



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



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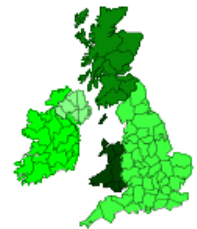
San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXII No. 10 May - 2017

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**THIS MONTH – May 16, 2017**  
**"Introduction to British Research "**  
**Presented by: Kim von Aspern-Parker**



**H**ave you hesitated in starting your research “over the pond” because you heard it can be hard? Or maybe you think it will be too different from what you are used to doing? Come learn some basics in using British Records. This is Part 1 of Ms von Aspern-Parker’s “*Over the Pond*” Series of Lectures.

Kim von Aspern-Parker has been researching her family history since the bug bit her in 1987. She actively searches for family on both her adopted line and her birth line. In addition Ms. von Aspern-Parker has worked as a professional genealogical researcher for more than 14 years. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society, and the Genealogical Speakers Guild. Kim takes several online genealogy classes, attends webinars, and attends conferences while pursuing credentialing by the Board of Certification of Genealogists. When she is not doing genealogy research for herself or others Ms. von Aspern-Parker likes to do needlework and read.



**From the April Meeting**  
**“The Missing Man:  
Solving a Mystery with Genealogy”**

**Presented by: Sharon Hoyt    Reported By: Jean Hunt**



**S**haron Hoyt, CGSM, is an award winning, full time genealogy researcher who specializes in helping clients whose ancestors migrated to California and she also has a Master’s Degree in Library and Information Science.

Sharon shared great research techniques stressing strategies that will help you overcome long standing brick walls.

We were very lucky having this speaker as she has provided us with a four page “Handout” full of *How-to’s* and *Reminders* that will please the hearts of most genealogy researchers whether they be newbies or very experienced.

Using her prize winning article “*The Mysterious Disappearance of August Henry Lawrence of Winthrop, Minnesota*”, she set out to find him.

After validating the family’s research ►

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(Photo by: Carol Satterthwaite)

## Sharon Hoyt

she set out to find out everything she could about August. Using a spreadsheet she searched Family Search and Ancestry learning how to use most of the bells and whistles in their collections. She studied all sorts of maps: historical, Bureau of Land Management, Land Office Records etc.

As her spread sheet filled up she continually analyzed.

Along the way her researching dug up another August with spelling differences. The same August or a different August? At this point she re-evaluated August's FAN (Family, Associates, and Neighbors) club. The results from this move caused her to re-visit Family Search, Ancestry etc. to widen her searches. Yes, they often gave her the same answers but also different answers, which can be most helpful.

It took Sharon two hundred hours but she did find August. He was found in an adjoining County. He had seemingly returned to the people who had adopted and raised him where, sadly he took his own life.

Sharon believes in conducting reasonably exhaustive searches but the work is well worth the results you receive and the documentation you have to prove it. ■



## President's Message

*By Ted Shapas*



The quality of our genealogy work is very much a function of how well we accumulate and assess data (finding and analyzing sources), test hypotheses (does my idea fit with credible evidence?), and make inferences (this is surely my great-grandfather!). So in many ways, we are like journalists and scientists, whose careers depend on accurately portraying the results of their investigations. Just like the majority of journalists and scientists, most genealogists are good ones, mixed in with a few careless or forgetful ones, and a scant few who deliberately fib (and generate a type of genealogical "fake news").

As many of you likely know, sets of genealogical standards and guidelines have been established to help us understand best practices, avoid mistakes, and become better at what we do. Perhaps the most comprehensive ones come from the National Genealogical Society (NGS) and Board of Certification for Genealogists (BCG). From newbies to those who have been working on genealogy for years, it's a worthwhile exercise to read or revisit these standards. Here is a link to standards from the NGS: [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogical\\_Standards\\_and\\_Guidelines\\_\(National\\_Institute\)](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogical_Standards_and_Guidelines_(National_Institute)) For a more in-depth treatment, particularly useful if certification is your goal, see those from BCG: [https://www.amazon.com/Genealogy-Standards-Board-Certification\\_Genealogists/dp/1630260185/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1492900892&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Genealogy-Standards-Board-Certification_Genealogists/dp/1630260185/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1492900892&sr=1-1) Adherence to such standards can be part of your own personal genealogy plan, or as a means to realize the promise of the old French mantra: "every day and every way, I'm getting better and better"! ■





## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### May 2017

- 2 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 16 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

#### June 2017

- 6 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 20 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

### SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

**NOTE:** For San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Special Interest Group contact information refer to your Society Handbook. For schedules, visit our web site at <http://srvgensoc.org/sig.htm>.

Please **note** some activities take place early in the month, before our newsletter is issued. Be sure to check with the SIG coordinator if you have a particular interest.

#### Changes to the SIG schedule this month :



The **Azores Research SIG** is on hiatus due to illness, hopefully to resume later in the year.



The **Family Tree Maker/Ancestry SIG** will be meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, instead of the usual first Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.



**FamilySearch - Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** (the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Monday) **1:15 pm – 3 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center**. We will cover how to search for sources using the FamilySearch Family Tree. Bill George is the SIG Leader. [williamcgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:williamcgeorge@gmail.com).



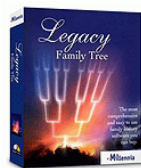
**Irish Research - Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup>** (the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Wednesday) **10 am – 12pm**, at the home of **Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill**. Patty Erickson is SIG Leader. You may contact Patty at: [russpat@comcast.net](mailto:russpat@comcast.net).



**Family Tree Maker/Ancestry – Monday May 15<sup>th</sup>** (the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Monday, only in May, 2017). The new just-released FTM version from MacKiev.com will be discussed. Susan Rush is the SIG Leader. You may contact Susan at: [gen4you@astound.net](mailto:gen4you@astound.net).



**Publishing – Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** (the third Thursday) **from 10 am – 12 pm**, at the home of **Francie Lloyd in Danville**. This informal Group shares advice, encouragement, and suggestions to preserve their genealogy project, big or small. Members share their projects as they progress to a hoped for completion. Society members interested in attending should let Francie Lloyd, the SIG Leader, know they plan to attend. Check the Society Handbook for Francie's contact information.



**Legacy Family Tree – Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>** (the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday) **from 1:15 pm - 3 pm**. The group discusses how the Legacy genealogy program works and is for beginners as well as experienced Legacy users. Sharon Clay is the SIG Leader and can be contacted at: [sharonclay@comcast.net](mailto:sharonclay@comcast.net).



**German Research – Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>** (the 4<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday) **10 am** at the home of a member. Please contact Helen at: [odegardsh@gmail.com](mailto:odegardsh@gmail.com) if you plan to attend the meeting. ■

## EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani



The month begins with the California Genealogical Society (CGS) [www.CaliforniaAncestors.org](http://www.CaliforniaAncestors.org). For all the following activities, register online:

- On Thurs. May 4<sup>th</sup> from 2 - 4 p.m. the **RootsMagic SIG** meets.
- On Sat., May 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. the **Intro To Genealogy** class meets.
- Later on the 6<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 3 p.m. the **DNA SIG** meets.
- On Wed., May 17<sup>th</sup> the **Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War** will meet from 7 - 8:30 p.m.
- On Sat., May 20<sup>th</sup> the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- In addition, on the 20<sup>th</sup> the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1 - 3 p.m.
- June begins with the **RootsMagic SIG** on Thurs., June 1<sup>st</sup> and **Intro to Genealogy** and the **DNA SIG** on Sat., June 3<sup>rd</sup>. All meet at the same times as their May sessions

For more upcoming events from Santa Cruz to Sacramento check the CGS "San Francisco Bay Area General Calendar" at: <http://sfbagenealogy.blogspot.com>



This month the Oakland Family Search Library, <https://familysearch.org>, offers the following support :

- On Thurs., May 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Beryl and Wade Olofson will provide individual assistance on **Swedish research**. No appointment is necessary. ►

- On Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. Grow will help with **Hispanic research**.
- On Wed., May 10<sup>th</sup> our Bill George will lead the **Mac Users Workshop** from 7-8 p.m.
- On Thurs., May 11<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 2 p.m., Kim Miller will lead a **Family History Workshop: Write Your Own Story**. This workshop will meet on the 2nd Thurs of each month.
- On Wed., May 24<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 8 p.m., Alvis Ward Jr. will lead the **African American Research Workshop**.

You can check the Family Search website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars.

### Enjoy learning from home?



The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS) [www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html) continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- On Sat., May 6<sup>th</sup>, from 10 – 11 a.m., Nikka Smith will present **Beyond the Surface: Analyzing and Capturing Genealogical Data**.
- On Wed., May, 17<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 7 p.m., Tessa Keough will discuss **Location, Location, Location: One Place Studies in North America**.

SCGS also offers the following webinars at their website for free to the public.

- **Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides National Archives Website** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **Military Records at the National Archives** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes. ►

- **How to Get the Most Out of a Genealogy Conference** by George Morgan.



The Illinois State Genealogical Society ([ilgensoc.org](http://ilgensoc.org)) continues its webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public.

- On Tues., May 9<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. Central, Lisa A. Alzo will present **Cause of Death: Using Coroner's Records for Genealogy**. Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1471706587473686019>



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) [www.Americanancestors.org/education/online](http://www.Americanancestors.org/education/online) has a growing Online Learning Center that offers educational resources for both guest users and NEHGS members. It contains subject guides on a variety of genealogical topics, informative videos, webinars, online courses, and more. If you have questions or feedback, contact Online Education Coordinator Ginevra Morse at [gmorse@nehgs.org](mailto:gmorse@nehgs.org).

- On Thurs., May 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 PDT Ann Lawthers will present **Resources for Pennsylvania Genealogy**. Register online.

Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the free events will be posted to the NEHGS website the following day.



Ancestry.com has many courses at the Ancestry Academy. Some courses are FREE, while others require a subscription.

- You can READ about it at <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy>
- And at <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy/courses>
- Also at <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy/courses/skills>



Legacy offers a number of free webinars each month. Go to FamilyTree-Webinars.com to register. This ►

month's webinars include:

- Wed., May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 11 a.m., **Take Me Back to Where I Belong: Transportation Records of the Freedmen's Bureau** by Angela Walton-Raji .
- Fri., May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m., **Discover the new Legacy Family Tree 9** by Geoff Rasmussen.
- Wed., May 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., **Beginning Danish Research** by Charles Fritz Juengling.
- Fri., May 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **New York City and State Governmental Vital Records** by Jane Wilcox.
- Tues., May 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., **MAXY DNA: Correlating mt-X-Y DNA with the GPS** by Debbie Parker Wayne.
- Wed., May 17<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **Remember Me: Lifestreaming and the Modern Genealogist** by Thomas MacEntee.
- Wed., May 24<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **WikiTree: Free for All without a Free-for-All** by Eowyn Langhoff.
- Wed., May 31<sup>st</sup> at 11 a.m., **The Great War: Researching Your World War I Ancestors** by Michael L. Strauss.



From an article by Gena Philibert-Ortega, here are some other webinars and lectures that are online:

- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio <http://extremegenes.com/>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast <http://genealogyguys.com/>
- Genealogy Boot Camp <http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/>



The DAR Library offers two different types of programming. The *Library Lecture Series* features authors discussing their historical work and the *Genealogy* ►

101 series offers presentations on a variety of genealogical topics led by the professional genealogists on staff at the DAR or by other experienced genealogists. Both series are held throughout the month on Saturdays and are free to the public. See the upcoming schedule here: [www.dar.org/libraryevents](http://www.dar.org/libraryevents)

### Save the date:

- On Sat., May 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., the Solano County Genealogical Society will meet at the Moose Lodge at 623 Taylor St., Fairfield. At the meeting Rev. Judson Gears will discuss **Pennsylvania Research**. More info at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascgsi/>
- On Mon., May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, [l-ags.org](http://l-ags.org), will meet at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Linda Baily will present **Visiting the Oakland Family History Center**.
- On Thurs., May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cacccgs/> will hold its monthly meeting at the Concord Family History Center, 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. This month will be their annual “**Show and Tell**” and business meeting.
- On Fri., May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Martha Whittaker will discuss “**Searching for U.S. Missing Men 1850-1940**”. In addition, Penny Reed will provide hints on recording personal memories as small stories
- On Sat., May 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., the San Mateo County Genealogy Society will host their **Spring Seminar** with Amy Johnson Crow as speaker. For details go to <http://www.smgs.org>.
- On Sat., May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord will have a ►

free class on **City Directories** taught by Lisa Gorrell. For questions contact Jackie at 827-4729.

- On Fri. – Sun., Jun 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> the **Southern California Genealogy Society Jamboree** will be held in Burbank. See [www.genealogyjamboree.com](http://www.genealogyjamboree.com) for details.
- On July 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, the 2017 **Eastern European Family History Conference** will be held at the Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City. Register at <http://feefhs.org>
- On Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History will hold the **2017 British Institute** at the Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City.
- On Sat., Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:45 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the David Brower Center, Berkeley the California Genealogical Society will host Judy G. Russell, the **Legal Genealogist**. Non-member \$115.
- On Sat. Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a **Family History Discovery Day** at the Danville Stake.
- On Sat., Oct 21<sup>st</sup> from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will host **Gena Philibert-Ortega**. For info email [cccgsca@gmail.com](mailto:cccgsca@gmail.com) ■

## Genealogy Research Assistance

**Do you need research Help?**

**Bring your questions to the**

**Danville Public Library**

**10:00 a.m. until noon**

**Monthly on the Fourth Tuesday.**

**Society Members will be available to help you with your search.**

**Reminder – Intro to Genealogy  
“Bag Lunch” Session  
Tuesday, May 16, 2017.**

The next session of the *Intro to Genealogy* series will be held after the general meeting at the Danville Family History Center. During this session we will review previous topics, answer questions and discuss the next step to organized research. Bring any family information and questions. Assistance will also be available to help with the History Center Library if needed.

Anyone (members, friends, family) interested in genealogy is welcome to attend these free sessions. So bring your bag lunch, stay after the general meeting and pick-up some tips to aid in your genealogy research. ■

**It's Time to Renew Your SRVGS  
Membership!**

The SRVGS year runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>. As June is only a few weeks away, it is time to renew your membership. At only \$20 per year for individuals, this is a great value. With monthly speakers on relevant topics, Special Interest Groups, research assistance, a great social experience and many other ways to help you enjoy your genealogy pastime, you couldn't do better. Please fill out the membership form which came with this newsletter and return it with your check as soon as possible. We have another wonderful year ahead of us. ■



“You found who in your family tree?”

**HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS**

**President:** Ted Shapas  
[president@srvgensoc.org](mailto:president@srvgensoc.org)

**1st V.P.** Russ Erickson

**2nd V.P. Programs:**  
Wayne Mortensen  
Karen Olynger  
[programs@srvgensoc.org](mailto:programs@srvgensoc.org)

**3rd V.P. Membership:**  
Bob Thompson  
[membership@srvgensoc.org](mailto:membership@srvgensoc.org)

**Recording Secretary:**  
(Vacant)

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Barbara Shapas  
[srvgs@srvgensoc.org](mailto:srvgs@srvgensoc.org)

**Treasurer:** Steve Watty  
[treasurer@srvgensoc.org](mailto:treasurer@srvgensoc.org)

**NEWSLETTER TEAM**

**Coordinator:** Bob Venter  
[editor@srvgensoc.org](mailto:editor@srvgensoc.org)

**Calendar Coordinator:**  
Bill George  
[srvgs@srvgensoc.org](mailto:srvgs@srvgensoc.org)

**Mailing:** Sally Germain & Mary Tom

*Deadline to put information in the Newsletter is the Last Thursday of the month.*

Members are encouraged to submit articles for the Newsletter by mail or email to the Coordinator.

**INDIVIDUAL HELP**

Do you need individual help in overcoming a "brick wall" in your research? Go to the SRVGS web site at: <http://srvgensoc.org/>, click on RESOURCES, then click on INDIVIDUAL HELP FOR SRVGS MEMBERS.

**Danville Family History Center***2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo*

Phone: 925-552-5920

**Monday:** 1:00pm - 4:00pm**Tuesday:** 7:00pm - 9:00pm**Wednesday:** 10:00am - 4:00pm

and 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Closed on Holidays and the month of August

**FHC Director:**Teresa Coons [coonieclan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coonieclan@sbcglobal.net)**Subscription Sites Available For Free at FHC:**

- Ancestry.com
- Fold3.com
- Heritage Quest
- MyHeritage.com
- Origins.net
- Proquest Obituary Listings
- Godfrey Memorial Lib.
- Newspaper Archive
- World Vital Records
- Findmypast (UK)

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**San Ramon Valley  
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P.O. Box 305  
Diablo, CA 94528-0305**

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