



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXVIII No. 6 January - 2023

January Presentation:

Tuesday Jan. 17, 2022 at 10 am

“It Goes With The Territory—Find Your Ancestors in Pre-Statehood Records” (VIA ZOOM)

BY ALICE HOYT



From the Old Northwest to the Hawaiian Islands, the United States has acquired and settled new lands. If your ancestor pioneered pre-statehood territories, they may have left records valuable to documenting and understanding their lives. Discussion includes a timeline of territorial settlement and governance, and strategies for locating and using territorial records.

Alice Hoyt Veen is a Board-certified genealogist, professional researcher, writer, and genealogical educator. Alice believes family history success lies in truly understanding the records our ancestors created. She founded Prairie Roots Research in 2010 with the mission of fostering a deeper understanding of the

past by researching and reconstructing forgotten lives. She is committed to assisting genealogists at every level of experience to rediscover, preserve, and share their unique family story. Alice has spoken for national, regional, and state conferences, and for numerous local organizations. She is a past trustee for the BCG Education Fund, a charitable trust advancing the educational aims of the Board for Certification of Genealogists.■

A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out to all members a few days prior to the meeting. If you have any friends or family that would like to attend, have them contact Steve at president@srvgensoc.org prior to the meeting for the link. If you have any Zoom questions or issues, please contact Steve Watty at 925-766-6706 or Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com.

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President's Message

By Steve Watty



Another society year is in the books and a new year is upon us. What will the year 2023 bring to us as a society and to each individual member? It is possible that little will be changed in the organization structure as our officers, board and committee heads are continuing for another year. We continue to improve

and expand the society website, produce a quality newsletter, and review options (including hybrid) for holding our general meetings. We are also developing research help strategies for our membership.

This last year saw continued Covid-cautious Zoom general and board meetings. A few special interest groups (SIGs) had in-person meetings but others continued with the Zoom platform. I believe a good percentage of our members have embraced this new Zoom technology for a variety of reasons including travel elimination, health concerns, and out-of-the-area access to the meetings. Our plan is for these Zoom meetings to continue into 2023. One advantage to this format is our ability to contract well-known speakers with reasonable fees. We will also continue testing hybrid options that may give the membership the choice to meet in-person or view the general meetings via Zoom as they do now.

During the recent rains outside activities were curtailed. What a perfect time to publish a book, review research webinars, or help others with their genealogical research. What genealogy projects did you accomplish during this time? I completed a 500-page ancestral book for a friend, produced a six-generation wall chart for family viewing at Christmas, and completed a college course on Adobe Photoshop Elements. I feel satisfied that my time was well spent and I accomplished a few genealogical projects. There is no better time than the present, so let's stay focused, finish some projects, and leave a well-documented legacy for our families and descendants.

Wishing our membership, a very Happy New Year. Please stay healthy and safe. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 2023

- 17 Tuesday—10am The January General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Alice Hoyt Veen on **It Goes With the Territory! Find Your Ancestors in Pre-Statehood Records**
- 24 Tuesday –10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

February 2023

- 21 Tuesday—10am The February General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Candice Buchanan on **Genealogy and Family History Research From Home Using the Library of Congress Online Sources**
- 28 Tuesday –10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

March 2023

- 21 Tuesday—10am The March General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Bill Clarkson on **The History of San Ramon Valley & Founding Families, Amador, Bollinger, Norris, Baldwin and Boone.**
- 28 Tuesday –10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

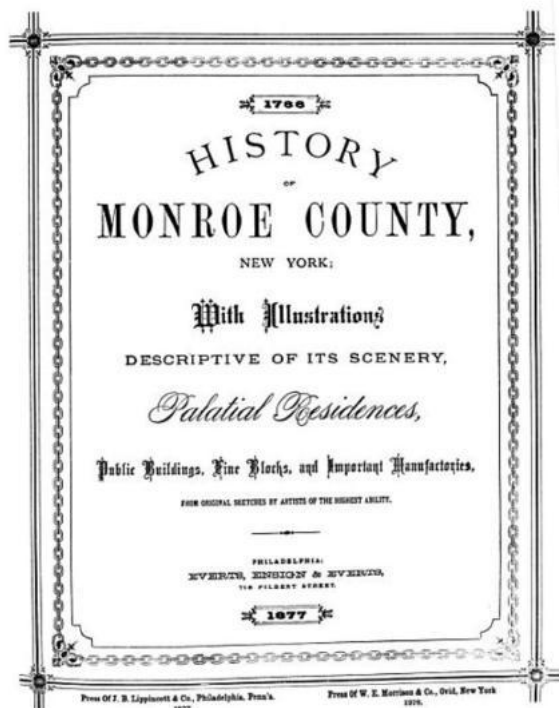
April 2023

- 18 Tuesday—10am The April General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Elizabeth Swanay O'Neal on **Learn From Lineage Societies Without Being a Member!**
- 25 Tuesday –10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. ■

MEMBER STORY

SIXTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL WALKS 300 MILES FROM NEW YORK CITY TO PITTSFORD NY IN 1819*By: Karen LaDuca*

Ann Taylor, my 3rd great grandmother, was born in Rotherfield, Sussex, England in the summer of 1803 to John Taylor and Hannah Chandler. Her brothers William and George had come to America in 1816 and when their father died in 1819; sixteen year old Ann along with her mother and younger siblings came to join them. The account of their journey from New York City to Pittsford NY was recounted in "History of Monroe County New York 1788-1877" published by Everts, Ensign and Everts of Philadelphia in 1877. This book is available for free in Google Play Books. Ann died in 1894, so she was still living at the time of publication and I assume that she was the source of information about her "remarkable feat of pedestrianism" with her brother.



The plan was for William and George to bring wagons to New York to transport them all to Pittsford. But they were unable to raise funds to secure a wagon and team. George set out on foot for New York and when he arrived, he found his mother and sisters almost without funds remaining. Family relics were sold to obtain money for food and lodging and when George was ready to return to Pittsford, Ann insisted on accompanying him despite his protests that it would be too much for her. On the second day of their journey, she had to stop to open blisters on her

feet, but she continued on. They left New York on December 4 and after 3 weeks and 1 day of walking (with an occasional ride offered) they arrived in Pittsford on Christmas Day. The last day they walked 42 miles from Geneva NY to Pittsford, setting out at daybreak and arriving at 9 pm. When they arrived, they learned that William had finally secured a sleigh and team and had retrieved his mother and the rest of his sisters from New York.

Sometime in the next 3 or 4 years, Ann met and



married a fellow Englishman by the name of William Reeve who was born in 1796 in Frankton, Warwickshire, England. According to the book "Landmarks of Monroe County New York" published by the Boston History Co. in 1895 and archived at the Library of Congress, William arrived in 1819 in Utica NY. He organized a group of 8 young Englishmen first doing some surveying on the Erie Canal project and then taking contracts for doing excavation on this project. In 7 years they were able to complete 7 miles of the canal. With his earnings, William bought 50 acres of land in Henrietta NY just east of Pittsford and began farming. By the time of his death in 1856,

he owned 296 acres of land. This is recounted in the family sketch entries of two of their sons, Thomas and John Reeve. It is also stated in these sketches

that
Ann
and



William had 11 children and 5 were living at the time of publication in 1895: William Jr, Thomas, John, Frederick and Sarah (Mellows). Two of their daughters had died before their mother. Their oldest daughter Elizabeth Ann (Smith) died in 1873 where she lived with her family in Michigan and Hannah Melissa (Fishbeck), my 2nd great grandmother, died in 1888 in Henrietta NY. She left 6 children, the youngest, my great-grandmother Sarah Elizabeth, was only 7 years old. I have not been able to find any information on the remaining 5 children.

Ann Taylor Reeve and William Reeve are both buried on the grounds of the East Baptist Church located



Notes on Last Month's Presentation

By Karen LaDuca

Migration Trails Across America

By Peggy Clemens Lauritzen

Ms. Lauritzen gave us handouts for two of her presentations "*Migration Trails Across America*" and "*America's Turnpikes, Rivers, and Canals*" and provided so much information in her one hour talk. It seems that we got a great value! First of all she discussed the reasons that people undertook the arduous journey and then encouraged us to think about other types of routes besides the standard trails that we have all heard so much about.

The bibliography resources on both handouts is very extensive. She also gave a lot of examples of people who traveled and what their experiences were like. She discussed how people traveled on turnpikes and plank roads or rivers and canals on flatboats which were taken apart at the destination so they could use them as building materials for their new homes. And also that they burned their cabins before setting out and sifted through the ashes for the nails to reuse in their new homes. She gave us many questions to help us analyze our migrating ancestors to determine how and where they might have traveled. This was a presentation packed with information. If you missed it, it is still available in the Members Only section of our website. ■

ed at 64 Reeves Road in Henrietta NY.

Their sons William, Jr. and Thomas, neither of whom ever married, are also buried with their parents. Hannah Melissa may also be buried there but there is no stone. I have not been able to find a burial place anywhere else in the area. Her death date was listed in the East Baptist church records. I attended this church myself as a young child. The church was organized in 1812 and after meeting in many different locations for 30 years, built the first church on the Reeves Road site in 1841. This building burned in 1871 and the current building was erected in 1876. Hannah Melissa's husband, Ernest Fishbeck, was one of the congregation who contributed to the new building with both money and labor. ■

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Alles Gute für das Neue Jahr 2023

Cathy Tanaka has led the German SIG for several years, and now she is handing over the reins to Karen LaDuca, though she will still continue to be a member of the group. We thank Cathy for her efforts and devotion to the SIG and to the SRVGen Society

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

All SIGs will meet online. The DNA SIG is meeting early by 1 week. Other four meet at their normal dates/ times online. Karen LaDuca is taking over leadership of the German SIG from Cathy Tanaka.



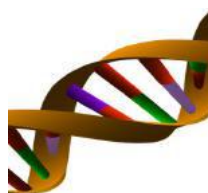
Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday January 11, 10am-12. (Usually the 2nd Wednesday). You may contact Patty Erickson, the SIG leader at russpat@comcast.net.



Family Search - Monday, January 9, 1-3pm, (the 2nd Monday). Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. You may contact SIG Leader Bill George at wiliamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Publishing – Thursday January 19th (the 3rd Thursday), **10:30-12noon.** Contact Kathy Javdani at kjjsc@aol.com for info on how to join the meeting. Francie Lloyd, is the SIG Leader and can be reached at frances_lloyd@comcast.net.



DNA - Monday January 9, 1-3pm, (Usually the 3rd Monday), in a Zoom meeting. This SIG assumes a basic knowledge of Genealogical DNA testing and therefore is only open to those who have completed the SRVGS Intro to DNA class or an approved equivalent. You may contact SIG Leader Mark McLaren at greatscot@earthlink.net.



German Research – Wednesday January 25th 30, 10-12noon, (the 4th Wednesday) in a Zoom meeting. Members share information from a variety of sources. You may contact SIG Leader Karen LaDuca at kblquilt@comcast.net. ■



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani



Welcome to 2023. This should be a great year for learning and finding answers to our many family history questions. Let's get started!!

☞ The California Genealogy Society Library, www.californiaancestors.org, is open for visits from 10-2 Wednesday thru Friday. Visitors must register in advance and masks are required. Classes and events will continue online. Check website for details and to register for the following activities. Note any fees.

- On Sat. Jan 7th from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will meet. The focus of the meeting will be a **Genealogy Basics Overview**.
- On Sat. Jan. 21st from 1-3 Ron Madson will lead a hybrid meeting of the **Family Tree Maker SIG** with a discussion of **Media Fixes + Filtering Power**. Fee for non-members.
- On Tue. Jan. 31st from 6-7:30 Linda Harms Okazaki will present **Organize Your Family History Research**.
- On Sat. Feb. 4th from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will meet. The focus of the meeting will be on **Using the Census**.

☞ The Oakland Family Search Library, www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Library, is open by appointment only. Email fhcoakland@gmail.com or call 510-531-3905 for an appointment or to register for online classes. In addition, the website has links to online classes at the other Family Search Regional Libraries BYU. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City also presents a number of webinars each month. Check the Oakland Family Search Library website for a list of numerous online webinars and classes.

- On Wednesdays from 4-8 Jane Lindsey will provide **French Canadian Assistance**. Appt. only.
- On Thursdays from 11-6 there will be assistance for **Swedish Research**. No appt. req

☞ The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html offers webinars for \$5.50 each. Register online in advance. The upcoming presentations are:

- On Wed. Jan. 18th at 6 Peggy Lauritzen will present **I'm Warning You! The Poor and Impoverished in New England Colonial Times**.

☞ The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), www.americanancestors.org/events 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. Register for its webinars at its website.

- On Wed. Jan. 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th from 3-4:30 Christopher Child, Pam Holland, and Melanie McComb will explain **DNA in Practice: Leveraging DNA results in Your Family History Research**. \$115.
- From Jan. 5th -7th American Ancestors will offer the **Virtual Genealogical Skills Boot Camp**. \$375.
- On Wed. Jan. 18th from 11-12 Malcolm Gas-kill will examine **The Ruin of All Witches: Life and Death in the New World**.
- On Thu. Jan. 19th from 12-1 Rhonda McClure will share the **Basics of Jewish American Genealogy**.
- On Mon. Jan. 21st from 11-12:30 American Ancestors will share **Roadshow: Documents, Bound Volumes, & Photographs**. \$85.
- On Thu. Jan. 26th from 12-1 Ann Lawthers will explore **Deciphering Old Handwriting**.
- On Tue. Jan. 31st from 10-11 Adam Mendelsohn will discuss his book **Jewish Soldiers in the Civil War: The Union Army**.
- On Thu. Feb. 2nd from 1-2 Matthew Delmont will share his book **Half American: The**

Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad.

Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the free events will be posted on the NEHGS website the following day. Many courses with fees are available on demand following their initial presentation.

 The Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center offers many webinars. Go to <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy> to see the current list and to register online. Also, explore the Genealogy Center Videos at <https://acpl.lib.in.us/explore-genealogy/our-services>. Recorded Genealogy Center programs can be found on the Genealogy Center section of the library's YouTube channel.

- On Tue. Jan. 3rd at 11:30-12:30 Carolyn Schott will explore **Expanding Your German Research Beyond Ancestry and Family Search**.
- On Thu. Jan. 5th from 3:30-4:30 Sara Allen will offer answers during **Ask the Experts: DNA**.
- On Tue. Jan. 10th at 11:30-12:30 Nicole Martinez-LeGrand will explore **Mexican Genealogy in the Midwest**.
- On Wed. Jan. 11th from 4-5:30 Irv Adler will share **Families Lost and Found**.
- On Thu. Jan. 12th from 3:30-4:30 Michael Cas-sara will discuss **21st Century Italian Genealogy**.
- On Tue., Jan. 17th from 11:30-12:30 Mona Vance-Ali will present **Reaching Local Youth by Raising the Dead**.
- On Thu. Jan. 19th from 3:30-4:20 Robert Weir will share **Introduction to New Hampshire Genealogy**.
- On Tue. Jan. 24th from 11:30-12:30 Kate McKenzie will present **Introduction to West Virginia Genealogy Research**.
- On Thu. Jan. 26th from 3:30-7:30 Russel Baker will discuss **Family History Research in Arkansas: An Introduction**.

 Legacy offers numerous free webinars every month. Go to <https://familytreewebinars.com>

to register.

- On Wed. Jan. 4th at 11 Diahn Southard will share **The 5 Steps to Organizing Your DNA in 2023**.
- On Fri. 6th at 11 Melvin Collier will discuss **How Three Types of DNA and Genealogy Uncovered the Long-Lost Enslaved Father**.
- On Tue. Jan. 10th at 11 Tal Ehrlichman will discuss **MyHeritage's Latest Photo Innovation**.
- On Wed. Jan. 11th at 5 Robyn Smith will present **Proving Identity: Telling Two Same-Named People Apart**.
- On Tue. Jan. 17th at 5 Angela McGhie will explore **Document Analysis: Digging into Details**.
- On Wed. Jan. 18th at 11 Bernice Bennett will share **Exploring the Records in a Slave Owning Community**.
- On Fri. Jan. 20th at 11 Colleen Robledo Greene will present **Foundational Concepts & Reference Tools for Mexican Genealogy**.
- On Tue. Jan. 24th at 11 Melissa Barker will explore **MyHeritage: Your Personal Genealogy Archive**.
- On Wed. Jan. 25th at 11 Billie Stone Fogarty will examine **Trail of Tears to Indian Territory**.
- On Fri. Jan. 27th at 11 Elizabeth Shown Mills will discuss **Trousers, Black Domestic, Tacks & Housekeeping Bills: Problem-Solving with "Trivial Details"**.
- On Tue. Jan. 31st at 5 Cathie Sherwood will share **Settlers, Squatters and Selectors: Land Ownership in Australia, 1788-1900**.



Here are some other webinars and podcasts that are online:

- Auntie Jen's Family Trees, <https://Auntiejentrees.blogspot.com>
- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio <https://extremegenes.com/blog>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast www.genealogyguys.com
- Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems <https://lusalouisecooke.com/podcasts>

- Lisa also has a genealogy chat on YouTube at 9 am on Thursdays entitled **Elevenes**.
- Thomas MacEntee's www.genealogybargains.com
- Judy Russell's www.legalgenealogist.com
- Family History Fanatics www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/blog
- Connie Knox <https://genealogytv.org>

And there's more....

The following are sites with large amounts of valuable information:

- The National Archives- www.archives.gov/research/genealogy offers a genealogy tutorial, genealogy research topics and a variety of charts and forms.
- The DAR Library – www.dar.org/national-society/genealogy offers help on the variety of genealogical topics. Also see the upcoming events schedule at www.dar.org/libraryevents.
- The Sutro Library hosts the Bay Area Genealogy Calendar, www.library.ca.gov/sutro/genealogy/calendar. The calendar provides information about events throughout the Bay Area.
- Conference Keeper, <https://ConferenceKeeper.org>, lists conferences, events, calls for papers, contests, grants, volunteer opportunities, tours and more. To sign up to receive *Tami at Conference Keeper* which lists events that have been recently added go to mail@sendfoxmail.com.

Events from Local Societies

- On Thu. Jan. 5th at 1:30 The Genealogical Society of Vallejo and Benicia, <https://gsvb.org>, will present a Zoom meeting with Candice Buchanan who will examine the **Buchanan Estate Scam: Detecting and Navigating Genealogical Hoaxes**. To attend if not a member, please send a request to GSVBZoom@gmail.com.
- On Mon. Jan. 9th from 7-8:30 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will host a Zoom meeting with Stewart Traiman

as guest speaker. He will explain **Excel for Genealogist: Using Analytics to Reveal Hidden Stories**. Register at program@L-AGS.org

- On Thu. Jan. 12th from 6:30-8 the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net>, will have Lisa Gorell as its guest speaker at its meeting. Lisa will explore **Focused Research: Using Research Plans**. Register on the society's website.
- On Fri. Jan. 20th at 10 the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, <https://mdgs.webs.com>, will hold a hybrid meeting in the Vista Room at Hillside in Rossmore. Lisa Gorrell will be the guest speaker.
- On Sat. Jan. 21st at 12 the Sonoma County Genealogical Society, <https://scgsonline.org>, will hold its Zoom meeting beginning at 12 with the presentation starting at 1. Guest speaker Pam Vestal will discuss **Finding Your Ancestors' Locations**.

Upcoming Special Events

- From Jan. 23-25th the **Special Chinese Genealogy Workshop**, <https://bacgg.org/index.php/2022/10/07/chinese-genealogy-workshop> will meet in Las Vegas. To register, email Henry.TomWCox.net or call 480-980-8715.
- From Jan. 23-27th the **Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy** will hold a virtual conference. For further information visit <https://slig.ugagenealogy.org>
- From March 2nd-4th the 2023 **Rootstech Conference**, <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/> will be held both in person in Salt Lake City and virtually.
- From May 3-6th the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium will hold an in-person event in Springfield Mass. For more information visit www.nergc.org
- From May 31st – Jun 3rd the **National Genealogical Society** will hold a hybrid conference both in-person in Richmond, VA and online. For further information visit <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>. ■

Holiday Celebration and Cookie Party

Our Society held a Holiday Celebration and Cookie Party was held in person (gasp!) at the Oak Hill Park Community Center right next door to our LDS Church Meeting Place on Tuesday, December 6 and we had quite a good turnout, some wonderful baked goods and more importantly we had some in person socialization and reconnecting with old friends. I heard one member even say this was the first event that she had attended since the Covid shutdown began. We were honored! I suggested that if anyone wanted to share the recipes for the goodies they brought, I would share them here. So here is the first batch of recipes, more to come in upcoming issues:

Deluxe Lemon Bars

2 cups flour
 1/2 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
 1 cup butter
 4 eggs
 2 cups granulated sugar
 1/3 cup lemon juice
 1/2 cup flour
 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
 Sifted confectioners' sugar

Directions

Crust:

Sift together the 2 cups of flour with the 1/2 cup of confectioners' sugar. Cut in the butter until the mixture clings together. Press in a 13x9x2 inch baking pan. Bake at 350° until lightly browned, about 20-25 minutes.

Filling:

Next, put eggs, 2 cups of sugar and lemon juice in a blender. Blend until thick and smooth. Sift 1/4 cup flour and baking powder. Add to blender. Blend to combine. Pour mixture over crust. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar. Cool, then cut in bars.

Thanks to Kathy Javdani

Salty Thin and Crispy Oatmeal Cookies (makes 24)

1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour (5oz)
 3/4 tsp baking powder
 1/2 tsp baking soda
 1/4 tsp table salt
 14 tbsp unsalted butter (1 3/4 sticks), softened but still cool, about 65°
 1 cup granulated sugar (7oz)
 1/4 cup packed light brown sugar (1 3/4oz)
 1 large egg
 1 tsp vanilla extract
 2 1/2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats (not quick cooking or instant!)
 1/2 tsp coarse sea salt

1. Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 350°. Line 3 large (18x24") baking sheets with parchment paper. Whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in medium bowl.
2. In standing mixer fitted with paddle attachment, beat butter and sugars at med-low speed until just combined, about 20 seconds. Increase speed to medium and continue to beat until light and fluffy, about 1 min longer. Scrape down bowl with rubber spatula. Add egg and vanilla and beat on med-low until fully incorporated, about 30 secs. Scrape down bowl again. With mixer still running on low, gradually add oats and mix until well incorporated, 20 secs. Give dough a final stir with rubber spatula to ensure no flour pockets remain and ingredients are evenly distributed.
3. Divide dough into 24 equal portions, each about 2 tbsp (or use a #30 cookie scoop), then roll between palms into balls. Place cookies on prepared baking sheets, spacing them about 2 1/2" apart, 8 dough balls per sheet. Using fingertips, gently press each ball to 3/4" thickness. Lightly sprinkle sea salt evenly over flattened balls before baking.
4. Bake 1 sheet at a time until cookies are deep golden brown, edges are crisp and centers yield to slight pressure then pressed, 13-14 mins, rotating baking sheet halfway through. Note: rimless sheets cook in 12-13 mins; rimmed sheets need 15-16 mins. Transfer baking sheet to wire rack; cool cookies completely on sheet.

Thanks to Alice Heinig and Cooks Illustrated

Ed Note; There was more info on how they, (Cooks Illustrate) arrived at this recipe and if you want this detail, let me know and I'll scan the whole page and send it to you.