



SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SIG

AI Genealogy Use Cases

Agenda

- Tips
- Use Cases
 - Andrew Redfern
 - Thomas MacEntee
 - Steve Little
- Use Case Examples

Monday, February 24, 2025, 7pm

Bill George SIG Leader

Meeting will be recorded and summarized

Website <https://aisig.ancstor.org>



Tips

- Latest AI Webinar in Series of FamilyTreeWebinars - **URL**
Friday, February 28, 2025
Streamlining Genealogical Research Plans with AI: A Step-by-Step Guide
by Diana Elder, AG, AGL
- Steven Little's AI Genealogy Insights Blog - **URL**
- In 2025, AI feels a lot like the internet did in the late 1990s or early 2000s – full of potential, sparking both excitement and concern, and raising big questions about the future of education - **URL**
- Recent LLM ChatBots on AI SIG Website - **URL**



Andrew Redfern Use Cases

Per his Jan. 24, 2025 "10 Practical Uses of AI for Family History

- Transcribe
- Extract
- Illustrate
- Organize
- Plan
- Write
- Describe
- Transform
- Question
- Diagram



Thomas MacEntee Use Cases

- Research - URL
 - Summarize - URL
 - Social History - URL
 - Translate - URL
 - Transcribe - URL
-
- All Thomas MacEntee Webinars URL



Strong/Weak Use Cases - Steve Little

Useful Language Transformations for Genealogists:



Strong Uses

- **Summarization**
make texts smaller
- **Extraction**
pluck facts from texts
- **Generation**
make text bigger
- **Translation**
change how texts look and sound
- **Language-related Tasks**
as spreadsheets are to numbers, so LLMs are to words, ideas, language

Weak Uses

- **Research**
focus first on analysis, not research; i.e., “processing info” not “gathering”
- **Transcription**
handwritten text recognition (HTR) is hard; 85% accuracy is considered good
- **Translation**
when subtlety is critical

Steve Little, AI Program Director, National Genealogical Society

Ref: Steve Little's Genealogy Insights Blog - Extraction



Strong/Weak Uses - Steve Little

Strong Uses

- Summarization
- Extraction
- Generation
- Translation
- Language-related Tasks

Weak Uses

- Research
- Transcription
- Translation

Ref: [Steve Little's Genealogy Insights Blog](#) - [Extraction](#)



AISIG Use Cases

- Formulate text from instructions
- Generate images from spoken or typed words
- Handwriting recognition
- Interpret text and objects from images
- Recommend research sources
- Reform data into tables
- Summarizing information
- Timelines creation
- Generate text from video or audio
- Language Translation



Formulate text from instructions

Prompt: Tell me of the presidency of Millard Fillmore in 50 words or less and list your source.

Response: Millard Fillmore (1850-1853), the 13th U.S. president, assumed office after Zachary Taylor's death. A member of the Whig Party, he supported the Compromise of 1850, enforcing the Fugitive Slave Act, which worsened sectional tensions. His foreign policy opened Japan to trade. The Whigs dissolved, and he later joined the Know-Nothing Party. - **URL**



Image from spoken or typed words

Generate a early American early daylight scene with a river flowing to the ocean and a wooden two masted schooner heading to the ocean with a captain looking towards the shore at a native Indian encampment by a campfire with a trading post in the background. It is the Fall season and leaves are turning red.





Handwriting recognition

Prompt: Transcribe the enclosed letter

Granite, U.S. Phillipsburg
Aug. 26th 1913
My dear Mother and Father,
Your letter of Aug. 18th
receivd and I can not
tell you how glad I was to
hear from home again just
think I had not heard from
you since June 19th and
And really I was worried
half to death for I could
not imagine why you
had not written.
The Granite mine closed
down last week. Mr.
Enterline is working in
a shaft near our home
now. The Bimetallic there
are 3 men on the day
shift and 2 on the night

Response: (1) The OCR extraction did not return any text. **(2)** I will attempt a different method to enhance the image and extract the text more accurately. **(3)** The OCR extraction is still not returning text. I will manually transcribe the visible content from the image:

Granite, U.S. Phillipsburg

Aug. 26th, 1913

My dear Mother and Father,

Your letter of Aug. 18th received, and I can not tell you how glad I was to hear from home again—just think I had not heard from you since June 19th, and really I was worried half to death for I could not imagine why you had not written.

The Granite mine closed down last week. Mr. Enterline is working in a shaft near our home now. The Bimetallic—there are 3 men on the day shift and 2 on the night...



Interpret objects from images

Prompt: Identify the object in the picture:



Prompt Response: The image contains two halves of a fig fruit. The fig is cut open, revealing its intricate inner structure with pinkish-red pulp and numerous tiny seeds. The fruit has a dark outer skin and is placed on a light background, casting sharp shadows. Let me know if you need any further details!



Recommend research sources

Prompt: I'm researching a family from Indiana, Pennsylvania, whose father was born in 1815 and was a volunteer in a Presbyterian Church. He was an iron mold maker by trade and allegedly owned a foundry in Indiana, Pennsylvania. The 1880 census said his father was born in Ireland. Tell me some sources I could look at to further my research.

Prompt Response: Researching a family from Indiana, Pennsylvania, with a father born in 1815 who was involved in the Presbyterian Church and iron molding, you can consult several key historical sources:

1. Census Records
U.S. Federal Census (1850-1880) – Since you have an 1880 census entry, check earlier censuses for additional details
See full Response **URL...**



Reform data into tables

Prompt: List 9 earliest wars fought by the United States in a table in chronological order with columns "Date Started", "Date Ended", "Name", "Short Description". Then, export the table to a CSV file. Each short description should be no longer than 20 words.

earliest_us_wars

Date Started	Date Ended	Name	Short Description
1775	1783	American Revolutionary War	Colonists fought Britain for independence.
1812	1815	War of 1812	U.S. fought Britain over trade and expansion.
1813	1814	Creek War	U.S. fought Creek Nation in the South.
1832	1832	Black Hawk War	U.S. defeated Black Hawk and followers.
1835	1842	Second Seminole War	Longest U.S. Indian conflict in Florida.
1846	1848	Mexican-American War	U.S. gained California, Southwest from Mexico.
1855	1856	Yakima War	Conflict with Yakama tribe in Washington.
1855	1858	Third Seminole War	Final conflict with Seminoles in Florida.
1857	1858	Utah War	Conflict between U.S. and Utah Mormons.

[View the CSV File](#)



Summarizing information

Pg 1 of 2

SAN RAMON A SHORT HISTORY

A COMMUNITY BEGINS

Today San Ramon is a dynamic young city, one of California's outstanding urban villages. It has a variety of homes, parks and stores and a major employment center --- all in a setting of remarkable beauty.

It was once home to the Seunen and Souyen, Ohlone Indians who lived adjacent to the valley creeks. After 1797, it became Mission San Jose grazing land and, beginning in 1834, Jose Maria Amador's 20,000+ acre Rancho San Ramon.

San Ramon Creek and Valley were named for an Indian vaquero, Ramon, who tended mission sheep here. In an 1855 land title case, Don Amador explained that "San" was added to the name to conform with Spanish custom.



Minerva and Joel Harlan

Prompt: Summarize the enclosed Document in less than 250 words

The document titled "San Ramon: A Short History" provides a brief historical overview of San Ramon, California. It describes the city as a modern and dynamic urban village with homes, parks, and employment opportunities set in a beautiful landscape.

Cont.



Summarizing information

Pg 2 of 2



Prompt: Summarize this five page document in less than 250 words

Historically, the area was home to the Seunen and Souyen, Ohlone Native American groups, who lived near the valley creeks. In 1797, it became part of the Mission San Jose grazing lands. Later, in 1834, José María Amador established the 20,000-acre Rancho San Ramon.

The name "San Ramon" originates from an Indian vaquero, Ramon, who tended sheep in the area. According to an 1855 land title case, "San" was added to the name following Spanish naming customs.

Additionally, the document features a historical photograph of Minerva and Joel Harlan, presumably early settlers or individuals of significance in San Ramon's history.



Timeline creation p 1 of 4

Prompt: Create a timeline list from the enclosed short history of San Ramon, California.

Early History & Settlement

Pre-1797 - The area was home to the Seunen and Souyen, Ohlone Indians.

1797 - Became Mission San Jose grazing land.

1834 - Jose Maria Amador received over 20,000 acres, forming Rancho San Ramon.

1848 - Jose Maria Amador and his workers prospected for gold in Amador County.

1850 - First American settlers, Leo and Mary Jane Norris, purchased land in San Ramon.

1851 - First wood-frame house built by Leo Norris and William Lynch.

1852 - Joel and Minerva Harlan bought land and built their first house.

1855 - Name "San Ramon" first recorded in a land title case.



Timeline creation p 2 of 4

Development of a Village

1860s - San Ramon village emerged at today's Deerwood Rd. and San Ramon Valley Blvd.

1863 - First general store opened.

1864 - A stage line was established, connecting San Ramon to Oakland.

1867 - San Ramon Grammar School opened.

1873 - San Ramon's permanent post office was established.

1877 - The Glass House was built.

1891 - The Southern Pacific's San Ramon Branch Line arrived, making San Ramon a transportation hub.

1895 - Attorney Thomas Bishop acquired 960 acres for Bishop Ranch, which became known for its large pear orchard.



Timeline creation p 3 of 4

Early 20th Century

1911 - San Ramon Community Hall was built, serving as a social center.

1966 - Interstate 680 opened, boosting suburban development.

Modern Growth & City Incorporation

1970 - "San Ramon Village" first appeared in the census with a population of 4,084.

1970 - Western Electric purchased 1,733 acres of Bishop Ranch to create a planned community.

1978 - Bishop Ranch Business Park was developed.

1983 - San Ramon was incorporated as a city after 75% of voters approved incorporation.



Timeline creation p 4 of 4

Preservation & Continued Development

1997 - Ruth Boone donated the 16-acre Forest Home Farms to the city.

2016 - New San Ramon City Hall scheduled to open.

Population Growth

1970 - 4,084

1980 - 22,356

2000 - 44,722

2010 - 72,148

2015 - 78,820

This timeline highlights the major events in San Ramon's history, from its indigenous roots to modern urbanization. Let me know if you need any modifications or additions!



Language Translation

p 1 of 4

Atto di Morte di Luigi Savaglio di Angelo

L'Anno mille ottocento deponiamo il primo Gennaio, ad un ora pomeridiana, nell'ufficio dello Stato Civile del Comune di Mignano in Provincia di Salerno.

Diante a me Giovanni Rotondi, Segretario Comunale delegato dal Signor Sindaco a ricevere gli atti dello Stato Civile di nascita e di morte in questo Comune con atto del ventun Dicembre mille ottocento deponiamo ed approvato dal Signor Procuratore del Re Sostituto dello stesso mese. Sono compariti Lorenzo Scaglione che fu numero, Maire Comunale d'anni deponiamo e Giuseppe Peluso fu Giuseppe d'anni Cinquantotto, entrambi residenti in questo Comune non avendo alcun grado di parentela col defunto inferito, i quali mi hanno dichiarato che alle ore undici antimeridiane del giorno trentuno dell'undecimo mese di Gennaio, a Salerno, Distretto di questo Comune, luogo detto Caltrana Caltrana è morto Savaglio Luigi figlio di Angelo fu Giuseppe.

Prompt: Interpret this Italian 19th century death record and translate into modern English. List any word that had to be guessed at because of unclear handwriting.

Response: The document is a death record written in Italian from the 19th century. Below is an interpretation and a translation into modern English. I've noted any unclear words where I had to make an educated guess.



Language Translation

p 2 of 4

Italian (interpreted text):

Atto di Morte di Luigi Lavagetto di Angelo

L'anno mille ottocento sessantanove il primo gennaio ad ore pomeridiane pel Ufficio dello Stato Civile del Comune di Montepasco in Italia. Avanti a me Giovanni Antoni Segretario Comunale delegato dal Signor Sindaco a ricevere gli atti dello Stato Civile di nascita e di morte. Maggior tenente caricato del ventuno dicembre mille ottocento sessantotto del soprassotto del Signor Comandante del Re Imperatore dello Stato medesimo. Sono comparsi Lorenzi Boggianivermo fu numero Giuseppe, cameriere, domiciliato e dimorante in questo Comune, et Antonio Parmegiatti fu numero Emanuele, comitati in anni cinquantotto, commercianti e domiciliati in questo Comune. Hanno detto che alle ore undici antimeridiane del giorno trenta Dicembre dell'anno scorso è morto Lavagetto Luigi, figlio di Angelo, fu Francesca e del detto comune, nato nel mille ottocento diciassette.



Language Translation

p 3 of 4

English (modern translation):

Death Record of Luigi Lavagetto, son of Angelo

In the year 1869, on January 1st, at afternoon hours, in the office of the Civil Status of the Municipality of Montepasco, Italy. In front of me, Giovanni Antoni, Municipal Secretary, delegated by the Mayor to receive civil status acts of birth and death. On December 21, 1868, the Commander of the King's State, His Majesty, issued a decree. Present were Lorenzi Boggianivermo, son of the late Giuseppe, a waiter, residing in this town, and Antonio Parmegiatti, son of the late Emanuele, aged 58, merchants residing in this town. They declared that at 11:00 a.m. on December 30th of last year, Luigi Lavagetto, son of Angelo and Francesca, passed away, who was born in 1817 in this same municipality.



Language Translation

p 4 of 4

Unclear Words:

1. "Boggianivermo" - The surname is difficult to read; it may be slightly different.
2. "Parmegiatti" - Similar situation with this surname, requiring a best guess based on context and handwriting.
3. "Maggior tenente caricato" - This phrase is interpreted as a reference to an official duty or delegation, but the exact phrase is uncommon and was unclear.

Please let me know if there are any specific details you'd like me to adjust or clarify!



And there's More!

We're just scratching the surface:

1. Gedcom Files: Importing, Exporting, Querying, Reporting, Charting
2. Exporting to different file formats
3. Writing Computer Code

What do genealogists do?

1. Travel to mtgs & conferences
2. Learn from, present to, the above
3. Communicate with colleagues
4. Research at institutions
5. Research online
6. Write research summaries
7. Create genealogy charts
8. Author genealogy reports



The End....

Questions?



But wait, there's more

ChatGPT recently added [SORA](#), for video creation. I added this prompt: "A 3 ft tall gnome driving a yellow 1964 1/2 Ford Mustang eastbound across the San Mateo Bridge in California on a sunny day at noontime" and produced [this video](#)



So, I asked ChatGPT about Sora

I asked about ChatGPT about Sora: **"Is there a free version of Sora?"**

"As of now, OpenAI has not publicly released Sora, their text-to-video model, for free or paid use. If you're looking for video generation tools, there are other AI-based alternatives like Runway ML and Pika Labs that offer free trials or limited free tiers.

Would you like recommendations on free AI video tools?"



Then, I asked Perplexity about Sora

I asked about Perplexity: **"Is there a free version of Sora?"**

"There is no entirely free version of OpenAI's Sora video generator. However, Sora is included in the ChatGPT Plus and Pro subscription plans. The ChatGPT Plus plan costs \$20 per month and allows users to generate up to 50 priority videos at resolutions up to 720p123. The ChatGPT Pro plan is more comprehensive, costing \$200 per month, and offers unlimited video generations at higher resolutions¹³. While there isn't a free standalone version, users can access Sora through these paid plans.