

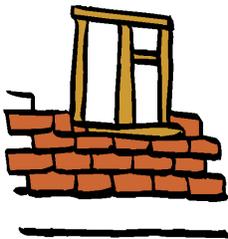
San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXII No. 1 June - 2016



THIS MONTH – June 21, 2016

**“Breaking Down Brick Walls in
Eastern European Research ”**

A Webinar Presentation by: Lisa Alzo



Research in Eastern Europe can be a challenging process. Sorting out surnames, trying to identify ancestral hometowns, and deciphering old country records to connect families are just a few of the obstacles often encountered along the way. Through sample case studies, this webinar will demonstrate lesser-utilized research tactics, and discuss repositories and key resources used to locate information about your elusive Eastern European ancestors. Lisa’s handout lists many websites that will be helpful. ■



From the May Meeting

**“20th Century Military Records Call For
20th Century Patience ”**

**Presented by: David Goerss
Reporter: Russ Erickson**



The speaker’s ancestors served in most USA wars.

The National Archives in St. Louis has millions of records on individual members of the armed forces, but a 1973 7 day long fire destroyed about 80% of the official military personnel files (OMPFs). Sixteen to eighteen million were lost. Those left prior to 1964 are easily available. Those after 1964 can be obtained by direct family members and if deceased with a death certificate. A

standard form 180 is filed to NARA, St. Louis; the national personnel records center. Auxiliary records are also available, though not publicized. All records are an uncommon source of a variety of data. Discharge documents only requests can be obtained within 2 weeks and all records within 3 months. (The center gets 4 to 5,000 requests daily and those requesting them for obtaining benefits come first. Having the social security and/or serial number really helps. The cost is \$25 for 5 pages or less and \$70 for anything over 5 pages (that ►



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

David Goerss

can run into over 100 pages).

Some files remain after the fire but are damaged and can only be viewed at the center. Much personal data can be included, including religion, funeral, divorce, data, etc. When asking, provide the veteran's name AS USED IN THE SERVICE. IDs can be found on old dog tags, footlockers, or duffel bags from his/her service days.

Fold 3 has many of these records and one can check Ancestry.com/cs/military records.

The Veteran's Affairs website has name, rank, awards, training, qualifications, branch, conflicts, insurance, emergency requests, dates of service, entry point, POW, discharge and death data. When you requests records there, denote: please send copy of ALL contents of any and all records contained in the OMPF (or they might send only what THEY feel is important). The OMPF can also contain microfiche copies. ►



SRVGS CALENDAR

June 2016

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

July 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.

States or the local county clerk where he/she resided when discharged could also have records. The NPRC manages active records, in the same building as NARA.

Navy records go from 1864 to 1964, army from 1912 on, air force from WWII to 2004. A vet or next of kin can email a request, otherwise mail or FAX requests, or visit personally by appointment. All surviving records are deemed historical documents.

'B file' indicates treated burned remnants that can be pulled on demand in 6 weeks. 'R-file' indicates burned records now restored.

WWI records can include burial data, Gold Star Mother program data with photos, programs, and graves. The IDPF (individual deceased personnel files) have much information. Auxiliary records might have army unit rosters, but are hard to obtain.

The US Army has records at Ft. Knox also. ■



President's Message

By Ted Shapas

Via a membership vote at our last general meeting, our 2016 SRVGS Board of Directors is now in place! We welcome new Board members **Mary Ann Clark** (Recording Secretary) and **Bob Thompson** (3rd VP Membership), along with returning members **Russ Erickson** (1st VP), **Wayne Mortensen** (2nd VP Programs), **Barbara Shapas** (Corresponding Secretary), **Steve Watty** (Treasurer), and **Virginia Rood** (Parliamentarian). I remain as your President for another year. Our many thanks go to outgoing Board members **Gay Scott**, **Lynnet Keihl**, **Suzanne Johnston**, and **Carol Satterthwaite** - we will miss you!



There's a term used in physics called a half-life. It usually pertains to materials that are radioactive and decay at a certain rate such that it's possible to predict when half of the material will change into something else. For example, the half-life of the plutonium around Chernobyl is over 400 years and because such a large amount was accidentally released, it explains why that area will be uninhabitable for several thousand years.

The term half-life can pertain to our genealogical records as well. Do you have important information stored on CDs, DVDs or flash drives? The half-life of those recording media can be measured in just a few years, after which half of a batch of them will no longer operate properly. The trouble is, we can't tell which ones are about to fail. Such is the subject of the latest report from Dick Eastman, who always seems to find something interesting to discuss. This time his good advice is to regularly refresh our storage media with whatever form is the latest and greatest. Even if the media type hasn't changed, it makes sense to copy information from the old ones to new ones every few years. If you don't subscribe to his free e-newsletter (you get a few more features if you pay a subscription fee), you are missing out on one of the best genealogical resources around. ■

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, June 6th** (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.



Irish Research -

This SIG meets **Wednesday June 8th** (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 June 13th** (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 Memories section of FamilySearch. 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 next meeting of this group will meet **Wednesday June 15th** (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. ►



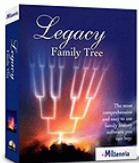
Publishing – This SIG meets **Thursday June 16th** (the third Thursday) from **10 am – 12 pm**, at the home of **Francie Lloyd** in Danville.

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 June 22nd** (the fourth Wednesday) **10 am – 12pm**. **Helen Odegard** is the

SIG Leader. In June the meeting will be in Helen's home. Please contact Helen if you plan to attend a meeting.



Legacy Family Tree – This SIG meets **Monday June 27th** (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.

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. ■

Is Your Membership about to Lapse?

A new Society year started on June 1st, and annual membership dues are now past due. For those who have not yet sent in their membership renewal, please take a moment to send in your check, **now**, while you are thinking about it. If you can't find the application form we sent you you can download another from our website at: http://srvgensoc.org/forms/srvgs_mem_app.pdf

EDUCATION

By: *Kathy Javdani*

Have some summer fun by learning more about genealogy.



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

- June starts with the **Introduction to Genealogy** class on Sat., June 4th from 1 - 3 p.m.
- Also on the 4th at 12 p.m. and again on the 5th at 12 p.m. Laura Manion and Linda Darby will lead a workshop entitled **Pennsylvania Genealogy Discussed**.
- On Sat. the 11th from 1 - 3 p.m. there will be a presentation called **Jewish Genealogy: Why is This Research Different from All Other Research**.
- On Fri., June 17th from 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. there will be **Ancestry Day Research Consultations** in conjunction with Ancestry Day by the Bay.
- On Sat., June 18th, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 - 11:30 a.m.
- In addition, on the 18th, the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1 - 3 p.m.
- On Sat., the 25th, a **scanning clinic** will take place at the Oakland Family Search Library.
- July will start with the **Introduction to Genealogy** class on Sat., July 2nd 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 Wed., June 8th, our own Bill George will lead the **Mac Users Workshop** from 7 - 8 p.m.
- On Thursdays June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th 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., June 18th at 10 a.m. Kathie Olsen will present **Let's Clean Up**, a workshop about how to put your Family Search Person Pages in order.

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 Wed, June 15th, from 6 - 7 p.m., James M. Beidler will present **Finding a German Home Village Online**.

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., June 14th at 8 p.m. Central, Amie Tenant will discuss **Using Social Media to Break Through Brick Walls**. To register go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7540625935675352321>



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**.

- On Wed., June 8th, 15th, and 22nd Rhonda R McClure will present **Italian Genealogy: Strategies for Success** for NEHGS members. Fee is \$85.

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> ▶

(Continued on page 7)

Mini-Seminar - July 19, 2016 – 10:00 AM
Presented by: Gena Philibert-Ortega
No charge -Visitors Welcome



“Her Name was Not Unknown: Finding Female Ancestors” – There’s nothing more irritating than hoping for a mother’s name on a death certificate and instead finding the word “unknown.” Learn some sure fire ways to research your female ancestors including methodology and resources. Use my 5 step process for researching (and finding) female ancestors.

“That’s New to Me: Unfamiliar Websites for Your Genealogy” – It’s hard to keep up with all the different websites that can help you with your family history but there are a few core ones that are crucial to your research. In this presentation we will explore such websites as WorldCat, ArchiveGrid, and the Digital Public Library of America.

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 *FGS Forum*, *APG Quarterly*, *Internet Genealogy*, *Family Chronicle* and *Family Tree Magazine*. Her writings can also be found on her blogs, Gena’s Genealogy and Food.Family.Ephemera. She is the author of three books and was a researcher for the first season of the PBS show *Genealogy Roadshow* (2013). She serves as Past-President of the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Her current research interests include women’s social history, and researching women’s lives using material artifacts.

(Continued from page 5)



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/>

Save the date:

- On Mon., June 9th, from 10:30 – 12:30 at the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, www.scchgs.org, Patricia Barrow will present **Basic DNA - How Three Testing Companies Can Change Your Family Tree. Go to website to Register. No walk-ins accepted.**
- Mon., June 13th at 7:30 p.m. Ralph Severson will present **Family Search Wiki** at the L-AGS, www.l-ags.org, meeting at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton.
- Fri., June 17th at 10 a.m. at the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, mdgs.webs.com, will host Cath Madden Trindle as she presents **Online Irish Genealogy Research**. The meeting will be held at the Club Room at the Creekside Clubhouse in Rossmoor.
- On Tues., June 21st from 7 - 8 p.m. the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will have its monthly meeting at the Santa Clara Central Park Library. Richard Rands will present **An Introduction to Reach in the South-eastern US**.
- August 17th - 20th, the 3rd Annual SVGS Genealogy Conference in Arlington, WA. ■

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ted Shapas

president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Russ Erickson

2nd V.P. Programs:

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3rd V.P. Membership:

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NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter

editor@srvgensoc.org

Calendar Coordinator:

Bill George

svgs@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.

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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