



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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THIS MONTH – June 18, 2013

“Roadblocks to Research Due to Assumptions “

Presented by: Lavinia Schwarz



This presentation was developed from Lavinia's own genealogy. While researching her family she missed some of the signposts that eventually led to an unusual and surprising family connection. She will give you some guidelines on how to avoid getting off on the wrong track as well as how she solved her family mystery.

A genealogist since 1999, Lavinia Grace Gilbert Schwarz is a member of the California Genealogical Society's Research and Lookups team where she has also served on the board of directors. She graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a degree in English Literature, then earned a masters at Tufts in education. Schwarz completed the National Institute on Genealogical Research (N.I.G.R.) program in 2008 at the National Archives in Washington D.C. and College Park, Maryland. She has traced her ancestors to France, England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Germany, Cuba and San Domingue (now Haiti). ■



From the May Meeting

“Ohio: Gateway to the West ”

Speaker: Richard Ferman Reporter: Jean Hunt



We have again enjoyed a lively presentation from Mr. Ferman. This time he spoke on how to research in Ohio. Ohio was quite literally the “Gateway to the West”. At the end of the Revolutionary War America was on the brink of expansion because of our new territories in the west. The Appalachian and Adirondack mountain chains proved to be barriers to these Territories. River travel was the best travel choice to reach them. Settlers had to go either through Pennsylvania to the upper forks of the Ohio River then travel west on the Ohio River past the settle-

ments of Zanesville and Chillicothe in Ohio along Zane’s Trace. The other choice was to head west through Virginia via the Natchez trace.

Mr. Ferman, who was a History teacher, proceeded to refresh our knowledge of American history by explaining that different acts of Congress; the first being the surveying of Ohio which enabled the Federal government to open this land up for sale or to entice men to enlist in our military by offering bounty land warrants in lieu of pay. Ohio became a virtual smorgasbord for ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Richard Ferman

those states wanting to use the land as compensation for their war debts and obligations.

The area that was Ohio was divided into a number of sections for different reasons such as the Fire Lands, which were designated as compensation for residents of Connecticut who were burned out of their homes by the British and their Indian allies. The Virginia Military District was land claimed by Virginia and used for their militia as compensation. The Moravian Lands act was to sell land to the Moravians for the Christianization of the Indians. The Connecticut Reserve Tract Company sold land and what wasn't sold was returned to Connecticut. U.S. Military District land pertained to Federal land warrants. The Refugee Tract was for Canadians who had helped America during the war. The Ohio Company and Symmes Purchase were large tracts acquired in blocks for speculation (later laws allowed them to accept Federal land warrants).

Prior to beginning his talk on Researching in Ohio, Mr. Ferman announced that he, in collabo-

ration with the Santa Clara County Historical Society, produced a DVD containing all the Ohio County Histories that no longer had a copyright on them. He would be selling these after the lecture for \$10.00. These county books can be copied by your printer.* The included free CD is a duplicate without the County history books and I am going to throw mine away.

There are fifteen File titles on the DVD and some of the files are quite lengthy. The one titled Ohio: Gateway to the West is 36,794 kb (44pages) and it is this entire program plus the visuals and handouts that were down loaded for last Tuesday's meeting. The file titled Ohio Network of American History & Research Centers (9 pages) is the color coded group map, with names of all the Universities where information is held for that area.

It is worth taking the time to go into each file just to check out the sheer wealth of information he has provided other Ohio researchers

DVD Files:

1. *Book* (actual county histories)
2. *AncestryLibraryEdition Class SCCLAug...*
3. *BellOhioPeriodicals*
4. *BellOhioSupplementals*
5. *FamilyandTown*
6. *FREE BOOKS* (URLs 6 pgs)
7. *LDSLibraryCatalog*
8. *LectureHandOut*
9. *Library Bell Books*
10. *List of counties in Ohio*
11. *Ohio Network of American History*
12. *OhioGatewaytotheWest...* (44pgs)
13. *Local Government Records Held, Special*
14. *Records* (18 pages)
15. *OhioUniversityLoca- gov-records*
16. *Scanned Books/Picture Archives URLs*
17. *WebsitesforCounties in Ohio*

Mr. Ferman suggested that when we go ►

home we copy the DVD to our hard drive, or a thumb drive or flash drive. None of the information has a copyright. He doesn't care that you do this as long as you don't go into business or tell him about it. It was suggested in case the disc fails.

*If page won't print, check the instructions to your personal printer and change the instructions accordingly. ■



President's Message

By Russ Erickson

I thank Dick Finn for his great service and enthusiasm for genealogy this past year. He has given his time, energy, and long commutes from deep Livermore, to keep our organization running well. Thank you also to Jan Mangold, our retiring Corresponding Secretary who has conducted correspondence of SRVGS, obtained our society's mail and distributed it to Board members. Both have added cheer and good social moments to our meetings.

My intent, as your incoming SRVGS president, is to coordinate efficient and pleasant General and Board meetings all year. Those who know me best recognize that I am a lucky, but not exceedingly knowledgeable genealogy detective; that role belongs to wife Patty, our 2nd VP of programs this year. She has given 27 years of interest and service, and on her behalf, I will do my best to make sure SRVGS continues to be an outstanding genealogy education and social society that you all will continue to enjoy. I am fortunate in working with a Board largely intact from last year, and thankful for two good additions; Lynnet Keihl as 1st VP and Barbara Shapas as Corresponding Secretary. All of us look forward to working for our society this year. Remember that all SRVGS members in good standing (please join and send in dues for this next year) are welcome to attend Board meetings as well as the General meetings. Become acquainted; perhaps we can induce some of you to join the Board next year! ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

June 2013

- 4 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.
- 18 **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 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

RootsMagic and Online Newspapers. Possible SIGs?

There is so much to learn when you start your genealogy journey. How do you figure out where to start? My approach is to learn things that will directly help my research or at least be interesting to me.

So my first project was to study my genealogy program, that's where you store your valuable research. Then I tried to learn about how to document and cite my sources (resource studying never ends). DNA research began to be more affordable, so I studied how that worked, so I could understand my results. Along the way I tried to attend presentations at genealogical societies and conferences. I must admit there were a few that ►

were slightly arcane.... Like interpreting calendars from different time periods, interpreting American colonial hand writing and interpreting ship passenger manifest hand-written notations.

So, have you thought about what you know and what you hope to know about genealogy? Gaining knowledge will arm you to do your research.

I write this, having just figured out that a couple new SIG areas might be of general interest: (1) RootsMagic – The genealogy program - because it may be able to publish a “better book” and document sources better than other programs; (2) Online newspapers – because they contain an immense amount of information, including family histories, that is hard to come by. Online newspaper research is confusing because newspaper availability is so fragmented. I would love to get this all straightened out (in my mind). Here are a few sites leading to historical newspaper sites.

- Library of Congress
(<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)
- Google Newspapers
(<http://newspapers.google.com>)
- Wikipedia
(Google “Online Newspaper Archives Wiki”)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives
- Commercial newspaper sites free at Libraries and Family History Centers
- And of course for paying customers, there are many pay-for sites like Genealogy Bank, Newspaper Archives, FindMyPast, Ancestry, etc.

If you're interested in chairing a SIG like the aforementioned, please contact me by email (williamcgeorge@gmail.com) or in person at the next meeting.

In June all our SIGs should be meeting on their normal days and times as listed at <http://srvgensoc.org/sig.html>. ■

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



FAMILY TREE MAKER/ ANCESTRY –They will meet **Tuesday June 25th (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 to discuss questions sent in by group members and have a round table question & answer period. So bring your questions to discuss! Susan Rush is the coordinator for this group. You may contact her by e-mail gen4you@astound.net or phone 674-0929.



FAMILY SEARCH / FAMILY TREE Persons at the previous meetings learned how to register, activate an account on the FamilySearch web site for Family Trees and have an active role in posting data and photos of their ancestors. This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday June 10th (the second Monday) at 1 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.** The topic will be: Research Wiki. 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 June 26th (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 am at the home of Helen Odegard in Alamo.** The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. Please contact Helen if you plan to join the group. You may contact her by phone at 932-6796 or via e-mail, shodegard@att.net



IRISH - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday June 12^h (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am., at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill.** They will not meet during July or August. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group. 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 June 24th at 1-3 pm** at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. The topic for this meeting

will be; Publishing and Cloud Storage. If anyone is interested in joining this group, contact Sharon Clay with an e-mail to sharonlclay@comcast.net, or phone 925-462-4518.



PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday June 20th at 10:00 am** (the third Thursday of the month) **at the home of**

Frances Lloyd in Danville. They are also scheduled to meet on July 18. 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

11 June 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> Janice Sellers will make a presentation about *Finding Women in Your Family Tree*.

12 June Wednesday 10 am The East Bay Genealogical Society will hold one of their regular meetings in the meeting room of the Oakland Family History Research Center, 4766 Lincoln Ave. in Oakland. The speaker will be Deborah Osterberg, Archives Technician. *Resources Available at the San Bruno National Archives* will be the topic for her presentation. Visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caebaygs

13 June Thursday 7 pm The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will hold one of their regular meetings at the LDS Building, 1360 Alberta Way in Concord. “*Early American Composers, Prose and Poetry*” will be presented by Pat Everett.

17 June Monday The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society will hold a meeting at Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastadero Road, Room 5/6 in Los Altos Hills. “*A Torn Family Reunited through Discovery of an Ancestor’s Diary*” will be presented by Frederick Hertz, atty. Mr. Hertz is one of the many descendants of the family rediscovered since 2009. For more information go to www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

18 June 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. “*DNA Beyond the Y Chromosome - Autosomes Exposed*” will be presented by Stephen Morse, Phd. Visit www.scchgs.org for further information.

21 June Friday 1:15 to 3 pm The Mount Diablo Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings at the Creekside Clubhouse meeting room in Rossmoor. They meet on the third Friday of each month. Lucy Sweeney will speak about *Hispanic Genealogy*.

28/29 June Friday and Saturday noon to 4:30 pm The Northern California Family History Expo will be held at the Crown Plaza, Sacramento NE, 5321 Date Avenue. Fifty classes and workshops will be included. \$55 registration fee for one day. For details and other registration info, visit <http://www.familyhistoryexpos.com/> or phone (801) 829-3295. ■

Share your knowledge, it is a way to
achieve immortality

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

June begins a summer that can be full of genealogy learning and travel.

 As usual the California Genealogical Society, www.californiaancestors.org has a full month of activities:

- The month begins with **First Saturday Free Intro Class on June 1st** from 1 – 3 p.m. with Lavinia Schwarz. Register online.
- The Summer Intermediate Series continues on Thursday, June 6th from 6:30 – 8 p.m. with Class 2, **Reading and Transcribing Old Handwriting, taught by Janice Sellers.**
- The Library Talk presentation on Saturday, June 8th from 1-3 p.m. led by Barbara Hill and Laura Spurrier is entitled **Using Online Library Catalogs.** Register online.
- On Saturday, June 8th and Friday June 21st, the **City Directory Library will be open from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.**
- On Thursday, June 13th, from 6:30- 8 p.m. Jane Knowles Lindsey will present Class 3, **Cemetery Records.**
- The San Francisco Special Interest Group will meet on Saturday June 15th from 10 – 11:30 am.
- On Thursday, June 20th from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Jane will present Class 4 **on Church Records.**
- Finally, a workshop on **Demystifying Lineage Society Applications** led by Linda Longley will be held on Saturday June 22nd from 1-4 pm. Again register online.
- On Thursday, June 27th, from 6:30 – 8 pm Janice Sellers teach another class in the series entitled **Newspaper Research.** Register online for these classes.



At The Oakland Family History Center, <https://familysearch.org>, Kim Holley will teach Computer Basics in Center's new computer lab on Tuesday June 4th at 7 p.m. and again on Saturday, June 22nd at 11 a.m.



At NARA www.archives.gov in San Bruno on Friday June 7th from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Rose Mary Kenney will present **Military - Part I: Revolutionary War to Civil War (Military Service & Pension Files)** For questions or to register and reserve a space contact: Rose Mary Kennedy 650-238-3488. Fees are \$15 payable in advance.



Enjoy a staycation as you learn from home. Many classes are listed at <https://familysearch.org/learn>. Just click on research courses. Also at this URL you can explore the research wiki and discussion forums.



The Southern California Genealogical Society www.scgsgenealogy.com continues to offer free webinars. The next will be on Wednesday, June 19th from 6 – 7 pm. Valerie Brown Elkins will present *Interest in Pinterest: Pinning Your Family History*. 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 Family History Expo, www.Familyhistoryexpos.com, will be held in Sacramento on June 28th and 29th.



The 6th Annual Research Tour to the Alameda County Public Library, Aug. 14th - 21st. Register online at www.californiaancestors.org



The Concord Family History Center "*Digging for Your Roots*" will be held on October 19th ■

A modern mother is explaining to her little girl about pictures in the family photo album. "This is the geneticist with your surrogate mother and here's your sperm donor and your father's clone. This is me holding you when you were just a frozen embryo. The lady with the very troubled look on her face is your aunt, a genealogist."

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

Please extend a Warm Welcome to our newest Member!

Schardt, Mary

967 Hawthorne Drive

Walnut Creek CA 94596

925-935-5974

maymembill@astound.net

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

Give a Genealogy Gift for Father's Day

Most Fathers and Grandfathers would agree that Father's Day is a time to reflect upon their life as it pertains to their families, namely their children and grandchildren. For many, this is also a time to remember their own Fathers and Grandfathers and even the ancestors who came before. After all, had it not been for those Dads of ages past, your Dad would not have had the opportunity to spend his own life with the children who are his own. In the spirit of remembering and honoring the family consider a different kind of Father's Day gift this year. Consider giving your Dad a way to remember, study, and even learn about, his family history. This year, give Dad the gift of genealogy.

Family Tree printout - If you are a genealogy enthusiast, and own a genealogy computer program. Check to see if your program has the ►

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Russ Erickson 925-229-0889

e-mail: president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Lynett Keihi 925-672-2567

2nd V.P. Program:

Patty Erickson 925-229-0889

3rd V.P. Membership:

Ed Mason 925-838-7848

Recording Secretary:

Mary Tom 925-376-2756

Corresponding Secretary:

Barbara Shapas 925-820-7943

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

option of printing out attractive family trees. Even if the printout offered is a little bland, printing it on specialty marbled paper that can be purchased in the scrapbooking section of any craft store, will create a family tree printout suitable for framing and display.

Subscription to genealogy website - Perhaps your father is a genealogy enthusiast himself, or would be if given the proper tools. If he can navigate the web even a little, he should be able to get hours of enjoyment, as well as accurate and useful genealogy information, from one of the popular genealogy subscription sites.

Genealogy computer program - Again, if Dad has any interest in genealogy, and uses a computer, one of the popular genealogy programs will be a welcome Father's Day gift. Research and read product reviews before you purchase though, as some are definitely superior to others.

Whether you choose one of these genealogy gifts, or a combination of them, your Dad will appreciate and enjoy a Father's Day gift that gives him the opportunity to honor his own family. ■

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
SRVGS CALENDAR	3
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	4
OTHER EVENTS	5
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
EDUCATION	6
A GENTLE REMINDER	7
A FATHER'S DAY GENEALOGY GIFT	7
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE	3
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS	7

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