



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org

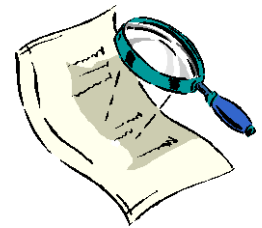


San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXII No. 9 April - 2017



THIS MONTH – April 18, 2017
**"The Missing Man:
Solving a Mystery with Genealogy"**
Presented by: Sharon Hoyt



One day in the early 1900s, August Lawrence left his Minnesota home for a two-week job, and never returned. Learn the genealogy research techniques that solved the century-old mystery of his disappearance. The talk will cover strategies to help you break down even long-standing brick walls, with a particular focus on researching family, associates, and neighbors.

Sharon Hoyt, CGSM, is a full-time genealogy researcher from the Silicon Valley. As a native Californian whose family has lived in the state since the 1870s, she enjoys helping clients trace their ancestors' paths to the Golden State, with a particular interest in migrations from New England, New York, and the Midwest. Sharon received the Minnesota Genealogical Society's 2016 Family History Writing Award for her article "The Mysterious Disappearance of August Henry Lawrence of Winthrop, Minnesota." She holds a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science. ■



From the March Meeting "Older Military Records"

Presented by: Patrick Lofft Reported By: Pat Strong



Editor's Note: Our scheduled speaker for the SRVGS meeting on March 21, Pamela Dallas, was ill and was unable to attend. Our Mini-ed speaker Patrick Lofft stepped in to speak on *Early Military Records*. Here is the summary of his presentation.

Military service can be an important part of your family's story. Patrick uses The Master Genealogist software in his work.

You must have a veteran someplace in your genealogy line, whether it was in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, etc. Where can you go to find these records or find if they even exist. The US Government kept records for veteran benefits, namely pensions. They compiled Military Service Records or the CMSRs. These were records of men who served in wars before 1902. ►

A CMSR is an envelope (called a jacket) containing a set of cards that provide an overview of an individual's service in a military company.

By the time the CMSR record-keeping system was discontinued before World War I, clerks had created about 58 million cards. But the CMSR card information is highly reliable, because accuracy was vital to the government.

You might even find more information about your soldier by researching his officers.

One note about age: A man's age when he enlisted remained his age in military records created throughout his term of enlistment.

NARA has an online order form you can use to request a copy of your ancestor's CMSR from any of the wars listed here: The Revolutionary War, The War of 1812, the Indian Wars, and the Mexican-American War, The Civil War, and the Spanish -American and Philippine Wars.

Patrick had handouts of his slideshow presentation which were sent to the members after the presentation and can also be found at the society website at: http://srvgensoc.org/files/Military_Service_Records.pdf

Reminder – Intro to Genealogy “Bag Lunch” Session Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

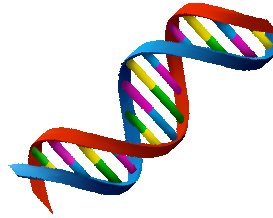
The next session of the *Intro to Genealogy* series will be held after the general meeting at the Danville Family History Center. During this session we will review previous topics, answer questions and discuss the next step to organized research. Bring any family information and questions. Assistance will also be available to help with 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 in your genealogy research.



President's Message

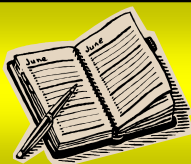
By Ted Shapas



There is much news in the DNA testing world these days. For those of you considering jumping in, several good choices exist for service providers, including Family Tree DNA, Ancestry, MyHeritage, and 23andMe. The costs differ by type of test and degree of resolution, but specials are run by each organization at various times of the year, and discounts may be available via other genealogical groups to which you belong. Through testing, you might get lucky and discover matches to relatives you never knew you had. More likely, though, you will at least learn a little about your "deep genealogy" or origin of ancestors thousands of years ago. One thing is for sure - the information gleaned from such tests is a function of how many people participate in the testing, so it only gets better over time.

The providers have websites describing the types of tests available, and what you can expect from them. The International Society of Genetic Genealogy's wiki is also a great resource: https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page/. One caution: this is not a trivial subject, so while the tests are easy, a bit of study will be very helpful to interpret and appreciate your results. To help SRVGS members along this learning curve, we can look forward to DNA expert Pam Miller as our July mini-seminar speaker.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

April 2017

- 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.

May 2017

- 2 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 16 **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 SIG schedule this month :



The **Azores Research SIG** is on hiatus due to illness, hopefully to resume later in the year.



Family Tree Maker/Ancestry – Monday April 3rd (the first Monday). The new just-released FTM version from MacKiev.com will be discussed. Susan Rush is the SIG leader. You may contact Susan at gen4you@astound.net.



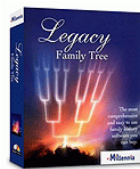
FamilySearch - Monday, April 10th (the 2nd Monday) **1:15 pm – 3 pm at the Danville Family History Center.** We will be finishing our review of the FamilySearch web site, covering images, stories and audios. Bill George is the SIG Leader. williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Irish Research - Wednesday April 12th (the 2nd Wednesday) **10 am – 12pm, at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill.** Patty Erickson is SIG Leader. You may contact Patty at russpat@comcast.net.



Publishing – Thursday April 20th (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.



Legacy Family Tree – Monday, April 24th (the 4th Monday) **from 1:15 p.m. - 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 sharonlclay@comcast.net.



German Research – Wednesday April 26th, (the 4th Wednesday) **10 am** at the home of a member. Please contact Helen at odegardsh@gmail.com if you plan to attend the meeting. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Let's spring into learning this month.



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

- On Sat., Apr. 1st from 10:15 - 12:15 the **Intro To Genealogy** class meets.
- Later on the 1st from 1 - 3 p.m., the **DNA SIG** meets.
- On Thurs. Apr. 6th from 2 - 4 p.m., the **RootsMagic SIG** meets.
- On Sat., Apr. 15th the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 - 12:30 p.m.
- In addition, on the 15th, the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1 - 3 p.m.
- On Wed. Apr. 19th the **Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War** will meet from 7 - 8:30 p.m.
- May begins with the RootsMagic SIG on Tuesday, May 2nd and **Intro to Genealogy** and the **DNA SIG** on Sat., May 6th. All meet at the same times as their April 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 Fri., Apr. 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., there will be a **Hispanic Research Workshop**.
- On Thurs., Apr. 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Beryl and ►

Wade Olofson will provide individual assistance on **Swedish research**. No appointment is necessary.

- On Sat., Apr. 8th from 1 - 2:30 p.m., Janice Sellers will present **Using Subscription Newspaper Websites in the FSL**.
- On Wed., Apr. 12th our Bill George will lead the **Mac Users Workshop** from 7 - 8 p.m.
- On Thurs., Apr. 13th from 1 - 2 p.m., Kim Miller will lead a **Family History Workshop: Write Your Own Story**. This workshop will meet on the 2nd Thurs of each month.
- On Sat., Apr. 22nd from 1 - 4 p.m., Ronald Madsen will present **Breathe Life Into Your Family History Thru Digital Photography**.
- On Wed., Apr. 26th from 6 - 8 p.m., Alvis Ward Jr. will lead the **African American Research Workshop**.
- On Sat., Apr. 29th Sister Walker will discuss **Who, What, Where, When and Sometimes Why: Creating Your Own Personal History**.

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., Apr. 1st from 10 - 11 a.m., Nancy E. Lee will share **Finding Scottish Ancestors Online**.
- On Wed., Apr., 19th from 6 - 7 p.m., James Baker will discuss **So Many Historic Books: How Can I Find My ►**

People.

- On Sat., May, 6th. from 10 – 11 a.m., Nikka Smith will present **Beyond the Surface: Analyzing and Capturing Genealogical Data.**

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

- On Tues., Apr., 11th at 8 p.m. Central, Nikka Smith will discuss **Tracing Slave and Slaveowner Ancestors with DNA and Genealogy.** Register at <https://attendee.gotoweninar.com/register/878957669916352771>



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) 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.

- On Thurs., Apr. 13th at 12 PST Clair Ammon will present **A Guide to Connecticut Resources.** Register online.

Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the free events will be posted to the NEHGS website the following day. ►



tion.

Ancestry.com has FREE courses at the Ancestry Academy. Some 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 <https://familytreewebinars.com/> to register. This month's webinars include:

- Wed., Apr. 5th, at 11 a.m., **Preserve, Share, and Search Your Digital Pictures with Google Photos** by Geoff Rasmussen. .
- Wed., Apr. 12th, at 5 p.m., **Your Whiteboard in the Cloud: Trello for Genealogists** by Lisa Alzo.
- Fri., Apr. 14th, at 11 a.m., **Complete Photo Restoration In 4 Easy Steps** by Eric Besir.
- Tues., Apr. 18th at 5 p.m., **The Genealogy in Government Documents** by Rick Sayre.
- Wed., Apr. 19th at 11 a.m., **Neighborhood Reconstruction: Effective Use of Land Records** by Mary Hill.
- Wed., Apr., 26th at 11 a.m., **Finding and Using Land Ownership Maps** by Rick Sayre
- Fri. Apr. 28th at 11 a.m., **Searching Criminal Records** by Ron Arons.
- Wed., May 3rd at 11 a.m., **Take Me Back to Where I Belong: Transportation Records of the Freedmen's Bureau** by Angela Walton-Raji.



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%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm



The DAR Library offers two different types of programming. The *Library Lecture Series* features authors discussing their historical work and the *Genealogy 101* series offers presentations on a variety of genealogical topics led by the professional genealogists on staff at the DAR or by other experienced genealogists. Both series are held throughout the month on Saturdays and are free to the public. See the upcoming schedule here: www.dar.org/libraryevents

Save the date:

- On Mon., Apr. 10th at 7 p.m., the Livermore-Almador Genealogical Society, l-ags.org, will meet at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. George Fulton will discuss **Mexican Research**.
- On Thurs., Apr. 13th at 6:30 p.m., the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cacccgs/> will hold its monthly meeting at the Concord Family History Center, 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. Madeline Yanov will present **Finding Great-Grandpa: How to use substitutes to replace the missing 1890 census**.
- On Fri., Apr. 21st at 10 a.m., the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Linda Bailey will talk about **Navigating the Familysearch Website**. In addition, Bill Steinmetz will provide a ► mini-discussion on **Preserving Old**

Photographs.

- On Sat., Apr. 22nd 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 for further details.
- On Sat., May 20th at 10 a.m., the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord will have a free class on **City Directories** taught by Lisa Gorrell. For questions contact Jackie at 827-4729.
- On Fri. – Sun., Jun 9th - 11th the **Southern California Genealogy Society Jamboree** will be held in Burbank. See www.genealogyjamboree.com for details.
- On Sat., Sept. 23rd from 9:45 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the David Brower Center, Berkeley the California Genealogical Society will host **Judy G. Russell, the Legal Genealogist**. Non member \$115.
- On Sat., Oct 21st from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will host **Gena Philibert-Ortega**. For info email cccgsca@gmail.com ■

German SIG Annual Luncheon

The German Group once again enjoyed their annual German Luncheon at D.Js Bistro in Concord for our March meeting. This is always a meeting we all look forward to. The German food is always delicious and we enjoy getting to know each other better.

We are already looking forward to next March. ■

Proposed By-Law Changes

The Society's Board has proposed changes to the Society's By-Laws. These changes will be voted on by the membership at the May General Meeting. A copy of the By-Laws as they currently exist may be found at our website: <http://srvgensoc.org/files/constitution.pdf>

1. Proposed change in Article 8 section A.1.b. of By-Laws to allow members of less than a year to run for Board positions when interested.

Existing: b. Nominate candidates for offices to be filled at the Annual Meeting. Candidates for offices must have been active members in the Society for at least one year.

Proposed: b. Nominate candidates for offices to be filled at the Annual Meeting. Candidates for offices must be **active members in the Society**.

2. Proposed change in Article 12 section A.1. of By-Laws to 2 rather than 4 months prior to taking a proposal to membership for a vote.

Existing: 1. Proposals may be submitted in writing by any member to the Board of Directors at least four months prior to the regular membership meeting at which the voting will take place.

Proposed: 1. Proposals may be submitted in writing by any member to the Board of Directors at least **two months** prior to the regular membership meeting at which the voting will take place. ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Mark & Cynthia Anderson

Tracy Laubsted

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

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ted Shapas
president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Russ Erickson

2nd V.P. Programs:
Wayne Mortensen
Suzanne Johnston
programs@srvgensoc.org

3rd V.P. Membership:
Bob Thompson
membership@srvgensoc.org

Recording Secretary:
(Vacant)

Corresponding Secretary:
Barbara Shapas
svrvg@srvgensoc.org

Treasurer: Steve Watty
treasurer@srvgensoc.org

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter
editor@srvgensoc.org

Calendar Coordinator:
Bill George
svrvg@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**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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