



We are Back!

We are back in the Center for Higher Learning. We started our regular monthly meeting in the Kiva Club this month, and it felt so good to be back! Most of the SIGs have been holding meetings there as well. We also had a zoom session going, and that seemed to work alright. This allows those who are out of town or would prefer not to come to the club to participate. We will continue this practice if it makes sense to do so.

This month Francis Bauer gave us an excellent presentation on FindaGrave. I have used that site for years, but I learned a lot from Francis's talk. I have posted his slides in the May handout section on our club website.

Next Meeting, June 7, 2021

Our next meeting will be Monday, June 7, 2021, in the Center for Higher Learning. Our guest speaker will be Pam LaFond from the West Valley Genealogical Society. Many of you have heard of WVGS, and a few of you are members. This is your opportunity to learn all about what they have to offer and possibly consider a membership. WVGS is a unique and rich resource for genealogy research and education.

This presentation was delayed from March as Pam wants to meet you all in person. She tells me she has a lot to share with you. Nonetheless, we will also broadcast this live on Zoom so that those of you who have left the community for the summer will have the opportunity to tune in.

Note that this will be the last meeting until September. We have taken June through September off in the past, but in our survey, many of you voted in favor of June and September meetings. If we get sufficient turnout, we will continue the September through June schedule going forward. Please join us in the Learning Center if you can.

Report from the May Board Meeting

We held the monthly Board meeting on Saturday, May 8, 2021, and the minutes will be posted on the website soon. This will be the last Board meeting until September.

A few items from the Board meeting that might interest you:

- Mark reported that we are averaging about thirty-five members per meeting. While it is good to see that turnout, we have eighty-six members in the club. I hope that more of you will participate going forward. We will continue to hold meetings in the club and provide a connection via zoom so that those members who are out of town or prefer to listen in from home may do so.
- Gary Loeb and Frank Schiller petitioned the Board to merge the European History SIG and the Jewish History SIG due to an overlap of topics and members. The Board has agreed to this, and the new European History SIG will be led by Frank Schiller in the near term. If, in the future, any members feel the SIG is spending too much or not enough time in either area, all they need to do

is volunteer to form and lead a separate SIG. The SIGs exist for the benefit and at the will of the members. Participation can be extremely rewarding, but participation is the keyword.

- I belong to the Tools and Platforms SIG and found the first two meetings very interesting. I learned a few things that will help me and shared a few things that will help others. Unfortunately, Kat, the SIG leader, has informed us that she must step down as the SIG leader due to conflicts with other responsibilities. We need someone to step up and facilitate these meetings. If you are willing to help keep this SIG going, please send me an email. SIGs can't meet without a facilitator, so until we find someone to do this, there will be no further meetings of this SIG.
- Trey has proposed we obtain name badges for club members. We had name badges at one time, with mixed results. We discussed in detail what went right and what went wrong with this in the past. We agreed that name badges are good as they help people feel more comfortable interacting and sharing, and learning from each other is what the club is all about. After much discussion, we came up with the following plan:
 - Anyone who renews for 2022 and all new members will receive name badges. We can obtain these from the same vendor that the Wine Club uses for less than \$10 each.
 - There will be no additional cost to the member beyond their customary annual ten-dollar dues.
 - We will distribute the new name badges to members to keep so they can wear them to regular meetings and SIG meetings. There will be no name badge police or shaming, so if you forget your badge or choose not to wear it, that's fine.
 - We are open to your feedback over the next six months regarding this plan. If you have any objections or suggestions, please let me know.
- Fall Meetings:
 - September 13, 2021 – Researching your Ancestors on the Internet – Bob Alford. Note that this is the second Monday as the first Monday is Memorial Day. This date is subject to change based on room availability, but I will let you know well in advance if there are any changes.
 - October 4, 2021 – Research workshop. Everyone is asked to bring their laptop computers or borrow one from the Kiva Club front desk. We will be putting the information from the September meeting to use to research your ancestors. I will run the workshop with the help of some of the more experienced researchers in the club.
 - November 1, 2021 – Using the Census for Genealogy Research – Denise Beeson.
 - December 6, 2021 – Workshop incorporating the Census in your research, led by Gary Loeb. If the Census is not applicable to you, come anyway, and we will continue what we started in October.
- Possible Topics for Spring 2022 meetings. We have not yet scheduled any speakers for 2022. We discussed possible topics and collectively came up with three ideas:
 - Using DNA – We have a SIG for this, and it will be a topic of one of our sessions on Family History Day, but the thought is something along these lines might be interesting to many people.
 - Proving Relationships – One of the most complex parts of Genealogy research is proving the relationship between ancestors. We have a possible speaker who specializes in that type of thing. We haven't confirmed anything yet, but it could be an interesting meeting.
 - Telling the family story – an in-depth look at researching and documenting family history.
 - Do you have any ideas or suggestions? Do you like or dislike any of those listed above? There will be five regular meetings next Spring. Let me know your thoughts.

- Family History Day – We will be doing a Family History Day next March. For those who are new to the club, this is an annual all-day event in the Tewa room with a variety of speakers and lunch. It is a ticketed event (we have to pay for the lunch and other expenses) and is open to all Trilogy residents and selected outside guests. We have started to discuss the format and the topics and will have more information for you in the Fall.

Tree Checking

During our April meeting, I offered to run the consistency checker against anyone's tree if they sent me a gedcom. Only three people took me up on the offer. As stated at that meeting, the offer is open until June 1st. If you want your tree checked for possible errors, send me a Gedcom. All genealogy software applications for creating and storing family trees support Gedcom. There are instructions on downloading a Gedcom from Ancestry and MyHeritage on the website under the April handouts. Typically, the consistency checker finds potential errors in 20-30% of all entries in a tree.

A Quick Tip

Google search is the most powerful search engine ever created. You may have heard me say it is beneficial for genealogy research, but when you tried it, you got a million hits that most had nothing to do with your ancestors. The problem is you need to tell Google how to focus the search. This can be done by embedding special characters in the search string, but who can remember all of that? There is an easier way. Just go to [Google Advanced Search](https://www.google.com/advanced_search). https://www.google.com/advanced_search

This will display a search form that you can fill out to focus your search. Start with only a few restrictions, leave the rest of the fields blank, and refine your search if needed. If you limit it too much, you will miss good information. The form is easy to understand, and after a few tries, you will be able to use it.

To execute the search, click on the "Advanced Search" button at the bottom of the page. This will generate a search string with the special characters embedded and submit it to the search engine. You can look at the search string and learn the characters if you wish.

An interesting field for genealogy is the "numbers ranging from/to" fields. If you enter the years your ancestor was born and died here, it will restrict the search to that era.

One notable feature is the targeted search. In the bottom section of the form, there is a field called site or domain. If you enter the web address of a website, Google will search that website. Since Google's search engine is so much more powerful than the search engines on most websites, this can yield some excellent results.

A great example of this is searching the archive.org website. Archive.org contains an enormous amount of data, including the history of 644 billion web pages on the internet. It also contains over twenty million old books that can be accessed and downloaded for free. I have located the vital records and history of many towns and families in these books. The archive.org website search engine is slow and doesn't allow the wealth of qualified searches that Google does. The solution is Google Advanced Search. Enter the information you are looking for in the advanced search form, then type Archive.org in the field labeled site or domain. Try it. You will be amazed at the results. Archive.org is worthy of further discussion. Maybe next month.

One caveat on targeted searches. Google can't see past a login wall or a paywall, so targeted searches will not work well on sites like Ancestry or MyHeritage. It also can't see into databases, so websites that dynamically generate their webpages from a database don't make good targets for Google Search.

Your Feedback is Appreciated

- How can the Trilogy Genealogy Club help you with your Family History?
- What ideas or suggestions do you have for future meetings?

- How can we improve what we are doing for the benefit of our members?

Please write to me at rsalford@gmail.com. I'm listening.

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