



March/April 2026

Volume 31 Issue 2

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!

Many people begin to plan trips early in the year. Where will you travel? How will you prepare? What do you hope to accomplish? What will you discover about your family?



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.

Create a journal entry about an event shown in a picture. Name each person and describe the activities and the details of that event.



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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.

2025	Format		Date	Topic
RGS	D	IP & Z	Mar. 3	Workshop: RootsTech Plans, Open Discuss.
RGS	S	IP & Z	Mar. 10	Jim Baker, "Property Records"
RGS	D	IP & Z	April 7	Workshop
RGS	S	IP & Z	April 14	Pam Dallas, "Double Dating"
RGS	D	IP & Z	May 5	Workshop
RGS	S	IP & Z	May 12	Nancy Calhoun, "TBD"

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">○ March 18-1:00 pm to 3:00 pm○ March 25-1:00 pm to 3:00 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ April 15-1:00 pm to 3:00 pm○ April 22-1:00 pm to 3:00 pm |
|---|---|

Maidu Library Dates

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ March 12-1:00 pm to 3:00 pm○ March 19-1:00 pm to 3:00 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ April 16- 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm○ April 23- 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm |
|---|---|

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



An Ancestral Adventure – Helpful Hints for Stepping into the Past

By Shannon Walker

“Blessed are the curious, for they shall have adventures.”

– Lovelle Drachman, author.

Have you ever been curious about how your ancestors lived or wanted to walk in their footsteps? Here are some helpful hints to get you started on an ancestral adventure!

1. **Search for family stories and memorabilia.** My sisters and I were tasked with going through bins of mementos our parents collected throughout the years. Among the photos and yearbooks was a letter from my Uncle Don to his brother, my father. Uncle Don had spent some time in Great Britain in the 1970s. In his letter, he described his visit to the ancestral stomping grounds of my great-grandmother's family in The Borders of Scotland. Coincidentally (or not!) I was preparing for my own visit to Scotland a few months after discovering the letter, and Uncle Don had laid out a roadmap for me to follow. The churchyards and towns he mentioned were added to my own itinerary for my upcoming visit.
2. **Check out sources in family trees.** I used FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com family tree sources to discover the exact locations where my Scottish ancestors lived. The census record sources identified towns, farms, and street addresses. Birth, marriage, and death records established church congregations and burial yards. I kept a list of family names, locations, and dates to help plan my visit.
3. **Use Google Maps for real-time discoveries.** Using the Scottish 1871 census information for my great-grandmother, I entered her street address into Google Maps. A 360-degree panoramic view of the street and her apartment emerged. An Italian restaurant currently anchored the spot, and I knew I had to see it for myself! Seeing how the area looked helped me visualize how to plan my trip.
4. **Map out your itinerary.** I used the free MapQuest Route Planner to plan stops on my journey by car. I entered an address for each location and MapQuest arranged the stops for the shortest times and distances. I was able to see how long it would take for the total trip, and this helped me prioritize the locations to visit.
5. **Identify local historical and genealogical societies.** In the heart of Scotland was the Borders Family History Society, at Galashiels. The website for the Society included research information and volunteers



available to assist with family history. I became a member of the society and received valuable insight on how to discover more about my ancestors and their lives in The Borders.

6. **Contact distant cousins for advice.** Years ago, I had tested my DNA with MyHeritage.com, which had a large population of European family test takers. During a DNA workshop at RootsTech, I learned how to identify the cousins that matched with my Scottish great-grandmother's family. I found a fourth cousin that currently lived in The Borders. I emailed my newly found cousin, and I told her about my upcoming visit. I asked for suggestions of ancestral places to visit. My cousin, Jo-An, replied quickly with suggestions and offered to be my guide when I arrived.

In July of 2025, my ancestral adventure to The Borders in Scotland was realized. My new cousin, Jo-An, and her friend, Mike, met me at the train station in Melrose. These two wonderful people spent a full day driving me to ancestral farms and churches. Mike had mapped out my destinations into a reasonable itinerary and had contacted private farm owners of where my ancestors had worked for permission to visit. I heard family stories, visited graves, and touched stone farm cottages that have survived hundreds of years. The next day I spent researching my family at the Borders Family History Society and volunteer researchers added ancestors to my family tree. I saw the same hills and valleys that my ancestors looked at every day, and I am more deeply connected to these hardy Scottish ancestors that are the reason I exist. Do not hesitate to be curious and take the steps to follow your family!

Why Conduct an Oral Family History Interview?

An interview can answer research questions, bring forth and clarify family lore, facilitate discovery of photographs and documents, and help researchers learn about ancestral places they plan to visit.

- The UCLA Library's Center for Oral History Research has an excellent outline of sample questions that can be used to conduct an oral family history interview.
https://oralhistory.library.ucla.edu/pages/family_history
- The Smithsonian Institution Archives has an excellent article along with a list of additional readings and online resources.
<https://siarchives.si.edu/history/how-do-oral-history>



Italian Immigrants During World War II

Many of us researching our family trees eventually discover stories shaped by world events. One chapter that often goes unmentioned is the experience of Italian immigrants in the United States during World War II. After Italy aligned with the Axis powers, more than 600,000 Italian immigrants were officially designated as enemy aliens. This label brought sudden restrictions, fear, and disruption into the lives of families who had lived, worked, and contributed to their American communities.

More than 10,000 Italian immigrants were forced to relocate from coastal regions considered sensitive, uprooting households and severing ties to long-established neighborhoods. Curfews, travel limits, and government surveillance became part of daily life. Some individuals had their assets frozen, and the naturalization process for Italian immigrants was temporarily halted, delaying citizenship for many who had already built their lives here.

Although the internment of Japanese Americans is more widely recognized, hundreds of Italian immigrants were also detained in government-run facilities. Camps such as Fort Missoula, Montana, Crystal City, Texas, and Santa Fe, New Mexico held Italian nationals who had been classified as enemy aliens. Crystal City was unique in that it housed entire families, including women and children. After the war, many of these families were repatriated to Italy, often unwillingly.

This history becomes even more meaningful when viewed through personal experience. My father was employed by the Southern Pacific Railroad in Roseville, California. He also served as an officer in the Order of Sons of Italy in America. When Italy entered the war, government officials visited our home more than once to question him about the local lodge's records and members. He also recalled that railroad workers of Italian descent were barred from working on certain trains passing through Roseville. Two of my uncles, both born in the United States, served in the war, one in Europe and the other in North Africa, yet my grandmother was under curfew and travel restrictions as she was not an American citizen. These are just a few family stories that involve relatives.

For genealogists, stories like these remind us of how national events shape family narratives. They encourage us to look beyond names and dates and explore the experiences of our ancestors, their struggles, resilience, and contributions. As we continue our research, uncovering and preserving these stories helps ensure that this chapter of history is not forgotten.

-JRS with the assistance of Microsoft Copilot.



For more on Italian Immigrants during World War II see:

Una Storia Segreta: edited by [Lawrence Di Stasi](#)

The Unknown Internment by Stephen Fox (1990), see Google Books.

Hidden in Plain Sight by [Unknown Author](#)

Genealogy Practice – Calendar Date

When was Elizabeth, daughter of John and Susan born?

MARSH FAMILY

Ebeneazer, s. Zachary and Mary (Silsby), May 28, 1674. CT. R.
Elizabeth, d. John and Susan, 8: 5 m: 1646. CT. F.
Elizabeth, d. Zachary and Mary (Silsby), [bp. July 10, 1670.
C. R. 1.]. CT. R.
Elizabeth, d. Priscilla, bp. June —, 1693. C. R. 1.

Source: "Massachusetts, U.S., Town & Vital Records, 1620-1988" Salem > Vital Record Transcripts, image online, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2495/images/41254_265598-00591 : accessed 21 February 2026); p. , image 590 of 2879; entry for Salem Birth, Marsh, Elizabeth.

The above information about three children with the name of Elizabeth and one with the name of Ebeneazer shows that the birth date for Elizabeth, the daughter of John and Susan, written in a different format than the other dates.



When was Elizabeth born?

Elizabeth , d. John and Susan, 8: 5 m : 1646. CT. F.

(Note: CT. F. = Court files, Essex Co. Quarterly Court.)

Hint:

The calendar used by many of our ancestors to keep track of “time”, structure daily life, and project future events, has not always been the same as we use today. Over the centuries, when communities had less contact with the “outside” world, different communities/countries measured “time” differently, using different calendars depending upon their location and type of calendar being used – Civic, Religious, Community, or Country.

Between 1582 and 1752, two calendars were used in Europe and the English Colonies. In England and its Colonies, the legal year began on March 25th. Other European countries used the Gregorian Calendar with January 1st as the



new year. This resulted in the practice of “Double Dating” calendar entries in England the Colonies, for dates between the “old’ New Year” and the “new’ New Year” (01 January and 25 March); it was more common in civil than church or ecclesiastical/religious records. When double dating was used, a slash or hyphen appeared in the year:

Examples: 10 February 1749/50 or 10 February 1749-50

In addition, during that time of two calendars, an occurrence in France and England may have two different dates for the same event, depending upon which country wrote up the information.

This double dating practice was eliminated in 1752, when England and its Colonies adopted the Gregorian Calendar, based on the earth’s rotation around the sun. The use of that calendar continues today.

Information to consider in solving the Calendar Date Practice Question shown above:

- ✓ What calendar was used in Salem, Massachusetts Bay Colony, British North America in 1646?
- ✓ What was the first month of the year in 1646?
- ✓ What was the fifth month of the year in 1646?

Answer will be published in the next newsletter.

© by Mary J. Sayles

Reference: Lib Guides Home: Colonial Records & Topics: 1752 Calendar Change found at: *Connecticut State Library* (<https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/colonialresearch/calendar> : accessed 23 February 2026).

Are you headed to RootsTech 2026?

RootsTech 2026 is coming up soon, and we would love to hear how our members plan to take part in this year’s event. Whether you are traveling to Salt Lake City for the in-person experience or planning to enjoy the virtual sessions from home, your plans and perspectives help us feel connected as a community.

If you are attending, in-person or online, please email rgsca@gmail.com. Let us know what you are most excited about, which classes you are hoping to catch, or what research do you have planned. We will feature a few member responses in an upcoming newsletter and discuss the event at our April workshop about what was learned and discovered. We look forward to hearing from you and celebrating the world’s biggest family-history gathering together.



Explore the RGS Library!

Did you know the Roseville Genealogical Society has a library of **more than 1,900 genealogy books** available to our members? Our collection covers far more than California research—you'll also find resources for many other states, plus specialty topics such as:

- **Mayflower genealogy**
- **Heraldry**
- **Maps**
- **How-to guides**

New material is added regularly! Come browse the full catalog online at:

<https://www.librarything.com/catalog/rgsca>

Our books are located on the back wall of the **downtown Roseville Public Library** (225 Taylor Street). While they aren't part of the public library collection and can't be checked out, members are welcome to use them on site. Next time you're at the library, take a look—you may find just what you need to move your research forward! Questions or need help finding a book or a "Box File" (journals and pamphlets)? Email us at rgsca@gmail.com, and put "Librarian" in the subject line. We're always happy to help!

Humor, Frustration, and Problem Solving



Sometimes genealogists' experience frustration with cemetery headstone displays of creativity with unintended consequences for future research.

Sometimes the cemetery sexton or list of burials can help solve the problem. Perhaps the dead are identified with a person on the other side of the gravestone or associated with a specific family plot where they are buried.

Perhaps a funeral home or obituary will tell you someone is buried here. If you do not find a grave with facts spelled out, you might have to write a proof argument with the clues you have to identify them.



Spotlight: Sue Smith



By Linda Reiner Vose

Sue is the Secretary for the Roseville Genealogical Society and also represents our Society in the Sacramento Genealogical Council.

Sue was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. She graduated from Glendale Community College with studies in Journalism, then graduated from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff with a major in Fashion Merchandising and a minor in Marketing.

Sue worked in retail as an assistant manager in various stores for 20 years then moved to Lawton, Oklahoma and changed careers to office administration. After 25 years she moved out west to be with family in Lincoln, California in 2018.

Sue has always been interested in her family's history. She used to interview her parents about their lives as while she was in Junior High. She joined Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) group in Lawton and, after years of research, she finally found her Revolutionary War patriot. She is a SMITH, so it was difficult. "I found my patriot from my mom's line."

She has been in D.A.R. for ten years, so that is how long she has been researching. She takes as many online classes as she can. She went to the Family Search Center in Salt Lake City for a week and she said, "It was like going to Disneyland for me!"

Sue uses Family Search and Ancestry.com. as her main research programs. She organizes her material files by parents. She is able go back nine generations. Sometimes she gets overwhelmed and takes a break from the research.

She was invited to join RGS by a friend from another group she was in and has been a member for the last four years.

Her advice to newbies: "My suggestion to you is to have fun. These are your people. You will learn so much about your family and their character and time they lived in. You will also learn a lot about American History. "

Roseville Genealogical Society Newsletter

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



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<https://www.facebook.com/RosevilleGenealogicalSociety/>

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