



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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THIS MONTH – February 18, 2014

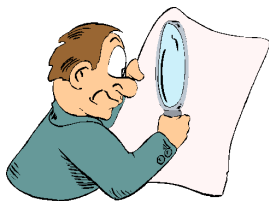
“California USGenweb Project “

Presented by: Lewis Ruddick



The USGenWeb Project is a group of volunteers who work together to provide genealogy websites for research across the country, by state and the counties within the states. Lewis Ruddick is the County Coordinator for several counties in California. He began in 1996 with Mendocino County and has since adopted four more counties. His presentation will help you get started using the resources on the California GenWeb Project and the USGenWeb Project. Learn about the information and links on the sites.

Lewis is currently the President of the Stanislaus County Genealogical Society. He has a background in law enforcement, both public and private, has community college and high school teaching credentials and volunteer experience in the Department of Fish and Game, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. in addition to his experience in CAGenWeb and the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County. He has been doing genealogical research since 1981. That pursuit became a full-time activity when he retired for the second time in 2006. He has researched in the United States, Ireland and Australia. ■



From the January Meeting

**“Getting the Scoop on Your Ancestors
with Newspapers”**

Speaker: Lisa Louise Cooke Reporter: Russ Erickson



Lisa is an international genealogy speaker, author of Genealogy-Gems.com, a podcast site, and 4 books. She is a past member of SRVGS and has traveled 50,000 miles for genealogy events and talks since we saw her last!

Her book, “How to Find Your Family History in Newspapers” provides a great way to become acquainted with faster means of using news-

papers as a genealogy source. Newspaper sites are varied and historic newspapers held in many places; at their source, in archives, and libraries, etc. She discussed: What you can discover in newspapers; Three cool tools online to identify and locate them; Websites with digitized papers, national, regional, and state; finally: “Top tips”.

Newspapers contain obituaries, vital records, substitute data, photos, maiden names, ►

insight into communities where ancestors lived, names of relatives and friends, clues for more research, events involving ancestors (which could jog your older relatives' memories), school events, legal notices, classified, and advertising that could include items for ancestors' businesses. Always check the front page of any paper viewed. Items on ancestors' employers can give events affecting their lives. REMEMBER, always write the paper, date, and page number where an item is found.

Which papers existed in the place and time of interest? Check neighboring towns and county-wide papers. When checking foreign language papers, on line translations are available. View the GenealogyGems podcast for more information. Identify papers of interest. Libraries and archives catalogues and other sources are on line. Always start on line, locate the Digitized sources, then find the other sources for newspapers closest to you to save travel time and money.

Tools:

1. [Stanford Data Visualization \(SDV\) \(newspaper section\)](#). It has a map and time slider with dots showing where newspapers existed historically. Click on a dot region and a list of newspapers comes up with names and addresses of current available paper sites. The papers digitized are noted, and can be read on line, sections magnified, and downloaded. There is a link for every historic 10 years. The SDV site color codes dots for foreign language newspapers. That indirectly tells you where the involved nationalities lived in each historic period.
2. **Newspapermap.com**: It has, at the screen top, a HIST button for historical periods. You can go to websites with digitized newspaper copies. It also goes international; clicking "English" and the site will translate the desired articles into English!
3. **WorldCat.org**: Sign in for a free account, giving you wider access. It catalogues world libraries, providing both enews and places where non-digitized newspapers are held. You can look ►

for libraries by zip code. Even corporate libraries are included. The site allows you to create a list of newspapers of interest for your own account. You can obtain a list of people with interests similar to yours. WorldCat has signed to add a list of all Family Search books.

4. **Elephind.com**: 110 million items from 1985 newspapers (and growing)

In her handout, Lisa includes sites for the United States newspaper program, a Directory of state archives, the US Genweb project, reference librarians at state libraries, and local genealogy and historical societies. Google4Genealogy.com, Google search, when used can be made more specific by enclosing key terms in " ". One can search subscription sites without buying a membership to see what they contain. They are a good source to find what is available. The Google News Archive is no longer adding material, but much is still available there. Remember, only a fraction of what is available in newspapers is on line! On sites, use "contact us" for additional help when desired. Remember, even modern newspapers often contain historical articles, where items from 20-50-to 100 years ago might be repeated.

Newspapers are secondary sources for genealogy. Items found must be verified!

As a last educational item, Lisa suggested <**Evernote.com**> is a great free website with free software to download if desired. It allows quick and easy note taking when online. A square line can be drawn around a desired item in a newspaper, OCR is used to download that item, and it is searchable by any word in it. ■



President's Message

By Russ Erickson

We can be proud of our San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society, with its educational and social mix of monthly events. For many years, membership has been between 160 and 180. We have 8 members involved on the SRVGS Board, 15 on committees, and 7 heading SIG (Special Interest Groups). That means about 30 members of 165 ►

at present are very active and keeping us moving along and interesting. Think about that! In most aspects of USA life, 10 percent of people make up the driving force in politics, finance, and all other aspects of society. WE have nearly 20 percent personally involved. In addition, a good third or more of members are attending every monthly general meeting. Our speakers have been impressed at the turnout for our educational and social get-togethers.

Our members, with their interest in genealogy and history, are also a most pleasant group of people with many geographical and educational backgrounds. Being with them is a social highlight of both Patty's and my month. Thank you all! Now is that time of year when members (and I want especially to encourage you who are younger) need to consider staying or becoming more active. The time when a Nominating Committee is formed and people sought who would like to run for the Board or who are willing to serve on a committee or join a SIG group. Our Board members serve for 1 or 2 years, to keep ideas fresh and allow interested people to also enjoy the added stimulating social time at a monthly Board meeting. Turnover has kept SRVGS vital for 29 years! Volunteers and the beneficence of our LDS meeting place has kept dues low so more are able to take advantage of all we offer. Please consider being a Nominating Committee member. We will need new Board members; a Treasurer, a Membership Chair, Two Program committee members, and a First Vice-President who is willing to advance to President in 2015. Not a great deal of time is needed, just interest and some "mind time". These are all essential. Past chairs can help get you started, and we have avenues to future programs.

Committee helpers and future Chairs are always appreciated, as are members interested in attending and helping with SIG groups. The current Board members, Committee Chairs, and SIG leaders are listed in your handbooks. Talk to anyone where you might have an interest. Being a part of any group is enjoyable and does not take a great amount of time from our busy lives (even when retired, we do seem to stay busy). Make new friends, be involved, social involvement prolongs and enhances life and keeps our minds young. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

February 2014

- 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.

March 2014

- 4 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be 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.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

Full SIG Schedule in February

It looks like we will have a full slate of Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings in February. Details are on our web site (<http://srvgensoc.org/sig.html>), newsletter and handouts.

I would like to thank all the people who open up their homes for monthly SIG meetings. Patty Erickson holds the Irish SIG (2nd Wed. 10am) every month and is one of the people who helped start our Society. Francie Lloyd's Publishing SIG (3rd Thu. 10am) meets monthly, at her home in Danville. She holds the SIG, even in August and December, when other SIGs take vacations. The German SIG (4th Wed 10am) rotates each month to a different person's home. What ►

a great way for people to get acquainted with each other.

Gratitude is also due to the Danville Family History Center. Carol Parmely is the FHC director and is very supportive of our SIGs. She allows us to use their meeting rooms to hold four SIG meetings, Mondays at 1pm. 1st Mon. Family Tree Maker; 2nd Mon. FamilySearch; 3rd Mon, Roots-Magic; 4th Mon. Legacy.

There was one milestone. We managed a record attendance of 22 people at our FamilySearch SIG in January.

Speaking of FamilySearch

FamilySearch keeps coming out with new features and you absolutely can't beat the price, FREE! They have full-featured record searching and, if you have added your family to the FamilySearch Family tree (also FREE), you can apply sources you find to those individuals.

Genealogy Societies

If you really want to "dig in" to this great genealogy hobby, there are many societies in the Bay Area. The best one is our own SRVGS, but if you don't mind driving a couple miles many other groups are close by. LAGS (l-ags.org) in Pleasanton is very good. There are groups in Concord, Oakland (three), San Mateo, Santa Clara (two), Napa, San Rafael and Fairfield. There are also nearby conferences in June (Sacramento) and October (Concord). You may search for details using Google or Bing. ■

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



ANCESTRY/FAMILY TREE MAKER – This group focuses on how Family Tree Maker interacts with Ancestry.com. This group will have met **Monday, February 3rd and will meet on March 3rd (the first Monday) at 1 pm at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road.** 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 - This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday, February 10th (the second Monday) at 1 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.** The theme topic for this meeting will be New features of Photos and Stories. 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 meet **Wednesday, February 12th and on March 12th (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 or phone 229-0889.



ROOTS MAGIC - RootsMagic is a full-featured genealogy software program. This group will meet **February 17th (the third Monday) at 1 pm at the Family History Center at 2949 Stone Valley Road.** The theme topic for this meeting will be the Roots-Magic Interface. There is also a free companion RootsMagic program for smartphones. Roots Magic Essentials is a free version of RootsMagic (with some functions) 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. You may contact her via e-mail bandmcurry@comcast.net.



PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday February 20th at 10:00 am at the home of Frances Lloyd** in Danville. This Group invites you to monthly third Thursday 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. Please contact Francie by phone 837-9382 or via e-mail: frances_lloyd@comcast.net ►



LEGACY SOFTWARE – This is a genealogy software users group. This group will meet **Monday, February 24th** (Fourth Monday) from **1-3 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley**

Road in Alamo. The theme topic for this meeting will be Legacy 8. They will be working their way through some of the new "stuff" on Legacy. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Sharon Clay with an e-mail to sharonclay@comcast.net, or phone 462-4518.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday, February 26th (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, odegardsh@gmail.com or phone 932-6796 for more information. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

The year is off and running. It's full of opportunities to hone our research. Please note that a number of classes fill up quickly, so check all the websites/phone number listed below for registration details. As far as I know, I have not listed any classes that are already full.



The California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org

- starts the month on Sat. Feb. 1st with its **Introduction to Genealogy** class from 1-3. Please register on line for this class that is offered monthly.
- On Feb. 8th a class entitled **Gentlemen Officer: Uncovering a Legacy of Firsts** will be held from 1-3.
- On Sat., Feb. 15th, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 – 11:30. This SIG always meets on the third Saturday of the month.
- On Tues., Feb. 18th the **Roots Magic SIG** will meet from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. ►



The Concord Family History Center will present the workshop **“Rookie Mistakes”** on Feb. 15th at 10. The workshop will include a self-improvement checklist, a demo, and a filing system. Contact Jackie at 827-4729 for details.



The Oakland Family Search Library (FSL) <https://familysearch.org> is offering numerous educational opportunities in February beginning with:

- A class on **Computer Basics** will take place on Tues., Feb. 4th at 7:30 pm.
- A class entitled **Using the Search Feature of Roots Magic** will be held on Tues., Feb. 11th at 10:30 am and then again on the 28th at 2pm.
- Our Bill George will lead the monthly **Mac Users Workshop** on Wed., Feb. 12th at 7 pm and the **Mac Gen. Group** meeting on Feb., 22nd at 1:30 pm.
- **Using the FOCUS Feature of PAF** will be taught on Feb., 14th at 10 am and then again at 2 pm on Feb. 25th.
- On Wed. Feb 26th the monthly workshop on **African American Research** will take place at 6.

For further information for all upcoming events and to register please check the website. Many classes are listed at: <https://familysearch.org/learn>.



There are many learning opportunities available right at home. As always, this month is a good time to check the tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and Webinars on your favorite websites. The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS) www.scgsgenealogy.com continues to offer free Webinars.

- This month, **Deconstructing Your Family Tree: Re-Evaluating the Evidence, will be offered on Sat., Feb. 1st at 10.**
- **Timeline Creation Applications** will be aired on Wed., Feb. 19th at 6p.



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) ►

www.Americanancestors.org has a growing Online Learning Center that offers educational resources for both guest users and NEHGS members. There is access to archived webinars, online courses, how-to videos, subject guides, and more.

- On Sat., Feb. 15th, the Society will offer a free Webinar at 12 PST entitled **Find Your 17th-c. New England Ancestors with NEHGS**. You will need to register in advance.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact Online Education Coordinator Ginevra Morse at gmorse@nehgs.org

Save the Date:

- **CGS 14th Annual Salt Lake City Tour** from Apr. 6th – 13th.
- **Family History Expo** in Sacramento from May 2nd – 3rd. See www.fhexpos.com
- **Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree** from June 6th -8th. ■

Quarterly Report from the Tri-Valley History Council

By: Kathy Javdani

The Tri-Valley History Council www.l-ags.org/HistoryCouncil is a consortium of libraries, museums, historical groups and genealogical societies in the Tri-Valley area. The group meets quarterly to share information and coordinate some activities. As the representative of SRVGS, I attended the most recent meeting on January 14th at the Rosie the Riveter WW II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond. Though Richmond is not in the Tri-Valley, one of council members serves the site. The following is a meeting summary noting some events that will be taking place in our area in the near future.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the Rosie the Riveter Museum, I would highly

(Continued on page 8) ►

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 11 February 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> Loretta Kaskey will speak about Researching Your Old House.
- 13 February Thursday 6:30 pm** The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society meetings on the second Thursday at the FHC, 3700 Concord Blvd in Concord. This will be a research night workshop.
- 15 February 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. Patricia "Pat" Burrow will give a presentation about Creating Family History Reports with Reunion. Reunion is a genealogy software program for Mac users. Their web address is: <http://www.smegs.org/>
- 18 February Tuesday 6 pm** The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will hold its regular meetings in the Cedar Room of the Santa Clara Central Park library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. "American Treasurers – The United States Presidential Library System" will be the topic of the presentation by Reese Foster. Reese Foster is a Stanford graduate in American History. He will present a program on the libraries and museums of the United States Presidents; how they came into existence and their connection to the National Archives. Visit www.scchgs.org for further information.
- 5 April Saturday** The Sacramento Genealogy Society (Root Cellar) will sponsor a spring seminar. Geoff Rasmussen will be the featured speaker. The theme topic will be Legacy Family Tree Genealogy Software and Webinars. Visit: <http://www.rootcellar.org/> ■



(Photo by Ted Shapas)

Vern Segelke - Life Member**Vern Segelke Made A Life Member**

By: Russ Erickson

Vern Segelke was voted a Life Membership by the Board and confirmed by a vote of the Society members in November, 2013. He was presented with a brass plaque of appreciation at the January, 2014 General meeting. Vern joined SRVGS in 1993, giving genealogical classes in 1995-96 and becoming Library Trips chair those same years, a role he continued through 2002. In 2001 to 2002, he chaired the program committee and began responsibility for the Newsletter Calendar of society events, especially the SIG (Special Interest Groups). He has kept our calendar of events current since then. In 2003 and 2004, he provided education classes. From 2004 to 2008, Vern was Corresponding Secretary. In the past 2 years, he has been Treasurer of SRVGS, keeping superb accounts for the society. Throughout his time with SRVGS, he has been a soft spoken, friendly voice helping to keep SRVGS a stable, socially active and educational genealogical center for people of the valley and surrounding communities. ■

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President:	Russ Erickson	925-229-0889
	e-mail: 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	
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.

► (continued from page 6) recommend a tour that includes a viewing of their films. The permanent exhibit will go on display in May. The museum has openings for volunteers.

The Livermore Heritage Guild www.livermorehistory.com celebrated its 40th anniversary last fall. It is currently scanning all the yearbooks for Livermore High School and will be placing them on-line.

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley's www.museumsv.org/ current exhibit is "*Cowboys and Cattlemen – Ranching in the San Ramon Valley*". The exhibit runs from Jan. 28th – May 4th. The museum also operates the Tassajara One Room School Living History Program for 2,600 third grade students from mid-January through June.

In the Dublin area, a new museum addressing the history of Camp Parks should be opening later this year. The Murray School Museum and Cemetery also has a third grade students program. The Dublin library will be celebrating its centennial this spring. It currently has a Children's Museum at Emerald Glen Park. ►

The Livermore Library www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/lib/ is putting Bunshah obituary Index for local residents on line. The library has helpful on-line local genealogy support.

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society www.l-ags.org/ is in the process of digitizing the Pleasanton Times from 1929-1934. One of its members, Dick Finn, has been working of Tri-Valley Historical Families before 1910. Thus far, he has collected more than 35,000 names.

The Alviso Adobe Community Park www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/services/recreation/alviso-adobe.html in Pleasanton focuses on activities geared to children and families. It is currently working on more interactive activities.

The Danville Library ccclib.org/locations/danville.html will be presenting a living history series this spring. The presentations are: March 12th – Water, Earth and Sky; April 1st - Mastodons in Danville; and May 7th – a play based on the local 1964 plane crash (\$20) I hope you find time to enjoy our local heritage. ■

**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 305
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FIRST CLASS MAIL