



GOLD DIGGERS

Tuolumne County Genealogical Society

Sonora, California

www.tcgen.org ~ (209) 532-1317

Volume 40, Issue 2

Aug / Sep 2020

General meetings held each month (except December) at the
Tuolumne County Library Conference Room, 480 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA.

LIBRARY

**TCGS GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS
AUGUST 10, 2020 & SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

The Tuolumne County Library will be closed
through September 2020.

There will be NO TCGS General Meetings or Special Interest Group
(Irish, Writers', or DNA/Computer Tech) Meetings in the
Community Meeting Room of the Library in August or September.

CLOSED

**TCGS ANNUAL SEMINAR
OCTOBER 10, 2020**

CANCELLED

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, TCGS will not present a seminar in 2020.
We hope to see everyone at our next Annual Seminar in the Fall of 2021.



**FOR THE MOST CURRENT NEWS REGARDING TCGS ~
MONTHLY MEETINGS, MUSEUM LIBRARY AND
FAMILY HISTORY CENTER HOURS ~**

VISIT <http://tcgen.org/> .



President’s Message by Phil VanSwoll

Six months ago, no one had ever heard of Zoom. Now, what would we do without it? Our June board meeting was held via Zoom, and went quite well, I thought. Vice President Sherry Blake held a Zoom meeting to put together the new TCGS Facebook page, and it was very productive. Speaking of which – if you haven’t checked the new page out, I urge you to do so. Sherry and her “team” (good work, guys!) have given us a new way to reach out to more people. For those who are on social media (I hate to admit it, but that isn’t me!), it’s a really good way to keep up with what we are doing.

We’ll be doing another Zoom board meeting on July 20. I know that all of us are looking forward to being able to meet in person again, but it is looking like that is going to be a ways off. However, to look on the bright side, many of us now have the time to catch up on our family tree research. I hope that is you, and that you know help is only a phone call away if you run into problems.

Remember – we are here for you! If you have a question, or a problem with your research you can’t resolve on your own, don’t hesitate to ask any of your board members for assistance. If we don’t know the answer, we will do everything we can to find someone who does.

~ Phil E. VanSwoll

MY HERITAGE PHOTO ENHANCER

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2020/06/introducing-the-myheritage-photo-enhancer/>



MyHeritage has introduced the new MyHeritage Photo Enhancer, a powerful and innovative new feature that enhances photos and brings blurry faces into sharp focus. Perhaps you have old photos that look grainy or blurred, or photos of large family gatherings with many faces that are too small to recognize clearly. The MyHeritage Photo Enhancer aims to solve these age-old problems and produces phenomenal results that let you see your ancestors more clearly than ever before. The addition of the Photo Enhancer, complemented by the MyHeritage in Color™, makes MyHeritage the best platform for uploading, enhancing and sharing historical photos.

~ From MyHeritage Blog, June 12, 2020

Link to MyHeritage Webinar ~ “How MyHeritage Enhances Your Photos for Genealogical Research”

https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=1302

Editor’s Note: I have uploaded a couple of old blurry photos to MyHeritage Photo Enhancer and the results are amazing! Hope you will give it a try, too.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS

OCTOBER ~ AHA! Pandemic Epiphanies ~ Presented by Society Members

NOVEMBER ~ DNA Family Discoveries ~ Justin Flores

DECEMBER ~ No General Meeting

JANUARY ~ On-Site Research Techniques ~ Lori East, Brenda Hix, & Judi Lewis

FEBRUARY ~ Family Stories and Family Treasures ~ Presented by Society Members

MARCH ~ Family History Guide ~ Kristine Childres

APRIL ~ Genealogy Museum Tour ~ Lori East

MAY ~ Annual Meeting and Luncheon

JUNE ~ Sale Lake City Report ~ 2021 Travelers to SLC

THIS SCHEDULE IS
SUBJECT TO
CHANGE DUE TO
THE ONGOING
COVID19
PANDEMIC.



The Library Corner by Kristine Childres

I hope that all of you are keeping safe and well. As you may know, the museum has not opened since the first shut down. That makes it difficult to write a library corner. All of you are probably doing interesting things, but not necessarily genealogy.

Nathan Dylan Goodwin has written a genealogical historical mystery crime series consisting of (so far) nine books. Our genealogy library at the museum has these books, which you may check out: *Hiding the Past*, *The Lost Ancestor*, *The Orange Lilies*, *The America Ground*, *The Spyglass File*, *The Missing Man*, *The Wicked Trade*, *The Sterling Affair*, and *The Suffragette's Secret*. All these books have received four- or five-star reviews on Amazon.com. If you need some new reading material, you may email Lori East at info@tcgen.org to make arrangements to borrow one of these books.

The other item is more of a reminder. I say a reminder because I had forgotten about this wonderful resource. Although the County library is closed, you can still use their library tools. In the library research tools is Heritage Quest. There are U. S. and Canadian censuses; over 28,000 books, both family and local county histories; and Revolutionary War Era Pensions and Bounty-land Warrant Applications from the 1800's. All you need to have is your library card number; after that, you are in. I have found several county histories and a couple of family histories, too. Good hunting!

Queries for May, June, and July: Brezina and Litt

Please take good care of yourselves and pray we can all get through this pandemic together.

Stay cool and think positive!

~ Kristine

Updates Soon Coming to AncestryDNA Matches

As Ancestry continues to improve the accuracy of their DNA matching algorithms, they will be changing the way they calculate the amount of DNA you share with your matches. Here's what these changes will mean for you:

- More accurate number of shared segments
- See the length of your longest shared segment
- Distant DNA matches must share 8 cM or higher

Read more from Blaine Bettinger here: https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2020/07/17/losing-distant-matches-at-ancestrydna/?fbclid=IwAR3nV9OtWC9XdaKdASWllhr4mohDjrPZ_qiVL0_ywLym3dx-z-XoM4Wyoona



TCGS is now on Facebook!

Sherry Blake, our new Vice President, has created a Facebook group at

Tuolumne County Genealogical Society.

Be sure to visit the page and help promote interest and membership in TCGS!

StoryWorth

Have you ever feared for your life? If you were to do it over, what would you do differently? What is one of the bravest things you've ever done, and what was the outcome? What things do you think you cannot live without? StoryWorth would have been a great gift for my parents so we could learn more about their lives before they passed away. StoryWorth is a subscription you sign up for and gift to someone else. Once a week, StoryWorth will send the recipient of the gift an email with questions you've never thought to ask. The recipient simply replies to the email question with a story, which is shared with you each week. At the end of the year, their stories are bound into a beautiful keepsake book. Photos and captions may be included, and additional copies of the book may be purchased. One reviewer said, "StoryWorth is more than just a book, more than a collection of stories. It's the gift of time you spend with family uncovering those stories. There has never been a gift that has held more meaning or value to me."

Check out StoryWorth here: https://welcome.storyworth.com/dad2?date=2020-06-21&tag=fathersday&theme=fathersday&promo=hR8XucBp&utm_expid=.MJgqz2VfTSWcZLv6NZfPkQ.2&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F

Teachers for Coming Year ~ The Union Democrat ~ September 17, 1921

The list of teachers for Tuolumne county schools for the ensuing year, is supplied us by Supt. Of Schools G. P. Morgan as follows:

Algerine—Mrs. Clara Sims.
Arastraville—Mrs. Katherine Hallock.
Big Oak Flat—Miss Clara M. Watson.
Chinese Camp--Mrs. Jesse S. Prothero.
Columbia--Mrs. Elna Peterson, Miss Sadie Washburn.
Corner—No appointment yet.
Confidence—Miss Madeline Rozier.
Curtis Creek—Miss M. Louise Pease, Miss Mae Gallagher, Mrs. J. E. Elliott.
Deer Flat—Mrs. M. F. DeFerrari.
Gravel Range—Mrs. A. A. Gaskill.
Green Springs—Mrs. S. A. Jasper.
Groveland—Miss Thelma Tucker, Mrs. Marguerite Snider.
Jacksonville—Mrs. Violet Emerson.
Jamestown—Mrs. Grace Fassett, Miss A. E. Bogan, Miss Katherine Leithold.
Montezuma—Miss Ruth Russell.
Moccasin Creek —C. F. Leithold.

Middle Camp—No appointment.
Phoenix—Mrs. Geo. S. Rosen.
Poverty Hill—Miss Rebekah Hembree.
Quartz—Miss Marguerite Pease.
Rawhide—Mrs. Olive S. Flanders
Shaw's Flat—Miss M. A. Fahey.
Shawmut—Miss T. M. Gallagher
Sonora—R. H. McPeak, Prin.; Mrs. Rachel Watson; Mrs. P. R. Murrow, Miss Maud May, Miss Adela Butterfield, Miss P. R. Scott, Miss Lorena Hartvig, Miss Pearl Burgson, Primary; Mrs. M. L. Campbell, Primary; Miss Coda M. Alward, Kindergarten.
Springfield—Mrs. Kathryn Ghiorso.
Spring Gulch—No appointment.
Soulsbyville—Miss Olive Siple, Prin.; Miss Lorna Southey.
Summerville—Miss A. J. Graham, Prin.; Mrs. S. M. Long, Miss Loretta Kaler, Mrs. Lucie T. Trott, Miss Marie Blanchard, Miss Frances Symons, Mrs. Dora Wigley, Miss Ida I. Hill, Primary.

Tuttletown—Miss Mary Alves.
Ward's Ferry—Miss Mary Richards.
Hetch Hetchy—Mrs. Florence M. Peacocke.
Buck Meadows—Mrs. Marjorie Donohue.
Sonora Union High—V. A. Dunlavy, Prin.; Miss Ermine Puckett, Miss Mabel Page, Miss Ina Nelson, Miss Verna Darrow, Miss Marjorie Tuttle, Drawing and Art; Miss Charlotte Cushman, Domestic Art; H. C. Woodham, Science; H. H. Sherrard, Agriculture; Frank T. Moyle, Manual Arts.
Summerville Union High—C. W. Smith, Prin.; Miss Clara Beckwith, Miss Mary L. Miller, Miss J. E. Clauson, Miss Phyllis Bates.
Tuolumne County Board of Education—Mrs. S. M. Long, Tuolumne, President; Mrs. Jessie J. Fowler, Jamestown; Miss M. Louise Pease, Standard; C. F. Leithold; Moccasin Creek; G. P. Morgan, Secretary, Sonora.

The Old Corps of Teachers Retained The Union Democrat ~ August 9, 1919

At a recent meeting of the trustees the old staff of teachers in the Sonora grammar school were reappointed for the coming term, with the exception of Miss Jordan, of the kindergarten department, who had resigned at the end of the last school term. Miss Zetie Higgins of Sanger was selected for this department. The other teachers and their positions are:

Miss M. A. Fahey, principal.
Miss Rachel Shaw, vice principal.
Miss Pearl Morrow, sixth grade.
Miss Ethel King, fifth grade.
Miss Adele Butterfield, sixth grade.
Miss Maud May, third grade.
Miss Perne Scott, second grade.
Mrs. M. L. Campbell, first grade.
The school will open for the fall term September 19th.

Trial Jurors to be in Court Next Thursday The Union Democrat ~ September 11, 1920

The following persons, listed as trial jurors are to appear in the Superior Court Thursday, September 16th, at 10 o'clock A.M.:

Jules Agasse, Louis Bacigalupi, Jr., Edward A. Baier, Mrs. Mary Boitano, Thomas R. Crane, Fred A. Cavagnaro, G. M. Ciravegna, Mrs. Nuna E. Clark, Joseph Davey, Domingo DeBernardi, Mrs. Susie R. Eckel, Ivar C. Eckman, Mrs. Edith J. Elsbree, August Engler, Perry Fitzgerald, Mrs. Gertrude M. Fletcher, Mrs. Annie S. P. Frost, Wm. M. Harrington, Bert Holmes, Mrs. Annie Howard, Charles J. Hughes, James B. Hughes, Mrs. Lizzie Johnson, John E. Keagy, Mrs. Gertrude M. Kearney, Millard A. Kimball, David S. Kinney, Joseph R. Lertora, Mrs. Ora Morgan, Wm. E. Moyle, Mrs. Agnes McAllister, Elmer E. McDow, Archibald Oliver, T. R. Oliver, William L. Powell, Joseph Ratto, Downey W. Schofield, Joseph B. Shore, Sr., Frank W. Shorts, Harry W. Smith, B. F. Stewart, Mrs. Adabel Sweeney, John W. Taylor, Thomas J. Van Arsdale, John Yost.

Announcing the 1950 Census Project for the Morse One-Step Site

Joel Weintraub has announced a major new addition that he created for Stephen Morse's One-Step Webpages site: the **1950 Census Project** includes 230,000 plus 1950 Enumeration Districts' definitions transcribed and searchable, an additional 79,000 small rural/urban names added to the definitions, and over 2,400 city street indexes for most cities over 5,000 in population. The work was done with Steve Morse, Joel Weintraub, and under 80 volunteers. All of this is online at <https://stevemorse.org/> right now.

~ Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, June 1, 2020

FREE Legacy Family Tree Webinars

<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

August 2020

- 4 ~ Tracing Australian and New Zealand World War One Ancestors
- 5 ~ Using DNA to Solve Adoption and Unknown Parentage Mysteries
- 6 ~ Preparing a Portfolio: Applying to Become a Certified Genealogist
- 11 ~ Working with Different Family Tree Views on MyHeritage
- 12 ~ Dissecting a Civil War Pension Packet—Union and Confederate
- 18 ~ The Advance of Research Habits over Recent Decades—And the Downside
- 19 ~ Getting to Know Mexican Church and Civil Registration Records
- 25 ~ How to Use MyHeritage DNA Results to Enhance Your Family Tree
- 26 ~ Slack for Genealogy Projects

September 2020

- 1 ~ Welcome in Australian! Researching German-Australian families
- 2 ~ Using Chromosome Browsers, Segment Data and Triangulation
- 8 ~ New Historical Records Available on MyHeritage
- 9 ~ Cyndi's List in Practice
- 15 ~ Reconstructing the Murphy Family Using DNA and Documentary
- 16 ~ Finding Genealogical Data in the Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files
- 18 ~ Your DNA questions answered live with Diahann
- 22 ~ A MyHeritage Webinar
- 23 ~ Introduction to VPNs
- 30 ~ 5 Ways to find your Family in Southern Manuscript Collections

Go to the website to register for the webinar in your time zone.



IRISH AND DNA / COMPUTER TECH SIG NEWS

Until the Community Meeting room at the County Library is available for our use, the Irish and DNA/Computer Special Interest Group meetings will be conducted via Zoom. Each group will be meeting on the **second Monday of EVERY month ~ Irish at 10 AM and DNA/Computer Tech at noon.** (Note: The day/time of the DNA group may be changed. Check www.tcgen.org for the most current information.)

If you would like to attend one or both of these meetings, download the Zoom app to your phone, tablet, or computer. To request an invitation to the DNA meeting, contact Lorna Wick at justlorna40@gmail.com. To request an invitation to the Irish meeting, contact Kathy Boone at cookie48@mlode.com. You will receive an invitation that will include a link to the requested meeting.

TCGS BOARD MEETINGS

Until the TCGS Board Meetings is able to meet at Papa's New Roost, the monthly Board meetings will be conducted via Zoom. These meetings will be at the usual date and time ~ third Monday of the month at 9:30 a.m. If you are not on the Board and would like to attend the meeting, please download the Zoom app to your phone, tablet, or computer and contact President Phil VanSwoll at pvanswoll@outlook.com to request an invitation to the meeting. Your invitation will include a link to the meeting.

NEW INDEXED RECORDS ON FAMILYSEARCH

- Alaska, Pribilof Islands (particularly St. Paul Island) Census Records, 1881-1910 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3405095>
- Arizona, Birth Certificates and Indexes, 1855-1930 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3740251>
- Arkansas, County Voter Registration Records, 1868-1910 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3499874>
- California, Geographical and Name Index of Californians who served in WWI, 1914-1918 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3029259>
- California, Index to San Francisco passenger lists, 1893-1934 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3477656>
- California, Los Angeles, San Gabriel Cemetery Association, Cemetery Index, 1872-2003 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3694058>
- California, passenger and crew lists at various ports, 1907-1956 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3477653>
- Canada, New Brunswick, County Register of Births, 1801-1920 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3734436>
- Democratic Republic of the Congo Census, 1984 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3288450>
- England, Devon, Plymouth Prison Records, 1821-1919 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3583825>
- England, Index to Register of Passport Applications, 1851-1903 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3736293>
- England, Lancashire Non-Conformist Church Records, 1642-1996 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3656808>
- England, Middlesex Parish Registers, 1539-1988 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3734475>
- German, Saxony, Church Book Indexes, 1500-1900 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2399108>
- Hawaii, Collector of Customs, Ships' Passenger Manifests, 1843-1900 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3463100>
- Hawaii, Hawaiian Islands Newspaper Obituaries, 1900-ca.2010 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3736295>
- Hawaii island census records, 1878-1896 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3040537>
- Hawaii, State Archives, Register of Voters, Hawaiian Islands, 1887-1888 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3559086>
- Idaho, Jefferson Star, County Cemetery Records, 1800-2000 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3733439>
- Idaho, Nez Perce County, Brower Wann Funeral Home Records, 1925-1986 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2554944>
- Indiana, Bartholomew, Columbus, Garland Brook Cemetery Interment Records, ca.1885-ca.2000 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3714671>
- Iowa, Buchanan County Obituaries and Cemetery Records, ca.1796-1988 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3740406>
- Iowa, Historical Society of Iowa, Divorce Records, 1906-1937 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3648676>
- Ireland, Dublin, 1924 Alumni Dublinenses, 1593-1846 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3736276> *
- Ireland, Dublin, The Post Office Annual Directory and Calendar, 1843 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3736260> *
- Ireland, Dublin, The Post Office Annual Directory and Calendar, 1858 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3736273> *
- Ireland, Estate Commissioners Offices, Applications from Evicted Tenants, 1907 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3736275>
- Ireland, John Watson Stewart, The Gentleman's and Citizen's Almanac, 1814 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3736281>
- Ireland, Medical Directory for Ireland, 1858 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3535180>

Ireland, Parliamentary Papers on Emigration to Canada, 1826 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3736278>

Ireland, Pettigrew and Oulton, The Dublin Almanac and General Register of Ireland, 1835 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3736265> *

Ireland, Registers of Queen's Colleges, 1849-1858 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3736263>

Ireland, The Weekly Irish Times, Sinn Fein Rebellion Handbook, Easter 1916, 1916-1917 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3734719>

Maine, Alien Arrivals, 1906-1953 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3477648>

Michigan, Saginaw County, Biographical Card File, ca. 1830-2000 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3733440>

Micronesia, Civil Registration, 1883-1983 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2761211>

Minnesota, Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Layman Cemetery Burial Records, 1860-1926 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3733110>

Minnesota, Waseca County Historical Society, Burial Cards, ca.1860-1992 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3744865>

Montana, Silver Bow County, Cemetery Indexes, 1880-2003 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3661046>

New Jersey, Mercer County, Veterans Service Office, Grave Registration Records, ca.1770-ca.1979 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3714672>

New Jersey, Newark, Woodland Cemetery Records, 1895-1980 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3694030>

New Mexico, Alien Arrivals, 1917-1954 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3465358>

New York, Lackawanna, Holy Cross Cemetery Records, 1855-1965 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3732499>

Niue, Vital Records, 1818-1984 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3733116>

Norway, Oslo, Akershus Prison Records, 1844-1885 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3335353>

Norway, Oslo, Census, 1832-1954 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2474129>

Ohio, Toledo, Historic Woodlawn Cemetery Index of Burials, 1877-1955 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3714677>

Oklahoma, Tulsa County, Rose Hill Memorial Park Interment Records, ca.1915-ca.1982 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3734434>

Oregon, Death Index, 1971-2008 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3479712>

Oregon, Divorce Index, 1991-2008 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3479713>

Oregon, Marriage Index, 1849-1884; 1991-2006 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3500591>

Pennsylvania Cemetery Records, ca.1700-ca.1950 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3743478>

Peru, Piura, Civil Registration, 1874-1996 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3733437>

South Africa, Orange Free State, Civil Death Registration, 1902-1954 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3732502>

Texas, Grimes County, Marriage Records, 1951-1966 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3518927>

United Kingdom, Quakers Annual Monitor, 1849 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3736290>

United States, Slave Birth Records, 1780-1846 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3418453>

Wales, Monmouthshire (Gwent), Electoral Registers 1839-1889 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3477661>

Washington, County Birth Registers, 1873-1965 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3418468>

Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Holy Cross Cemetery, Interment Records, 1909-1979 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3714667>

Zambia, Archdiocese of Lusaka, Church Records, 1950-2015 ~ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3736255>

* *Some restrictions may apply*

GENEALOGY MYTHS

Family stories are a wonderful thing. They often give you insights into the lives of your ancestors. However, beware! Not all family stories are true. Many such stories are fictional. Yet, even the stories that are either entirely or part fiction may contain clues to facts. Good genealogical practice requires that we admit the fiction. But the next step the genealogist takes separates art from science. Before we discard these stories altogether, we need to mine them for nuggets of truth. Let's look at a few of the more common "family legends" to see which ones you can mine for real gold.

Myth #1: Our name was changed at Ellis Island.

Fact: No evidence whatsoever exists to suggest this ever occurred. In fact, Ellis Island had rigid documentation requirements. Anyone who arrived at Ellis Island without proper documents from "the old county" proving the person's name and providing other required information was sent back at the shipping company's expense. In fact, the shipping companies obviously knew this and always checked for proper documentation before allowing any passengers to board the ship in Europe or the British Isles.

Many people assume that there was a language barrier at Ellis Island and that millions were admitted under different names because immigration officials could not communicate with the newly-arrived travelers from many lands. This is also a fallacy. Ellis Island hired a small army of interpreters. The interpreters spoke the required languages fluently. Most were either prior immigrants themselves or the children of immigrants who learned their mother tongue as children. No Immigrant was ever admitted until after answering multiple questions, usually through an interpreter on the Ellis Island payroll.

Thanks to the documentation verification conducted at the port of embarkation in Europe, your ancestors' names were known and proven before arriving at Ellis Island and were never changed there. A very few exceptions were made in 1945 and 1946 as refugees from the war-torn areas of World War II were sometimes admitted without documentation. Looking at Ellis Island records will almost always show the original names as first recorded in "the old country." Of course, you will find major spelling variations, as many illiterate immigrants could not spell their own names even in their native languages, much less in the still-unlearned English language.

Even so, I suggest you ponder these family stories a moment before you categorically discard them. They may hold a nugget of truth that you can use to track down your immigrant ancestors. Many family names were changed in the months or years after arriving at Ellis Island. As immigrant families settled into their new neighborhoods, many adopted "Americanized names." Teachers, clerks, and neighbors sometimes found the original names to be difficult to pronounce; so, they frequently called these people by traditional American names. In many cases, the new immigrants or their descendants adopted the new names. Therefore, you might find yourself checking immigrations records for name variants, based on clues in the stories passed down to you.

~ From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, May 21, 2020

Watch for "Myth #2: All the records were destroyed during the war" in the next issue of Gold Diggers

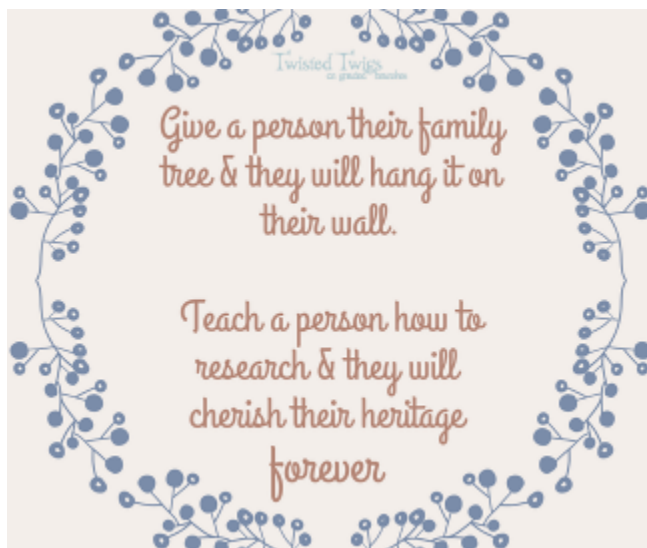


There is a neat trick you can use to list the New titles added by Newspapers.com and also the Updated titles

For the NEW titles, enter the URL: <https://www.newspapers.com/papers/?sort=new#>

For the UPDATED titles, enter the URL: <https://www.newspapers.com/papers/?sort=updated#>

~ From The Ancestor Hunt



From Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches



BOARD MEETING

June 15, 2020: It was the consensus of the Board that the Seminar, planned for October 10, should be cancelled due to the uncertainty concerning the COVID pandemic. The general meeting programs proposed for 2020/2021 were approved (see page 2), but are subject to change. The next Salt Lake City trip is scheduled for May 16 to 23, 2021.

July 20, 2020: The museum remains closed. Lori East goes into the genealogy library approximately once a week to respond to emails and research requests. Lorna Wick reported the DNA Special Interest Group is considering changing the date and time of its monthly meeting.

AUGUST 2020

GENERAL MEETING

~~August 10, 2020 ~ 2:00 p.m.~~

~~Sonora Public Library
Conference Room~~

BOARD MEETING

August 17, 2020 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

SEPTEMBER 2020

GENERAL MEETING

~~September 14, 2020 ~ 2:00 p.m.~~

~~Sonora Public Library
Conference Room~~

BOARD MEETING

September 21, 2020 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES



When you shop on Amazon, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to TCGS when you sign up and shop through AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com).

Amazon.Smile donations to TCGS to date: \$545.14

Visit tcgen.org for more information and instructions for signing up for this fundraising opportunity!

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 132

**DEADLINE FOR
OCT/NOV NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020**



10 Free Video Chat Apps to Use If You're Social Distancing

These videoconferencing apps are available to keep in touch with your family, friends, and workplace while we continue to be stuck at home due to the pandemic:



Amazon Chime, Facebook Messenger, FaceTime, Google Hangouts Meet, Houseparty, Marco Polo, Microsoft Teams, Skype, WhatsApp and Zoom
(also Signal and Duo,
not mentioned in the following article):

<https://www.cnet.com/news/10-free-zoom-alternative-apps-for-video-chats/>

~ Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

FROM THE SALT LAKE CITY FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY FACEBOOK PAGE ~ JUNE 25, 2020

We at the Family History Library miss our guests and are anxious to see you again! Concerns about COVID-19 closed the Family History Library doors in March. While millions of our records are available online, many guests ~ including professional genealogists whose livings rely on reliable records ~ are anxious to access records available only within the library. We are working toward welcoming guests back into a safe environment.

During the closure, much has been done inside to improve the library.

- Crews have remodeled, added new features, sorted and shelved books, and prepared to welcome guests back.
- We added a new Welcome Desk and Research Consultation Station to the third floor of the library and research tables on floors B2, B1, and the third floor.
- Additional bookshelves were placed on B2 and the third floor, allowing us to bring over 28,000 books out of storage and back into public collections.
- Improved ADA compliant restrooms are now in place on the main floor.

Anxious as we are to share our resources, the health of you and your loved ones is paramount as we prepare to allow access to this improved environment. Our resources ~ which are designed to be handled ~ present specific challenges. Our teams are carefully forming reopening plans, paying special attention to our guest and employee age demographic amid the need to handle materials in our collections. We will share plans as they are ready.

In the meantime, we are still here to help you. Using our online resources, you can find assistance in locating, reading, and interpreting records. You can ask questions, share your expertise with others, and collaborate with people who are familiar with or seeking help with records in various areas of the world.

FamilySearch Community: https://community.familysearch.org/s/?language=en_US&fbclid=IwAR3j2nOtrtEzX4i46lcUZ4ZcNP0x2iw-kQ8eylpQvbm1PgbXQ2MU48iILM

One-on-one online consultations: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Online_Consultations?fbclid=IwAR277jl-qNJhOFyOp5GKv9jlp5AljY1GfvXcPtF5x24uNuh0HtOzVWYncQ

Online classes and webinars: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars?fbclid=IwAR2hqPXPkVZS7tgcbsbGY0MU1LvE1DxK62CqYiCa8KLiANQQ5Z72AhD_jN8

Learning Center: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Classes_in_the_Learning_Center?fbclid=IwAR3RWSHD4sRWAJKWy40VixnwDKa-bDHWd0sSkXBS-wdsp7RINllnctVM_A

Ukrainian History and Education Center to Launch FREE Online Genealogy Series

Genealogists with roots in and around Ukraine can continue their research during the pandemic with the launch of NashiPredky@Home, a FREE online genealogy and history series of events by the Ukrainian History and Education Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to connect generations by telling the stories of Ukraine and Ukrainian Americans through its museum and archives.

On Wednesday, August 5, at 7:00 p.m., Mike Buryk will present Ukrainians and their Communities in the United States: 1600 – 2020, which will help you gain a basic understanding of the history of Ukraine and the conditions there that sparked emigration to the U.S. as early as the colonial period and into the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The five main periods of Ukrainian emigration to the U.S. will be covered, and current U.S. Ukrainian community educational and cultural institutions are reviewed.

Additional monthly talks and virtual office hours are being planned through the end of 2020.

All of the above events are FREE, but registration is required. They will be held via the GoToWebinar platform. More information and registration for each event is available at <https://www.ukrhec.org/calendar>.



**TCGS CHRISTMAS
PARTY
December 12, 2020
Peppery Gar
and Brill**

Membership rosters are available at the museum or by email to info@tcgen.org. If your information in the roster is not correct, please call Betty Sparagna at 532-1317 or email her at info@tcgen.org.

Thank you for helping us keep our Membership Roster up to date!

Tuolumne County Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 3956, Sonora, California 95370-3956

LIBRARY: 158 Bradford Street, Sonora

www.tcgen.org - info@tcgen.org

Membership Application

New Membership Renewal Reinstatement

Name _____

(Please include member's maiden name if applicable)

Mailing Address _____

City, State, **Zip + 4**, Country _____

Phone Number (____) _____ Email Address _____.

Please **select a membership level** for which you are including a check. Your membership begins when your application has been processed. Effective June 1, 2019, rates are:

Individual \$25 Yearly Patron \$50 Yearly

Family \$35 Yearly Lifetime \$300

Donation \$ _____

The *Gold Diggers* newsletter will be sent to you electronically unless this box is checked:

Send by USPS mail.

If your mailing label is **RED**, payment is due.

If you have already mailed your check,
please disregard this notice.

For New Members:

In the interest of providing better programs for our membership, please tell us something about yourself. Are you just getting started in genealogy? Do you have ancestors in Tuolumne County? What family names are you researching? This is entirely optional.

Make check payable to TCGS and mail with application to TCGS, PO Box 3956, Sonora, CA 95370. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

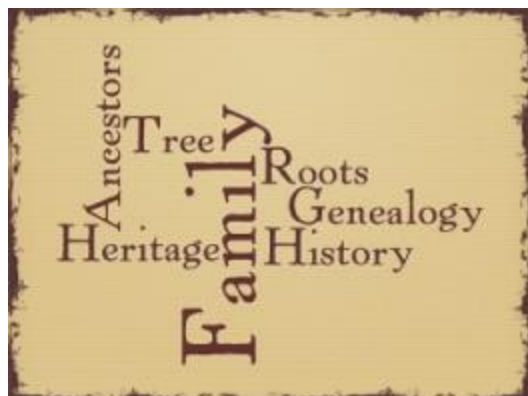
DUES ARE PAYABLE ON ANNIVERSARY DATE OF APPLICATION

I hereby acknowledge and consent that, unless otherwise copyrighted or instructed, any family histories, biographies, or other materials that I donate to the TUOLUMNE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, including the above information, may be published in the Society quarterly, newsletter, or other publications, and may be used in exchange with other Societies and/or in the Society's library. All materials donated to the Society become the property of the Society and the donor acknowledges that they will not be returned.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Tuolumne County Genealogical Society
PO Box 3956
Sonora, CA 95370-3956

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



If your mailing label is **RED**, payment is due.

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Gold Diggers is published bi-monthly by the Tuolumne County Genealogical Society
for the benefit of the membership. There is no charge for *Gold Diggers*.

MUSEUM / GENEALOGY LIBRARY: 158 W. Bradford St., Sonora, CA Phone: (209) 532-1317

HOURS: Tuesday & Thursday ~ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. / Saturday ~ 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Website: www.tcgen.org Email: info@tcgen.org