail when an immigrant ancestor arrived in this country, or at least how many years they lived here. [Naturalization records](#) created after Sept 1906 provide an immigrant's arrival details.

2. Search Multiple Points of Entry

While you may have always been told that your ancestor came through [Ellis Island](#), [many immigrants arrived through other U.S. ports](#). Some also chose to arrive first through Canada, which often provided cheaper passage. Immigrants may have not arrived at the port closest to where they eventually settled. If you're looking for someone who settled in Pennsylvania, for example, then the port of Philadelphia may seem the obvious choice. However, the immigrant may have just as likely arrived in [New York](#) or Baltimore.

3. Check out the Relatives

When you can't find the person you're really hoping to find, search for family members—they may have either traveled with your ancestor, or their records may provide important clues to his origins. Relatives or neighbors who didn't travel with your ancestor may also be named on their passenger arrival manifest. U.S. passenger lists after early 1892 often include a column for final destination in the U.S., which typically includes the name of a relative or friend living there. After 1907, passenger manifests also record the name and address of the nearest friend or relative in the old country. If you are unable to find an immigrant ancestor by searching for their name, use the advanced search tools available at [stevemorse.org](#) to search by the town of origin, or the name of the friend or relative they were joining.

Still can't find them? Many immigrants [traveled in groups or settled among friends](#) from their town back in the old country. Looking for arrival records of close family friends and neighbors from your immigrant ancestor's new community may reveal his place of origin, or lead you to his arrival record.

4. Play the Name Game

It's a [myth that officials at Ellis Island "changed" immigrants' names](#), but it wasn't uncommon for newly-arrived Americans to adopt an Americanized name upon arrival or shortly thereafter. When searching for your immigrant ancestor, consider ethnic equivalents of your ancestor's first name (e.g. Heinrich for Henry, Lorenz for Lawrence or Erzsébet for Elizabeth). New Americanized surnames are equally common (see [Tips for Finding Alternate Surname Spellings and Variations](#)). To get past handwriting and spelling variations, try a wildcard search in which you use asterisks to replace one or more letters in a name. One popular strategy is to use a [wildcard](#) in place of each vowel. For Eastern European names, wildcards can be effective for replacing certain consonant clusters. Or forego the surname and search using other known details about your ancestor, such as birthplace, age, gender, and occupation.

5. Go to the Source

[Immigrant records](#) were created at both ends of the journey, so when you can't find your ancestor coming into the U.S., it still may be possible to find them leaving the old country. Passenger departure lists can sometimes be difficult to use, as they are usually in the language of the country of departure, require you to first identify the possible port of departure, and may not be easy to access. However, a growing number have been indexed and/or published online.

In The News

Odessa Library and Raduraksti Project – Websites for Eastern European Research

by Dawne Slater, CG(sm), Allen County Public Library

Odessa Library

The Odessa Library is a digital collection that focuses on records of Germans who immigrated to Russia in the 1800s and their descendants all over the world. It can be found at www.Odessa3.org/index.html. The Odessa Library is a project of Roger Ehrich, who makes the site freely available to all and hosts it on his server.

At the Odessa Library site, researchers can find links to twenty-four categories of record types by clicking on “Collections” on the home page. These include obituaries, photographs, newspaper extracts, cemeteries, family histories, land records, and more. Many of these records pertain to German-Russian people or their descendants who immigrated to the United States. Users also can contribute documents to the site that they have in their personal collections or have found through research.

Another area of the website, “Essays,” features analysis of historical events of importance to the German-Russian people. This is excellent background material, since understanding the context of our ancestors’ lives often is key to successful research.

Besides providing access to records, another of the Odessa Library’s primary goals is to facilitate collaboration of research, and there is a process through the site for communicating with others who are researching the same individuals or surnames.

Raduraksti Project

Raduraksti is a project of the Latvian State Historical Archives and its goal is “to provide access to the archival documents which can be used for family history research and to provide the necessary preservation of the original documents.” The Raduraksti Project can be found at www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/en.html.

To use the records on this free site, researchers must create a user account, choosing a username and password, providing their email address, and agreeing to the site’s terms. Once this is done, some of the records researchers can find on the site include:

- Census of 1897
- Church books for various denominations
- Documents of Foreign Policy of the Republic of Latvia
- House-registers
- Manuscripts
- Revision lists
- A database of Latvian inhabitants for 1918 through 1940

Eastern Europe



Was Your Ancestor Involved in a Disaster or Accident?

Was there a terrible disaster or accident in your family history? GenDisasters.com is a genealogy site that contains information on historic disasters, events, and tragic accidents our ancestors may have endured. Search database records by surname or browse by type of disaster, state or year. The site includes train wrecks, fires, floods, shipwrecks, plane crashes, accidents and other disasters. Most of the articles list the dead and injured or missing. Dates of articles run from 1755 to 2015.

What’s a Second Cousin Once Removed?

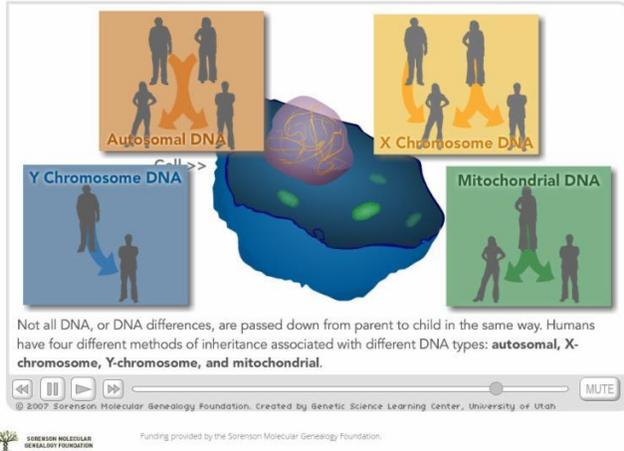
If you’re still confused about first, second and third cousins (not to mention the “removed” part), here is a really good YouTube video to help you sort it out. A picture is worth a thousand words and charts. [Click here.](#)

For Your Information

Four Types of DNA

From *Roots & Recombinant DNA*, November 2, 2015

The Four Types of DNA



If you're a novice or new to DNA testing for genetic genealogy THE VERY FIRST THING you should do is review these five short videos created by the University of Utah. Each video is less than four minutes long and will help you immensely with an inaugural understanding of this complicated field.

Click on each title to link to each of the five videos:

1. [FOUR TYPES OF DNA](#)
2. [AUTOSOMAL DNA](#)
3. [X-CHROMOSOME](#)
4. [Y-CHROMOSOME](#)
5. [MITOCHONDRIAL DNA](#)

Genetic Genealogy Q&A

FamilyTree University, November 2015

Genetic genealogy is the New Frontier of family history research. It's a complex subject that evolves quickly. In October, we explored the many different types of DNA tests available, which test is right for you, and what you can learn from each test. But many genealogists are now beyond that point, and ready to take on the next challenge: *How to analyze your genealogical DNA test results.*

Will a DNA test give me the identities of my ancestors and fill in my family tree?

No. Your DNA test results won't include a completed pedigree chart with all your ancestors filled in. DNA testing alone can't reveal ancestral identities or bust brick walls - but it's a powerful tool to solve genealogical questions when used in conjunction with genealogical sleuthing. In other words, you still need to trace your family through traditional research methods to use genetic genealogy testing effectively.

Can a genealogy DNA test tell me how I'm related to someone?

Yes and no. An autosomal DNA test can determine the genetic relatedness of two or more people, but it usually can't reveal the exact genealogical relationship between them. However, it can estimate a relationship based on how much DNA they share.

Can I compare my DNA results to the results of people who tested with a different company?

Yes. Your testing company will automatically find and alert you to DNA matches in its own databases (though your online account/profile), and some companies allow you to upload your DNA results from another company to compare with the samples in their database. Additionally, you can use third-party tools (listed later in this guide) to compare and analyze your results outside your testing company.

I'm confused by triangulation-that sounds like geometry, not genealogy! What gives?

Don't let the technical terminology scare you. In autosomal DNA testing, triangulation just means comparing matching DNA segments in order to pinpoint which ancestor the DNA segment came from. You need a matching segment from at least three people descended from a common ancestor to be confident that they inherited that segment from the common ancestor.

For Your Information

Easy Evernote Dictation with Siri

By Lisa Alzo, *Internet Genealogy and Your Genealogy Today* author, November 2015



Perhaps you are already familiar with being able to dictate your thoughts directly into Evernote by using the microphone icon on your mobile device keyboard. A way to do the same with fewer steps and without ever opening Evernote is to create a contact with your Evernote email address. Then, for example, if you are using Evernote for iOS and Siri, you can tell Siri to "Email Evernote" and then start dictating your note. This is great for those genealogy ideas and notes you have "on the go."

"Finding Your Roots 2016" Returns

There's finally a premiere date for the third season of PBS' "[Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates Jr.](#)": Jan. 5, 2016. The show has been on hiatus after an internal review concluded that actor [Ben Affleck had "improper influence"](#) over producers' decision to omit a reference to Affleck's slave owning ancestor in the episode featuring his family history.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, the show added an additional researcher/fact-checker, another genealogist and an expert in genetic genealogy. Producers also instituted a more-rigorous process of obtaining releases from the celebrity guests whose ancestries are featured.

The lineup will include television producer [Shonda Rhimes](#) (whose shows include "Grey's Anatomy") and actors [Neil Patrick Harris](#) (of "How I Met Your Mother") and [Juliana Margulies](#) (of "The Good Wife").

The Hollywood Reporter also states "Genealogy Roadshow" will return May 17. [Read the full article here.](#)

Obituaries – Don't Make This Rookie Genealogy Research Mistake

By Thomas J. Kemp, *GenealogyBank Blog*, October 16, 2015

A typical newspaper obituary gives including name, age, and date & this information and move on to the - but that would be a mistake.

Why?

Historical newspapers often the obituary and the more compact shapes and sizes, and vary from look for them while doing your genealogy research or you will miss important clues.



the usual genealogical information, place of birth. I could easily transcribe next relative to research in my family tree

published two items about the deceased: "death notice." Death notices come in all newspaper to newspaper - but, you must

Comparing both news articles, we quickly see that additional relatives are named in the death notice. Good thing we checked or we'd have missed four family members.

Always check for both the Obituary AND the Death Notice. You'll likely be glad that you did. To read the full article with examples of obituaries and death notices, click [here](#).

Genealogy Quick Look

[Genealogy Quick Look](#) provides an index to resources available through the [Midwest Genealogy Center](#) as well as inactive pension claims from the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board. Search the index by name and/or date. If you locate a resource, you will have an opportunity to request it from the source organization.

MDGS Digger – November/December 2015

MDGS Calendar

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

Creekside Clubhouse, Rossmoor
Speaker: Lisa Gorrell
Program: "City Directories"

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

Creekside Clubhouse, Rossmoor
Room: Fairway Room
Program: MDGS 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
1001 Golden Rain Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94595