



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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THIS MONTH – October 21, 2014

“Scandinavian Research“

Presented by: Cat Nielsen



Cat Nielsen has done research using Danish, Norwegian and Swedish records. Her talk will present archive facilities in each country, online sources for records research, using Family Search Wiki, Family History Library catalog, and emailing for further information.

Through her presentation you will learn about the unusual information in the Kirkebog (church books), Folketælling (Census), Domstol (court records), Land records, Wills, Probate, Taxes, etc.

Cat began her genealogy research in 1970 while on a trip to Denmark. Her research has taken her throughout the U.S., Great Britain, and Sicily. She is a lifetime member of the California Genealogical Society, the California Cornish Cousins, and the California State Genealogical Alliance.

Cat has a BA in Geology from the University of California at Davis, and a MBA in both Marketing and Science & Technology Management from the same university. She received her certification as a Project Management Professional (PMP) from the Project Management Institute in Sept 2005.

From the September Meeting

**"Finding your Way around FamilySearch – or –
Here it is, now what do I do?"**

Speaker: Linda Bailey Reporter: Russell Erickson



Learn it a step at a time at home. FamilySearch (FS) constantly is made better; putting in sources is simpler now. Sign in (free, no catches) and get your family tree organized and on the internet to be shared with others, who can then also help you. Research pitfalls: col-

lecting and not organizing; doing great research, but who knows/cares/shares?; sharing without sources; having a lot of information, but questionable; great works and sources, but what happens to it when you are gone? A study showed that children who know their family history go through ►



(Photo by Francie Lloyd)

Linda Bailey

stresses in life much better!

Initially on FS, stay in the big boxes on the screen; do not get bogged down in little points. Start your tree; when you work on it, it is a communal group work, as others can help you as you help them. Anyone can change anything, but changes demand good sources; with time, the tree becomes more and more true. Privacy is protected for anyone living. If a change is made, you know who did it and can email for more data. One can view and add portraits. You can view a fan chart of 7 generations and see where there are spaces in the ancestors that need finding. FS provides codes to programmers who can prove they can be helpful. When working on a person, a box “show” at the right screen gives suggestions for checking possible errors or “gap” research. “Person view” keeps the last 40 persons worked on or viewed. Each person in your tree is given an ID number; writing it down, you can immediately go to that person when searching. It is helpful when names are similar. When working on a person, it is best to put in only factual data in the life sketch box,

rather than emotional reminiscence, etc. When you edit or change any facts for each person in your tree, note who you are and why the change occurs. Under “other information”, click “add” and a list of suggestions comes up. When you “source” original images in the source box they are entered. The source can then be used also for related family members. For instance, if a census page is shown, the page can be attached; not only to your person, but to a wife and children mentioned in the census page. You can print a family sheet for each person if desired.

FS has accumulated MANY records worldwide, with over 500 teams involved. Microfilm at Salt Lake City in the underground vaults is being digitized, as the celluloid is slowly deteriorating. FS program software notes internet sources for the name of each person you add. In addition to all that FS offers, FS and Ancestry are becoming closer.

Note “Find” under family tree finds people in the tree; “Search” finds items on the web. Watch your tree; check “watch” and you will be notified by email if any changes occur. At the bottom of “search” column is “browse all records” which covers unindexed records, providing places, dates, etc. Also look at “Wiki” under “search”; you can look up an encyclopedia of items relating to genealogy. FS is slowly allowing a Gedcom of data from your computer family tree program to be brought in directly, though Family Tree Heritage and Mac programs are behind.

Linda provided a concise hand out full of FS information. ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Maria Velken

Please look for Maria at our meetings and
welcome her to our Society.



President's Message

By Russ Erickson

Bud Tuohy reminded me that genealogy is now considered the number 2 USA hobby. Families are stronger when they firmly know their family histories and have a connection with ancestors and where the families have been. Our connection with SRVGS and its 29 year history is also important, both educationally and socially. Social groups, sadly, seem to be retreating a bit under the onslaught of excess population pressure, games, TV, computers, and other electronic gadgetry. Social gathering is in our DNA; we live longer, stay brighter, and sleep better, so we best not ignore it! I therefore encourage all members to come to meetings when you can and bring friends to this mind broadening hobby.

For 29 years, SRVGS has been served by dedicated Board members who give time and effort on behalf of all and receive in return social friendship and stimulated minds. Program leaders give time, thought and energy to finding good speakers for our meetings. I reviewed much of the presented genealogical presentations since 2000. Fourteen were given by members. Sometimes a group discussed a subject: "How I broke my brick wall"-6 members, "Lineage Societies"-7, "Genealogy research, past, present, future"-3, "Discoveries"-3, "How to publish"-6, "Insight, serendipity" -3, and "Show and Tell" -6.

Publishing our family tales and history has also been the subject of 6 talks by outside speakers during the past 14 years: *Writing the Family History*, by Susan Johnston, *Preserving photos and Creating an Heritage Album* by Leticia Russell, *A Gift of Histories* by Barbara Samper, *Free Memories and Write* by Mary Jane deRoss, *Are You Really that Boring?* by Jurgen Mollers, *Why Use Timelines* by Virginia Kysh, and *Publishing Genealogy* by Betty Kot.

Among many other topics over the years, discussing the use of internet has recurred as more and more research is enabled by this great invention. (Remembering that all is not correct when put on the "net" and findings must be validated.)

There was *Ancestry vs. Heritage Quest* by Susan Johnston, *Genealogy in the Digital World* by Bob Dougherty, *Google, a Goldmine of Genealogy Gems* (and earlier, *Introduction to Internet Research*) by Lisa Cooke, *New Family Search* by Marge Bell, then by Janet Broderick, and again this September by Linda Bailey, *Traditional vs. Computer Research* by Kathy Castro, *Genealogy on the Internet* by Jane Steiner, *Using the NEHGS website Like a Pro* by Lisa Lee, and *Mocavo, My Heritage, Ancestry, and Find My Past* by Virginia Kysh. We see, due to rapid advances, our electronic approach to research has to be addressed repeatedly year by year. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

October 2014

- 7 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board was held at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.
- 21 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

November 2014

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- 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.

After an enthralling weekend of searching for my ancestors, my notes are as organized as the \$5 DVD bin at Walmart.



Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: *Bill George*

We have changed the meeting start times for the Family History Center SIGs to 1:15pm, so that FHC volunteers aren't so rushed to open the building. So the Family Tree Maker (1st Monday), FamilySearch (2nd Monday) and Legacy (4th Monday) SIGs will all begin at 1:15 pm starting in October (this month).

We have a full slate of SIGs in October. All six are meeting on their regular days, as described in detail elsewhere in the newsletter.

FamilySearch Family Tree, A Great Aid to Your Research

I have been devoting a lot of energy lately, to gathering sources for people in my Family Tree. My breakthrough was to add people I'm researching to the FamilySearch Family Tree (FSFT). Then I use FamilySearch to gather and document sources about the people. The FSFT makes it very intuitive and enjoyable to gather the sources. Then, at my leisure, I copy them into my genealogy program to create reports and charts. In the meantime, all this research is available to whomever searches for my people in the FSFT. I'm also contacting any others who work on "my" FSFT as their email addresses are usually public. We will discuss this and much more at the October FamilySearch SIG. ■

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

NOTE: For San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Special Interest Group contact information and schedules, you may also visit the web site at <http://srvgensoc.org/sig.htm>



ANCESTRY/FAMILY TREE MAKER – This group focuses on how Family Tree Maker interacts with Ancestry.com. This group will meet **Monday October 6th** (the first Monday) at **1:15 pm at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road.** *Please note the start-*

ing time of 1:15 pm on the regular first Monday. Their next scheduled meeting will be Monday November 3rd. Susan Rush is the coordinator for this group.



IRISH - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday October 8th** (the second Wednesday) and November 12th at **10:00 am., at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson** in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group.



FAMILY SEARCH / FAMILY TREE This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday October 13th** (the second Monday) at **1:15 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.** The topic of the October FamilySearch SIG will be "*FamilySearch, a Great Aid to Research*" The focus will be about finding, documenting and contacting sources. Bill George is the coordinator and contact person for this group. *Please note the starting time of 1:15 pm.*



PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday October 16th 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 they progress to a finished project. Society members interested in joining should let Francie, the group coordinator, know that they plan to attend.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday October 22nd** (the fourth Wednesday) at **10:00 am., at the home of Vern Segelke.** The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. Please contact Helen if you plan to join the group.



LEGACY SOFTWARE – This is a genealogy software users group. This group will meet **Monday October 27th from 1:15 to 3 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley** ►

Road in Alamo. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Sharon Clay, the group coordinator. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 8 October 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 Jeff Airth. He will explain how we may find the information we are looking for regarding our Canadian ancestors. The web address for the society is: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caebaygs
- 13 October 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. Vera Broyles will talk about Land and property records. The web address for the society is: <http://www.l-ags.org>
- 17 October 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. Land Records and Maps will be the subject of the presentation by Vera Broyles.
- 18 October Saturday 8 am to 4:30 pm (classes start at 9:15)** The 23rd annual Fall Seminar, "Digging for Your Roots" will be held in Concord. Watch for registration forms at your local Family History Center. Pre-registration was to have been received by September 30. There will be six class periods and many classes throughout the day. Phone Jackie Hein 925-827-4729 for further information.
- 28 October 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. German Online Sources - *Newly Available Records from East to West* will be presented by Baerbel Johnson, A.G. The material includes information about obtaining church records from areas where permission to film had previously not been given. You may also visit their web site at www.sacgergensoc.org

- 1 November Saturday 9:00 am to 3 pm** An all day Seminar, sponsored by the San Mateo County Genealogical Society, will be held at the Menlo Park LDS Church, 1105 Valparaiso Street in Menlo Park. The theme of the seminar is; *A Day in Court with The Legal Genealogist*, Judy G. Russell. \$42 pre-registration fee if registered by October 24. Visit www.smcgs.org to view more information and print the registration form. The walk-in registration fee will be \$48.
- 13 November 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. Ralph Severson of the Oakland Family History Research Center will speak about FamilySearch Wiki. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

October is Family History Month. It is the perfect time to hone our researching skills.



The California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org starts the first Saturday of each month with its

- **Introduction to Genealogy** class from 1-3 pm. This month the class will meet on Sat., Oct. 4th and next month on Sat., Nov. 1st. Please register on line.
- Also on Oct. 4th from 10 -12 pm, Susan Goss Johnson will present **Genealogy and the Law**. Please register on line. ►

- On Sat., Oct. 11th from 10 – 12 the class **Everything Was Not Lost! Digging Deeply to Unearth Your Early San Francisco Ancestors.** Register on line.
- On Sat., Oct. 18th, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 – 11:30 am. This SIG always meets on the third Saturday of each month.
- On Tues., Oct. 21st the **Roots Magic SIG** will meet from 6:30-8:30 pm.
- On Sat., Oct. 25th Susan Goss Johnson will present a class in the **Exploring Records Sets Series.** This class is entitled **Introduction to Military Records.** 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>



In October the Oakland Family Search Library, <https://familysearch.org> continues its fall workshops.

- On Wed., Oct., 8th the **Mac Users Workshop** led by our own Bill George starts at 7 pm. The Mac Users group meeting will be on Sat., Oct. 25th at 1:30.
- On Wed, Oct., 22nd the monthly meeting of the **African American Research Workshop** starts at 6 pm.
- On Sat., Oct. 18th from 10:30 am to noon Wade Olofson will present **Introduction to Swedish Research Using the Resources at the OFSL and Online.** Following the class there will be a one hour workshop with two Swedish specialists. Pre-register at fhcoakland@gmail.com or 510-531-3905.

Also you can always check the Family Search website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, Wikis, discussion forums, and Webinars.

Enjoy learning from home:



The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS) www.scgsgenealogy.com continues to

offer free Webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting

- Sat., Oct 4th from 10-11 am, **Where Have They Gone? Researching Ancestors Who Chased Gold** by Hannah Z. Allan
- Wed., Oct. 15th from 6-7 pm **Post It Forward: Archiving Lessons from My Great-grandfather’s Records** by Janet Hovorka
- Sat., Nov. 1st from 10-11 am, **Historical Newspaper Research for Genealogists** by Pamela Weisberger

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



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.



From an article by Gena Philibert-Ortega here are some Webinars and lectures that are online:

- Legacy Family Tree Webinars <http://www.familytreewebinars.com/>
- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio <http://extremegenes.com/>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast <http://genealogyguys.com/>
- RootsTech 2014: Featured Lectures Online <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/rootstech-2014-video-presentations-online/>
- Genealogy Boot Camp Camp http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm ►

Save the Date:

- **Family History Retreat, Family Search Library, Oct 27-31, 2014**, Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, 122 West South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
- On Sat., Nov. 1st, from 8 – 3, San Mateo County Genealogical Society Fall 2014 Seminar: **A Day in Court with the Legal Genealogist** – Judy G. Russell. Register on line at www.smcgs.org
- **California Genealogical Society's Tour to NEHGS** in Boston, the week of November 2-9, 2014

Happy Researching! ■

**Quarterly Report from the
Tri-Valley History Council**

By: Kathy Javdani

As you may know, SRVGS is member of the Tri-Valley History Council. The Council is a network of local history centers, historic sites, libraries, museums and genealogical societies whose fields of interest include the eastern part of Alameda County and the southeastern part of Contra Costa County, California. The Council's mission is to encourage and assist in the study of history of the Tri-Valley, to support and advise members, local history groups, and societies, to organize classes, maintain a calendar of local events, advertise members' needs and interests, support communication between researchers and member organizations, and encourage school history projects. The council holds meetings four times a year to promote these goals.

The following are some of the highlights of the Council's recent meeting that may trigger some ideas or leads for your own research. It was announced that effective on September 10th the Tassajara School will be on the National Register. Dick Finn from L-AGS noted that the society continues to research the pre -1900 pioneers of the Tri-Valley as well as people buried at the Oak Knoll Cemetery in Livermore. L-AGS will ►

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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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.

work with the Dublin Library during October's Family History Month. The Dublin Library is also working on digitizing the Valley Times, the Argos and the Daily Review. The Livermore Heritage Guild is microfilming the Livermore Journal and planning to relocate the Livermore railroad station as well as the Midway School which was open from the 1880s to the late 1930s. The Alviso Adobe Community Park in Pleasanton will hold its anniversary open house on Saturday, October 11th. The City of San Ramon is working on making Forest Homes Park more accessible with way-side signs for self-guided tours and planning programs for the second Saturday of each month. On October 18th there will be a presentation of historical aerial maps of the Livermore Valley. At the Danville Library on November 5th, author Christina Baker Kline will discuss her book "*Orphan Train*". In November Cal Reads will highlight "*What It's Like to Go to War*", "*Until Tuesday*" and "*Tuesday Tucks Me In*". The Contra Costa Library's website, www.cclib.org has a new feature, *Remember and Go* which contains historic photos and text of the county. ■



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