



Pomona Valley Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Volume 44, Issue

MAY 2016

Genealogy Meeting to Focus on “Things to Do with Your Genealogical Research This Summer”

We are honored to have as our guest speaker Pat Chavarria who is a dynamic, engaging, and professional genealogist.

The May 14th meeting of the Pomona Valley Genealogical Society will feature local genealogist Pat Chavarria presenting on “Things to Do with Your Genealogical Research This Summer”. Pat, who is the president of the Glendora Genealogical Group, an accomplished genealogist and a popular presenter, will cover updating family group sheets, creating family timelines, setting up to do lists, citing your sources, organizing your research, letter writing and much, much more. This will help participants do a mid-year genealogical “tune up” as we head into summer.

Pat, who was adopted as a child, first became interested in genealogy in 1990 when she discovered that she had a sister, a brother, and that her birth mother was still alive at that time. Not knowing anything about that family and wanting to find out as much as possible, Pat started her journey into family history. She is doing research in Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, California, Mexico, Germany, old Prussia, and Luxembourg. She belongs to several other genealogical societies, teaches genealogy refresher classes for the Glendora Genealogical Group and the Whittier Area Genealogical Society, and has presented to various organizations on how to trace their family roots.

Pssst! It will be Election Day for PVGS! Be sure to attend and help elect our officers for the coming term!

NEW PVGS Board of Directors 2015-16

President — Pat Henny — president@pvgs.us
 1VP—Program Director — Connie Rodriguez — programs@pvgs.us
 2VP —Membership Director — Loretta Barker — membership@pvgs.us
 Secretary — Freddie Watson — secretary@pvgs.us
 Treasurer — Raul Rodriguez — treasurer@pvgs.us
 Director Collections/Archivist — Richard Piepho — publications@pvgs.us
 Director Hospitality — Valerie Greenbeck — hospitality@pvgs.us
 Director Ways & Means — Betty Goldberg— waysandmeans@pvgs.us
 Director Research — Ann Stutsman — research@pvgs.us
 Nominating Committee — Anne Larkin Chairman,
 Members: Karen McGuirk, Doug Neely

Additional Appointments

Newsletter Editor— Anne Larkin — newsletter@pvgs.us
 Extension Classes — Richard Piepho— publications@pvgs.us
 Research Chairman — Ann Stutsman — research@pvgs.us
 FaceBook Coordinators — Raul Rodriguez, Bill Lemon
 Webmaster — Bob Blair — webmaster@pvgs.us



Meetings: 2nd Sat .Sep-May Board Meeting — 1:00 PM Program — 2:00 PM
 Dues: \$20/person or \$25/family

**The Conference of California Historical Societies
 will be meeting in Claremont in June.**

**"You may have tangible wealth untold; Caskets of
 Jewels and coffers of gold. Richer than I you can
 never be - I had a mother who read to me."
 Strickland Gillilan**

Mothers' Day is May 8th

The Political Graveyard is a
 web site about U.S. political his-
 tory and cemeteries. Founded in
 1996, it is the Internet's most
 comprehensive free source for
 American political biography,
 listing 277,483 politicians,
 living and dead.

**"My mother was the most beauti-
 ful woman I ever saw.
 All I am I owe to my mother."
 George Washington**

**"Don't aim to be an earthly
 Saint, with eyes fixed on a star,
 Just try to be the fellow that
 your Mother thinks you are."
 Will Sadkin**

Why Do We Do Genealogy?

A friend asked an interesting question. *"Why do you do genealogy?"* The answer should be simple. One would think it would be something along the lines of:

"I do genealogy because I want to know who my ancestors were."

But guess what? Like most questions in life, the answer is not that simple. There are a myriad of reasons why we delve into genealogy research. Wanting to find out who our ancestors were is just the tip of the genealogy iceberg.

The reasons I currently *"do genealogy"* are not the same reasons I had twenty or thirty years ago. When I began my genealogy quest it was because my father had repeatedly expressed curiosity about our Irish origins. He died when I was 14 years old, and after his death I vowed to find out about our Irish McGinnis ancestors.

So my answer to that question, had it been asked those many years ago, would have been. *"I do genealogy because I want to remember and honour my father."*

It was a specific reason, very narrow in scope, but it sparked a broader interest in history. In fact, that is not my main reason anymore, and hasn't been for a long time. I've grown. Genealogy has been a journey, and as on any journey, my needs and desires and goals along the way have changed. For example I'm extremely curious. Some would say nosy. I think most of us who love genealogy would make great detectives. My personality is such that I can't let a mystery lie without digging into it. I need to find answers.

So my current answer to the original question of why I do genealogy is now much more complex.

"I do genealogy for many reasons. One is my curiosity about my ancestors - who were they, what were they like, what experiences did they live through. My love of history is part of the reason I do genealogy. My desire to solve mysteries is a huge part of my passion for genealogy. And I do genealogy because I want my children and grandchildren to know and recognize the individuals over the centuries whose lives helped make us who we are today."

That absolute lack of curiosity is incomprehensible to me, just as my desire to know more is incomprehensible to her. A photo allows us to know our ancestors. With a photo in my hand I can study a face then ponder over whether or not great-grandma's nose is just like my granddaughters. I can visualize the ancestors in those photos living their daily lives, just as we do today. With a photo I feel a connection I can't quite feel with only a name and a date.

I've been asked when my research will be done. Many family members want to know why I am still looking when I know the names of ancestors back several generations. Non-genealogists rarely understand that genealogists want to find as many details and as much information about each ancestor as they possibly can. Even though my answer to the original question is complex and multi-faceted, I can sum my reasons up in one sentence: *Without the past there is no present, nor can we build a future.*

Lorine McGinnis Schulze is a Canadian genealogist who has been involved with genealogy and history for more than thirty years. In 1996 Lorine created the [Olive Tree Genealogy website](#) and its [companion](#)

***"Dear Mother: I 'm all right.
Stop worrying about me."
Egyptian letter, 2000 B.C.***

Did Any of our US Presidents Speak Second Languages?

Who was the only American president to learn English as a second language? What foreign language is the most popular among U.S. presidents? What commander-in-chief spoke Mandarin Chinese? Presidents' Day can come and go without too much of a hullabaloo. But really – especially in regards to language and history – there's a lot to be learned. Here are a few facts and figures about the presidents' command of languages from outside our borders: Less than half of the presidents were proficient in speaking or writing a language other than English. Most presidents who served in the 18th and 19th centuries studied Latin, as part of the tradition of classical education that was prevalent at the time in American schools.

Only one president, **Martin Van Buren** (in office 1837-1841), did not speak English as his first language. Growing up in the Dutch community of Kinderhook, New York, he spoke **Dutch** as a child and learned **English** as a second language while attending the local school house.



The second president, **John Adams**, taught **Greek and Latin** at a school in Worcester, Massachusetts, at the beginning of his career. In a letter he sent to Thomas Jefferson while serving as president, Adams lamented that few Americans learn these languages.



James Garfield (in office March-September 1881) also taught **Greek and Latin**, at Hiram College in Ohio.



One of the most prominent intellectuals of his time, **Thomas Jefferson** was known among other things for his language skills. He claimed to read and write five languages in addition to **English—Greek, Latin, French, Italian, and Spanish**—but also had books and dictionaries in languages like **Arabic, Gaelic, and Welsh**.



James Madison, the fourth president of the United States (1809-1817), was well-versed in **Hebrew**, having studied the language at the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University).



French was often heard in the Monroe White House (1817-1825). **James Monroe** had studied the language in his youth and, along with his wife, became fluent while serving in Paris from 1794 to 1796 as U.S. minister to France.



Herbert Hoover, who served as president from 1929 to 1933, learned **Mandarin Chinese** while working as a mining engineer in China. He and his wife Lou—whose Chinese names were Hoo-Yah and Hoo-Lou, respectively—even spoke the language occasionally during their White House years, when they didn't want people around them to understand.



Of all the presidents, **John Quincy Adams** (in office 1825-1829) may hold the record for language learning. As a child, he traveled with his father on diplomatic assignments all over the world, allowing him to study French and **Dutch**. When Adams was just 14 years old, he accompanied a diplomatic mission to Russia as a **French** translator. He also read the **Latin and Greek** classics in their original languages, like many of his contemporaries, dedicated himself to learning **German** while serving as the U.S. ambassador to Prussia, and later learned **Italian**.



(See more at: <http://www.rosettastone.com/blog/what-american-president-learned-english-as-a-second-language>)

**"My mother had a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it."
Mark Twain**

Use eGENEe to Search for Genealogy and History Websites and Resources

eGENEe is a website containing a catalog of genealogy and history websites. Anita Brubaker, the owner of **eGENEe**, says she began keeping a list of useful, reliable websites in 2010. It was first a spreadsheet and later became a true database as the number of entries grew. It now has become **eGENEe**. The web site currently contains more than 150,000 links for US websites, and that number is growing daily. Currently only the United States is available, but there are plans for additional countries in the future.

eGENEe has a user interface that is very easy to use. You can search for web sites by locality, years, categories, name, title, price, URL, or any combination of these factors. Searches can sometimes come up with some obscure resources. For instance, I did a search for my own last name. The results included this newsletter and also the Eastman Dental Center Archives at the University of Rochester Medical Center, Eastman Institute for Oral Health. I doubt if that site has patient records available due to privacy issues but does have information about dentists and other staff members.

In most cases, searching for a surname will not be productive. You can try it but you probably won't find meaningful results. I know that I didn't find anything about my ancestry when searching for a name. However, **eGENEe** is an excellent tool for finding sources of records. I would suggest searching for the name of the town or county where some of your ancestors lived.

For instance, a search for "Penobscot County, Maine" returned 40 online web sites that have information about that county, including: The exodus of the loyalists from Penobscot and the loyalist settlements at Passamaquoddy

- British and Tory marauders on the Penobscot
- Memoir of Col. Jonathan Eddy of Eddington, Me.: with some account of the Eddy family, and of the early settlers on Penobscot River
- The exodus of the loyalists from Penobscot and the loyalist settlements at Passamaquoddy
- History of Castine, Penobscot and Brooksville, Maine : including the ancient settlement of Pentagöet
- The town register, Islesboro, Castine, Penobscot, Brooksville, 1906
- 1882 History of Penobscot County, Maine with illustrations /biographical sketches.

These all are sites that would be difficult to find with a simple Google Search .

eGENEe is available at: <http://eGENEe.com>.

(from Dick Eastman on-line genealogy newsletter)

**"History remembers only the celebrated,
genealogy remembers them all." Laurence Overmire**

Here are some FREE WEBINARS
to keep you thinking of genealogy during our summer break:



Presenter: Amie Tenant

- **Date:** June 14, 2016, 8:00 pm Central
- **Description:** Social media isn't just for teenagers anymore! Learn to use the power of Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, and Twitter to overcome genealogy brick walls in your family tree and share your family story. Knowledgeable people around the world are just waiting to help you with your biggest problems and maybe you can help someone else along the way.

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7540625935675352321>

July 2016 *Special Delivery: Using US Postmaster Documents in Family History Research*

Presenter: Jean Hibben, CG

- **Date:** July 12, 2016, 8:00 pm Central
- **Description:** There is a wealth of records among NARA microfilms of US Postmaster appointments (now accessible via Ancestry.com). Ancestors who were merchants, newspaper editors, politicians, or lawyers may have also served as Postmasters. Learn how to access and navigate these records and see how they can be correlated with other documents to get a more complete picture of your ancestor.

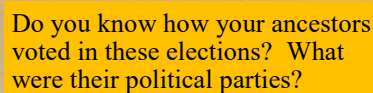
Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2607347059774722305>

August 2016 *Misbegotten Children; Tracing the Family Lines of the Illegitimate*

Presenter: Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG

- **Date:** August 9, 2016, 8:00 pm Central
- **Description:** Illegitimacy can be both a surprise and an embarrassment as we discover more and more about our family's history. Treated with care and sensitivity, we can use many available resources to help us in our research. Nearly all families have children with seemingly missing fathers. Yet, there may be clues and resources to help us determine their ancestry.

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1406973931847993857>



Whigs (red), Free Soilers, Democrats+Loco Focos" (blue)

On February 13, 1837, members of the **Equal Rights Party**, a **Democratic** splinter movement dubbed the **Loco Foco's** by New York's Whig press, held a meeting in City Hall Park to protest the high cost of family necessities and household maintenance. Spurred to attend by handbills that demanded "Bread, Meat, Rent, And Fuel! Their prices must come down!" thousands arrived in the cold weather. The crowd bristled and grew restless over the subject of the cost of foodstuffs, having seen flour prices rise from \$7 per barrel in September to \$12 per barrel by early February.

The contest was the first presidential election that took place on the same day in every state, and it was the first time that Election Day was statutorily a Tuesday.

Pomona Valley Genealogical Society

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Pomona Public Library is at 625 S. Garey Ave (corner Garey and 7th Streets, just south of Mission). 909 620-2043. Parking is free in the lot and on 7th - both sides.

PVGS meets at the Pomona Public Library on the Second Saturday of each month—September–May in the public Conference Room.

Our Board Meetings are held at 1:00 pm. Our General Meetings and Programs are from 2:00–4:00pm.

