



Getting Started in Genealogy: Things I Wish I Would Have Known When I Started

Speaker: Kelli Bergheimer

Saturday, January 15, 2022

How do you get started in genealogy? How do you organize what you know? Learn tools for success such as pedigree charts and family history software, where to go, and how to avoid common assumptions that can lead you astray.



Speaker Kelli Bergheimer)

*You must register
for this meeting.*

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

(<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZcvfuiurT8oE9Gjv5K2oc-ipF6JAO4-GM7iO>)

9:30 - 10:25 am PST

Special Interest Groups will meet prior to the general meeting using the same Zoom link.

10:30 - 11:00am

Business Meeting with President Art Sylvester and Committee Reports

~11:00 - 12:00 Noon

Program

Elizabeth O'Neal, VP, Introduction of Speaker and Zoom Host

The Next Issue of
Ancestors West
Kristin Ingalls, AW Editor



Suggestions for several themes you may want to write about for our next issue:

- Odd or unusual occupations of our ancestors
- Ancestors and relatives who changed professions
- What were some of the odd tools of the trade most of us would not recognize?
- Did any of your ancestors work in dangerous trades?
- How about writing about family myths? What stories you were told and how have you researched them to find the truth?
- How fun to share your family's long-established traditions they brought from "the old country." A member just shared with me concept of the Danish "Hygge." What were these customs and are they still observed?
- None of the above, but I have a great story to share.

What better way to get to know each other than sharing our stories? **The deadline for your submissions is February 1st, 2022.** Be sure to read the Guidelines printed in all Ancestors West issues.

Send those stories to Kristin Ingalls at antkap@cox.net



Land Acknowledgment Statement

"The land on which many of us live and where our library is located is part of the ancient homeland and traditional territory of the Chumash people. We recognize and respect the Chumash Peoples past, present, and future and their continuing presence in their homeland as we join in stewarding this land which we all cherish."

Presidents' Message

Arthur Sylvester, President
Robert Bason, President-Elect



Family lore says my maternal grandmother died from the so-called "Spanish flu," the most severe pandemic in recent history – at least so far. An estimated 50 million people worldwide died of the H1N1 virus in that pandemic in the years 1918-19. Many of the measures taken then to slow the spread of that virus were the same as with COVID-19 and Omicron today: masking, isolation, and hand washing. Exactly when the outbreak commenced in the US is unknown.



I cannot prove she died of that flu, because the official recognition of that pandemic in the US was in April 1918, whereas she died 13 months previously in March 1917. Was the flu lurking around unrecognized then just as COVID-19

seems to have been hovering at least as early as fall 2019, some months before its official outbreak in winter of 2020?

I raise these points and questions to emphasize that some of the parallels between one of the world's worst pandemics in modern history with today's, and I wonder if the latter may end as the former finally did? How long can we expect COVID-19 and Omicron continue to wreak havoc on group gatherings, such as we experience with the limited use of our Sahyun Library and resumption of our in-person gatherings?

To be sure, Zoom has kept us going. It is an amazing technology that has allowed us to hold our monthly meetings, Board meetings, committee meetings, limited opening of the library, and educational offerings that reach out to people around the world -- all virtually -- but many of our members lament not being able to see and greet each other in person and without masks. Right now, we may be whistling in the dark to think that we shall be able to resume our "business as usual" on April Fool's Day this new year. These are uncertain and challenging times that test our patience, restraint, and resilience, not in the least as far as our Society's operations and activities are concerned. Even so, some of our very important activities are proceeding apace, including the construction of a new website, planning for the release of the 1950 federal census, anticipation of our Society's 50th anniversary, and the search for new officers.

Historians say the past is the key to the future. The 1918-19 pandemic did subside and fade away; so will COVID-19 and Omicron, but there is no ETA for that happening. Still and all, let's look forward to that eventuality and the days that we shall convene safely once again.

Art Sylvester, Co-President, pro tem

January Zoom Calendar



Tuesday, January 11

Lunch and Learn Tuesdays

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Zoom Host/Moderator: Rosa Avolio

REGISTER

(https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvce6upj4jEtNj2f_BWuEZNM_wxqbg-kaSv)

Saturday, January 15

General Meeting & SIGs; 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

"Getting Started in Genealogy: Things I Wish I Would Have Known When I Started"

Speaker: Kelli Bergheimer

Zoom Host: Elizabeth O'Neal

REGISTER

(<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvfuiurT8oE9Gjy5K2ocip-F6JAO4-GM7tO>) Virtual Special Interest Groups will meet prior to the general meeting from 9:30 to 10:25 using same Zoom link.

Tuesday, January 18

The Battle of Beamfleote (Benfleet)

11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Presenter: Norman Bambridge (from Canvey Island, England)

Zoom Host: Robin McCarthy

Between 893/4 AD (Battle of Benfleet), the Norman Conquest in 1066, and the Puritan migration (Mayflower, etc) from 1602-38, a watering down of DNA would be natural and of interest to those that have low percentages of Scandinavian ancestry, just could be from this range of centuries from Britain.

REGISTER

(<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctcu6vpzwpHNUx-lzsj-fsDsBSGALDz7TFi>)

Friday, January 21

DNA Lunch and Learn

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Zoom Host & Moderator: George LaPlante

George will discuss recent DNA news and answer your DNA questions. Bring your lunch!

REGISTER

(<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctd-mgpz8rH9ZRf9V34ob30PpD-NvVQaeUy>)

Tuesday, January 25

Crowdsourced Research Assistance (Lunch & Learn)

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Zoom Host & Moderator: Rosa Avolio

Rosa Avolio and attendees will offer research suggestions for pre-submitted brick wall research questions. If no submissions are received, it will be the usual Lunch & Learn questions, ideas, and suggestions. Download, complete, and email the [this form](#)

(https://www.sbgcn.org/upload/events/files/1640642137_ResearchAssistance-Form.pdf) to Rosa if you have a research question.

REGISTER

(https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrdemqjMjGdI_-gWeSfWKJl-HtK8B9Lv_K)

MORE INFORMATION HERE

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

Membership Spotlight by Kate Lima, 2nd VP Membership

A TOAST TO THE NEW YEAR, 2022

What resolutions, if any, have you made? Do any include ancestry research? This year, instead of vowing to commit time to genealogy, I've decided to be specific. I've taken one ancestor, Fannie Poe, and I will find out more information on her time in Texas during the Civil War. I know I'll be able to find lots more genealogy gems while on this journey, but this is my goal.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER FROM DECEMBER, DEBORAH FLEMING.

Welcome, Deborah, hope to see you at the library soon!

I'd like to extend a big, happy thank you to our continuing members who renewed in December!

NEED HELP? WORK WITH A COACH. The Society has over thirty volunteer coaches who are ready to share their extensive expertise in several areas of genealogical research with our members. Please contact our Coach Coordinator, Kathy Cremeen, kajeremeen@gmail.com, if you would like help – or would like to become a coach. To view a list of our coaches and their contact information, click on Members Area, sign in, then click on Coaches for Members. You may also contact the volunteers directly. Please don't hesitate to contact me, Kate, at membership@sbgen.org with your questions, comments, and suggestions.

Where is the Volunteer of the Month section?

This column is on hiatus for the moment, we plan to get back to this very soon!



VOLUNTEER THANK YOU!

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who work so hard at the Sayhun as well as behind the scenes. The number of volunteers on hand is precariously

low, and people have taken up the slack with a remarkable can-do attitude. Thank you all so much.

The IT group has been especially impacted by the loss of volunteers. Currently this group is feverishly working on the upcoming new website; these people also bring virtual webinars to our homes.

If you would like to offer your services to this group, please contact me - Kate - at membership@sbgen.org.

Outreach by Holly Snyder, Chair

Happy New Year
from the Outreach Committee!

2022 is a big year of celebrations with the release of the 1950 census and SBCGS's 50th Anniversary.

You're Invited!

Join us at our next meeting and find out how you can help with upcoming events and exhibits! You don't have to live in town to help!

**OUTREACH MEETING:
JAN 18TH @
1PM, ZOOM**

Email Outreach@sbgen.org for more info and zoom link

OUTREACH NEEDS YOU!

We need help with:

- researching
- Outreach ideas
- Community contacts
- Exhibit planning and prep
- Event planning
- Speaker's Bureau

Join us at our January meeting and check out what our committee is all about!

Email Outreach@sbgen.org for more details

1950 Census Release April 2022

by Kate Lima, Chair

COUNTDOWN TO THE 1950 CENSUS!

2022 is finally upon us, the year that genealogists all over the United States have been anxiously awaiting. Why? This is the year the 1950 United States Census will be available! Friday, April 1, the census will be released.

But wait, there's breaking news: we might be able to search by name beginning opening day. Previous census releases have been searchable only by Enumeration Districts (EDs), and many months and many volunteers later, a search by name was available. BUT... on December 14, 2021, just a few weeks ago, the National Archives News posted an article that discusses the possibility of searching by name.

From the article "1950 Census Release Will Offer Enhanced Digital Access, Public Collaboration Opportunity" By Victoria Macchi | National Archives News:

"The new (Census) website will include a name search function powered by an Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology tool. This is important for genealogists and other researchers who rely on census records for new information about the nation's past.

"The OCR being used to transcribe the handwritten names from the census rolls is about as good as the human eye," said Project Management Director Rodney Payne.

Though people are not being asked to volunteer their time in order to create the Name Index, NARA is still hoping for help from people. Macchi writes, "Some of the pages are legible, and others are difficult to decipher. So, the National Archives developed a transcription tool to enable users to submit name updates. This will allow other users to find specific names more easily, and it provides an opportunity for the public to help the agency share these records with the world." The world of technology still needs human help, so when you're searching and find a name that isn't correct, you'll have the opportunity to help by uploading corrected information.

Our speaker in February is none other than Stephen Morse. This is the Steve Morse from stevemorse.org, the quintessential guide to all things census-related. Steve Morse will be speaking virtually at our General Meeting on Saturday, February 19. Mark your calendar, you won't want to miss this! Come with a pen and paper, and maybe a question or two!



Stay Tuned for Coming Events

As April approaches please keep an eye out for information about a 1950s party to celebrate the launch of the census. We hope to have other events as well, so stay tuned.



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