



July/August 2026

Volume 31 Issue 4

MISSION: Our mission is to stimulate an interest in studying family history and genealogy, and assist persons who are researching their family history. Whether a person begins their search with documents and a name, or through a DNA test, searching for family members is what we do.

VISITORS WELCOME!

"We are still here because ordinary people were willing to do extraordinary things. And now it's on us, this generation, to carry the story forward." – Richard Kaufman, Facebook, 2 January 2026.

Join us for:

- ❖ **Discussion Group** – First Tuesday of the month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, In-Person at the Roseville Main Library Conference Room (225 Taylor Street) and also using ZOOM – Genealogy questions welcome, plus sharing of genealogy ideas.
- ❖ **General Meeting with Speaker** – Second Tuesday of the month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. In-Person and Zoom at the Maidu Community Center (1550 Maidu Drive in Roseville) and an occasional evening Zoom meeting. A brief general meeting will be followed by a presentation on genealogy research topics.

Genealogy: Where the answer to one problem leads to two more!
Only a genealogist views a step backward as progress!

"Done! Everyone in the family tree has been found & everything is perfectly organized including the photos," said no genealogist... EVER.

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Roseville Genealogical Society Newsletter

Contact us by e-mail: rgsca3@gmail.com



RGS Meeting Calendar - Upcoming RGS Speakers and Workshops
C=Class D=Discussion IP=In Person S=Speaker Z=Zoom
Email RGS at rgsca3@gmail.com for Zoom access information.

2026	Format		Date	Topic
RGS	D	IP & Z	July 7	Workshop: "Do you have a Revolutionary Patriot Ancestor?" Open Discussion
RGS	S	IP & Z	July 14	Kim Hayden: Center for Sacramento History
RGS	D	IP & Z	August 4	Workshop; Carolyn Lewis Mini- Presentation
RGS	S	IP & Z	August 11	Sandra Harris: "How to Discover When a Photograph was Taken."

ONGOING RGS ACTIVITIES

Ask A Genealogist at the Library – Come by to talk or ask questions. Or schedule an appointment for a one-hour session at another time. Saturday dates will return in the summer.

Martha Riley Library Dates

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ July 15 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.○ July 29 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ August 12 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.○ August 26 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. |
|---|---|

Maidu Library Dates

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ July 9 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.○ July 23 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ August 6 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.○ August 20 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. |
|--|--|

✚ **BOOK-A-GENEALOGIST** Schedule a **FREE** one-hour appointment with a genealogist. Send an email to rgsca3@gmail.com with the subject line: Book-A-Genealogist.

✚ **LENDING LIBRARY (MEMBERS ONLY)** Send an email to rgsca3@gmail.com with the subject line: Lending Library

✚ Coming in October

A 3 or 4-session intermediate genealogy class will be taught by Mary J. Sayles. Look for more information in the next newsletter.



The Forgotten Italian Children: “Foundlings”



By jrs

For a long stretch of Italian history, families faced a heartbreaking reality: many babies were abandoned because their parents simply could not raise them. These children, called *esposti* (exposed) or *trovatelli* (foundlings), became part of a system that shaped countless Italian family stories.

From the Middle Ages through the 1800s, poverty, shame, and the lack of support for unwed mothers pushed many families to give up their babies anonymously. To make this possible, churches created the *ruota degli esposti* (the foundling wheel). Picture a wooden drum built into a wall. A mother could place her baby inside, turn the wheel, ring a bell, and walk away without anyone seeing her. It was heartbreaking, but it was also meant to keep the child safe.

Foundling homes, like the famous Ospedale Degli Innocenti (home of innocence) in Florence, did what they could. Babies were baptized, fed, and later trained for work or placed in homes. Life in these foundling homes was not easy. Many children remained for years. Some were taken in by families as helpers or laborers. Sadly, many did not survive childhood because of illness or poor conditions.

Because their biological parents were unknown, foundlings were typically assigned surnames by the institution. Names such as *Esposito* (exposed), *Innocenti* (innocent), *Trovato* (found), *Casadei* (house of God), or *Colombo* (dove) remain clues for genealogists tracing Italian ancestry today.

Tracing a foundling in your family tree is not easy. Records can be few, and birth parents were almost never named. However, baptismal registers, civil records, and hospital archives can still offer pieces of the story.

By chance, I discovered my own grandfather was an abandoned child when I came across his marriage record. Where his parents' names should have been, it simply said *ignoto* and *ignota* (unknown). Those two words changed how I viewed his early life and added a whole new layer to our family story.

For many families, having a foundling in the tree is just part of the historical landscape, one shaped by difficult choices and limited options. Even when the parents' identities are lost, the documents that remain still give us a glimpse into these children's early lives. Finding out that my grandfather was listed as



abandoned reminded me that genealogy often takes us down unexpected paths and adds something meaningful to the story.

For further information on Foundlings:

Italian genealogist Angelo Coniglio (www.conigliofamily.com).

Genealogist Ann Tatangelo (angelresearch.wordpress.com).

[Sacrificed for Honor](#), by David I. Kertzer.

SRGC Website and Links

The Sacramento Regional Genealogical Council (SRGC) maintains a listing of regional genealogical societies and their news, calendars, and links. If you desire to connect with genealogical organizations in areas of Northern California just outside of Sacramento, this website is worth checking out! Notice that the areas are listed on the left side of the homepage. Click on the one you are interested in learning more about. <https://srgcouncil.org/index.php>

Finding African American Ancestry

FamilySearch has partnered with:

American Ancestors' 10 Million Names,
National Museum of African American History and Culture,
International African American Museum,
Our Black Ancestry

to create the largest collection of African American historical records, ancestor profiles, and photographs.

Search the collection, **Find your African American ancestors**, absolutely FREE at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/united-states/ethnicities/african-american>.

Ancestry partnered with CNN in a special, "This Land."

<https://www.ancestry.com/c/ancestry-blog/entertainment-and-culture/cnn-series-this-land-episode-1>

CNN created an Original Series, ***This Land***, in partnership with *Ancestry*. The series began on Sunday, June 7. Each of the six episodes presents powerful interviews with descendants of historical figures who lived through pivotal historic moments and contributed to America's transformation over time.



Ancestor Hunt's "The Quicksheet Vault"



Kenneth Marks from **Ancestor Hunt** has allowed us to share their news that "The Quicksheet Vault has reached Version 2."

"When [He] first started creating genealogy Quicksheets several years ago, the goal was simple: create practical research tools that genealogists could actually use while researching.

Since then, the collection has continued to grow — and today the Quicksheet Vault now contains more than 390 genealogy research guides and reference tools.

Version 2 of the Vault now includes:

- Core Genealogy Quicksheets
- Historical Occupation Profiles
- Genealogy Glossaries
- State Research Toolkits
- Expanded Reference Guides and Field Guides

Everything is organized by category and designed for quick, practical use during genealogy research.

The Vault was created for researchers who:

- save useful genealogy references.
- build research binders.
- want organized access to trusted research tools.
- and prefer spending time researching instead of searching.

Many of these guides began as individual Quicksheets shared on The Ancestor Hunt over the years. Version 2 brings the entire system together into a much more complete and organized research collection. Plus, there is new content that has not previously been published."



An RGS board member acquired this collection and found that she was “amazed” at what she received, “These will be so helpful!”

Learn More About the Quicksheet Vault
at <https://theancestorhunt.com/vault> .

If you have any questions about any of the items in this announcement — send an email to kenmarksology@gmail.com .

Two Specials for America’s 250th Anniversary

Contributed by Mary J. Sayles and Carolyn Lewis

First:

The United States Mint, located in Denver and Philadelphia, is releasing 5 special one-year-only Semi-quincentennial coins in honor of the 250th Anniversary of the birth of the United States of America. See the information below listing the coins being minted.

Quarters – with dual dates 1776-2026

Mayflower Compact Quarter – Obverse: Head and upper body image of male and female pilgrim & Reverse: A Mayflower couple, Picture of the Mayflower ship on the high seas.

Revolutionary War Quarter – Obverse: Head and neck image of Washington & Reverse: Head and upper body image of a Continental Army Soldier at Valley Forge

Declaration of Independence Quarter – Obverse: Head and upper body image of Thomas Jefferson & Reverse: Liberty Bell.

U.S. Constitution Quarter – Obverse: Head & neck image of James Madison & Reverse: Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Gettysburg Address Quarter – Obverse: Head and neck image of Lincoln & Reverse: Two hands/arms grasping each other.

Half Dollar with dual dates 1776-2026



Enduring Liberty Half Dollar – Obverse: Head image of Statue of Liberty & Reverse: Liberty passing her torch.

Nickel

1776-2006 Nickel – Obverse: Head and neck image of Thomas Jefferson & Reverse: Monticello, Jefferson's Home

Dime - with dual dates 1776-2026

Emerging Liberty Dime – Obverse: Head and neck image of Liberty & Reverse: Eagle carrying arrows in its talons.

Collectible Penny

1776-2026 Penny – Obverse: Head & Shoulders of Abraham Lincoln & Reverse: Union Shield with 13 stripes.

Source:

<https://www.usmint.gov/news/media-kit/semi-q-resources#accordion-f53ccdf1e0-item-585c99ab5e>

Second:

The United States Postal Service has released special stamps in commemoration of America's Semi-quincentennial (250th) birthday.

American Icons: A pane of 13 commemorative stamps curated by fashion designer Ralph Lauren. It features a central stamp with a knitted American flag and 12 stamps celebrating aspects of the American spirit.

Declaration of Independence: A pane of 20 stamps that feature the numerals of "1776" styled as traditional quill pens, issued in Philadelphia.

Figures of the American Revolution: A pane of 25 stamps honoring well-known figures like George Washington and lesser-known heroes like Deborah Sampson.

Treasures of the Revolutionary Era: A prestige booklet of 20 stamps highlighting significant artifacts from the Revolutionary era.

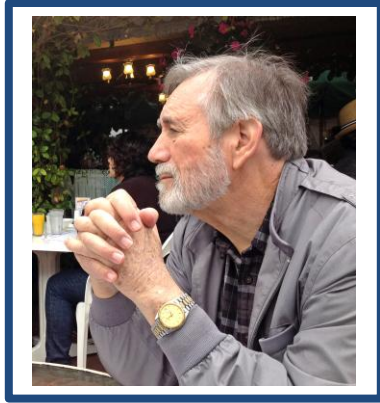
Bald Eagle Hatchling to Adults: Part of the Forever Stamp collection.

Source:

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/local-releases/sc/2026/0616-usps-celebrates-americas-250th-anniversary-with-commemorative-initiatives-merchandise.htm>



Spotlight: Mike Saccomano



By Linda Reiner Vose

This month's Member Spotlight is **Mike Saccomano**, whose career and genealogy journey have taken him from the dawn of the computer age to uncovering his family's fascinating past.

Mike moved from Chicago to Southern California as a young child and grew up in Whittier. He remembers his first car, a fifty-dollar 1949 Ford Convertible, which he and his dad (towed) home when he was "almost 15" in anticipation of getting a license "soon." After graduating from high school, he attended California State University-- Fullerton when it was first open, earning a bachelor's degree in physics. As it turned out, however, he never actually worked in that field.

Instead, while searching for his first job, Mike interviewed with Autonetics. During the interview he was asked if he would be interested in entering an exciting new field called computers. The interviewer told him, "*You have a technical degree, which shows you can complete something,*" and offered him a ten-week crash course that covered everything there was to know about computers at the time.

That opportunity launched a remarkable career spanning the infancy of the computer industry—back when computers occupied entire rooms. Over the years Mike programmed in BASIC, COBOL, and FORTRAN, eventually developing complex technical software in COBOL.

"It was a great time to be in computers," Mike recalls. "It was the cutting edge of technology."



Attending the annual COMDEX computer convention in Las Vegas was one of the highlights of his career. The convention was so large it seemed to take over the entire city, and Mike even had the opportunity to meet technology pioneers Bill Gates and Steve Jobs.

Mike met his wife, Charlotte, in 1969. His mother introduced them when Charlotte moved into an apartment building they owned in Costa Mesa CA. "So, I did not have to take her home to meet mom" They were married for 56 years before her passing last year. They built a wonderful life together, and raised one daughter, who now lives in Florida. Mike is also the proud grandfather of two grandchildren who live in Idaho.

In 1981, Charlotte was ready to leave Southern California behind. The family moved first to Aptos, then Elk Grove, then to Redding to help care for Mike's parents, before finally settling in Roseville about ten years ago.

Mike's interest in genealogy began quite unexpectedly after discovering handwritten family letters his mother had saved. Curious about the stories they contained, he enrolled in a basic genealogy class. From there, he taught himself most of what he knows through years of independent research.

Early on, Mike made the decision to keep his genealogy research organized on his own computer. He uses Family Tree Maker, appreciating its ability to synchronize with Ancestry while allowing him to control exactly what information is shared online. About three years ago, he began attending meetings of the Roseville Genealogical Society and has enjoyed expanding both his research skills and connections with fellow genealogists.

When asked whether he had discovered any famous ancestors, Mike smiled and shared a humorous family story. His ancestors came from Sicily, and he remembers an uncle in Chicago who drove a customized Ford Coupe with a secret compartment that supposedly housed "totally legal firearms." On another occasion, Mike recalls watching a sharply dressed gentleman pay his uncle a visit—only to leave moments later accompanied by two bodyguards. While the family stories certainly make for entertaining conversation, Mike admits they leave plenty to the imagination.

Mike is not aware of any treasured heirlooms from his own side of the family, but Charlotte, whose family came from Denmark, had several meaningful keepsakes that helped preserve her family's history.

His greatest concern today is making sure the next generation does not lose interest in their family history. To help preserve it, he hopes to share



photographs, documents, and stories through the Memories feature on FamilySearch so future generations can enjoy them.

For those just beginning their genealogy journey, Mike offers this simple advice:

"Find a software program to house all your research in."

It is practical advice from someone who has spent a lifetime organizing information—whether it was pioneering computer programs or preserving generations of family history.

Genealogy Practice: Newspaper and Full Text Search

Notice of Executor's Sale of Real Estate.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT in pursuance of an Order of the Superior Court of the County of Placer, made on the 5th day of April, A. D. 1881, in the Matter of the Estate of Wm. H. Davis, deceased, the undersigned, the Executor of said Estate will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION to the highest bidder for Cash, gold coin of the United States, and subject to confirmation by said Court on

Tuesday, the 3rd day of May,
A. D. 1881, at eleven o'clock A. M., at the Davis Mining Claim on Roach Hill, in said county, all the right, title, interest and estate of the said Wm. H. Davis at the time of his death, and all the right, title and interest that the said Estate has by operation of law or otherwise acquired, either than or in addition to that of the said Wm. H. Davis, at the time of his death, in and to all that certain lot, piece, or parcel of land, mining ground and claim situate, lying and being at Roach Hill, Township No. 7, Placer County, California, bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

"A certain mining claim on south side of Roach Hill, bounded on the north by the Prichard claim, east by Mrs. Hill's claim, west by the Entwistle and Worsley claim, south by Indian Cañon—containing nine acres, more or less—together with the appurtenances thereunto belonging.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE.—Cash in U. S. gold coin—ten per cent on day of sale and balance on confirmation of sale by the Superior Court. Deed at expense of purchaser. JAMES GLEESON, Executor of the Estate of Wm. H. Davis, deceased.
April 6, 1881.—ap9-3w.

This month's exercise is based on this "Notice of Executor's Sale of Real Estate in The Placer Herald, Sat. Apr 30, 1881, Page 8.

You have been searching for William H. Davis.

Known: He was buried in Old Auburn Cemetery per Find a Grave memorial ID # 73867223. He is listed in the 1870 and 1880 census as a gold miner in Placer County.

1) How will this notice help you find more information about William H. Davis?

2) Find this record at FamilySearch's Full-Text Search. Use:

Keywords: Mining Camp + Roach Hill

Name: Wm. H. Davis

Place: Placer (County), California, United States

Year Range: 1881-1881

Click <search>

3) How many results did you get? _____
Now you should narrow your search to fewer than the total 177 records.
Use Filter on the left.



Go to Year, click <1800>. Further click <1880>, then click <apply>. You should now have only 83 records.

Go to Place, click <United States>, then click, <California>. Then click <apply>. You should now have only 47 records. Each time you do this, the first two records related to William H. Davis and Roach Hill always come out on top of your search results.

4) The first record **Placer, California. Probate Records 1880** should show you the article about the executor's sale of real estate. Look at it. It is image 599.

5) Now look at the pages before it and the pages after it using the image bar. Are there more pages related to Wm. H. Davis? _____. Why is that? What kind of record has Full-Text Search found for you? There are over 100+ pages related to the Probate records of William H. Davis, deceased. Go to image 456. What date did William H. Davis die? _____.

6) Look back at your Full-Text Search results. Look at the second record number two. It should be **Placer, California. Probate Records 1875-1881**. What does this record image 784 of 841 show you? What information did you find in it?

7) Look at the eighth record: **Placer, California. Deeds 1881-1882**. Who purchased WH Davis' land? _____. Who was she? Was she related to Wm H. Davis or not? What would you do to find out more about her?

8) Now do the search all over again using the same terms as Number 2 but put the name Wm H. Davis inside quotes: "Wm H. Davis"—How many results did you get this time? How was this last search different from the first one and all the work you did? Was it better or quicker? Would you miss anything with this search? Sometimes it helps genealogists to use quotes and sometimes it does not. Did we learn more about any other family members of Wm H. Davis?

9) If you further narrowed your search to find a vital record or marriage record in the collection **Placer. Marriage Record Indexes 1852–1904** for Wm H. Davis, you would find an indexed line item of a marriage record for a Wm H. Davis to Clara M. Dixon in Auburn, Placer County 20 August 1881. However, this took place after our subject Wm H. Davis' death. Research could be done on this marriage record in Placer County Archives, Book C, page 438, for this marriage record for clues. However, unless explicitly stated you might not be able to definitively state our Wm H. Davis could be related to this Wm H. Davis.

Roseville Genealogical Society Newsletter

Contact us by e-mail: rgsca3@gmail.com



Recent Field Trip Note: On June 23rd, several members enjoyed a leisurely morning perusing the Roseville District Cemetery on Berry Street, learning about information that can be found on gravestones.

The Roseville Genealogical Society Newsletter
is published bi-monthly.

Visit us on the web at: <https://srgcouncil.org/cpage.php?pt=24> or at
<https://www.facebook.com/RosevilleGenealogicalSociety/>

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