



## Getting Started in Your Irish Research Speaker: David Ryan



Irish research has a reputation for being difficult. It can seem particularly daunting when you are starting your research from scratch. But is it truly impossible? Or is there a potential way around some of those frustrating brick walls?

Our speaker, **David Ryan**, will examine some of the common problems often encountered when starting our Irish research and solutions to help you locate those elusive Irish ancestors.

**David Ryan**, MA, DIPGEN, is a professional genealogist and oral historian based just outside of Cork City, Ireland. David is a graduate of University College Cork. He holds an MA in Medieval

History and a Diploma in Genealogy. He currently works as an Assistant Genealogist with Ancestry ProGenealogists.

**Saturday, March 20, 2021**

[You must register for this meeting.](#)

*After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the class.*

**10:30 - 11:00am**

Business Meeting with President  
and Committee Reports

**11:00 - 12:00 Noon**

Elizabeth O'Neal, VP, Introduction of Speakers



### SBCGS Members Access Subscription Sites From Home

The following sites are available to SBCGS members during the time the Sahyun Library is closed due to the current COVID situation.

- **American Ancestors (NEHGS)**
- **Ancestry Library Edition**
- **Genealogy Bank**

Click on "Access from Home"  
under **Members Area.**

<https://sbgen.org/members.php>

### Virtually Travel & Research From Your Living Room!

- **Our Heritage Trip to Denmark and Sweden**, Monday, March 22 at 1:00 pm. with Cheryl and Gary Jensen.

<https://sbgen.org/eventListings.php?nm=216>

- **Researching Ancestral Locations in Prussian Genealogy Records**, Wednesday, March 22 from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm with Nancy Loe

<https://sbgen.org/eventListings.php?nm=216>

## VIRTUAL EVENTS, MEETINGS & GATHERINGS



### [REGISTER HERE](#)

You must register for March virtual classes. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the class.



### **SBCGS Needs You!**

The Nominating Committee is conducting a search for the next SBCGS President. If you are interested in serving as President or know a Society member who you believe is qualified please contact Karen Ramsdell at [Governance@sbgen.org](mailto:Governance@sbgen.org). The Board is willing to consider a Co-President position.

### **Please welcome SBCGS member Liz**



**Smith** to our newly formed Publicity Team. Liz volunteered to take on publicity tasks beginning this month and will be happy to meet any other members that

would like to join her. Also, if you are an avid FaceBook junkie we need you. If you're interested you may contact her at [Outreach@sbgen.org](mailto:Outreach@sbgen.org)

Elizabeth "Liz" Smith was born in Lodi, CA, and grew up in Stockton, Sacramento, and Marysville/Yuba City. She moved to Santa Barbara in 1997 to attend UCSB, met and married her husband here (also a Smith), and they are now raising their 8 year old son and 2 year old daughter here. Liz joined the Genealogical Society 2018, and is looking forward to getting more involved in the Society through the Publicity Team.



## President's Message: Elizabeth Swanay O'Neal, President Pro Tem



Dear SBCGS members,

Rosa Avolio has now passed the gavel to me, and I'll be serving as your president pro tem for the month of March. As I'm sure you are aware, the nominating committee is still searching for a willing-and-able candidate to serve as president for the remainder of the current term, and your board members have jumped in to do

the job one month at a time. Please, if you are interested in serving as president, or would like more information about what this job entails, contact Karen Ramsdell at [governance@sbgen.org](mailto:governance@sbgen.org) as soon as possible.

I began "stalking" my ancestors way back in 1987, before the Internet was a thing, and microfilm machines were still cool. I became a professional genealogist about 10 years ago, and I currently own [Swan Genealogy Services<sup>SM</sup>](#) as well as the family history lifestyle blog [Heart of the Family<sup>TM</sup>](#). My goal is to help others "make the past part of their present."

My professional memberships include the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the Genealogical Speakers Guild, and I'm an active member of the public speaking club Toastmasters International. I serve as president of the Second Life Virtual Genealogical Society, vice president of the GeneaBloggers Organization, and I'm the coordinator of the NGSQ Study Groups. I'm also a member of several lineage societies, and this June will mark my 25th year of membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

While my official SBCGS record shows that I joined in 2013, I originally became a member in 2008 but was inactive for a few years. Living an hour away and homeschooling my daughter made it difficult to get to meetings and events at that time, so I wasn't able to participate fully until my daughter was older. I currently serve as your 1st Vice President, Programs, and my job is to bring you the BEST programming to enhance your genealogical education.

My goals as your president pro tem for March include:

- Re-establishing the meetings of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to be held prior to our regular monthly meetings on Zoom. More information about this will be coming soon!
- Working with the newly-formed Publicity team to promote our meetings and events
- Formulating a plan to continue delivering educational content to our remote members after we return to in-person meetings

Please note that we are still accepting donations for our 2020 Annual Appeal. If you have not had a chance to donate yet, you can do so by visiting our website at <https://sbgen.org> and clicking 2020 Annual Appeal in the navigation bar. If you have already sent a donation, THANK YOU. Your contributions to help support our wonderful society, especially during these difficult times, are very



## March Tech Tips by Milt Hess, IT Chair

A lot has happened during February on our website replacement project. Early in the month we learned that the company that hosts and supports our website will not be going out of business on June 30 after all. Nevertheless, the work that we have done during the past two months has convinced us that our current website does need to be replaced. We can do it at a more relaxed pace, however, and consider a wider range of options.

At least two software organizations are creating a baseline design and architecture for genealogical society websites. Because they are using WordPress and commercially available plugins, their software will not be constrained to a single hosting platform as our current site has been. If these development efforts are successful, they will enable us and other societies to create a new website using off-the-shelf software for common functions.

During March we are planning to conduct proof-of-concept mini-projects on one of these systems. We want to see how well it meets our requirements for membership management, an events calendar, eCommerce, and our local records database. A successful proof-of-concept will give us confidence that the completed system can meet our needs.

Milt Hess  
[ITchair@sbgen.org](mailto:ITchair@sbgen.org)



much appreciated!

While you are visiting our website, please also check out the Volunteers page. We are looking for volunteers to help out in a number of areas, including the Development Committee, the Investment Committee, and the Public Relations Team. Additionally, we are in need of a Speakers Bureau Coordinator, a job that can be done from "virtually" anywhere, so please contact Holly at [outreach@sbgen.org](mailto:outreach@sbgen.org) if you are interested.

I know that many of us are suffering from "Zoom fatigue" and are itching to get out of the house and back to in-person meetings. Believe me, I feel it too. But... let's hang tight for a little while longer. This time of virtual meetings has given us the opportunity to bring in amazing speakers from around the world, including this month's speaker, David Ryan, who will be joining us live all the way from Cork, Ireland!

Please know that YOU are appreciated and valued as a member of the society. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to suggest a program, please feel free to contact me at [programs@sbgen.org](mailto:programs@sbgen.org).

Have a wonderful March, and I'll "see" you at our next meeting!  
*Elizabeth Swanay O'Neal*  
President Pro Tem





## Membership Corner by Molly Gleason

*"The word Irish is seldom coupled with the word civilization.... And yet...Ireland, a little island at the edge of Europe that has known neither Renaissance nor Enlightenment... had one moment of unblemished glory. For, as the Roman Empire fell, as all through Europe matted, unwashed barbarians descended on the Roman cities, looting artifacts and burning books, the Irish, who were just learning to read and write, took up the great*

*labor of copying all of western literature – everything they could lay their hands on."* (Thomas Cahill. *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, 1995.)

Hello all, Welcome to March and Happy St. Patrick's Day! A day when everyone feels a little bit Irish! I think the above passage is especially moving and a pertinent historical perspective to bear in mind this month. The accompanying picture is a page contained in the *Lindisfarne Gospels*. Irish scribes completed this beautiful manuscript most likely in the late 7th or 8th century. The manuscript is part of the British Library Collection.

I hope you have some Irish luck in your researching this month and make some grand discoveries! There are several fun classes and events on the calendar. Enjoy!

A Warm Welcome to our newest member: **Judy Boman**  
And Thank You, continuing members, for your renewals last month!

**New members: The SBCGS New Member Packet is available for viewing on our website. Click on Members Area then New Member Packet.**

The packet includes helpful information about the library and instructions for renewing as well as adding or changing information in your individual profiles. In addition, it includes "how to get started in genealogy" tips, forms, and references to several genealogy sources including free websites and Santa Barbara County facilities for local and worldwide family history research. Paper copies of the New Member Packet will also be available at the Sahyun Library and the monthly General Meetings once we resume normal operations.

### REMINDERS AND TIPS

- **Virtual New Member Orientation and Sahyun Library Tour. Thursday, March 11, 1:00PM – 2:30PM.** This is an opportunity for our new members to learn about the benefits of membership and to get acquainted with the Sahyun Library's extensive collections and other resources. All members are welcome, so join us for a refresher!
- **Need help?** Work with a Mentor. The Society has over thirty volunteer mentors in our Mentor Program who are ready to share their extensive expertise in several areas of genealogical research with our members. Please contact our Mentor Coordinator, Kathy Cremeen, [kajcremeen@gmail.com](mailto:kajcremeen@gmail.com), if you would like help – or would like to become a Mentor. To view a list of our mentors and contact information on our website, click on Members Area then Mentors for Members. You may also contact the volunteers directly.
- **Need help renewing?** Contact the "**leprechauns**" in Membership at [membership@sbgen.org](mailto:membership@sbgen.org) . - Molly

## Outreach Holly Snyder, Chair

We are looking for a new **Speaker's Bureau Coordinator** and you do not need to live in Santa Barbara. You would help coordinate virtual speaking engagements between interested groups/organizations and the speakers. Contact Holly for more information.

We are also accepting **new Outreach committee members!** Would you like to help with planning events and exhibits and sharing information about our great organization to our community? This is the committee for you! Contact Holly for more information.

### Upcoming Events and Exhibits:

- Virtual exhibit: Santa Barbara African American Life, Culture, and Contributions, 1890-1990 (bulk of exhibit will focus prior to 1950)- April
  1. Over 15 featured local African American families, plus many more individuals recognized in these special areas: churches, military, arts and culture, sports, organizations and social clubs, and famous visitors
  2. Biographies, photographs, historical documents, and interviewsGoleta Library Display- June (if the library opens in time)
- Picnic at the Cemetery- Oct. 23 - see past cemetery events  
**Accepting actors!** No experience is necessary! Average speaking time is 7-10 minutes per group and you would repeat the same speech for six different groups.
- Family History Month Open House- Oct. 3

We would love your feedback on the exhibits and suggestions for future genealogical exhibits! We are accepting virtual exhibit proposals from members and SBCGS's special interest groups. We are also available for virtual genealogy speaking engagements for any interested organization or group anywhere! Contact Holly Snyder at [Outreach@Sbgen.org](mailto:Outreach@Sbgen.org) for more info.

### Welcome Nancy Loe as SBCGS newest board member.



Nancy Loe, MA MLS is a genealogy researcher, writer, and educator. After a long career in libraries and archives, Nancy specializes in migration and European records. Developing research and organization skills are frequent topics in her presentations, e-books, and website.

<https://www.sassyjanegenealogy.com/about/>

### Do You Have Some Carpentry Skills?

The Property Team needs help from someone with carpentry skills to replace a door that has reached the end of its useful life. This door is the only access to one of our occupied storage units. **Please contact Fred Marsh** at [property@sbgen.org](mailto:property@sbgen.org) or call (805) 705-0102 if you have the skills and are willing to help the society by providing the labor and tools needed to replace an exterior door in an existing frame.



## Volunteer Corner featuring Kate Lima



This month, SBCGS recognizes and thanks Kate Lima. Kate joined the Society in 2014 and has been working non-stop for the Outreach Team, helping with both the Santa Barbara Italian and African American exhibits, as well as coordinating assistance from UCSB for these displays. Many thanks to you, Kate, and thank you for sharing your bio!

"I grew up in Los Angeles, attending Immaculate Heart High School in the Hollywood Hills before moving to Santa Barbara and enrolling at UCSB. In the 1980s I graduated, got my teaching credential, and started a family. The 1990s were spent as a single mom, raising two children. In the 2000s I married again and helped raise a stepdaughter, then in the 2010s motherhood called me once again to raise my grandson.

I worked at UCSB as a manager for 28 years, first in the Classics department (Classics was one of my majors), then Art History, Economics, and finally Earth Science. I loved learning new things in each of these disciplines; I also loved making sure the departments ran smoothly and the faculty had everything they needed. By far my favorite part of the job was advocating for the staff I worked with, creating a happy home wherever I went. My job fulfilled me on so many levels; it was hard to make the decision to retire. I did so in 2019, and have started a new chapter with volunteer work, writing, and lots of genealogy!

My interest in genealogy started when my friend Anneliese kept calling with interesting finds in her family tree. She was an avid enthusiast, so I decided to stick my toe in the water. Little did I know I'd be diving headlong into the vast, bottomless lake of my ancestry! I had family lore passed to me from my mother, and I wanted to find the truth to the stories. Mom loved saying we were related to the Carters of Virginia; it took years of work to finally acknowledge that we are not. There is a peripheral, roundabout link, but not a direct line. Also, Mom said that we are descended from Anneke Jans, who owned a large tract of land in New York City. Finding this branch took many years as well, and when I discovered the final link, my elation lasted for weeks. I am still uncovering stories we never knew, and I plan to write them down to share with my family - and Ancestors West!

I joined the SBCGS in 2014 and began volunteering here and there, manning a table at the SB Fair and Expo and the Stow House 4th of July celebration, and helping the garden committee beautify the drive area of the Sahyun. Holly Snyder approached me to be on the Outreach Committee a couple of years ago, and I'm so glad she did. It's been a pleasure working on exhibits and meeting with the committee members.

~Kate Lima

**Tip:** The FHL has launched its own website as a part of familysearch.org. <https://www.familysearch.org/family-history-library/welcome-to-the-family-history-library>

Patrons can schedule free 20-minute Zoom research consultations here:

<https://www.familysearch.org/family-history-library/family-history-library-research-consultations>

## Ancestors West by Kristin Ingalls

The upcoming issue of Ancestors West will have several themes from which to choose:

•Did you find any bachelors and spinsters among your extended family? Did one become the maiden aunt who cared for her aging parents, or an independent career woman?

•No bachelors or spinsters? Then here is a research challenge:

research and write about the Shakers. Do married Shakers then become bachelors and spinsters? What motivated them and how were they exposed to the Shaker ideas?

•Another idea: It was Chinese men who came to this country to find their fortunes in the gold fields and return to China and their wives and children and families. Those remaining found themselves a community of bachelors. Santa Barbara has a rich history of the Chinese in our town and I am sure this would be a welcomed story to publish.

•Or... who is the oldest ancestor you can trace? What was life like for that generation?

•How about the ancestor who lived the longest? I was surprised to find more than a dozen very early colonial arrivals to this country who lived well into their eighties and nineties and a couple over 100! Now there is a story that wants writing! Share yours.

If none of these topics pertains to you, we would love to publish your special genealogy story. The deadline is May 1. Stories should be between 250-2,500 words and visuals sent separately as high-resolution jpegs to [antkap@cox.net](mailto:antkap@cox.net).

Complete information in attached flyer.



### Contact Information

Interim President: Elizabeth O'Neal, [programs@sbgen.org](mailto:programs@sbgen.org)

Library Director: Kathie Morgan, 805-682-4456

Past-President: Karen Ramsdell, [Governance@sbgen.org](mailto:Governance@sbgen.org)

2nd VP, Membership: Molly Gleason, [membership@sbgen.org](mailto:membership@sbgen.org)

Newsletter Address Corrections: [membership@sbgen.org](mailto:membership@sbgen.org)

1st Vice Pres., Programs: Elizabeth O'Neal, [programs@sbgen.org](mailto:programs@sbgen.org)

Ancestors West: Kristin Ingalls, [antkap@cox.net](mailto:antkap@cox.net)

Secretary: Mary Jacob, [maryjjacob8@gmail.com](mailto:maryjjacob8@gmail.com)

Adult Ed Genealogy Classes: Norma Eggli, [neggli@cox.net](mailto:neggli@cox.net)

Outreach: Holly Snyder, [outreach@sbgen.org](mailto:outreach@sbgen.org)

Sales Table: Kristin Ingalls, [antkap@cox.net](mailto:antkap@cox.net)

Tree Tips: Diane Sylvester, [sbcgs-education@sbgen.org](mailto:sbcgs-education@sbgen.org)

DNA: George LaPlante, [sbgeorgelaplante@gmail.com](mailto:sbgeorgelaplante@gmail.com);

Paul Cochet, 805-566-1036

Property Team Leader: Fred Marsh, [fmarsh2@cox.net](mailto:fmarsh2@cox.net)

Library Facilities Manager: William Noack, 805-617-0435

Interior Facilities Manager: Jim Friestad, [ronjim@cox.net](mailto:ronjim@cox.net)

Exterior Facilities Manager: Cheryl Jensen, [cftzjen@cox.net](mailto:cftzjen@cox.net)

Records Preservation: Dorothy Oksner, [oksner66@gmail.com](mailto:oksner66@gmail.com)

Book Buy: Christine Klukkert, [ordway2@aol.com](mailto:ordway2@aol.com)

IT Chair: Milt Hess, [itchair@sbgen.org](mailto:itchair@sbgen.org)



The upcoming issue of Ancestors West will have several themes from which to choose:

Did you find any **bachelors** and **spinsters** among your extended family? What were their lives like? Did one become the maiden aunt who cared for her aging parents, or an independent career woman? Was that uncle a dashing eligible bachelor or an eccentric hermit? Did any join religious orders?

No bachelors or spinsters? Then here is a research challenge: research and write about the Shakers. I had some collateral families who joined the Shakers. Do married Shakers then become bachelors and spinsters? What motivated them and how were they exposed to the Shaker ideas?

Another idea: It was Chinese men who came to this country to find their fortunes in the gold fields and return to China and their wives and children and families. Those remaining, especially after the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, found themselves a community of bachelors. They worked as farmers, laborers, servants, laundrymen, fishermen. William Hollister employed nearly 20 Chinese workers on his farm in 1880- not a woman to be found. Santa Barbara has a rich history of the Chinese in our town and I am sure this would be a welcomed story to publish.

Or... who is the oldest ancestor you can trace? What was life like for that generation? This can get a bit dicey as I know some of us have found online trees tracing our lines back to Adam and Eve! I know we are ALL diligent researchers who always prove our sources.

How about the ancestor who lived the longest? One of the genealogical myths is the misconception that our ancestors died young. I was surprised to find more than a dozen very early colonial arrivals to this country who lived well into their eighties and nineties and a couple over 100! Now there is a story that wants writing! Share yours.

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