



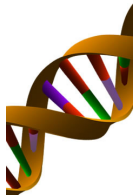
# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIII No. 2 July - 2017



**THIS MONTH – July 18, 2017**  
**"You've Got Your DNA Results, Now What? "**  
**Presented by: Pam Miller**



This presentation is for those who have submitted DNA samples or are considering it and want to know the best steps and strategies to make family connections from the results. We will develop the concepts necessary to work with your results meaningfully and then we'll explore the various tools for organizing and working with your DNA results, including those at the testing companies and the important third party sites, e.g., dnagedcom.om, gedmatch.com. Please note this is a two hours session and remember to bring the presentation handout with you. The handout will be e-mailed to you shortly!

Pam Miller, a native of Dallas, Texas, attended Stanford where she earned a B. A. in Linguistics and an M. A. in Spanish. She was employed as an educator in the Bay Area for twenty-eight years, teaching Spanish and computer science. Pam has been using the various DNA tests in her search since the early 2000s. She has been a member of CGS since 2005 and is currently teaching ongoing DNA classes there. ■



**From the June Meeting**  
**"Discovering your German Roots**  
**The Great Migration: 1815-1914"**

**Presented by: Robert Jackson    Reported By: Russ Erickson**



Dr. Jackson has a PhD in history from Harvard; has been a professor as well as working in financial fields and with non-profit organizations. Dr. Jackson gave his presentation in two parts: the first discussing the history of Germany and the migration to America; the second was about how to research German genealogy.

[Part 1] The 19th century saw the Great Migration from Germany to America. Now we

seek our ancestors: I think that I shall never see-- the end of genealogy. It can be a long search. In the 1890s and before, farming families in Germany tended to live in one big building with their animals, important to their living. People who came to America tended to be peasants with no land in Germany, but they usually came with enough money to reach a start. From 1850s to 1870s, most came from western German provinces, initially to the Pennsylvania area with ►



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

### Robert Jackson

other Germans; from there, west through Ohio and the Midwest to the northern west coast and to the gold fields with the 49ers. With time, more came from eastern Germany as industrialization spread and took away homespun jobs, especially in weaving linens.

In 1776, there were about 250,000 Germans in America, Hessians stayed during and after the Revolutionary War. By 1840 to 55 there were 4 million, adding 100,000 yearly--approximating the Irish. Few came during the Civil War. In 1870s, Germans in Russia encouraged by Catherine the Great lost their privileges, and many more came. St. Louis, Missouri became another large center.

Germans were noted as intelligent (from the 1700s, all were educated to age 14), industrious, and honest. They did not come fleeing hunger or religion, but sought a better life and a chance to work for themselves. Smallpox vaccinations and adding potatoes to diets helped boost German province populations and America was advertising plentiful land for farmers and ►

homesteading. Before and after the Civil War ships also went to Europe full of cotton and needed cargo coming back, so immigrants were given cheap passage. Letters from America to German relatives were full of the richer life and encouraging more to come. Taxes were lower too!

When seeking your German ancestors, always start with the USA census data. Then check local church records which are often very good, with many family facts. Read them yourself if it is possible to travel to the towns of known ancestors. In any search, try varied spelling of family names--the German was often confused and misspelled. Consider local historians and genealogists for help; especially any conversant in German. In Germany, parish records are rich, especially Protestant. There is less in Catholic records, but they go back sometimes to the 1400s. More Catholic in southern Germany and Protestant in north. Some farm maps exist of old farm holds in Germany. Go on the web for *Largest Ancestry Map 2000*.

[Part 2] Seek people knowledgeable in German genealogy to talk to. From 1700 to 1871 there were many German provinces, but not a united Germany. (It was largely united under Bismarck). Until 1917, WWI, Germany extended far east, but after the war, much of the East was given to Poland. (That region was once half German and half Polish in population). Many records for the remaining East Germany were destroyed in WW II.

In Germany, there are many villages with the same names. Finding someone who KNOWS German villages and parishes can save you much time in your search. Immigrants often gave the name of a big city near their origin instead of their village to sound more important, or gave Hamburg, the port city, as their origin. Again, there can be many variations in spelling for German names in the Nineteenth century and even into the Twentieth. There are often 3 given names before the surname, frequently with a god parent name or 2 involved.

Dr. Jackson presented his approach to tracking a family using censuses, church records, finding ancestors in Pomerania and even Russia. He mentioned *Das Telefonbuch* (<https://www.dastelefonbuch.de>), an online German telephone directory for searching family names in present day Germany. ■



## President's Message

By Ted Shapas



Summer always brings a new crop of officers and board members to SRVGS. Please join me in welcoming Mark McLaren as our new treasurer, replacing Steve Watty who slips in as 1st VP. Other

board members (Barbara Shapas as Corresponding Secretary, Wayne Mortenson and Karen Olynger who share 2nd VP - programs, Bob Thompson as 3rd VP - membership, Virginia Rood - Parliamentarian, and yours truly as President) remain in place for at least another year. We still have an opening for Recording Secretary. Our sincere thanks to Russ Erickson, a devoted, long-term member who has worn many hats, most recently as 1st VP, for heading up this year's nominating committee.

The first of two 2-hour general meeting programs this year is complete, and at least from my vantage, it seemed to go well (it's hard not to be happy with a shorter business discussion!). At this past meeting, we heard from professional historian Robert Jackson, who gave us Part 1 of his presentations on German genealogy and the Great Migration. This first part revolved around historical context, important for anyone's family history, but especially for those whose ancestors came from the area we now know as Germany (or in some cases, Poland), and where borders changed many times. A helpful handout and map were made available. Part 2 will occur next spring, when Mr. Jackson will delve a little more deeply into genealogical issues.

On July 18<sup>th</sup> we are fortunate to have Pam Miller as our speaker; she will give a 2-hour presentation on DNA testing and its implications for genealogy. This field can be very complicated, but our speaker promises not to take us too deeply into the DNA weeds, but interpreting results can generate more questions than answers. This is a dynamic field, with frequent, new discoveries. If you want a better understanding of DNA testing and results, don't miss this program! ■



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### July 2017

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

#### August 2017

Our Society does not meet in August. See you in September!

### 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 Society does not meet in August and all SIGs will be taking the month off *except* for the Publishing Group, which will meet at its regularly schedule date of August 17<sup>th</sup> (the third Thursday).

## SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



**Family Tree Maker/Ancestry – Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup>** (the first Monday) **1:15 – 3 pm at the Danville Family History Center.** FTM 2017 is due out any day now and will be discussed. Susan Rush is the SIG leader. You can contact Susan at [gen4you@astound.net](mailto:gen4you@astound.net).



**FamilySearch - Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>** (the second Monday) **1:15 – 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. [wiliamcgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:wiliamcgeorge@gmail.com).



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



**Publishing – Thursday July 20<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, July 24<sup>th</sup>** (the fourth 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: [sharonclay@comcast.net](mailto:sharonclay@comcast.net).



**German Research – Wednesday July 26<sup>th</sup>,** (the fourth 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

It's July. It's time for some learning fun.



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., July 8<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 2:30 p.m., a class on **Using Online Newspapers for Genealogy** will be held.
- On Sat., July 15<sup>th</sup> the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- In addition, on the 15<sup>th</sup> the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1 - 3 p.m.
- On Wed., July 19<sup>th</sup>, the **Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War** will meet from 7 - 8:30 p.m.
- August events begin on Sat. the 5<sup>th</sup> with **Intro to Genealogy** from 10:15 - 12:15 and the **DNA SIG** from 1-3 p.m.

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., July 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<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, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Ms. Weimer will help with **Hispanic research**.
- On Wed., July 12<sup>th</sup> our Bill George ►

will lead the **Mac Users Group** from 7 - 8 p.m.

- On Thurs., July 13<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 2 p.m., Kim Miller will lead a **Family History Workshop: Write Your Own Story**. This workshop meets on the second Thursday of each month.
- On Sun., July 16<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 4 p.m., the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society (**SFBAJS**) will present **Bring Your Brick Wall – Meet the Experts**.

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.scsgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html](http://www.scsgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html) continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- On Wed., July 19<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 7 p.m., Michael D. Lacopo will discuss **Early Religious Experience in America: the Theology Behind the Records**,
- On Sat., Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 Emily D. Aulicino will present **Using mtDNA to Verify and Expand Genealogy**.

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., July 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. Central, Peggy Clemens will discuss **The Watchfires of a Hundred Circling Camps**. Register at Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6586254248864499459>



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., July 20<sup>th</sup> at 12 PDT Jean Maguire will discuss **Boston Historic Catholic Records Online**. Register online.
- On Wed., July 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 p.m. PDT there will be an ongoing class on **Researching Early New England**. \$125 registration fee. 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 FREE 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>



Legacy offers a number of free webinars each month. Go to [FamilyTree-Webinars.com](http://FamilyTree-Webinars.com) to register. This month's webinars include:

- Wed., July 5<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m., **Censational Census Strategies** by Mary Kucher Roddy. ►

- Wed., July 12<sup>th</sup>, at 5 p.m., **Google Books: the Tool You Should Use Every Day** by Lisa Louise Cooke.
- Fri., July 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **Tips for Snapping Pics: How to Take Perfect Family Photographs** by Jared Hodges.
- Tues., July 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., **Analyzing Documents Sparks Ideas for Further Research** by Angela Packer McChie.
- Wed., July 19<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **The Firelands, the Connecticut Western Reserve and the Ohio Territory** by Peggy Clemens Lauritzen.
- Wed., July 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **Family History Adhesive: The Science of Why History Binds Families and the Simple Tech of How to Use It** by Janet Hovorka.
- Wed., Aug., 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11 a.m., **Tracing Your West Country Ancestors** by Kristy Gray.
- Wed., Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., **A Taxing Matter: Using Tax Lists in Genealogy** by July Russell.



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 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 Mon., July 10<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. Sheila Wells will discuss Cemetery Records.
- On Thurs., July 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caccogs/> will hold its monthly meeting at the Concord Family History Center, 1360 Alberta Way, Concord.
- On Sat., July 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord will have a free class on *Improving Your Genealogical Skills*. For questions contact Jackie at 827-4729.
- On Mon., July 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 3:30 p.m., the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, [www.scchgs.org](http://www.scchgs.org) will have a class entitled *Census 101: An Introduction to Searching the US, Federal and State Censuses*. Register online.
- 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 Tues. July 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m., the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, [www.scchgs.org](http://www.scchgs.org), will have its monthly meeting at which Krista Van Laan will discuss *Wolfe and Higgins: Master Architects of Spanish Revival*.
- On Fri., July 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m., the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will ►

meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. This month's meeting is a mini-seminar with Gina Philibert Ortega presenting 2 sessions, **The WPA Sources for Your Genealogy** and **Using WPA Images for Your Genealogy**

- From Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> the **Federation of Genealogical Societies** will hold its **2017 Conference** in Pittsburgh, PA. Register at [fgsconference.org/registration](http://fgsconference.org/registration)
- 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 – 4 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 - 4 the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will host Gena Philibert-Ortega. For info email [cccgsca@gmail.com](mailto:cccgsca@gmail.com) ■

## Is Your Society Membership about to Lapse?

Society membership dues were due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a reminder for those who were just too busy to get their renewal application in on time. If your renewal form has not been received by the end of July, you will be dropped from our rolls and this will be the last newsletter you will receive. Also late renewals will not be listed in the annual publication of the Society Handbook. If you have miss-placed the renewal application we sent you, you can download another from our web site at: [http://srvgensoc.org/forms/srvgs\\_mem\\_app.pdf](http://srvgensoc.org/forms/srvgs_mem_app.pdf) Please take a moment to renew your membership now.

## 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  
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**3rd V.P. Membership:**  
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**Recording Secretary:**  
(Vacant)

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
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**Treasurer:** Mark McLaren  
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## 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  
Genealogical Society  
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