



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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THIS MONTH – March 19, 2013
“Writing Your Family History One Byte at a Time“
Presented by: Susan Goss Johnston



Have you been busy collecting stories and facts of several lines of ancestors and are buried under paper? Have you looked at the mess and closed the door wondering where to begin? Susan has a workable solution to your problem. She will guide us in methods to solve this conundrum by helping us to "Write Our Family History One Byte at a Time"

Susan Goss Johnston was a member of Yale University's first undergraduate class of women, earning a B.A. in Physics. After graduation she worked in Medical Research while studying voice at the Peabody Conservatory. She has been involved in teaching and researching genealogy for over thirty years. She presently teaches basic and advanced genealogy courses at Las Positas College in Livermore.

Susan has spoken to our group on several topics during the last few years. In 2010, she spoke on "Land and Property Records", and "Civil War Research: It's More Than Compiled Service And Pension Records" in 2012. ■

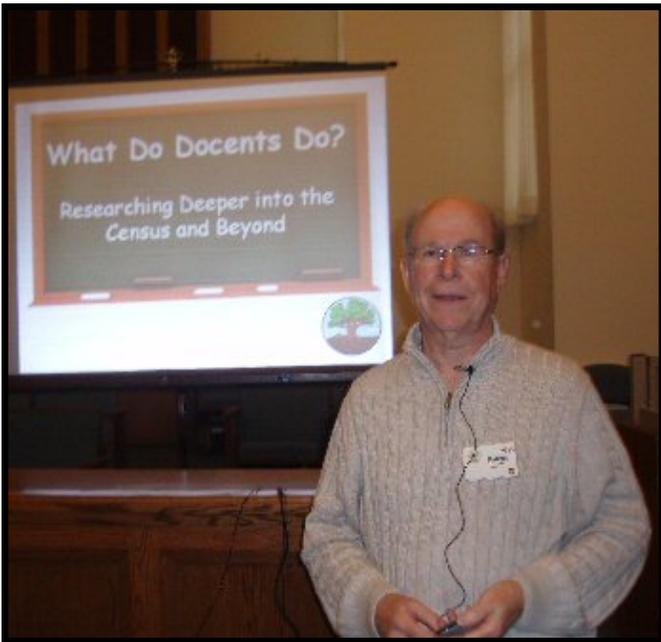


From the February Meeting
"Searching Beyond the Census "
Speaker: Patrick Lofft Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Our own member, Patrick Lofft, spoke to us on "deeper digging." He also gave us a handout with other places to check out individuals which you might be looking for in your own search. Patrick is a docent at the Pleasanton Library aiding people in their searches. His also edits L-AGS *Roots Tracer*. In case you don't realize what docents do – they aid researcher's queries when looking for help, and they are free!

Patrick says there are all different ways to help look for individuals which you seek. First off, you have to know the name and dates of events which you seek - so do your homework first. By using City Directories, local newspaper websites, or just a familiar name which keeps cropping up in your research is a way to start. You should know the city/town your ancestor might have been in at one time. Then go online to that local newspaper for that name or the "event" city. You will ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Patrick Lofft

have to scan the articles within that paper, but you could find something to build a history on. Also, that particular City Directory can give you an insight as to where your ancestor lived (as long as you have the name). The directory usually lists their profession, who lived with them, how long they were at that address, then follow the address by years in the directories (that would be your timeline).

You can contact the county or city libraries for that city, the genealogy society for that city, the historical society for that city.

A big help seems to be Google Books (www.books.google.com/). Patrick said he was searching for the surname of "Vivion" and found it on Google Books. He had to read through his find (which took time) but it was a find nonetheless. It may not be 100% accurate but it's an avenue for you.

The U.S. Census of 1890 is almost non-existent, but to search it you can go to the U.S. Census1890 Veterans Schedule which holds surviving soldiers, sailors and surviving widows. If you know where your ancestor was during the Civil War (e.g. the 106th of Ohio), there can be schedules for their service. (<http://www.civilwarindex.com/army.html>) If that person was a volunteer, many units (regiments) had ►

their own handwritten history and rosters. Patrick's example was a soldier in the 106th, was shot and buried in a named cemetery. So you can go that city's cemetery and see that gravestone, perhaps.

It is important to read the census correctly, absorb what you have read in order to choose the avenue to proceed down.

Fold3.com website (which used to be Footnote.com) includes 31 city directories that have not been scanned by OCR and ought to be browsed alphabetically. This can be a little slower but rewarding. You should start with the most current directory of that city, say 1898, and go backwards following your ancestor as far back as you can. When there is a change in address try to follow other names at that address also. Items can turn up giving you clues as to where to try next. Ancestry also has city directories. You can browse the California Voters Registry for more clues also.

Patrick told us of a researcher at the Pioneer Cemetery Association in Phoenix, AZ seeking information for a person buried in that cemetery. The cemetery docents found the name in the *Roots Tracer* online index of 1981, and the inquirer needed a copy of the page from *Roots Tracer*.

Another researcher sought a place of birth prior to the 1919 Versailles Treaty, when the European breakup occurred. This presented another problem: which country was this ancestor actually from because the county names had changed after the signed treaty. First shown, he was from the Czech Republic and serving in the U.S. Army, then in 1905 he's listed as being born in Germany, then in 1908 it was just Hungry, and by 1911 he was from Lostomer, Hungry.

Passengers Lists/Manifests can be found at Ancestry.com. Some lists are exactly what you are looking for while others prove to be rather useless for you. But they take a keen eye as you examine each. Patrick showed us one WWII manifest where under the name there appeared to be an "A" plus a number plus a date. The "A" and the number stood for the Alien's Registration. This had been added to the manifest at a later date for that particular person. This gives you another ►

place to check. Alien Registration records can be found at the National Archives (NARA) in San Bruno and Kansas City. It is essential to contact them first before your trip over there. This can be done by phone or just by e-mail.

Patrick ended his talk by telling us you must have an established research plan:

- Seek the known to the unknown
- Collect all facts which you know (vital statistics, family antedotes)
- Pedigrees
- What you know about your ancestors
- Prove or disprove conclusions
- Which records are most likely to provide support for hypothesis
- Create a list of possible sources
- Plan the order in which to consult or visit various repositories, considering the available records and your research needs

And Patrick reminded us again that the Pleasanton Library has quite a large repository of books. One thousand volumes of information available for in-house use and over 100 Genealogy "How To" volumes available for checkout. That might be a good place to start! ■



President's Message

By Dick Finn

For the size of our society we have a lot of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that all of us can take part in. Look for Bill George's article in this issue of the newsletter where he mentions a couple of our newer SIGs. There is even opportunities to start a new SIG that meets the needs of our members. Remember you do not have to be a world class expert to start a SIG - just someone who has a high level of interest.

Look further into our newsletter and you will see a complete listing with information about all of our SIGs. I have to guess there is at least one or two of them that will increase your genealogy skill level. ►

Give them a try. On the other hand if for some reason none of them meet your needs talk to Bill about starting one that does. Remember that when SIGs meet the needs of members of a society it increases the vitality of the society many fold. Go SIGs!! ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

March 2013

- 5 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.
- 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.

April 2013

- 2 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.
- 16 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

SRVGS would like to give back to the Danville Family History Center (FHC) for hosting several of our meetings. One way to give back is by SRVGS members volunteering to be a genealogy docent at the FHC. Most of us know enough to easily assist visitors to the FHC who are interested in genealogy. You can volunteer for as little or as much time as you like. The "shifts" are usually 3 hours. If this sounds attractive to you, ►

please email Carol Parmley, carolparmley@comcast.net, the Director of the FHC. We will also have a signup sheet for volunteers at the SRVGS March General Meeting.

Our newest SIG, Family Tree Maker/Ancestry has had very good attendance (at least 10 people) at the two meetings held, so far. Susan Rush makes sure that members experience both beginning and experienced FTM and Ancestry topics and has a handout every presentation.

The RootsTech Conference is coming up from March 21-23, 2013 at Salt Lake City's Salt Palace. There are wonderful presentations, an Expo Hall and a field trip to the SLC Family History Library. It is so popular, there is talk about "regionalizing", or breaking it up to reduce travel time. Their web site is <http://rootstech.org>.

One person I met at RootsTech last year was James L. Tanner, who is heavily involved in FamilySearch. He is also the author of the "Genealogy's Star" Blog at <http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com>. James is quite prolific with high quality posts, which can be emailed to you daily, for free.

SRVGS is always looking for new SIGS. One that might be popular is a Roots Magic Program SIG. Another might be a Genealogy Search Techniques SIG. If you're interested in being the leader of a SIG on one of these topics or one of your own, please notify me and we'll get it going. You can view information on all our SIGs on our web site at <http://srvgensoc.org/sig.html> ■

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

 **FAMILY TREE MAKER/ANCESTRY** – They will meet **Tuesday, March 26th (the fourth Tuesday) at 10 am** at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. This group focuses on how Family Tree Maker interacts with Ancestry.com. The topic of discussion for this meeting will be: Basic FTM and Ancestry topics and using Google Search for Genealogy. Come join the conversation, keep the group alive and bring your ►

questions. Susan Rush has volunteered to be the coordinator for this group. You may contact her by e-mail gen4you@astound.net or phone 674-0929.



FAMILY SEARCH / FAMILY TREE This new Special Interest Group will meet **Thursday March 14th** (the second Thursday) **at 10 am** at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. The topic for the new FamilySearch SIG will be: "*Adding to your FamilySearch Family Tree*". Persons at the first meeting learned how to register and activate an account for Family Tree. FamilySearch.org is a nonprofit family history organization dedicated to connecting families across generations. **FamilySearch.org** is the largest genealogy organization in the world. Bill George is the coordinator and contact person for this group. You may contact him via e-mail: williamcgeorge@Gmail.com



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday March 27th at 11:30 am (the fourth Wednesday)** at DJ's Bistro in Concord for their spring luncheon. Helen will be calling ahead of time for reservations. **She must know how many plan to attend. Please contact Helen if you plan to join the group for the luncheon.** The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. You may contact her via e-mail, shodegard@att.net or phone 932-6796 for more information.



IRISH - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday March 13th (the second Wednesday) and April 10th 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 – This is a genealogy software users group. This group will meet **Monday March 25th (the Fourth Monday) at 1 - 3 pm** at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. ►

The topic for this meeting will be “*10 things you didn't know you could do with Legacy, Obituaries and Death Certificates*”. If anyone is interested in joining this group, contact Sharon Clay at sharonlclay@comcast.net, or 925-462-4518.



PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday March 21st at 10:00 am** (the third Thursday of the month) at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville. This Group invites you to monthly meetings where you will learn the ins and outs of publishing your family History. 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 that they plan to attend. For further information, contact Francie at 837-9382 or e-mail: frances_lloyd@comcast.net ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 12 March Tuesday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogical society will hold one of its regular meetings at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Their web address is: <http://www.l-ags.org> Tim Cox of the California Genealogical Society will talk about Fun Tools to help Genealogists Work Smarter. Tim Cox has been a family historian and genealogist for more than 20 years. He is the past Education and Events Coordinator for the California Genealogical Society and Library.
- 16 March Saturday 1:30 pm** A Macintosh Genealogy (MacGen) group will meet at The Oakland Family Search Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue in Oakland. They will explain how citations are added to Reunion Data. You will learn how to easily add citations to multiple events and also see how to format the citations on reports. They will also cover several free ways to add cloud storage to your system, by ex-

plaining Dropbox, Google Drive and Skydrive. Visit www.macgen.org for further details.

- 16 March Saturday 9:00 am to 3:45 pm.** The Sacramento Genealogy Society is sponsoring a seminar at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church featuring Thomas MacEntee creator of GeneaBloggers. He will present four beginner level topics: Building a research Toolbox, Internet Archive, social networking and Wonderful uses for unusual tools. Early Bird registration will have ended on March 1. Registration fee will be \$35 after March 1 and no registration will be available at the door. Visit <http://www.rootcellar.org/> for further information.
- 19 March Tuesday 6:15 pm** The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical society will hold one of its regular meetings in the Cedar Room of the Santa Clara Central Park library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. Jim Riley will present the story of his research for the family of Donald Reilly, a Santa Clara airman who died when his plane was shot down over the small town of Lisse, Holland during WWII. Visit www.scchgs.org for further information.

Various March - During the month, the California Genealogical Society in Oakland will have special interest group meetings for San Francisco research, Roots Magic software, a field trip, and a seminar as well as their general meeting. Visit <http://www.californiaancestors.org/> for further detailed information, or see our ‘Education’ column on the next page.

- 27 April Saturday 9 am to 4 pm** The Sonoma County Genealogical Society presents their Spring Seminar at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, Hwy 101 at River Road in Santa Rosa. The Seminar features Barbara Renick. Her topics will include: Cloning your Family Tree on the Internet, Online tools for Genealogists and Overcoming Idiosyncrasies of Database Sites. Registration at the door will be ►

\$35. You may pre-register by April 10. For more information go to <http://www.scgsonline.org>.

4 May Saturday 8 am to 4:30 pm The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will sponsor an all day seminar at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church. The theme is *My German Roots: A Festival of German Genealogists* presented by Dr. Roger P Minert, A.G. and 6 of his BYU colleagues. There is a choice of 21 lectures. The registration fee for non-members will be \$60 to pre-register or \$75 at the door. For further details go to <http://www.sacgergensoc.org> click on spring workshop, then click on the pre-register icon.

8 - 11 May Wednesday thru Saturday The **National Genealogical Society Family History Conference** in Las Vegas, Nevada. Visit www.ngsgenealogy.org or call 1-800-473-0060 ext. 116. The conference will include programs for all skill levels of research experience and will feature tracks on DNA, ethnic research, the law, migration, methodology, the West, women, and more. More than seventy-five nationally recognized speakers will provide over one hundred and fifty lectures on a wide variety of topics. The conference registration brochure, with complete details, is online as a pdf file. ■

EDUCATION

By: *Kathy Javdani*

This upcoming month is filled with all sorts of learning opportunities. Let's get started.



The California Genealogical Society, Californiaancestors.org, began the month with its **First Saturday Intro Class** - Saturday, March 2, 2013, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., with Dick Rees.

- On the second Saturday, March 9th as well as Friday, March 15th, the **City Directory Library** will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ►

- Also on the 9th from 1 – 3 Marisa Louie will present the class **The National Archives and Archives.gov**. Register online.

- You can also join the **Writing Special Interest Group** on Wednesday, March 13th, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- The **San Francisco Special Interest Group** will meet on Saturday, March 16th from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

- On Tuesday, March 19th from 6- 8 pm, Jane Knowles Lindsey will lecture on **FamilySearch.org** at the San Francisco Main Public Library, Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room A, 100 Larkin Street in San Francisco.

- Also on the 19th the **RootsMagic Special Interest Group** will meet from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- Join a field trip to the **California Historical Society** in San Francisco on Wed., March 20th from 10 a.m. – 4 pm. Register online.

- Consider ending the month by attending Robert Jackson's seminar on **French Canadian Research** on Mar. 23rd from 1 - 4 p.m. Register online.



The Oakland Family History Center is offering 22 educational sessions in March!! Please check out the details at the Center's website at https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Oakland_California_Large_Multi-state_Family_History_Center/Class_Schedule



NARA in San Bruno is beginning a series of workshops by Rose Mary Kennedy, genealogy specialist. On Friday, March 9th, **Census Records Research (1790-1940)** will be presented from 10 a.m. – 1p.m. A session on **Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records** will be held on Friday, April 12th, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. All workshops are given at the National Archives at San Bruno located at 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066. For questions or to register and reserve a space contact: Rose Mary ►

Kennedy at 650-238-3488. Fees are \$15 per session payable in advance.



As always there are opportunities to learn from the comfort of your home. Many classes are listed at <https://familysearch.org/learn>. Just click on research courses. The Southern California Genealogical Society <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/> offers free Webinars throughout the year. The first was on Saturday, Mar. 2nd, Lisa Louise Cooke presented "*Time Travel with Google Earth*". The next will be on Wed., Mar 20th, Michael Brophy will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with "*Erin in the USA: Irish Research on This Side of the Atlantic*". If you miss any of these Webinars, you can listen to them any time for free if you are a member of SCGS.

Save the date:

- The Sonoma County Genealogical Society www.smcgs.org Spring Seminar is featuring Barbara Renick on **April 20th**.
- The San Mateo County Genealogical Society www.smcgs.org Spring Seminar will feature D. Joshua Taylor on **May 4th**.
- The SCGS Jamboree 2013 will be held from **June 6th – 9th** in Burbank.
- The Concord FHC "Digging for Your Roots" will be held on **Oct. 19th**.

Enjoy!! ■

Family Genealogy at the Easter Table

This Easter, as your extended family gathers for Easter dinner, please do not forget to share the 1940 US Census images you have found. Use the opportunity of the family being together already to ask questions and getting the older aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents to talk about their early lives. Easter joins Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day as excellent family times to talk about our family history and genealogy. Gather stories, ask about maiden names, and share 1940 Census questions that may have already arisen.

Which of your family members at your Easter gatherings appear in the 1940 Census? ►

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:		
	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

Anyone that is over 72 years old. You may be able to find them among the census images before your Easter family's gathering. Share the images from Enumeration Districts where you know members of your family were located in 1940.

Be sure to get your older relatives to talk about Friends and Neighbors who appear in the census images you are sharing. They will have surprising memories that will add to the family stories you can record and share. These memories will also spur other memories and stories among your family, which are always shared fondly. Remember to engage the young folks among your family in these discussions. This may be just the environment to spark the flame of passion for family history that leads to a life-long interest.

There is still time to invite an elderly aunt or uncle to your family gathering that you may not have reached out to recently. Think about it seriously. Invite them. You may be very pleased that you did.

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

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