

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305

Diablo, CA 94528-8308

President: Ed Mason

Coord. Editor: Dorothy Baker

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.

3rd Tuesday of the Month

(Except August & December)

Alamo LDS Family History Center

Stone Valley & Smith Rds., Alamo

<http://srvgensoc.org/index/html>

San Ramon Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIII No. 2 July – August 2007



THIS MONTH - July 17, 2007 "City Directories"



Cathy Nielson will be our guest speaker this month. She will speak on "City Directories". Oddly enough, what we call City Directories cover more than just the cities and much more than names and addresses. Most people ignore City Directories altogether. Some researchers will use them, but just to find their family members address. Then there are those researchers who know to look further and uncover the wealth of information about the day in and day out life of the area in which their family members lived. Come and see some of the tidbits of information that played a role in your family's daily life.

Cat has conducted family research in Denmark, Cornwall, Canada, and much of the US. She has a B.A. in Geology, and a double MBA in Marketing and Science & Technology Management. Her professional career has been in the Technology Industry working first for a major retailer and then for a major software company. Since completing her MBA Cat has pursued independent consulting assignments. Cat was a volunteer at NGS Conference in the States 2004 and an organizer of California Conference, 2003. She is a Past President of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Genealogical Speakers Guild, National Genealogical Society, and the California Genealogical Society. Cat volunteers at the National Archives and Record Administration Pacific Region in San Bruno, CA. She teaches Genealogy at a local adult education program. As a continuation of her Technology career Cat received her PMP certification from the Project Management Institute in 2005. She is now pursuing her certification as a Professional Genealogist.



JUNE MEETING

"Introduction to Internet Research"

Speaker: Lisa Cooke Reported by Lee Schlenker



If you read Lisa Cooke's bio in last months newsletter that's a good thing - it would take up too much space to reiterate it! This lady has had her hand in so many wonderful things regarding genealogy. She started her talk with painting a picture of yourself getting ready to seek information at a library or repository. Imagine yourself getting a lunch ready to go with you, enough coins for the copier, plenty of pencils, sheets of paper, pertinent info for the research, money for parking, gas in the car, etc. all for your upcoming visit. So, she posed

this question: What if there was a multi-1,000 genealogy book library right in this San Ramon Valley - wouldn't it make your planned trip so much easier? Certainly most of your planned trips would slow down. Then, what if you had a two-drawer file cabinet right in your home where info was fed into constantly? Your repository sleuthing trips would really slow down! Well, that's how Lisa feels about the Internet. Your computer is the "ticket." You

just have to know how to find things. And since genealogy is the second largest hobby in the world, she feels we can jump on board and find just about anything out there.

Basic Hardware: Internet connection (wideband or modem), printer, scanner (optional).
Software: Windows Explorer (this is your gateway), Microsoft Internet Explorer, Word, Genealogy database (i.e. Family Tree Maker), Adobe Photo Deluxe (or comparable), E-mail. **Websites:** *Commercial* (fee based) i.e. Ancestry.com with focus on U.S. and Worldwide at about \$200.00 per year (\$16.66 p/mo), FindMySpace.com (focus on U.K. and pay per view or subscription), Footnote.com (focus Nat'l. Archives material with free U.S. milestone documents, Pennsylvania Archives from 1664 - 1880 indexed info & image preview at about \$8.00 p/mo; *Volunteer* (free or non-profit) Rootsweb.com, USgenweb.com, Familysearch.com; *Blogs* (free) Dick Eastman (the best) <http://blog.eogn.com/>, Everton; *Podcasts* (free) published in a blog format, one page with most recent info at the top of the blog and after one month that blog goes into the archives which you can retrieve using the right side of your screen while on that blog, you can listen online through a media player or subscribe for an auto-download or record it, and you can find podcasts on just about every subject; *Organizations* (libraries, repositories, societies, non-genealogical websites).

So, back to podcasts....you can listen and subscribe for free on Google.com, then search "genealogy podcast," click on the links book marking this website for your interest: Genealogy Gems Podcast (research and display), Genealogy Tech Podcast (technical in genealogy), Family Roots Radio (interviews), Genealogy Guys (weekly news), Irish Root Café (Irish), Anna-Karin's Genealogical Podcast (on Swedish)

When you get into the Internet these other websites are worth using even if it's only informational - Ebay.com (artifacts and resources); itunes.com (audio and video); youtube.com (videos); whowhere.com (addresses and phone numbers). Search engines: Google.com (iGoogle, Google alerts, Google earth [satellite pictures of places all over the world]).

The Internet should work for you; you shouldn't let the Internet work you! You can go to Google.com, sign up for the free Google account, follow the instructions. then follow the iGoogle

customized instructions, and listen to episode #15 of the genealogy gem podcast. Lisa Cooke might be there! But you can customize your Google information screen with what you want to download - any type of information. It will do it automatically.

Remember that 90% of your trip to that library can be done at home even before you go!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR JULY 2007

3 Tuesday – 10:00 am. The Board Meeting was held at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill.

17 Tuesday – 10:00 am. The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/2 miles. The speaker will be Cathy Nielsen.

SRVGS CALENDAR AUGUST 2007

Our Society does **NOT** hold meetings during the month of August. Enjoy the summer break and look forward to meeting again in September. A Board meeting is scheduled to be held on September 4 at the home of Ed mason, President.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups JULY and AUGUST 2007

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP (The Master Genealogist) -- This is a genealogy software users group for PC's with their focus on the use of The Master Genealogist. This group will **NOT** meet during the months of July and August. Peggy Dearman is the contact person for the group. Phone 837-1621 or e-mail pdearman@earthlink.net.

FAMILY TREE MAKER GROUP - This is a genealogy software users group for PC's with their focus on the use of Family Tree Maker. This group will commence in September 2007. Gail Roche Van Wye is the contact person for the group. Phone 253-1096 or e-mail gailrvw@aol.com.

GERMAN – This group will **NOT** meet during July and August. They will otherwise typically meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the home of a group member. Fran Schweitzer will be retiring as the contact person for this group. When meetings resume in September Helen Odegard will be the new group leader.

IRISH – This group will **NOT** meet during July and August. They will otherwise typically meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am. at the home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group. Her e-mail address is russpat@comcast.net.

SOUTHERN – This group will meet July 10th (the second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 am. at the home of Nancy Alexander in Danville. The contact person for this group is Dorothy Stanton; Phone 820-3757 or email dpstant@hotmail.com. New persons interested in attending should contact Dorothy Stanton for information.

NEWS VIA EMAIL -

Ed Mason is the coordinator for the sending of group emails. This extends our group communication ability beyond the monthly newsletter. In addition, about half of our members have chosen to receive their monthly newsletter by email, the advantages being; faster delivery, a much prettier presentation in full color, substantial savings for the Society and for the environment. Ed keeps an email address list of members. He will distribute messages a minimum of once a month. Members wishing to share news may send it to Ed. If it is deemed appropriate, it will be distributed. Members always have the option to Opt-Out of the email distribution. Notify Ed Mason at: edmason@sbcglobal.net

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

14 July Saturday 1:30 pm

The California Genealogical Society will have one of its membership meetings followed by a presentation about the future of the new Family Search.org and the Family History Center. Marge Bell is to make this presentation at the CGS new location, 2201 Broadway in Oakland.

24 July Tuesday 1:00 pm

The *Sacramento German Genealogical Society* will have one of its regular meetings at St. Mark's Methodist Church, Lusk Drive and St. Mark's Way in Sacramento. Larry O. Jensen, AG will speak about ABC's plus Maps and Atlases for German Research.

14 August Tuesday 7:30 pm

The *Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society* will have one of its regular meetings at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Marge Bell will speak about Churches and Cemeteries.

3 November Saturday 9:30 am to 3 pm

The *San Mateo County Genealogy Society* will have its annual fall seminar at the First Presbyterian Church in San Mateo. The featured speaker will be Christine Rose. She will present four talks. Information regarding registration and fees will be forthcoming.



President's Message
By Ed Mason

The June meeting was a 100% homegrown affair, with three new directors doing the Mini-Ed segment and Lisa Cooke illustrating her expertise in genealogy Podcasts and Blogs. It is nice to have one of our own members creating waves nationally in genealogical circles with her pioneering formats for sharing and teaching. Lisa, new to the Program committee, also did one of the Mini-Ed presentations. The others were Clarice Hart, Programs - and Vern Segelke, Corresponding Secretary. Each month we hope to continue to have two or three of our members get up and tell you about themselves and their genealogy breakthroughs. Time is being made available for this by abbreviating the business portion of the meeting, while not short-changing the intermission and our main speaker.

As we enter our 23rd year, my first as your President, I have become very aware of the contributions made by our founding members and past presidents. Not least amongst this distinguished group has been Patty Erickson. At our June meeting, it was my honor to present her with a Life Membership that had been unanimously approved by the Board. Patty has been a standout in her service to our Society.

Although there are few of us who can match that level of contribution, there is much invaluable effort and skill contributed by so many of our officers and committee chairs. I particularly want to cite two people who do great work on their assignments, both which I would find very difficult to imagine myself doing, but they turn in outstanding efforts month

month. They are Dorothy Baker, Newsletter Editor and Carol Huvane, Recording Secretary. As you have heard, Dorothy needs to lighten her load. We need someone, perhaps more than one person, to replace her or to assist her. Please talk to Dorothy about what is involved. We can't be the same Society without a monthly Newsletter.

There are two other areas where we could use volunteers:

1. We would like to have one more Merit Badge Counselor for our Boy Scout program. Geographically we are heavy with helpers in the Lamorinda area. We need one more person who lives in Danville, Alamo or San Ramon.
2. Is there anyone who would like to get involved in researching the genealogies of some of the original settlers in Danville and Alamo? Assistance would be available from some of the town historians and this work would dovetail in with work already done by L-AGS in the southern part of the Tri-Valley area.

I'm glad to report that a new Special Interest Group on Family Tree Maker will be led by Gail Roche Van Wye and will meet in the Family History Center at 10:00 to 12:00 on the Fourth Thursday of the month, starting September 27th.

A reminder - - dues must be paid by July 31 in order to continue to share in the benefits of the Society, including having your name in the Handbook.

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President:	Ed Mason	925-838-7848 edmason@sbcglobal.net
1st V.P.	Barbara Dittig	925-648-9364
2nd V.P. Program:		
	Kathy Javdani	925-736-5464
	Clarice Hart	925-743-9245
	Lisa Cooke	925-831-8537
3rd V.P. Membership:		
	Patty & Russ Erickson	925-229-0889
Recording Secretary:	Carol Huvane	925-947-5669
Corresponding Secretary:		
	Vern Segelke	925-828-8570
Treasurer:	Ileen Peterson	510-651-7728
Parliamentarian:	Virginia Rood	925-937-8659



Who's Who in Our SRVGS Society

Vern Segelke, Corresponding Secretary

I am currently your Corresponding Secretary. The duties of this position include: Pick-up the mail from the Diablo Post-office and distribute the mail. Prepare and send any correspondence for the Society as sanctioned by the Board, Post flyers and notices at the general meetings. The bulletin board for posting is in the break room.

A separate position that I have is to prepare the Calendar that appears in the newsletter.

Personal Background

I spent my youth in Northeastern Colorado. I studied Civil Engineering in Fort Collins, CO. After graduating from Colorado State, I have spent very little time in Colorado.

My wife, Monnie and I have lived in Danville for 18 years.

In 1993 I started working part time and I also started doing genealogy research during the other part of my time. I started this at the age of 60 and now I wonder why persons aren't interested in Family History at an earlier age.

Ancestors with my surname came from the Hannover region of Germany. Someone living in Germany has provided information about my direct ancestors with the Segelke surname, back to 1660. I have been collecting information about any direct descendant of the Segelke family that immigrated in 1883.

A very interesting project during the most recent years, has been to find information about families related to my maternal grandfather. I have found information from California, Kansas, Illinois, Michigan, Connecticut and even Canada. The migration, though, was from east to west. There is a bit of brick wall in New York City.

Kathy Javdani - Program Committee

I should have been born a 7th generation Californian; but due to events in World War II, I was born in Pennsylvania. My dad was a career officer in the Marine Corps, so I attended 11 schools in 12 years. But since both my mom and dad called the Bay Area home, every few years we stopped by to visit relatives in Oakland and Livermore. I chose to attend colleges in the Bay Area in part to have more contact

with family that everyone told me I knew. I earned a BA in Social Science and a teaching credential from San Jose State. While I was working on my MA in Geography at Berkeley, I met my husband who was earning his Phd. in Chemical Engineering. After our wedding in 1972, we moved to his country, Iran, where we lived until 1979. Following the Revolution, we settled in Walnut Creek, and then moved to Danville in 1988. Our family now includes two girls and a boy, their spouses and 4 grandchildren. They too move around. One is in Washington, another in Texas, and our youngest in Oregon.

While growing up I knew that I was from a long line of people who never stayed long in one place. But for the past 150 years they have kept returning to the San Ramon Valley? Why? This question and the curiosity about how I am related to the people who continue to pop into my life has driven my interest in genealogy. Now that I am semi-retired from a 34 year teaching career, I'm pursuing my quest for family from Scotland, Ireland, England, Wales, Spain, Mexico, and Switzerland.

Clarice Hart - 2nd V.P. Program

I was born in Porterville, California, a small agricultural community in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Both of my parents came to Porterville with their families in the early 1920's - my father, Clarence Gallant, from Colorado, and my mother, Mae Bennett, from Missouri. They were married Easter Sunday 1929, and I was born the following year. After graduating from Porterville High School, I went to U.C. Berkeley, graduating in 1952 with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. Then I worked in San Francisco for California Packing Corp. (now Del Monte Foods) for five years. I married Walter Hart in 1954 - we will celebrate our 53rd wedding anniversary this August. We have two children, John and Nancy, and six grandchildren (five boys and one girl, ages 20 - 11). When our children were small I worked part time for several different accounting firms, eventually starting my own tax and accounting business.

We lived in Lafayette for thirty years, and moved to Danville in 1995 when we both retired. Walt had been in the insurance business, and made frequent trips to Europe, as well as Australia. I often went with him, and we added a week or two to travel through Europe, the British Isles or the Orient. We still love to travel, but now it is more often a cruise or

a trip to Hawaii.

I became serious about genealogy when we moved to Danville in 1995, and have been successful in finding most of my ancestors, although many of them came to America in the 1600's and 1700's. Family names include Ballard, Bennett, Boswell, Cowden, Davis, Gallant, Graves, Hampton, Holladay, Pulliam Ransome and Rives.

Lisa Cooke – 2nd V.P Program

General background:

I was born in Stockton and raised in Washington State. My husband and I are the proud parents of three girls, and live in San Ramon.

I first became interested in family history when I was visiting my grandparents in Stockton when I was about ten years old. I still have the little scrap of paper my Grandmother scribbled what she knew about her family on.

My husband, Bill and I just celebrated our 23rd anniversary. We have three daughters: Vienna who is 22 and was just married on June 2. Lacey who is 19 and attending college & working, and Hannah who is 16, just started driving and just started her first real job. She's also a dynamite fast pitch softball player who plays pitcher. We'll be doing some traveling this summer to watch her play.

I have a corporate Human Resources background, but I'm really an entrepreneur at heart. I sell on Ebay and have started up the Genealogy Gems Podcast website and weekly audio show. I'm working on a book that I'll be publishing at the end of the summer that I'm very excited about.

My interests:

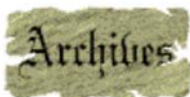
My interest in genealogy and history lead my family and I to do the "Texas Ranch House" miniseries on PBS, where as you know we lived as 1867 cattle ranchers in the West Texas desert.

The historical experience was amazing and I'd do it again in a heartbeat, but the television experience was less than desirable. It opened my eyes not only to the inaccuracies and falsehoods we're exposed to every day by the media, but also has given me a much keener eye when it comes to looking at and interpreting my genealogical sources. Overall, it was really a gift for all of us to do the show.

Areas of research:

Some of my areas of genealogical research are the counties of Ortelsburg and Johaninsburg in

East Prussia, the counties of Huntingdonshire & Kent in England, the pre-revolutionary war families of Burkett and Burkhart, and the Southern families of Herring, Pate, Moore and Henderson. My focus is not just collecting names, but in discovering the context of the lives of the people I find. I also have a passion for finding creative ways to share family research, because I really believe that family history is fairly worthless sitting on a shelf. It should be out to be seen and touched and read. And it should be presented in ways that the non-historian can easily understand and get excited about.



The Alamo Family History Center will be CLOSED for the month of August

VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED AT THE CENTER. PLEASE CALL THE CENTER IF YOU CAN HELP.

Phone: (925) 552-5920



**To Fran Schweitzer
Tausend Dank!**

Many, many thanks to you, Fran. All of us in the German Group wish to tell you “thanks so much” for keeping us together as a group since 2001. Fran, you have tirelessly organized meetings, helped to plan our annual Oktoberfest, and compiled a German book of resources to pass on to Helen Odegard. Helen is assuming your position in the fall. We wish her well also.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Dorothy Baker 925-952-9691
Email: DJDorothy@comcast.net
Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 925-828-8570
Email: v.m.seg3@sbcglobal.net
Mailing: Lucy Carver 925-837-3146

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

Member are encourage to submit articles for the Newsletter by mail or email to Coordinator.



INDIVIDUAL HELP PROGRAM

The Individual Help Program is now operational. We have people who have volunteered to provide individual help in the areas of helping beginners, Chicago research, German research Ohio research, Pre - 1849 California, Poland research and using the Mcintosh/reunion program. We can use additional assistance volunteers.

If you want to volunteer to help **OR** if you need help, contact Harry Baggett - telephone and Email address in the Society handbook.

Harry

Harry/Jacque Baggett
trv1r1@hotmail.com

**Funeral
as**



**Registers
Sources of Information**

I had overlooked an excellent source of information in my research. The register (or signature) books from funerals are an excellent source. In looking through the book from my grandfather's funeral I found the names of spouses that I didn't have in any other records, and I also filled in some previous marriages that I didn't have recorded.

In another such book, there had been a place for a family tree and it had been filled in, giving me a surname I hadn't previously known of. Many of the older books had places for family information to be written. Many times they were never filled in, but the ones that were can sure provide clues.

Hope this helps as a quick tip. Keep up all the good work.

Lois Evans

Ancestry Quick Tip
5/20/2003 - [Archive](#)

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Where liberty dwells, there is my country.
~Benjamin Franklin



SRVGS
NEWSLETTER
By Dorothy Baker

As I informed the membership, last month, I am stepping down as Coordinator of the SRVGS Newsletter as of September. If someone doesn't step forward and take this position, this will be the **last** Newsletter as you know it. The Newsletter will be no more. The SRVGS calendar will probably be the only thing you receive. The calendar will probably be sent to you by email and that's it.

This job is **NOT** hard. It does take a little time, which I have run out of in my private life. The Newsletter is like a puzzle. You take the pieces **given** to you, copy and paste them into the places where they fit.

The program committee, the program reporter, the calendar organizer, the President, FHC Director, and other committees send you their articles by Email. Members can also send articles and notices to you. Now we are also doing the "Who's Who" column. All the above are copied from the Emails and pasted into various positions to fill the pages of the Newsletter. I use Microsoft Office Word program.

If more is needed to fill the addition pages, I go to Rootsweb.com and scroll down to the bottom of the page and hit on "Ancestry Weekly Update". There you will find tons of information on genealogy that can be copied and printed. They give us permission if we note copyright and writer. (we are nonprofit)

All the above information is sent to you by the last Thursday of the month. Then you get to work putting the "puzzle" together. Recently, I have started to add insert - fun project. When all the pieces are in place, you are ready for printing. But first you have to attend Board Meeting, the first Tuesday of the month. There might be some last minute additions or changes - usually not.

After Board and all is ready, I print out a "Black and White" copy. This copy is taken to Office Depot in San Ramon by the Friday after Board which is the first Friday of the month. This part of the Newsletter is completed. Lucy Carver and Barbara Dittig pick it up and mail it to our members.

To the second copy, I add color. This copy is sent to Ed Mason to email to those members.

"THE JOB FOR THE MONTH IS DONE".

The Newsletter is not printed in Aug. and Dec.

If I can do this, any one can. I will show you everything you need to know. If you would like to see how it is done, before you commit, email me or call me on the phone. We can make an appointment to come to my home.

I truly love this job. I truly hate to give it up. Time is my enemy. I just need more of it.

Sincerely, Dorothy Baker

DJDorothy@comcast.net



Help Through Helping Others
By Jeff Miller

The Boy Scouts earn Merit Badges in many subjects, including genealogy! Using the knowledge and expertise we build while researching our own families is a wonderful skill that we can donate to others.

This is what happened to me. While helping one young boy, I decided to use all of the sites I normally check before going to our local Family History Library. It's a good thing that I did because while doing a Google search for his names, I suddenly was dumbstruck as if hit by lightning. There were names I knew I had seen before. I asked the boy more about his family and all the places they had lived. As it turns out his family had moved quite a bit, but we had lived within twenty-five miles of each other at some point. We discovered that we had common ancestors even though we both were over 600 miles away from that area. Further inquiry produced some family documents from the boy's mother that had been given to her by her great-grandmother -- my great-grand-aunt!

Sometimes it is the act of helping others that will break your own walls.

Ancestry Quick Tip
11/22/2005 - [Archive](#)

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SRVGS has formed a committee to help the local Boy Scouts troops with their Genealogy Merit Badge.

THE FINAL WORD ON NUTRITION

After an exhaustive review of the research literature, here's the final word on nutrition and health:

1. Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
2. Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
3. Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
4. Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
5. Germans drink beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

CONCLUSION:

Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you .

MURPHY'S LAW OF GENEALOGY

* When at last after much hard work you have evolved the mystery that you have been working on for two years, your aunt says, "I could have told you that."

* You search ten years for your grandmother's maiden name to eventually find it on a letter in a box in the attic.

* You never asked your father about his family when he was alive because you weren't interested in genealogy then.

* The spelling of your European ancestor's name bears no relationship to its current spelling or pronunciation.

* You finally find your great grandparents' wedding record and discover that the bride's father was named John Smith.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL