

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. XXIV No. 2 July - 2008



THIS MONTH – July 15, 2008
"A Treasure Trove of Genealogy Gems Craft Projects"
Presented by: Lisa Cooke



Don't just collect your family history and store it away in binders and files! Learn how to create creative displays and projects that will capture the imagination of your non-historian friends and relatives, while honoring your ancestors.

Lisa L. Cooke is the producer and host of the **Genealogy Gems Podcast**, an audio and video genealogy show available at www.GenealogyGems.TV and in iTunes. In addition, Lisa is hosting the new monthly **Family Tree Magazine Podcast**, and will have an article published in the November 2008 issue of the magazine. She is a national genealogy speaker, and author of the book *Genealogy Gems: Ultimate Research Strategies* as well as the *Genealogy Gems News Blog* at : www.genealogygemspodcast.blogspot.com



June Meeting
".Key to Success – The Card Catalog"
Speaker: Virginia Kysh Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Having graduated from BYU with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in Library Science, Virginia Kysh did a power point presentation of the card catalogs which we can find out there on the internet. Her major and minor both made it simple enough to understand how to work through those online catalogs. Her presentation, along with her handout, took us to nine different online catalog sources. Family History Library (both local and Oakland), Sutro Library, CGS, Heritage Quest, Allen Co. Public Library, New England Historical & Genealogical Society, Godfrey Library and World Cat. All of these have website (as listed in the handout).

Your searches online can be for either - 1. locality (city, county, state), 2. surname, 3. subject (locality as well as surname for subject), 4. title, or 5. author.

Family History Libraries (www.familysearch.org) are very simple to use just by going to their website, clicking on the Library tab at the top and filling in the boxes which come up. Film ordering can be done (\$6.00) and they are renewable if you don't finish viewing the one you ordered. BYU is in the process of digitizing copies of surname books. Currently digitizing is being done by FHL while *indexing* at the same time. Virginia said it will get even easier to find

items and ancestors. At the Oakland FHL the card catalog is for the whole Region and Bay Area (books, maps, CDs, films, fiche) and they have copiers as well as the internet. When online she suggests that you always check the “what’s new” box because things change from week to week. You could find something exciting for your needs. On listings there should be icons which tell you at a glance if it’s a book, a film, etc. and where it can be found. If a reddish-brown box appears up in the right hand corner of your screen on the item your searching for, by clicking on the box you are able to view it online and there is no need to order it.

Sutro (www.lib.state.ca.us) is free to use and you may check out books for a month (phoning in to renew). There are copy machines for both paper and film. There is also an inter-library loan program (for a fee) but the parking in S.F. at Sutro is free!

California Genealogical Society (CGS) and library (www.calgensoc.org/web/cgs/cgshp.nsf?Open) require a monthly membership fee or you can pay a one-day-usage fee. It’s located in Oakland (downtown). To access their card catalog is free online. Icons again will tell you what format that item is in (book, CD, etc). It houses Bay Area and New England info. Across the hallway are city directories.

Heritage Quest (www.calgensoc.org/web/cgs/cgshp.nsf?Openoaklandlibrary.org) is part of CGS and for members only or available with public library cards for Alameda County. You can find locality books, census, Persi (periodicals lists), books, Freedman’s books and serial books. You may search for people or place or for both; click on the numbers of hits to bring up the page. Also check “index” at the end of the list.

Allen County Public Library (www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index.html) is located in Fort Wayne, IN. This site is quite large and has the Persi Index (which is free). If you find what you’re looking for you can have them copy each page at an initial \$7.50 and 20¢ apiece. That can get a little pricey if you have a manuscript of 20 or more pages which you need to have copied. It may take 6 to 8 weeks for your delivery to arrive.

The New England Historical & Genealogical Society (www.newenglandancestors.org) is located in Boston, MA. The catalog is free but they require a membership to use their library or they have a day cost available. They also have a New England genealogist online if you have questions. Virginia said that he is fairly prompt with his answers. Using their card catalog you can search authors, titles, and do subject searches.

Virginia didn’t elaborate on these last two libraries. Godfrey Library located in Middletown, CT. (www.godfrey.org) has a membership fee of \$35.00 annually. And World Cat (www.oclc.org/worldcat/) is a global network of libraries with free access and inter-library loans system.

Virginia reminds us the *county* histories are good for all sorts of information such as timelines which can give you clues as to where to search next. When you decide to visit whichever library you choose go with your prepared list which you have done online in order to find that book, film, fiche or news article. Many of these libraries allow you to download and copy that particular item you will go searching for when you are there. You will then have any call numbers or film numbers needed to find what you’re looking for.

Virginia is currently the assistant director of the Antioch Family History Library.

Recording Secretary Needed Immediately

All members, male and female, would qualify to be Recording Secretary of SRVGS! We really need a volunteer to fill this Board position from October through May. Attendance at monthly Board and General meetings is required. Minutes are recorded and distributed electronically. Inquire or reply to Carol Huvane: tomcarhuvane@aol.com





President's Message

By Ed Mason

This month I will cover four topics: The Genealogy Booth at the Alameda County Fair, Catholic restrictions placed on LDS microfilming, state and federal restrictions on DNA laboratories and NARA's Stern Gift Fund.

The Fair is an annual event and, for the several years that L-AGS has participated, they have always done a nice job. This year it is better than ever. Their society provided most of the organization and the majority of the manpower. But our Society was a big contributor. Bob Dougherty worked hard to help with the booth set up and continues to keep it stocked with our brochures. I produced a PowerPoint presentation about SRVGS to be shown in the booth and Bob helped me debug it when there were some problems. Eleven of our members are working at the Fair. They include Sharon Clay, Dick Finn, Julie Liu, Rae Atwood, Lisa Cooke, Kathy Javdani, Sherri Hedman, Sherri Titus, Janet Nadol, and Ileen Peterson (plus her husband, Michael Sites). There are still openings for those who wish to sign up. The last day is July 6.

I have already worked one shift and can report that it is a lot of fun and there is a good flow of "customers." It is always a big thrill when you can help someone discover his or her ancestors back an additional two or three generations. They often walk out of the booth infected with the desire to keep adding to their family tree – as well as some idea of how to go about it. They might even join a society.

Microfilming Restrictions: The best article that I have found on the recent Catholic restrictions placed on cooperation with LDS microfilming can be found at:

<http://genealogy.about.com/b/2008/05/05/vatican-orders-catholic-parish-registers-off-limits-to-lds-church.htm>

DNA Restrictions: There has been a flurry of newspaper articles about California and New York limiting the activities of several labs doing DNA testing. The federal government is

about to hold hearings. It appears that this only involves testing for medical purposes and will have no affect on DNA testing for genealogical purposes. You can find out more here:

http://www.wired.com/medtech/genetics/news/2008/06/portfolio_0617

The Stern-NARA Gift Fund is a nationally supported program to finance the creation of finding aids and the microfilming of valuable research materials now preserved in the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. These microform copies, produced without government funding, are distributed to the 13 National Archives Regional Archives for use by researchers. Through your contributions SRVGS is able to contribute each year.

Access to this information is through any of the regional National Archives, but also through any LDS Family History Center in the world.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) administers the Stern-NARA Gift Fund. FGS uses just 10% of contributions to offset the cost of administering the Fund. Additionally, the FGS NARA Filming Committee will continue to take suggestions for items to be microfilmed. Ideas are solicited from anyone interested in genealogy. The aim is to find material at the National Archives, or its branches, of major interest to genealogists.

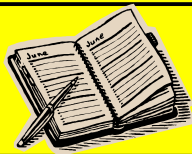
They currently have a Million Dollar (plus) Project with a dramatic goal:

Raise \$1.25 million to microfilm two major collections of the National Archives:

- War of 1812 pension and bounty-land warrant records
- United States Colored Troops (USCT) compiled service records

FGS invites the genealogical community, private donors, corporate sponsors, lineage societies and other interested parties to help make it happen.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

July 2008

- 1 Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Lee Schlenker in San Ramon.
- 15 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

August 2008

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 2 at the home of Vern Segelke in Danville.

A Message from the Family History Center

By: Linda Bailey

Just a reminder that the Danville FHC is closed from August 1st through September 1st (Labor Day) and will reopen on September 2nd. If you have microfilms that will fall due during the month of August, we will hold them into September to make sure you get your full 4 weeks of viewing time.

A Member is Moving

Mary Jo Hosteny, a dedicated member of SRVGS, has moved back to Illinois where she grew up. Friends may contact her at:

Mother Theresa Retirement Home
Room 308, bed 1
1270 Franciscan Drive
Lemont, IL 60439

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 not meet during July or August.* 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. They meet at the Danville Family History Center in Alamo. *This group will not meet again until September. If you have an interest in this group and wish to have meetings continue in the fall, please contact the coordinator and pledge your support.* Gail Roche Van Wye is the contact person for the group. Phone 253-1096 or e-mail gailrvw@aol.com.



GERMAN – The German Group is scheduled to meet on July 23 (the fourth Wednesday). They will meet at the home of Helen Odegard in Alamo. 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 not meet during July or August.* Patty Erickson is the contact person for the group. Phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail russpat@comcast.net.

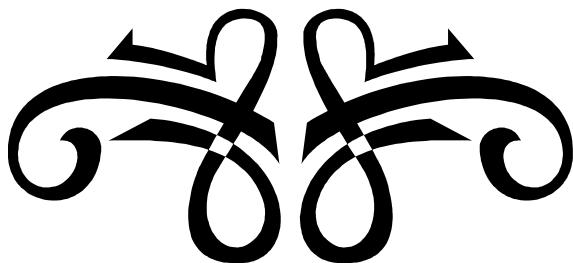


SOUTHERN – *This group will not meet during July or August.* The contact person is Dorothy Stanton; Phone 820-3757 or email dpstant@hotmail.com. New persons interested in attending should contact Dorothy Stanton for information.



CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 15 July Tuesday 7 to 9 pm** The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, Cedar Room. The address is 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. Kay Gutknecht will speak about Publishing Genealogy Books. Kay Gutknecht has been working on her family's genealogy for over 25 years and has always been fascinated by the historical context of her ancestors' lives. She holds a degree in History from the University of California at San Diego and currently manages an operational benchmark program for Stanford Hospital and Clinics in Palo Alto.
- 19 July Saturday 10:30 am** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting at The Silicon Valley Community Foundation, 1700 South El Camino Real near Highway 92 in San Mateo. "Your Ancestors are in the Newspapers" will be presented by Pamela Dallas.
- 22 July Tuesday 1 to 3 pm** The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Lusk Drive and St. Marks Way in Sacramento. "All that's new and more, at the Sacramento Regional Family History Center" will be the subject of a presentation by Lynn Brown, a specialist in genealogy computer research. She began her career at the National Archives and Records Administration in San Bruno.



HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President:	Ed Mason	925-838-7848
	e-mail: edmason@sbcglobal.net	
1st V.P.	(vacant)	
2nd V.P. Program:		
	Clarice Hart	925-743-9245
	Lisa Cooke	925-831-8537
	Sherri Hedman	925-275-8123
3rd V.P. Membership:		
	Jane Nowicki	925-939-7808
	Barbara Dittig	925-648-9364
Recording Secretary:		
	(vacant)	
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: 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 trvrl1@hotmail.com

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

Is Your Membership about to Lapse?

Society membership dues were due by July 1st. As a reminder for those who were just too busy to get their renewal application in on time, a **Red Dot** has been placed on their address label of the newsletters that were sent via the U.S. Post Office. For those who receive their newsletters via e-mail a short message was included with the e-mail delivery. If you have received such a reminder, please get your renewal to us by the end of July or you will be dropped from our rolls and this will be the last newsletter you will receive.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL