



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXX No. 6 February - 2015



THIS MONTH – February 17, 2015

“Grandma, Who Are You?”

Presented by: Janice M. Sellers



Female relatives can be difficult to trace, but they can be found. This presentation discusses resources for discovering the maiden names in your family, including family items, oral histories, federal and state census records, immigration records, vital records, church records, journals, newspapers, legal and court records, library archives and manuscript collections.

Janice Sellers is a professional genealogist specializing in Jewish, forensic and newspaper research. She edits three genealogy journals and serves on the boards of San Francisco Bay area Jewish Genealogical Society, African American Genealogical Society of Northern California and California State Genealogical Alliance. She is also a member of APG, Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy, Genealogical Speakers Guild, Geshet Galicia and CGS. ■



From the January Meeting

"Seeking City Slickers in Lesser Known Records"

Speaker: Susan Goss Johnston

Reporter: Russell Erickson



Susan Goss Johnston spoke on “Seeking City Slickers in Lesser-Known Records”. She provided a wonderful 5 pages of data on the subject, covering city directories and books, using maps, searching official city records, tax lists, voter registrations, membership lists, petitions, and provided an extensive bibliography. She also outlined online Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps--free access--for a number of states and other sources. (Her website, if you did not received this terrific source is <zacathan@comcast.net> .

From the late 1700s to 1950, cities tended to lease rentals for 1 year, and one time of year each year, there was a vast shift of many people moving on rental day; often June first or April 15th! City folk were usually renters; check city directories and later phone books. Directories were early--from the late 1600s, with Boston early 1700s, Chicago 1800s, etc. Check city tax records, even for those not owning property. Sanborn Fire Maps give a thorough outline for rental buildings. Ancestry, Fold 3, Genealogy Bank, and American ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Susan Goss Johnston

Ancestors (NEHGS) give access to them, as well as local libraries, state and city archives. Also use university websites, internet archives Google Books, and Family Search. The San Francisco library has a section on "*How to Research a SF Building*" which is an excellent teaching device. Also look for "Block Books", voter and social registers. "Archives.org", then city name and "directory" takes one to a source. For California, <Californiaancestors.org/images/stories/US_directory_list.pdf> is an interesting site. For instance generally, the San Francisco library has the SF Directory year by year. Correlate city directories with maps and census data. Using spread sheets if useful. Check for cemeteries, schools, and churches on maps. In city maps, "s" is a store and "f" is a flat or apartment.

Tax data include personal property, carriages, occupations, poll tax, and premiums for "being single" (single over 21 with nothing else to tax!!) In some small towns, silly items like bring in crow or squirrel heads to decrease "critters" would decrease taxes. Taxes provide evidence for age, marriages, relationships, and occupations. Needing to pay no tax after 60 or 65 helps knowledge of ancestor age. If the estate pays the tax, ►

it provides death data. Google city or county Assessor for tax data. They might have facts on a home, even with pictures. Route (post office) maps can provide names and addresses of ancestors and neighbors. Block Books provide names for neighbors on a block; possible relatives or friends. Sanborn Fire Maps are best at the Library of Congress and at the UC Berkeley Library. In California, one can use any library in the system, but must obtain a library card for each city or county library, in person. Some directories can be searched by address as well as by name. The IU-PUI library collection at the University of Indian at Perdue Indianapolis is great for genealogical content. Enumerator District maps showed census takers their routes and direction from 1880 on. Voter registers are valuable if they exist and main cities (NY, Chicago, SF, etc.) have social registers for some eras. Check also for alumni directories, Lineage books. Focus on location and property records. Do not stop too early in your research. ■



President's Message

By Russ Erickson

Member Bill George, in his FamilySearch SIG group meeting in January, led us to a Blog site by James Tanner (Genealogy s Star blog site on Google).

Mr. Tanner, a retired lawyer and LDS genealogist, has to have an astounding mind and most efficient approach to writing, genealogy, and life! I viewed just one blog for January (the 30th already this year of 2015!).

Items reviewed include USCIS (US Citizenship and Immigration Service) having a genealogy program with alien registration forms from 1940 to 1944, naturalization certificates from 1906 to 1956 (c-files), visa files for 1924 to 1944, and other data. He suggests starting with links from FamilySearch Wiki for the US Naturalization and Citizenship.

His reviews cover copyright issues, the big 4 genealogy companies, new issues for FamilySearch and Trees, and evidence admissibility for genealogists. ►

On Naturalization, he denotes 1906 as the prior year, as before then, one could apply in state local courts (making seeking records more difficult especially prior to internet data) and after that date, only Federal District Courts could be centers of application. He notes FamilySearch.org has 53 collections of such data.

He provides a video online of research basics by J Tanner, with more classes coming, and states that FamilySearch now has a new app gallery for genealogy seekers.

All his past blogs, from 2008 to 2015, are linked. This year's topics stretch from probate to evidence issues to Japanese genealogy. Past years include 30 to 876 blogs per year.

This, like Cyndi's List, is a broad sweeping site for ideas for those of us interested in family history and genealogy. The only problem I find is a feeling of being inadequate and doing too little in my elder retired years when confronted with such a wonderful source for data and thinking. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

February 2015

- 3 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 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.

March 2015

- 3 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board Meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 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.

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 have met **Monday February 2nd** (the first Monday) at **1:15 pm at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road.** Susan Rush is the coordinator for this group.



FAMILYSEARCH/FAMILY TREE - This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday February 9th** (the second Monday) at **1:15 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.** The topic for the meeting will be, "*User Submitted Genealogies.*" Bill George is the coordinator and contact person for this group



IRISH - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday February 11th** (the second Wednesday) and **March 11th** at **10:00 am., at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson** in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group.



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



LEGACY SOFTWARE – This is a **genealogy software** users group. This group will meet **Monday February 23rd** (the fourth Monday) 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.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday February 25th** (the fourth Wednesday) at **10:00 am.**, at

the home of Dorothy Baker in Walnut Creek. The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. Please contact Helen if you plan to join the group.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 9 February Monday 7:30pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Roger Howland will speak about Indentured Servants. The web address for the society is: <http://www.l-ags.org>
- 11 February 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 Lynne Bajuk. The topic will be: *Creating a Family Album*. Lynne has been working for many months creating Family Albums to share with family. The web address for the society is: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caebaygs/>
- 17 February Tuesday 6 pm** The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings in the Margie Edinger Room of the Santa Clara Central Park library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. Martha Wallace will speak about Care and Reading of Old Tombstones. Martha Wallace is a retired Middle School Teacher who volunteers at NARA in San Bruno and the Rengstorff House in Mountain View. You may also visit www.scchgs.org for further society information. ►
- 20 February Friday 1:30 pm** The Mount Diablo Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings at the Creekside Clubhouse meeting room #3 in Rossmore. Virginia Kysh will speak about Highlights from RootsTech 2015. They meet on the third Friday of each month.
- 21 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. Evie Rice will speak about Finding Your Ancestors on Ebay. The society web address is: <http://www.smcgs.org/>
- 24 February 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. The subject of: *The Peripatetic Germans: Emigration and Immigration 1693-1914*, will be presented by James M baker, PhD, CG. He will describe the two significant waves of German emigration to the USA. Departure and arrival ports and their data will be spotlighted along with key online sites. Major immigration books will also be discussed. You may also visit the society web site at www.sacgergensoc.org
- 21 March Saturday 9 am to 3:45 pm** The Sacramento Genealogical Society will sponsor an all day seminar to be held at Holy Family Catholic Church, 7817 Old Auburn Road in Citrus Heights. The featured speaker this year will be D Joshua Taylor. You may have seen him on the PBS Genealogy Roadshow Show Series. He will be presenting four topics:
- Materials in Digital Libraries for Family History
 - New Tools and Ideas in Research
 - Locality Searching, On and Off the Internet
 - The Modern Genealogist, Timesaving Tips for Every Researcher
- For registrations made prior to March 7, the fee is \$30. Visit www.rootcellar.org for more information. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

February offers opportunities to reinforce our New Year's Resolutions.



Once again 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., Feb., 7th and next month on Sat., Mar. 7th. Please register on line. Also note that CGS permits non-members to use its library resources for free on the first Saturday of each month from 10 – 4.
- On Feb. 21st, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 – 11:30. This SIG always meets on the third Saturday of each month.

For more upcoming events from Santa Cruz to Sacramento check the CGS “San Francisco Bay Area General Calendar” at:

<http://sfbagenealogy.blogspot.com>



In February the Oakland Family Search Library, <https://familysearch.org>, offers:

- On Wed., Feb. 11th, the **Mac Users Group** led by Bill George starts at 7 PM.

In addition, you can check the FamilySearch website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars.



The Concord Center is also starting a six week class (Feb. 23rd – Mar. 30th), **"Introduction to Genealogy"**. The class is limited to 15 attendees. If you would like a flyer/registration for these classes contact Jackie Hein at 827-4729. ►

Enjoy learning from home:



The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS) www.scsgenealogy.com continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting :

- Sat., Feb. 7th, from 10 -11 **“Stickin’ to the Union: Using Labor Union Documents for Genealogy”** by Jane Neff Rollins.
- Wed., Feb., 18th from 6 – 7 **“6 Steps to Choreograph Your Research Across the Internet”** by Janet Hovorka.
- On-going **“Neither Filmed or Scanned: NARA Treasures Await”** by Kerry Bartels at the SCGS website under webinars www.scsgenealogy.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. It contains subject guides on a variety of genealogical topics, informative videos, webinars, online courses, and more. If you have questions or feedback, contact Online Education Coordinator Ginevra Morse at

gmorse@nehgs.org. [EDUCATION](http://www.Americanancestors.org/EDUCATION)

Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the event will be posted to their website the following day.



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/>
- Genealogy Boot Camp <http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/>

en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm

Save the Date:

- **Roots Tech 2015** from Feb. 12th -14th in Salt Lake City. To register visit www.rootstech.org
- **The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference** from Feb. 11th–14th in Salt Lake City. Visit www.fgsconference.org for more information.
- **Scots Irish Seminar** on Sunday, March 29th at Holiday Inn near the Oakland Airport. Register at the CGS website, www.CaliforniaAncestors.org
- San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) **Personal Digital Archiving Series** at the Main San Francisco Library from Jan. 15th– Apr. 16th. For further information call 415-557-4277
- **Southern California Genealogy Jamboree** from June 5th– 7th in Burbank. Register at www.scgsgenealogy.com. ■

COMING UP!

Your society Program Committee is pleased to announce that the following speakers will be appearing in the coming months:

- In March: **Gail Chaid** will be presenting “*Eastern European Research*”
- In April: **Lisa Gurnell** will be presenting “*Tips for Breaking down brick walls*”.
- In May: **Janette Brigham** will be speaking on: “*Using Family Trees On-line.*”
- In June - **Richard Rands** will be speaking on a topic to be announced. ■

News from the Danville Stake Family History Center

By Taressa Earl

NEW DIRECTOR AT THE DANVILLE/ALAMO FHC

My name is Taressa Earl and I have very recently taken over for Janet Broderick as the new Danville FHC Director. Janet and her husband are preparing to leave on a mission where they will serve in Portugal for two years. I have 4 children ranging from 11-18 years old. I love genealogy and researching my family history. Although I am in and out of the FHC during the week, I work the Thursday shift from 10 - 1:00. I am excited to be more involved at the FHC and recently had a chance to attend the SRVGS Board Meeting this month. The society is doing many great things within and reaching out in our communities as well. *A very huge THANK YOU to our FHC volunteers that give of their time weekly to help us staff the center- Bill George, Ed Mason, Muff Curry, Francie Lloyd, and Vern Segelke.* ■



In Memoriam



A former member of San Ramon Valley Genealogy Society Mike Fiorenza passed away in El Dorado Hills, Ca on 11 January 2015. Mike was a member of our society until he and his wife Elsa built their home in the mountains and moved to El Dorado Hills. He was best known to us as a wonderful guy willing to help anyone and everyone who had Italian ancestry. He was known to read microfilms, write letters, translate letters, find certificates, and he filled a binder in the FHC with information about Italian research. He was always willing to help, even making the trip to the Bay Area, continuing to help patrons of the Family History Center, after they had made the move to the mountains.

Mike was born in Paterson, New Jersey on 28 September 1928 the son of 1st generation Italian immigrants. He was the first of 4 children in the family. Mike graduated from high school where he lettered in all sports, then ►

joined the Navy. After the Navy, he graduated from USC, and then received a Fulbright Fellowship to the University of Padova in Italy. While he was in Italy, he contracted Polio and spent 5 months in the hospital fighting the effects of partial paralysis of his left leg. It was in the hospital in Padova where Mike met his wife Elsa Maria Gaiola, the nurse who took care of him during his illness. They were married in Padova, her father agreeing to the marriage only if they would bring their family back to Italy on long visits frequently. That was a promise Mike kept.

Mike did several things in his life. He was a teacher, and he and his family opened The Rising Loaf in Danville. But, the work he settled on and did for 32 years was with the California Department of Rehabilitation where he was Chief Administrator of Disability Programs for Northern California. He also had a great interest in art, music, books, antiques and opera.

Mike was proud of his Italian heritage. He spent many hours not only searching for information, but also driving to visit relatives and to share what he knew with others. He was responsible for many family reunions of both the Fiorenza and Gaiola families, the last being in 2011 in Italy.

Mike is survived by his wife Elsa, his 6 children and 4 grandchildren to whom he was committed to provide educational opportunities. Two Memorial Services were held for Mike, one in El Dorado Hills and one in Los Angeles. We thank Mike for his commitment to all the people in his life, including the members of SRVGS.

Contributed by: Suzanne Johnston

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

Let's all extend a warm Welcome
to our newest members

Jean Coppock

Gladys Warr

Please look for these people at our meetings
and welcome them to our Society.

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Russ Erickson
president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Vacant

2nd V.P. Programs:
Suzanne Johnston
Wayne Mortensen
Carol Satterthwaite
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3rd V.P. Membership:
Gay Scott
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Recording Secretary:
Lynnet Keihl
recsec@srvgensoc.org

Corresponding Secretary:
Barbara Shapas
srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Treasurer: Bill Hewitt
treas@srvgensoc.org

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter
editor@srvgensoc.org

Calendar Coordinator:
Vern Segelke
srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Mailing: Lucy Carver

*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.

Danville Family History Center*2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo*

Phone: 925-552-5920

Monday: 1:00pm-4:00pm**Tuesday:** 7:00pm-9:00pm**Wednesday:** 10:00am-1:00pm

and 7:00pm-9:00pm

Thursday: 10:00am-1:00pm

Closed on Holidays

FHC Director:**Taressa Earl** jntaress@hotmail.com**Subscription Sites Available For Free at FHC:**

- Ancestry.com
- Fold3.com
- Heritage Quest
- MyHeritage.com
- Origins.net
- Proquest Obituary Listings
- Godfrey Memorial Lib.
- Newspaper Archive
- World Vital Records
- Findmypast (UK)

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