

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

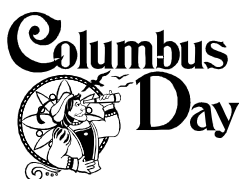
SOCIETY



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>

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIV No. 4 October - 2008



THIS MONTH – October 14, 2008
**"But It's My Family: Copyright Issues for
the Twenty-first Century Genealogist"**
Presented by: Cath Madden Trindle



Whether you are writing or collecting a family history, this interactive session offers a discussion of current US copyright law, International copyright, pending legislation and court actions and ethical issues of copying and sharing genealogical information electronically or in print.

Cath Madden Trindle, a certified genealogist, earned a Certificate of European Research [BYU] and a Certificate in Genealogical Studies-Librarianship [NIGS]. Cath owned a bookkeeping consultation business for 30 years and is currently Treasurer of the CSGA and the FGS. She writes regular copyright and society strategy columns for the CSGA newsletter. As Publication Chair for SMC GS she has edited the San Mateo County Naturalization Index Series, the Schellens indexing project, and coauthored the SMC GS Tree Climbing Guides. Cath, a first generation Californian, has limited her client research to Northern California, however, personal research and speaking engagements also focus on the records of Ireland and Scotland, Canada, Minnesota and Michigan and on storytelling.

Labor★★
★★★ Day

September Meeting
"Emigration and Immigration"
Speaker: Vera Broyles Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Vera Broyles is the President of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society. She also volunteers her time at the Oakland Family History Library as well as the Concord History Library.

The definitions:

Emigrate - To move out of a country or region into another.

Immigrate - To come into a new country to settle there.

Migrate - To settle in another country or region.

These definitions sure seem very close in meanings. And they certainly sound very close to each other.

But there is a pattern to migration. If you have looked at your ancestors in any of the U.S. census there is a column for "place of birth" for each person and it will be a clue as you chronologically go through each ten year census. It might change just a hair from Russia to Prussia or Hungary to Austria if the census time-table warranted it. Your first immigrant could have come to the U.S. under a "country quota" meaning that the U.S. took only so many persons at one time from

one country. Your ancestor may have said they were from that particular country so they could enter the U.S. when actually they were from a close neighboring country. So you may find a difference in "birth country" later in another census. Vera found some of her ancestors were actually from Austria but had told U.S. Immigration they were from Hungary to get in under the "quota."

Vera reminds us to check under different spellings: C replacing K in names or more Americanized surnames. Also, misspelling of surnames. You can figure out different ways to spell an ancestors surname. Be that super sleuth!

Going through probate records, wills, guardianship records, indentured/contracted servants might be listed in "Bonded Americans" volumes, mineral rights records, property records (look in community property books), military records, draft records can be extremely helpful in locating your people and families. Don't let clerks know you know anything - play a little dumb - and you may get better information from them.

Finding out the "timeline" for your ancestors can be very helpful. Take the temperature of what went on at the time they emigrated. Wars, religious persecution or beliefs, opportunities (gold rush), greener pastures (cheaper and more fertile land), overpopulation, better jobs (the industrial revolution in the U.S.), an adventurous spirit, or military. If you know what year your ancestors migrated, go at least 3 to 5 years before that and find out what went on before they migrated. On-line newspapers are a good way to check. Some people came as indentured/contracted servants and worked 5 to 7 years to pay off their ships passage. Some dates to be aware of: 1790 - the majority of Americans were of English descent (they were close-knit and lived in boarding houses together) and ports became extremely busy; 1808 - slave trade was abolished (the census had a "freed white" column for Haitians); 1814 - over-whelmed with immigrants and now diseases came into play; 1819 - the Steerage Act was implemented (ship's captains had to list all passengers on board); 1820-80 - the Industrial Revolution, Transcontinental Railroad (the Chinese immigration), Gold Rush (most miners didn't own property but they had "mineral rights" for the land); 1860 - Union and Confederate Armies

needed men; 1872 - Germans came to the Canadian area around the Great Lakes; 1906 - mass migration move to other states across the U.S.

When your ancestors left their home country they needed permission to leave. Records were kept by mostly the churches so knowing the religion of that area is important.

Google seems to be a great search engine in finding many listings such as Seaports to U.S. (if you know the shipping line), ships lists for marriages at sea (Vera says, "don't search the first few pages, but go 4 to 5 pages after your first page to search, then return to your first page, then go back to the end and flip back and forth.").

If you can get a topographical map of the country or area from where your ancestors came you will be able to understand some of the "whys" of their move such as hills, rivers, mountains, streams, proximities.

Vera says, "Bring a heart beat to your ancestors!" Once they're into the U.S. follow the census and any and all records to form that migration pattern. You should be able to follow them. This will be food for your soul!

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

As I compose this letter on September 24th, I'm feeling little out of touch. With my wife, Margaret, I spent a week in Hawaii, returning on September 17. Lisa covered for me at the September 16th General meeting. I understand that she did an excellent job. Thank you, Lisa. The next board meeting is not until October 7, so I'll have to wait a while before I am back in the loop. However, I did participate in a very worthwhile activity this last Monday. I assisted Sandra Burns at a "Buzz Session" program meeting for the Danville Senior Services which meets at the Veteran's Hall in Danville. We had only seven participants but they were very interested and asked quite a few questions. Sande had organized an excellent program, *An Introduction to Genealogy*, which was very well received. I followed by telling about the SRVGS and the benefits of membership. It could well result in our gaining one or two new members. One of the coordinators of the Senior Services told us about her teenage daughter who is very serious about genealogy. She wished her daughter could have been at the program as she has many questions about how to proceed. Sande gave her an outline of the program, a Pedigree Sheet to fill out, and some other helpful handouts. Perhaps having a similar program for teens at some of the community centers or at the FHC would be beneficial. Getting good exposure in other parts of the community is very important for us. We have all read about how, in today's Internet world, genealogical societies are having trouble maintaining their membership levels and, consequently, the minimum funding level that is required. Getting outside exposure is important. If no one knows about us, we will certainly shrink. So, what else are we doing?

Sande has been working with Ed O'Donnell to expand our public relations by getting items of interest into more publications. She has also placed quantities of our brochure at several places in Contra Costa and Alameda County. Eleven of us worked at the Alameda County Fair. Last fall we worked with Boy Scouts seeking merit badges in genealogy. We would consider doing the same

thing with Girls Scouts, if we can make the right contact. Many of you have invited guests to our meetings. We would certainly like to encourage more of that.

What else could we do?

News from the Family History Center

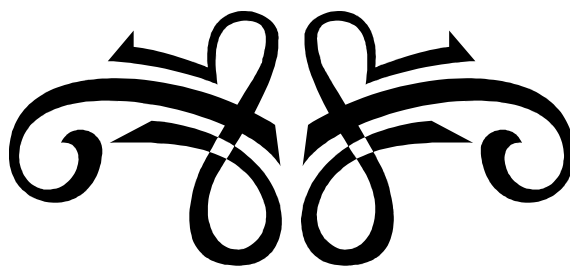
by: Linda Bailey

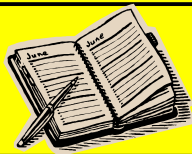
As has been announced in the past, the LDS FHL has committed vast resources to digitizing its microfilm collection. For Philadelphia researchers, the good news is that about 2,000 reels of microfilm have been made almost obsolete with the release of:

- 1) **Philadelphia Deaths 1803 to 1915** (Index and images) The Philadelphia Deaths Collection is actually derived from death certificates, registrations of death, and various city and hospital death records, including some prison deaths. In all online volunteers transcribed 1,612,000 images located on 1791 reels of microfilm to create the free online index linked to the original images.
- 2) **Philadelphia Marriage Indexes 1885 to 1951** (images of the index, with images of the actual certificates to come) The 31,500 digital images of the Philadelphia Marriage License Index are easy to navigate using FamilySearch's online image viewer because they are organized by year and then alphabetically by last name. The index gives the names of the bride and groom with the date of the marriage

The images are available at <http://labs.familysearch.org/> then go to "Record Search"

Remember to bookmark this site and refer to it often. Happy hunting.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

October 2008

- 7 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was 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. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/2 miles

November 2008

- 4 **Tuesday– 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting will be held at the home of Clarice Hart in Danville.
- 18 **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, October 21 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 October 23rd (the fourth Thursday of the month) from

10:00 am until noon at the Danville Family History Center in Alamo. In **November** they will meet on the **20th** of the month at the FHC. Please note that this is the **third Thursday, one week before Thanksgiving**. 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 October 22nd (the fourth Wednesday) at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek. This gathering will be their annual Oktoberfest luncheon. Helen Odegard is the contact person for this group. For more information, please contact her at 932-6796 or e-mail: shodegard@att.net (Note change in the e-mail address).



IRISH – This special interest group will meet October 8th (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 – The Southern Interest Group will meet at 10 am on October 9th and November 13 (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.

Celebrate Family During Family History Month

October is designated in many U.S. States as "Family History Month," and genealogists everywhere have adopted the month as their own. Whether you're new to genealogy, or have devoted a lifetime to it, celebrate Family History Month with your family this October by trying one (or more) of these ten wonderful ways to research, craft and commemorate your past at:

<http://genealogy.about.com/od/holidays/tp/family-history-month.htm>

From: About.com:genealogy October 1, 2008

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

11 **October Saturday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

Family History Day at the California State Archives, 1020 "O" street in Sacramento. There will be Tours, Classes, Local society displays, and vendors. Admission is Free. For more details, visit www.sos.ca.gov/archives/archives.htm

14 **October Tuesday 7:30 pm** The Livermore - Amador Genealogy

Society will have one of its regular meetings at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Taffy Coutts will speak about "The Five Civilized Tribes of Southeastern United States."

18 **October Saturday 8:00 am - 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 Seminar only. Register prior to September 30 to guarantee a syllabus. Bring your own lunch, only snacks and drinks will be provided. Watch for registration forms at your FHC. For complete details visit www.cccgs.org/ANNUAL.htm. Registration forms are to be mailed to Jackie Hein and for more information call her at (925) 827-4729.

1 **November Saturday 9:30 am - 11 am**

The Santa Clara City Library at 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara is hosting a hands-on class. "Searching Heritage Quest Online" will be presented by Mary Hanel, Local History Librarian. You will learn how to access U.S. Census records, over 20,000 local history books from communities throughout the country, U.S. Congressional reports, an index to genealogy magazines, and more. The class is limited to 16 participants. To register, e-mail mhanel@santaclaraca.gov

1 **November Saturday 2 pm - 4 pm** "The Sutro Baths." A power point lecture will be presented at the Sutro Library, 480 Winston Drive in San Francisco. This will be presented by John Martini, author, historian, retired National Park Ranger at several bay area parks. Attendance is free. For further details visit www.library.ca.gov


15 **November Saturday 9:30 am - 3:30 pm**


The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will sponsor a fall seminar featuring Paula Stewart Warren. She will present a quartet of lectures about "Gathering the Evidence." The seminar will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 25th and Hacienda in San Mateo. There is a \$30 registration fee for non-members. Registration includes a syllabus and must be post-marked by November 1. Lunch can be included for \$8. For more details, visit www.smcgs.org and print the registration form.

EDUCATION

Many thanks to the SRVGS members who presented their publishing experiences and knowledge to the class on September 18: Lisa Cooke, Bruce Garner, Barbara Johnson, Alpha Quincy, Barbara Samper and Bob Venter. We all learned from seeing and hearing about their books and were inspired to get to work!

October, designated Family History Month, presents us with many opportunities to increase our knowledge of family history research skills.

 The **Concord Family History Center** at 1700 Concord Blvd., Concord presents its 15th Annual Seminar on October 18 with Marge Bell as keynote speaker. Many experts in various fields of research will give classes. For more information, call Jackie Hein at 925-827-4729.

 The **Oakland Regional Family History Center** is combining with the **California Genealogical Society** to present classes on Beginning Genealogy. Each class is given at the CGS Library on Saturdays 1-2:30 pm and then repeated at the FHC on Tuesdays 10:30 am to noon.

October 4 and 7 - Part I Introduction to the Science of Genealogy

October 11 and 14 - Part II Secondary Survey

October 25 and 28 – Part III Vital Records and the Calendar Change

November 1 and 4 – Part IV Censuses including State Censuses

Classes are free but there will be a \$10 charge for a notebook containing a syllabus of the four classes. Pre-registration is necessary to ensure adequate handouts. Drop-ins will be welcome on a space available basis. Register by telephone 510-531-3905 or E-mail:

fhcoakland@yahoo.com.



October Is Polish American Heritage Month

400th Anniversary of the Arrival of the First Polish Settlers in America

On October 1, 1608, the English ship *Mary and Margaret* arrived at Jamestown, Virginia. Aboard the ship were several persons of Polish descent who had been hired by the Virginia Company of London, at the request of Captain John Smith, leader of the Jamestown Colony. Captain Smith, who had first learned of the Polish craftsmen's work while traveling in Eastern Europe, invited them to Jamestown for the specific purpose of helping to establish a glass industry in the colony. Upon their arrival, the Poles made a vital

contribution to the survival of the colony by digging a well to provide fresh drinking water, which was seriously lacking in the colony.

The next accomplishment was the building of a furnace to produce glass products, which became the first factory in America. In addition to producing glass products, the Polish settlers also produced pitch and tar, vital building materials for expanding the new colony. Despite many hardships due to the climate and living conditions, the Poles and their fellow settlers persevered and eventually were able to produce enough glass, pitch and tar for export to England. These products became the first commercial items to be exported from America to Europe.

On July 30, 1619, the Polish settlers accomplished another noteworthy achievement in the Jamestown colony by staging the first labor strike in America. After being denied participation in the first Virginia assembly, the Polish settlers conducted a labor walkout, not for wages or better working conditions, but for democratic rights. The newly formed House of Burgesses quickly acknowledged the vital role of the Poles in the settlement's well being and granted them the same voting privileges as those enjoyed by the English.

The arrival of the first Polish settlers in America marked a humble, yet significant event into American history. Over the years, people from Poland continued to immigrate to America. Today Poles are the sixth largest ethnic group in America, residing in all fifty states and participating in every aspect of American life. Poles comprise a significant portion of the tens of millions of immigrants who have come to America from all over the world and now proudly call this nation their home. The 400th anniversary of the first Poles in America provides an excellent opportunity for persons of all national origins to reflect on the journey of their immigrant ancestors who continue to add shape and color to the American mosaic.

For more information, visit the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street in Historic Philadelphia, and the Museum's Internet site at: PolishAmericanCenter.org.

From: Polish American Heritage Month Committee:
mail@polishamericancenter.org

Louisiana Death Records 1911-1956

Database Index Online

The State of Louisiana has made available an online index to its database of death records for the period 1911 to 1956. Once a death record has been located within the database, a certified copy of the microfilmed death certificate can be ordered for \$5 (check or money order).

For some Louisiana parishes, earlier deaths are also listed in the online index, but microfilmed copies of the death certificates may not exist. This includes Jefferson parish deaths prior to 1911, and Orleans parish deaths back to 1804.

It should also be noted that Louisiana state law maintains confidentiality for death records until 50 years after death. Death records older than 50 years are stored at the Louisiana State Archives, while later death records are stored at the Louisiana Vital Records Registry.

The Louisiana Death Records online index provides two types of searches: a Basic Search and an Advanced Search. The Basic Search allows searches by a full or partial name, while the Advanced Search allows searches by any combination of the following fields: Last Name, First/Middle Name, Parish (chosen from a drop-down box), Age, Month of Death (chosen from a drop-down box), Day of Death, and Year of Death.

Each result in the results list is accompanied by an Order link. Clicking on the Order link brings up an online form that automatically includes the name of the deceased, their parish of death, and their date of death. You fill in your own name, address, phone number, and number of desired copies, and then click a button to print the completed form. This can then be sent with your check or money order to order the desired copies of the certificates.

The following URL will get you to a page for the Death Records and other items:

www.sos.louisiana.gov/tabid/638/Default.aspx

This article appeared in the *FGS Delegate Digest*, Vol. 15, No. 9, September 2008

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

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Recording Secretary Position has been filled!

It is now October and more than a quarter of our society year as gone by without anyone from the general membership coming forward to volunteer to take on the duties of society Recording Secretary. Instead of continuing to limp along with various board members performing this function on a month by month basis, two of our hard working board and committee members have graciously come to an agreement which will solve the problem. Ileen Peterson, our current Treasurer, will move to the Recording Secretary position, and Gail Roche Van Wye, currently our Library Trip Coordinator and Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group leader, will take over the responsibilities of Treasurer from Ileen. The society wishes to thank both of these ladies for their dedication and flexibility. However, finding the people to do the work of this society continues to be an on-going problem and more of the general membership must be willing to help out. All members should seriously consider how they can contribute in order to keep our society functioning. And a tip of the hat to Ileen and Gail for their continued, unselfish support of our society.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL