



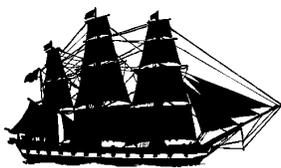
# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIX No. 10 May - 2014



**THIS MONTH – May 20, 2014**  
**“U. S. Passenger List and Manifest  
Annotations & Markings”**  
**Presented by: Kay Speaks**



Immigration records, known as “passenger arrival” records, provide valuable genealogical information. After April 1, 1924, immigrants in the U.S. who wanted to travel abroad could apply for a reentry permit, which required their original port of entry, ship and date of arrival. This information was verified by clerks, who would annotate the permit request on the original passenger list.

What do all these scribbles on a passenger list and manifest mean? Do you get annoyed when they interfere with your ability to read past these annotations and markings to your ancestor’s documented information? Once you learn what these annotations and markings mean and why they were created, you begin to hope your records contain these hidden clues to deciphering your family history.

Kay joined the Livermore - Amador Genealogical Society (L-AGS) in 1999 as a newbie genealogist. Since then she has been involved in most of L-AGS special interest groups and county fair projects, as participant, leader, or coordinator. She has organized meetings, workshops and seminars for L-AGS, CGS, Chinese American Family History Group, and the Tri-Valley TMG Users Group. Kay has presented a variety of family history topics locally, as well as throughout California. Kay is an information technology manager, as well as a local and international award-winning poet.



## From the April Meeting

**“Mocavo/ My Heritage/ Find My Past/ Ancestry”**

**Speaker: Virginia Kysh**

**Reporter: Jean Hunt**



Virginia Kysh is a long time genealogist very active in the Antioch FHC and a volunteer for Find A Grave. She was the keynote speaker at “Digging for Your Roots” in Concord

last year, where she also gave 3 classes. She has taught at that event for several years, giving new classes each year. She keeps up with current happenings in the genealogy world, and her ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

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### Virginia Kysh

enthusiasm is seen in each of her presentations.

1. **My Heritage** covers European genealogy very well, and the company is based in Israel. Their internet page shows what they have available. Under "Smart matches", your family tree, entered by Gedcom, is matched by searching the net by this program. Family members can be invited to this program site. The program sources are put in much like Family Search. One can confirm or reject matches and data is given for each person so you can compare possible ancestor additions. The program finds matches from data resources such as Find A Grave, Social Security death indices, church records, censuses, etc. My Heritage has a DNA test element. One can import photos and documents. Timelines can be done and birthdays defined. One can build a family crest! *Family Tree Builder* in My Heritage allows a free download with videos on how to use My Heritage. Under "**Research**", there are search segments covering the common elements of genealogy research (census/church records/ pensions/ court records/ etc.) The program has different levels of ability and costs. Costs decrease each year you are a ►

member. The basic program is free; the premium is \$10 plus \$6 per month.

2. **Mocavo** started in 2010. The "silver" level is \$80 per year. Some things are free. It has public trees and you can add yours, either uploading a Gedcom or creating it in Mocavo. Click on "community", then "karma" if one needs help. It has a learning center and groups plus surname groups, with the number in each. There is a blog site with free scanning. New features are stated, and there is a chat site with talks and classes. There is a new browse by location research site, both USA and international. One can upload and share stories. The site also will search the web for additions to your tree.

3. **Find My Past** is British and the LDS FHC has this site available free. It coordinates with the British library, NEHGS, New Zealand, Australia, and Canada. Cost is \$10 per month and up. PERSI from Allen county, Indiana, with its index of all genealogy publications will be digitized on this site. (On Heritage Quest also). It will have the index and actual articles are being made available. USA and International records are included for \$15 per month. It provides clean, efficient data on each person, for all items you put in and allows search by record sets, filtering by country, and search by key words. One can view original documents. *Find My Past* provides a full list of searches available.

4. **Ancestry** works on Explorer and Firefox. Family trees are not always accurate (the same goes for all public trees). There is a card catalogue and one can search by states, which should be done. A general search only provides about 10% of the data available! Ancestry has much training available on youtube.com, and gives leads to hiring experts. DNA use is available

Virginia also advised obtaining a copy of **Family Tree** magazine, the March/April 2014 issue, available at Barnes and Noble, by subscription, and likely other sources. This fantastic issue is about discovering your roots online. It has guides to 20 websites and tools, including Ancestry.com, Archives.com, Archives.gov, Family Search.org, FindMyPast.com, Fold3.com, the Library of Congress, MyHeritage.com, Online books, papers, and libraries. ■



## President's Message

*By Russ Erickson*

Genealogy gives us an historical view of who we are. I appear 1/8 German, a bit Irish and English, and majority Scandinavian. My German great-great-grandfather, Nicholas Roos (now Rose) was Bavarian. The SGGS (Sacramento German Gen Soc), Christine Rose, Genealogy researcher, and the LDS German Research Outline all helped me track him to a start in Bavaria. He became an immigrant to Pennsylvania, married an Irish lady and my great-grandfather was working in the mines as a slate picker at age 8! Going to Germany for early records seems interesting; likely the case for many early European countries. First, "Germany" was a collection of up 400 small states in 1648, 150 in 1803, 39 in 1815, and just 1 in 1871, when the modern map came into being. There were villages, then there were parishes with records, covering many villages. Old German script was used to 1920, readable by experts. Multiple marriages and out of wedlock children were common in ancient days. Baptisms were more likely recorded than birth dates. Catholics predominated in east and south, Lutherans west and north among the many small fiefdoms. To find an ancestor, one HAS to start in the USA, gaining as much information as feasible toward finding a founding town in Germany. Start with the LDS brochure on German heritage. Attend the SGGS yearly seminar (SGGS, P.O. Box 66061, Sacramento 95866 or Google them), where much material and resources are presented. They present a pocket "German card" for \$3.00 with basic genealogy vocabulary, census and immigration data and the German alphabet, script, and symbols. The SGGS notes early "correct" spelling of names is recent--early people pronounced, but, aside from academics, might spell several ways, making record keeping difficult. This fine group has a library and lists of resources. The "German Research Companion" by Shirley J. Riemer and "Germanic Genealogy; Guide to worldwide Sources" by Edward Brandt are notable. SGGS provides a list of German translators in Northern California (of course, Google translations is ►

also available). Michael P. Palmer did a fine article on Immigration Passenger lists, noting Hamburg departures from 1850 have data, but for less than half of the 19th century, when many departed from England. The arrival lists in US, after 1819, are more likely of help, with 20 million European people coming from 1820 to 1890. A majority landed in Baltimore, Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. New Orleans for those initially in our south, and surprisingly, a great number came to Galveston when going to the Midwest or west. Lists are not complete, as Customs Inspectors did not work on Sundays, and rarely whole quarters of landings were not filed. Many Galveston records were destroyed in the 1906 hurricane. The National Archives routinely destroyed the mass of paper copies after microfilming, some of which were too light to be easily read. I have, finally, a handout by Sabine Schleichert <[sabine@ggrs.com](mailto:sabine@ggrs.com)> providing sources for emigration, name indices, church and civil records, and state archives. ■



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### May 2014

- 6 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.
- 20 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.

#### June 2014

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

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: *Bill George*

I place a sign-up sheet for each SIG on one of the tables at all General Meetings. If you sign up, the SIG leader of the SIG you're interested in will add you to their notification list for upcoming meetings. Occasionally there are special topics or giveaways and it helps to be reminded of the meeting.

I also keep the Special Interest Group area of our web site <http://srvgensoc.org>, updated. If you click on "About SRVGS", then click on "Special Interest Groups" you can find out if any times or dates for that month have changed. There is also news about particular SIGS, for example, the Irish SIG had one of the highest attendances in a long time in April, with 12 people.

We also have the Special Interest Group calendar you might review, at <http://srvgensoc.org/calendar.html>. We have six SIGs that meet during the month. It's easy to view all our meetings during the month with this calendar.

There are also volunteers at the Danville Family History Center available, three days and two nights a week. There are a variety of experienced people ready to help with things like Southern U.S., Scandinavian, English, Irish research and more. A list of all the SIGs and the different Danville FHC resources are in our Member Resources document at <http://srvgensoc.org/member-resources.pdf>. ■

### GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Fell off the family tree.

## 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 May 5<sup>th</sup>** (the first Monday) at **1 pm at the Danville Family History Center**, 2949 Stone Valley Road. They are also scheduled to meet on June 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 May 12<sup>th</sup>** (the second Monday) at **1 pm at the Family History Center** on Stone Valley Road. The theme topic for this meeting will be FamilySearch Family Tree Manually created Sources. This is part three of our sessions on sources in 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](mailto:williamcgeorge@Gmail.com)



**IRISH** - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup>** and **June 11<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.



**PUBLISHING** – The publishing group will meet **Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>** at **10:00 am at the home of Frances Lloyd** in Danville. This informal Group invites you to monthly third Thursday meetings. Members will offer advice, encouragement, suggestions and guide you to publishing sources as you develop your book, big or small. Members share their writings as their progress to a finished project. Society members 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 837-9382. ▶



**LEGACY SOFTWARE** – This is a genealogy software users group. This group will meet **Monday May 19<sup>th</sup>** from 1-3 pm at the **Family History Center on Stone Valley Road in Alamo.** Please

**note the early meeting date due to the Memorial Day Holiday.** The program for the 19<sup>th</sup> will be "Using the SourceWriter" and also how to "share" events among many people. For example if you have a family of 8 children and they all appear on a census - how do you "share" that resource on all the entries of the children without rewriting the resource every time. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Sharon Clay with an e-mail to: [sharonlclay@comcast.net](mailto:sharonlclay@comcast.net), or phone 462-4518.



**GERMAN** – The German Group will meet **Wednesday May 28<sup>th</sup>** (the fourth Wednesday). at **10:00 am., at the home of**

**Robert Venter in Livermore.** 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](mailto:odegardsh@gmail.com) or phone 932-6796 for more information. ■

## CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

**8 May Thursday 7 pm** The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will hold one of their regular meetings on the second Thursday of the month at the LDS Building, 1360 Alberta Way in Concord. It will be Show and Tell night. There will be a book exchange freebie table. New officers will also be installed.

**12 May Monday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. **Future meetings will be on the second Monday of the month.** At the May meeting, Susan Goss Johnston will talk about "Writing Your Family history, One Byte at a Time." The web address for the society is: <http://www.l-ags.org> ►

**16 May Friday 1:30 pm** The Mount Diablo Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings at the Creekside Clubhouse meeting room #3 in Rossmoor. They meet on the third Friday of each month. The speaker will be **Francine Brevetti**, noted journalist, author and biographer, who will speak on ways to write your story. She has been writing clients' biographies for several years and also conducts workshops on ways to make writing easy and informative.

**20 May 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. "What's New for Genealogists at the Santa Clara City Library?" Mary Hanel, local History Librarian and Library Staff Liaison, will give her annual presentation. Visit [www.sccghs.org](http://www.sccghs.org) for further information.

**24 May Saturday 1:30 pm** A Macintosh Genealogy (MacGen) group will meet at The Oakland Family Search Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue in Oakland. Reunion software is their common theme. Their web address is: <http://www.macgen.org/>

**27 May Tuesday 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm** The Sacramento German Genealogy Society will hold one of its regular meetings at - St. Mark's United Methodist Church, at Lusk Drive and St. Mark's Way in Sacramento. Sonja Nishimoto will speak about Internet Sites that are Most Popular with FHC Patrons at the International desk at the FHC Library in Salt Lake City. You may also visit their web site at [www.sacgergernsociety.org](http://www.sacgergernsociety.org) ■

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“In different hours, a man represents each of several of his ancestors, as if there were seven or eight of us rolled up in each man's skin,—seven or eight ancestors at least, and they constitute the variety of notes for that new piece of music which his life is.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

**\*\* NOTICE \*\*****Pennsylvania Researchers**

Richard Ferman is speaking to us in June on doing Pennsylvania research. He is offering 2 free CD's on Pennsylvania with a \$10.00 donation to the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, of which he is a Board member.

If you have Pennsylvania ancestors and are interested in the two CD's, would you please give me your \$10.00 check, made out to SCCHGS, at the May 20<sup>th</sup> general meeting? I will mail all the checks to Mr. Ferman and you will receive your 2 CD's at the June 17<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

Patty Erickson, Program Chair

**EDUCATION**

*By: Kathy Javdani*

Many of our educational opportunities are on the same days of the week this month as in the past, but they will address different topics.



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

- starts the first Saturday of each month with its Introduction to Genealogy class from 1-3. This month the class will meet on Sat., May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please register on line.
- Sat., May 17<sup>th</sup> the San Francisco SIG will meet from 10 - 11:30. This SIG always meets on the third Saturday of each month.
- Tues., May 20<sup>th</sup> the Roots Magic SIG will meet from 6:30 - 8:30.
- Sat., May 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 12 Virginia Kysh will present "*Cemetery & Church Records*". Register online.
- Sat., May 31<sup>st</sup> from 10 - 3 CGS will present "*Harnessing the Power of Digital Photography for Family History*". Register online. ►

For more upcoming events from Santa Cruz to Sacramento check the CGS "*San Francisco Bay Area General Calendar*" at: <http://sfbagenealogy.blogspot.com>

At this time the Oakland Family Search Library (FSL) <https://familysearch.org> has no classes listed for May.

It is always 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](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com) continues to offer free webinars. This month it will be offering

- Sat., May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am "*Nifty and Powerful Technologies for Genealogical Analysis and Documentation*" by Ron Arons
- Wed., May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm "*Cost Cutting Measures to Help You Do More Genealogy*" by Gena Philibert-Ortega
- Sat., May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10 am "*Everything You Want to Know About Jamboree*" by Leo Myers, Paula Hinkel and Vicki Hilb

Also on the SCGS website under Webinars ([www.scgsgenealogy.com/weinar/overview.html](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/weinar/overview.html)) there are free genealogy presentations and PDF notes for researching information at NARA

- Neither Filmed nor Scanned: NARA Treasures Await by Kerry Batlets
- Many Facets of the National Archives Website by Kerry Batlets
- National Archives Website, Microfilm, Catalog, Archival Databases, and Guides by Kerry Batlets
- Military Records at the National Archives by Kerry Batlets



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) [www.Americanancestors.org](http://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 much more. ►

**Save the Date:**

- May 2<sup>nd</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> Family History Expo in Sacramento. See [www.fhexpos.com](http://www.fhexpos.com)
- May 10<sup>th</sup> Sacramento German Genealogical Society's Annual Seminar at Fair Oaks. <http://sggs.us/cpage.php?pt=7>
- June 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree ■

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## CHEAP WATCHES

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station! Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found. Why were the best watches found at the train station? The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was. Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-ways had already been secured for the rail line. Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and that was the primary way that they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years. This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them. So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He ►

**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.

sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit. That started it all. He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. It worked! It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches. Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watch maker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah. And the rest is history as they say. The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods. Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there. It all started with a telegraph operator: Richard Sears and his partner Alvah Roebuck! YES, IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train. ■

(noted in the Diablo Descendants, CCC Genealogy, February 2014)

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**San Ramon Valley  
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