



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXI No. 10 May - 2016



THIS MONTH – May 17, 2016
**“20th Century Military Records Call For
20th Century Patience ”**
Presented by: David Goerss

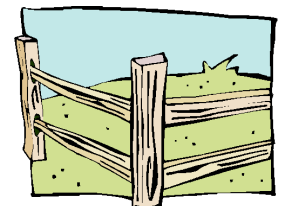


Twentieth century military service records offer a wealth of genealogical and personal data about a veteran soldier or sailor. However, unlike records from earlier American history, 20th century military personnel files are not on microfilm and we must rely on skilled National Archives staff to physically locate, restore, and manually duplicate surviving records, a process requiring our carefully detailed records search request – and all subject to strict FOIA rules and next-of-kin requirements. David Goerss will explain how to pursue this underutilized, yet extraordinarily rich source of family history.

David Goerss is a genealogical researcher and writer, and a speaker at family history venues around the San Francisco Bay Area and Northern California. David founded Patriot Genealogy to assist others nationwide with genealogical research services, including special interest in veterans from all branches of the armed services. David is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and holds a MBA degree from University of San Francisco, and BA in Political Science from University of California, Berkeley. David is a native Californian and lives with his family in Moraga. You may visit his web-site at: PatriotGenealogy.com. ■



From the April Meeting
“Finding United States Land Records ”
Presented by: Martha Wallace
Reporter: Russ Erickson



Our speaker for April was Martha Wallace speaking on using Land records. She provided a 4 page handout of her talk, wonderfully loaded with information and internet sites valuable for genealogical researchers. Therefore, I did not consider

competing with summary notes for our May newsletter. You can download her handout at the Society web site. Just follow this link: [http://srvgensoc.org/files/US_Land_Records_\(2016-04-19\).pdf](http://srvgensoc.org/files/US_Land_Records_(2016-04-19).pdf) ►



(Photo by: Carol Satterthwaite)

Martha Wallace



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

May 2016

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

June 2016

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

Instead, I wish to remind all members of our Society's vital need for volunteers to run for Board positions in the May election.

Happily, we have Robert Thompson, who has volunteered for Membership Chair. He already provides good suggestions to Board members. Mary Anne Clark, a cheerful newer member volunteered in April to run for the position of Recording Secretary. Assuming the membership agrees with the Board and votes to change section V b of the By-Laws to allow a second 2 year term for officers, we will be delighted to retain Barbara Shapas as Corresponding Secretary this coming year and Wayne Mortensen as one of the Program chairs. For several reasons, Wayne needs two more members to serve with him on Programs; a very important aspect of SRVGS! Those 2 volunteers will be doing us all a great service while benefiting from Wayne's 2 year expertise. Finding and obtaining speakers will be much eased and ►

require no great amount of time and his co-chairs will add knowledge of benefit to themselves and others.

Last, we require a new First Vice President who is willing to move on to President in 2017. Those posts actually do not require a lot of time; simply a willingness and ability to coordinate and allow SRVGS to continue. There are 10 Board meetings and 10 General Meetings yearly and the president and first VP work together to allow a vacation period where desired.

PLEASE strongly considering helping and keeping this great society going! Serving on the Board is a social pleasure.

Your fellow serving members are a social and happy group to be with. Socialization and being involved keeps us young in mind. As the saying keeps reiterating, Live Long and Prosper. Call or email me or Ted Shapas, our president. ■



President's Message

By Ted Shapas



While most of us have a love/hate relationship with social media, it's hard to deny that it has value for genealogy. On Facebook, for instance, I belong to Lithuanian and Polish genealogy groups. After "joining" such a group (it's free and easy, once you have a Facebook account, which is also free), I can post questions or photos, and other members see them and respond. The members are from all around the world, so there is hardly a question that can't be answered by someone, somewhere. Popular questions that I see answered all the time relate to translations and deciphering handwriting on ships' passenger lists. Ancestor surnames and towns of origin are contained on those lists, but many times they are garbled. It's amazing what can be gained by having a few dozen strangers look over your document and help determine the correct spelling!

The degree to which genealogists have gravitated to social media is somewhat staggering. Katherine Wilson has compiled a list of genealogy groups on Facebook, and they number over 8,000 and counting! You can take a peek at them here: socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-Facebook-list/. ■



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, May 2nd** (the 1st 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.



FamilySearch - This SIG meets **Monday May 9th** (the second Monday)

1:15 pm – 3:15 pm at the **Danville Family History Center**. The topic for the meeting will be how to use the FamilySearch Research Wiki. This SIG shows how to search records and study Family Trees on the FamilySearch.org web site. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader.



Irish Research - This SIG meets **Wednesday May 11th** (the second Wednesday) **10 am – 12pm**, at the **home of Russ and Patty Erickson**

in **Pleasant Hill**. **Patty Erickson** is SIG Leader.



Azores Research – This SIG will meet **Wednesday May 18th** (the 3rd Wednesday) **1:15 pm – 3:15 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center**. This group will help

attendees solve some of their research issues & provide tips, specifically for ancestors from the 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 May 19th** (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.



Legacy Family Tree – This SIG meets **Monday May 23rd** (4th 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.



German Research – This SIG will meet **Wednesday May 25th** (the fourth Wednesday) **10 am – 12 p.m.** at the home of Helen Odegard. **Helen Odegard** is the SIG Leader. Please contact Helen if you plan to attend. Meetings rotate between member's homes.

The **Danville Family History Center** is located at **2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo, CA 94507, Phone: 925-552-5920.** Individual phone numbers and email addresses if not listed, can be found in the SRVGS Handbook made available annually to all members of the Society. ■

It's Time to Renew Your SRVGS Membership

The SRVGS year runs from June 1st through May 31st. As June is only a few weeks away, it is time to renew your membership. At only \$15 per year, this is a great value. With monthly speakers on relevant topics, Special Interest Groups, research assistance, a great social experience and many other ways to help you enjoy your genealogy pastime, you couldn't do better. Please fill out the attached form and return it with your check as soon as possible. We have another wonderful year ahead of us. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

It's time to start prepping for a summer of genealogy.



As usual the California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org provides a variety of learning sessions. For all the following activities, register online:

- May starts with the **Introduction to Genealogy** class on Sat., May 7th from 1 - 3 p.m..
- On Sat., May 14th from 1 -4 p.m., **DNA Results** will be the workshop topic.
- On Sat., May 21st, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 - 1:30 a.m..
- In addition, on Sat., May 21st, the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1-3.
- June will start with the **Introduction to Genealogy** class on Sat., June 4th 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 the following support -

- On Sat., May 7th, at 1:30 p.m. Kenneth Miller will present **How to Document Your Data to RootsMagic.**
- On Tues, May 10th at 10:30 a.m. Kenneth Miller will discuss **Using the SEARCH feature in RootsMagic.** Space is limited to 6 people. Sign up at the Resource Desk.
- On Wed., May 11th, our own Bill George will lead the **Mac Users Workshop** from 7 - 8 p.m.
- On Sat., May 14th at 10 a.m. Janice Sellers will share **Using Finding Aids for Jewish Records to Help Research** ►

Non-Jewish Ancestors.

- On Thursdays May 5th, 12th, and 19th from 1 - 4 p.m. Beryl and Wade Olofson 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., May 14th from 10am Diana King will present **Census Records in Other Countries**

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 continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- On Sat., May 7th, from 10 - 11 a.m., Gena Philibert-Ortega will present **Once Upon a Time at an Antique Store: Telling the Story of Mrs. E.G. Stetson**
- On Wed May 18th, from 6 - 7 p.m. Jean Wilcox Hibben will present **Translating Latin Records of German (and other) Catholic Churches.**

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 Genealogical Society (ilgensoc.org) continues its webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public.

On Tues., May 10th, at 8 p.m. Central, **Stephen Szabados will discuss Polish Immigration to America- When, Where, Why and How.**

To register go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9172454023411073281>



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](http://www.Americanancestors.org/education/online-classes).

- On Wed., June 8th, 15th, and 22nd Rhonda R McClure will **present Italian Genealogy: Strategies for Success for NEHGS members.**

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 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

Save the date:

- May 4th - 7th, **NGS 2016 Family History Conference** in Fort Lauderdale.
- May 7th from 9 - 3, the **San Mateo County Genealogical Society 's Spring Seminar** with Thomas MacEntee presents Successful Searching at 1105 Valparaiso, Menlo Park. Check smcgs.org/programs/seminars for registration information
- Mon., May 9th at 7:30 Cat Nielsen will present **The Camera as a Genealogy Tool** at the L-AGS meeting at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton.
- Fri., May 20th at 10 a.m. the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will present **What Now, a genealogy questions panel** (You can submit questions in advance.) to be held at the Donner Room at the Event Center, Rossmoor.
- June 3rd - 5th, **Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree** in Burbank.
- August 17th - 20th, the **3rd Annual SVGS Genealogy Conference in Arlington, WA.** ■



In Memoriam



Clarice Gallant Hart

The Society extends their condolences to the family of Clarice Gallant Hart who passed away at her home in Walnut Creek on Tuesday, April 19, 2016. Clarice had been an active member of SRVGS since 1999. Her daughter, Nancy, says Clarice had a wonderful weekend with the family and a celebratory dinner with her Waterford friends on Monday. She goes on to say that on Tuesday morning Clarice was chatty and happy. Nancy believes Clarice had a heart attack and died instantly at home Tuesday afternoon. She will be missed by her friends here at SRVGS

BOOK REVIEW

By: Frances Lloyd & Virginia Rood

Continuing with our occasional review of books from the Society's collection at the Danville Public Library, here are a few more by Virginia Rood and Francie Lloyd. A complete list of the society's books is provided at the Society's web site and can be downloaded at: http://srvgensoc.org/resources/SRVGS_Danville_Library_Booklist.pdf

Index to Volunteer Soldiers 1784-1811

Transcribed by Virgil D. White

This index consists of compiled service records of volunteer soldiers who served from 1784-1811, obtained from the National Archives. These service records include a jacket-envelope for each soldier, labeled with his name and containing card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier found primarily in muster rolls, payrolls, and returns and sometimes receipt rolls and various kinds of lists.

The compilation of the service records for these soldiers was begun in 1912. These abstracts were verified by a separate comparison to insure they are accurate.

Review by: Virginia Rood ►

**Settlers of the Beekman Patent
Dutchess County New York
Volume I**

**An Historical and Genealogical Study
of all the 18th Century Settlers in the Patent**
By: Frank J. Doherty

This book is a history and genealogical account of everyone who came to the Beekman Patent before 1800. This includes all persons on tax lists for more than a year, all listed as signors or non-signors of the Articles of Association in 1775, all in Revolutionary militia units, and all listed on 1790 census. The information seems to be well researched as indicated by the book's preface. The first volume contains general data about the Patent and the civil and military records.

Review by: Virginia Rood

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**The Great Migration: Immigrants
to New England 1634-1635.**

By: Anderson, Sanborn, and Sanborn.
NEHGS. 1999.

Migration to New England grew to two thousand - twenty-five hundred immigrants in 1634. About thirteen-hundred individuals or families are known to have come to New England in 1634 and 1635. Even though more passenger lists survive for this period of time than any other part of the Great Migration, many hundreds are not listed. In addition to passenger lists, the compilers include those who appear in a record between 14 May 1634 and 25 May 1636, direct or indirect implication of arrival by the end of 1635 included in a record of a later date, and appearance as a member of the immediate family of a person known to have arrived in 1634 or 1635. Parentage, if known, and reasonably close relations, if known, including those remaining in England are named. A brief sketch of the immigrant is included. As complete a list as possible of the children of the immigrants is given.

Review by: Francie Lloyd

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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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.

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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