

SAN RAMON VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY



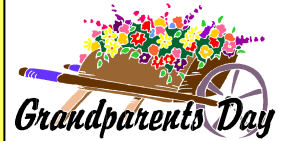
NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305
President: Ed Mason
Coord. Editor: Bob Venter
Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of the Month
(Except August & December)
Danville Family History Center
Stone Valley & Smith Rds., Alamo
<http://srvgensoc.org/index.html>

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIV No. 3 September - 2008

Labor★★
★★**Day**

THIS MONTH – September 16, 2008
"Emigration and Immigration "
Presented by: Vera Broyles



This presentation provides clues that may help you answer the questions "where did they come from?" and "Where did they go and why?"

Vera Broyles is the President of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society. She has been doing genealogy research for many years and has traveled extensively. Vera also volunteers at the Concord and Oakland Family History Centers.



July Meeting
"A Treasure Trove of Genealogy Gems Craft Projects"
Speaker: Lisa Cooke Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Our own member and one of our Program Chairs, Lisa Louise Cooke, brought us another aspect of how to keep family and friends interested in any kind of genealogy be it within your own home or as wonderful gifts. These craft projects were pretty super simple and very inventive!

Lisa presented a WiFi program which she will be presenting on national level in November 2008. Her question to us was, "What is the purpose of all your research?" Basically, having fun with an interesting, challenging hobby, to carry on family traditions, share love and values of family with it's descendents, to inspire the family interest and appreciation of family and ancestors. She says to change the focus from what you are doing to what the audience can understand. Give them

"new" glasses by which to see information. Which is more understandable - boxes and boxes of information or a multiple picture of just one person (ancestor)? Think about it. Lisa says make your research easy to *devour!*

She showed us one display she created at home. You can find it on Episode #3 of her podcast. She purchased a small, ready-made portion of picket fencing. Her husband added shelving. After painting it, she now displays her heirlooms/memorabilia from her mother and grandmother who lived on a farm in Chowchilla, CA. Both did all the usual canning, sewing and baking. Lisa found pertinent memorabilia on E-Bay at reasonable prices to add to her display. She found a salesman's mini cotton bale from the cotton mill where her ancestor worked. To her display she



Lisa Cooke

added her own blue ribbons for her own cooking and canning projects, and an old printed flour sack from that period. She used items just relative to the Chowchilla area of her grandparents. Just small things that reminded her side of the family and their lifestyles. This starts up questions and conversations with friends who come by her home.

She created a decoupage plate with her mother's childhood photos. Taking copied pictures of their family "hub" home in Stockton, a picture of her first day of school, her mother modeling a homemade coat for a special occasion, and a crib picture. Lisa says you can do anything you'd like to create this plate - even add dates, lettering, names, etc. This turned out to be one of the "prized" possession of her mother. You can find the "how to" on her www.GenealogyGems.TV and click on podcast button - Episode #11.

Lisa created a redesigned outside label for a store-bought chocolate bar (the very large candy bar). She fashioned family pictures and messages (you could even do a poem) on the label and stuck

it back around the bar with two-sided tape and gave as gifts or just as a conversation starter. It can be found with the template for the label in Episode #20 (Sweet Memories) on Lisa's podcast.

In Episode #32 (done in 4 segments - approx. 40 minutes) she created a Christmas wreath with small, copied photo of relatives decoupage onto small pieces of balsa wood and hot glue-gunned them along with old broken pieces of jewelry and beads (what could you do with broken jewelry anyway?) to create something memorable. You could create a wreath but not have it necessarily be just for Christmas. It could be something you'd like to keep up all year around.

Lisa has also taken her creative self into decorating edible cakes with chocolate silhouettes around the outside. She took small copies of ancestors, copied them to a certain size which would fit the cake, laid the copies onto chocolate fondant and cut around them with a sharp-tipped knife.

Lisa says with these projects - make it the very best you can and remember to ask yourself, "does it tell a story?" You can make your research more digestible to others if you do it in small bites or "nuggets." Sharing your research with the family in exciting, creative ways insures that it will be valued and preserved. You can give those "nuggets," you don't have to give every detail!

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



President's Message

By Ed Mason

I hope that you had a little more free time for genealogy over our summer break. I did and I have to confess that I'm now playing catch-up on my SRVGS duties and other obligations. It is very nice to be able to accomplish so much research without having to fill-up the gas tank or getting on an airplane. Many of you may have had parents, aunts and uncles, grandparents and other older relatives that were interested in their genealogy. Just think how much easier it is for you than it was for them. Of course many things remain the same. Some visits to local libraries, cemeteries, courthouses will still be necessary. But, with indexed Censuses and other databases online and the newest of tools - DNA analysis, things have gotten better, faster and easier. This letter is about some of those things.

The biggest news is the major digitizing and indexing initiative by the LDS' FamilySearch, which includes the collaborative computing concept that Marge Bell at the Oakland Family History Center explained to us a few months ago. Meantime the LDS and Ancestry have entered a joint agreement to work together on the Census. Ancestry has already completed the various US Censuses, but much of the work is inaccurate. FamilySearch, with their double-checking and user collaboration should ultimately achieve much higher accuracy. FamilySearch has promised continued free access to all of their work, but not necessarily to the images. Apparently people who join in the digitizing work and do some minimum amount each quarter will be allowed free access to the images. Others may have to subscribe to Ancestry or go to a Library that offers Ancestry access.

The LDS initiative covers much more than the US Census. To see what has already been digitized, go to: <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=4>

It includes many state censuses, births, marriages and deaths in several states, and many foreign databases. The citations are a snap, as you can copy them, along with the data, with one mouse click.

I was recently looking in the 1900 Census for, Joseph Perry, a grandson of my third great grandfa-

ther. I couldn't find him in Ancestry as they had him indexed under Peery. Luckily, I was able to find him in Heritage Quest where they had it right. That eventually led to a live third cousin once removed who is very enthusiastic about my project and has now submitted his DNA. We may be closing in on the solution to a 100 year old mystery.

In parting, it is worth mentioning that the very popular BBC program called *Who Do You Think You Are* will soon be cloned in this country. In England it has increased the general public's interest in genealogy and history, largely by focusing their investigations on celebrities. More interest should mean that more resources will be developed, although I just noticed that the cash-strapped British Government has scrapped a major genealogical indexing project.

Food for Thought

"Some families can trace their ancestors back three hundred years, but can't tell you where their children were last night."

Author Unknown

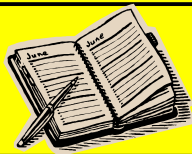
Words of Wisdom

This packrat has learned that what the next generation will value most is not what we owned, but the evidence of who we were and the tales of how we loved. In the end, it's the family stories that are worth the storage.

Ellen Goodman,
The Boston Globe

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

September 2008

- 2 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Vern Segelke in Danville.
- 16 **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

October 2008

- 7 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting will be held at the home of Gail Roche Van Wye in Orinda.
- 21 **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 September 16, after the general meeting at about 12:30 pm at the home of Peggy Dearman. 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 September 25th (the fourth Thursday of the month)

from 10:00 am until noon. NOTE: TIME MAY CHANGE TO AFTERNOON. They 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 September 24 (the fourth Wednesday) at the home of Margarete Koenig in Lafayette. This group is planning their annual Oktoberfest luncheon for October. 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 September 10th (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 russ-pat@comcast.net



SOUTHERN – The Southern Interest Group will meet at 10 am on September 11 and October 9. (the SECOND THURSDAY of the month) at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. The contact person is Dorothy Stanton; Phone (925) 820-3757 or email dpstant@hotmail.com. New persons interested in attending should contact Dorothy Stanton for information.

LIBRARY TRIP


On September 19, Friday, Gail Roche Van Wye is arranging a Library trip to the CGS in Oakland. The emphasis will be to explore Dr. Steve Harris' City Directory Library adjacent to the CGS facility. Dr. Harris will provide us with an orientation and introduction. Cost to our participating members will be \$3 for the day's use of both facilities. A fee of \$5 is normally charged to non-members just to use the CGS library. This is a great opportunity for folks to learn about this unique resource so close to home and get some insight on the use of directories for family research. Follow up information will likely be given at the September general meeting.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 20 September, Saturday - 10:30 am** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will hold a regular membership meeting at The Silicon Valley Community Foundation, 1700 South El Camino Real near Highway 92 in San Mateo. Jim Faulkbury will be the speaker. His topic will be "US Naturalization records."
- 18 October, Saturday - 8:30 am to 4:30 pm** The Concord Family History Center will sponsor its annual fall seminar at 3700 Concord Blvd. in Concord. Six class periods will begin at 9:15 am. There is a \$ 25 registration fee which includes a complete syllabus; or a \$ 7 fee for snacks and drinks only. Bring your own lunch. Watch for registration forms at the Stone Valley Road FHC. For complete details visit www.cccgs.org/ANNUAL.htm

EDUCATION


SRVGS Member Class:

 **"Publishing Your Family History"**
Thursday September 18 (10am-12noon)
at the Family History Center.

Several of our SRVGS authors will present their work and explain the process of how they went about writing and publishing. Bring your questions on the "how-to" of making your work available for posterity.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the SRVGS meeting on Sept. 16. You can sign up in advance by contacting Dorothy Stanton by e-mail at dpstant@hotmail.com or by phone (925)820-3757.

MORE Opportunities for Learning:


 SRVGS member Patty Peterson is teaching a class called **"A Guide to Memoir Writing"** for the San Ramon Parks and Recrea-

tion.

Where? San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd.

When? September 10 to November 5, 10:00-11:30

How? Register online at <http://www.SanRamonRecGuide.com> or call (925) 973-3250

 Acalanes Adult Education is again offering weekly classes at the Adult Center, 1963 Tice Valley Blvd. in Walnut Creek starting on Wednesday, September 10. Classes by Cat Nielsen are: **"Beginning Genealogy"** 9:30-11:30; **Genealogy Seminar** 12:30-2:30; **The Master Genealogist** (genealogy software) 3-5pm. (925)280-3980 ext. 8001.

BURIED APART

When I visited the cemetery in Van Buren, Ohio, where my great-grandparents, Samuel and Alvira TROUT, were buried, I found him in the old part of the cemetery, and she was buried on the other side, in the new part. She lived on 40 years after he died, and never remarried. Luckily, my Aunt Florence was still alive and could explain why Alvira had not been buried with Samuel.

When Samuel died, vaults were not used, and people were buried in simple wooden caskets. Over time, the caskets collapsed and the ground settled, creating a bumpy ground surface in the old part of the cemetery which caused difficulty maintaining the grounds.

All the stones were removed, the ground was leveled, and the stones were replaced, in the same order, but not necessarily in the same place. So, great-grandmother Trout could not be buried next to Samuel because they couldn't be sure the place where his stone was located was actually where Samuel was buried. If my Aunt Florence hadn't been alive to tell me, I would still be wondering why they were buried apart.

by: Bob and Phyllis Robb, bprobb@home.com

From: Great Genealogy Stories,
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com



Who's Who in Our SRVGS Society

Ed O'Donnell

Coming to the Land

Re: A short history of my immediate ancestors, the Fitzpatrick, Regan and O'Donnell Families.

In Maude O'Donnell's (mother of Ed O'Donnell) effects the following newspaper clipping was found: "Flight Sergeant Charles P. Fitzpatrick 23 is believed killed, August 17, (1943) from a raid on Peenemunde (German research rocket center.) Three of the Wellington crew including Sergeant Fitzpatrick were on the latest casualty list as "missing in action."

Who was Sergeant Fitzpatrick? I knew my grandmother's maiden name was Fitzpatrick. My genealogical journey was begun.

While working on genealogy I met Francis Lloyd at the Contra Costa Library: She suggested I might find the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society a help in my research. After joining I attended the Irish interest group. Since the Fitzpatrick's entered Canada in the early 1820's Patty Erickson suggested they might be part of the Robinson Expedition. The Robinson Expedition was one of a kind. A notice appeared in southern Ireland newspapers inviting Irish to migrate to Canada promising free passage, land and farm equipment. Because of deplorable conditions in Ireland over 50,000 people responded. To qualify the applicant had to be Roman Catholic, a pauper and under forty five years of age. The actual result, Protestant families were included, plus a few troublemakers. The landlords seeing an opportunity to rid themselves of bothersome tenants. Some descriptions, "Bad and dangerous characters; fit for any mischief; insolent ruffians." The expedition consisted of nine naval ships carrying 2,204 passengers, sailing For "I Brasail Tirrian Og." (the Enchanted Land)

After a long search I discovered my Fitzpatrick forefathers were indeed part of the Robinson Expedition. Normally Irish records of this pe-

riod are scarce or nonexistent, however, exact records were kept of the expedition producing a wealth of information. My direct ancestor John and Elizabeth Fitzpatrick with three children traveled on one of the naval ships, The Brunswick. The records also revealed the Fitzpatrick's were sponsored by Lord Ward Beecher. The family came from the Black Water River area of western Cork. This led to my finding their wedding record, "John Fitzpatrick, Castlemager married Elizabeth O'leary in the Catholic Church of Charfeville parish 14 February 1819."

They settled in the Ontario Canada 1825.. Their home was towed to Lang Village in 1975. A village created by the Canadian government to faithfully represent an 1800's pioneer village. A place where my descendants can visit until the " cows come home."

We had lost contact with the Regans in Canada. While visiting Ontario, Canada I was able to reestablish contact with Trish Fitzsimmons a granddaughter of Dennis Regan. She was the complete genealogist, carefully detailing Regan Family History. Three brothers, Dennis, John and Edmund came to Ontario Canada between 1829 and 1836. They bought farms adjacent to each other. My grandfather William Regan was the son of John Regan. The only reference To William in the John Regan descendant chart, "Gone to California."

An interesting story concerning Frank Regan (son of Dennis.) Sir Arthur Currie Commander of the Canadian forces in World War I was accused by Sir Sam Hughes of the "Mad idea" of Currie ordering an attack on Mons, Belgium after he knew The Armistice was about to be signed. His motive was to have Canadians fire the last shot in the Great War and by logic the last allied soldier killed. William Preston writing in the Hope Evening Guide called Currie a murderer. Currie filed a libel suit. He retained W.N. Tilly leading council of the day. Preston retained Frank Regan for his defense. It was a sensational trial capturing the attention of the entire nation. Currie won the libel suit but was given a miscue settlement making the trial something of a draw.

Parick M. O'Donnell, born 1856 in Sligo Ireland, arrived in New York 1874. Worked in

hotels. He inquired of guests, "Where is the future?" "San Francisco" the reply. He immediately set out for San Francisco getting work at the Lick Hotel. (Mark Twain once a guest) There He Met Colonel Boyle a mining promoter. Again the question~ "Where is the future?" "Arizona" the reply. Arrived in Arizona 1878, with Had a letter of introduction to Colonel Stanford a law partner of former governor Hughes. He went prospecting with the Stanford's sons, Fred and James and an old prospector. Pat filed a claim on the end of the "Grand Central", but the "expert" prospector said the claim was worthless. Within months the boom came. His former claims sold for \$30,000 and \$20,000.

Shortly afterward Pat went to work with his brother Tony in the booming mines of Harshaw. He saved enough money to buy some land; sold the lots for a profit and bought a stock ranch in the Canelo Hills, twelve miles from Fort Huachuca and thirty miles from Tombstone. It was a bad time with the Apaches leaving the reservation committing many murders, rustlers stealing cattle and being 30 miles from one of the most lawless places on earth, Tombstone. One time my father asked Pat who were the good guys and who were the bad guys in Tombstone. His reply, "They were all just a bunch of bums."

Because of bad health Pat sold the Ranch in 1898. The ranch was bought in 1968 by the Nature Conservancy and is now known as O'Donnell Cienega (marsh land) Natural Area (OCNA). The Cienega harbors Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes granminea*) a new species of orchid and the home of the rare Gila Chub fish. Pat moved to San Francisco and bought a working man's hotel. After the 1906 earthquake having tired of the city he looked around for a small town to settle in. He chose Livermore and bought the Valley Hotel.

The families all came together in Livermore; my Grandmother Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, my Grandfather William Regan and Grandmother Mary and Grandfather Patrick O'Donnell. Pat's son Anthony, my father, went to a church dance in Livermore attended by Maude Regan. Their eyes met and here I am.

Ed O'Donnell

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 trvlr1@hotmail.com

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	4
SRVGS EVENTS	4
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	4
OTHER EVENTS	5
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
EDUCATION	5
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
LIBRARY TRIP TO CGS IN OAKLAND	4
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
WHO'S WHO IN OUR SRVGS SOCIETY	6

Web Site Maps Surnames Worldwide

We all want to know where our ancestors came from but many of us are also curious as to where our distant relatives now live. A new web site can provide many such clues, if not definitive answers.

The **Public Profiler** site plots eight million last names using data from electoral rolls and phone directories. The site covers 300 million people in 26 countries, showing the origins of names and where families have moved to. The site also reveals which of the five million first names (forenames) are most closely associated with different surnames and lists the top regions and cities for each surname.

To try the **Public Profiler** site, go to:

<http://www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames>

From: *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*

September 01, 2008

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL