



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXI No. 1 June - 2015



THIS MONTH – June 16, 2015

“Midwestern Research”

Presented by: Richard Rands



This month Richard Rands will be speaking on Midwestern Research. He is a professional genealogist and president of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group. He has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of California Berkeley, and an advanced degree in genealogical studies from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies at the University of Toronto.

He worked in computer hardware and software for decades and lived abroad in Singapore, France, and England while working for Hewlett Packard. He has been involved in genealogy research since he was a teenager and now is a Family History Center director in Los Altos. ■



From the May Meeting

“Online Family Trees”

Speaker: Janet Brigham

Reporter: Russ Erickson



The year 2011 saw online genealogy trees begin expanding. One can share information, look up items easily, and show others your family ancestors. Data is available for questions and clues. One can set the record straight if an internet tree is wrong. Photos and stories can be posted online. Online privacy is important--never put information for living people online, even in “private” trees! Online trees are not good for storing massive amounts of data or to organize family histories. Nor to use as a personal database or from which to print reports. Keep your basic data

on YOUR computer, backed up. Online sites are promoted to attract and hold customers (ancestry, etc). On the FamilySearch (FS) Trees, one sometimes needs to straighten out 150 years of LDS records, some with errors and some that need simplifying. Its drawback is that it is like a Wiki, with inputs from several people, some of whom leave no contact information. One can file problem reports if something is bogus, and the FS experts will respond very well. Other internet trees include Ancestry, FindMyPast, Geni.com, MyHeritage.com, HistoryLines.com. MyHeritage.com ►

began in Israel and has much eastern European data and will provide possible matches with other trees in its files. FindMyPast centers on the British Isles and is branching out. Try free trials offered for many sites. A Historylines.com Tree is now on discount (30%) and one can import up to 7 generations from a FS tree using your password for that site.

If you find genealogical and historical documents, for preservation they can best be sent to genealogical and historical societies in the locality where the ancestors involved lived. They are most likely to preserve them and make them available to researchers.

On another topic: one, when traveling and doing research, should consider a USB scanner that will plug into your laptop. It is handy if you come across old Bibles or other family history sources such as private letters. It has better resolution than a "smart phone" camera. They are not very expensive anymore. ■



President's Message

By Russ Erickson

PLEASE go to <srvgensoc.org> and spend some very worthwhile time on your computer finding all the excellent SEARCHABLE resources that are there, expertly set up by Bob Venter, current webmaster, and Ed Mason, who initiated this wonderful site. It contains many years of SRVGS newsletters, with resumes of many speakers and subjects over our past 15 years or more (earlier talks were on tape, not digital). The list of genealogy books at the Danville library is there, and a list of member publications and German reference books. There is an earlier surname and locality list for our members to share. Area libraries and their genealogical holdings are listed, with open times and phone numbers. There are links to sites of local genealogy interest and information for DNA research. A source of our history is there, with president messages revealing thoughts at different years in our past. Want information on Scandinavian research? I typed it in the question box and came up with 30 results, including the speaker resumes on that subject. So seek ideas on any ►

research topic that is needed or appeals.

In our website, in June 2014, my president's message listed many of our members who helped so much during my first year in this role, so I won't repeat all the names this year, but thank those again who have made this second year worthwhile and enjoyable. In addition, Wayne Mortensen, Suzanne Johnston, and Carol Satherwaite have done a superb bit of work obtaining excellent speakers for our meetings. Bill Hewitt has been a great treasurer working by mail as he returned to a full time occupation. Gay Scott has been a cheerful and competent Membership chair. Lynnet Keihl shifted to Recording Secretary from first VP and has been well appreciated in both roles. Barbara Shapas has nicely served as Corresponding Secretary and provided help to the nominating committee this spring. Jean Hunt has helped me greatly by doing several of the speaker talk resumes this year. Taressa Earl and Teresa Coons have joined us as FHC coordinators. If I missed anyone new, I sincerely apologize and will be happy to print a "mea culpa" next month. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

June 2015

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

July 2015

- 7 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 21 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Mini-Seminar featuring Gena Philibert-Ortega 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>. Please **note** some activities take place early in the month, before our newsletter is issued. Be sure to check with the SIG coordinator if you have a particular interest.



ANCESTRY/FAMILY TREE MAKER – This group focuses on how Family Tree Maker interacts with Ancestry.com. This group will have met **Monday June 1st (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/FAMILYTREE - This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday June 8th (the second Monday) at 1:15 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.** The topic for the meeting will be, “*How to Upload Photos and Documents to the FamilySearch Family Tree.*” This group learns step by step procedures for using the many features of Family Tree on the FamilySearch web site. Bill George is the coordinator and contact person for this group



IRISH - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday June 10th (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.



PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday June 18th 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 project, 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 is scheduled to meet **Monday June 22nd (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 June 24th (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 am., at the home of Helen Odegard.** The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. Please contact Helen if you plan to join the group. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 8 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. **Ron Fillion will speak about San Francisco Genealogy.** The web address for the society is: <http://www.l-ags.org>
- 11 June 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. **James Smith will speak about Lost Landmarks of San Francisco.**
- 19 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. This Society meets on the third Friday of each month.
- 20 June Saturday 10:30 am to noon** 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. Christine Bell Green is a professional genealogy researcher who will speak about Homestead Records. The United States' Homestead Act of 1862 was designed to encourage the development of underpopulated Western lands. Early homesteaders could obtain 160 acres (1/4 section) of Federally-owned land in any state or territory where land was available. Only about 60% of those who began the process received the patent to their land. The society web address is: <http://www.smcgs.org/>

27 **June Saturday 1:30 pm** A Macintosh Genealogy Users Group (MacGen) will meet at the Oakland Family Search Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue in Oakland. Their web address is: <http://www.macgen.org/>

17 **October Saturday 8:30 am to 4 pm** An all-day seminar will be held at St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive in Pleasant Hill. The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will be sponsoring an all day Fall Fling seminar. The theme is: *Back to the Future: Bring Back the Past with tools from the 21st Century*. There will be 2 speakers, Kathryn Marshall and Jim Baker. Registration will begin in July. Gladys Warr is the seminar coordinator. ■

EDUCATION
By: Kathy Javdani

June is the month to get in a class or two before the lazy days of summer begin.


 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., June 6th. Please register on line. There will be no class on the first Saturday in July. Also, note that CGS permits non-members to use its library resources for free on the first Saturday of

each month from 10 – 4.


- Also on June 6th and continuing on June 13th Ron Madson will be presenting **Using Adobe Elements for Family History** from 1- 3. Bring your laptop. Class is limited to 12 people. Register on line
- On Sat., June 20th, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 – 11:30. This SIG always meets on the third Saturday of each month.
- On Sat. June 27th from 12 - 3 Ron Madson will present **Creating Graphic Family Trees with Irfanview**. 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>

 On Sat. June 20th at 10 am at the Concord Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Ralph Severson will teach a class on **FamilySearch**. For further information contact Jackie at 827-4729.

Enjoy learning from home:

You can check the Family Search website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars.

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

- On Wed., June 17th from 6-7 **Lessons from a Snoop: Collaterals and Associates** by Debbie Mieszala.

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

- “*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) has also started a webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public.

- June 9 – **Understanding Our Families, Understanding Ourselves** Presenter: Ron Arons at 8 pm central time. Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4967076026363157761>



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) www.Americanancestors.org/education/online-classes 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 G i n e v r a M o r s e at gmorse@nehgs.org. **EDUCATION**

- On Tues. June 9th, at 8 PM Central time David Allen Lambert will present **Early Military Resources at NEHGS**. Register online.

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



Ancestry.com has recently launched FREE courses at the Ancestry Academy. More than a half a dozen courses are FREE, while others require a subscription.

- You can READ about it at: <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy>
- And at: <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy/courses>
- Also at: <https://academy.ancestry.com/>

academy/courses/skills



From an article by Gena Philibert-Ortega here are some other 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.html

Save the Date:

- **Southern California Genealogy Jamboree** from June 5th – 7th in Burbank. Register at www.scgsgenealogy.com. ■

A Gentle Reminder

A new Society year started on June 1st and annual membership dues are now past due. If you have not yet sent yours in and you receive your newsletters via the U.S. Post Office, a **Red Dot** has been placed on your address label. To all who are delinquent, please take a moment to send in your check now, while you are thinking about it. If you have miss-placed your renewal application, you can download another copy from the Society web site at: http://srvgensoc.org/forms/srvgs_mem_app.pdf



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Reaches 30 Year Milestone!

The year 2015 marks the 30th Anniversary of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society. Our President for the last two years, Russ Erickson, has compiled a brief history of the society in which he recalls the details of the many events that occurred during the course of those thirty years and the people who made them happen. Russ read this history at the Society's May General Meeting and we have included the text here for those who missed his reading and for those wish to reflect on it further.

Thirty years ago, in 1985, SRVGS began. The society began with 20 budding genealogists attending genealogy classes by Betty Kot at the Danville Veteran's Hall. Twenty-five then met at the Danville Library upstairs room; too warm for members and too noisy for the librarians. Non-indexed census records, microfilm, microfiche and snail mail, with one computer in the group marked the era. By-Laws were formulated by April 1985 and first officers were chosen in May, with founder Jean Blackmur first president of 52 charter members.

In September, the meetings transferred to St. Timothy's Episcopal Church where no insurance, then not affordable, was required. A Logo was chosen in May 1986, with David Gant the winner. Wyn Kynnet began taping programs, leading to a tape library that later added donated and purchased genealogy tapes. This faded out many years ago as tape decks gave way to digital media. Patty Erickson was chosen our second president, the first of 3 trips to that position. The Freebie basket began, later freebie table at meetings. At the end of 1986, the church required insurance, and a new meeting place was sought. Meetings at the Danville Women's Club began in January 1987, with a nice sized room, kitchen, and parking. May luncheons began.

In 1988, SIGS (special interest groups) began, with Irish, German, Publishing, and Computers; many extant today, going on 27 years! In November, the Club raised rent 63% and a raffle slowly raised \$506 for a special fund for speakers and events. In May, 1989, the first of an eventual 12 Life Memberships went to Jean Blackmur who was moving east to Massachusetts. In 1990, a social cookie exchange in December was instituted, held every year since at the home of Francie and Wm Lloyd. Francie, for teaching, board memberships, publishing and library service for years was given a well deserved later Life Membership. By the end of that year, we had reached 100 members.

In April, 1991, we co-sponsored with CCC Gensoc, an all day seminar by Arlene Eakle. It was an educational though not financial success on a rainy day. We bravely repeated an all day seminar with CCCGS. Lloyd Bockstruck spoke, again on a very rainy day. By then, SRVGS publishing group had written a book, "Print, Publish, Preserve" that eventually sold 183 copies, breaking financially even at 62! Dues in 1992 went to \$15 single and \$20 family and have not been increased since, despite deflating the dollar 100%! Programs explained Ancestor and Ahnentaffel charts and Soundex!

Two events were notable in 1995, a day with Leland Metzler and his Heritage Quest Road Show, and a 10th anniversary celebration with the current 173 members. Since 1995, we have stayed at 155 to 175 yearly members. The second Life Membership went to Dorothy Stanton. The Women's Club was getting crowded and 95% of Board and committee members had Irish ancestry, though the 2 were not directly related. In 1996, Claudia Mortensen negotiated a rent free meeting room at the Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital in San Ramon in exchange for genealogy lessons and help for interested staff and patients. For the first time, comfortable chairs and free hot water and coffee were available. The money saved on rent allowed insurance for SRVGS.

By 1997, the Danville library allowed us 18 feet of shelf space for genealogy books. Jack Johnson, Shirley Terry, and Francie Lloyd shaped the agreement. That year, Win Kynett, who had recorded programs for 10 years, resigned. SRVGS had donated 50 books to the Danville library, and a fund was created for future purchases. Our newsletter in 1998 went from a single editor, with 6 serving to that date, to a committee run, led by editor Jean Hunt. The next year, 1999, the hospital began remodeling and we were modeled out of a meeting place. Pat Isom came to the rescue and arranged the LDS Church in Alamo as a ►

monthly meeting place. We have since enjoyed the warm surroundings, genealogy library and staff help, as well as meeting rooms. That year, both president and first V-P had to resign for health and family reasons; our first board crisis. Dorothy Stanton, then Barbara Johnson and Barbara Dyer stepped up. In 2000, programs changed to a committee of 3, a wise and welcome idea in use again this past year and next, and hopefully for many more. Sharon Clay became 7th newsletter editor. We had computer internet SIG groups by then, melding into a Master Genealogist SIG.

By 2001, our Danville library shelves had 109 books and Family Treemaker Archives with 232 CDs. In 2002, Barbara Irwin and Peggy Frazier donated another large number of books. An email communication group began in 2004 with Ed Mason as coordinator. In 2005, SRVGS had an all day Saturday publishing workshop with Mary Jane de Ross. 2005 also saw the big 20th Anniversary SRVGS event presented by Patty Erickson with power point by Bob Dougherty. A table of member published books was presented. Peggy Gierke and committee had an anniversary cake. She was the center of hospitality then and to 2015.

By 2006, thanks to Ed Mason, newsletters began by email, saving \$150 yearly in postage and much time for volunteer members, especially Lucy Carver. By 2007, we had a web page set up largely by the effort of Ed Mason, our first web master, a position later taken over by Bob Venter. That same year, we chose a first male president, Ed Mason. Sandra Burns began a position for better welcoming guests and new members. Mini-ed by our members became a part of most meeting since 2008. In 2009, we had a booth at the Danville Farmer's Market, one of several outreach steps then and since for our society to become better known. We still thank all who have participated.

By 2010, genealogy was listed as the #2 hobby in the USA. Sadly, we lost a charter member that year, Dorothy Stanton, so admired for all her help and personality that we all became part of a service and eulogy. Continuing from 2010 to 2015, SIG groups arranged by Bill George changed a little, with Roots Magic fading out and MacGen leaving the FHC for the Oakland FHC where Bill expanded MacGen to include ►

people outside SRVGS. Family Treemaker and FamilySearch came in. Others continued. In 2014, the By-Laws were amended. Wording changed a little and Voting Life Memberships went to the Board only to preserve the element of surprise. The general membership had never voted a suggested recipient down. The Parliamentarian was to review By-Laws and Rules annually. In March 2014, a list of helper times for the FHC library was published in the newsletter. In September 2014, a membership survey directed by Sande Burns helped setting up education and services for members. 2015, our 30 year anniversary, finds SRVGS in good order, looking forward to another 5 years by 2020. ■

Mini-Seminar

July 21, 2015 – 10:00 AM

Presented by: Gena Philibert-Ortega

No charge - Visitors Welcome

“Newspaper Research for the 21st Century” – Using newspapers? Good! They are a must for your research and now with so many options for finding newspapers it's a great time to be doing research. Learn about the various newspapers available and how to best research for your ancestor. Types of articles and ethnic newspapers will also be covered.

“Five Lessons from Researching Genealogy Roadshow” – As one of the primary researchers for the PBS show Genealogy Roadshow (2013) Gena had the great honor of tracing many different families and uncovering their stories. Learn more about some of the methodologies and resources she used and how you can incorporate it into your own research.

Gena Philibert-Ortega has spoken on various subjects throughout the United States and virtually to audiences worldwide. She is the author of hundreds of articles published in genealogy newsletters and magazines including Internet Genealogy and Family Chronicle. She is the author of three books and, as an instructor for the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, Gena has written courses about social media and Google. She serves as President of the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. See the display ad on the next page. ■



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

Presents

Gena Philibert-Ortega

Tuesday, July 21, 2015 – 10:00 AM

Alamo Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo CA

No Charge – Visitors Welcome

Author, Lecturer, and Instructor

TOPICS:

**“Newspaper Research for the
21st Century”**

AND

**“Five Lessons from Researching
Genealogy Roadshow”**



Gena Philibert-Ortega holds a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Master's degree in Religion. Presenting on various subjects involving genealogy, women's studies and social history, Gena has spoken to groups throughout the United States and virtually to audiences worldwide. Gena is the author of hundreds of articles published in genealogy newsletters and magazines including Internet Genealogy, Family Chronicle, GenWeekly and the WorldVitalRecords newsletter. She is the author of the books, *From the Family Kitchen* (F + W Media, 2012), *Cemeteries of the Eastern Sierra* (Arcadia Publishing, 2007), and *Putting the Pieces Together*. Gena is the editor of the Utah Genealogical Association's journal *Crossroads*. An instructor for the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, Gena has written courses about social media and Google. She serves as President for the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and is a board member of the Utah Genealogical Association. Her current research interests include social history, community cookbooks, signature quilts and researching women's lives.

BOOK REVIEW*By: Frances Lloyd & Virginia Root*

Continuing with our occasional review of books from the Society's collection at the Danville Public Library, here is another by Virginia Rood. A complete list of the society's books is provided in your Handbook or can be downloaded from the Society's web site at: http://srvgensoc.org/resources/SRVGS_Danville_Library_Booklist.pdf

**Adventurers of Purse and Person
Virginia**

1607-1624/5

Fourth Edition

**Compiled and Edited by
John Frederick Dorman, F.A.S.G.**

This work was done to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the First Settlement of Jamestown and includes three volumes. Volume I has Families A-F, Volume II, Families G-P, and Volume III, Families R-Z.

The publication was sponsored by The Order of First Families of Virginia, 1607-1624/5. It has expanded from four generations enumerated in the first three editions to six generations. Jamestown's first charter was granted by James I on April 10, 1606. It was revised in 1609 and a third charter in 1612 extended boundaries.

The company, "The Treasurer and Company of Adventurers and Planters of the City of London for the First Colony in Virginia" operated until 1624, eighteen years. The January 1624/5 muster shows a population of 1232.

The purpose of the first edition was to develop documents for the following groups: 1. Adventurers of purse who came to Virginia 1607-1624/5 and had descendants or who did not come but whose grandchildren were residents there. 2. Immigrants to Virginia who left descendants. There were 109 whose descendants are presented through three generations, bringing their history through the 17th century. This edition is an expansion of earlier editions based on additional information and data found in research. ■

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ted Shapas
president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Russ Erickson (Acting)

2nd V.P. Programs:

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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 encouraged 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 and the month of August

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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**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
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