



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIX No. 3, September - 2013



**THIS MONTH – September 17, 2013**

**“Maps Provide Answers to  
Genealogical Research Questions“**

**Presented by: Teresa Costa Fraser**



**H**istorical researcher and self-appointed family historian, Teresa Costa Fraser will discuss how family historians can use maps to answer their genealogical research questions. She will identify a variety of maps that can be used and some unusual ways to locate them.

To illustrate how successful maps can be in answering genealogical research questions, Teresa will provide a number of examples of how she has used maps to get answers; including, how she was able to finally locate her great-great-grandparent's 220-acre farm at the corner of Eden Canyon Road and Interstate-580.

Teresa is a member of the National Genealogical Society, Monterey County Genealogical Society, Maury County (TN) Historical Society, Amite County (MS) Historical and Genealogical Society and Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society (L-AGS). Teresa was elected Second Vice President and Membership Chair of L-AGS for 2011 and 2012. For the last three years, Teresa has managed L-AGS volunteer efforts at Dublin Public Library for Family History Month. ■



**From the July Meeting**

**"Publishing to DVD"**

**Speaker: Bill Hewitt**

**Reporter: Lee Schlenker**



**B**ill Hewitt, our own member, came to speak to us and explain how you can transfer the ancestral information which you have accumulated onto a DVD. Once it's on a DVD it's simple to reproduce many copies. His extensive bio can be found in the July newsletter.

When you sit down to handwrite your family history there are so many "snafus" and formal writing techniques that occur, you may bog your-

self down and just not do it. You'd like to have images from home videos, ancestral pictures, records, etc. incorporated with your writing. But, that's often hard to do. To create a DVD, what you most likely will need is your personal computer, a scanner or digital camera, VCR/DVD player, movie making software and converter box (approx. \$100.00). Bill's equipment included the iMac PC, iMovie/DVD, VHS/DVD converter, and a scanner. He says that with the correct ►

equipment and some patience you can achieve your digital history.

First you have to start just as you do with your historical information, gather it (home movies, personal interviews, census records, stories, old photos, old records and letters) together and categorize it. Bill did his DVDs by single person, their events and data starting with birth and continuing on into adulthood and even death. He then took each completed person in one family and made that person one chapter/section. Each chapter bundled together with one another became the DVD of that family. You may choose to do the same. Remember to entitle each chapter. For each person you should organize all your acquired data in the way you would like to present it on your DVD. Then outline it. You will need to scan your photos, ancestral writings, or census pages - whatever hard copy you want to present in your chapter/section. Your chapters are defined by you. You can make it as easy or as complex as you choose. There are no set or hard fast rules with doing DVDs. There are software modes available that will let you place captions under your photos. Some of those modes will allow you to make transparent captions so you can see the image and words but not obliterate any of that image. If you want to do a recorded interview, remember to choose a quiet, peaceful setting, obtaining permission, then develop your topics, questions, script and use an MP3, MP4 with a computerized or digitized format.

Your DVD format should be almost as a book would be with an introduction, titles, chapters, photo effects, captions, text, and index/citations and credits. With a DVD you can have colors, fonts and themes. Audio would be music, narration with the video clips, sound effects, volume control. If you use an audio device it automatically lowers the musical volume when you talk over it. You can have "scene" selection on the main menu. You can do what Bill calls the "Ken Burns" effect which is a slow scrolling picture over background or picture. There can be special blurring or antiquing of pictures or records. When listing credits, you can scroll your list slowly. Bill found it easier when listing your citations/pictures to use numbers in parenthesis after the name referring back to chapters (e.g. 1/3

= chapter 1, image 3). Some of the transitions available are fade-in/fade-out, duration, scene stealers. He reminds us to be very careful of the copyright laws. When you're adding music there could be copyright laws.

Then, after all is said and done, finishing means you need to label your newly made DVD. Bill suggests using Lightscribe Label which gently laser cuts the title right on the DVD for you. You could also use a Sharpie to cut costs; not quite as nice looking as the laser though.

If all this sounds way too complicated for you, you can always have it done professionally - for a price! You can have it done partially - as transferring video/8mm/super8/Beta to digital, transferring your slides to digital or transferring your photos to digital; or you can have it entirely done professionally from beginning to end. There are companies that will come to your home to do the work (for a price). Bill "guestimates" your costs could be anywhere from \$300 to \$1,000 at the least. Some examples he found on the internet where \$20.00 per audio cassette to CD; \$30.00 for 200 feet of 8mm film or super 8 to DVD. But you must have an executable format on all of these so you can edit the partially transferred ones. If you are going to have it done professionally, Bill prefers to use a *local* service so items do not have to be mailed or shipped across the country for transferring. Items can get lost in the mail and once they're lost, they're lost forever!

Finally, Bill showed us a snapshot of how he incorporated all these different tools to produce his finished DVD. Once it's in a DVD format, he says they're so easy to copy and send to relatives. There are "bubble envelopes" for DVD mailings. Don't forget to create your own "jewel case" inserts. At his family reunion he put his DVD on a "loop" so everyone had a chance to view it as it played. He says if you are not going to publish on a DVD just make sure that you preserve all your old videos since they can deteriorate over time.

Bill had a nice 4 page handout outlining his progression down to the final product. It also gave the side by side pros and cons of doing your own versus having it done professionally.

Remember: you can do it yourself for a lot less and a little patience. ■



## President's Message

*By Russ Erickson*

To paraphrase an old quote: Those who do not know history are doomed to relive its mistakes. Genealogy and history blend and reinforce each other, with genealogy giving personal life to the past. Two examples from my family history are interesting. On my paternal, Scandinavian side, 4 generations back in the early 1800s, "Alla" was impregnated by "Ole", a distant cousin, producing Andrew "Kroken" in 1859, without whom I would be partially someone else, if at all. In that time, a child would cause a marriage or the fellow involved would pay upkeep until near adulthood. Alla had, by family history, a very rough pregnancy and unhappy delivery, leading to her abandoning males altogether. She raised Andrew alone, and they picked berries, tended goats, and subsisted until he was old enough to migrate from Norway to the USA. That hard early life could make or break a person, and he came out sturdy. It is a story that makes us realize the difficulty of life for the lower echelons in the 1800s, which was also similar in America, where over 50% of marriages followed a pregnancy. That did have the advantage, in an era where children were desired for future aged parent support (no social security) and farm help, of predicting a fertile partner.

In my maternal family, again in the 1800s, 4 generations back, the Rose (Roos) family is interesting, with the patriarch from Bavaria, Nicholas, who became a coal miner in Pennsylvania. He was a hard worker, a saver (bought several properties), and attracted a poor Irish lass, Catherine, 14 years his junior. She, the first of 7 children, who had not gone to school, was likely very happy to become a bride, instead of staying a likely caretaker of younger siblings. They had themselves a number of children, and my Great Grandfather, Frank, joined his father in the mines, 6 days per week, at age 8, as a slate picker! The girls went to school until at least age 11 or 12. Everyone worked early to keep the family stable and modestly prosperous. We and our children can no longer conceive of young people, even at 18 to 20 years, working like that. Frank, as an adult, was

intelligent and driven enough, to leave the harder life, migrate again to Minnesota, and become an Indian agent.

We should, with our broad genealogy love, learn to thank our ancestors for surviving hard times and leaving families that led to us now, with our generally much more pleasant lives. Maybe somebody's "up there" looking down on us and saying "remember us, be cheerful, and keep up our best works"? ■



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### September 2013

- 3 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.
- 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. From the I-680 Freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 1/2 miles.

#### October 2013

- 1 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.
- 15 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*

We had our first RootsMagic SIG meeting in August and will have our next meeting in October and going forward on the third Monday of each month, at 1pm at the Danville Family History Center. Gayle Curry is the SIG leader, so if you have suggestions or requests, please contact her at [bandmcurry@comcast.net](mailto:bandmcurry@comcast.net). ►

So SRVGS now has SIGS for the three major Windows genealogy programs, Family Tree Maker, Legacy and RootsMagic. All the above programs will save to the GEDCOM format so genealogy information can easily be shared between programs.

September has several schedule changes due to vacations. The Family Tree Maker and Legacy SIGS are meeting early. The Family Tree Maker SIG will meet on September 16th, the 3rd Monday at 1pm. The Legacy SIG will meet on September 17th, after the General meeting on the third Tuesday at 1pm. Other SIGs will meet on their normal meeting days. Please check our web site at <http://srvgensoc.org/sig.html> for all the SIG details. ■

## SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



**FAMILY SEARCH / FAMILY TREE** This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday September 9<sup>th</sup>** (the second Monday) at **1 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.** The FamilySearch SIG will be discussing *How to Search for Records*. Bill George is the coordinator and contact person for this group. You may contact him via e-mail: [williamcgeorge@Gmail.com](mailto:williamcgeorge@Gmail.com)



**IRISH** - This special interest group will meet **September 11** (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](mailto:russpat@comcast.net) or phone 229-0889.



**FAMILY TREE MAKER/ ANCESTRY** – This group will meet **Monday, September 16 at 1 pm, at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road. Please note that this is a different day and different time.** The subjects will be: Adding Photos to FTM from file sources and from cameras; Discussing new ways to scan & upload photos; Creating Smart Stories, includ-

ing adding photos. This group focuses 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](mailto:gen4you@astound.net) or phone 674-0929.



**LEGACY SOFTWARE** – This is a genealogy software users group. This group will meet **Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1 - 3 PM after the General Membership Meeting, at the Family History Center** on Stone Valley Road in Alamo. **Please note this special time** It will be a workshop, where members work on their own Legacy projects and are assisted as necessary. If anyone is interested in joining this group, contact Sharon Clay with an e-mail to [sharonclay@comcast.net](mailto:sharonclay@comcast.net), or phone 925-462-4518.



**PUBLISHING** – The publishing group will meet **Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:frances_lloyd@comcast.net)



**GERMAN** – The German Group will meet **Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup> (the fourth Wednesday)** starting at **11:00 am at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek.** The German group will have their annual Oktoberfest luncheon. 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 at [shodegard@att.net](mailto:shodegard@att.net) or phone 932-6796 for more information



**ROOTSMAGIC** - Our Second RootsMagic SIG meeting will be **Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> (The third Monday), at 1pm, at the ►**

Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road. RootsMagic is a full-featured genealogy program with nearly every bell and whistle. There is also a free companion RootsMagic program for smartphones. Roots Magic *Essentials* is a free (with some functions omitted) version of RootsMagic that you might download from their web site, <http://rootsmagic.com>. The program is \$29 and the optional user guide is \$15. Gayle Curry will be the leader of our RootsMagic group and will be announcing the meetings in the future. If you want to be notified of future RootsMagic meetings, please notify Gayle at [bandmcurry@comcast.net](mailto:bandmcurry@comcast.net). ■

## CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 10 September 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> Lisa Gorrell will speak about “*Using City Directories*”.
- 12 September Thursday 7 pm** The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society holds their regular meetings on the second Thursday at the LDS Building, 1350 Alberta Way in Concord. Ralph Severson, Director at the Oakland regional Family History Research Center, will speak about “*More on the Revamped FamilySearch web site*”.
- 17 September 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. “*Territorial Lands and Records: Where Are They?*”, will be presented by Vern Dale & Martha Wallace. As the United States grew, territories were created to organize and manage new land acquisitions. Settlers could live in the same place and be part of several territories. This talk will help you determine which territories your ancestors lived in and introduce the records that the US government has kept. Visit [www.scchgs.org](http://www.scchgs.org) for further information.
- 20 September 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 Rossmore. They meet on the third Friday of each month. Susan Goss Johnston will speak about Fold3 Military Research.
- 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. Watch for information at [www.californiaancestors.org](http://www.californiaancestors.org)
- 12 October Saturday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm** Family History Day at the California State Archives, 1020 O Street in Sacramento. will be sponsored by the Sacramento Genealogical Society. There will be facility tours and the opportunity to visit with most of the genealogy clubs and historical societies in the Sacramento area. Admission is free. Parking is free provided you park in the employee lot across the street. For further details go to <http://familyhistoryday2013.blogspot.com>
- 19 October Saturday 8 am to 4:30 pm (classes start at 9:15)** The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Fall Seminar, “*Digging for Your Roots*” will be held at 3700 Concord Blvd. in Concord. For the seminar and syllabus, the donation fee is \$ 20 per person if you register before September 30. The registration fee is \$ 7 for the seminar only. Watch for registration forms at your local Family History Center. Phone Jackie Hein 925-827-4729 for further information.
- 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. The program will be Featuring: Billy Beane, Natalie Coughlin and Tim "Herb" Alexander. Watch for registration information at ►

[www.californiaancestors.org](http://www.californiaancestors.org)

- 2 **November Saturday 9am to 3pm** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society presents their Fall Seminar featuring 4 lectures with Curt Witcher. It will be held at the LDS Church, 1105 Valparaiso in Menlo Park. The registration fee for non-members is \$42. Mr. Witcher is the Senior Manager for Special Collections at the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where he manages the Genealogy Center. He is a member of the Genealogy Committee of the American Library Association. From 1987 - 2012, he co-edited editions of the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), the largest and most comprehensive subject index to historical and genealogical periodical literature. He is a past President of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and of the National Genealogical Society. For more information go to <http://www.smcgs.org>. ■

## WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

**We extend a WARM WELCOME  
to our newest members!**

### **Paula Fernandez**

1003 Ashland Court  
Danville, CA 94506

(925) 351-4639

[islandfern@MSN.com](mailto:islandfern@MSN.com)

### **Roy Short**

2145 Myrtle Beach Lane  
Danville, CA 94526

(925) 208-1337

[roywshort@gmail.com](mailto:roywshort@gmail.com)

## EDUCATION

*By: Kathy Javdani*

September is Back to School Month. It's the perfect time to plan what we want to learn and how we will learn it.



Our learning opportunities begin with the California Genealogical Society. [www.CaliforniaAncestors.org](http://www.CaliforniaAncestors.org).

- On Sat, Sept. 7th from 1 – 3pm Kim Cotton will lead the **Genealogy – An Introduction** class. Register online.
- The **City Directory Library** will be open on Sat., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> and Fri., Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 4pm.
- The **RootsMagic Special Interest Group** will meet on Tues., Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8pm.
- The **San Francisco Special Interest Group** will meet on Sat., Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 – 11:30am. On Sat., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 Linda Okazaki will conduct a seminar on **Finding Japanese Roots**.



This month the Oakland Family Search Library (FSL), <https://familysearch.org>, is offering presentations on a wide variety of topics.

- On Tues., Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm there is a **Computer Basics** class.
- On Wed., Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, our own Bill George will conduct the **Mac Gen Users Workshop**.
- On Sat., Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 pm Bill will also lead the **Mac Gen Users Group Meeting**.
- On Sat., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm the **Computer Basics** class will be repeated.
- On Tues., Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm there will be a hands-on **Beginning Evernote** class. ►

- The month's presentations end on Wed., Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 when the California Genealogical Society will have an **Oriental to the FSL** and at 6pm with the **African American Research Workshop**.



This fall Acalanes Adult Ed., [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted), continues to offer a ten-session beginning genealogy class. All classes are held at the Del Valle Education Center – 1963 Tice Valley Rd. in Walnut Creek on Mondays from 1-3 from Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The fees are Reg \$92/Seniors \$83 Call (925) 280-3980 ext. 8001 for more information.

As always there are opportunities to learn from the comfort of your home.



On Sept. 3rd and 4th The National Archives will hold a Virtual Genealogy Fair. For details check <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/genealogy-fair/>.



Many classes are listed at <https://familysearch.org/learn>. Just click on research courses. Also, at this URL you might want to explore or research the wiki and discussion forums.



The California Genealogical Society, [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com) continues to offer free webinars. The next will be on Sat., Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, when George Morgan will lecture on “*Sidestep Genealogy*”. Then, on Wed., Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> Beth Foulk will present “*Imported to America – Colonists for Sale*”

### **Save the date:**

Angel Island Family History Day will be held on Sat., Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> from 11 am – 2pm. Refer to [www.CaliforniaAncestors.org](http://www.CaliforniaAncestors.org) for more information.

The SwedGen Tour 2013/Swedish Genealogy Seminar is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> at the Oakland Family Search Library. Refer to the Oakland Family Search Library website for registration information.

At the Concord Family History Center, ►

### **HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS**

**President:** Russ Erickson 925-229-0889  
e-mail: [president@srvgensoc.org](mailto:president@srvgensoc.org)

**1st V.P.** Lynnet Keihl 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](mailto:rjventer@comcast.net)

**Calendar Coordinator:**  
Vern Segelke 925-838-8570  
e-mail: [v.m.seg3@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

“Digging for Your Roots” will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The registration deadline is Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. For more information contact Jackie Hein at 925-827-4729.

*Their Roots Are Showing – Three Bay Area Celebrities Discover Their Family History* featuring Billy Beane, Natalie Coughlin and Tim Alexander will be held at the Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek on Sat. Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm. Refer to [www.CaliforniaAncestors.org](http://www.CaliforniaAncestors.org) for more information.

Ancestry Day – San Francisco 2013 will be on Sat., Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 3:30 pm at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco. Refer to [www.CaliforniaAncestors.org](http://www.CaliforniaAncestors.org) for more information. ■



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

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