



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXX No. 7 March - 2015



THIS MONTH – March 17, 2015
“Eastern European Research”
Presented by: Gail Chaid



The “Box” is from my mother's closet. You know the one. The cardboard box with all the stuff from 100 years ago that no one wanted to tackle. I inherited it. In it were letters from my grandparents from the era of WWI, 1914-1919. Back and forth they wrote. She was in Bulgaria. He was in the USA. The letters were written in Cyrillic. I began the quest in 2010 to uncover the family history through the letters .

I did all the recommended research techniques, joined many genealogy groups, attended classes, seminars, searched websites all in search of the illusive family history in Bulgaria. Oh, finding records in the USA was easy. I had original documents my mother had saved but the details of their story in another country was a challenge. A country like Bulgaria which was overrun for centuries by so many other factions, where boundaries from war after war kept changing, made the quest harder. The experts tried to be helpful but the more I inquired the more I got to the "brick walls."

My strategy had to change. Join me on March 17th to hear what I changed and what I found. ■



From the February Meeting
"Grandma, Who Are You"
Speaker: Janice M. Sellers
Reporter: Jean Hunt



Janice M. Sellers is a professional genealogist specializing in Jewish research involving forensic and newspaper research. She edits genealogy journals and serves on many boards such as the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California and the

California State Genealogical Alliance. She is also a member of the Forensic Genealogy, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, the Geshet Galicia and CGS.

Janice provided us with a four page outline on finding the maiden names of women in ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Janice M. Sellers

family trees. This outline can be obtained on the SRVGS's webpage <http://srvgensoc.org/resources/handouts.html> and is well worth the effort of getting and keeping it handy for the inevitable time when you want to find those pesky maiden names.

She went into all the usual ways we go about searching and building our family trees but pointed out that if we can't find the maiden names we are only half way there.

Unlike the hand-outs we get from many of our speakers, this one does not have one URL for you to use (other than her own address and blog information). What it does have is IDEAS. So get cracking, get your hand-out and start using these great ideas. You will amaze yourself. ■



President's Message

By Russ Erickson

It is time to seek a few new leaders on the SRVGS Board to carry us forward into 2016. SRVGS has been very successful since 1984, over 30 years, due to dedicated people willing to give a little energy, thought, and time, to build a fine educational and social society for those of us who enjoy genealogy and history. We have grown from an initial 25 members to 160. In return, these leaders have been paid back by the company of other like minded members who are a joy to work with.

This year, I step away as president, having served my By-Law mandated maximum 2 year period. We now need a new president and a new first VP. Both are essential to help organize and maintain our Board and committee chairs. These positions do not require a burdensome amount of time or political expertise. SRVGS once even survived a year without a president, I am told, as others took turns running meetings. BUT, some genealogy societies in recent years around the country have folded because no one wanted to lead. Our president usually serves 2 years, with a first VP as backup and partner who then hopefully steps into the presidency. This process is not mandatory but creates a smooth transition.

In addition, we seek a new Treasurer, as Bill Hewitt has returned to full time employment. He has continued to give us help until June, but will need to pass the position on to another. We seek someone who is reasonable with basic math of adding and subtracting, with knowledge of simple Excel computer usage, or someone willing to learn enough of the Excel program for our really simple need. A new treasurer will get help from Bill in the transition.

Our nominating committee this year consists of Ed Mason, Francie Lloyd, and myself. Please come talk to us at meeting, phone or email if interested in any position. Being on the Board serves the server, as our minds stay alert, especially in retired years; we live longer and keep younger. It will be especially wonderful to see younger and more computer savvy members ►

or those who have not been helping Board or Committees previously step forward to keep SRVGS vital. Thirty years is a grand achievement for a volunteer society and I think aiming for a second thirty sounds interesting. ■



March 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.

April 2015

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

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 March 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.



FAMILY SEARCH / FAMILY TREE This Special Interest Group will

meet **Monday March 9th** (the second Monday) at **1:15 pm** at the **Family History Center on Stone Valley Road**. The topic for the meeting will be, "Source Citations." Bill George is the coordinator and contact person for this group



IRISH - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday March 11th** (the second Wednesday) and **April 8th 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 March 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, the group coordinator, know that they plan to attend.



LEGACY SOFTWARE – This is a **genealogy software** users group. This group will meet **Monday March 23rd** (the fourth Monday) from **1:15 to 3 pm** at the **Family History Center on Stone Valley Road in Alamo**. They will continue with: "Let's Get Started in Legacy," show and tell and How to use the wonderful links and templates that are built in to Legacy. All the while working with members "how to do it" questions. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Sharon Clay, the group coordinator.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday March 25th** (the fourth Wednesday). The German group will be going for their annual German lunch at DJ's Bistro in Concord. The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. **Please contact Helen if you plan to join the group so she can include you in the reservation.** ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 9 **March 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. Steven Minniear will speak about WWII Seabees Passing Through Camp Parks/ Camp Shoemaker. The web address for the society is: <http://www.l-ags.org>
- 12 **March Thursday 7 pm** The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society holds their regular meetings on the second Thursday at the LDS Building, 1360 Alberta Way in Concord. Martha Whitaker will make a presentation about The Sutro Library.
- 17 **March 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. "Indentured Servants Have Genealogies Too" will be the subject of a presentation by Pamela Erickson. You may also visit www.scchgs.org for further society information
- 20 **March 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. Ms. Shirley Riemer will speak about German Genealogy Research. They meet on the third Friday of each month.
- 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: ►

1) Materials in Digital Libraries for Family History; 2) New Tools and Ideas in Research; 3) Locality Searching, On and Off the Internet; 4) 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.


- 18 **April Saturday 8 am to 4 pm** The Sonoma County Genealogy Society will hold its annual Spring Seminar at the Finley Community Center, Person Auditorium, 2060 West College Avenue in Santa Rosa. The presenter will be Thomas MacEntee. He is creator of Genealbloggers and owner of Hi-Def Genealogy. The registration fee is \$35 if you register prior to April 4th. For more information go to <http://www.scgsonline.org/events.html>
- 2 **May Saturday 9:00am to 3:00pm** The San Mateo County Genealogy Society will hold their Spring Seminar at the Menlo Park LDS facility, 1105 Valparaiso Avenue. The speaker is to be announced. As more information is posted, go to <http://www.smcgs.org/event/spring-seminar> ■



EDUCATION


By: Kathy Javdani

We have a very wide variety of learning opportunities in March.

 As usual 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., Mar., 7th and next month on Sat., Apr 4th. 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 Sat., Mar. 21st, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 – 11:30. This SIG always meets on the third Saturday of each month.
- On Sat., Mar. 28th from 1-3 Ron Arons will present **“Finding Living Women on the Internet”**. Please 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 March the Oakland Family Search Library, <https://familysearch.org>, offers:


- On Wed., Mar. 11th, the **Mac Users Group Workshop** led by Bill George starts at 7 PM.
- On Wed., Mar. 18th at 1 pm and again at 7 pm, Karla Henderlong and Medeline Yanov will present **“The Taxman Found Your Ancestor – Can You?”**.
- On Sat., Mar. 21st, at 1 pm, Florene Knapps and Elder White offer the class **“Creating and Keeping Electronic Research Logs”**.
- On Wed., Mar. 25th the **African American Research Workshop** will be held at 6 pm.

- On Sat., Mar. 28th, the Mac Users Group Meeting begins at 1:30.

Pre-registration is required for all classes.

In addition, you can 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.scsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- Sat., Mar. 7th, from 10 -11 **“Fish and Chips Genealogy: Finding your Common English Ancestors”** by J. H. Fonkert.
- Wed., Mar, 18th from 6 – 7 **”Get the Scoop on Your Family History with Newspapers”** by Lisa Louise Cooke.
- Sat., Apr. 4th from 10 -11 **“She has the Same Name. Is She her Sister?”** by Nancy Waters Lauer.

SCGS also offers the following webinars at their website for free to the public.

- **“The Many Facets of the National Archives Website”** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **“National Archives Website Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides”** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **“Military Records at the National Archives”** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **“How to Get the Most Out of a Genealogy Conference”** by George Morgan.

 The Illinois State Genealogy Society (ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?=227) has also started a webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public. ►

- “**Finding Your Femme Fatales: Exploring the Dark Side of Female Ancestors**” will be presented by Lisa A. Alzo on March 10th. You can find enrollment information at the society’s website or go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/792741648604580353>



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**

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:

- **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.

- On Sat. Apr. 25th from 8-4 the Sacramento German Genealogy Society will hold its 2015 Spring Workshop, “**My Germans’- A Workshop for Ancestor Chasers**” by Roger P. Minert. Check the society’s website, www.sacgergensoc.org, for registration information. Pre-registration closes on April 18th.
- **Southern California Genealogy Jam-boree** from June 5th – 7th in Burbank. Register at www.scgsgenealogy.com. ■

News from the Danville Stake Family History Center

By Taressa Earl

FHC COMPUTER UPDATED

The Family History Center has had a full tune up on all our computers and we are thrilled! Also, you can now print from all computers in the center. A huge thank you to our computer tech specialist Ron Fyre who has spent countless hours serving in the center!

TWO NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTORS ACCEPT POSITIONS

Two assistant directors have accepted positions to help oversee the FHC and they will be a valuable asset to our team and staff. You will have a chance to meet and hear from Teresa Coons and Chris Engstrom in the future. I am looking forward to serving with them and learning from both of them!

NEW APPS AVAILABLE FOR SMART PHONES

We live in an amazing time and age! We can trace our roots by making a few clicks on our handheld devices and information about our ancestors can be found in seconds that used to ►

take hours and days to research. There are now apps that you can install on your computers and phones that will assist you with your genealogy and family searches. We can simply download them for free and we can do research while sitting in a doctors apt. or waiting in line.

The FamilySearch App Gallery can be found at: www.familysearch.org/apps.

TEENS TO TEACH CLASSES AT THE FHC- YOUTH FAMILY HISTORY CONSULTANTS

Within the next couple of months the Family History Center is preparing to bring in high school students that are tech savvy to teach a couple of evening classes on "Using your smart phone to upload photos" and "Using your smart phone to record and upload your voice and message onto familysearch.org to be left for your future posterity." Look for more information on these classes.

We welcome you into the Family History Center to utilize the many programs and websites made available to the public and enjoy being surrounded by like minded people researching their past. ■

COMING UP!

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

- 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.
- In July: Gena Philibert Ortega will give two talks at the regular meeting in July. One of her talks might be on the lessons learned from researching for the *Genealogy Road Show*. ■

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Russ Erickson
president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Vacant

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NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter

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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 - 4:00pm

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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