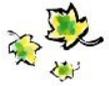




# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIX No. 5, November - 2013



**THIS MONTH – November 19, 2013**

**“Portuguese Research “**

**Presented by: Ralph Severson**



**R**alph Severson has had a remarkable background in banking, investment and real estate over many years.

His interest in genealogy began in his early teens and has continued throughout his life. While obtaining his MBA and BA at Brigham Young University, he was also teaching genealogy classes. This has led to his current involvement as the Northern California Family History Area Advisor, Director of the Oakland FamilySearch Library and the Primary instructor for classes at the Oakland Family Search Library.

Ralph was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has also lived in France, Switzerland, Utah, New York, Los Angeles, Tokyo and currently in the East Bay. Besides Genealogy, he also enjoys fishing, reading, investing, travel and is an avid baseball fan. His research specialties are Portugal - Azores and Southern States.



**From the September Meeting**

**"The U. S. Public Land Office"**

**Speaker: Garl Satterthwaite      Reporter: Lee Schlenker**



**G**arl has been researching his ancestors, many of them Quakers, for many years and has identified twenty-one ancestors who were in Indiana before 1840. He has lectured to large groups at the Thousand Oaks Senior Center for more than ten years. He has researched ancestors in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, England and Wales. He claims his main concentration was on Indiana land records.

He reminded us at the time of this talk that

the government site was not up and running due to the government shut down. So, accessing the website for, probably, a week was not possible.

He gave us a three page handout listing many different sites you can access and find information that are BLM links, one of them being the General Land Office (GLO): <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/> this will get you going in your research. The GLO provides access to over 5 million Federal land records issued ►



(Photos by Nancy Alexander)

### Garl Satterthwaite

between 1820 and the present day. This site provides access to records for Public Land States, Plat Maps, Survey Field Notes, Land Status Records (LSR), and Control Document Index (CDI) documents.

While searching online Land Patents (which will be the original document signed when purchasing the land) you need to enter a location (State), a name or a land description. Garl says that the percent sign will match any sequence of zero, one, or more characters in the search field. His example is: state=Indiana, last name=Safferth%, first name=Ben% (Garl doesn't use a middle name or initial). This approach gave him complete columns of information – land with correct names. You may continue into the purchase with more information on your ancestor.

Garl's preference in his research was the Survey Plats which often included surveyor's notes too. You will have to "zoom" in to uncover any details on the survey map. Each time you go into another sub-section access you will be digging deeper in your search. He tells us that a typical search will provide details for a specific piece

of land which includes the type, various document numbers, when and where the purchase occurred and a description of the location and acreage. It should provide a copy of the actual patent and provide a source for ordering a certified copy.

Survey Manuals are available on the GLO website. These explain every detail that a surveyor needed to know. There are many manuals from 1851 to the present day and are available for free download. They explain the Rectangular Survey System, include maps and provide a history of the subject. The Reference Center is the custodian of over 9 million GLO records. This center provides the how-to for accessing their documents including how to search Patents, Survey Plats, and Land Status Records by location and identifier. Also available are technical support and answering FAQ.

If you have an interest in the details of a particular plot of land the Field Notes, Land Status Reports and the Control Document Index (CDI) can be interesting. The CDI is mainly of the Eastern states and not for the Western states.

Garl showed us how meridians and base-lines were achieved in mapping. Also, he explained how townships were formed originally: a square of 6 miles by 6 miles was measured off; then cut into 1 mile squares and numbered 1 to 6 at the top right to left, next 7 to 12 left to right, then 13 to 18 right to left and so on until all 1x1 mile squares were numbered into 36 sections. Then again each 1x1 mile section was broken down into acreage.

He also showed us a copy of a BLM 1800 Surveyor's Information booklet which was very thin in size. Then he held up a BLM 2002 Surveyors Information booklet which was close to 20 pages of instructions!

The state of California has a BLM site but the map factor is a little pricey - you have to have a \$2,300 program to use this site for map copies. Garl mentioned that some of the websites are not free and a fee is required before continuing with them.

#### Other Websites:

- USGenWeb Project – <http://www.usgenweb.org/> ▶

- Library of Congress  
<http://www.loc.gov/index.html>
- NARA  
<http://www.archives.gov/research/land/>
- Family Search  
<http://www.familysearch.org/>
- Ellis Island – <http://www.ellisland.org/>
- Homestead National Monument – <http://www.nps.gov/home/index.htm>
- BLM California – <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en.html>

## Site Mapper

- <http://www.geocommunicator.gov/blmMap/MapSiteMapper.jsp>
- <http://www.metzgerwillard.us/plss/plss.html>

## Google Earth

- <http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>
- <http://www.gearthacks.com/>
- <http://www.gelib.com/>

(Note: There are multiple Google Earth sites under the “gelib.com” listed in Garl’s handout. Pick them up from a friend if possible.) ■

**WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS**

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

**Stephen Lester**

5295 Winifred Drive

Castro Valley, CA 94546

510-886-1273

[stephenflester@gmail.com](mailto:stephenflester@gmail.com)**Shelley Davis**

231 Michelle Lane

Alamo, CA 94507

925-837-7578

[shelldavis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shelldavis@sbcglobal.net)**President's Message***By Russ Erickson*

What is in a name? Swedes came to America, reaching 1.4 million from 1840s to 1910. Farmers, tradesmen, and craftsmen from depressed agriculture, excessive population growth, poor social mobility, and to escape mandatory military service. Tracing family lineage would be nearly impossible without the parishes (sicken, forestalling, pastorates) in Sweden. The Lutheran Church of Sweden was established in 1544; developing a system of record keeping by 1600. Baptisms, marriages and deaths were recorded. Changes of address and occupations were added by the mid 1600s, leading to population registers by 1780s and migration lists by 1800. Estate registries (known as Bouppteckningar) on death, reach back to the early 1600s for one quarter of the people who died with a little wealth, since 1/8th went to the church to support the poor. Without these records, could I locate my Swedish ancestors?

Olsson was changed to Erickson on immigrating to Minnesota. Olsson came from Olof Ersson, whose father was Ersson, his father Larsson, product of a more distant Ericsson! On the maternal side, Danielsdotter was born to Larsdotter (1828), born to Olsdotter (1795), born to Larsdotter (1757), born to Ersdotter (1730), born again to a more distant Olsdotter! Patronymics were most interesting. Genealogy for Swedes thanks a standard religion and human desire to promote and maintain records. ■

### **Announcing the Annual SRVGS Holiday Cookie Exchange!**

December is cookie time! Come join in the fun of a relaxing morning of genealogy conversation. Bring a batch, or two, of your favorite cookies - some to be shared and some so that everyone has cookies to take home. We will have soup, veggies, coffee, tea, and of course your delicious cookies. If baking is not your thing - Oreos are mighty good. **Tuesday, 3 Dec 2013, 10 - noon**, at the home of Francie Lloyd in Danville - see your SRVGS Handbook for the address and contact information.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### November 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.

#### December 2013

- 3 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. to noon. All members are welcome.** Plan to attend the traditional pre-Christmas **cookie exchange at the home of Frances Lloyd** in Danville. Bring a couple of dozen or a plate of your favorite cookies to share with the group. In exchange you will be able to sample them and take some home to the family.

**Our Society will not hold a general meeting during the month of December.** Enjoy the Holiday season, **attend the cookie exchange** and look forward to meeting again in January 2014. The next Board meeting is to be held on Tuesday January 7, 2014 at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.

**SRVGS Special Interest Groups** will not meet during the month of December.

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

*By: Bill George*

#### SIG Schedule Changes

We have three schedule changes in November:

- RootsMagic SIG will meet on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>
- Publishing SIG will meet on Friday, ►

November 22<sup>nd</sup>

- The German SIG will meet on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

All the other meetings will occur as scheduled. See our SIG calendar on the <http://srvgensoc.org> web site. Please also see detailed information for each SIG topic elsewhere in this newsletter.

#### RootsMagic SIG Needs Help

Muff Curry is hoping the RootsMagic SIG will be able to continue, since hardly anyone has attended the last two meetings. This month, the RootsMagic SIG on Wednesday November 20<sup>th</sup> 1pm at the Danville Family History Center due to a scheduling conflict, so we hope you can attend. Tell your neighbors. The topic will be the RootsMagic Interface. RootsMagic is such an outstanding genealogy program.

#### Find A Grave - <http://findagrave.com>

I recently encountered a few of my ancestor's Find A Grave records, which energized me to update and add some of my own. Find A Grave has made it very easy to register and add your own "memorials", or update memorials added by others. One feature is linking to spouses and parents, which is VERY handy for genealogists. You can put your whole family tree (of deceased people) on Find A Grave and also add up to 5 photos for free and a bio. Your ancestors may already be there, waiting for you to add photos and dates, because volunteers photograph entire cemeteries and upload hundreds of names and gravestone photos. There are also many additional features, making Find A Grave a very compelling and addictive web site. I notice at 12:49 pm today (Sun. Oct. 27, 2013), Find A Grave already has 7.6 million page views... in one day! The URL is <http://www.findagrave.com> and it is the #2 most visited genealogy web site in the U.S. (#5 in the world), behind only [Ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com). If you have feelings about deceased relatives, Find A Grave is a good way to work them out. ■

#### Genealogy:

Take nothing but ancestors, leave nothing but records.

## SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



**FAMILY TREE MAKER** – This group focuses on how *Family Tree Maker* interacts with Ancestry.com.

This group met **Monday November 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm** at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road. The topics for discussion were: *What's new for Family Tree Maker 2014*; *Using Facebook App*; *Ancestry.com YouTube Page*; and *Ancestry.com Learning Center*. 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.



**FAMILY SEARCH / FAMILY TREE** This Special Interest Group will meet

**Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>** (the second Monday) at **1 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road**. The Family Search/Family Tree SIG will be discussing Uploading Photos and Stories. 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 **Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup>** (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.



**ROOTS MAGIC** - **Please Note the day** This group will meet **Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm, at the Danville Family History Center**, 2949 Stone Valley Road.

"*The RootsMagic Interface*" will be the topic for discussion. 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) 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 is the coordinator of our RootsMagic group. If you want to be notified of future RootsMagic meetings, please contact Gayle at [bandmcurry@comcast.net](mailto:bandmcurry@comcast.net).



**PUBLISHING** – **Please Note the day.** The publishing group will meet **Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup> at**

**10:00 am 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 will offer advice, encouragement, suggestions and guide you to publishing sources. Those interested in joining should let Francie know that they plan to attend. Please contact Francie via e-mail, [frances\\_lloyd@comcast.net](mailto:frances_lloyd@comcast.net) or phone 925-837-9382.



**LEGACY SOFTWARE** – This is a genealogy software users group. This group will meet **Monday November 25<sup>th</sup>** (Fourth Monday) from **1-3 PM at the FHC on Stone Valley Road** in Alamo.

Topics for the meeting include "*Sharing Genealogy Electronically*" A Geoff Rasmussen webinar; (1) the pros and cons of printing your genealogy book using traditional methods vs. print-on-demand services, (2) Preparing and printing your genealogy book; (3) creating the skeleton (rich text file), adding the meat (stories, pictures, etc.), (4) creating the index and the Table of Contents. Then it also includes Publishing to the Internet: GEDCOM based submissions sites vs. creating your own web site; Creating web pages in Legacy. Publish to a CD or DVD, or flash drive; publish using Passage Express software. 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.



**GERMAN** – **Please note the date!** The German Group will meet **Wednesday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the home of**

**Dorothy Baker in Walnut Creek**. Please contact Helen Odegard if you plan to join the group. Contact Helen by phone at 932-6796 or e-mail, [odegardsh@gmail.com](mailto:odegardsh@gmail.com) for more information. ■

## CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 6 November Wednesday 7:30 pm** A Macintosh Genealogy (MacGen) group will meet at The Oakland Family Search Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue in Oakland. Subject: **The Family Card**. Reunion 10's Family Card has all kinds of slick features to **let** you quickly find people and update their information. Their web address is: <http://www.macgen.org/>
- 14 November 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. Christine Williams will make a presentation about the Pacheco Cemetery.
- 14 November Thursday 6:30 pm** The Sacramento Genealogy Society will hold one of its regular meetings at the Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Avenue in Carmichael. "*Ancestry.com – Discover the Power*" will be presented by Tamara Noe. Tamara Noe has been a volunteer at the Sacramento Regional Family History Center for 11 years and is currently serving as a supervisor, instructor, and staff trainer. She is also a writer for and the current editor of the Roseville Genealogical Society's newsletter. She has been teaching genealogy classes as well as PowerPoint classes for the past 6 years. Visit <http://www.rootcellar.org/> for further information
- 16 November 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. Marcia Holstrom will talk about writing and sharing family history stories and the process of gathering, sifting, editing them. Marcia Holstrom was trained as a geographer, and is now a popular genealogy lecturer and teacher. She will also tell of her ►

experience with the students and their stories. For more information go to <http://www.smcgs.org>.

- 19 November 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. The Erie Canal and the Civil War will be presented by John Glead. Visit [www.scchgs.org](http://www.scchgs.org) for further information. ■

## EDUCATION

*By: Kathy Javdani*

Happy Thanksgiving.

Before you get busy this month with all the holiday activities, enjoy some of a number of educational opportunities. Let's get started.



The California Genealogical Society (CGS) [www.CaliforniaAncestors.org](http://www.CaliforniaAncestors.org) begins the month with:

- **Introduction to Genealogy** on Sat., Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1 - 3 pm. Please register on line for this class that is offered every month.
- Also on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and again on Fri., Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, the **City Directory Library** will be open from 10 - 4.
- The Society will also sponsor two field trips this month:
  1. The first through the San Francisco SIG will be a tour of the **Haas Lillienthal House** in San Francisco on the 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 1:30.
  2. The second trip is a tour of the **Oakland Main Library** on Wed., the 20<sup>th</sup> from 11-12:30. Register on-line for both trips. Space is limited. ►

- On Tues, the 19<sup>th</sup> the **Roots Magic SIG** will meet from 6:30-8:00.



The Oakland Family Search Library (FSL), <https://familysearch.org> is also offering an **Introduction to Genealogy** class on Tues., Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 am and on Wed., Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

- The monthly **Mac Gen Users Workshop** led by our own Bill George will meet on Wed., Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- The class **Grandma Where Are you? Finding the Women in Your Family Tree** will be held on Sat., Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.
- The monthly workshop for **African American Research** will take place on Tues., the 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

Please check the Library website for registration and further details.



The Santa Clara History and Genealogical Society [www.scchgs.org](http://www.scchgs.org) will host a full day workshop entitled **Lest We Forget** (military history) on Sat., Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 4 pm. Consult the Society's website for details on registration and the syllabus.



The San Mateo County Genealogical Society [www.smcgs.org/whorkshops.html](http://www.smcgs.org/whorkshops.html) will present **Using PERSI and Internet Archives** on Thurs., Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 - 4 pm at the Canada College Library. Check with the Society's website for details on registration.



Like to learn from the comfort of your home? Many classes are listed at <https://familysearch.org/learn>. Just click on research courses. Also, at this URL you might want to explore the 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., Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am, when Gena Philibert Ortega will present **Women in World War II**. Then, on **Wed., Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>** at 6 pm, Leland Meitzler ►

### **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.

will lecture on **Mobile Capturing Your Ancestor's Documents and Pictures.**



The New England Historic Genealogical Society, [www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org) is hosting Webinars on Thurs., Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm EST and on Sat., Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> at 11 am EST on **Maximize Your AmericanAncestor.org**, and on Sat., Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm EST on **Death Records**. It will be taught by Kory L. Meyerink.

Recordings of these Webinars will be available later this year. Attendance is limited so if you are interested, please register on-line ASAP. Also check the Society's website for its online subject guide for helpful step-by-step solutions to your frequently asked questions, how-to videos, and more.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving. ■



### **IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER**

ANNUAL HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE	3
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	4
SRVGS CALENDAR	4
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	5
OTHER EVENTS	6
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
EDUCATION	6
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE	4
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	3

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL