



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXII No. 4 October - 2016



**THIS MONTH – October 18, 2016**  
**“Read All about It!:  
Using Online Newspapers for Genealogical Research”**  
**Presented by: Janice M. Sellers**



Newspapers are valuable in genealogical research because you can find information about births, deaths, marriages, moves, business, naturalizations, court cases, and more. Millions of pages of the world's newspapers are now accessible online, but there is no one place to find them all. This class gives an overview of what is available online, ways to find the newspaper you are looking for, and techniques to help improve your chances of finding information about your relatives.

Janice M. Sellers is a professional genealogist who is passionate about her work. She loves to research her own family and everyone else's and will talk your ear off about genealogy given the chance. She specializes in Jewish, black, dual citizenship, and newspaper research, edits three genealogy publications, and serves on the boards of three genealogy societies.



**From the September Mini-Seminar**  
**“Immigration to the United States before 1820 ”**  
**Presented by: Christine Bell Green**  
**Reporter: Russ Erickson**



Christine Bell Green, professor of genealogy, Toronto; certified by SLC. Provided 4 pages of great notes!

Immigration: Prior to 1820, steerage was packed and many died en route due to poor food and overcrowding. There is some information prior to 1820 in British, European, Canadian and

US archives, plus some in museums, courthouses, and universities, plus newspapers in port cities. From 1813-1819, New Orleans data is available at NARA. From 1800-1849, some Philadelphia port records are available. There was ‘chain immigration’ with one family member here, then sending for another. Men often came to escape European military service. Keep in mind weather and sea-



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

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### Christine Bell Green

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sons of immigration.

Filby books from 1538-1900 have 15 volumes of ship's lists. The Mayflower society has the first 5 generations researched! From 1620 to 1642 a migration against the Anglican church occurred from England. No passenger lists were kept for the New Netherlands 1624 - 1664 immigration. Scandinavians came early from 1630-1674, but the records are questionable. There are court records for New Amsterdam from 1653-1674. Check a Dutch website: WieWasWie; also in English. Check Indexes of the Dutch Reformed Church. There is information for most immigrants to New Sweden (Philadelphia Swedish Colonial Society) on Roots-web.

In the early south, Jamestown in 1607, with 15,000 in Virginia 40 years later and 60,000 by 1685. Pacrat-pro.com has pilgrim ship lists for Virginia. Olive Tree Genealogy with Winthrop ship lists. George Cabell Greer has 25,000 early place names from 1623-1666. Early immigrants

were granted 50 acres, and patrons paying for passage received the immigrants grants, leading to some large plantation holdings. From 1600s to 1775, Great Britain sent prisoners to America; especially to the south and Caribbean. Prisoners provided cheaper labor than indentured servants. See *Bonded Passengers to America (2 volumes) 1615-1775*, by Simon Speed. Usually bonded 4 to 7 years. The web site [www.virtualjamestown.org](http://www.virtualjamestown.org) lists many names with trades. To the early 1700s, most Germans went to Pennsylvania. There are few records prior to 1727, but local genealogy societies might have some. From 1710-14, governor Hunter apprenticed Palatine children. The Pennsylvania state archives have 1727-1808 passenger lists, with some gaps. Cyndi's list/ships is a good site for immigrants, as is Olive Tree Genealogy. Germans reaching the coast in Louisiana about 1721 went along the Mississippi, then blended with the French to result in Creoles.

From 1798-1828, there are port registries, and immigrants had to check in with local courts and register. There are sometimes registries and sometimes documents available. Scot and Ulster-Scots are well documented by David Dobson in his well documented books, now on Ancestry.com.

From 1612 to 1783, his books are also on 2 CDs. From Ireland, most southern early immigrants were Ulster-Scot. Check Ancestry.com and Worldcat.org (county library systems have it). Stanford University has excellent records. The Huguenot Society has early data on about 7,000 immigrants before 1742. Check also Wm Page and Wm Shaw books and NUCMC.

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### German SIG held its Annual

### Oktoberfest



Once again the German group enjoyed their annual Oktoberfest luncheon at the home of Carol Huvane. Good food, good beer was enjoyed by all. Nine of our members were able to join us this year. We enjoyed having past members Bob and Fran Schweitzer join us as well. We're looking forward to doing it again next year.



## President's Message

*By Ted Shapas*



I just returned from a fly fishing trip to the wilds of Northern California, and on the long ride back home, it occurred to me that genealogy and fishing have many similarities. In both we use various techniques to find and "catch" our quarry. Both have easy ones to catch, and elusive ones that might take years to find. In both there are clubs, classes, conferences, and magazines that we seek out for support, community, and shared expertise. And with the Internet playing such a large role these days, there are people all over the world that we can easily contact for help in catching that elusive one. Finally, to catch anything at all, it's imperative to have a line in the water with a good lure - in genealogy that might be a nicely worded letter or query on a forum to entice a response!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### October 2016

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

#### November 2016

- 1 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be 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.

## 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 Note:

- The Legacy Group will be meeting on the third Monday this month because of a schedule conflict.



#### Ancestry/Family Tree Maker –

This SIG meets **Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:15 pm – 3 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center**. It

studies how to search records and family trees using the Ancestry.com web site and shows attendees how to use Family Tree Maker software. **Susan Rush** is the SIG leader.



**FamilySearch** - This SIG meets **Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 1:15 pm – 3 pm** at the

**Danville Family History Center**. This SIG shows how to search for genealogical records and Family Trees on the FamilySearch.org web site. This month's topic will be "How to find people in the FamilySearch Family Tree and how to make corrections. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader.



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



**Legacy Family Tree** – This SIG meets **Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Azores Research** – The group will meet **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 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, October 20<sup>th</sup> 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, October 26<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 12pm**. **Helen Odegard** is the SIG Leader. In October

the meeting will be at a member's home. Please contact Helen if you plan to attend a meeting.

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, can be found in the SRVGS Handbook made available annually to all members of the Society.

## EDUCATION

*By: Kathy Javdani*

This month is full of learning opportunities.



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

- Sat., Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> from 1 - 3 p.m. there is the monthly gathering of **Introduction to Genealogy**.
- On Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 - 11:30 a.m.
- In addition, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1 - 3 p.m.
- On Sat., Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1 - 4 p.m., there will be a presentation on **DNA Results for Ancestry User**.
- On Sat., the 29<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 4 p.m. there will be a presentation on **DNA Results for Family Tree and 23 and Me**.
- November programs begin on Sat., Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 - 3:30 with the **Cyndi Ingle Seminar at Preservation Park** in Oakland. Due to this special event, the Introduction to Genealogy class in November will be cancelled.

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 FamilySearch Library, <https://familysearch.org>, offers the following support :

- On Sat., Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m., there will be a presentation entitled **Hearts, Not Charts, Adding Memories to your Family Tree**. The presentation will include an introduction to the library's scanning technology.
- On Wed., Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, our Bill George will lead the **Mac Genealogy Workshop** from 7 - 9 pm. <http://macgen.org>
- On Thur., Oct 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. there will be a presentation entitled **Wiki Wiki: Using the Family Search Wikipedia**.
- On Tues., Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. a workshop entitled **How Much Sense Does the Census Make? (US Census)**

- On Thurs. Oct., 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 4 p.m. Beryl and Wade Olofson will provide individual assistance on **Swedish research**. No appointment is necessary.
- On Sat., Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 11 a.m. there will be an overview of what is available at the Oakland Family Search Library and on Family Search entitled **Let's Start at the Very Beginning**. This is an overview of what is available
- On Thur. Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a presentation entitled **The Good, the Bad, and Ugly: Creating a 'record worthy of all acceptance'**.

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 Wed., Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 7 p.m., Pam Vestal will present **Genealogical Pits I've Fallen Into and How to Avoid Them!**
- On Sat., Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, from 10 – 11 a.m. Barbara Randall will present **Weaving the Research Quilt**.

SCGS also offers the following webinars at their website for free to the public.

- **Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides National Archives Website** 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](http://ilgensoc.org)) continues its webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public.

- On Tues., Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm Central, Paula Stuart-Warren will present **Midwestern Gems: Back Issues of Genealogical, Historical and Sociological Journals**. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4021548811025038081>



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) [www.Americanancestors.org/education/online](http://www.Americanancestors.org/education/online) 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). Exclusively for NEHGS members:

- On Wed. Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 3 - 6 PDT Rhonda R. McClure will present **Immigration & Naturalization** in the United States., Register online. Cost \$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 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](http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm)

#### Save the date:

- On Sat., Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will present its Fall Seminar with John Phillip Colletta discussing Immigration and Naturalization. For a flyer and to register, go to <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caccggs/ccggs/events.htm>
- On Fri., Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Dr. Sheila Wells will speak on **Researching Mortuary Records**. In addition, Bill Steinmetz will provide a mini-presentation on **Adding Photos and Videos to Websites**.
- On Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the Rootstech Conference [www.10times.com/rootstech](http://www.10times.com/rootstech) will be held in Salt Lake City.

### WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

**Alice Gamley**

**Betty Costello**

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

### BOOK REVIEW

*By: Bob Venter*

Continuing with our occasional review of books from the Society's collection at the Danville Public Library, here is one by Bob Venter. A complete list of the society's books is provided at the Society's web site at: [http://srvgensoc.org/resources/SRVGS\\_Danville\\_Library\\_Booklist.pdf](http://srvgensoc.org/resources/SRVGS_Danville_Library_Booklist.pdf)

### German Mercenary Expatriates in the United States and Canada

3 Volumes in 1

By: Clifford Neal Smith

This book is really three books (referred to as monographs) in one binding. The monographs attempt to identify those Germany soldiers who may have remained in the United States or Canada after serving with British forces in the American Revolution. It is a listing of soldiers who were not killed, but did not return to Germany for one reason or another. These soldiers would presumably have many American descendants today.

#### Monograph Number 1:

#### **Brunswick Deserter-Immigrants of the American Revolution**

Between 1776 and 1782 the Duke of Brunswick provided more than 5700 mercenaries to the King of England for service in the American Revolution. Of these, some 3015 are reported to have not returned. Clifford Neal Smith records in this monograph information, which was originally published by Hans Helmut Rompau, on over 1700 soldiers who failed to return. Herr Rompau did not report those soldiers listed as 'dead'. However, it is likely that some of those soldiers reported as having died, were actually deserters, since the Duke of Brunswick was indemnified by the British for soldiers killed.

The information Clifford Smith provides lists the names of the soldiers in alphabetical order, their place of birth, their age in years and months, and how, when and where they left service. He lists six categories for 'how' they left the service: 1) Deserted; 2) In the service of the (American) enemy; 3) Discharged; 4) Prisoner of

war at a place known; 5) Prisoner of war whereabouts unknown; 6) Transferred to civil service (presumed to mean a disability discharge).

Oddly, Mr. Smith makes reference to six footnotes, but fails to include the footnotes in the monograph.

### Monograph Number 2

#### **Mercenaries from Ansbach and Bayreuth, Germany, Who Remained in America after the Revolution**

In this monograph Mr. Smith draws on a number of sources from both Germany and England to report approximately 1000 soldiers from Ansbach and Bayreuth that did not return to Germany after service in the American Revolution. The reasons given for not returning are indicated as desertion, death and settlement in Canada.

The names of the soldiers listed are presented in order by their Soundex number, because "...there is considerable evidence that many of the surnames were changed in America to conform to English notations of orthography". However, Mr. Smith does provide a guide to Soundex coding in an appendix, as well as an index of all surnames, listed alphabetically, at the end of the monograph. In addition to their surnames, the listing also provides the soldiers rank, regiment and if known, the date of desertion or last known activity. Unfortunately for a genealogy researcher, it does not provide the place of birth, age or birth date.

### Monograph Number 5

#### **Mercenaries from Hessen-Hanau Who Remained in Canada and the United States after the American Revolution**

This monograph lists approximately 1500 soldiers from Hessen-Hanau who did not return to Germany after the American Revolution. It is a collection of 27 lists (referred to as 'Serials'), from various sources. Each Serial lists a specific military unit and the information contained in each differs from one unit to another. However, for each member of the unit that did not return to Germany, most serials include the surname, rank, place of birth, age and place where they left the unit. An alphabetical index of all those soldiers listed is included at the end of the monograph.

### HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Ted Shapas  
[president@srvgensoc.org](mailto:president@srvgensoc.org)

**1st V.P.** Russ Erickson

**2nd V.P. Programs:**  
Wayne Mortensen  
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**3rd V.P. Membership:**  
Bob Thompson  
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**Recording Secretary:**  
(Vacant)

**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:**  
Bill George  
[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.

**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](mailto: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)

**IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER**

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| BOOK REVIEW                   | 6 |
| CALENDAR OF EVENTS            | 3 |
| SRVGS CALENDAR                | 3 |
| SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS       | 3 |
| CONTACT INFORMATION           | 7 |
| EDUCATION                     | 4 |
| GERMAN SIG ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST | 2 |
| LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES    | 1 |
| PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE           | 3 |
| WELCOME NEW MEMBERS           | 6 |

**San Ramon Valley  
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