



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



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San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXI No. 8 March - 2016

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**THIS MONTH – March 15, 2016**  
**“Interpreting Your DNA Results ”**  
**Presented by: Katherine Hope-Borges**



A few months ago, Katherine Hope Borges talked to us about DNA Testing. Now, we are ready for the next step. We hope you have had a DNA test of some sort by this time. It could be a Y-chromosome test (Your father's line); a mitochondrial test (Your mother's mother's line etc.); or an Autosomal DNA test.

Katherine will help us straighten all of this out in our heads, and give you specific information about your results, should you desire. We will allow extra time at the meeting for her to answer questions and meet with you individually to help you understand your test. Please bring your DNA test results with you to the meeting.

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. ■

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## From the February Meeting

**“Online at the Library of Congress and the National Archives:  
You Need a Treasure Map! ”**

**Presented by: Susan Goss Johnston    Reporter: Russ Erickson**

These entities contain a Catalog of Resources; name searches are only a small fraction of these resources. Seek Collection, then topic, go to browse or search (location, subject, then name). The Home page at the Library site shows the digital collection of online data.

Check topics and the library catalog.

(Note: Archives.gov and Archives.org are 2 separate sites for the archives.) Check chronicling America for newspapers. The USA newspaper directory has ALL newspapers back to the ►

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(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

## Susan Goss Johnston

1790s and provides a source of holdings--where each can be located as microfilm, copies, or digital form.

Check American historical sites also; check localities, as much historical data has not had names digitalized or searchable.

There is also a map section in the Library of Congress. Legal records also are there, somewhat searchable, but one should understand the laws at different times in history.

The LOC on Flickr has great photos (always check 'show more'). There are links to many collections and 175,000 photos from the 1930s to 1945. You could find an ancestor or home photo and can download them. There are some from the Civil War.

National Archives: The main entry to NARA records. There are teacher resources, documents, maps, photos, and databases, and a genealogy link. Check 'research our records'. There is a guide to federal records and 800 plus record groups. Check the national archive catalog. ►

(Note: Digitized records were originally on paper, Electronic records originated as such.) Some files in the national archives are not digitized, but copies of documents can be obtained. Ancestry and Fold 3 have many of their files from National Archive data and there is much more there. Items can be downloaded. (the speaker found 873 'Goss' enlistees in WW II) There are online exhibits and one can learn new things. (About 1906 San Francisco, etc.) Also check AO-TUS blog and Flickr National Archive notes on line.

Finally, check both Library of Congress and National Archives for Naturalization records. ■



## President's Message

By Ted Shapas

The Internet is a *wonderful* place for genealogy research, and it just keeps getting *better*. A few weeks ago, a distant cousin from Lithuania contacted me on Facebook, asking if I wanted some help with her part of the family tree; and more recently, I found full sets of naturalization records online for my maternal grandparents.



The Internet is a *terrible* place for genealogy research, and it just keeps getting *worse*. Two weeks ago, some stranger went into my public family tree on FamilySearch and made a whole bunch of erroneous changes, and now I have to go through the laborious trouble of fixing them.

It seems we can't have it both ways. The question is, which side of the coin is the real internet? For most things genealogy, the good substantially outweighs the bad, but we will have to deal with occasional oddball disruptions that come from an open system that in many ways resembles the wild, wild west. By the way, those naturalization documents that I found online? They contained a photo of my grandfather, the *only* photo our family has of him. For me that outweighs my FamilySearch dust-up by a long shot! ■



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### March 2016

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

#### April 2016

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

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

*By: Bill George*

#### SIGs Going Well

Our Special Interest Groups are very active lately. There are now seven SIGS. Three are place research (German, Irish, Azores), one publishing, two genealogy programs (Legacy, Family Tree Maker/Ancestry), and one record research (FamilySearch). See our web site <http://srvgensoc.org/sig.html> for details.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting Azores Research SIG

We had a very successful first Azores Research SIG meeting February 17, 2016 with fourteen in attendance. Azores research can reveal many more birth, marriage and death sources than your typical USA research. Diane George, SIG Leader created a web site at <http://azores.wdgeo.com> to help guide your Azores research. ■

### SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

**NOTE:** For San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Special Interest Group contact information refer to your Society Handbook. For schedules, visit our 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 SIG meets **Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** (the first Monday) **1:15 pm – 3:15 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center**. They study how to search records and family trees using the Ancestry.com web site and show how to use Family Tree Maker software. **Susan Rush** is the SIG leader.



**Irish Research** - This SIG meets **Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup>** (the second Wednesday) **10 am – 12pm**, at the home of **Russ and Patty Erickson** in Pleasant Hill. **Patty Erickson** is SIG Leader.



**FamilySearch** - This SIG meets **Monday March 14<sup>th</sup>** (the second Monday) **1:15 pm – 3:15 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center**. The topic for the meeting will be what to do when someone changes your family tree and FamilySearch Memories. This SIG shows how to search records and study Family Trees on the FamilySearch.org web site. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader.



**Azores Research** – The second meeting of this group will meet **Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>** (the third Wednesday) **1:15 pm – 3:15 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center**. This group will study Portuguese research, specifically Azores Islands. Large numbers of Azorean immigrants immigrated to the Bay Area and the Central Valley of California. **Diane George** is the SIG leader. ►



**Publishing** – This SIG meets **Thursday March 17<sup>th</sup>** (the third Thursday) from **10 am – 12 pm**, at the home of **Francie**

**Lloyd** in Danville. This informal Group shares advice, encouragement, and suggestions to preserve their genealogy project, big or small. Members share their projects as they progress to a hoped for completion. Society members interested in attending should let **Francie Lloyd**, the SIG Leader, know they plan to attend.



**German Research** – This SIG meets **Wednesday March 23<sup>rd</sup>** (the fourth Wednesday) **10 am – 12pm**. March is the month the

group has its annual **German Luncheon at DJ's Bistro** in Concord and will meet there at 11:30 a.m. **Helen Odegard** is the SIG Leader. Please contact Helen if you plan to attend a meeting which normally rotates between member's homes.



**Legacy Family Tree** – This SIG meets **Monday March 28<sup>th</sup>** (fourth Monday) **1:15 pm – 3:15 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center**. This group discusses how the Legacy genealogy program works

and is for beginners as well as experienced Legacy users. **Sharon Clay** is the SIG Leader and can be contacted at [sharonclay@comcast.net](mailto:sharonclay@comcast.net). ■

## EDUCATION

*By: Kathy Javdani*

Let's have learning more in genealogy be our March Madness.



The California Genealogical Society (CGS) [www.CaliforniaAncestors.org](http://www.CaliforniaAncestors.org) continues to provide a variety of learning sessions. For all the following activities, register online:

- March starts with the **Introduction to Genealogy** class on Sat., Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 3 p.m..
- Also on Sat., Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 12 a.m., **Getting More From Family Search** will be the workshop topic. ►

- On Sat., Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 3 p.m. there will be a presentation on **Crowdsourcing Your Irish Research Questions**.
- On Sat., Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 - 11:30 a.m.
- In addition, on Sat., Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>, the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1-3.
- Also on Sat., Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 there will be a presentation on **Angel Island Genealogical Resources**.
- On Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> from, 1 - 4 p.m. Susan Goss Johnson will present **Spreadsheets: The Wonderful Tool Genealogists Seldom Use** at the Oakland Family Search Library.
- April will start with the **Introduction to Genealogy** class on Sat., Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1 - 3 p.m.

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



This month the Oakland Family Search Library, <https://familysearch.org>, offers support -

- On Wed., Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>, our own Bill George will lead the **Mac Users Workshop** from 7 - 8 p.m.
- On Fri., Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 - 3 p.m. there will be a presentation on **How to Document Your Data in RootsMagic**.
- On Wed., Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Alvis Ward Jr. will guide the **African American Research Workshop** from 6 - 8 p.m.
- On Sat., Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 1 Susan Goss Johnson will present an **Excel for Genealogy** class.
- Also on the 26<sup>th</sup> from 11 - 12:30 Janice Sellers will present **Vital Records and the Calendar Changes of 1752**.
- On Thursdays throughout the month ►

from 1 - 4 p.m. Beryl and Wade will provide individual assistance on **Swedish research**.



The Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd. offers how-to classes from January through September on the third Saturday from 10-1:30. There is no charge and pre-registration is not required. For questions, contact Jackie Hein at 925-827-4729.

- On Sat., Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Diane Inman will present **Turn the Hearts of the Children to Their Fathers - Writing Down the Bones**

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.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html) continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- On Sat., Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>, from 10 - 11 a.m., Julie Goucher will present **Origins & Evolution of a One-Name Study or Surname Research**
- On Wed Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>, from 6 - 7 p.m. Thomas Jones will present **Inferential Genealogy: Deducing Ancestors' Identities Indirectly**
- On Sat., Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 10 - 11 a.m., Michael L. Stauss will present **Researching Your Civil War Ancestor: A Comprehensive Study**.

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 Ar-**

**chives** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.

- **How to Get the Most Out of a Genealogy Conference** by George Morgan.



The Illinois State Genealogical Society ([ilgensoc.org](http://ilgensoc.org)) continues its webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public.

- On Tues., Mar. 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. Central, Melissa Barker will present **Researching in Archives & Libraries: Do's and Don'ts. To register go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1846416843611494402>**



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) [www.Americanancestors.org/education/online-classes](http://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](mailto:gmorse@nehgs.org). **EDUCATION**

- On Tues., Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12 Sally Benny and Stephanie Call will present **Digital Collections at NEHGS and AJHS-NEA. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/472616648997363969>**
- On Wed., Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> David Allen Lambert will present **Using New England Land, Court, and Probate Records**. There is a \$85 fee for this class. Register at <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/7539207567418470146New>

Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the free events 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 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](http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm)

#### Save the Date:

- Sat. Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society [www.ccngs.org](http://www.ccngs.org) 2016 History Seminar.
- May 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, NGS 2016 Family History Conference in Fort Lauderdale.
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree in Burbank. ■

### 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

## WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

**Kristina Ahuja**

**Mary Anne Clark**

**Ken Hensley**

**Susan Savod**

**Cindra D. Wheeler**

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

## Quarterly Report from the Tri-Valley History Council

*By: Kathy Javdani*

The Tri-Valley History Council is a network of local history centers, historic sites, libraries, museums and genealogical societies whose fields of interest include the eastern part of Alameda County and the southeastern part of Contra Costa County, California. Representatives from the various organizations meet quarterly to share updates on various projects and plans.

The council met on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Dublin Library. Kathy Javdani represented SRVGS. Highlights of the meeting included:

- On March 12<sup>th</sup> The Museum of the San Ramon Valley will open a new exhibit about Japanese – American internment entitled *The Art of Survival*.
- The Contra Costa Historical Society is scanning maps and the Contra Costa Gazette.
- The Dublin Library will be expanding over 1,500 sq. ft. for a new programming and learning center. California State Library in partnership with Califa Group is working to help local libraries and historical organizations to preserve local history and make images ►

available on line. It is working to identify local projects.

- The Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area is recovering from the effects of last summer's fire and recent rains. It will be expanding by an additional 3,000 acres.
- On April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Livermore Library Don Meeker from the Livermore Heritage Guild will present "*Livermore Before Google Earth*" using a bird's-eye 1889 lithograph of Livermore. Don has recently completed digitizing the Livermore tax assessment records.
- L-AGS has a docent at the Pleasanton Library every Wednesday to help the public learn how to do genealogical research. The topic of the next L-AGS meeting on Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> will be "*Researching When Records Have Burned*". Dick Finn of L-AGS is working on the history of Oak Knoll cemetery.
- At the Alviso Adobe Community Park there is an archeological program for school children. There are 14 presentations scheduled for this spring and so far they have been very well received.
- The Conference of California Historical Societies' Fall Symposium, "*Historical Connections*", will highlight the historic facilities along historic Route 21 including the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Forest Homes Farms Historic Park & Glass House Museum, Dublin Heritage Park Museum and the Alviso Adobe Community Park. The event will be held on October 20-23, 2016.
- 2016 is the National Park Service's Centennial year. At the Eugene O'Neill house the centennial production of the first O'Neill play will be celebrated. See [eugeneoneill.org](http://eugeneoneill.org) for programs.
- Alan Frank, formerly with Niles Canyon Railroad, has been asked to document the Livermore Depot, which is going to be moved to the Livermore transit center. ■

## HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Ted Shapas

[president@srvgensoc.org](mailto:president@srvgensoc.org)

**1st V.P.** Russ Erickson (Acting)

**2nd V.P. Programs:**

Suzanne Johnston

Wayne Mortensen

Carol Satterthwaite

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**3rd V.P. Membership:**

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**Recording Secretary:**

Lynnet Keihl

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**Corresponding Secretary:**

Barbara Shapas

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**Treasurer:** Steve Watty

[treasurer@srvgensoc.org](mailto:treasurer@srvgensoc.org)

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

**Coordinator:** Bob Venter

[editor@srvgensoc.org](mailto:editor@srvgensoc.org)

**Calendar Coordinator:**

Vern Segelke

[srvgs@srvgensoc.org](mailto:srvgs@srvgensoc.org)

**Mailing:** Sally Germain & Mary Tom

*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.

## Your Society Needs You!

Reminder to our genealogy society members: It is election time, with a vote in May. This year, our first V-P (officer to go on to be president in 2017), our 3 Program chair persons, our Recording Secretary and our Corresponding secretary all have finished their 2 year terms. All officers on your Board note that their positions require only a few flexible hours each month, plus attendance at the Board's 2 hour morning meeting each first Tuesday, 10 months per year. Serving as a Board member provides a great service to our members and provides Board members with both personal satisfaction, a more active mind (for those of us a bit elderly), and good socialization. Please notify Russ Erickson, Nominating chairman, if you might like to serve in one of these important positions that keep our 31 year old society moving forward.

Call or email me; address in the Society Handbook. Thank you. Russ ■

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