



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

---

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIII No. 10 May - 2018

---



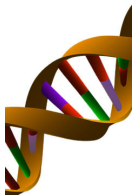
**THIS MONTH – May 15, 2018**  
**"How to Hire a Genealogical Researcher"**  
**Presented by: Richard Rands**



Knowing when to seek help with a research problem is a good sign that we are motivated to do accurate research. But knowing how and where to go for help can be baffling. Because we obviously want to find someone who knows a lot more than we do about our research questions and has access to sources we cannot find, it is helpful to follow guidelines for finding the right person for your task.

Richard Rands is former president of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group (SVC GG) and former director of the Los Altos Family History Center. He is past president of the San Francisco chapter of the American Marketing Association, the Northern California/Pacific Northwest chapter of the Marketing Research Association, and the Pacific chapter of the American Association of Political and Opinion Research. Richard earned an MBA degree from the University of California at Berkeley, and an Advanced Certificate in English Genealogy Research from the National Institute of Genealogical Studies at the University of Toronto, Canada.

Richard was a primary author of the genealogy source documentation manual *Family History Documentation Guidelines*, published by SVC GG, and considers himself a documentation evangelist. He teaches community education classes in genealogy, as well as teaching seminars and workshops throughout Northern California in all levels of genealogy software, methodology, documentation, problem solving, and organizing documents. A former executive in software and hardware, Richard is married to Dr. Janet Brigham and has five daughters. Richard and Janet are active in their own family history research and co-teach a family history Sunday School class. ■



**From the April Meeting**  
**"You have your DNA results, Now What?"**  
**Presented by: Pam Miller**  
**Reported By: Russ Erickson**



This knowledgeable speaker first gave us 4 pages of: "Some vocabulary, compare the genealogy DNA companies, How to's, Basics internet sites, Great Blogs on the internet, 3rd par-

ty apps, What info do you need/want to track your DNA matches, Spreadsheet skills needed." For sites needing pay for tools, pay for the minimum time to see how it helps, then more time if ►

---

valuable to you. Read the instructions fully for all sites used. What a great start for adding DNA to your genealogy!

She emphasized having oldest family members tested early, since each generation shuffles parts of chromosomes.

Pursue your matches; learn phasing, indicating which DNA matches are from maternal and which from paternal families.

Centimorgan is a measure of shared DNA segments. You have them as a given number for a DNA segment and you cannot judge their size by Browser pictures companies give you. Browser pictures from companies indicate where you and your matches might coincide, on which chromosomes. Segment numbers (use only the first 3 digits in each long chromosome number you are given for comparisons, with centimorgans and #SNPs). A Browser indicates where you match entirely, by half, or not at all.

Testing cousins helps a lot, and Pam feels paying attention even to 4th or 5th cousins level can indicate leads to extending your ancestors and family data. Always download your results and have them--what happens if a company folds?

Link tests to your tree--you might contact more possible relatives. Some matches will not respond without your tree availability.

You can make yourself and close relatives private if desired, but allow sharing. Sometimes, there is no tree given, but putting the surname into Family Search or Ancestry will find it. In 23andMe, one can easily separate male and female line names. Data from different companies can be blended via Gedmatch.com.

Place Beneficiary information into your tree and DNA results; prevent its loss to the family. If you test and an in-law grandparent tests, children and grandchildren will have a good DNA base for future matches, allowing easy phasing. Go to the website of the company where you placed your DNA. Click download for the Browser and click on "Matches" and download them. Look for boxes for organizing data.

Ethnicity derived from testing is not consistent and varies with the company; dependent on the number of past testers in each country and region, and with variety of ancestry information given the companies by testers. Self reporting is not always accurate!

23andMe, for Pam, gives the best result, ►

with a 7.10 rating vs 3.5 to 4.5 ratio for other companies. Ancestry overestimates British Isles background.

Triangulation: You and a cousin with a Browser match can compare with another match just found to see if all 3 match and therefore have a common family line in ancestors.

Learn to use spreadsheets to place all DNA, matches, and surnames if possible. One can place different family segments in different colors to easily find them. ■



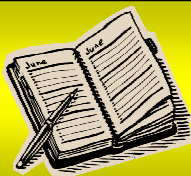
## President's Message

By Ted Shapas



History can be summed up by saying "this is important", and genealogy by "this is important *to me*". Two different attitudes, but not infrequently, they do overlap. A very nice piece by historian (and somewhat accidental genealogist) John Sedgwick just appeared in the *New York Times* and explores this divergence and convergence with examples; <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/12/opinion/sunday/historians-versus-genealogists.html/>. Here's a quote from Sedgwick that should resonate with anyone attempting to write about their family history: "Obviously, history can't depend on genealogy. But history shouldn't scorn it, either. History can make use of the genealogical perspective and its transporting empathic power."

Speaking of history, and looking back through my files, I see that this is my 29<sup>th</sup> President's Message. It will also be my last, as I will be turning over the reins to a new president in June. We will vote on new candidates at our upcoming May meeting, after which I will assume the role of a past-president. It's been a great three years, and I thank our very capable board, committees, volunteers, and members for their support, ideas, counsel, reminders, good humor, and enthusiasm (and to Barbara for editing these Messages :^), all of which made my job easier and mostly a lot of fun, and kept our society running smoothly. I now look forward to a bit more time for travel, fly fishing, and exploring my sometimes bewildering but always interesting Eastern European genealogy! ■



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### May 2018

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

#### June 2018

- 5 Tuesday - 10:00 am** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 19 Tuesday - 10:00 am** 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://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.



**Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup>** (the second 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).



**FamilySearch - Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** (the second 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. [williamcgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:williamcgeorge@gmail.com).



**Publishing – Thursday May 17<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.



**Family Tree Maker/Ancestry – Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** (the third Monday) **1:15 pm – 3 pm at the Danville Family History Center.** Study records and family trees using the Ancestry.com web site and learn how to use Family Tree Maker software. **Susan Rush** is the SIG leader. You may contact Susan at: [gen4you@astound.net](mailto:gen4you@astound.net).



**German Research – Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>,** (the fourth Wednesday) **10 am at a members home.** Please contact Helen at [odegardsh@gmail.com](mailto:odegardsh@gmail.com) if you plan to attend the meeting.



**Legacy Family Tree – Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** (the fourth Monday) **from 1:15pm - 3pm.** 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). ■

### WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

Let's all extend a warm Welcome to our newest members

**Barry Montgomery**

**Christine Eberts-Engstrom**


**Catherine Schneider**

Please look for them at our meetings and welcome them to our Society.

## EDUCATION


*By: Kathy Javdani*

During this great spring weather, let's get out and about and learn.

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

- On Sat., May 5<sup>th</sup> with **Intro to Genealogy** from 10:15 am - 12:15 pm.
- Also on the 5<sup>th</sup> the **DNA Study Group** will meet from 1 - 4 pm.
- On Sat. the 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 12:00 noon the **San Francisco SIG** will meet.
- Also on Sat., the 19<sup>th</sup> the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1-3 pm.
- On Sat., the 26<sup>th</sup> **Chinese Ancestry Day** will be celebrated at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center from 9 am - 4 pm.
- June meetings begin on Sat. the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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., May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am - 4 pm, Beryl and Wade Olofson will provide individual help with **Swedish research**.
- On Wed., May 9<sup>th</sup>, from 7 - 8 pm, ►

the **Mac Users Workshop** will meet.

- On Wed., the 16<sup>th</sup> from 2 - 3:30 pm, there will be **A Casual Talk - Using Free Genealogy Web Sites**.
- On Thurs., the 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 12 noon, there will be a presentation on **Importing and Exporting Data in RootsMagic**.
- On Wed., the 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 - 8 pm, Alvis Ward will lead the **African American Research Workshop**.
- On Thurs. June 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 12 noon there will be a discussion on **How to Use Search and Custom Reports in RootsMagic**.

You can check the Family Search website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars. February'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.scsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html](http://www.scsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html) continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- On Sat., May 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 11 am, Michael Strauss will discuss **Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestors**.
- On Wed., May 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 7 pm, Shannon Combs-Bennett will share **The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly Truth About Family Histories**.
- On Wed. June 20<sup>th</sup> Kristi Sexton will present **Who Do You Trust with Your Trusted Research..**

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., May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8 pm Central, Bryna O'Sullivan will share **Want to Honor Your Revolutionary Roots?: Resources for Applying to a Revolutionary War Lineage Society.** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7567631057019748611>



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 24<sup>th</sup> from 12 - 1 pm, Kelsey Sawyer and Jessie Xu will present **Using the Hebrew immigrant Aid Society Collection at the Jewish Heritage Center.** 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>



include:

Legacy offers numerous free webinars every month. Go to FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register. April's webinars

- On Wed., May 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a Special Appearance by the Founder and CEO of **MYHeritage** by Gilad Japhet
- On Tues., May 8<sup>th</sup> from 11am - 12 noon, My Heritage will present **Discover Your Family in School Yearbooks.**
- On Wed., May 9<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 6 pm, Cyn-di Ingle will share **The Hidden Web: Digging Deeper.**
- On Fri. May 11<sup>th</sup> from 11 am - 12 noon, Angela Walton-Raji will present **A Checklist of African American Resources.**
- On Tues., May 15<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 6 pm, Paula Stuart-Warren will share **Good Research Habits.**
- On Wed., May 16<sup>th</sup> from 11 am - 12 noon, Blaine Bettinger will discuss **The First 5 Things to Do with Your New Test Results.**
- On Tues., May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11 am - 12 noon, MyHeritage Webinars will present **How to Use the Smart Matches & Record Matches My Heritage Technologies.**
- On Wed., May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11 am - 12 noon, Peggy Clemens Lauritzen will discuss **Quaker Migration into America.**
- On Wed., May 30<sup>th</sup> 11 am - 12 noon, Luana Darby will share **The ►**

### Palatine Immigrants: Tracing and Locating 18<sup>th</sup> Century German Immigrants Online.

- On Tues., June 5<sup>th</sup> from 11 am - 12 noon, MyHeritage Webinars will present **Digital Gravestones**.



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](http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm)



The DAR Library at [www.dar.org](http://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](http://www.dar.org/libraryevents)

### Save the date:

- On Wed., May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, from 6 - 8:30 pm, CGS and the Oakland Family History Center will hold classes on **Intermediate Records Series – Land, Church, Court and Immigration for Genealogy**. See the CGS website for registration.
- On Sat, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 11 am, the Solano County Genealogical Society will meet at the Moose Lodge at 623 Taylor St., Fairfield. Teresa Costa Fraser will share **It's All About Timelines**.
- On May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 am - 3 pm, the Spring Seminar – 2018 host Sheila Benedict as she presents **Forensic** ►

**Genealogy, California Research: Missions to Present, and California Historic Missions and Their Records** at the Menlo Park LDS Church, 1105 Valparaiso, Menlo Park. See website for registration and further details.

- On Thurs., May 10<sup>th</sup> from 7 - 9 pm, the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will meet at the LDS Church at 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. This month is the annual **Members Show and Tell**. Email [cccgsc@gmail.com](mailto:cccgsc@gmail.com) for more information.
- On Sat., May 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 - 11:30 am, the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, [www.svcgg.org](http://www.svcgg.org) will meet at 875 Quince Ave., Santa Clara. The program will include **Finding the Bump in the Boreen** by Sean Cooley, **DNA with MyHeritage** by Pamela Brigham, and **Working with PDFs** by Tony Knight.
- On Mon., May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, [www.l-ags.org](http://www.l-ags.org), will meet at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Susan Goss Johnston will discuss **Interrogating Online Family Trees**.
- On Fri., May 18<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 4:00 pm, the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, [www.scchgs.org](http://www.scchgs.org) will have a free class, **Census 101: An Introduction to Searching the US Federal State Censuses** taught by Dave McCready. Registration required.
- On Tues., May 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:45 - 3:30 pm, at the general meeting Janice Sellers will present **Read All About It! Using Online Newspapers for Genealogical Research**. Both the class and the meeting will be held at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara.
- On Fri., May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society ([mdgs.webs.com](http://mdgs.webs.com)) will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. In a mini-seminar Kathryn Miller Marshall will give a two –part presentation, ►

### The Path From Passenger List to Naturalization Papers and Immigration and Naturalization.

- On Sat., May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 11:30 am, Claranita Ernstrom will present **Writing Your Family Stories** at the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord. To register and for further information contact Jackie Hein at 925-827-4729. ■

### UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani

- ♦ From May 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup>, the **National Genealogical Society Conference** will convene in Grand Rapids, MI.
- ♦ The annual **Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree** will convene in Burbank from May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Check [www.genealogyjamboree.com](http://www.genealogyjamboree.com) for registration information.
- ♦ From Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society will hold the Northwest Genealogy Conference - **Beyond Your Family Tree**. Register at: [www.NWGC.org](http://www.NWGC.org).
- ♦ On Sat., Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> from 8 am - 4 pm, the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will hold their 2018 Fall Seminar with Thomas MacEntee at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane. Go to <https://cccgs.net> for registration information. ■

### Next

## DNA Testing/Genetic Genealogy

### Class Announced

Based on the popularity of the recently completed "Intro to DNA testing / genetic genealogy" classes, a new one is being formed for the Fall. Class will run 7 consecutive weeks and is tentatively planned to start on Wednesday Sept 5 and end on October 17. Class size is limited and currently about 2/3 full. If you are interested, please contact Mark McLaren at: [greatscot@earthlink.net](mailto:greatscot@earthlink.net) ■

### HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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

**1st V.P.** Steve Watty

**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)  
[recsec@srvgensoc.org](mailto:recsec@srvgensoc.org)

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

**Treasurer:** Mark McLaren  
[treasurer@srvgensoc.org](mailto:treasurer@srvgensoc.org)

### NEWSLETTER TEAM

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

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

**Education Coordinator:**  
Kathy Javdani  
[svrvg@srvgensoc.org](mailto:svrvg@srvgensoc.org)

**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:** 1:00pm - 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)

**IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
SRVGS CALENDAR	3
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	3
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
DNA TESTING CLASS ANNOUNCED	7
EDUCATION	4
FAMILY HISTORY CENTER INFORMATION	8
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS	7
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	3

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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**