



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIII No. 6 January - 2018



THIS MONTH – January 16, 2018

"Writing a Personal History"

Presented by: Steve Minniear



Mr. Minniear will talk about a topic sometimes overlooked by many genealogists: writing their own personal history. While we spend many hours looking for past ancestors and documenting their lives, we should start to acknowledge how much has happened in our own life. And how that might be interesting to others later. How many times have we asked ourselves during research “I wonder how [fill in the relative] felt about growing up in [fill in the blank]? We can answer that question for future genealogists. Mr. Minniear will provide some questions to answer for ourselves as he explains how he’s going about writing his own personal history.

Steven Minniear is a local historian and author. He’s in the final stages of editing a history of Dublin, which should be available in the summer of 2018. In 2014 he co-wrote *Dublin and the Tri-Valley: The World War II Years*, (Arcadia Press) a pictorial history of Camp Parks, Camp Shoemaker, Shoemaker Naval Hospital and Livermore Naval Air Station. Steve holds several positions related to Dublin’s history and heritage. He is president of the Dublin Historical Preservation Association and he just finished eight years on the Dublin City Heritage and Cultural Arts Commission.

Mr. Minniear retired after 32 years of service with the Federal government in the national security field, including 22 years with the Department of Energy. He has a master’s degree in Government from Georgetown University and received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a member of the Society for Military History and has written over 15 book reviews for the *Journal of Military History*. Steve is a long time Dublin resident. ■

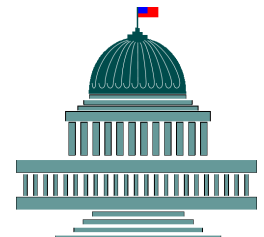


From the October Meeting

“State Archive Websites ”

Presented by: Garl Satterthwaite

Reported By: Russ Erickson



Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker, Pamela Dallas, was unable to make it to our November meeting. Our own Garl Satterthwaite was will-

ing and able to fill in with his own presentation on State Archive Websites. The following is a summary of his presentation. ►

The best way to find the various state archives is to 'google' the state archives designations listed below. When Googling a state Archive Site, you can usually skip the first few entries that are commercial and seeking dollars.

- Alabama Department of Archives and History (check research box at top).
- Alaska State Library (archives there).
- Arizona State Library, archives, and public records.
- California archives under Secretary of State.
- Colorado Archives also with programs, public events.
- Connecticut State Library, with leads to 7 Archives and 4 Sites.
- Delaware Public Archives.
- Florida Division of Libraries and Information Services; search Digital Records first.
- Georgia Department of Accounting and General Services.
- Illinois (and some other states) provides tutorials on genealogy research.
- Iowa: Iowa State Historical Society is the site.
- Kansas: Kansas State Historical Society is the site.
- Louisiana is under Secretary of State.
- Massachusetts is under Archives with MANY records for genealogy.
- Michigan: Library of Michigan.
- Montana Government; start with Digital collections.
- Nevada: Nevada Library of Archives and Public Records.
- New Hampshire: University of New Hampshire for archives.
- New Jersey, Department of State site.
- New Mexico Digital Collections.
- New York Heritage, with poor ►
- collections and few prior to 1900; hard to research.
- North Carolina Digital Collections, Digital Horizons. (North Carolina counties now have websites with information locally. When using LDS Family History, go to Catalogue, then state for best research.)
- Ohio Archives, with MANY records.
- Oklahoma University Library for Archives and many pictures.
- Oregon Archives, well organized for genealogy.
- Pennsylvania Archives--good genealogy, possibly sub-contracts.
- Rhode Island History Cemetery Commission.
- South Carolina: Research at archives.
- South Dakota Archives with less information.
- Tennessee Virtual Archives (TeVA).
- Texas: Portal to Texas History .
- Utah Division of Archives and Records Service (of course, the LDS FHL has much more).
- Vermont Historical Society.
- Virginia: Library of Virginia Memory, a poor website. Check also Chancery and Bible Records.
- Washington DC has an archive.
- Washington State Archives provides for a name search on its front page.
- West Virginia Archives.
- Wisconsin Historical Society with family history and community history, etc.
- Wyoming Historical Society.

Check the December 2017 Family Tree magazine. The magazine is doing a series on state research guides (also 75 best websites and use of DNA for adoption tracing). ■



President's Message

By Ted Shapas



Hello, 2018 - I hope you enjoyed your December holidays! Perhaps you spent some of that month with relatives, discussing family news, mysteries, photos, recipes, or maybe simply exchanging hugs. If you learned something interesting, maybe a story that made you laugh or cry, do take a few minutes to write it down and add it to the narrative that is an important part of your family history. If you have a few of these stories (or photos or recipes) and want to weave them together, consider joining our Publishing Special Interest Group, where you will get lots of suggestions and support.

Enthusiasm was high after Mark McLaren's announcement at our last meeting that he would be starting a DNA class in early 2018 – the sign-up sheet became quickly filled. Mark will have more information shortly, but it does look like two sessions will run concurrently. (See Mark's announcement on page 4.)

We still have volunteer opportunities for those wishing to help our Society. Our Program Committee is looking for one more person to work on our monthly programs. Please see **Wayne Mortensen** or **Karen Olynger** for more information. **Bob Venter** has been keeping our audio/visual system on track for a good long time, but is deservedly looking for a replacement. If you have A/V technology skills, or want to learn some, please see Bob for details. And finally, we could still use a Recording Secretary! ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

January 2018

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

February 2018

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

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://www.srvgensoc.org/sig.html>.

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.



FamilySearch - Monday, January 8th (the 2nd Monday) **1:15 pm – 3 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center**. Learn how to search records and study Family Trees on the FamilySearch.org web site. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader. williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday January 10th (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.



Family Tree Maker/Ancestry – Monday, January 15th (the 3rd Monday) **1:15 pm – 3 pm 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 software. **Susan Rush** is the SIG leader. You may contact Susan at gen4you@astound.net.



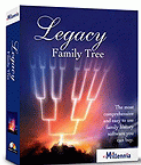
Publishing – Thursday January 18th (the third Thursday) **from 10 am – 12 pm, at the home of Francie Lloyd in Danville.**

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.



German Research – Wednesday January 24th, (4th Wednesday) **10 am at a members home.**

Please contact Helen at odegardsh@gmail.com if you plan to attend the meeting.



Legacy Family Tree – Monday, January 29th (the 4th Monday) **from 1:15 pm - 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. ■

WE NEED YOU!

To tell us what topics you would like us to find speakers to discuss.

Email your requests to

programs@SRVGS.org

Get the speakers you want to hear.

DNA CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT

As was announced at the November meeting, we will be piloting a DNA class based on Blaine Bettinger's book "*The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*". The class objective is to provide a general foundation of how DNA is used in genealogical research and will cover:

1. Understanding the various test types;
2. Overview and differences in DNA testing companies;
3. DNA Testing strategies and uses in research;
4. Company specific and external tool options.

The class will be limited in size and in a book review format, so having a copy of the book is a requirement. Due to the high level of interest, there will be 2 weekly classes held at the church on Wednesday afternoons starting February 7 and ending on March 28. If you are interested, and did not sign up in November, please contact Mark McLaren at greatscot@earthlink.net. There are a limited number of spaces remaining and then a wait list will be established. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Happy New Year! Let's make this the year that we learn to answer so much about our family history.



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

- On Sat., Jan. 6th from 10:15 - 12:15 the **Intro To Genealogy** class meets.
- On Sat. the 20th from 10 – 11:30 a.m., the **San Francisco SIG** will meet.
- Also on Sat., the 20th the **Family** ►

Tree Maker SIG will meet from 1 - 3 p.m..

- On Sat., the 27th from 1 - 4 p.m., a session entitled **DNA Results from Ancestry** will be held.
- February begins on Sat. the 3rd with **Intro to Genealogy and DNA Results from Family Tree**. Both meet at the same times as their January 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/wiki/en/Oakland_California_family_Search_Library, offers the following support :

- On Fri., Jan. 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, and Feb. 2nd from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Marisela Meskus and Ms. Wiemer will offer help with **Hispanic research**.
- On Wed. the 10th, from 7 - 8 p.m., the **Mac Users Workshop** will meet.
- On Sun. the 21st from 12 - 3 p.m., **SFBAJGS** meeting's speaker will be **Steve Morse**. Contact Barry Klezmer at 415-740-9909.
- On Wed., the 24th from 6 - 8 p.m., Alvis Ward will lead the **African American Research Workshop**.

You can check the Family Search website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars. January's webinars include:

- Tues. the 9th from 12 - 1 p.m., **Ireland's Emigration**.
- Thurs., the 11th from 2 - 3 p.m., **Using Social Media for Family History**.
- Tues., the 16th from 12 - 1 p.m., **U.S. Naturalization**.
- Thurs., the 18th from 10 - 11 a.m., **Pennsylvania Research**.
- Also on the 18th from 12 - 1 p.m., **What's New in British Research**.
- Tues., the 23rd from 12 - 1 p.m., ►

Ireland's Estate Records.

- On Thurs., the 25th from 12 - 1 p.m., **British Research Questions**.
- Tues., the 30th from 12 - 1 p.m., **British Maritime Records**.

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., Jan. 6th from 10 - 11 a.m., Peter Roberts will present **Introduction to WikiTree's Free Online Collaborative One-World Family Tree**.
- On Wed., Jan., 17th from 6 - 7 p.m., Jamie Mayhew will discuss **Free Land: Homesteading the West**.
- On Sat., Feb. 3rd, from 10 - 11 a.m., Donna Moughly will share **Jumping the Pond: Finding the Origins of Your Immigrant Ancestor**.

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.
- **Neither Filmed or Scanned: NARA Treasurers Await** by Kerry Bartels
- **Military Records at the National Archives** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **The Many Facets of the National Archives Website** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **How to Get the Most Out of a Genealogy Conference** by George Morgan.
- **National Archives Website Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes. ►



The Illinois State Genealogical Society {ilgensoc.org) continues its webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public.

- On Tues., Jan. 9th, at 8 PM Central, Nancy Loe will discuss **Finding Scottish Ancestors Online**. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9018044124091495425>



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., the 18th from 12 - 1 p.m., David Allen Lambert will discuss **Hosting an Online Family Reunion**. 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 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 huge number of free webinars this month. Go to FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register. January's webinars include:

- On Fri., Jan. 5th from 11 - 12 a.m., Geoff Rasmussen will host **Legacy 9 Unlocked (part 1): Your First few Legacy Tips**. ▶

- On Wed., Jan. 10th from 5 - 6 p.m., J. Mark Love will share **Quality, Time and Completion: Developing a Research Plan**

- On Fri. Jan. 12th from 11 - 12 a.m., Nicka Smith will present **Full Circle: Tracing the Descendants of a Slaveholding Ancestor**.

- On Tues., Jan. 16th from 11 - 12 a.m., Daniel Horowitz will discuss **Genealogy for Beginners: Start Your Online Family Tree**.

- Also on the 16th from 5 - 6 p.m., Pam Stone Eagleson will share **Finding Thomas' Father: an 18th Century Prince William**.

- On Wed., the 17th from 11 - 12 a.m., E. Randol Schoenberg will present **Introducing the Geni World Family Tree**.

- On Wed., the 24th from 11 - 12 a.m., K.C. Reid will discuss **Finding Jamestown Ancestors**.

- On Tues., the 30th from 11 - 12 a.m., MyHeritage Webinars will host **Understanding DNA Matching Technology**.

- On Wed., the 31st from 11 - 12 a.m., Sunny Morton will present **Comparing the Genealogy Giants: Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findmypast and MyHeritage**.

- On Wed., Feb. 7th from 11 - 12 a.m., Eric Basir will share **Photo Restoration Roadshow**.



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 ▶



The DAR Library at www.dar.org 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 Sat., Jan. 6th at 11 a.m., the Solano County Genealogical Society will meet at the Moose Lodge at 623 Taylor St., Fairfield. More info at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascgsi/>
- On Mon., Jan. 8th at 7:30 p.m., the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will meet at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Check website for program.
- On Thu., Jan. 11th from 7 - 9 p.m., the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will meet at the LDS Church at 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. Kay Speaks will discuss **Crafting Your Google Search to Identify Relevant Genealogy Databases for Your Ancestral Research**. For info email cccgsca@gmail.com.
- On Tues. Jan. 16th from 6:45 - 8:30 p.m., at the general meeting of the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, www.scchgs.org, Marcia Murray Holstrom will present Fun with Maps. The meeting will be held at the Santa Clara Central Park Library.
- On Fri., Jan. 19th at 10 a.m., the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. This month's format will be a two-part mini-seminar featuring James M. Baker, Ph.D. He will discuss **Finding Ancestors in Historic Online Newspapers** and **Finding Ancestors in Digitized Books**. ►

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ted Shapas
president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Steve Watty

2nd V.P. Programs:
Wayne Mortensen
Karen Olynger
programs@srvgensoc.org

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

Recording Secretary:
Alice Aldrich
recsec@srvgensoc.org

Corresponding Secretary:
Barbara Shapas
srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Treasurer: Mark McLaren
treasurer@srvgensoc.org

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter
editor@srvgensoc.org

Calendar Coordinator:
Bill George
srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Mailing: 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.

- On Sat., Jan. 27th from 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., at the monthly meeting, the San Mateo County Genealogy Society, www.smsg.org, will host Regina Mason as she shares **The Slave Narrative that Freed Me: How I Found William Grimes**. The meeting will be held at the Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani



RootsTech will take place this year from Feb. 28th – March 3rd in Salt Lake City. Check www.rootstech.org for registration information.



The annual Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree will take place in Burbank from May 31st – June 2nd. Check www.genealogyjamboree.com for registration information. ■

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San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305

FIRST CLASS MAIL