



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXII No. 7 February - 2017



**THIS MONTH – February 21, 2017**

**“Irish & Scottish Genealogy”**

**Presented by: Cath Trindle**



The celebration of the Centennial of the 1916 Uprising spurred Ireland to get its genealogically significant records online! Come for a quick tour of some of the online records of both Ireland and Scotland with some hints about getting the best results as you research.

Cath Madden Trindle holds a certificate in British Isles Research from Brigham Young University and a certificate in Genealogical Librarianship from the National Institute of Genealogy. She has taught at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and spoken at National Conferences. A retired professional genealogist and past board member of FGS and CSGA, she continues to serve as publications chair for the San Mateo County Genealogical Society where she heads the indexing project and the weekly blog (<http://smcgs.blogspot.com/>). Cath, whose family is nearly all Irish and her late husband's at least half Scots, has done extensive research in both countries. You will find her own personal blog (Madden Moments) with links to two additional family blogs (Trindle/Wee Bit Irish) at <http://maddenmoments2012.blogspot.com/>. ■



**From the January Meeting**

**“Focused Research: Using Research Plans ”**

**Presented by: Lisa Gorrell**



Unfortunately, even our temporary Program Reporters were not available at January's excellent presentation on 'Focused Research' by Lisa Gorrell, so no 'Speaker Notes' are available for that presentation here. For those members who missed it, a copy of Lisa's handout is available at our website under <http://srvgensoc.org/resources/handouts.html>. At Lisa's request, the handout will only be available

for a month and will be removed after Feb. 21, 2017.

Your Society continues seek volunteers willing to take notes during our monthly presentations so a synopsis can be printed in the following month's newsletter. We all should be willing to contribute to the Society's success.

Because we do not have a synopsis to ►



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

### Lisa Gorrell

print this month, a reprint of the presentation's overview from last month's newsletter follows. We regret any inconvenience this may cause our members who missed the actual presentation.

#### “Focused Research: Using Research Plans”

**D**o you feel like your research just goes in circles, that you keep finding the same information, or you have brick walls you can't solve? Being focused in your research will bring better results. This can be done by using research plans. Lisa Gorrell will explain how to create and use a research plan to help keep you on focus in your research and get better results.

The following advice is taken from Lisa's hand-out :

#### Introduction:

Focused research is not just putting your ►

surname into a global search box such as the opening screen in Ancestry or FamilySearch websites. Yes, it's fun to search to see what you can find out, but your research results return all kinds of unrelated data and it is very easy to get off on a tangent.

Focused research will help you stay on track. You won't lose sight of what you are trying to find out. You will be searching in the databases that will answer your research question. You will be analyzing the data you find, asking yourself if the document helps you answer your question. You will be writing down the source citation as you find the evidence that answers your question.

Focused research will also help you keep track of what you have previously searched. Keeping track of your searches will keep you from needlessly re-searching a database or book you have already searched. Or enable you to re-search a database for a new name.

Finally, you will be “researching,” instead of just “searching,” for information about your family.

#### Research Plan:

The tool that can help with focused research is a research plan. A research plan has several parts:

- Research Question
- Background Information
- Plan of the research
- Summary of results
- Results details
- Further Research Suggestions

The research plan can be prepared using a word processing program or handwritten in a notebook. Some genealogy programs have research plan tools, but I find paper or word processing programs work the best because I can format it the way I like.

The plan is the first part of the above steps. Once it is all written down, you have a research report. This can be saved and copied into your genealogy program to document the answer to your research question. ■



### President's Message

By Ted Shapas



My, how time flies! It seems like it was only yesterday that we assembled a group of volunteers to keep SRVGS moving forward in 2016, and now it's time to do it again for 2017. Your Board and Nominating Committee will

be scanning the volunteer interest boxes on the membership forms, and reaching out to some of you by phone or in person. We need your talents and a little of your time, so please consider filling one of the following openings for the upcoming year. Unless noted, these posts begin at our June meeting. For specific duties for some of these posts, see our website under Constitution and By-Laws.

- President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President, Programs (need one more in addition to existing 2-person team)
- Recording Secretary and backup (open now)
- Treasurer
- Publicity (need one more for 2-person team)
- Newsletter Program Reporter (open now)

Take it from me, volunteering at SRVGS is a great way to meet some wonderful people who know a lot about genealogy! ■



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### SRVGS CALENDAR

##### February 2017

- 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.

##### March 2017

- 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.

#### 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.

##### Changes to the schedule this month :



The Azores Research SIG is on hiatus due to illness, hopefully to resume in April.



**Family Tree Maker/Ancestry – Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>** (the first Monday) **from 1:15 – 3 p.m.** at the Danville Family History Center.

Study records and family trees using the Ancestry.com web site and learn how to use Family Tree Maker. Susan Rush is the SIG leader. You may contact Susan at [gen4you@astound.net](mailto:gen4you@astound.net).



**Irish Research - Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup>** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) **10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill.

Patty Erickson is SIG Leader. You may contact Patty at [russpat@comcast.net](mailto:russpat@comcast.net).



**FamilySearch - Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) **1:15 – 3 p.m.** at the Danville Family History Center.

We will be finishing our review of the FamilySearch web site, covering images, stories and audios. Bill George is the SIG Leader. [williamcgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:williamcgeorge@gmail.com).



**Publishing – Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** (the third Thursday) **from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, 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. Check the Society Handbook for Francie's contact information.



**German Research – Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, (the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday) **10 a.m.** at the home of Bob Venter in Livermore.

Please contact Helen at [odegardsh@gmail.com](mailto:odegardsh@gmail.com) if you plan to attend the meeting.



**Legacy Family Tree – Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>** (the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday) **from 1:15 - 3 p.m.** The 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*

Enjoy February – a great month for loving and learning.



As usual the month begins with the California Genealogical Society (CGS) [www.CaliforniaAncestors.org](http://www.CaliforniaAncestors.org). For all the following activities, register online:

- On Sat., Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> there will be a presentation entitled **Eastern Europe Genealogy**.
- On Sat., Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 - 12:30 p.m.
- In addition, on the 18<sup>th</sup>, the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1 - 3 p.m.
- On Sat., the 25<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 3:00 p.m. there will be a presentation on **Migration to the Gold Rush**.
- March begins with the **RootsMagic SIG** meeting on Thurs, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by **Intro to Genealogy** and the **DNA SIG** on Sat., Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>. All meet at the same times as their February sessions.

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. Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>, from 6 - 9 p.m., there will be a **Hispanic Research Workshop**.
- On Wed., Feb 15<sup>th</sup> and Thu., Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. there will be a workshop on **Strategies for Capturing and Cropping** records you find online. ►

- Also on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. Janice Sellers will present **Freedmens Bureau Records On-line**.
- On Thurs., Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and March 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Beryl and Wade Olofson will provide individual assistance on **Swedish research**. No appointment is necessary.
- On Wed., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 11 a.m. Karen Zukor will present **Paper Basics: Saving Your Families Paper Based History**.
- Also on Wed., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6 - 8 p.m. Alvis Ward Jr. will lead the **African American Research Workshop**.

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 Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 7 p.m. Denise Levenick will discuss **Hot DAM! Seven Simple Steps to Manage Digital Studies**.

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 ([www.ilgensoc.org](http://www.ilgensoc.org)) continues its ►

webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public.

- On Tues., Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. Central, Diane Richard will discuss **Freedmen's Bureau Records – Valuable to ALL Southern Research**. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1351772958627269635>



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) <https://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).

- On Thurs., Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> at 12 PST Don LeClair and Molly Rogers will present **Searching Journals on AmericanAncestors.org**. Register online.

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 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>



Legacy offers a number of free webinars each month. Go to [FamilyTree-Webinars.com](http://FamilyTree-Webinars.com) to register. This month's webinars include:

- Fri., Feb., 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. **Deciphering German Script** by Gail Blankenau. ►

- Wed., Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. **Be Your Own Digital Archivist: Preserve Your Research** by Cyndi Ingle.
- Tues., Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 5 p.m. **Weaving DNA Test Results Into a Proof Argument** by Karen Stanbary
- Wed., Feb., 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 11 a.m. **Finding Missing Persons With DNA Testing** by Diahhan
- Wed., Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11 a.m., **Photography for Genealogy** by Nicka Smith Southard



From an article by Gena Philibert-Ortega, here are some other webinars and lectures that are online:

- 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%20jaya%20kemp/genealogy\\_boot\\_camp/player.htm](http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jaya%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm)

#### Save the date:

- On Thurs., Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caccgcs/> will hold its monthly meeting at the Concord Family History Center, 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. This month's meeting centers on a research night with the opportunity to use the databases that the FHC has.
- On Mon., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Livermore-Almador Genealogical Society, [l-ags.org](http://l-ags.org), at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton, will host David Goerss as he discusses **Path to Glory: Start Reserching Your WW I Ancestor Without Getting Lost**.
- On Fri., Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. the Mt. ►

Diablo Genealogical Society will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Christine Bell Green will present **English Genealogy on the Internet**. In addition, Margaret Ready will provide a mini-discussion on **Legacy Box**.

- On Sat., Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. the Concord Family Hisoty Center at 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord will have a free class entitled "*Maps for Migrating Ancestors in the USA*" by Julie Anderson. For questions contact Jackie at 827-4729/
- On Sat., Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. the Sonoma County Genealogical Society will hold their 2017 Spring Seminar at the Person Auditorium at the Finley Center at 2060 West College Ave. at Stoney Point Rd., Santa Rosa. Thomas W. Jones will give 4 lectures. Contact Audrey Herman, [Sonoma.seminar@gmail.com](mailto:Sonoma.seminar@gmail.com) for further details.
- On Fri. – Sun., Jun 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> the Southern California Genealogy Society Jamboree will be held in Burbank. See [www.genealogyjamboree.com](http://www.genealogyjamboree.com) for details. ■

## WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

**Murray and Astrid Eiland**  
**Gene Block**

**Jerry and Julie Basel**  
**Patricia Kenber**

**Maureen (Mo) Heuga**  
**Judith Gustafson**

**Henry and Barbara Thatcher**

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

## Dues for 2017 - 2018

By: Bob Thompson; V.P. Membership

Dues for the following year are due June 1 and are delinquent on July 1. Dues for existing members are \$20 for individuals and \$25 for family memberships for those living at the same address. For new members from March 1 thru December 31 the dues are \$20 individual and \$25 family. For new members joining from Jan 1 thru Feb 28 the dues are \$10 individual and \$12.50 family with renewal due June 1. Mailing cost for newsletter is \$10 and handbook \$2.50. Newsletters will be emailed to all members not requesting snail mail. Starting with the September meeting the handbook will be available at meetings for pickup by members who did not request mail delivery. ■

## Reminder:

### Intro to Genealogy *Bag Lunch* Session

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

By: Steve Watty

The third session of the *Intro to Genealogy* series will be held after the general meeting at the Danville Family History Center. During this session we will review the two previous sessions, where we discussed forms and census records. We will provide individual assistance with your forms (Pedigree Charts and Family Group Sheets). So bring your forms, any family information and questions. Assistance will also be available to help with census record research in the history center library if needed.

Anyone (members, friends, family) interested in genealogy is welcome to attend these free sessions. So bring your bag lunch, stay after the general meeting and pick-up some tips to aid your genealogy research. ■



**SRVGS GENEALOGY**

## 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

Suzanne Johnston

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

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

Bob Thompson

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

**Recording Secretary:**

(Vacant)

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Barbara Shapas

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

**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

Closed on Holidays and the month of August

**FHC Director:**Teresa Coons [coonieclan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coonieclan@sbcglobal.net)**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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