



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXVIII No. 4 October - 2022

October Presentation:

Tuesday Oct. 18, 2022 at 10 am

"Researching Ancestral Locations in Prussia" (VIA ZOOM)

BY NANCY E. LOE, MA, MLS



Are your ancestors Prussian, German, or both? All three of these answers may be correct. Learn about resources to help your Prussian research in this webinar.

Prussian research, especially locations, can be complicated by shifting borders, languages, and religions. Discover leading and lesser-known online resources to pinpoint geographic locations of German-speaking ancestors from Prussia (Brandenburg, East Prussia, Pomerania, Posen, Silesia, West Prussia).

After a long professional career in academic archives and genealogy libraries, Nancy launched her website, SassyJaneGenealogy.com in 2010.

SassyJaneGenealogy.com features a blog, monthly newsletter, and genealogy e-books on US and European research. She also provides expert guidance on information management and research skills in her presentations.

Nancy's great-grandparents come from eight different places in Prussia, Austria, Romania, Norway, Sweden, and Scotland. She is on a pilgrimage to visit all eight of their birthplaces.

Please note that as of this writing, this presentation will NOT be recorded.■

A link to the 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.

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

CONTACT INFORMATION	4
EDUCATION	5
EVENTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES	8
FHC—DANVILLE AVAILABILITY	8
MARK YOUR CALENDAR	2
NOTES OF THE LAST PRESENTATION	3
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	4
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS	8



President's Message

By Steve Watty



Fall is here, at least on the calendar, but the Indian Summer weather continues. Have faith, this will also transition to cooler temperatures, falling leaves and carved pumpkins everywhere. There is always hope that the rainy season will start early this year!

October is also known as Family History or Family History Awareness Month. What a terrific time of year to enhance our genealogy abilities, find new resources and connect to other relatives interested in the past. We know that researching our family history is a year-round activity but isn't it nice that we now have a given month to celebrate this hobby.

Do our family members know how fortunate they are that we have a passion for genealogy and they will be the recipient of our hard work? Do they appreciate the hours we spend researching? Do they know the associated costs we incur for the technology, travel, research media, seminars, and conventions we attended? Some do, but most really don't care; it's just not that interesting to them. But we do this for ourselves, we have a better understanding of where we come from, our ancestors' lives, and maybe through DNA testing a better understanding of our health history.

So, join us this month in celebrating an extended period of research and learning. Also attend our October 18, 2022 General Meeting on Zoom. We have as our keynote speaker, Nancy Loe presenting "Researching Ancestral Locations in Prussia."

Do you have anything special planned this month to enhance your genealogy? I am traveling to an ancestral location in Virginia to research a brick wall, attend a local society meeting, dinner and take a guided tour of the county court house. Whatever you do, have fun, challenge your thinking and document everything! ■

A Genealogist disturbs the dead and irritates the living.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 2022

- 18 Tuesday—10am The October General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Nancy Loe on **Researching Ancestral Locations in Prussia**.
- 25 Tuesday –10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom.

November 2022

- 15 Tuesday—10am The November General Meeting will be held via Zoom Link. The speaker will be Sherri Hessick on **Beginning Native American Research with Emphasis on Cherokee Records**
- 22 Tuesday –10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom

December 2022

No formal meetings will be held, However the Society is planning on holding the traditional Cookie Exchange," ... all being well, God being willing and the creek don't overflow!" Details to follow as the time draws near. ■

Did You Know.....?

- Family Search is a genealogy database allowing you to build a family tree with data search capabilities, and it is totally FREE. It is similar to Ancestry except that instead of building your own tree that no one else can modify, there is only 1 tree that we each add our family members to. It is an ideal application for beginners to start with as well as for seasoned genealogists to use.
- Most of our local public libraries as well as the LDS Family History Centers provide FREE access to many of the subscription services such as Ancestry, Find My Past, Newspapers.com, and MyHeritage so if you want to get a feel for each without paying or you just can't afford your own subscriptions, check them out.

2022-2023 SRVGS Speaker Schedule

10/18/22 **Researching Ancestral Locations in Prussia** by Nancy Loe (Zoom)

11/15/22 **Beginning Native American Research with Emphasis on Cherokee Records** (Zoom)

December (no speaker but we do have the Cookie Exchange—In Person!)

1/17/2023 **It Goes With The Territory! Find Your Ancestors in the Pre-Statehood Records** by Alice Hoyt Veen (Zoom)

2/21/2023 **Genealogy and Family History Research From Home Using the Library of Congress On-Line Resources** by Candice Buchanan (Zoom)

As of Sept 27, 2022



Notes on Last Month's Presentation

By Karen LaDuca

The 1980 Census

By Margaret Melaney

This was a very thorough explanation of what was included in the 1980 census, what happened to it, and why. Ms. Melaney provides a complete list of records that can be used as a substitute and where to find them in her handout. Don't forget about city directories, tax rolls, voter lists, land records, etc. If you don't have time to watch the video of the presentation before our next presentation, you should at least download the handout located on our website.

Remember that we record most of our Zoom meetings and presentations and we retain the recording on our website for members-only for a month. (We are limited to the amount of space we are allowed for Zoom recordings; and some of our speakers have restrictions on how long we make their presentations and handouts available.)



"I warned you, Oedipus, not everybody likes what they find when tracing their family tree."



OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Steve Watty
president@srvgensoc.org

1st Vice President:
 Scott Hefner

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

3rd V.P. Membership:
 Julie and Jerry Basel
membership@srvgensoc.org

Treasurer: Jill Zollinger

Corresponding Secretary:
 Barbara Shapas
secretary@srvgensoc.org

Recording Secretary:
 Karen LaDuca

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor: Barbara Thurston

Calendar Coordinator:
 Bill George

Education Coordinator:
 Kathy Javdani

Webmaster: Bob Venter
webmaster@srvgensoc.org

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

In October, 2022 all SIGs will meet online. All SIG members receive emails from their leaders on how to join each meeting. See details below.



Irish/Scottish Research - October meeting is cancelled. (Usually the 2nd Wednesday). You may contact Patty Erickson, the SIG leader at russpat@comcast.net.



Family Search - Monday, October 10, 1-3pm, (usually the 2nd Monday). Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. You may contact SIG Leader Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Publishing – Thursday October 20 (the 3rd Thursday), **10:30-12noon**. Contact Kathy Javdani at kjisc@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 - moved to Monday October 24, 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.

**SRVGS is on Facebook!**

Click on the link below or go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/srvgensoc>



German Research – Wednesday October 26, 10-12noon, (the 4th Wednesday) in a Zoom meeting. Members share information from a variety of sources. You may contact SIG Leader Cathy Tanaka at cathytanaka622@gmail.com. ■



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani



Happy National Family History Month! There isn't a better time to learn genealogy.

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

- On Sat. Oct. 1st from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will meet. The focus of the meeting will be on **Using the Census**.
- On Tue. Oct. 4th, 11th and 18th from 5-6:30 Carly Morgan will lead sessions on **Social Media for Genealogy**. Fee.
- On Sat. Oct. 8th from 1-2:30 Rebecca Koford will discuss **U.S. Military Pension Records: Revolution to Civil War**. Fee.
- On Sat. Oct. 15th from 1-3 Ron Madson will lead the **Family Tree Maker SIG** with a discussion on **FTM 24.1**. Fee for non-members.
- On Sat. Oct. 22nd from 10-11:30 Jennifer Holik will share **Ancestral Time Travels: Timelines**. Fee.
- On Tue. Nov. 1st from 6-7:30 Pam Vestal will present **Voting Records: Genealogy's Best Kept Secret**. Fee.
- On Sat. Nov. 5th from 10-12 the **Introduction to Genealogy Group** will meet. The focus of the meeting will be on **Vital Records**.

☞ 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. 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. No appt. required,
- On Thursdays from 11-6 there will be assistance for **Swedish Research**. No appt. required.
- On Wed. Oct. 26th from 6-8 the **African American Research Workshop** will meet on Zoom. See the library website for the Zoom link.
- Coming in the fall Chinese Research will meet on Tuesdays from 1-5 PM.

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

- On Sat. Oct. 1st from 10-11 Mary Risseuw will present **400,000 German POWs in the U.S.: How Did They Affect Your Community and Family**.
- On Wed. Oct. 19th from 6-7 Forrest Hansen will explore **Civil Law Notarial Records**.
- On Sat. Nov. 5th Michael Brophy will share **Shamrocks in Cyberspace: Irish Genealogy Databases**.

☞ 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 Thu. Oct. 6th from 12-2 David Lambert will discuss **Using Cemetery Transcripts in Your Family History Research**.
- On Tue. Oct. 11th from 3-4 Adam Hochschild will share his book, **American Midnight: The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis**.
- On Wed. Oct. 12th from 3-5 Peter O'Donoghue will explore **Heraldry and the Heralds**. \$15.
- On Mon. Oct. 17th from 3-4:30 Meaghan Siekman, Carole Emberton and Anne Hyde will discuss **Uncovering Hidden Histories: Compiling Biographies of People Omitted from Written Record**. \$65
- On Thu. Oct. 20th from 12-1 David Lambert will examine **Verifying Descent from Salem's Accused Witches**.
- On Fri. Oct. 21st from 1-2:15 Curt DiCamillo will share **Magnificence, Marriage, and Murder: The Story of Scotland's Brodick Castle**.
- On Tue. Oct. 25th from 6-7 Jessica Cooperman will host the **Genevieve Wyner Annual Lecture: A Festival of Freedom, a Discussion of Passover celebrations**.
- On Wed. Nov. 2nd, 9th and 16th from 6-7:30 Sheilagh Doefler, Lindsay Fulton and James Hefferman discuss **Finding Origins: Cluster Research in Practice**. \$85.

Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the free events will be posted on the NEHGS website the following day.

 The Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center offers a number of webinars. Go to <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy> to see the current list and to register for them 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. Oct. 4th from 11:30 -12:30 Matthew Storey will explore **Florida Genealogy**.
- On Wed. Oct. 5th from 11:30-12 Curt Witcher

will share **Wednesdays with Witcher: The Power of Story, and Why It Matters**.

- On Thu. Oct. 6th from 3:30-4:30 find the answer to **My DNA Results Are In! What Do They Mean?**
- On Sat. Oct. 8th from 11-12 Roberta Ridley will examine **Best Sources and Techniques for African American Research**.
- On Tue. Oct. 11th from 11:30-12:30 Rick Voight will discuss **Vivid-Pix and Photo Reminiscence Therapy**.
- On Wed. Oct. 12th from 11:30-12 Curt Witcher will share **Wednesdays with Witcher: Finding the Things We Are Not Looking for**.
- On Thu. Oct. 13th, from 3:30-4:30 Brian Rhinehart will answer **I Have a Civil War Ancestor... Now What?**
- On Sat. Oct. 15th from 11:30-12 Cynthia Theusch and Elizabeth Hodges will present **Ask the Experts: Genealogy Software**.
- On Tue. Oct. 18th from 11:30-12:30 Philip Sutton will discuss **Using Maps for Genealogy Research**.
- On Wed. Oct. 19th from 11:30-12 Curt Witcher will share **Wednesdays with Witcher: It's All Really Well Organized: - The Truth About What We Are Passing On**.
- On Thu. Oct. 20th, from 3:30-4:30 Lisa Medina will explore **Beyond Civil and Church Records: Digging Deeper Into Mexican Research**.
- On Sat. Oct. 22nd from 11-12 Nicole Martinez-LeGrand will examine **Mexican Genealogy in the Midwest**.

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

- On Tue. Oct. 4th at 6 Fiona Brooker will present **Encounters- Our Immigrant Ancestors (to New Zealand)**.
- On Wed. Oct. 5th at 11 Dana Leeds will examine **One Man, Multiple Names: A DNA-Based Case Study**.

- On Fri. Oct. 7th at 8:30 Meryl Schumacker will share **When Wrong is Actually Right: Constructing Proof Arguments for Counterintuitive Conflicts.**
- On Fri. Oct. 7th at 9:45 Gary Ball-Kilbourne will explore **Peeling the Onion: Getting to the Original Sources.**
- On Fri. Oct. 7th at 11 Mary Kircher Roddy will present **The Hub of the Wheel: How Tracing a Brother with No Children Connected Ten Siblings.**
- On Fri. Oct. 7th at 1 Jan Joyce will share **Consult via...Explore with...Discover through... Literature Reviews.**
- On Fri. Oct. 7th at 2:15 Nicole LaRue will discuss **Finding Henrietta: Reconciling Conflicting Evident to Reveal a Woman's Identity.**
- On Fri. Oct. 7th at 3:30 Jennifer Zinck will examine **Hidden Stories: Using Analysis to Explore the Unexpected in Family History.**
- On Tue. Oct. 11th at 11 Mike Mansfield will present **Norway Research with Online Records at MyHeritage and Beyond.**
- On Wed. Oct. 12th at 5 Cyndi Ingle will explore **Trendy Tech Tools for Your Research: Yay or Nay?**
- On Tue. Oct. 18th at 5 Pam Eagleson will discuss **Misled by Records: Identifying Adam Cosner's Parentage.**
- On Wed. Oct. 19th at 11 Ann Lawthers will share **Colonial Migrations to 1770.**
- On Fri. Oct. 21st at 11 Janice Nickerson will examine **Researching at the Archives of Ontario.**
- On Tue. Oct. 25th at 5 AM Elisabeth Zetland will present **Confirmer les Smart Matches et Record Matches sur MyHeritage.**
- On Tue. Oct. 25th at 11 Tal Erlichman will explore **MyHeritage's Latest Photo Innovations.**
- On Wed. Oct. 26th at 5 Carol Baxter will discuss **Structuring a Family History – class 1 of 4.**
- On Fri. Oct. 28th at 11 Nicka Smith will present **Older Than Us: The Elders of the Trask 250.**
- On Tue. Nov. 1st at 6 Shauna Hicks will share

Tips & Tricks for Researching Australian Archives.



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://lisalouisecooke.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. Oct. 6th at 1:30 The Genealogical Society of Vallejo and Benicia, <https://gsvb.org>, will present John Robinson, an author and photojournalist, who will discuss **Bridges**. To attend if you are not a member send an e-mail to President@gsvb.org to request an invitation.
- On Mon. Oct. 10th from 7-8:30 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will host a Zoom meeting with as guest speaker Robert Jackson. He will share **Discovering your German Roots. The Great Migration 1815-1914**. Register on the society's website.
- On Thurs. Oct. 20th at 1 the Napa Valley Genealogical Society, <https://napagensoc.org>, will present Kathy Nielsen. She will discuss **Hitting the Road: Planning a Genealogy Road Trip**. Register on the society's website.
- On Fri. Oct. 7th at 10 the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, <https://mdgs.webs.com>, will hold a hybrid meeting. Ann Gillespie Mitchel will explore **Cluster Huddle or Flock: Strategies for Research Problems**. Email mdgs.webs@gmail.com to receive the link for the meeting.
- On Tue. Oct. 18th from 6:30-8:30 the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society, www.scchgs.org, will hold a virtual meeting. Check the society's website for details and to register.

Upcoming Special Events

- On Sat. Oct. 8th from 10 -12:30 the Contra Costa Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net>, will present a Zoom seminar **Judy Russell, The Legal Genealogist**, who will offer **two sessions**. You must be a CCCGS member to attend. Visit the society's website to register.
- From Oct. 16th-29th the Illinois State Genealogical Society will hold its **Virtual Fall Conference**, <https://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=612>
- From Mar. 2nd-4th the 2023 **Rootstech Conference**, <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/rootstech-2023-virtual-in-person>. ■

Danville Family History Center

2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo

Phone: (925)552-5920

Monday: 10am- 1pm

Tuesday: 7pm - 9pm

Wednesday: 1pm - 4pm

Closed on Holidays

FHC Director: Chris Engstrom
cechocolatego@gmail.com or (925)360-9232

Subscription Sites Available Free at FHC:

- Ancestry.com
- Fold3.com
- Heritage Quest
- MyHeritage.com
- Origins.net
- Godfrey Memorial Lib
- Newspaper Archive
- World Vital Records

Want to Help or Do You Need Help?

We are developing a **New Members Section** for our web site, along with some helpful information for beginning/intermediate genealogists. We have begun a list of members to be included who have volunteered to assist members:

- Steve Watty - General Research
- Francie Lloyd - Getting Started in an Organized Manner
- Karen LaDuca - Italian Research, Dutch Research
- Kathy Javdani - California Research
- Bill George - FamilySearch.org
- Barbara Thurston - Jewish Research

If you have an area of expertise and would like to help newer members please contact Karen LaDuca at kblquilts@comcast.net or Bill George at williamcgeorge@gmail.com to have your contact information added. This will be listed exclusively in our members-only section of the <https://srvgensoc.org> website. Thank you for helping.

Any members looking for help in a specific area can also contact us and we will try to connect you with someone who can assist. ■