



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXI No. 3 September - 2015



THIS MONTH – September 15, 2015
“Beginning DNA Genealogy Research ”
Presented by: Katherine Hope Borges



Katherine will talk to us about the basics of DNA testing, what tests are now available, what you can learn from them and what tests will help you find what you want to know. Hopefully after hearing her speak, you will be motivated to have your DNA tested, and Katherine will be back in March to help us interpret the results.

Katherine Hope Borges is the Co-Founder and Director of The International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG), which promotes and educates about genetic genealogy. Through ISOGG, Katherine has increased professional standards in the practice, research, and discussion of relevant issues in DNA testing, interpretation, and ethics.

In addition to the her work with the ISOGG, Katherine recently launched **DNA FUND** to provide scholarships and funding for DNA testing. She is also a Girl Scout Leader, a member of DAR, and has founded a group called Children of the Revolution in central California to get young people interested in their heritage.

From the July Meeting
“Newspaper Research for the 21st Century”
and

“Five Lessons from Researching Genealogy Roadshow”

Presented by: Gena Philibert-Ortegands Reporter: Russ Erickson

In July our Society presented a Mini-Seminar featuring Gena Philibert-Ortegands, who gave two lectures. The following is a synopsis of each, as provided by Russ Erickson.

Lecture 1:

Newspaper Research for the 21st Century

There are several types of newspapers: city, county, religious (especially for obituaries), ►

ethnic, military, organizational, school, business, special interest. Do Not make Assumptions! Do not seek only obits; look for articles that personalize your ancestors. Classified ads can include obits, “not responsible for debts” denoting separations, and “Seeking lost family members”. Note elopement announcements, unclaimed post office letter lists, 50th anniversaries and other milestone events. Have a timeline for your research.

Newspapers are digitalized, best by OCR scans. Genbank and other sites allows seeking key words. Use words that describe your ancestor, such as time, place, work, religion as well as name. For names like “Love”, you can also exclude Valentine’s day, and other phrases bringing up multiple extra “hits”. Consider letters that can look similar when scanned, such as “e” and “o”. Start BROAD, then go to advanced. The more words you put in, the less result with most search engines. Try varying spelling, using initials, etc; ask a 7 year old to spell the name to obtain possible variations a century ago. A female might be listed with variations of her husband’s name--Mrs. so and so, Mrs. J.C. so and so, as well as her rightful name.

Some newspaper online sites are free, some pay for view (especially overseas) and some need a subscription. They might have scanned articles or transcribed (with more likely errors). Some sites work with content providers with limitations on their use. TIP: verify the newspaper dates available on a site at the start. Check later, as sites keep adding more data and periods.

“Online Historical Newspapers” is a site covering USA, Canada, Mexico, U.K. and others. It provides data on availability.

University of Pennsylvania library site has a research guide by state for newspapers.

Wikipedia has a list of online world wide newspaper archives. Check also the local libraries where an ancestor lived. Many are digitizing local papers.

Elephind.com is one source giving links to papers with names you seek.

The Ancestor Hunt site has data on newspapers, lists of states, and tutorials on usage.

Google Books has newspaper collection ►

Check multiple websites when researching. Subscription websites: Genealogy Bank advertises much of its content not found elsewhere. It highlights in the articles the words you put in as key words in your search. Ancestry.com by clicking “search” at the top shows categories of collections. It has newspapers also under “stories” and “collections”. You can print or save an article, which will then appear on your next site visit, or it can be saved to your Tree. The “share” button will allow emailing an article. The British Newspaper Archive and Find My Past both have British newspapers.

Free websites: Library of Congress, “chronicling America” has papers from 1690 to 1922. Trove covers Australia. Google.com/newspapers is more difficult, you can view, but not download. (Google News Archive). Many states have digital newspapers, such as California, Colorado, etc. Gendisaster covers article on fires, earthquakes, accidents, etc. It provides sources. Internet Archive has a microfilm collection of news. Old Felton History has the N.Y. newspapers, once one gets through some initial pictorial chaos. Use Family History Centers which have many sites free for evaluation. Check your public library databases; many have genealogy oriented newspapers. Offline, check catalogs at LDS libraries, Salt Lake City, or libraries at all levels. Online Archive of California lists catalogs and newspapers. For local University libraries, click the “ask a librarian” button and take advantage of their skills to see what is available. Consider Interlibrary loan from historical, state, and local libraries. MAKE YOUR OWN RESOURCE GUIDE as you research.

Lecture 2:

Five Lessons from Researching the Genealogy Roadshow

Lesson 1: Google Books provides genealogical research tools by digitizing books; though no longer adding books, it is valuable. You can build a library in your computer by using gmail or an email address and password. Doing any search on Google, remember “more” at page top, then “books” You can Google city directories. Before using Google Books, set up your book shelf ►

first by going to “My Library” at the left where there is a “set up a book shelf” button.

Internet Archive at Archive.org has the WayBack Machine with many libraries, collections, ebooks and texts. You can research a specific library. It also has a microfilm section.

Hathi Trust is a consortium of libraries and collections. It has research tools; not everything can be downloaded.

Lesson 2: It is not always what you know. Reach out to websites, blogs, social sites. Get your stuff out so people who might have facts can find you.

Lesson 3: I never met a “Tree” I liked; there is much poor information out there. You have to check for all original data. People with the same name can be in the same time and place! Search and search again--have a timeline for where ancestors were in a place. Go beyond home page searches.

Lesson 4: “We are related to”; there are many such myths in genealogy. Check timelines and seek facts--is the story probable? (Old DAR journals in Google Books have sometimes been handy here. “I am related to Daniel Boone, Jesse James, Geo Washington, etc.) In using Family search, always do a place search with a time line. (Geni, owned by My Heritage is another good site).

Lesson 5: How did you find that? Tenacity and curiosity.

MUST HAVE RESOURCES: World Cat, with millions of sources, places and times to search. Note librarians might have put unusual terms in it; “cookery” instead of cook books, etc. Mocavo, ArchiveGrid (manuscript collections, search by PLACE not name or activity. It covers the world. Ancestry, Family Search, and Pinterest.



In Memoriam



The Society would like to extend their condolences to Harry Baggett and the family of Jacqueline Lee Baggett who passed away July 26, 2015. She was a founding member of SRVGS and was involved in the Society for many years.



President's Message

By Ted Shapas

Welcome back after our annual summer hiatus! I hope you had a nice vacation, whether it was a trip around the world, or a trip to your own backyard. Barbara and I snuck away for a 3-week road trip through the Pacific Northwest, ending with a visit with our son in Seattle. We dodged most of the wildfire smoke, enjoyed the scenic beauty and tastes of the region, and met some interesting people along the way.

One unplanned stop was a Native American celebration that we'd heard about while visiting Joseph, Oregon. The Wallowa band of Nez Perce have an annual weekend gathering called Tamkaliks, and this year they were celebrating the women who helped during the War of 1877. About 15 women descendents (mostly great-grandchildren) of the women from 1877 told the audience colorful stories about their ancestors. For us, this was a glimpse into another culture, and yet another reminder to get our own family history stories in order by learning about them from our elders, by passing the stories along to existing generations, and by transcribing them into printed form for future generations to cherish and enjoy.

A note of special thanks to the Program Committee and other volunteers for pulling together the excellent Education Day Mini-Seminar in July with speaker Gena Philibert-Ortega. Based on enthusiastic feedback, some from visitors, plans are underway to replicate this event next summer. ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Arlis & Melinda Kahler

Please look for this couple at our meetings
and welcome them to our Society.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

September 2015

- 1 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.
- 15 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From the I-680 Freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 1/2 miles.

October 2015

- 6 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 20 **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>. 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. The **September meeting (due to the Labor Day weekend) will be on the 3rd Monday, September 21 at 1:15 pm at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road.** The **October** meeting will return to regular 1st Monday schedule. Susan Rush is the coordinator for this group. ►



IRISH - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday September 9th and October 14th** (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.



FAMILYSEARCH/ FAMILYTREE - This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday September 14th** (the second Monday) at 1:15 pm at the **Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.** The topic for the meeting will be *Finding on-line Books*. 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



PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday September 17th 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.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday September 23rd** (the fourth Wednesday). **at 10:00 am., at the home of Dorothy Baker.** This group will have their annual **Oktoberfest in October this year.** October 28th will be the day to prepare for. 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 is scheduled to meet **Monday September 28th (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 at ►

sharonlclay@comcast.net, They work on “tailor made items” at their meetings as members ask for problem solving issues. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 10 September 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. **Ted Shapas will speak about; *What to do with all those Photos.***
- 14 September 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. **Garl Satterthwaite will present A DNA Update.** You may also go to; <http://www.l-ags.org> for further society information.
- 15 September 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. A photo recovery workshop will be conducted by Jim Hodges. He will demonstrate how old photos can be scanned and recovered. Jim has had a 45 year career with the Stanford research Institute. Once an old photo is digitized, it can be improved, archived and shared. You may also visit www.scchgs.org for further society information.
- 18 September 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. Richard Rands will speak about analysis of Census Records. This Society meets on the third Friday of each month.
- 19 September 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. James Baker will speak about Peripatetic Germans. This presentation describes the two significant waves of German emigration to the US, (a) from 1693 to 1790, and (b) from the early 1800's to 1914. Departure and arrival ports and their data are spotlighted along with key online sites that are helpful for identifying emigrating ancestors. The major immigration books are also discussed. You may also visit: <http://www.smcgs.org/> for further society information.

- 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. Gladys Warr is the seminar coordinator. Go to <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caccggs/ccggs/events.htm> for more information and download the registration form. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

As students return to school, September is the perfect time for us to return to our studies of family history.



The California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org has busy Saturdays this month.

- On Sat., Sept. 5th the **Introduction to Genealogy** class will be held from 1-3. Another session will meet on Sat. Oct., 3rd from 1-3. Register online.
- On Sat., Sept. 12th from 1 – 3 Susan Goss Johnston will present **Introduction** ►

to U.S. Military Records. Register online.

- On Sat., Sept. 19th, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 – 11:30. Register online.
- On Sat., Sept. 26th, from 1-3 Janice Sellers will present **Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust: What's Buried in Cemetery Records. 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 September the Oakland Family Search Library, <https://familysearch.org>, has a variety of offerings. Note: there is occasionally a small fee to cover the cost of handouts for these sessions. Pre-registration is required because classes may be cancelled if there is insufficient enrollment. Pre-register at fhcoakland@gmail.com or at 510-531-3905.

- On Wed., Sept. 9th at 7 pm the **Mac Users Workshop** meets with our own Bill George.
- On Wed., Sept. 16 at 10:30 am Janice Sellers will present **Get Me to the Church on Time – Finding Religious Records.**
- On Wed., Sept. 23rd at 6 pm Alivis Ward Jr. will lead the **African American Research Workshop.**
- On Sun., Oct. 4th from 3-5, Zack Wilske will present **Beyond Passenger Lists: Documenting 20th Century Immigrant Lives.**

Enjoy learning from home?

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



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:

- On Sat., Sept. 5th from 10 -11 Michael Strauss will present **The Great War: Researching Your World War I Ancestors.**
- On Wed., Sept. 16th from 6-7 Diana Crisman Smith will present **Coming to America: The Immigrant Experience.**
- On Sat., Oct. 3rd, from 10 – 11 Eric Siess will present **Ten Steps to Better Genealogy.**

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) continues its webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public.

- On Tues., Sept. 8th, at 8 pm Central, Michael Lacopo will present **Using Tax Records for Genealogical Problem Solving.** To register go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5664379703628947969>



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 Geneva Morse at: gmorse@nehgs.org. [EDUCATION](http://www.nehgs.org/EDUCATION).

- Wed. Sept. 30th, at 12 PST Sally Benny and Stephanie will present **Digital Collections at NEHGS and AJHS-NEA**. Register online at <https://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/watch>

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.htm ►

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ted Shapas
president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Russ Erickson (Acting)

2nd V.P. Programs:

Suzanne Johnston
Wayne Mortensen
Carol Satterthwaite
programs@srvgensoc.org

3rd V.P. Membership:

Gay Scott
membership@srvgensoc.org

Recording Secretary:

Lynnet Keihl
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Corresponding Secretary:

Barbara Shapas
srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Treasurer: Steve Watty

treasurer@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 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.

Save the Date:

- Oct. 4th – 11th the California Genealogical Society's **trip to the Allen County Public Library** in Fort Wayne, IN led by Jeffrey Valliant. For further information and to register, consult the CGS website.
- Oct. 10th from 9 - 4, the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society www.schgs.org 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 rootsweb.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. ■

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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