



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVIII No. 1, June - 2012



THIS MONTH – June 19, 2012
“Clues leading to Ancestral Villages “
Presented by: Patrick Lofft



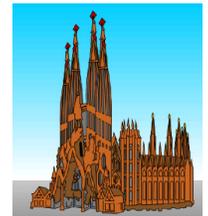
Patrick's discussion and slide show will acquaint us with the variety of American records that he researched to learn the names of European and Asian villages from which ancestors migrated across the seas. His hints may lead others to track down similarly archived information in American records.

Patrick's interest in Genealogy dates back over 50 years to his early days when he did not even know that hobbyists around the nation had already developed standard forms for Pedigree charts and Family Group Sheets. Over the intervening years, he has advanced from maintaining his records with a number 2 pencil and pink pearl eraser through a multitude of genealogy computer data bases. He currently uses The Master Genealogist version 8.

Patrick earned his B. S. in Business Administration at Canisius College, Buffalo, New York. He served two and a half years in military service at Fort Bliss, Texas as liaison officer to foreign national air defense missile battalions in training from NATO and Military Assistance Program countries of the Middle East and Far East.



From the May Meeting
"Church Records: How to Tell if They are Lying "
Speaker: Richard Ferman Reporter: Russ Erickson



SRVGS education session, May 2012, by Richard Ferman, former teacher, involved with SeniorNet, a site by IBM retirees, teaching courses for computers. His site for the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society--www.scchgs.org.

His family has 3 generations of single children, rather linear. Each religious group created records to identify its own members, especially

after the Reformation put churches into opposition in the 1400s. The records were maintained and owned by the churches or by their ministers unless under government mandate. Too many minister kept records were eventually destroyed. Always check local state archives for church records when not available via the church. The Pennsylvania and New Jersey Archives especially seem well maintained and good sources. ►

His tale: the records of Jeremiah Zeamer who walked the churches of East Pennsylvania for decades in the late 1800s, copying their records. The little left might be found on line at the University of Pennsylvania. Much of his work was destroyed by a woman, Virginia, who disliked and did not believe church records involving her ancestors. She had little education, but centered on a supposed physician ancestor medical missionary to China in the 1880s. She felt church records did not support her concept of her ancestors, so instituted a law suit to have the portions of Zeamer's records involving her family expunged. The church records and census records disproved her theory.

Presbyterian churches required a paper of recommendation from a prior church to become a member in those 1800s days and the church records could not be seen by one outside the church. Virginia paid \$25 monthly to a church member not to allow the records involving "her family" to be seen. Mr. Ferman managed to copy Mr Zeamer's records #32 before Virginia obtained it by court order to "study" for her suit. She proceeded to burn it; an illegal act, but evidently not punished. The records involved a McCandless, one of Mr. Ferman's ancestors. Virginia had mixed her families. To prove the truth, marriage, church records, newspapers, tax, land, divorce, criminal, and institutional records were reviewed, but no facts found. An ancestor in question, George, owned a bar and grill; not nice for a Presbyterian. A book, "Taverns of Cumberland County" contained proof of his ancestor as an owner with dates and a place. He found good genealogical leads in orphan's court records! George died after his wife, leaving his adult children "orphans". They were listed in orphan's court records in a suit brought by his creditors making sure the children could not leave the county until his debts were paid.

Despite Virginia's attempt to prevent church records from being known, Mr. Ferman was able to have his family history accepted by both the D.A.R. (via his sister) and S.A.R. The S.A.R. was very helpful in evaluations, sorting, and recommendations of his facts. The DAR had turned down 8 McCandless attempts to join prior to accepting his sister via his genealogical findings. ■



President's Message

By Dick Finn

Greetings fellow San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society members. I look forward to serving you as your president this coming year. We have a great society and with your help we can make it even better. I think that all of you are aware of the officers and board members that help guide our society but are all of you aware of the many others that help make are society what it is? We have a couple of dozen members who help with the newsletter, coordinate our educational programs, do duty as our historian, hospitality, library, membership, publicity, website, and all of our Special Interest Groups. Here is where you can help. A number of these activities could use a little extra help. Please contact any of the board members and let them know of your interest in helping the society move forward. The board would also like to hear of any suggestions you have to make the society even more useful, not only to our members but also to our community.

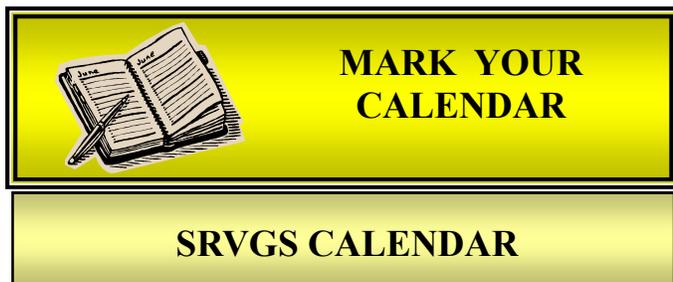


In Memoriam



MILLIE FREITAS
March 7, 1919 -- May 26, 2012

We were sorry to hear the sad news of Millie's passing at the June Board Meeting. Millie joined SRVGS in July of 1987 as Millie Wing and was active in helping those with Portuguese ancestry and education classes. In May of 1995 she became President of SRVGS for a two year term. During her Presidency some exciting things took place: we began exploring the possibility of our book collection being housed at the Danville Library; we seriously began the search for a new meeting place and also began a search for affordable insurance. All of these goals were achieved with the hard work of many people. In September of 1996, we began meeting at the Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital, our insurance was in place and books would soon be in place at the Danville Library. Millie celebrated our 25th anniversary with the SRVGS members in May of 2010. ■



SRVGS CALENDAR

June 2012

- 5 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of the new President, Dick Finn in Livermore
- 19 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From the I-680 Freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 1/2 miles.

July 2012

- 3 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be held at a location to be announced.
- 17 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

June 2012, Indexing Project - News

Our winner for April has repeated in May..... With 1,520 points, Phil Seelinger indexed with the highest score in May, 2012. Vern Segelke was right behind him with 1400. Diane George was 3rd with 1320. Way to go everybody! New member Avonia Dondero, earned 600 points. There are some really active indexers in the U.S. You can find them in a Society Contest Leader Board at <https://the1940census.com/society/society-dashboard/>.

I heard that the 1940 census is more than 1/2 finished which means the entire US may be indexed within two months. California was a priority and has been 96% indexed so far. Please ►

sign up for Familysearch.org, then go to <http://1940census.com> and become an indexer. Of course, join the SRVGS Indexing group when you sign up, or email me and I'll transfer you in. My email address is williamcgeorge@gmail.com

June 2012 Special Interest Groups

We are unfortunately going to have to discontinue the Macintosh SIG group as too few people attend to make it practical (1 - 2 people/meeting). If there is demand, it will be resurrected. If you want to learn about Macs and Genealogy, please try the <http://macgen.org> group that meets at the Oakland Family History Center on the 4th Saturday at 1:30pm.

If you want to do country research, there are many volunteers at the Danville Family History Center that can help you with their area of knowledge. For example Linda Bailey who volunteers on Wed. afternoons is familiar with Scandinavian research. Suzanne Johnston (Thursday afternoon) is familiar with English and Southern U.S. research. There is a document that lists FHC research area experts. The URL is <http://srvgensoc.org/srvgs-member-resources.pdf>. It's also clickable by going to our web site (<http://srvgensoc.org>) and clicking on "About SRVGS", then clicking on "Special Interest Groups", and then "Member Resources".

July, 2012 Family History Expo

For those of you wanting to further your "Special Interests", Family History Expos is putting on the upcoming Northern California Family History Expo, at the Crowne Plaza in Sacramento on Fri-Sat, July 6-7, 2012. They have eight class sessions with 6 topics each session. There is a lot to choose from like DNA research, Family History Book publishing, Roots Magic, Scanning and Photo retouching, Record type research, country research like English, Irish, German, and much more. Sign up by June 5th for an early bird discount. <http://www.familyhistoryexpos.com/>, click on "Expos". They have an exhibit hall and hotel rooms are a reasonable \$69 at the Crowne Plaza. Maybe I'll see you there. ■

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



DNA - This Special Interest Group will meet **Thursday June 14th (second Thursday)**, at **10 am** at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. The theme will be "Female DNA Testing". Bob Venter is the contact person for the group. Please contact him to express your interest in the group. You may contact him via e-mail, rjventer@comcast.net or phone (925) 454-9919. Bob has a Venter family web site, <http://www.venter.org>, from which you may view family DNA information and from which he wants to gather information for the Venter Surname Study.



MacGen – MACINTOSH GENEALOGY GROUP

This group will no longer meet in Alamo. Macintosh owners are encouraged to attend the Oakland Regional Family History Center MacGen group that meets on the fourth Saturday at 1:30 pm. The topic in June is "Entering Events in Reunion." You may also visit the following web site: <http://www.macgen.org> Bill George, Special Interest Group Coordinator, is the contact person for this Group. You may contact Bill by phone (510) 538-2449 or via e-mail, williamcgeorge@Gmail.com.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday June 27th at 10 am (the fourth Wednesday)**. The German group will

meet at the home of Susan Hanck in Walnut Creek. The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact her by phone 932-6796 or via e-mail, shodegard@att.net for more information.



IRISH - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday June 13th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am.**, at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group. You may contact Patty via e-mail, russpat@comcast.net or phone 229-0889.



LEGACY SOFTWARE – The Legacy SIG is scheduled to meet on **June 25th (Fourth Monday) from 1-3 PM** at the FHC in Alamo. The subject we are going to work on this month is "Reports with Legacy". If anyone is interested in joining this group, contact Sharon Clay at sharonclay@comcast.net, or 925-462-4518. We have been learning a lot about adding data into Legacy, and though most of us have been involved with genealogy for many years, we are finding that Legacy is a very powerful tool to help us get our information properly documented. This is a genealogy software users group. Sharon Clay is the contact person for this Group.



PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday June 21st at 10:00 am (the third Thursday of the month)** at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville. Publishing a book about your family's story need not be a mysterious process. The Publishing Group invites you to monthly meetings where you will learn the ends and outs of publishing. This informal group of members will offer advice, encouragement, suggestions and guide you to publishing sources as you develop your book. Members that are interested in joining should let Francie know ahead of time that they plan to attend. For further information, contact Francie at 837-9382 or e-mail, frances_lloyd@comcast.net



The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding® ("TNG") –

This group has been organized for the purpose of allowing members to create their own web site from which their family history data can be found and shared. Their next meeting will be held **Tuesday June 26th at 10 am (the fourth Tuesday)** at the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. "Timeline Events" will be the theme. This is a powerful way to manage and display your genealogy data on your own web site, all without generating a single page of static HTML. Your information is dynamically displayed in attractive fashion. Linda Bailey is the contact person. For further information contact her by phone: (925) 552-5920 or at her email address: baileylinda100@gmail.com. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 15 June Friday 1:15 to 3 pm** The Mount Diablo Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting at the US Bank in the Rossmoor Shopping Center. Tracy Patent will speak about "The *Rose Hill Cemetery*."
- 20 June Wednesday 7:30 pm.** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will hold their regular monthly meeting at the Grace Lutheran Church Hall, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. "Church of England Parish Records - more than baptisms, marriages and burials" will be presented by Christine Green. Christine is completing her PLCGS in English and American Records, is a member of Progen 13 and a graduate of Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Anyone living in the UK prior to the 1830s is likely to be found in Church of England Parish Records, even non-conformists, because the Parish had a civil function as well as an ecclesiastical one. The parish was run by officers and everyone was required to pay rates which funded the various parish functions. There are a rich variety of records for the indigent, who received poor relief from the parish. Wealthier individuals may have served as parish officers. For more information, visit their web site: www.smcgs.org ■

EDUCATION

Now's the time to plan for a great summer of genealogy.

 The California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.californiaancestors.org will present a summer series of evening classes – **Best Genealogy Websites – Tips & Tricks**. It includes seven weekly 90-minute sessions. Register on-line at the CGS site. The cost is \$40 for seven weeks, including course materials; \$50 for ►

non-members. Class size is limited to the first twenty-five who register.

- June's First Saturday Free Class, **Find Your Family: Intro to Genealogy**, will be on June 2, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Register online.
- There will be a special event, **A Day with the Photo Detective, Maureen Taylor**, on Wednesday, June 6, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette.
- Another presentation, **On the Street Where We Live**, will be on Saturday, June 16, 2012, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- The monthly **RootsMagic Special Interest Group** will meet on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 6:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
- A discussion on **Using Census Records and the 1940 Census** will take place on Thursday, June 21, 2012, 6:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
- CGS's final presentation of the month will be **Stump the Panel** on Thursday, June 28, 2012, 6:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Please check the CGS website for details on all these events.



The National Archives (NARA) <http://www.archives.gov/pacific/archives/san-francisco/workshops.html> in San Bruno will present **Military - Part I Revolutionary War to Civil War** on Friday, June 8th from 9 am -1 pm. This session will be taught by Rose Mary Kennedy. **Military Part II** will be presented on July 20th. To register and reserve a space, for both or either session please contact: Rose Mary Kennedy, Phone: (650) 238-3485, Email: sanbruno.archives@nara.gov. Fees are \$15 payable in advance. Please note that a minimum of 12 people must have registered by the week of the workshop. If 12 people have not registered in advance, the workshop will be cancelled and no fees will be charged.



Acalanes Adult Education www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted will be offering two classes in genealogy this summer. ►

Genealogy: Beginning will meet on Fridays from June 22th to July 27th from 1-3pm. Del **Computers and Genealogy** will be held on Fridays from 10am -12pm. Both classes will meet on the Del Valle Campus. Each class requires a \$40 fee.

About Our Members

New Members

Please extend a *Warm Welcome* to our newest members!

Gloria Lotten
 1263 Canyon Side Ave.
 San Ramon CA 94582
 925-866-1619
GloriaLotten@gmail.com

Carol Mackey
 32 Sterling Drive
 Danville CA 94526
 925-719-4410
celainm@aol.com

Elaine Yee
 P.O. Box 697
 Diablo CA 94528
 925-820-1285
yeepurplelady@yahoo.com

News of other Members

Also a BIG WELCOME to the newly elected SRVGS Board members. Thank you for supporting our Society with your talents, time, help, and new ideas.

On a much sadder note, we were so sorry to hear from Ileen Peterson, our 'Bits and Pieces' correspondent, that her husband, Michael Sites, recently passed away following complications from heart surgery. We send our sympathy to her and to her family.

We were also sorry to learn of the passing of our long standing member, Millie Freitas, and send our condolences to her family. See her ►

obituary by Patty Erickson on page 2.

This new column is a result of a discussion at one of our Board meetings. It was decided that members not able to attend the General meetings should be made aware of the latest happenings in our membership. Some of our friendships go way back to the beginning of the SRVGS

What better way is there to reach out to everyone than in the Newsletter! If you would like to share some news, spread some cheer, reach out in some way, or just see a need for some help, please contact one of the Board members or Sandra Burns, Membership Liaison. Let us know your thoughts on this.

PS. Please remember to get permission of the person about whom you are sharing health news. ■

THE DASH

I went to the cemetery one evening
 To visit the grave of "Grandmother"
 The marker noted the years of her life
 from one end - - to the other.
 The first was the date of her birth.
 The last filled my eyes with tears.
 But to me the part that mattered most
 Was the dash between those years.
 For that dash represents all the years
 That she was alive on earth.
 And now there's none to recall
 What that little line is worth.
 She didn't leave us a diary
 And never wrote journals, I was told.
 But she did leave us a box of pictures
 Without names, All musty. And old.
 So what will you leave your grandchildren?
 Old pictures? Your car or some cash?
 Will your take your legacy with you?
 Or will you tell them how you spent your dash?

Merrill Buessing ILR Fall '00
 Peoria County Gen Soc Newsletter
 Vol. 34 Issue 9 May 2008

A Gentle Reminder

A new Society year started on June 1st, and annual membership dues are now past due. For those who have not yet sent in their membership renewal, please take a moment to send in your check, **now**, while you are thinking about it. We really value your continued membership, but ask, should you decide not to continue, to please advise our Membership VP, Ed Mason: edmason@sbcglobal.net

Quarterly Report from the Tri-Valley History Council

By: Kathy Javdani

SRVG is a member of the Tri-Valley History Council. The Council is a network of local history centers, historic sites, libraries, museums and genealogical societies whose fields of interest include the eastern part of Alameda County and the southeastern part of Contra Costa County, California. Its members meet once a quarter to share their recent accomplishments and upcoming events. The May meeting was held at the main Livermore Library. As usual it highlighted some of the wide variety of activities in our area.

On the local genealogy/history scene, the Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society (L-AGS) www.l-ags.org, is in the process of converting its books to digital form. The group currently has 25 books available for purchase through Lulu.com. A new book on Livermore High School yearbooks with updates of the graduates up to the late 1920's is almost ready to go to press. Dick Finn hopes to complete his work on Civil War veterans in the Tri-Valley by year's end. Both L-AGS and SRVGS are again planning to support genealogy at the local libraries in October. This is a really rewarding volunteer activity that doesn't take much time or expertise. Watch for more details at the upcoming SRVGS meetings. The Museum of the San Ramon Valley's (<http://museumsrv.org>) current exhibit "Gold Fever" on the Gold Rush continues until mid-July. The ►

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President:	Dick Finn	925-447-9652
	e-mail:	president@srvgensoc.org
1st V.P.	Russ Erickson	925-229-0889
2nd V.P. Program:		
	Rae Atwood	925-376-7527
3rd V.P. Membership (Acting):		
	Ed Mason	925-838-7848
Recording Secretary:		
	Mary Tom	925-376-2756
Corresponding Secretary:		
	Jan Mangold	925-820-5901
Treasurer:	Vern Segelke	925-838-8570
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 trvrl@sbcglobal.net

Contra Costa Historical Society <http://www.cocohistory.com> in Martinez is now presenting "Before BART". The exhibit includes photos of the electric trains that ran through Contra Costa County.

Located just south of Livermore, The Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area (CSVRA) http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1172 is open year round for camping and hiking with the biking season from October 1st – April 30th. The park is currently requesting ideas for use of its new Alameda property.

Forest Home Farm http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1172 is planning a busy summer. Its First Saturday Program will include Beekeeping in June, Keeping Cool Before Electricity in July, and an old fashioned Ice Cream Social in August. In addition, in June as a fundraiser, the Roll Players will be performing acts from Tennessee Williams' plays.

Please check the listed websites for more information for details on these and other activities. Enjoy your summer! ■

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**San Ramon Valley
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