

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. 5 November - 2008



THIS MONTH – November 18, 2008
"Family History Documentation - or
Eliminating Junk Genealogy"
Presented by: Janet Brigham Rands & Richard Rands



Janet will open the session with some "Mis-Documentation Horror Stories," and Richard will follow with a demonstration of the best practices for sound source documentation in your computer genealogy databases.

Janet Brigham is vice-president of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group. An editor and writer, she is the group's webmaster and teaches classes about technology innovations. Professionally, she has a Ph.D. in experimental psychology and has conducted research into tobacco use and smoking cessation. She has been involved in genealogy and family history for about a decade. She has a cat.

Richard Rands is President of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group. He has been deeply interested in family history since being a teenager and has long been involved in the use of technology for family history research. Professionally, he has worked for Hewlett-Packard Co, Tandem Computers, The Tech Museum, and a marketing research software company. He was the principal author of the book, Family History Documentation Guidelines, he has an MBA from UC Berkeley, and is currently retired.



October Meeting
"But It's My Family: Copyright Issues for the Twenty-first
Century Genealogist"
Speaker: Cath Madden Trindle Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Cath Madden Trindle is a certified genealogist as well as Treasurer for the CSGA and the FGS. She is also Publication chair for the SMC GS. Cath has edited the San Mateo County Naturalization Index Series and the Schelens indexing project, plus co-authored the SMC GS Tree Climbing Guides.

She became interested in copyright rules when somebody asked a question on copyrighting

and someone suggested they look into the copyright laws. Cath raised her hand and made it her project. She claims getting copyright permission really isn't so hard. It is protected by the U.S. laws. Uses of the copyright laws are usually by authors, artists, musicians, actors, pantomimes, movies, audio, sound recordings, architectural works, etc. You can find copyright laws in the tiniest of places and not even realize it. One of her examples was *tombstones: if you take a pic-*



Cath Madden Trindle

ture of your family tombstone in a cemetery or place the picture on a website, is it copyrighted? Well, it could be if the cemetery is privately owned and nowadays many of them are privately owned. Also you can find copyrights within the Internet. You can write someone a letter (no matter how personal), send it and the minute it leaves your hands it is considered copyrighted.

Historians often put down genealogists because of copyrights. So, there is a concern for the genealogist who publishes his/her original works be it in book form, photographs, newsletter articles, indexes, artwork. Just because *you* own it doesn't give you the right to use it. And Societies should be the model for their members.

Sections 107 through 119 of the Copyright Act establish limitations on the rights of the copyright holder. One most likely to affect Genealogical Societies is that of *Fair Use*:

- The purpose and character of the use
- The nature of the copyrighted work
- The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
- The effect of the use upon the potential market

for or value of the copyrighted work.

Copying a sentence from a full article or book would nearly always be considered fair use as long as there was no loss to the copyright holder. Copying an article in full would seldom be considered fair use. Use your common sense to help you decide and remember there is no harm in contacting that person for their permission.

Items you can not copyright: titles, short slogans, symbols, principles, concepts, processes, facts, common info (e.g. phone books), publications of works in the public domain, lists or tables taken from public (government) documents, free-ware or other common sources or works in the public domain.

The *Length of Copyright* is broken down like this:

- Before 1923 - considered in the public domain
- Before 1978 - Required inclusion of name, year, and word or symbol for copyright
 - Initially good for 28 years, renewable for up to 67 years (with last 20 years added in 1998)
 - 1923-1963 Maximum of 95 years, but only if copyright was renewed
 - 1964-1977 Automatic renewal of copyright - life of author plus 67 years or 2002 whichever is greater
- After Jan. 1, 1978
 - Life of the creator plus 70 years, or until 12/31/2047 whichever is later
 - If more than one creator, the one who lives longest dictates life of copyright
 - Multiple works and anonymous works are treated like multiple authors
 - Corporate Authorship - shorter of 95 years from publication or 120 years from creation

Protect Your Copyright and register with the US Copyright Office: www.copyright.gov

(Registration is about \$45.00 for your work.) You can also mail yourself a copy of your works but DO NOT OPEN the envelope. Keep it sealed. Or you can mail a friend a copy; or even have your copy notarized. Dating material is important. If

you have your work copyrighted you can recover profits if someone misuses your work.

Obtaining Permission (Clearance Center):
www.copyright.com/cc/home.do

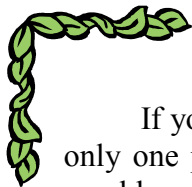
Who Owns the Copyright:

- Section 101 of the copyright statute defines a “work made for hire as: 1) a work prepared by an employee within the scope of his/her employment; or 2) a work specially ordered or commissioned for use as a contribution to a collective work.
- Authors of a joint work are co-owners
- Copyright in each separate contribution to a periodical or other collective work is distinct from copyright in the collective work as a whole and vests initially with the author of the contribution.
- Mere ownership does not give the possessor the copyright.
- Minors may claim copyright, but state laws may regulate the business dealings involving copyrights owned by minors.

She also touched briefly on foreign governments and copyrights amounting to “foreign governments usually retain their copyrights.”

Cath had a very nice four page guide on copyrighting which was sent over our Society’s internet news through Ed Mason. It is well worth having if you are planning a family history of some kind. Included in that guide is a list of websites worth going to and a list of reading materials. Also included is a Genealogical Standards & Guidelines - (recommended by the National Genealogical Society).

A final word: “Acknowledging the source of copyrighted material does not substitute for permission to use it,” says Cath.



If you were going to die soon and had only one phone call you could make, who would you call and what would you say? And why are you waiting?

~Stephen Levine



President's Message
By Ed Mason

In the last couple of months, as we have come to understand why the man who invests all our money is called a broker, we are left with a couple of things to celebrate. While the financial system may be faltering, genealogical on-line resources are rapidly expanding and, locally, we are doing our best to stay ahead of the times. We've witnessed some significant accomplishments in our evolution. The one that I would like to talk about today is our Website.

With a lot of outside technical help, I got our website launched in the Fall just two years ago. It was a modest effort and I was struggling to keep it maintained and updated. Furthermore, I was not sufficiently familiar with the software that I was using. Let me explain at this point that web pages are created in a language called HTML. Either you learn how to program in that language, or you use HTML translator software. I was pursuing the latter course and was in continuous need of outside assistance. When I was nominated as President the next spring our website’s future was in doubt, as I would have to spend too much time on my other obligations. Then, during a break in a meeting, Bob Venter approached me and indicated that he would be willing to provide some help. The patient (the website) had been near death, but within weeks it was up and walking around. Little did I realize that the doctor (Bob) was an expert programmer of HTML. Now with a year and a half of dedicated attention, we have a website responding like an Olympic athlete. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have such an important function in such good hands and not having to worry about the technical details. I’m not even going to mention that Bob is also doing an outstanding job on our Newsletter.

The history might be interesting, but what does the website do for our Society? I’ll list the main things:

It puts us on the map, literally. Try Googling any search of genealogy organizations in California and you will quickly find a link to our society.

Once the searcher finds our site, they learn more about us, like what we do, when and where we have meetings - and they can download a membership form.

Our own members can easily keep up-to-date on our meetings. If you forgot who the speaker and subject will be at coming meetings, look on the website. Other topics include: special interest group schedules, history, contacts, archived issues of our Newsletter, member publications, member surname research, individual help and photographs of our members.

Our library reference materials in the Handbook only get updated once a year. On the Website, they can be updated more frequently.

We have been getting compliments about our website, even some from other societies who have had theirs up much longer. But, we should not be satisfied to rest on our laurels. We are thinking about adding frequently used forms and investigating if it will be possible to fill them in online while retaining the completed forms in a digital format. Certainly there are other things that we can do. We look forward to receiving input from you.

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



SRVGS CALENDAR

November 2008

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

December 2008

- 2 **Tuesday - 10:00 am.** Annual Cookie Exchange at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville. All are invited.

NOTE

The San Ramon Valley Genealogy Society will NOT have a General Meeting during the month of December.

NOTE

Special Interest Groups of The San Ramon Valley Genealogy Society will NOT meet during the month of December.

Annual Cookie Exchange!

In lieu of our usual monthly meetings, which are not held in December, the society holds an annual Cookie Exchange. This year it will be held on **December 2, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville. Check your society Handbook for the address.

Everyone is invited to bring their favorite cookies and share them with the rest of the group. In exchange they will be able to pick up samples from the others to bring home to the family. A good time is had by all and it is a great way to start off the holiday season. Hope to see you there.

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, November 18 after the general meeting at about 12:30 pm at the home of Barbara Johnson in Danville. 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 November 20th. Please note that this is the **third Thursday, one week before Thanksgiving**. They meet from 10:00 am until noon 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 on Wednesday, November 19th at the home of Fran Schweitzer in Walnut Creek. Please note that

this is the **third Wednesday, the week before Thanksgiving**. They will also gather for a German cookie exchange at the home of Helen Odegard on Wednesday December 17th in Alamo. Everyone get your recipes out! Helen Odegard is the contact person for this group. For more information, please contact her at 932-6796 or e-mail shodegard@att.net.



IRISH – This special interest group will meet November 12th (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 November 13th (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.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 11 November, Tuesday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society will have one of its regular meetings at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. David Lowell will speak about "An American Story - The History of Abram Bradbury Lowell and His Family."
- 15 November, Saturday 9:30 am to 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.
- 6 December, Saturday 10 am to 4 pm** The library of the California Genealogical Society is open free to non-members. It is located at 2201 Broadway in Oakland. Computers, printers, scanners and a copier are provided for patron use; personal laptops are welcome. The Library has DSL and wireless connections. Lockers and a small lunch area are within the Library. Ink pens may not be used. The nearest BART station is 19th Street. Visit www.calgensoc.org for more complete information about their library and their holdings.



EDUCATION

This is from an NARA Veteran's Records Workshop flier:

National Archives and Records Administration--
Pacific Region
(San Francisco)
1000 Commodore Drive
San Bruno, CA 94066-2350

Please join us for an informative discussion about how the National Archives can assist veterans, their family members and the public:

- Find out how veterans and their family members (next of kin) can request records stored at the Military Personnel Records Center in St. Louis.
- Learn about military records in the National Archives Headquarters and Regional Archives.
- Receive information on requesting medals.

When: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon, Wednesday,
November 12, 2008

What: Veteran's Records Workshop

Who: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Pacific Region

Where: NARA, Pacific Region
1000 Commodore Drive
San Bruno, CA 94066

<http://www.archives.gov/pacific/san-francisco/index.html>

Public info: (650) 238-3501

or sanbruno.archives@nara.gov

There's one sad truth in life I've found
While journeying east and west -
The only folks we really wound
Are those we love the best.
We flatter those we scarcely know,
We please the fleeting guest,
And deal full many a thoughtless blow
To those who love us best.

~Ella Wheeler Wilcox



FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWS

Believe it or not, we are planning for Christmas vacation already. If you would like to get some microfilm research done before the holidays – order soon. Films are taking about 7 – 10 days to arrive once ordered. If by chance, your film arrives and is due to go back sometime during the Christmas break, you will be given an automatic 4 week extension so that you do not loose any viewing time. The Family History Center will be closed from November 24 - 28 for Thanksgiving and from December 23 – January 5 for Christmas.

Linda Bailey



Here is another GenealogyGem from Lisa Cooke.

BIRTHDAY ALARM

Here's a gem that will prevent you from ever missing another relatives birthday. It's a great website called BirthdayAlarm.com. I started using it last year, and boy has it bailed me out more than once.

You just enter the names, birth dates, and anniversaries into your free Birthday Alarm account. Then about a week or so ahead of time, Birthday Alarm will send you an email reminding you of the event. And in case you're a procrastinator, Birthday Alarm will email you again a few days ahead just to make sure you've made note of it.

You can very easily send greeting cards from the website, or you can simply use the alarm service so you'll never forget another birthday or anniversary. Now you'll never be late sending out cards again. And sending a note or card on birthdays is a great way to stay in touch with those more distant relatives and contacts that you've made through your genealogy research.

But why not take it a step further? By entering some of your prominent ancestors' birthdays into Birthday Alarm and having it notify you in advance, you could make note of the event in your family newsletter or website. Or you could use it as a prompt to send an email to a list of con-

tacts that you've worked with over the years to research that ancestor. Another great way to stay connected and let folks know that you appreciate them.

If you have children, why not use the ancestor's Birthday Alarm to generate a dinnertime conversation about that ancestor on their special day. You could have a photo displayed on the table, tell stories about them, and teach your children about the history of that side of your family.

Sometimes we just need a nudge to do things that strengthen our families and www.BirthdayAlarm.com is a great tool for accomplishing that. So be creative, and try it out.

And don't forget, my birthday is February 5. my favorite color is pink, any kind of jewelry is a great present choice for me.....

By Lisa Louise Cooke, The Genealogy Gems



Oktoberfest

The German group held their annual Oktoberfest luncheon October 22nd at the home of Carol Huvane. Everyone agreed the food gets better every year. Our menu consisted of Brats, red cabbage, German potato salad, apple-sauce, German cheese, mustard, homemade pretzels and German beer. Desert was Bee Hive Cake. We are already thinking about how we can improve the menu for next year. Visiting and the telling of stories was enjoyed by all. All our thanks go to Carol for hosting it again this year.

"I promise you that if you will keep your journals and records, they will indeed be a source of great inspiration to your families, to your children, your grandchildren, and others, on through the generations. Each of us is important to those who are near and dear to us and as our posterity read of our life's experiences, they, too, will come to know and love us. And in that glorious day when our families are together in the eternities, we will already be acquainted."

Spencer W. Kimball



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:

BIRTHDAY ALARM	6
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	4
SRVGS EVENTS	4
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	5
OTHER EVENTS	5
COOKIE EXCHANGE	4
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
EDUCATION	6
FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY NEWS	6
GERMAN SIG OKTOBERFEST	7
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3

BIRTH DATE CALCULATOR

All of us have probably had the experience of finding a death record of an ancestor which gives the date of death and the deceased's age in years, months, and days. For example; "John Smith died on January 23, 1758, at the age of 63 years, 3 months, and 27 days." So, the question is "When was he born?" I'm sure some of us have gotten pretty good at calculating birth dates from this type of information. But I'm also sure others still have trouble with the actual mechanics of the calculation.

But, as you might guess, help is out there on the web. Just go to:

<http://www.ovs-genealogy.com/tools/>

and click on *Calculate Birth Date*.

There the calculator will tell you that our John Smith was born on Sep. 27, 1694. You should add this link to your Favorites or Book-mark list for ready reference and never have to worry about this type of calculation again.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL