



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXI No. 2 July - 2015

THIS MONTH – JULY 21, 2015

Our Mini-Seminar with two presentations:

“Newspaper Research for the 21st Century”

and

“Five Lessons from Researching Genealogy Roadshow”

Presented by: Gena Philibert-Ortega

“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. ■



From the June Meeting

“Midwestern Research”

Speaker: Richard Rands Reporter: Russ Erickson



The census bureau defines the Midwest as 12 states, the Dakotas, to Ohio and

Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa. ►

Muncie, Indiana (or Garry? as in the musical) is the city at the center of America. There are advantages in study of the entire Midwest in genealogy. Westward expansion occurred in starts and stops, often caused by wars in Europe or the 1812 and Civil Wars in the US. Indians and Mormons were displaced. Railroads, roads, canals, gold, and the 1862 Homestead Act all caused migration west.

The Northwest territory of 1787 was around the Great Lakes to the Ohio river and many used these waterways to travel. By 1800, there were a number of territories-- Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio. 50,000 people were needed to start a state, and laws had to be set, including a probate court which handled legal matters, death transfers, marriages, and birth data. In 1810, the Louisiana Purchase added territory. Florida and the Southwest were Spanish, and in the northwest was the Oregon territory. In 1853, Texas was annexed. With the war with Mexico, the southwest was added to the Pacific, with California following.

Many ethnic groups occupied the Midwest--Scandinavian, the second wave of Germans, East Slavs (Russians), Irish, Ukrainians, Polish, Belorussians, Scots-Irish, and "Volga Deutsch"--Germans brought to Russia by Catherine the Great to found villages in east Russia to protect against Oriental invaders. When she died, Russia took away the promised "no taxes", free land, and no army service, so whole villages came to the American Midwest.

Religions included Catholic, Eastern Rites, Presbyterians, Baptists, Lutherans, Methodists, Church of the Brethren, and Quakers who fled US wars. Prior to the Revolutionary War, much of the upper Midwest was in the Province of Quebec, under the French until the French and Indian War. Minnesota took a part of the Wisconsin territory and lost the southern part of the initial Minnesota Territory by congressional mandate. The Midwest was "invented" by Congress setting boundaries and rules of law. It saved near wars, as when Michigan and Ohio nearly fought over Toledo, given to Ohio in exchange for a poor territory above Wisconsin. States were formed from 1782 (Ohio-the 17th) to the Dakotas in 1861. Indiana, 1800, Illinois 1809, Missouri 1812, Minnesota 1849, etc. In the US 1790 census, there were 11 states, 17 by 1810, 28 by 1820 (4 territories, ►

but indexed as states). In 1810, there were also the District of Columbia, Georgia and Indiana territories, Missouri and Louisiana territories, New Jersey, and Tennessee which all lost many records. There were partial Illinois and Ohio losses. (So note: "Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence")

Ohio, in 1810, had only Washington county organized enough to be a county, yet it was not listed in the 1810 census. There was a Washington county in both Kentucky and Wisconsin with records. Indexing here is confused. (Note for some websites, check "census substitutes") Check Rhonda McClure: "Understanding Midwest Migration Patterns for Family History Research" <scholarsarchive.byu.edu> Check NEHGS (American Ancestors)--The Great Migration Newsletter, vol 1-15. Also Google "Restless America" for state to state migrations map out of the Midwest to other country regions. For many, the Midwest was only a long stopping point.

Ohio has many vital records. Its many rivers were subject to flooding, destroying many farms, leading to the state becoming a manufacturing center. Many settled there by military bounty warrants after the revolutionary War. Indian and Iowa have less records, though still in the millions--they were not as well organized in the early 1800s. Nebraska has such sparse civil records that one should seek church records.

Sources of Midwest records include:

- The Mid Continental Public Library at the Midwest Genealogy Center
- Allen County Midwest Historical and Genealogical Library
- Dallas Central Public Library
- Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center (Augustan College) which has the Emibas CD Rom of Swedish Immigrants
- Regional National Archives
- Family Bible collections in many states

Some small Midwest libraries will do family history research for small sums. Check the "*Midwest Historical and Genealogical Register*". FamilySearch.org has MANY Midwest records, and search its Wiki (use "US Middle West" when searching the Family Search site. ■



President's Message

By Ted Shapas

Hello from your new president! I'm just beginning to wrap my brain around this new job, one that's been fun so far. Our society is awash with enthusiastic volunteers and subject matter experts, and my predecessor, **Russ Erickson**, and his board, have left everything in smooth running order. With your help, I'll do my best not to upset the apple cart!

One thing I'll try to do over the next few months is get to meet as many of you as possible. If you have any suggestions on how to make SRVGS even better than it already is, I'll be all ears.

It was great hearing about **Kathy Oldham's** success at publishing her family history book, *Tom Davies Trio Motoring in Mid Air: The Story of a British Variety and Vaudeville Act*. I think Kathy received a lot of support from our Publishing Special Interest Group, so if you're embarking on getting your stories written down, do contact **Francie Lloyd** about joining this inspiring SIG.

I just finished reading another family history story, *Three Minutes in Poland* by Glenn Kurtz. This book revolves around author Kurtz finding a film his grandfather made during a trip to Europe in 1938. While most of this film was basic tourist footage, 3 minutes of it was taken in a small village in Poland. A year later, WWII began, and shortly thereafter, the Holocaust. Kurtz makes it his mission to identify the people seen in the 3 minute segment. While significant at several levels, the book is a primer on family history research. Three copies exist in the Contra Costa County Library system, including one in Danville. Here's a thoughtful quote from Kurtz on the importance of interviews, sharing photos and recording stories:

"Memories, like artifacts, are tightly wound bundles of information. Pull one thread, try to identify one figure, and the whole bundle unfurls"

Pulling threads is the essence of what we ►

all do in our genealogy work. Pull enough threads, go down lots of rabbits holes, and eventually a patterned fabric of who we are and where we came from is revealed. Here's to continued thread-pulling! ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

July 2015

- 7 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board was 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.

August 2015

Our Society will not hold a Board Meeting nor a General Meeting during the month of August. With the exception of the Publishing Group, the Special Interest Groups will not be scheduled to meet during August as well. The next Board meeting will likely be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 1 at the Home of Frances Lloyd.

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 July 6th (the first Monday) at 1:15 pm at the Danville Family History** ►

Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road. This group will not meet in August and the **September meeting (due to the Labor Day weekend) will be on the 3rd Monday (9/21/15).** The October meeting will return to regular 1st Monday schedule. Susan Rush is the coordinator for this group.



FAMILYSEARCH / FAMILY TREE This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday July 13th** (the second Monday) at **1:15 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.** The topic for the meeting will be, “*FamilySearch Family Tree Record Hints.*” 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 not meet during July or August.** Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group.



PUBLISHING – The publishing group **will meet Thursday July 16th and August 20 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 special interest group **will not meet during July or August.** If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Sharon Clay, the group coordinator.



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

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 13 July 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. **Member Debbie Shields will speak about Getting Organized.** The web address for the society is: <http://www.l-ags.org>
- 17 July Friday 1:30 pm** The Mount Diablo Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings at the Creekside Clubhouse meeting room #3 in Ross-moor. The meeting will feature Francine Lloyd, Daughters of the American Revolution, who will speak on “*DAR Resources*”. This Society meets on the third Friday of each month. Francine will talk about the variety of DAR resources that are available to the public, through the Genealogical Research System, the organization’s national online genealogical portal, which includes collections of databases the organization has made available.
- 18 July 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. Margaret Melaney will speak on the topic of “**What's New at Family Search.**” The society web address is: <http://www.smcgs.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

July is the month to relax with genealogy.



The California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org is definitely busy this month.

- On Thurs., 16th from 6:30 – 7:30 Marvin Shepard will lead **Writing Non-Fiction: An Informal Discussion**. Register online.
- On July 18th from 1-3 Gena Philbert Ortega will present **Her Name Wasn't Unknown: Researching Your Female Ancestor's Life**. Register online.
- Also on Sat., July 18th, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 – 11:30. This month Ron Filion and Pamela Storm from SFgenealogy.com will discuss the latest additions to their website. Register online.
- On Thurs., July 23rd from 6:30 - 7:30 Linda Harms Okazaki will lead the **Japanese American Discussion Group** in a session on Japanese emigrants. Register online.

On Sat., July 25th from 1 - 4 Ron Madson will present **Using Ancestry Family Tree Maker: An Overview**. Register online.

For more upcoming events from Santa Cruz to Sacramento check the CGS "San Francisco Bay Area General Calendar" at <http://sfbagenealogy.blogspot.com>



In July the Oakland Family Search Library, <https://familysearch.org>, has a variety of offerings. Note: for these sessions there is occasionally a small fee to cover the cost of handouts. Pre-registration is required because classes may be cancelled if there is insufficient enrollment. Pre-register at fhcakland@gmail.com or at 510-531-3905.

- On Wed., July 8th at 7 pm the **Mac** ►

Users Workshop with our own Bill George.

- On Thurs, July 9th at 10:30 Janice Sellers will present **Immigration and Naturalization Research**.
- On Sat., July 11th at 1 pm and again on Tues., July 21st from 7-9 pm, Florence Knapps and Elder White will offer **Creating and Keeping Electronic Research Logs**.
- On Thurs., July 16th from 10 -12 presenter Miller will discuss **Freedman's Bureau Records Unveiling**. Volunteers are needed to index these records.
- On Sat., July 25th at 1:30 the Mac Gen Group has hits monthly meeting lead by Bill George.



Starting on July 28th and continuing every Tuesday through Sept. 1st (6 weeks) Concord Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd. in Concord will be offering **Introduction To Genealogy**. **The class is limited to 12 people**. Contact Lisa Gorrell at 925-228-4429 or snrylisa@gmail.com for more information. Registration must be received by July 12th. There is a \$30 fee for materials and resources.

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., July 15th from 6-7 **German Research Online** by James M Beidler.
- On Sat., Aug. 1st from 10 -11 **Remedies for Copy & Paste Genealogy** by Cyn-die Ingle.

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.

- On July 14th at 8 pm central time George G. Morgan will present **Dissect Obituaries for New Clues** Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/723818762217470209>



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 Ginevra Morse at gmorse@nehgs.org. EDUCATION.

- Thurs, July 23, at 3 pm EDT Christopher C. Child will present **New York 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/homas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm

Save the Date:

- Oct. 10th from 9 - 4, the Santa Clara County Genealogy Society will present **Family Discovery Day**.
- Oct. 17th from 9 - 4, the Fresno County Genealogical Society will have its **12th Annual Genealogy Seminar** in Clovis. featuring Lisa Louise Cooke. Register online at roots-web.ancestry.com/-cafcs or phone 5590600-6230
- On Oct. 21st and Oct. 22nd the National Archives will post its **2015 Virtual Genealogy Fair**. See www.archives.gov/claendar/genealogy-fair for further details. ■



SRVGS GENEALOGY

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Maureen Estes Perata

Mary B. Ellis

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

A Gentle Reminder

Society membership dues were due by July 1st. If you have not yet sent in your annual dues and do not do so by the end of July you will be dropped from our rolls and this will be the last newsletter you will receive. Please take the time to send in you check, now, while you are thinking about it. We have many great speakers lined up for the coming year and it would be a shame to miss them. If you have miss-placed your renewal form, you can download another from our web site at: http://srvgensoc.org/forms/srvgs_mem_app.pdf

**HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS**

President: Ted Shapas

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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 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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