



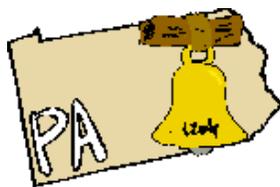
San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXX No. 1 June - 2014

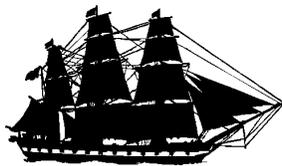


THIS MONTH – June 17, 2014
“Pennsylvania: The Keystone State”
Presented by: Richard J. Ferman

**KEYSTONE
STATE**

Once again Richard Ferman is back at SRVGS. This is his third visit and this time he will be explaining the best ways to research one's ancestors in the state of Pennsylvania. He will draw on his extensive knowledge and experience in this area as well as acquaint us with the many resources available.

Richard J. Ferman is a graduate of Ohio University('67); majored in History and taught on the High School and College levels. He currently is Educational Director, Webmaster and teaches at Willows SeniorNet of San Jose. His career was spent, oddly enough, as an operating system and compiler programmer and he specialized in machine language programming. He retired from IBM in 2004. He is currently Program Chairperson and Past President('84) of the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society; and a frequent speaker.

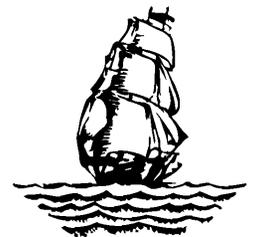


From the May Meeting

"U. S. Passenger List and Manifest Annotations & Markings"

Speaker: Kay Speaks

Reporter: Russell Erickson



Kay is a first generation American-Chinese with an extensive Chinese interest in genealogy and has been extensively involved since 1999. The alien manifests, provided by steam ship companies to comply with American law and head tax needs, are needed to find the emigrating home of ancestors from many countries; especially Chinese. Part of her information is from Marian L Smith, senior historian of the im-

migration and naturalization service (now USCIS). Her guide to interpreting manifests is online at www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/Manifests/. What do all the scribbles on a passenger manifest mean? Who made them and why? Did the government change your family's name? A Manifest is a list of cargo and passengers on a ship or plane. It is a customs document, usually set at the point of departure and given to immigration on arrival. ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Kay Speaks

U.S. officials can add annotations on arrival or even years later. Their scribbles, unfortunately, often obscure ancestors names or addresses, especially for Chinese. (Sometimes related to the 1930s "Chinese Exclusion Act) In the manifest left hand column is the "contract" ticket number that has no relation to other US records. One may be able to match the contract number with a departure record. Forms in the 1890s to 1900s might have separate contract numbers. A "Head tax" number might be in the form prior to forms with a Head Tax column. Too often, a passenger booked on a ship failed to sail, due to health, missed boat, health official refusal, or changed plans. Another relative might go instead, using the name position. If a "meaningless" entry, the line could be crossed out. The ancestor could still be on the boat, changing from one class to another (first, second, and steerage). Look further in the passenger list. The ancestor might also come as ship's crew to pay for passage. If "NOB"-not on board, or did not sail, not shipped. The ship would denote to avoid a head tax on arrival. The left margin of a form might also denote "detained" or SI (special

inquiry), or board of special inquiry, especially for Chinese during the Exclusion Act period. There was great prejudice (some Chinese made citizenship by joining the military). "X, D, Held" can all mean the same. Transit indicates passing thru.

The name on a passenger list had to be the same as that applied for Naturalization, so a government bureaucrat during Naturalization might later change the name to a "more American" one adopted by the immigrant. If verification clerks found significant name differences, a form I-404 or I-405 was issued instead of a "Certificate of Arrival". Name changes could also be via a ship's purser during the original trip. A second page on passenger lists might indicate food costs, if ill, if died en route, etc. After 1924, a readmission entry list was used to allow a foreign immigrant to return home for a visit and re-enter the country. Especially at Ellis Island, letters were issued to assure the ancestor had a prior landing and allow a return. V/L or VL indicates verification of prior landing. The immigrant HAD to know the name of the original ship of entry. Prior to 1906, there was no certificate of arrival requirement.

In San Francisco and San Bruno archives, there are VL files and voluminous questioning of immigrants on their villages and former lives, designed to prove who they were. Even 5 year old Chinese were sometimes subjected to a 2 hour "inquisition". Many, especially Chinese, came via Canada which was easier to enter, and less expense to cross the Canada-US border.

Finally: Create a Time-Line for your genealogy research, noting historical facts and where the ancestor located at varied times.

When you look at ship's manifests, do not look JUST for your ancestor's name; seek others who might be related or from the same village, check all records and look at the end of reports, seek indication of wealth (passage class), etc.

Reference Links:

www.theshipslist.com/Research/Resource.htm

www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/085.html

<http://barbsnow.net/Passenger.htm>

Wikipedia "*Immigration to the United States*" ■



President's Message

By Russ Erickson

This is a month to sincerely thank all the wonderful people who have made SRVGS a great learning and social organization this past year.

First, all who have come to hear our terrific speakers and who have enjoyed working on genealogy. Second, those who have led or attended SIG groups during the year, who have benefited not only from the increased knowledge presented, but also from making and keeping close friends.

We thank Peggy Gierke and Susan Hanck for all their work in providing food treats for all, this year, and in past years. They have been so kind to all to give their time and talents, making SRVGS even a more pleasant social experience of benefit to so many of us.

Lynnet Keihl has given time and talent to the group, and kept the president on track whenever beset by a "senior moment" of error. Patty Erickson has been outstanding seeking speakers ahead of time all during the year, and aided by Diane George, has chosen a broad spectrum of subjects to hold all interests. Ed Mason has chaired and organized membership, managed the yearly Handbooks for 2 years, after serving in many Board capacities the past few years. He has worked with our other computer conversant members to help with our entry into the electronic age. He has also, with Lynnet Keihl and Bob Venter, scanned all our SRVGS past newsletters to make them available electronically. Gay Scott has ably assisted Ed on membership and been of great help every general meeting. Vern Segelke has served without error as treasurer the past 2 years. He has many years of service to SRVGS in multiple capacities and was voted a Life Membership this past year. He also keeps track of the events calendar each month. He leaves the Board with a budget for 2014-2015. Kathy Javdani, chair of education, has kept a close eye on all the genealogy groups in the area plus many across the country, letting us know of educational events available both in meetings and over the web. Keeping track of so many is quite a mental task!

Bill George has organized, taught, and kept track of our Special Interest Groups, is always helpful, and is one of the computer gurus who are so important to presentations. Bob Venter, another of our gurus, has been irreplaceable for setting up our speaker's talks. He manages to organize and send out our monthly Newsletters, and manages our website. He can get news emails to all our members, along with Ileen Peterson, who moved north long ago, but still maintains her interest in SRVGS and serves our members, as "Bits and Pieces" editor. Sande Burns, our interesting and artistic membership liaison, has greeted visitors and new members, making them welcome, and helping to keep our membership strong. Barbara Shapas has been Corresponding Secretary this year, traveling to our P.O. Box monthly to distribute mail to the board, and conducts our correspondence. She assists Sande at the entry desk, greeting members and visitor. Her presence is calming and adds to the social feeling of Board meetings. Mary Tom, our Recording Secretary, has been outstanding in developing and keeping minutes of our Board and general society meetings. She has been so very adept at organizing and keeping track of Board discussions even when they become infrequently a little chaotic. I cannot thank her enough! Virginia Rood, our Parliamentarian is another calming influence, and gently reminds the president when discussion is needed before a vote, or when other approaches to a question are best taken. Our Historian of MANY years, Nancy Alexander, keeps the continuous written history of SRVGS available to us all, with pictures of events and speakers. She is of great importance in letting us know where we have been and what we have done over the years. Ed O'Donnell has worked with publicity for our organization, and we also thank him for time and effort. He is also SO knowledgeable about early Contra Costa and Livermore area life. Lee Schlenker had to step out as speaker talk summarizer this year due to family responsibility, but needs mention for her years of simply outstanding educational summaries. Jean Hunt continues able to help in this way for many of our speaker presentations. Ray Atwood has helped organize "Mini-Ed presentations this year, with Francie Lloyd. Francie has our utmost gratitude for hosting our Board meetings at her home, which is centrally located and saves constant ►

monthly movement. She also oversees our local library works and heads the Publishing SIG. She has served the group also for many years in many ways and is a Life member--Kudos! Last, we wish to thank Carol Parmley, Family History Center liaison, and the Family History Center itself for allowing us to meet in a comfortable and congenial place (please remember to use their library resources and sign in whenever attending the center to let them know how important the Center is).

If I have neglected anyone, apologies. Everyone has made my year as president of SRVGS pleasant, stimulating, and added a warm sociality to my elderly existence. I look forward to working with all of you this coming year, and bid a special welcome to Suzanne Johnstone, Carol Satterthwaite, Wayne Mortensen, Bill Hewitt, Gay Scott, who will join our Board. Lynnet Keihl remains on the Board in a new position, and I will welcome some good soul who would like to add to our good company by stepping forward as First VP. Russ Erickson ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

June 2014

- 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.

July 2014

- 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

Our six special interest groups will meet at their normal times and places in June. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

A Publishing Tip. I recently attended a presentation by Susan Goss Johnston about publishing your family history. She made the point that we don't all know detailed family histories of some of our relatives. An effective technique is to write about events that occurred during your relative's life. Think of what could be written if your ancestor were living in San Francisco in 1906. How about the "Great Chicago Fire" of 1871 or the "St. Louis Tornado" in 1927. A free web site that lists disasters is <http://gendisasters.com>. It can be searched by year, by state or by disaster. Other free sites show events on particular days in history like <http://historyorb.com>, <http://historynet.com> and <http://scopesys.com>. These were easily found by Googling "Today in History".

October is 8. Did you know that in the original Roman calendar, September, October, November and December were the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th months of the year? They're named for Roman numbers from 7-10. Later, when the Julian calendar was implemented, January was made the first month of the year (instead of March, which was the 1st month, moving September, October, November and December to their present 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th spot. You can ask at your next party, why September, October, November and December are named so strangely, and be the only one that knows the answer. There is a detailed explanation of the evolution of the Roman calendar at <http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/roman-calendar.html>. ■

A Gentle Reminder

A new Society year started on June 1st, and annual membership dues are now past due. For those who have not yet sent in their membership renewal, please take a moment to send in your check, **now**, while you are thinking about it.

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, June 2nd** (the first Monday) at **1 pm at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road. They will not meet in July.** 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, June 9th** (the second Monday) at **1 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.** The theme topic for this meeting will be "FamilySearch Sources" or "Does FamilySearch have your sources?" **This group will not meet in July.** 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 June 11th** (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. This group will likely NOT meet during July and August.



PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday, June 19th 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 or phone 837-9382. ►



LEGACY SOFTWARE – This is a genealogy software users group. This group will meet **Monday, June 23rd** from 1-3 pm at the **Family History Center on Stone Valley Road in Alamo.** The program theme will be to discuss how to add Media into our Legacy files; also how to transfer media from our files into our Legacy database, and how to get our 7.5 media into 8.0." **This group will not meet in July.** 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 June 25th** (the fourth Wednesday). at **10:00 am., at the home of Marilynn Tanner in Moraga.** 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. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 9 June 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. **Meetings will be on the second Monday of the month.** At the June meeting, Kay Speaks will talk about records of the U S Customs and Immigration Service. The web address for the society is: <http://www.l-ags.org>
- 11 June Wednesday 10 am** The East Bay Genealogical Society will hold one of their regular meetings in the meeting room of the Oakland Family History Research Center, 4766 Lincoln Ave. in Oakland. The speaker will be Wade Olofson. The topic will be Swedish Research. Wade Olofson is a member of the staff at the Oakland Family History Library, and is usually present every Thursday morning to help ►

those researching their Swedish ancestry. We are fortunate to have him share his vast knowledge of Swedish records. He will cover basics in Swedish research and enlighten us with information on the comprehensive resources available for the Swedish researcher at the Oakland Family History Research Center.

- 12 June 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. Steve Morse will make a presentation about his "one step" Genealogy Web Page.
- 17 June 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. Patricia Burrow will speak about "What Will Happen to Your Research After You Are Gone." If it looks important, it has a better chance of surviving the dumpster. Your kids won't throw away a book with their surname on it. She will talk about some of the things we can do to ensure that those hard found records and stories are preserved for future generations. Visit www.scchgs.org for further information.
- 20 June 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.
- 21 June 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. Grant Din will speak about Angel Island Immigration as a personal story. Searching for Chinese American roots can be challenging yet rewarding because of discriminatory laws (which ironically created rich research materials). He will also talk about the immigrants from 80+ ►

countries throughout the world who came to America through Angel Island from 1910 to 1940. He has discovered records at NARA in San Bruno, Seattle, and College Park, MD. Grant has worked for non-profit organizations for over thirty years, and is currently community relations director at the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation in San Francisco. Their web address is: <http://www.smcgs.org/> ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

Let's all extend a warm "Welcome" to our newest member:

Steve Watty

Please look for Steve at our meetings and welcome him to our Society.

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

It's time for a summer of family history.



The California Genealogical Society (CGS) 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., June 7th and next month on Sat., July 5th. Please register on line.
- Sat., June 14th from 1 – 3 The **A Life of it's Own** series presents "*Flim-Flam Man: The con man who helped discover the East Texas Oil fields*" by Janice Sellers.
- Tues., June 17th the Roots Magic SIG will meet from 6:30 -8:30.
- Sat., June 21st the San Francisco SIG ►

will meet from 10 – 12. This SIG always meets on the third Saturday of each month. This month is a special event. Author Jim Smith will discuss his latest book. Register on-line.

- Sat., June 28th from 10 -1 CGS will present “*Exploring Record Sets: Census Records.*” Presenter: Lisa Gorrell. Register on-line.

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 has no classes listed for June. But June is the perfect time to check the FamilySearch website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars. You also might want to check on your favorite websites for similar offerings.

Now for the offerings in your own home:



The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS) www.scsgenealogy.com continues to offer free Webinars. This month it will be offering:

- Sun., June 1st at 2 PM “*Everything You Want to Know about Jamboree*” by Lee Myers, Paula Hinkel and Vicki Hilb
- Wed., June 18th at 10 am “*Wooden Shoe Genealogy: Finding Dutch and Frisian Ancestors*” by Jay Fonkert



Remember there are also free genealogy presentations and PDF notes for researching information at NARA on the SCGS website under webinars (www.scsgenealogy.com/weinar/overview.html)

- “*Neither Filmed nor Scanned: NARA Treasures Await*” by Kerry Batlets
- “*Many Facets of the National Archives Website*” by Kerry Batlets ►

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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Calendar Coordinator:

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Deadline to put information in the Newsletter is the Last Thursday of the month.

Members are encourage to submit articles for the Newsletter by mail or email to the Coordinator.

INDIVIDUAL HELP

Do you need individual help in overcoming a "brick wall" in your research? Go to the SRVGS web site at: <http://srvgensoc.org/>, click on RESOURCES, then click on INDIVIDUAL HELP FOR SRVGS MEMBERS.

- “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 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.

Save the Date:

- The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) comes west to Berkeley, Saturday, September 13, 2014
- California Genealogical Society's Tour to NEHGS in Boston, the week of November 2-9, 2014

Happy Researching! ■

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