

SAN RAMON VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305
President: Ed Mason
Coord. Editor: Bob Venter
Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of the Month
(Except August & December)
Danville Family History Center
Stone Valley & Smith Rds., Alamo
<http://srvgensoc.org/index.html>

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIII No. 10 May - 2008



THIS MONTH – May 20, 2008
**"... But A Woman's Work is Never Done:
Occupations of Our Female Ancestors"**
Presented by: Alison Douglas



Alison's talk will cover who worked when, why, and what occupations were available to women from Colonial times to the early 20th Century. There will be a section on how to go about finding out what your ancestresses "did". Attitudes towards women working and women's work will be covered, as well as the effects of demographic changes, immigration and technology on women's occupations.

Alison K. Douglas has been involved in genealogical research for over 15 years, but is one of those people who has done social research for fun for a lot longer. She has a degree in Social Demography which has been very useful in pursuing some of the "whys" in genealogy. A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the geographic scope of her research has ranged from Southeastern Wisconsin to Darmstadt, Germany, Poland and Denmark; from Western North Carolina to the Western Reserve of Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky, the Isle of Man and most recently, right back to California.



April Meeting
"Avoid the Crooked Path! Genealogical Problem Solving"
Presented by: Christine Rose



Christine Rose has a long and exemplary career of Genealogical lecturing, being on the faculties and boards of many genealogical institutions. She is well represented in the many fields of research and verification of genealogical information and is also an author.

She used her visit with us to share some case studies she has had, while helping others with their genealogical quests. She tries to simplify the task by narrowing it down into different segments and making it less overwhelming.

The first decision to make is: What is the goal? Is it to join a patriotic organization? Find Indian ancestry? Locate military information? Find the name of a father? Find the names of children? Disprove a previous assertion? Determine ethnic origin? Prove or disprove the family tradition?

The goal of the search determines the records searched; therefore, it is vital to keep in mind at all times the goal in order to keep focused. If we are trying to locate the parents of an ances-

tor, the records to be searched are in many cases different that the records we would search to locate the ancestor's children.

Make a list of what you know already. Perhaps it is the name of the persons to be researched and the dates and locations of major pertinent events. Check this list often to remind yourself of what your goal is.

Plan the search. List all possible documents or records that might disclose the information you are seeking. Continually re-read your list and add to it as you think of new possibilities. Use a broad variety of records. Census, court records, vital records, cemetery, city directories, newspaper, military, federal, Bibles, land records, probates and anything else you can come up with. Rethink the notes you have acquired. Is there a possible different interpretation?

Keep a log. Record each letter sent and inquiry made. Make a note of any responses received. List the evidence you started with and the results of that research.

Review. Continually review the new information received along with the past information collected. Has anything changed? Can you re-interpret the information that you have?

By the time you have followed all the above steps you have probably gathered the information you sought. At this point you should re-state the problem and the goal. You look and see that you have accomplished what you wanted and now you can start on a new goal.

Christine proved one important thing in one of the case examples she used and that was that persistence is a very important trait.....and so is serendipity. She had visited a 1860 federal census over and over again knowing instinctively that the proof information she sought had to be there. On one occasion when she had looked at this census again she scrolled a little further backward and forward and happened upon a name that always got her attention, Rose. Of course she took the extra time to look and suddenly came across the name she had been looking for for so long. Those original census's had been copied another two times for the State and for the county and the census clerk had misread the surname Foland and written it down as F. Oland. It had been there all

this time but misspelled.

We should all take heart and put the same energy into our research and, fingers crossed, we might possibly have the same luck.

A Recap of the FHC Web Sites Discussed in Oakland Last Month.

Marge Bell, last month's speaker, thought it would be helpful to our members if she supplied a concise list of the web sites we discussed and provided the links to them. Here is her summary:

new.familysearch.org - Site now open only to LDS church members in selected temple districts but which should be open worldwide to all in the next year or so. The Ancestral File, Pedigree Resource File, and IGI have been combined and now the project of merging duplicate individuals has begun. This site allows people to work on their genealogy with others around the world in real time. It is still evolving and has a lot of work yet to be done, but has some very interesting and exciting features.

search.labs.familysearch.org - This site is still in beta form, but is open to all for free upon registration with your E-mail address and state of residence. It has the results of the massive indexing program undertaken by the LDS Church and already has the 1900 US Census, part of the 1850 US census, Georgia Death Certificates 1914-1927, Utah Death Certificates 1904-1956, and many other records.

footnote.com - Subscription site available in all Family History Centers - Footnote is digitizing and indexing the records of the National Archives. At this time there are millions of records on-line including but not limited to the Revolutionary War Service and Pension Records, the Civil War Pension Index, and many naturalization indexes.

WorldVitalRecords.com - Subscription website available free in all Family History Centers - Growing site with many of the records also found at Ancestry.com but with the addition of the huge collection of Early LDS records compiled by Susan Easton Black.

Genline.com - Subscription site available only in Regional Family History Centers (like the Oakland Regional FHC). This site has images of Swedish Church Records and Civil Registration.

Other subscription sites available free at the Oakland Regional FHC:

ancestry.com

Heritage Quest

NewEnglandAncestors.org

Vitalsearch-worldwide.com



President's Message
By Ed Mason

Our Finances

Our Treasurer, Ileen Peterson, posts our financial statements on the bulletin board at each monthly meeting. Since I doubt that a lot of time is spent looking at them, I want to review the financial side of our Society with you. The Budget Committee will recommend a 2008-09 budget to the Board at our May 6th meeting. After Board approval, you will get to vote on it at the Annual Meeting on May 20.

About 95% of our income comes from your annual dues. The rest is interest income on our savings. Our three biggest expenses and their percentage of our expenditures are: Newsletter printing and mailing 38%, speaker fees 19% and insurance 14%. The balance, 28%, is for miscellaneous items, including membership on state and national societies, publicity, the handbook, etc. As long as our membership stays at its current level, we are fine. The program Committee has done an excellent job for the last several years of coming in under budget, but the board is likely to look at a couple of things:

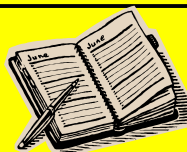
The approximate \$10 per person annual cost of printing and delivering Newsletters by mail and whether we should charge for this service.

Directing a larger portion of the budget to obtaining expert speakers.

We welcome any input that you have to offer on these subjects.

Our Board & Committees

We all benefit from the behind-the-scenes work that is done by our members who are on the Board and those involved in committee work. Our Society would not be able to function without these volunteer efforts. We are very fortunate to have members who continue to contribute year-after-year. About 80% of the jobs are filled with very little effort. But, to be honest, it is like pulling teeth to find members willing to fill the remaining 20% of the vacancies that occur each year. This year two veterans stepped in to help us out. Barbara Dittig agreed to do Membership and Virginia Rood agreed to lead a team for Recording Secretary. They are both past Presidents. So far, no one has volunteered to be on Virginia's team. We need your help. It would probably involve taking and transcribing notes from a couple of Board or General Meetings. We very much appreciate Jane Nowicki agreeing to help Barbara with Membership. There is room for more help in that department as well. What we are asking for are minimal amounts of time, not to assume any major commitments. If you are willing to help, please contact Barbara or me. Your Society needs you.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

May 2008

- 6** **Tuesday** – 10:00 am. A Board Meeting was held at the home of Sandra Burns in Danville
- 20** **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

June 2008

- 3** **Tuesday** – 10:00 am. A Board Meeting will be held at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek.

- 17 **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



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 meet Tuesday May 20th after the general meeting at about 12:30 pm at the home of Bruce Garner in Danville. Please bring a bag lunch. Peggy Dearman is the contact person for the group. Phone 837-1621 or e-mail:

dearmanp@gmail.com



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 meet May 22nd (the fourth Thursday of the month) from 10:00 am until noon. They will meet at the Danville Family History Center in Alamo. Gail Roche Van Wye is the contact person for the group. Phone 253-1096 or e-mail gailrvw@aol.com.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet May 28th (the fourth Wednesday).

They will meet at the Oakland Regional Family History Center. A German researcher is expected to be there to be of assistance. Helen Odegard is the contact person for this group. For more information, please contact her at 932-6796 or e-mail shodegard@aol.com.



IRISH – This special interest group will meet May 14th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am.

at the home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is the contact person for the group. Phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail:

russpat@comcast.net



SOUTHERN – This group will meet May 13th (the second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 am., at the home of Peggy Dearman in Danville. This group will also meet June 10 at the

home of Dorothy Stanton in Danville. The contact person 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

- 13 **May - Tuesday, 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. "Tri-Valley Civil War Veterans - What an Interesting Group They Were" will be the subject of the presentation by Dick Finn.
- 16 **May - Friday 9 am to 1 pm** A workshop will be held at the National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive in San Bruno. "E-VET records research" will be the topic. Rose Mary Kennedy will be the instructor. The registration fee is \$15, payable in advance. Phone (650) 238-3488 or e-mail: rosemary.kennedy@nara.gov
- 17 **May - Saturday 10 am** The Concord Family History Center is sponsoring a "How To Class". "Putting Photos in PAF and Making Old Photos Look Like New" will be the subject of a class presented by Jon Fitt. This free class will be held at 3700 Concord Blvd. in Concord.

- 17 **May - Saturday 10:30 am** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will sponsor a special presentation about "Federal Land Records." The presenter will be Rose Mary Kennedy. It will be given at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, 1700 South El Camino Real in San Mateo near 19th Avenue (Hwy 92).
- 20 **May - Tuesday 7 pm** The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting at the Santa Clara City Public Library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. "Portuguese in Santa Clara County" will be the subject of a talk by Al Dutra.
- 13 **June - Friday 9 am to 1 pm** A workshop will be held at the National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive in San Bruno. "Military Part I" will be the topic. Rose Mary Kennedy will be the instructor. "Military Part II" will be presented on Friday June 27. The registration fee is \$15, payable in advance. Phone (650) 238-3488 or e-mail:

rosemary.kennedy@nara.gov

- 27 - 29 **June - Friday thru Sunday** The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will be held in Burbank, California. For further information go to www.scgsgenealogy.com

WELCOME—NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our group.

Lance and Merrily Schlichter
2365 Royal Oaks Drive
Alamo, CA 94507

(925) 362-8886
merlance@sbcglobal.net



Virginia Rood

I have been a member of SRVGS since 1989, serving on the board in several positions, and I have been doing genealogy research since about 1977.

My parents were born and met in Iowa, married in West Virginia and early in their marriage lived at Akron, Ohio where I and my sister and brother were born. We moved from Ohio in 1945, stopping in Wabash, IN for four years, before moving to Concord, CA. I attended schools in Concord, graduating from Mt. Diablo High School, where I met my husband, Bill, in my junior year. From Mt. Diablo High I went to UC, Berkeley for two years, transferring to Stanford U. for the last three years of a five year nursing program. Bill and I married between my fourth and fifth year of college. After graduation I worked as a Public Health Nurse for Contra Costa County. We have one unmarried daughter, who lives in Walnut Creek.

Probably the best way for me to describe my research is to divide my family into four parts. My father's mother was primarily English with a bit of Scotch-Irish and my father's father was Danish with a bit of German. My mother's mother was Swedish and her father was Czechoslovakian or Bohemian.

My first English ancestral line to arrive in this country at Ipswich, MA was William Averill from Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, England sometime between 1634 and 1637. This family has made it possible for my membership in DAR, Colonial Dames of the XVII Century and Daughters of 1812. The Averill's migrated across Massachusetts and north into Vermont with my great grandfather migrating from Vermont thru Illinois to Iowa, as he worked on the railroad. He met his wife in Illinois and her ancestors were Scotch-Irish, having been early settlers in Western PA near Ligonier, Westmoreland Co. I have also done a lot of research on the spouses of the Averills and am continuing to try to make a Mayflower connection with the Hopkins line. The

most memorable and rewarding experience regarding the Averill family research was doing a DAR grave marking for Revolutionary War ancestor, Thomas Averill, at Northfield, VT in late September, 2001. It was a very patriotic event, and it was also a very profitable day from a genealogy viewpoint, as four descendants, living in Northfield, attended that I had not known about. One of these people has become a good friend and helpful genealogist to me.

My father's grandfather, Peter Claussen, emigrated from Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark with his parents before 1860. Peter was naturalized in 1862. His wife, Louisa, emigrated in 1853 from the Holstein area coming through New Orleans and up the Mississippi River. They settled in Clinton Co., IA and were farmers. Before 1864 the Holstein area was part of Denmark and after became part of Germany. My search required hiring a volunteer to search church archives near Plon for Louisa Groth's family. It was my first experience hiring a researcher. This lady was successful in locating Louisa's parents and sent me a pedigree chart going back four generations to 1710. However, putting together this summary tells me that I have much left to do in Germany, as I have not worked on the Claussen family for many years.

In working on my mother's Swedish ancestors I wrote a lot of letters to anyone remotely related and spent a lot of hours searching FHC films, both in Oakland and Salt Lake. One of my letters to a distant cousin in Sweden on my mother's grandmother's side of the family was sent in 1979 and was not answered until the late 1990's. This cousin was moving and found my old letter, requesting information, in a closet. He wrote to find out if I was still interested in the family; we began corresponding, and he sent family data. Due to his age I decided that it was probably time for a trip to Sweden to meet he and his daughter and her family. We traveled to Sweden in May of 1999 and were met at the Stockholm airport by he and his family. Olof Petersson and his daughter, Rose-Marie, and husband, Lars, were our tour guides in Stockholm followed by Olof and his daughter touring us through Kalmar County, showing us homes and farms of many of my ancestors. We knew from family that my

great, great grandmother and her three sisters had come to America from a tiny farm called Marstad near Djursdala. This trip was a wonderful outcome of much research and patience.

My mother's grandfather's family came from the county just north of Kalmar County, Ostergotland County in 1851. I had found the Larson family and place of origin in Sweden prior to emigration on a passenger list. From my research and from the help of a cousin who benefited from this research a few years earlier, we were able to locate many of these ancestor's villages and farms on this trip. These two Swedish families came together near Galesburg, IL when my great grandparents met and married.

It was fun to visit Sweden, travel the back roads and learn about its history and why our family might have chosen to leave. We learned that some left for religious reasons and some due to famine.

Finally my mother's Czech background was a little more difficult to start to work on, as my grandparents had gone through a messy divorce in the early 1930's. All communication had been cut off, but despite this fact I did write to a cousin, since I knew the town in which he might still live. Luckily it was a small town in Iowa, and as I had no address, surprisingly I did get a good response. I have gotten much information as a result as well as having an opportunity to meet and correspond with several other cousins. In the course of connecting with the Krska family I heard from a person in Texas who was trying to link her Czech ancestors with mine. She had visited my "new" cousin, and he referred her to me. The outcome of meeting her resulted in finding a cousin, Zdenik Krska, in the Czech Republic, who had done much research. Somehow she had located him on the Internet, and it turned out that our great, great grandfather's were brothers. I don't think she has proven her connection yet. Zdenik has since sent me his research going back to the early 1700's along with pictures of family and the home. I guess you could conclude that these distant cousins have been pretty important!



IN MEMORIAM

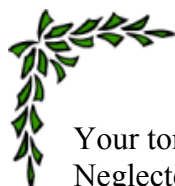
Word has reached us of the death of former members:

Jess SUTFIN: 7 April 2008 in Concord CA

Barbara IRWIN (Life Member): 7 April 2008

Frances BECKER: 8 April 2008 in Washington State

SRVGS sends condolences to their families.

**DEAR ANCESTOR**

Your tombstone stands among the rest;
Neglected and alone.

The name and date are chiseled out
On polished, marbled stone.

It reaches out to all who care
It is too late to mourn.

You did not know that I exist
You died and I was born.

Yet each of us are cells of you
In flesh, in blood, in bone.

Our blood contracts and beats a pulse
Entirely not our own.

Dear Ancestor, the place you filled
One hundred years ago

Spreads out among the ones you left
Who would have loved you so.

I wonder if you lived and loved,
I wonder if you knew

That someday I would find this spot,
And come to visit you.

--Author Unknown

A Reminder

Now is the time to renew your San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society membership. For your convenience, a renewal form has been attached to this newsletter .

Please take the time to renew now, there is not time like the present.

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ed Mason 925-838-7848
e-mail: 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
Sandra Burns 925-648-4653

Recording Secretary:
Carol Huvane 925-947-5669

Corresponding Secretary:
Vern Segelke 925-838-8570

Treasurer: Ileen Peterson 510-651-7728

Parliamentarian:
Virginia Rood 925-937-8659

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter 925-454-9919
e-mail: Email: rjventer@comcast.net

Calendar Coordinator:
Vern Segelke 925-838-8570
e-mail: 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.

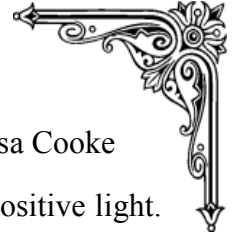
Members are encourage to submit articles for the Newsletter by mail or email to the Coordinator.

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.

Want to help someone who is having research problems in your area of knowledge? Call Harry Baggett at 925.837.7960 to have your name added to the SRVGS Individual Help list.

Harry Baggett trvlr1@hotmail.com



Genealogist Racketeers!

By: Lisa Cooke

Who would have thunk?! Genealogists immortalized on the big screen in a less than positive light. Where were my smelling salts when I needed them!

My husband & I went to the movies a few days ago at our favorite grand old theater, "The Stanford Theater" in Palo Alto, complete with Wurlitzer organ solos between movies. The theater has been running the complete works of Bette Davis from 1931 to 1938. The first in the double feature was a movie called "Jimmy the Gent" starring James Cagney as Jimmy Corrigan, genealogist, and Bette as his feisty love interest.

Wait a second...James Cagney playing a genealogist!

Yep, Jimmy Corrigan is a "genealogist" con artist who seeks out the heirs of rich people who have just died for a cut of the inheritance. If he can't find them, he makes them up for a commission. He's a hot headed fellow who more than once throws a book through the glass pane in the door to his office that has his title painted on it "Genealogist."

Ah, but a genealogist can't be all bad, and by the end of the "picture" (as Grandma always called them) Jimmy goes legit and wins his girl, Bette. A riveting story of genealogy redemption!

Lisa Louise Cooke, The Genealogy Gems News Blog, www.GenealogyGems.TV

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL