



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



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San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIII No. 3 September - 2017

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**THIS MONTH – September 19, 2017**

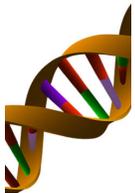
**"Best Tools of the Trade"**

**Presented by: Dr. Kathryn Marshall**



**K**athryn Marshall will show us the best in home pedigree software, its ability to synchronize with the major genealogical websites, new apps to aid your research, and DIY archiving tools.

**Dr. Marshall was the Director of the Lodi Family History Center** for 14 years. Today she serves on the team that maintains the Research Wiki on FamilySearch and is a frequent speaker at genealogical conferences and workshops. With a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of California at Berkeley, where she taught for many years, Dr. Marshall worked on substance abuse prevention programs funded by National Institutes of Health. As a Senior Research Scientist in Bethesda, Maryland, she evaluated the nation's substance abuse programs for annual Congressional reports, and did a humanitarian service mission with Cambodian refugees. Later, while working with schools on curriculum for gifted students, she began to specialize in the history of California between 1840 and 1865 when asked to prepare interpretive panels for museums, edit books for historians, and write books of her own on the Gold Rush era. Dr. Marshall is a member of the Advisory Board of the California Pioneer Heritage Foundation, which provides living history re-enactors at state parks and preserves historical sites in California. ■



**From the July Meeting**

**"You've Got Your DNA Results, Now What"**

**Presented by: Pam Miller    Reported By: Russ Erickson**



**A** warm, witty discussion on DNA use was limited by a power pole crash outside our meeting place which deleted electricity resulting in a early termination of our meeting.

Ms Miller provided 4 pages of data prior to the meeting, regarding vocabulary about DNA, internet site to compare genetic DNA companies, sites on basics, great blogs, third party apps such

as Gedmatch, AncestryDNA helper, Chromosome Mapper, and Genomate.

She suggested obtaining a separate email address for DNA interactions when seeking to exchange genetic information with others, and naming a beneficiary for your DNA (and other genealogy) research findings. One should pursue matches and contacts found. ►



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

### Pam Miller

Each generation shuffles DNA strands and passes down a partial change to the next generation, matching segments of GC-AT.

Centimorgans indicate segments of full, half, or no match. Always download your actual results. Always check *My profile* on the net, adding your surnames and denoting maternal and paternal lines. If a family tree is linked to the test results, more people are likely to contact you.

Note that if a testing company changes algorithms, some matches could be lost, so keep a record of your matches. Jeff Snaveley's chrome-add on for Ancestry can help.

Phasing and triangulation denote whether maternal or paternal matches are involved. Triangulation involves 3 people matching for a common ancestor. Pam Miller's talk involved Power Point slides of the various DNA company sites with points very hard to follow due to inability to see those point from a distance, so prior knowledge of the DNA sites (Ancestry, Family Tree, 23 and Me, etc.) seems vital. ■



## President's Message

By Ted Shapas



Welcome back, everyone – I hope your summer was great! The last time we met as a group was at our July Mini-Seminar on DNA by Pam Miller. That meeting was unusual in that the power went out, the result of an unfortunate and fatal traffic accident a few blocks away. There was a bit of a scramble, but everything turned out OK, thanks to our many resourceful members, and a speaker with a good voice! Pam will likely be back next spring to continue the discussion, and to show us slides we never got a chance to see.

For those of you stuck or stumped on a particular issue involving your family history, I have a suggestion: try posting your question on one of the many online genealogy forums. For one thing, you will get very wide viewing, likely internationally, and with all those eyeballs, someone is bound to have an answer for you. Facebook seems to be a good location to find these forums; last count there were over 11,000 genealogy- and history-related Facebook pages! (For a current list, go to Katherine Willson's website, <https://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>). A nice feature about using Facebook in this way is that it's easy to post photos and documents.

The process is generally pretty simple; the first step is to join one of these groups. Most have a closed membership, so you need to ask to join, and then be approved before you can participate. I think this is mainly to minimize spammers or advertisers, so you will likely be approved within a few days. Approval usually comes with a short set of instructions and rules that members are asked to follow. This helps keep everyone focused on genealogy and away from distractions like politics or cat photos.

Once in, it's good to read the posts for a bit to gain an orientation. After you feel comfortable with the group, compose your question, along with some background on what you've already tried and what you already know, and send it in. If the group is fairly large, I would be surprised if you don't receive an answer almost as quickly as you can say "brickwall"! ■





## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### September 2017

- 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.

#### October 2017

- 3 Wednesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 17 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:



Diane decided to discontinue the Azores SIG. She is still a resource if people want to contact her at: [digeorge38@hotmail.com](mailto:digeorge38@hotmail.com).



Due to Labor day on the first Monday in September, we're moving the **Family Tree Maker** SIG to the third Monday.

### SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



**FamilySearch - Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** (the second Monday) **1:15 pm - 3 pm** at the Danville Family History Center. We will cover FamilySearch Family Tree basics. Bill George is the SIG Leader. E-mail: [williamcgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:williamcgeorge@gmail.com).



**Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup>** (the second Wednesday) **10 am - 12 pm**, at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is SIG Leader. You September contact Patty at: [russpat@comcast.net](mailto:russpat@comcast.net).



**Family Tree Maker/Ancestry - Monday September 18<sup>th</sup>** (the third Monday) **1:15 pm - 3 pm** at the Danville Family History Center. FTM 2017 has been released and everyone's curious about how it's being received. Susan Rush is the SIG leader. You September contact Susan at [gen4you@astound.net](mailto:gen4you@astound.net).



**Publishing - Thursday September 21<sup>st</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, September 25<sup>th</sup>** (the fourth Monday) **from 1:15pm-3pm**. 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 September 27<sup>th</sup>**, (the fourth Wednesday) **at the home of a member.** The September meet-

ing is when the SIG holds its annual potluck **Oktoberfest** at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek. **Festivities start at 11:00 a.m.** Please contact Helen at [odegardsh@gmail.com](mailto:odegardsh@gmail.com) if you plan to attend or if you need directions. ■

## EDUCATION

*By: Kathy Javdani*

It's September and time to head back to class. There is a wide variety of classes to choose from.



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., Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:15 - 12:15 the **Intro To Genealogy** class meets.
- Later on the 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1 - 3 p.m., the **DNA SIG** meets.
- On Sat., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- In addition, on the 16<sup>th</sup> the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1 - 3 p.m.
- On Wed., Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> the **Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War** will meet from 7 - 8:30 p.m.
- Oct. begins on Sat. the 7<sup>th</sup> with **Intro to Genealogy** and the **DNA SIG**. Both meet at the same times as their September sessions.

For more upcoming events from Santa Cruz to Sacramento check the CGS "San Francisco Bay Area General Calendar" at: <http://sfbagenealogy.blogspot.com>.



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 Sat, September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 -11 a.m., Cailte agus Aimsigh will discuss **Irish History Lost and Found and Records.**
- On Wed., Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 7 p.m., Cyndi Ingle will present **Be Your Own Digital Archivist: Preserve Your Research.**

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., Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. Central Lisa Oberg will present **Luxembourgers on the Prairie: Researching your Luxembourg Ancestors.** To attend this webinar, register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4916431437334451204>.



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, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> from 3 - 4 EST Nathaniel Lane Taylor will present **Introduction to Heraldry in America**

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 many 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 [FamilyTree-Webinars.com](http://FamilyTree-Webinars.com) to register. This month's webinars include:

- Wed., Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m., **Top Tech Tips for the Technologist and Genealogist** by Geoff Rasmussen.
- Wed., Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., **Finding Isaac Rogers** by Nicka Smith.
- Fri., Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **The ABCs and 123s of Researching Your Ancestor's School** by Melissa Barker.
- Tues., Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., **When Does New Found Evidence Overturn A Proved Conclusion** by Tom Jones.
- Wed., Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **WolframAlpha for Genealogists** by Thomas MacEntee.
- Wed., Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **Quick Guide to Texas Research** by Deena Coutant.
- Wed., Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., **No Easy Button; Using "Immersion Technology"**

**to Understand Your Ancestors** by Lisa Alzo.



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)



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 Sat., Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11 a.m., the Solano County Genealogical Society will meet at the Moose Lodge at 623 Taylor St., Fairfield. Kathryn Marshall will present **FamilySearch.org's Historic Records Collections and Family Tree**. More info at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascgsi/>
- On Mon., Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, [l-ags.org](http://l-ags.org), will meet at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Grant Din will share **Angel Island Stories**.
- On Thurs., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caccgs/> will hold its monthly ▶

meeting at the Concord Family History Center, 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. This month, Janice Sellers will speak on **Using Jewish Resources to Find Non-Jewish Ancestors**

- On Fri., Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Kathryn Marshall will share the **Latest & Greatest in Genealogy Software and Databases**. In addition in a mini-ed., Martha Whittaker will discuss **California County Records in the State Archives**.

### UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani

- 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. – 4:00 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 [cccgscs@gmail.com](mailto:cccgscs@gmail.com).
- On Sat., Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., the San Mateo County Genealogy Society will host Rick and Pamela Boyer Sayre as they present **Federal Records plus Mapping the West**. To register go to <http://www.smgcs.org>. This Fall Seminar will be held at the Menlo Park LDS Church, 1605 Valparaiso Ave., Menlo Park. ■

Back by Popular Demand!

## Intro to Genealogy

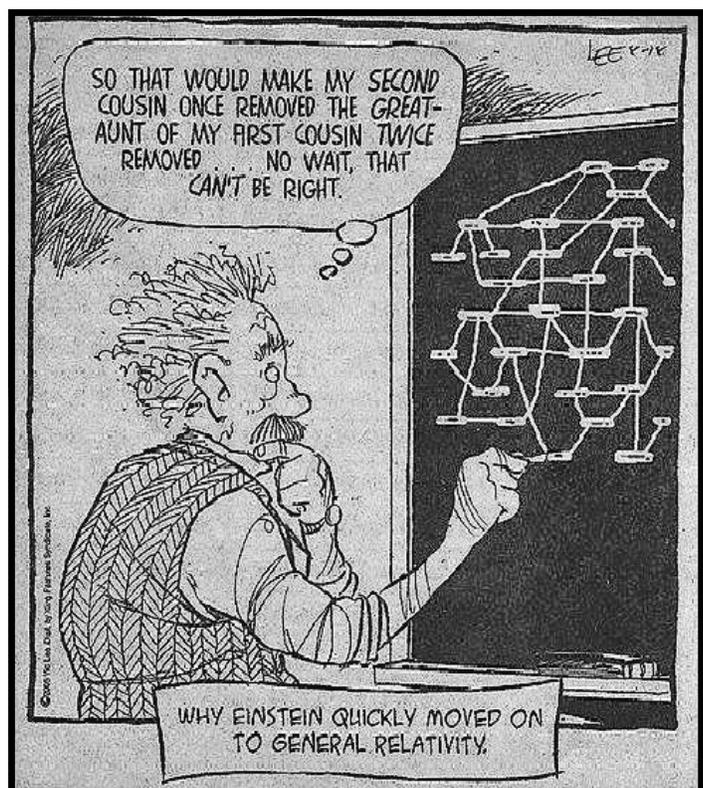
“Bag Lunch” Series

Starting Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

Again this fall our Society will present its popular *Intro to Genealogy series* of meetings for beginners. These sessions are designed to help the novice genealogist develop the skills to do good genealogical research as well as teach them about available resources, good practices and proper organization.

The meetings will be held after the Society’s general meeting at the Danville Family History Center. 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. ■



## Is Perfectionism Holding Back Your Genealogy?

Francie Lloyd submitted the following article  
taken from the on-line website:

[\*Amy Johnson Crow Newsletter\*](#)

Have you ever had either of these thoughts:  
"I know I should write my genealogy, but I'll do it  
when it's all perfect" or "I'll write my genealogy  
when it's complete"?

There are two things that might make you  
reconsider those positions: first, There's no such  
thing as "perfect" or "complete"  
and second, Writing can actually improve your  
research

As careful as we are, everyone—and I  
mean *everyone*—has a mistake somewhere in their  
research. It could be a wrong ancestor or an incor-  
rect date or place, but there are errors. We're hu-  
man; it happens.

Complete? Genealogy is never "complete."  
When you find a new ancestor, you now have the  
challenge of identifying that person's parents.  
Even if you're researching the descendants of  
someone, you might find all of them, but have you  
found every record you can for each person?

But for me, the biggest thing to think about  
is how writing can improve our research.

Genealogy software is great for recording  
the facts that we have found and the conclusions  
that we reached but isn't always the best for show-  
ing how we reached that conclusion. That's where  
writing comes in.

There is something about writing that makes  
us organize our thoughts and spot problems with  
our research. If you're like me and have a hard  
time remembering what you had for breakfast this  
morning, you might forget why you came to the  
conclusion you did.

To be clear, I'm not talking about writing the  
definitive book about one of your ancestral lines.  
You could write an article for a genealogical or  
historical society. You could write a blog post or  
even a post for social media. You could also write  
something for your own files.

Don't let perfectionism keep you from writ-  
ing. Your research will thank you. ■

### 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:**  
Wayne Mortensen  
Karen Olynger  
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**3rd V.P. Membership:**  
Bob Thompson  
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**Recording Secretary:**  
(Vacant)

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Barbara Shapas  
[srvgs@srvgensoc.org](mailto:srvgs@srvgensoc.org)

**Treasurer:** Mark McLaren  
[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 Coordina-  
tor.

### 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  
Genealogical Society  
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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**