

MARIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June 2016

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 1511, Novato, CA 94948-1511
Meetings: LDS Church, 220 North San Pedro Rd, San Rafael
Email Contact: research@maringensoc.org
Email discussion list: maringensoc@rootsweb.com
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MCGS Website: <http://www.maringensoc.org>



MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2016

June 14: Writing Group 1:00 pm
June 16: DNA Group Meeting 7:00 pm
No General Meeting in June
Jun 25: Computer Group Meeting 10:00 am
July 9: MCGS Breakfast, Star, 9:00 am

Writing Group Meeting June 14, 2016, 1:00 pm. FHC LDS Church, San Rafael

Bring any writing you have done and share.
For more details, contact [Shirley Hudson](#)

DNA Group Meeting Thursday, June 16, 2016 FHC LDS Church, San Rafael 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Jo Ann-Rowley Minhoto will discuss using ADSA
to deal with her matches

Bring your results to show and puzzle over.
Presented by [Vernon Smith](#)
More information on the [DNA Group Page](#)

Computer Group Meeting Saturday, Jun 25, 2016, 10:00 - 11:30 am, Auditorium, Villa Marin, San Rafael

Topic: Using [Pinterest](#) for Genealogy
Presented by Karen Parsons

Saturday Breakfast, July 9, 2016, at 9:00 am

MCGS members and all beginners are invited
for breakfast on a Saturday each month at Star Res-
taurant, 1700 Novato Blvd in Novato at 9:00 am.

*** No MCGS General Meeting in June ***
Time to enjoy fun in the sun instead.

MCGS General Meeting, July 28, 2016, at 7:00pm

We will have a "Family History Walkabout"

See different ways to discover more about your family's genealogy. Gather tips and clues from others. The focus will be on printed materials, either in hard-copy form or online, that have helped you to find out more about your ancestors. These may have told you specific details about your ancestors, or perhaps have provided background about their lives or the time in which they lived. Some of you may have written books about your ancestors, so we invite you to share them with us. Books bring your family to life by telling us their stories! Come and be amazed by how many ways people find out more about their family history. Here is an opportunity to "Walk-About" the room, ask questions, and start discussions. Each of us will hopefully come away with at least one new idea.

Upcoming Events

California Genealogical Society Saturday, June 11, 2016, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. "Jewish Genealogy: Why Is This Research Different from All Other Research?"

Presented by Janice Sellers

An overview of the unique aspects of Jewish culture and history that affect family history research.

2201 Broadway, Suite LL2
Oakland, CA 94612

[Register here](#)

Napa Valley Genealogical Society (NVGS) Thursday, June 16, 2016, 7:00 pm. "The Jewish Surname Process in the Russian Empire and Its Effect on Jewish Genealogy"

Presented by Jeffrey Mark Paull .

NVGS Library, 1701 Menlo Ave., Napa, CA

[Info](#)

Events continued on page 2

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Ancestry and Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation

Saturday, June 18, 2016, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

“Ancestry Day by the Bay”

A full day of classes including ‘Ancestry 101: New & Review’, ‘Getting the Most from Ancestry.com’, ‘Using AncestryDNA to Further Your Family History Research’, ‘Sharing Your Family Story’.

**South San Francisco Conference Center
255 South Airport Boulevard, South San Francisco, CA 9408012**

[Info and tickets](#)

Sonoma County Genealogical Society

Saturday, June 18, 2016, Noon - 2:30 pm.

“How to Conduct a Meaningful Interview” presented by Ray Owen & Pat Carhart

Learn powerful techniques for conducting your family interviews

Finley Community Center

2060 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA

SFBAJGS Sunday, July 17, 2016, 1:30 pm.

“The Power of Digital Photography for Family History” Presented by Ron Madson

Ron realized that his 20+ years of photography experience could help with his family history research. He will share his tips to help you use a digital camera, smart phone, etc. with your research.

Rhoda Goldman Plaza

2180 Post Street, San Francisco CA 94115.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs/calendar.html>

Blog Spot

The Ancestry Insider reveals that **[“AncestryDNA Begins Using New Microchip”](#)**

Harry Barbier offers **[“Yellow is the New Red....Or is it?”](#)** in the SRPD History Watch blogspot.

Randy Seaver offers **[“Finding Published Surname Books for My Ancestors”](#)**

Family History Daily presents **[“These Old Passport Applications May Hold the Missing Genealogy Info You Need”](#)**

Roberta Estes provides **[“Blogging – Ins and Outs, Dos and Don’ts”](#)**, reveals that **[“Ancestry Refines New Ancestor Discoveries \(NADs\)”](#)**, and tells about **[“Creating a Phased Parental Kit at GedMatch”](#)**

Kitty Cooper discusses **[“A Triangulation Feature on the New 23andme”](#)** and **[“Full versus Half Sibling DNA Matches”](#)**

Debbie Kennett presents **[“New match thresholds for Family Tree DNA’s Family Finder test”](#)** and **[“AncestryDNA’s updated matching algorithms - a before and after analysis”](#)**

Barton Lewis tells **[“How I solved my great-grandmother’s NPE using DNA”](#)**

Slate of Officers for 2016 - 17

We still need a Secretary!

Contact **[Sierra Pope](#)** if you can serve

President - Sierra Pope

1st VP - Vernon Smith - (Newsletter)

2nd VP - Susan Trumbull (Programs)

Secretary - Needed

Treasurer - Conn Rusche

Registrars - Joanne Rowlands & Pam McCart

Directors:

[Nancy Evans](#) (At Large)

[Erin Lacey](#) - (Publicity)

[Shirley Hudson](#) - (Hospitality)

[Carolyn Hacker](#) (At Large)

[Carol Bentley](#) - (LDS Liaison)

Committee chairpersons

MCGS Library - Jo Ann Rowley-Minhoto & Drusilla Miller

Field Trips - Will Deady

Sales - Paul & Carolyn Hacker

Research - Cathy Gowdy

Web Site - Heinz Scheuenstuhl

Consultant - Phyllis Garratt

Past President - Jim Robinson

Family History Center and the Genealogical Society Library

Located at the LDS Church,

220 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael

Phone: (415) 479-2793

Wed. & Fri 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tuesday 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Thurs 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Closed: Sunday, Monday, and Saturday

Meet the Member - Kathy Devlin



My grandfather came to San Rafael in 1911, where my father was later born. I was also born in San Rafael, and I was raised in San Anselmo. My husband and I have lived many places, and thirty years ago we settled in San Rafael, where I have long been involved in community activities. My business background has been in financial services, and presently I am a trust administrator; my desk sits precisely where I was born, at the once Cottage Hospital in San Rafael! I get teased a lot about my possible epitaph!

By default, I seem to be the family historian. I am the eldest of three children, and also of all my maternal first cousins. I have always collected photos, family recipes, and stories, obits, cards, etc., but didn't recognize my interest as genealogy. My life-long friend, Donna Sousa, who is also a MCGS member, loves my scrapbooks, especially the one from grammar school that includes silly things important to an 8th grader, such as a note that got passed around in class!

We were always close to our grandparents, and growing up, I learned snippets of information, but not the really important things. It was not until 35 years ago when our parents and grandparents passed away, that it became abundantly clear that I really did not know much family history, and it was then, that my official interest in genealogy was born. I began to earnestly research what little information I did know.

One of the first calls I made was to my father's step-brother, who, as it happened was moving from his home that day, and he said he was holding a dress box wondering what to do with it - it was marked "George's Pictures" (he was my grandfather). I went immediately to retrieve the box. Within the box were a few photos and some memorabilia, and notably, two snapshots marked "Our English Family" and dated 1930. My grandfather was in one of the pictures, and

the older people in the photo looked like his father, so I went on the assumption that the others were his aunts and uncles. I had never heard of any family anywhere but in Switzerland. Those two little snapshots led me to a descendant of the English branch of the family and together we have since been able to locate all descendants.

My maternal grandfather had been a hobby photographer, and after his death, his box of photo negatives was tossed. My sister retrieved the box from the dumpster for me and the contents have been an ongoing project. I have been scanning the films, and his later collection of slides, for thirty years. The pictures document his life and that of the family from the late 1890s until his death in 1983. While the family photo albums exist within the family, I have been able to "fix" over or under exposed negatives and produce images of people and happenings that none of us has ever seen before. He was an outdoorsman, and my grandparents traveled widely, so in addition to the family photos, there is an abundance of images documenting "the way it was."

In addition to traditional research methods, I was an early computer and internet user, even prior to the World Wide Web, which enabled me to expand my information sources and to get quick responses to my inquiries, thus cinching my obsession with genealogy. I joined MCGS many years ago, and I have made several trips to Salt Lake City with the group. More recently, I got my husband hooked on genealogy and together we have gone on many research trips. I have traced both my maternal and paternal lines back as far as the 1600's and my Swiss grandfather's line back to the 1500's. My husband, Jack, and I have researched his family history in America extensively, but we hit the wall in Ireland in 1821 and back. We have written the genealogy of one of his particularly interesting ancestors and Jack is working on a fictionalized story of the same man.

I love genealogy because of its many facets. The endless acts of kindness and people I meet in the pursuit of family history, the study of world and cultural history, geography, social studies, music, food, and many other topics have enriched my life tremendously, but nothing beats meeting cousins in person and visiting the places my ancestors came from and standing

in places where they once stood. Most rewarding of all was a trip to Europe to reunite my American and Swiss family and my French family.

As more and more research sources becomes available to us, and as technology further develops, and if Vernon Smith can successfully teach me about DNA, I look forward to many more years of enrichment through genealogy.

**Please Welcome Our New Member:
Steve Sciallo of Westlake Village. CA**

Catherine A. Ball, PhD of Ancestry Academy presents a free webinar **“Behind the Scenes: The Science Behind AncestryDNA Results”**

SCGS Jamboree 2016

“Giving to the Future by Preserving the Past”

Watch Live Streams of the sessions from this event for free until July 5, 2016

Session descriptions, speaker bios, suggested experience levels and schedule details are available on the [Jamboree website](#). [Register now](#)

Marin Mystery Location

Do you know where in Marin (not Japan) this was located, how it came to be there, and when it was built. **The solution is upside down below.**

Solution to the June 2016 Mystery Location
Main gate of Marsh's "Miyajima" estate, Mill Valley.
George Turner Marsh was at the start of the "craze for all things Japanese" and with Frederick Holroyd Deakin opened Japanese import shops in San Francisco in 1876 at the New Palace Hotel at 2 New Montgomery St. at the corner of Market St. His family's "winter home" was on the corner of Clement and 12th Avenue in San Francisco and was named the "Richmond Home". After purchasing 32 acres of land in Mill Valley's Blithedale Canyon, in 1892 he built his family a Japanese-style "summer home" called Miyajima (Owl's Nest). Unfortunately, the home sustained major fire damage in the large fire of 1899 and was finally destroyed by the fire of 1925. Read more in this [article](#).
Photo © Annabelle Marsh Piercy.

