



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

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San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIII No. 1 June - 2017

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**THIS MONTH – June 20, 2017**  
**"Discovering your German Roots**  
**The Great Migration: 1815-1914"**  
**Presented by: Robert Jackson**



**E**ven today, after waves of later immigration, more than twenty percent of all Americans claim primarily German descent, and many more have at least one German ancestor. It continues to be the largest single ethnic component of the American population.

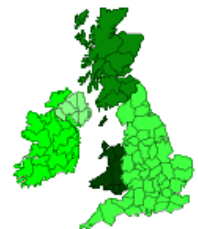
To the delight of their descendants, the documentary sources available in Germany, many of them now available in the U.S. on line and on microfilm, facilitate the assembly of family trees of great age and depth, often back to the 1500s.

So where do we start? You know that your ancestors came from Germany, but from where in that huge country? Until we know their specific village of origin, we can't trace their roots. In this, the first of two presentations, we'll discuss the challenging task of discovering the hometown of your German ancestors.

Robert Jackson holds a Ph.D. in history from Harvard University. After several years' teaching at the college level, he pursued a professional career in finance. Since retiring he has assisted a variety of not-for-profit and community organizations and has enjoyed his hobbies of reading, genealogy, and tennis. He lives in Berkeley and lectures frequently on genealogical subjects. Sample websites include [sophocles.com/priesmeyer](http://sophocles.com/priesmeyer), [sophocles.com/meyer](http://sophocles.com/meyer), and [sophocles.com/duval](http://sophocles.com/duval). ■



**From the May Meeting**  
**"Introduction to British Research"**  
**Presented by: Kim von Aspern-Parker**  
**Reported By: Russ Erickson**



**B**ritain and Wales have good records to the 17th century, some to 1558, except at the county level. Civil registration began in 1837; before that, look to church records.

Taxes, defense, voting, and planning were reasons for civil registration. Even citizens outside Britain (in the empire) were included. Districts had Registrars for births and deaths, with separate ones ►

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(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

### Kim von Aspern-Parker

for marriages. Poor law unions had records from 1834 to 1930. Copies of all went to the London Registrar General, but many were lost there in WWII bombings. General Registrar volume numbers (GRO) are used. Note Civil parishes differ from church parishes before 1837.

There is an alphabetical list of Districts and index of place names from 1837-1979 for Britain and Wales, but not Scotland or Ireland. Birth record information includes name, sex, father's name and occupation and mother's name and maiden name, the informant's name and when registered. Marriages give name, maiden name, marital condition (prior marriage?) and names and occupations of the fathers and if married in church. Death records give date, place, cause, sex and age and informant. No marriage was legal from 1754 until 1898 if not in the Church of England! A registrar of marriages had to be present. From 1813, preprinted forms were used, now available on microfilm via LDS. ►

Census and military records for Britain are available in Ancestry.com (1841-1911). Church records have a "non-parochial" registration for "non-conformists"; any non-church of England. Family Search has "non-conformist" records from 1620-1881 and marriages from 1619 to 1898. Check "free births, marriages, death registration" on Google. There are Bishop's transcripts from 1598 on, but not always exact. There are also wills and probate records.

The civil war under Cromwell from 1642-1660 disturbed many records. Tax records, from 1796 to 1903 for "estate duty" on all estates worth over £10 are available. From 1858, Principle Probate records. Before 1500, check records in museums and historical societies. For New Zealand and Australia, check prison records and the maritime museum records. Census, birth, marriage, and death data for empire countries are in the British Registrar office.

Note, in the mid 1750s, "non-conformist" church members were offered 50 acres to emigrate to South Carolina region and ship records might give ancestors origin site. ■

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### Reminder – Intro to Genealogy "Bag Lunch" Session Tuesday, June 20, 2017.

The next session of our popular *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. ■

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**S**ome family trees have beautiful leaves, and some have just a bunch of nuts. Remember, it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking. – Unknown



## President's Message

By Ted Shapas



Have you ever thought about your genealogy "stuff" as a museum, one that happens to be all about you and your family? According to Wikipedia, a museum is "an institution that cares for (conserves) a collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance". It doesn't say anything about size, so what you have as documents, photos, stories, records, digital files, and keepsakes pertaining to your family history is really a collection, where it's housed is a "museum", and you are its curator!

That said, what, as a curator, could or should you be doing to make your "museum" better? Here are a few standards and best practices that museums in the US strive for. Many of these could be goals (maybe *stretch* goals!) for your genealogy collection:

- The museum conducts collections-related research according to appropriate scholarly standards
- The museum has appropriate measures in place to ensure the safety and security of people, its collections and/or objects, and the facilities it owns or uses.
- The museum takes appropriate measures to protect itself against potential risk and loss.
- A system of documentation, records management and inventory is in effect to describe each object and its acquisition (permanent or temporary), current condition and location and movement into, out of and within the museum.

For more on how to treat your "museum", I refer you to National Standards and Best Practices for US Museums: <http://www.aam-us.org/resources/ethics-standards-and-best-practices/standards/>. You'll probably never become the Smithsonian in size, but it's OK to imitate them in quality! ■



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### June 2017

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

#### July 2017

- 5 Wednesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd. **Note the date change due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday!**
- 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.

### 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.

## SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



**Family Tree Maker/Ancestry – Monday June 5<sup>th</sup>** (the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday) **1:15 pm – 3 pm at the Danville Family History Center.** The

newly-released FTM version from MacKiev.com will be covered. Susan Rush is the SIG leader. You can contact Susan at [gen4you@astound.net](mailto:gen4you@astound.net).



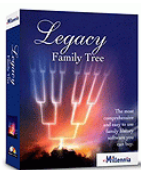
**FamilySearch - Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) **1:15 pm – 3 pm at the Danville Family History Center.** We will cover how to search for sources using the FamilySearch Family Tree. Bill George is the SIG Leader. [williamcgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:williamcgeorge@gmail.com).



**Irish Research - Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) **10 am – 12 pm, at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill.** Patty Erickson is SIG Leader. You can contact Patty at [russpat@comcast.net](mailto:russpat@comcast.net).



**Publishing – Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup>** (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. Check the Society Handbook for Francie's contact information.



**Legacy Family Tree – Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>** (the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday) **from 1:15 - 3 pm.** 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).



**German Research – Wednesday June 28<sup>th</sup>** (the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday) **10 am** at the home of a member. Please contact Helen at [odegardsh@gmail.com](mailto:odegardsh@gmail.com) if you plan to attend the meeting. ■

## EDUCATION

*By: Kathy Javdani*

School is out! Let our summer learning begin.



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

- On Thurs., June 1<sup>st</sup> from 2 - 4 p.m., the **RootsMagic SIG** meets.
- On Sat., June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:15- 12:15 the **Intro To Genealogy** class meets.
- Later on the 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1 - 3 p.m., the **DNA SIG** meets.
- Tues., June 13<sup>th</sup> - **Field trip to California State Archives.**
- On Sat., June 17<sup>th</sup> the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 - 12:30 p.m..
- In addition, on the 17<sup>th</sup> the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1 - 3 p.m.
- On Wed., June 21<sup>st</sup> the **Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War** will meet from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

July begins on Sat. the 1<sup>st</sup> with **Intro to Genealogy** and the **DNA SIG**. Both meet at the same times as their May 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 Thurs., June 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Beryl and Wade Olofson will provide individual assistance on **Swedish research**. No appointment is necessary. ►

- On Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Mr. and Mrs. Grow will help with **Hispanic research**.
- On Thurs., June 8<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 2 p.m., Kim Miller will lead a **Family History Workshop: Write Your Own Story**. This workshop meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs of each month.
- On Wed., June 14<sup>th</sup> our Bill George will lead the **Mac Users Group** from 7 - 8 p.m.
- On Fri., June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 10:30 a.m., Janice Sellers will present **Irish Research Online**.
- On Wed., June 28<sup>th</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.scsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html](http://www.scsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html) continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- On Wed., June 21<sup>st</sup> from 6 – 7 p.m., Annette Burke Lyttle will discuss **Turn Family History Facts into Stories You Can Share**.

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., June 13<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. Central, Melissa Barker will discuss **Preserving Old Family Letters: Tips from An Archivist**. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2682361248631831299>



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).

- On Thurs., June 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 PDT Christopher C. Child will present **Choosing a DNA Test for Family History Research**.

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. 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 FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register. This month's ►

webinars include:

- Fri., June 9<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m., **The Increasing Need for Foreign Language Indexing** by Devin Ashby.
- Wed., Jun 14<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., **How Harry Potter Can Teach You About DNA** by Blaine Bettinger.
- Fri, Jun 16<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **What Now? Your Next Steps with Autosomal DNA Testing** by Diahna Southard.
- Tues., Jun 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., **Beating the Bushes: Using the GPS to find Jacob Bush's Father** by Elissa Scalisa Powell
- Wed., Jun 21<sup>st</sup> at 11 a.m., **Virtual Family Reunions: Super Easy, Super Fun** by Dear Myrtle.
- Wed., Jun 28<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **Canada's Top 10** by Kathryn Lake Hogan.
- Wed., Jul 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **Censational Census Strategies** by Mary Kircher Roddy.



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](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](http://www.dar.org/libraryevents) ►

### Save the date:

- On Thurs., June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caccogs/> will hold its monthly meeting at the Concord Family History Center, 1360 Alberta Way, Concord.
- 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.
- On Mon., June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, [l-ags.org](http://l-ags.org), will meet at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Cat Nielsen will present **Preparing for a Research Trip**.
- On Fri., June 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Jeffery Vaillant will discuss **Lies, Lies, and Damn Lies: Can DNA Solve My Paternal Lineage?** In addition in a mini ed., Bill Reiley will present **Father's Participation in World War I**.
- On Sat., June 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord will have a free class on **Making Memories** taught by Barbara Evans. For questions contact Jackie at 827-4729.
- On Sat., June 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon, the San Mateo County Genealogy Society host Anthony Ray as he presents **The Berryessa Family: A California Legacy**. For details go to <http://www.smgs.org>. The meeting will be held at the Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo
- On July 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> the 2017 **Eastern European Family History Conference** will be held at the Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City. Register at <http://feefhs.org>

- On Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History will hold the **2017 British Institute** at the Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City.
- On Sat., Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a **Family History Discovery Day** at the Danville Stake.
- On Sat., Oct 21<sup>st</sup> from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will host **Gena Philibert-Ortega**. For info email [cccgsca@gmail.com](mailto:cccgsca@gmail.com) ■

## WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

**Leslie Stewart**

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

## It's Time to Renew Your SRVGS Membership!

The SRVGS year runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>. As we are now a few weeks into June, it is time to renew your membership. At only \$20 per year for individuals, this is a great value and, remember, it is tax deductible. With monthly speakers on relevant topics, Special Interest Groups, research assistance, a great social experience and many other ways to help you enjoy your genealogy pastime, you couldn't do better. Please fill out the membership form which came with last month's newsletter or download a copy from [http://srvgensoc.org/forms/srvgs\\_mem\\_app.pdf](http://srvgensoc.org/forms/srvgs_mem_app.pdf) and return it with your check as soon as possible. We have another wonderful year ahead of us. ■

## HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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

**1st V.P.** Steve Watty

**2nd V.P. Programs:**  
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**Recording Secretary:**  
(Vacant)

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
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**Treasurer:** Mark McLaren  
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## 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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**San Ramon Valley  
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