



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXII No. 2 July - 2016

THIS MONTH – July 19, 2016

A Mini-Seminar Featuring

Gena Philibert-Ortega

Speaking on the Following Topics:

“Her Name was Not Unknown: Finding Female Ancestors”

and

“That’s New to Me: Unfamiliar Websites for Your Genealogy”

“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 Gena’s 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: *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. ■

From the June Meeting

“Breaking Down Brick Walls in Eastern European Research”

Presented by: **Lisa Alzo**
Reporter: **Russ Erickson**

Our first Webinar featured Lisa Alzo, MFA, speaking on *Eastern European Brick Wall Research*. <lisaalzo.com> is her website.

Common: failure to exhaust resources, not reading directions for best results on internet sites (read what the source contains), and using indexes vs. actual records. Do NOT only use the internet, understand the time period you are researching and the language nuances. Do not only look at the line on a record, but observe that which is around it--neighbors, ship passengers, etc.

Spelling can vary for original names. Learn naming patterns and practices for the country of interest. Consult all helpful resources, and recheck later, as new data keeps coming on the internet. Note Eastern European females might have ‘ova’ attached to the surname. Create a chart of possible spelling variations. Key information is in village names, which might change with time. Many widely used record sources should be reviewed, including funeral homes, land/probate, fraternal, newsletters, and especially church.

Blogging or being on news posts online can lead to unknown relatives or past neighbors who might have information.

Always check the Family search Wiki on the country of origin. It also links findings in Gazetteers, etc. Check the country genealogy research sites, Slovakia Genealogy Research, etc. Use both US Google and the country Google sites. Use Google translations, though they have trouble with local dialects. <stevemorse.org> is a great site with data bases and good advice on how to use his information. In FamilySearch, read how to use the collections.

Every year, review all you have done that year and prior research. Use a research log and always cite your sources! Lisa uses Google drive and looks at FAN clubs--Friends, Associates, ►



Lisa Alzo

and Neighbors. Use timelines for your documents (Lisa uses Scapple to help with this).

In Their Words, books by Shea and Hoffman help with many languages. The Steve Morse website also has many items helping with words (especially Russian and Hebrew), with One step web pages .

Subscribe to email websites, Google alerts and social sites. Ask for help when needed; it can pay to employ a professional genealogist when needed. Crowdsourcing your problem; there is power in numbers. Legacy has a quick guide on Polish research. Check the Hungary Exchange. Ancestry message boards and forums can be useful. DNA analysis is starting to lead to finding living relatives who might have information.

Finally: Skill, persistence, serendipity equal genealogy. ■



President's Message

By Ted Shapas



Summer's here, and time for vacations, garden harvests, yard parties, and our annual break. It's also wildfire season once again, this year a little earlier than usual. While the winter

rains filled some reservoirs and kept spring fires to a minimum, they also fed a lot of grass growth, which has now turned into tinder-dry fuel. What this means for us genealogy types is to make sure we have back-up plans for our digital records, and evacuation plans for the physical ones. Evacuation planning can be as simple as numbering boxes in order of priority - in case you do need to scamper to safety, knowing which boxes go along with you first can save precious time.

I hope you enjoyed the June program, our very first webinar, this one brought to us via a DVD. Feedback is always very helpful, so please let anyone from the Program Committee (Wayne Mortensen, Carol Satterthwaite, or Suzanne Johnston) know what you thought of the presentation.

Our July general meeting will be a special one, with back-to-back, not-to-be-missed presentations by Gina Philibert-Ortega. After that, **no SRVGS board or general meetings in August, plus the Alamo Family History Center will be closed in August as well.** I wish everyone a great summer, and look forward to hearing about your adventures when we reconvene in September! ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Kathleen Young

Michelle Johnston

Sandra McKinnon

Pam Winterbauer

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

July 2016

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

September 2016

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

Special Notes:

- The **Irish SIG** is taking the month of July off.
- The **Ancestry/Family Tree Maker** Group is meeting on the 3rd Monday this month, because July 4th falls on the 1st Monday, their usual meeting date.



FamilySearch - This SIG meets Monday July 11th (the second Monday) ►

1:15 pm – 3 pm at the Danville Family History Center. This SIG shows how to search records and study Family Trees on the FamilySearch.org web site. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader.



Ancestry/Family Tree Maker – This SIG meets **Monday, July 18th 1:15 pm – 3 pm at the Danville Family History Center.** We

switched it to the 3rd Monday this month because the 1st Monday is July 4th. This group studies how to search records and family trees using the Ancestry.com web site and shows how to use Family Tree Maker software. **Susan Rush** is the SIG leader.



Azores Research – The next meeting of this group will meet **Wednesday July 20th (the 3rd Wednesday) 1:15 pm – 3 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.



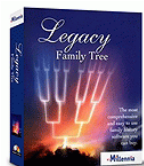
Publishing – This SIG meets **Thursday July 21st (the third Thursday) from 10 am – 12**

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 July 27th (the fourth Wednesday) 10 am – 12pm.** **Helen Odegard** is the

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



Legacy Family Tree – This SIG meets **Monday July 25th (4th Monday) 1:15 pm – 3pm 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. ■

News from the Danville Stake Family History Center

By Lorna Defiebre

CALL FOR INDEXERS

If you've ever been able to find a relative's name online, thank an indexer. These selfless people have been working for years, line by line, name by name, to ensure that, if a record exists, you can find it by simply typing a name in the search box. Over a billion records have been done by FamilySearch indexers, and they are offered free to anyone who is interested. Last year alone, almost 54 million records went online – an astounding average of over a million per week!

Yet, there are so, so many more records to be done. Ship manifests, birth, marriage, and death records, state and national census records, old parish baptismal records – these are just a few of the current projects. Your help is desperately needed. What other service opportunity allows you to work at home, at any hour of the day or night, for as long or as little a time as you want. And it's fun and exciting!

Getting started is easy, too. Just go to familysearch.org and click on the indexing tab. Set up a free FamilySearch account in three easy steps, download the indexing software, and you're off! A convenient and definitely recommended tutorial takes about 20 minutes. Then, choose a project you like and you are an indexer!

Indexing is a great hobby anytime, but especially now. A worldwide indexing event is ►

upcoming July 15th through July 17th. They're calling for 72,000 indexers to do at least one record during that 72-hour period. Get started now so you'll be ready to participate. For personal help, call Lorna Defiebre at 925-837-1686. ■

EDUCATION

By: *Kathy Javdani*

It's the month for fireworks in your genealogy learning.



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

- On Thurs., July 7th from 4 - 8 p.m. is the first session of **Genealogy Summer Camp Consultations**. Sessions will be held at this time on every Thursday through Aug. 25th.
- On Sat., the 9th from 1 - 2:30 p.m. Woody LaBounty will give a presentation on the **San Francisco Western Neighborhood Project**.
- On Sat., the 16th, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 - 11:30 a.m.
- In addition, on the 16th, the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1 - 3 p.m.
- On Sat., the 23rd from 10 - 12 Gena Philibert -Ortega will present **The Anatomy of BMD: What You Don't Know About Vital Records**. Then from 1 - 3 p.m. Gena will present **I'm in the Book: Researching Women in Directories**.
- On Sat., the 30th, from 1 - 2:30 p.m. there will be an information session on **Y-DNA**. ►

- August will start with the **Introduction to Genealogy** class on Sat., Aug. 6th 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., July 13th, our own Bill George will lead the **Mac Users Workshop** from 7 - 8 p.m.
- On Sat., July 16th, from 10:30 - 12 noon Janice Seller will present **Reading and Transcribing American Colonial Handwriting**.
- On Thurs July 14th and 21st from 1 - 4 p.m. Beryl and Wade Olofson will provide individual assistance on **Swedish Research**. No appointment is necessary.

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., July 16th at 10 a.m. Kay Speaks will lead a class entitled **Using / Finding Resources on Their USCIS Website**.
- On Tues., Aug. 16th, Aug. 23rd, Aug. 30th, Sept. 6th, Sept. 13th and Sept. 20th there will be a series of six classes co-sponsored by the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society entitled **Beyond the Basics**. There will be a \$30 fee to cover materials.

You can check the FamilySearch 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, July 20th from 6 - 7 p.m., Drew Smith will present **Organizing Your Genealogical Research Process**.

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., July 12th, at 8 p.m. Central, Jean Hibben will discuss **Special Delivery: Using US Postmaster Documents in Family History Research**. To register go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2607347059774722305>



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.nehgs.org/EDUCATION).

- On Wed., Aug 17th, 24th and 31st Rhonda R McClure will present **Re-researching Your French-Canadian Ancestors** 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>



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:

- On Thurs, July 14th, from 7 - 9 p.m., the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, cccgs.blogspot.com, will host its monthly meeting at the LDS Church at 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. ►

- On Tues., July 19th 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. Christine Bell Green will discuss: **So You Have Tested Your DNA Now What?**
- Mon., July 11th at 7:30 p.m. our Diane George will present **Using Google for Genealogy – Google Search and Beyond** at the L-AGS, www.l-ags.org, meeting at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton.
- Fri., July 15th at 10 at the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, mdgs.webs.com, begins with a mini-presentation by our Susan Rush on **Getting the Most Out of the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society's Website**. Then Gena Philibert-Ortega will share her experiences and insights she has gained in researching family histories. Her work includes working on the "Genealogy Roadshow".
- Aug. 17th- 20th, the Northwest Genealogy Conference in Arlington, WA. Register at nwgc@stillygen.org

Is Your Membership about to Lapse?

Society membership dues were due by July 1st. As a reminder for those who were just too busy to get their renewal application in on time, a **Red Dot** has been placed on their address label of the newsletters that were sent via the U.S. Post Office. For those who receive their newsletters via e-mail a short message was included with the e-mail delivery. If you have received such a reminder, please get your renewal to us by the end of July or you will be dropped from our rolls and this will be the last newsletter you will receive.



HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ted Shapas

president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Russ Erickson

2nd V.P. Programs:

Wayne Mortensen

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3rd V.P. Membership:

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Recording Secretary:

Mary Ann Clark

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Corresponding Secretary:

Barbara Shapas

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Treasurer: Steve Watty

treasurer@srvgensoc.org

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter

editor@srvgensoc.org

Calendar Coordinator:

Bill George

svrgs@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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