



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIX No. 2, July - 2013



THIS MONTH – July 16, 2013

“Publishing to DVD “

Presented by: Bill Hewitt



Bill will share his ideas about publishing a family history on DVD. He will take us through a comparison to print publishing, additional features and discuss some of the technical elements of a multi-media family history and its ultimate publishing.

Besides being a member of our society, Bill also belongs to the Illiana [Ill- EE- ana] Genealogical and Historical Society of Vermilion County, Illinois. He has been working on his family history for over 40 years, both researching and writing at the same time. In 2009 he published a transcription of his paternal grandmother’s diary which covered her life as a teenager from 1902 to 1906. He followed that in 2010 by publishing *The Descendants of Eli Martin Hewitt – 4 Generations, a book on the descendants of his paternal great-great-grandfather*. You may recall that he gave a Mini-Ed here almost 2 years ago about the planning and execution of his long road trip to wrap-up that book. Earlier this year he published *The Papers of Eli Hewitt, a stand-alone addition to his book of 2010*. Bill has also been an active member of our Publishing SIG since immediately after joining our society.

About five years ago, with the encouragement of his partner Carole, he began using her Mac computer to dabble in the creation of slideshows and movies for DVD. His first major production was an hour plus long tribute for the 25th anniversary of his Renaissance Fair re-enactment group. On the drawing board is the adaptation to a multi-media presentation of the previously published book about his great-great-grandfather and descendants. ■



From the June Meeting

"Roadblocks to Research Due to Assumptions"

Speaker: Lavinia Schwarz

Reporter: Russ Erickson



Lavinia gave us an outline sheet, with the following points: “Talk to everyone (family, etc), Gather what you have, copy and SOURCE what you find. Learn the standards of evidence at: <http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>”. Re-evaluate and correlate data again and again, join a genealogical group. Keep

in mind, spelling is often creative, clerks make mistakes, people use nicknames or middle names. People misremember. US records are kept primarily at county level. Visit resources where your people lived: cemeteries, courthouses, libraries, churches, local genealogical and historical societies. ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Lavinia Schwarz

She began her family search with an indication her beloved grandfather was once Catholic. Her cousin vehemently objected -- "no Catholics in the family". One ancestor was a Cresap; there was a Cresap Society. Lavinia's mother was DAR, so many records were available, and a family Bible was a Douey version of 1844 (Lavinia later found that was a Catholic Bible). There were 3 spellings for family surnames even in that Bible, and indications of a John Cresap and Martha Beauduc of New Orleans in her ancestry. Her mother had scribbled also "Burdeau" in the Bible. There was a statement that "her family was big in Georgia (Louisiana?) but didn't "fit in". She found a birth certificate for Martha Baudec at the Oakland FHC, with 3 untruths, including the designation "white". There was also a Baudec in "baptisms of slaves and colored".

Doing a Time-line, Lavinia found only 27,000 people in New Orleans at the time in early 1800s. While at the FHC, there was a group of the African-American Genealogical Society, and she overheard "some white people can't even imagine having black ancestors", but seeing Martha & ►

Julien Beauduc amongst slave records did not register (proving the African-American statement had some truth). She later found over 100,000 records of slave sales and manumissions around New Orleans. She also found records of a Joseph Beauduc, a free mulatto, who owned and sold slaves.

Finally, Lavinia realized her ancestor was mulatto, some slaves bought their freedom. She had been freed, widowed, did very well as a clothes maker and had boarders, leaving much wealth to her sons and the Catholic Church. A multitude of names were involved in her research, in New Orleans, Hispaniola; Santiago (James) Desban, a brother of Martha Crespan, Pulcheria Cassou, Joseph Beaudeau, Marguerite LcCotte, child of Jeanne LaCotte, Jean Vallotte, etc. She went to New Orleans, to the public library and courthouse, then met a Creole historian, Greg Osborn, who found many papers regarding her family and showed her many places they might have been. Her grandfather's mother had at one time been in court and had to prove her free status when white people tried to cheat her.

Lavinia notified relatives of the mulatto ancestral line with responses varying from wonderful, to better left alone. Her brother found a picture of Martha and sons John and Robert, showing definite evidence of the biracial background.

In early French (1718-1769) then Spanish (1769 to 1803) Louisiana, there was a "code noir" establishing the relation of white to black. Jews were not allowed, all had to be Catholic, interracial marriages were initially forbidden, and relation of slaves to masters had 44 articles. The Saint Dominique code noir permitted interracial marriage, but no concubinage, if both white and black were baptized Catholic (early, there was a sparsity of women in Louisiana and the Carribean isle). Spanish law gave slaves the right to earn money and purchase their freedom, and forbade working them on the Sabbath. Slaves and masters had to go to church together. "Placage" somehow was instituted early, where a white man could be married and also take a second free black woman as a side spouse, assuming they had a contract to provide for her and any children. Children of a free black woman would also be free, but not children of a slave woman by a "master". ■



President's Message

By Russ Erickson

HELP NEEDED: Peggy Gierke, our wonderful Hospitality leader, is in need of help due to helpers moving away. She should not need to do all she does by herself to make our meetings even more social. PLEASE see Peggy and offer your assistance. It requires little time, and the effort is well worth while, enhancing your and all of our social aspects of the SRVGS meeting. Sandra Burns also seeks someone to help with SRVGS Community Outreach that brings us to the attention of our local community, and helps others become more interested in the history of their families. Ed Mason would like assistance at the membership table for our monthly general meeting; anyone willing, please talk to Ed.

For some interesting summer reading visit the SRVGS collection at the Danville Library. Though a relatively small collection, it contains standard genealogy volumes. These books are helpful to the beginners and the more experienced researcher. There are several collections containing multiple volumes, including Virgil White's Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Applications (See *Book Review* on page 7) and a set of Early New Jersey records. A list of titles is in our Society Handbook.

This collection is owned by the SRVGS and housed on Danville library shelves thanks to the tireless negotiation of Jack Johnson.

When you have temporarily exhausted the information in the Danville genealogy book collection, drive on to the main Contra Costa County Library on Oak Park in Pleasant Hill. You should probably avoid the hours between 3:00 and 6:00! The Heritage Collection, housed in its own room, was started by local DAR chapters. DAR chapters, local genealogy societies, and kind individuals continue to donate to this ever growing collection. The collection contains an assortment of city, county, and state histories and vital records and basic research books. The Heritage Collection as well as the Danville collection catalogue is included in the county library online catalogue. ►

Both of these collections are reference only.

As you learn more about your individual family members, names that meant nothing to you last week may be a long last great-grandfather next week. Revisit publications. Don't ignore history and geography books in the children's section or in the adult section. Get acquainted with your ancestors' areas.

Check the library pages in our Handbook for schedules and phone numbers. Most important – these buildings are air conditioned! ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

July 2013

- 2 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was 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. From the I-680 Freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 1/2 miles.

August 2013

Our Society does not hold meetings during the month of August. Enjoy the summer break and look forward to meeting again in September. A Board meeting is scheduled to be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 3 home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

I received several sign-ups each, for **Newspaper** and **Roots Magic SIGs**. If we can find a few more interested people and someone interested in leading the SIG, we can try a first meeting in September. I'll have sign-up sheets on the ►

back table at the General Meeting in July. They will include a check box to volunteer to be the Leader of the SIG. Being a SIG leader is very positive. You don't have to be an expert in the topic, just be willing to plan future topics and learn new things. If you try this you'll get hooked.

Diane and I just returned from the Family History Expo in Sacramento. One of my missions this time was to find out more about FamilySearch. I attended five sessions by the Guru of FamilySearch, James L. Tanner. I can guarantee a knowledge filled FamilySearch SIG meeting in July.

James is also knowledgeable about and does talks on the Myheritage.com web site. It's like a mini-Ancestry.com in that it does automatic tree matches for people you add to your personal family tree which is similar to Ancestry's shaking leaves. It has a free version that allows up to 250 people in a tree, so you can experience how it works.

Here are a couple free web sites I learned about that don't require registration and may be of assistance to you.

One is an **Atlas of Historical County Boundaries**, similar to AniMap at <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp>. One feature that's quite compelling is movies of county and state boundary progressions through time. The movies are short, a few minutes each, and give you a very good sense of how the U.S. expanded its geographical boundaries over time from year 1623 to 2000. It's main use is to step through time, year by year, to see when counties were created.

Another wonderful site is **Old Maps Online** at <http://www.oldmapsonline.org>. It is a Google-powered search portal for historical maps that allow high-resolution browsing of many of the world's premiere map collections. Search results provide direct links to map images on web sites of host institutions.

The **Irish and Family Tree Maker SIGs will not be meeting in July**. Please also remember that next month, August, is our "vacation" month, where there is no General Meeting and usually no SIG meetings. ■

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Notice: As of this month our Special Interest Groups are listed according to *their order of occurrence* in the month.



FAMILY SEARCH/FAMILY TREE This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday July 8th** (the second Monday) at **1 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road**. The FamilySearch SIG will be discussing Updating the FamilySearch Family Tree. Bill George is the coordinator and contact person for this group. You may contact him via e-mail: williamcgeorge@Gmail.com



IRISH - This special interest group **will not meet during July or August**. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group. You may contact Patty via e-mail, russpat@comcast.net or phone 229-0889.



PUBLISHING - The publishing group **will meet Thursday July 18th 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



LEGACY SOFTWARE - This is a genealogy software users group. This group will meet **Monday July 22nd** (Fourth Monday) from **1-3 PM at the FHC on Stone Valley Road** in Alamo. If anyone is interested in joining this group, contact Sharon Clay with an e-mail to sharonclay@comcast.net, or phone 925-462-4518. ►



**FAMILY TREE MAKER/
ANCESTRY** – This group
will not meet during July
or August. This group fo-

cuses on how Family Tree Maker interacts with Ancestry.com. Susan Rush is the coordinator for this group. You may contact her by e-mail gen4you@astound.net or phone 674-0929.



GERMAN – The German Group
will meet **Wednesday July 24th**
(the fourth Wednesday) at
10:00 am at the home of Susan

Hanck in Walnut Creek. The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. Please contact Helen if you plan to join the group. You may contact her via e-mail, shodegard@att.net or phone 932-6796 for more information. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

9 July 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> Vera Broyles will make a presentation about Tips and Tricks for More Accurate Genealogy.

16 July 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. Ron Aarons will give a presentation about a variety of websites for finding historical maps and will discuss the basics of Microsoft Maps and Google Maps. He will give a side by side comparison and will also talk about other online mapping tools. Visit www.scchgs.org for further information.

20 July Saturday 10:30 am The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will hold a regular member meeting at the Grace Lutheran Church Hall, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. Chris Green, Patrick Gilbride and other ►

speakers will talk about “*Find My Past vs Ancestry.com.*” Visit www.smcgs.org for details

27 July Saturday 10 am to 3 pm The California Genealogical Society, 1201 Broadway Suite LL2 in Oakland, will sponsor a workshop. It will be a *Chinese-American Family History Workshop. Getting Started: Basic Research Techniques and Setting Research Goals* will be presented by Christine DeVillier, Doug Joe, and Kay Speaks. Register online at californiaancestors.org or phone (510) 663-1358.

21-24 August Wednesday thru Saturday The Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold its conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. For more information, go online at www.fgs.org

5 October Saturday 10 am to 2 pm Angel Island Family History Day will be co-sponsored by The California Genealogical Society and the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation.

26 October Saturday 8 pm Three Bay area celebrities discover their family history. “*Their Roots Are Showing*” will be presented at the Del Valle Theater, 1961 Tice Valley Road in Walnut Creek. Watch for registration information at www.californiaancestors.org ■

Is Your Membership about to Lapse?

Society membership dues were due by July 1st. As a reminder for those who were just too busy to get their renewal application in on time, a **Red Dot** has been placed on their address label of the newsletters that were sent via the U.S. Post Office. For those who receive their newsletters via e-mail a short message was included with the e-mail delivery. If you have received such a reminder, please get your renewal to us by the end of July or you will be dropped from our rolls and this will be the last newsletter you will receive.

EDUCATION

By: *Kathy Javdani*

July is a good time to relax as we increase our genealogy skills.



Our learning opportunities begin with the California Genealogical Society www.CaliforniaAncestors.org.

- On Sat, July 9th from 1 – 3pm Muriel Sonne will lead the **First Saturday Free Intro Class**. Register online.
- On Wed., July 10th from 11am – 1pm Jane Lindsey will guide a **Field Trip to the San Francisco Main Library**. Register online.
- The Summer Institute Series has three classes in July.
 1. On Thurs., July 11th from 6:30-8pm Susan Goss Johnston will present **“Finding Country Cousins in Land and Property Records”**.
 2. On Thurs., July 18th at the same time she will present **“Seeking City Slickers in Lesser Known Records”**.
 3. She ends the month on Thurs., July 25th again at the same time with **“Military Records”** Register online for each session.
- The **City Directory Library** will be open on Saturday July 13th and July 20th from 10am – 4pm.
- The **Roots Magic Special Interest Group** will meet on Tues., July 16th from 6:30-8pm.
- The **San Francisco Special Interest Group** will meet on Sat., July 20th from 10 – 11:30am.
- The month ends with the **Chinese-American Family History Workshop** on Sat., July 27th from 10am – 3pm. Register online.



At NARA www.archives.gov in ►

San Bruno on Friday July 19th from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Rose Mary Kenney will present **Military Records – Part II: Spanish American to Viet Nam**. For questions or to register and reserve a space contact: Rose Mary Kennedy 650-238-3488. Fees are \$15 payable in advance.



At The Oakland Family History Center, <https://familysearch.org>, our own Bill George will lead the **Mac Gen Users Workshop** on Wed., July 10th at 7pm and Sat., July 27th at 1:30pm. On Tues., July 16th the **AAGSNC Louisiana Workshop** will start at 6:30pm. There will also be an **Introduction to Genealogy** session on July 24th at 6:30pm.

Save the date:

1. The 6th Annual Research Tour to the Allen County Public Library, Aug. 14th-21st. Register online at www.californiaancestors.org
2. The SwedGen Tour 2013/Swedish Genealogy Seminar on Sat., Oct. 12th at the Oakland Family Search Library. Watch for pre-registration on the Oakland Family History Center website.
3. The Concord Family History Center “Digging for Your Roots” will be held on October 19th. ■

Guarding the fate of your digital Assets

What happens, after you die, to the information you have stored online? If it is data stored on YouTube or in accounts such as Gmail or Picasa, you now can use Google's *Inactive Account Manager* to be sure it all goes where you want it to go.

This new feature allows you to give your consent to transfer data - such as stored emails and family photos - to your executor or other designee. For your loved ones to retrieve your data from Facebook, Yahoo and other online services, you should authorize your executor to work with those services to transfer your stored information. ►

Other services such as Legacy Locker and Planned Departure will encrypt and hold your various account passwords. But you'll still need an authorized executor to ensure your assets go to the right place. ■

BOOK REVIEW

By: Frances Lloyd

Editor's Note: As most of you know, our Society owns a number of Genealogy books, for which the Danville Public Library has agreed to provide shelf space in order to make them available to our members as well as to the general public. Francie Lloyd, a member of our Library Committee, is concerned that our membership is not taking full advantage of this resource and, in order to help people become more familiar with what is available, she has decided that, from time to time, she would provide a review of selected books, hoping that this might generate some interest. A complete list of the society's books is provided in your Handbook or can be downloaded from our web site at: http://srvgensoc.org/resources/SRVGS_Danville_Library_Booklist.pdf

This month's review follows:

Genealogical Abstracts Of Revolutionary War Pension

Abstracted by Virgil D. White

As the title indicates, these abstracts are concerned with the genealogical information found in the National Archives microfilm publication, "*Selected Records from the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files*", series M805. This series contains most of the genealogical information found in the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files. Many of the entries contain ten or fewer pages. Only records of significant genealogical information were filmed from larger files.

Mr. White drew on information from National Archives microfilm series M804 for additional information in some entries. This series ►

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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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

contains the entire file of each claimant who filed for pension or bounty land based on service in the Revolutionary War.

Cross-references to the Virginia Half Pay Claims are included as are references to other state pensions or bounty land awarded for Revolutionary War service.

Information on the disability pensions granted before 1814 as well as bounty land applications prior to 1814 is somewhat limited due to a fire in the War Office in 1800 and the British burning of Washington D.C. in 1814. Those records that survive may give information on the cause and extent of injury.

Most pension applications include information on residence, service, and date of death. Applicants for widow's pensions were to prove marriage as well as service. Minor children are usually listed in a widow's application. Information may include proof of service, family members, neighbors, or names of those with whom he served. Volume IV includes an index of other people named in an application. ■

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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