



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIV No. 5 November - 2018



THIS MONTH – November 20, 2018

**"Ferreting Out Obscure Sources
Using FamilySearch"**

Presented by: Ralph Severson



There are 4 or 5 ways people can find sources in FamilySearch, but most only use the "Search Historical Records" function. They are leaving a lot on the table un-investigated by not using the other search opportunities, like Research Wiki, Genealogies, and Catalog. Mr. Severson will describe and demonstrate how to use those "deeper dives" into the databases on FamilySearch.

Mr. Severson began his early involvement in genealogy at age 14. He attended Richmond Union High School, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1969 and his Master of Business Administration in 1971, both from Brigham Young University. He also taught a genealogy class while at Brigham Young. After 30 years, Ralph retired as Partner from Goldman, Sachs & Co. He is also the retired Chairman for Grosvenor Americas, a real estate company for which he worked 2008-2013. Currently, Ralph is an investment management principal for RFS Investments, Inc., and he serves as Director of the Oakland FamilySearch Library and as the Northern California Family History Area Adviser for the LDS Church. ■



**From the September Meeting
"Researching and Documenting
an Old Cemetery"**

Presented by: Bill Hewitt

Reported By: Russ Erickson



Bill's maternal line ancestry was in Kentucky from 1807, with a 3rd Great-grandfather (GGF) to a GF, in Glasgow, Barren county. His investigation took him to the Kentucky Cultural Center and county clerk's office and cemeteries with many ancestors; following one down a creek bed road!

Many of the cemeteries were poorly maintained, including a Rogers Burial Ground on a farm with gravestones from 1871 to 1970, which

was set aside by a GGF's will in 1902. It was fenced and 3/4 acre in size, with some stones visible and the rest overgrown. He initially found a volunteer assisted by college students to clear a part.

Bill himself grew up poor from ages 2 to 7 in a cemetery where his father was a grounds keeper and grave digger, giving him added interest in restoring this grave yard. He coordinated with the farm owner and found some help via the ►



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

Bill Hewitt

cultural center, a local researcher and a distant cousin, resulting in 3 volunteers, two of whom proved unable to work, but the third had a pickup truck and trailer to haul brush away.

He researched, via internet, cemetery restoration and grave stone cleaning at <Saving Graves> and <Wikihow/restore old cemeteries> and Best Practices, funding, restoration and "Understanding Burial Traditions". He learned cedar trees were often planted with graves, and how grave stones were placed.

There was debate if grave stones should be unearthed and replaced. Some grave yards even no longer allowed rubbings or chalk use on stones. Cleaning stones, with only water and squeegee, usually worked. Many stones were now unreadable.

He documented every step as they cleared brush and revealed grave stones. Graves often had foot stones as well as head stones.

In 6 days of work (after 6 of rain) they found 64 additional graves to add to the 35 obvious ones. 49 were undocumented. They up righted fallen stones. The farmer and son will maintain the graveyard and Bill will research the undocumented graves and index findings.

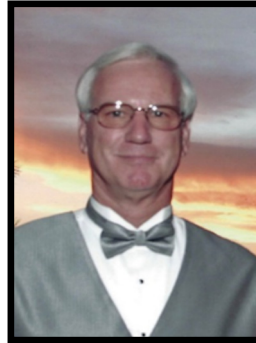
Editor's Note: Our scheduled speaker, ►

Dr. Xan Alexander, speaking on the Virginia Colony, found it necessary to cancel her presentation this month. Bill Hewitt was kind enough to fill-in as our guest speaker on short notice. The society would like to thank Bill and we hope to reschedule Dr. Alexander in the near future. ■



President's Message

By Steve Watty



How can we as family historians interest others in our genealogy hobby? We can volunteer to assist others in many ways. As an individual or within a group volunteers are always needed.

Individually, we can assist others with their family history research. Many friends and extended family have tested with the DNA companies but question the steps needed to build their family tree. Others, those that don't roll their eyes while discussing family history at social gatherings, frequently are interested in their ancestors but lack the research knowledge. You can reach out to them, volunteering to help collect, organize and begin recording their family tree. This process helps us hone our research skills and provides the spark that frequently develops a family history convert.

Volunteer to assist at a library, museum, SIG group, or other teaching/research venue. Volunteers are always needed to teach or assist others at our local Family History Library or Danville Public Library. SIG groups generate interest in a specific topic but have various levels of member expertise. Many SIG members appreciate the help provided by the group of member volunteers.

Our society is always looking for volunteers to man a board's positions, head or contribute to any of the various committees. This shows others that you are interested in the betterment of the society, the rewards are huge, and you will be appreciated for the time given to the organization.

I am sure all of us have been assisted by genealogy volunteers during our research journey. It is time to "pay it forward" and give back, helping an individual or group is a very rewarding experience. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

November 2018

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

December 2018

- 4 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** There will be no Society meetings in December. In place of our Board meeting on Dec. 4, the Society will hold it's annual **Holiday Cookie Exchange** at the home of Francie Lloyd. All are welcome.

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://www.srvgensoc.org/sig.html>.

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.



FamilySearch - Monday, November 12th (the 2nd Monday) **1:15 pm – 3 pm** at the

Danville Family History Center. Learn how to search records and study family trees on the FamilySearch.org web site. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader at williamcgeorge@gmail.com.

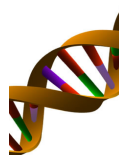


Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday November 14th (the 2nd Wednesday) **10 am – 12 pm**, at the home of **Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill.** Patty Erickson is SIG Leader. You may contact Patty ►

at russpat@comcast.net.



Publishing – Thursday November 15th (the 3rd 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, at frances_lloyd@comcast.net.



DNA - Monday November 19th (the 3rd Monday) **1:00 - 3:00 pm**, at the **Danville Family History Center.** This SIG assumes a basic knowledge of Genealogical DNA testing and therefore is only open to those who have completed the SRVGS Intro to DNA class or an approved equivalent. Mark McLaren is SIG Leader. You may contact Mark at greatscot@earthlink.net.



Legacy Family Tree – Monday, November 26th (the 4th Monday) **from 1:15 - 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: sharonlclay@comcast.net.



German Research – Wednesday November 28th, (4th Wednesday) This month the group is celebrating its rescheduled Oktoberfest potluck at the home of Carol Huvane, starting at 11:00 am. Please contact **Cathy Tanaka** at cathytanaka622@gmail.com if you plan on attending. ■

Reminder – Intro to Genealogy “Bag Lunch” Session Tuesday, November 20, 2018.

The next session of the *Intro to Genealogy* series will be held **after** the general meeting at the Danville Family History Center. Bring any family information and questions. Assistance will also be available to help with the Family History Center Library if needed. Anyone 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. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

It's November, the month for giving thanks for family and genealogy.



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

- On Sat., Nov. 3rd **Intro to Genealogy** will meet from 10:15 am—12:15 pm.
- Also on the 3rd, the **DNA Study Group** will meet from 1—4 pm.
- On Sat. the 17th from 10 am – 12:00 noon there will be a class on **Microsoft Word for Genealogists**.
- Also the 17th the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1-3 pm.
- December activities begin on Sat. the 1st with **Intro to Genealogy** from 10:15 am -12:15 pm. This will be followed from 1-4 pm by the **DNA Study Group**.

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/wiki/en/Oakland California family Search Library](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_family_Search_Library), offers the following support: (See website for registration details.)

- On Thurs., Nov. 1st, 8th, 15th, and 29th, from 10 am - 4 pm, Beryl and Wade Olofson will provide individual help with **Swedish research**.
- On Sat. the 3rd and 17th from 10:30 - 11:30 am, Mr. Perrone will be leading **Indexing Workshops**.
- On the 6th, 13th, and 27th there are webinars that you can view from home. Refer to the calendar on ►

Oakland Family Search Library website for time and topic.

- On Tues., the 13th from 7 - 8:30 pm, there will be a **Family Search Series class- Getting Started with the Basics**.
- On Wed., the 14th, the **Mac Users Workshop** will meet from 7 – 8 pm.
- On Tues. the 27th from 7 - 8:30 pm, there will be a **Family Search Series class –Sourcing and Attaching Records**.
- On Wed., the 28th from 6 – 8 pm, Alvis Ward will lead the **African American Research Workshop**.

You can check the Family Search website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars. June's numerous webinars are listed at: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family History Library Classes and Webinars](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars)

Enjoy learning more from home?



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

- On Sat., Nov. 3rd, from 10-11 am, Susan Rogers will address **Facebook for Genealogy (Even if You Hate Facebook)**.
- On Wed., Nov. 21st from 6-7 pm, Nancy Lauer will discuss **You Located the Ancestral Village of Your Ancestor – Now What?**
- On Sat., Dec. 1st from 10-11 am, Barbara Randall will present **Always Time for Timelines**.

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. ►

- **Neither Filmed or Scanned: NARA Treasurers Await** by Kerry Bartels
- **Military Records at the National Archives** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **The Many Facets of the National Archives Website** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **How to Get the Most Out of a Genealogy Conference** by George Morgan.
- **National Archives Website Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.



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

- On Tues., Nov. 13th, at 6 PM PST, Lisa Oberg will explore **The Prairie State "Over There"**.

Register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5825186603980794115>



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) www.Americanancestors.org/education/online-classes 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

- On Thurs., Nov. 15th from 3 - 4 pm EDT, David Allen Lambert will share **Raising the Dead: Finding Clues to Ancestors from Headstones, Family Plots and Burial Records**.

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



The National Archives, www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/events offers a Genealogy Tutorial, Genealogy Research topics and a variety of ►

charts and forms.



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 numerous free webinars every month. Go to FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register. November's webinars include:

- On Wed., Nov. 7th from 11am -12 noon, Melissa Barker will discuss *Using Voting and Election Records to Find Your Ancestor*.
- On Wed., Nov. 14th from 5 - 6 pm, Rorey Cathcart will present *Introduction to the Bayou State: Louisiana for Beginners*.
- On Fri. Nov. 16th, from 11am -12 noon Geoff Rasmussen will share *Legacy 9 Unlocked (part 7); Adding Email Correspondence*.
- On Tues., Nov. 20th from 5 – 6 pm, Ann Staley will explore *Every Day Life of Our Ancestors*.
- On Wed., Nov. 28th from 11am -12 noon Paula Start-Warren will examine *Railroad Records and Railroad History: Methods for Tracking*.
- On Fri., Nov. 30th from 11am -12 noon Geoff Rasmussen will discuss *Legacy 9 Unlocked (part 8): The Smoking Gun*.



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/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm



The DAR Library at www.dar.org 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.

Save the date:

- On Sat., Nov. 3rd at 11 am, the Solano County Genealogical Society, www.scgsca.org, will meet at the Moose Lodge at 623 Taylor St., Fairfield. Deborah Sweeney will present *Write About It! Turning a Family Archive into an Accessible Resource*.
- On Mon., Nov. 5th at 7:30 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will meet at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Gene Block will discuss *How to Discover What was Unique About Your Ancestors' Lives*.
- On Thurs., Nov. 8th from 7 – 9 pm, the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society have its monthly at the LDS Bldg., at 1360 Alberta Way, Concord from 7-9. Chris Pattillo will explore *Preserving Your Family History*.
- On Sat., Nov. 10th from 9 - 11:30 am, the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, www.svcgg.org will meet at 875 Quince Ave., Santa Clara. Topics this month writing family history, photo digitization myths, and Getting to know MacFamily Tree. ►

- On Tues., Nov. 20th from 6:45 - 8:30 pm, the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, www.scchgs.org will hold its general meeting at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara. Gail Chaid will discuss *Forced Emigration—Scottish Genealogy* Mary Boyle will discuss *Researching Your Civil War Ancestors*.
- On Fri., Nov. 16th at 10 am, the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society (<https://mdgs.webs.com/>) will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Steve Morse will explore *Finding Presidents and their Ancestors in the Strangest Places*. ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani

- ⇒ The **Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy** will take place in Salt Lake City from Jan. 13-18th, 2019. Registration now open at SLIG.ugagenealogy.org
- ⇒ **RootsTech 2019** will be held from Feb. 27th – Mar. 2nd in Salt Lake City. Register at: <https://www.rootstech.org/>
- ⇒ The **National Genealogical Society 2019 Conference** will be from May 8th - 11th in St. Charles, MO. Register at: <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>
- ⇒ From May 30th – June 2nd the **2019 Jamboree** will be held in Burbank. Go to: genealogyjamboree.com. ■

Announcing the Annual SRVGS Holiday Cookie Exchange!

December is cookie time! Come join in the fun of a relaxing morning of genealogy conversation. Bring a batch, or two, of your favorite cookies - some to be shared and some so that everyone has cookies to take home. We will also have soup, veggies, coffee, and tea. If baking is not your thing - Oreos are mighty good. **Tuesday, 4 Dec 2018, 10 - noon**, at the home of Francie Lloyd in Danville - see your SRVGS Handbook for the address and contact information. ■

BOOK REVIEW

By: Russ Erickson

Continuing with our occasional review of books from the Society's collection at the Danville Public Library, here is one by Russ Erickson.

A complete list of the society's books is provided at the Society's website at: http://srvgensoc.org/resources/SRVGS_Danville_Library_Booklist.pdf

Massachusetts and Maine Genealogy

By: The DAR

This book is divided into a number of sections, the first of which is on developing a research strategy and covers research centers (archives, libraries, genealogy society sites) for these two states. Geography with boundaries and historical sources are discussed, followed by Pre-Revolution events and bibliographies.

A general history of the American Revolution follows, with bibliographies, architecture, agriculture, animals, the economy and business history, education in the period, foods, furniture, labor, arts, clothing and textiles, and even weather patterns. Revolution war sources within these states and related states are given, with guides, abstracts, collections, and archives.

Government has a section including the colonies, states, constitutions, courts and judicial matters and elections.

Finance and taxation have a section as well as Land records with sources. Military records have 187 pages, including spies and espionage, naval and maritime, and prisoners of war, prisons, and prison ships.

There is a section on records and sources related to veterans, pensions, news of the time, and graveyards. Counties, towns, districts and localities take up 229 pages. People, including slaves, Indians, Freemasons, French, Quakers, and women in general take a chapter. Loyalists and Tories, Portuguese, and lawyers are given separate sections.

The book ends with Lineage societies and prominent people covering 178 pages. There is an 82-page index. ■

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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Education Coordinator:
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Mailing: 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: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**Tuesday:** 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**Wednesday:** 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

and 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Closed on Holidays, the month of August
and Thanksgiving week.**FHC Director:**Chris Engstrom: cechocolatego@prodigy.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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