



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIII No. 7 February - 2018



**THIS MONTH – February 20, 2018**  
**"Discovering your German Roots**  
**The Great Migration: 1815-1914"**  
**Presented by: Robert Jack**



Even 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 second 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). This presentation will be a continuation of last June's presentation and pick up where that one left off. It will be 2 hours in length. ■



**From the January Meeting**  
**"Writing a Personal History"**  
**Presented by: Steve Minniear**



Unfortunately, no one was available to take notes during Steve Minniear's presentation. So, in lieu of our usual speaker write-up, we have decided to print on the following page the first part of Mr. Minniear's handout,

which gives you things to consider when composing your person history. For those of you who heard his presentation, this should refresh your memory as to how to get started. A complete copy of the handout is available for download from ►

the society web site at: <http://srvgensoc.org/resources/handouts.html> Perhaps there is a volunteer out there who would be willing to take notes at future meetings.

#### Choosing a type

- Memoir
- Autobiography
- Journal
- Story Time
- Recollections and reflections

#### Books

- Ryan Van Cleave, *Memoir Writing for Dummies*,
- Mary Borg, *Writing Your Life: A Guide to Writing Autobiographies*,
- Richard Campbell, *The Step-By-Step Guide to Crafting Your Life Story*
- D. G. Fulford, *One Memory at a Time: Inspiration and Advice for Writing Your Family Story*
- Richard (George) Campbell, *Writing your legacy : the step-by-step guide to crafting your life story*

#### Choosing a Guide

- Plenty of choices
- Books
- Articles
- Blogs
- Listening to your inner muse
- Just start!

#### Parents and Family

- Moms, dads and caregivers
- Grand parents
- Aunts, uncles and those pesky cousins
- All those other relatives I vaguely remember
- Ancestors: real or imagined
- Family stories

#### Childhood

- Day care
- After school
- Homework
- Weekends
- Plays, events, ceremonies, performances
- Sports
- Best friends



## President's Message

By Ted Shapas



Are you *that person??* You know the one I mean - if any family member asks about genealogy or family history, you're the one pointed out. You're the keeper of the family lore,

the recipient of old letters, photos and documents from relatives. These things are sent to you because everyone knows they will be cared for, made sense of, and then you'll tell everyone what you've learned. You skate among people at family reunions or holiday celebrations asking questions and soliciting help. Or maybe you pull out a recorder and conduct impromptu interviews, or a camera and record images. If you are indeed *that person, congratulations!* But also be aware that your family is relying on you to do the best job you can to keep track of all things genealogy. You are both the explorer/gatherer and chief curator of your family's historical archives.

Early explorers enjoyed what they did – the lure of the hunt, visiting exotic lands, finding new plants, animals, artifacts, or cultures. But they knew that real, tedious and important work also went on back home, at the museum, where it took years to make sense of explorers' findings. So my



2 cents: it's wonderful to be the great explorer/gatherer of what your family left in their trail through time, but save some energy so you can be its great curator/interpreter, too! ►

For those of you who have used or volunteered at the Heritage Collection at the Pleasant Hill Library, please be aware that it has now moved to the Walnut Creek Library's second floor. See **Geri Willinger** for details on volunteering.

I gave a talk on DNA and genealogy at the Blackhawk Women's Group in January (thanks, **Karen Olynger**, for arranging it). About 90 people showed up, which was about 50% more than usual, and many stayed afterwards to ask questions. This had nothing to do with the speaker, but with a topic that remains on many people's minds. On its surface, it appears easy (and the TV ads make it seem so), but understanding DNA results can be complicated. Just in time to help reduce that complexity, **Mark McLaren** kicks off his DNA class in February (thanks, **Bob Venter**, for helping Mark pull it all together). Classes were quickly filled, and a waiting list has been created for another session later in the year. See Mark for details. ■



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## SRVGS CALENDAR

### February 2018

- 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.

### March 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.

### Changes to the SIG schedule this month:



Family Tree Maker SIG has been cancelled for February due to the FHC closing on the 19th.



**FamilySearch - Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) **1:15 - 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](mailto:williamcgeorge@gmail.com).



**Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday February 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 may contact Patty at [russpat@comcast.net](mailto:russpat@comcast.net).



**Publishing - Thursday February 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.



**Family Tree Maker/Ancestry - Cancelled for February due to President's day holiday.** Susan Rush is the SIG leader. You may contact Susan at [gen4you@astound.net](mailto:gen4you@astound.net). ►



**Legacy Family Tree – Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** (the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday) **from 1:15 - 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 February 28<sup>th</sup>** (the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday) **10 am** at a members home. Please contact Helen

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

## EDUCATION

*By: Kathy Javdani*

February is the shortest month but it's packed with numerous learning opportunities.



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., Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., there will be a **field trip to Sutro Library**.
- On Sat. Feb, 10<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 4 p.m., there will be a discussion of **DNA Results from 23 and Me**.
- On Sat. the 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., the **San Francisco SIG** will meet.
- Also on Sat., the 17<sup>th</sup> the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1 - 3 p.m.
- On Sat., the 24<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 3 p.m., the **Eastern European SIG** will meet.
- March meetings begin on Sat. the 3<sup>rd</sup> with **Intro to Genealogy** from 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. ▶

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](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_family_Search_Library), offers the following support:

- On Thurs., Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Beryl and Wade Olofson will provide individual assistance on **Swedish research**. No appointment is necessary.
- On Fri., 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. - 1 p.m., there will be help with **Hispanic research**.
- On Wed., the 14<sup>th</sup>, from 7 - 8 p.m., the **Mac Users Workshop** will meet.
- On Fri., the 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 8 p.m., there will be a **Sons of Norway Seminar**.
- On Wed., the 28<sup>th</sup> 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. February's numerous webinars are listed at [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Library\\_Classes\\_and\\_Webinars](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars)

### Enjoy learning more 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. 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m., Thomas MacEntee will discuss **Navigating the Seven C's of Genealogy**.
- On Sat., March 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 11 a.m., Peggy Clemens Luitzen will share **The Scots-Irish Migration Into North America**. ▶



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., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, at 8 p.m., Central, Tina Beard will discuss **Illinois Digital Resources**. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4371369446769984259>



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., the 15<sup>th</sup> from 12 - 1 p.m., Alicia Crane Williams will present ►

## the Early New England Families Study Project.

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 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 [www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com](http://www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com) to register. February's webinars include:

- On Tues., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> from 11 - 12 noon MyHeritage Webinars will present **Have Nordic Ancestors? Count Yourself Lucky- Nordic Records are Amazing**.
- On Tues., Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 6 p.m., Jill Morelli will discuss **Using Swedish Taxation Records to Solve Tough Genealogical Problems**.
- On Wed., Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> from 11 - 12 noon Golan Levi will share **Tribal Quest: A special project to document the family histories of tribal people**.
- On Fri., the 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11 - 12 noon Geoff Rasmussen will present **Legacy 9 Unlocked (part 2) Adding an Online Document**.
- On Wed., the 28<sup>th</sup> from 11 - 12 noon Gail Blankenau will present **Find Your Roots in German Farm Histories**.
- On Wed., Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> from 11 - 12 noon Mary Hill will discuss **Overcoming Brick Walls Caused by Record Loss**.



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 at [www.dar.org](http://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](http://www.dar.org/libraryevents)

### Save the date:

- On Thurs., Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 8 p.m., the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will meet at the LDS Church at 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord for “**Hands-on-Research**”. For info email [cccgsc@gmail.com](mailto:cccgsc@gmail.com)
- On Sat., Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 - 11:30 a.m., the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group (SVC GG) will present three morning classes: Pamela Brigham will review **Cemetery Records** and Sean Conley will present **Finding the Needle in the Haystack: searching techniques on the Internet**, Martha Wallace will lead a discussion of **Using Multimedia in Reunion**.
- On Mon., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, [www.l-ags.org](http://www.l-ags.org), will meet at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Check their website for ►

program information.

- On Fri., Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. This month’s format will be a mini-seminar featuring Brook Schreier Ganz presenting **Reclaiming Records**.
- On Sat., Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., Virginia Kysh will present **Timelines** at the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord. To register and for further information contact Jackie Hein at 925-827-4729.
- On Tues. Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:45 - 8:30 p.m., at the general meeting of the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, [www.scchgs.org](http://www.scchgs.org) Dave Gutierrez will discuss **Writing History With Genealogy**. The meeting will be held at the Santa Clara Central Park Library.
- On Sat., Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 - 12 noon at the monthly meeting, the San Mateo County Genealogy Society [www.smgs.oeg](http://www.smgs.oeg) will host Linda Harms Okazki as she shares **Who's in Your Neighborhood? Meeting the Diverse Research Needs of Your Community**. 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. 28<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Salt Lake City. Check [www.rootstech.org](http://www.rootstech.org) for registration information.
- On Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at the Concord Family History Center, Lisa Gorrell will teach **Intermediate Genealogy: Beyond the Basics**. To register and for further information contact Lisa at 925-238-4029 or [snrylisa@gmail.com](mailto:snrylisa@gmail.com). There is a \$30 fee for materials. ►

- From Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> the California Genealogical Society has scheduled its **Annual Salt Lake City Research Trip**. Contact CGS for registration information.
- From May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, the National Genealogical Society Conference will convene in Grand Rapids, MI.
- The annual **Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree** will convene in Burbank from May 31<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Check [www.genealogyjamboree.com](http://www.genealogyjamboree.com) for registration information. ■

## WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

**Marilynn Terstegge**

**Nola Proll**

**John "Bud" Tuohy**

And a returnee

**Rosemary Bondi**

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

### Reminder – Intro to Genealogy “Bag Lunch” Session Tuesday, February 20, 2018.

The next session of the *Intro to Genealogy* series will be held **after** the 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 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. ■

### 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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**Treasurer:** Mark McLaren  
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### NEWSLETTER TEAM

**Coordinator:** Bob Venter  
[editor@srvgensoc.org](mailto:editor@srvgensoc.org)

**Calendar Coordinator:**  
Bill George  
[svrgs@srvgensoc.org](mailto:svrgs@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.

**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)

**IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER**

BAG LUNCH SESSION REMINDER	7
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
SRVGS CALENDAR	3
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	3
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
EDUCATION	4
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS	6
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	7

**San Ramon Valley  
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