



# The Digger

Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society



JAN 17, 2020

James Koenig

## “ Using Diminutive Names to Solve Genealogical Puzzles”

Diminutive names usually do not appear on birth certificates or passports, but are commonly found in old letters, diaries, ships manifests, newspaper clippings & the back of photographs.

James' information will help you match the correct people with their diminutives.

James is a member of the Jewish Genealogical Society, the American Name Society and the Canadian Name Society in addition to being a Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society member.

FEB 21, 2020

## Mark McLaren “Scotland & Northern Ireland Research”

This presentation will provide information to assist in Scottish genealogy research and include the following topics: 1) The intertwined history of Northern Ireland and Scotland and why both are part of Scottish research; 2) Understanding key moments in their shared history and how those influenced emigration throughout the British empire, primarily to Australia, United States, and Canada; 3) Scottish surnames and how to differentiate which are tied to clans or houses; 4) Review of books and on-line resources available to the researcher; 5) A review of documents available in the Scottish archives and the information they provide. Also, why they should be considered the “Gold Standard” compared to other on-line data bases.

Originally from the Philadelphia area, Mark graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder with a B.S. degree in Business. His interest in genealogy began in the early 2000s and has expanded over the years. His primary areas of focus are genetic genealogy and Scottish research. He is currently a member of the National Genealogical Society, California Genealogical Society, and the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society. He is a member of the Clan McLaren Society of North America, having served as its treasurer for 12 years, and currently as its president. He also is a member of the Clan Douglas and Ross societies.

*No Host Lunch at Creekside Cafe with the Speaker following the monthly meeting on the 3rd Friday of the month. Reservations MUST be made by 3:00 PM the TUESDAY prior to the meeting! To do so, please contact Sue Fernstrom at 510-215-0873 or e-mail her at [suefernstrom@comcast.net](mailto:suefernstrom@comcast.net).*



It's that time again.... to **renew your MDGS membership!**  
Pick up an application at the general meeting  
or download from our website. MDGS membership runs  
from January through December.

# Spotlighting Other Societies

## Contra Costa County Genealogical Society

- 9 JAN Lisa Gorrell "Researching Offline: Using Archives, Libraries & Courthouses"  
Meetings held Thurs. 7-9 p.m. at LDS Building, 1360 Alberta Way, Concord, CA
- 13 FEB Hands-on Research at the Concord Family History Center  
6-8 p.m. at 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord, CA

## San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

- 21 JAN Karen Zukor "Document Repair & Restoration"  
Meeting Tues. 10-12 at LDS Building, 2949 Stone Valley Rd @ Smith Rd., Alamo, CA

## Genealogy Society of Vallejo-Benicia

- 6 FEB Mary Herzog "How to Use the Family Tree on FamilySearch.org to your Advantage."  
Benicia Historical Museum Field Trip (1-4 p.m. 2060 Camel Rd, Benicia, CA)
- 5 MAR Meetings held Thurs. 1-3 p.m. Vallejo Naval History Museum, 734 Marin St., Vallejo, CA

## Solano County Genealogical Society

- 1 FEB Barbara Leak "Organizing Your Genealogy: A Genealogist's Greatest Challenge."  
Meetings Sat. at 11:00 a.m.  
Fairfield Adult Recreation Center, 1200 Civic Dr., Fairfield, CA

## Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society

- 13 JAN Mark McLaren "DNA Testing Overview"  
Meetings Mon. 7:30 p.m.  
Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton, CA



From Feb. 26th – 28th RootsTech 2020 will be held in Salt Lake City.  
The schedule is posted online. Register at: [www.rootstech.org/saltlake](http://www.rootstech.org/saltlake)  
Keynote Speaker: Emmitt Smith



SAVE THE DATE: **Saturday, March 28, 2020**

**SPRING SEMINAR** with D. Joshua Taylor, President of New York Genealogical & Historical Society and Co-Host on PBS "Genealogy Roadshow"  
Topics: Bridging the Gap: Finding Ancestors in the US between 1780-1840; Online Resources for Colonial America; Beyond Belief: The Wealth of Genealogical & Historical Societies; Online Library Catalogs: A Genealogist's Best Kept Secret.

Seminar Registration Opens January, 2020

[www.rootcellar.org](http://www.rootcellar.org)