



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXVIII No. 5 November - 2022

November Presentation:

Tuesday Nov. 15, 2022 at 10 am

“Migration Trails Across America” (VIA ZOOM)

BY PEGGY CLEMENS LAURITZEN



America has been a nation on the move since the first landings in the colonies. From buffalo traces and Native American trails to rivers and canals. Americans found a way to keep pushing “west.”

This presentation concentrates on the most common means of travel in the New World. Migration trails and patterns will be discussed and well as the many rivers and canals that interconnected us as a nation. A case study will be demonstrated showing a “lost” ancestor.

Peggy Clemens Lauritzen is an Accredited Genealogist and a graduate of Brigham Young University, Pathway with an em-

phasis in Family History. With her experience as a Family History Director, she has been a frequent speaker at local and national genealogical societies, host of Legacy Family Tree webinars and Rootstech 2015-2019. She is also an author and a columnist for Reminiscence Magazine. ■

Note: The handout from the October 18, 2022 Nancy E. Loe presentation on Prussian Research is available by logging in to the member section of our web site and clicking on the Speaker Handouts menu item. It will be available for one month. This Nancy E. Loe presentation was not recorded. ■

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Come one, come all!

After two and a half years are you ready to meet in-person as a group? The society is planning a social holiday get-together on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 6, 2022 from 1:30-3:30 pm. This event will replace the Cookie Exchange we celebrated each December pre-pandemic.

The setting will be the picturesque Oak Hill Park Community Center which is next door to our regular LDS church meeting site. The society will provide refreshments, a freebie table and an information table for our Special Interest Groups.

The society will provide refreshments, but in our holiday tradition members are most welcome to bring their favorite cookies/sweets for consumption by attendees and then for takeout (exchange) during the event.

Save the date and come to enjoy conversation with your fellow SRVGS members, partake in the tasty refreshments and most of all relish in the break from our Zoom meetings. Additional information will be forthcoming in the next few days. Please keep your eyes open to announcements sent from our blast email system, in other sections of this newsletter, and on the website. I look forward to talking to you and even meeting, in-person, our members that joined the society during the last couple of years. Come support the society; I really hope to see you there. ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

Let's all extend a Warm Welcome to our newest members,

Pamela Dallas

Carol Parmley

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 our Cookie Exchange is set for December 6 1:30-3:30. See Steve's President's Message and stay tuned for details in your mailbox as well as on our website.

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 is TBA.
- 28 Tuesday –10am The Board Meeting will be held via Zoom. ■

Did You Know...?

- UK Births, Marriages and Deaths have been centrally registered since Queen Victoria's time (1837) so you do not need to know where in the UK a person's event happened to know where to look them up. If you have ancestors from UK, try www.FreeBMD.org.uk to look them up. It searches the index to all of the records and provides information on the book and volume where the actual record can be found. You can then request a certified copy/image of the actual record from the GRO.uk for a nominal fee.
- The England and Wales Census has been conducted every 10 years beginning in 1801, but the first 3 were mainly statistical: that is, mainly headcounts, with virtually no personal information. The 1841 Census was the first to contain specific personal information. The Census does not become public until 100 years have elapsed, so the most recent UK Census released was the 1921 Census where I found both my Mum and Dad! Note that Scotland and Ireland also have variations of the Census. It is currently available for a fee even if you have a subscription on Find My Past.
- The next England and Wales Census to become public will be the 1951 Census, which I should be on and hope to be around to see it at age 105. But what happened to 1931 and 1941, you ask?
- The 1931 England and Wales Census was destroyed in a 1942 fire. The 1941 Census was not taken because of WWII. However the 1939 Registry which was essentially a record of all residents in the UK taken preparatory to "The War" serves as a census substitute. Though not as complete as a census, the 1939 Registry is very helpful and is available on Ancestry and Family Search. ■

*Definition of Mythology...**Genealogy without Sources.***Notes on Last Month's Presentation***By Karen LaDuca***Researching Ancestral Locations in Prussian Genealogy Records****By Nancy Loe**

Let me start with reminding everyone that even if you don't have ancestors who originate in the area the presentation is covering, you may still pick up some helpful information. I do have German ancestors, but not from the area that Ms. Loe focused on. However, I did get at least 3 new research tips that will help for research in any area. I always learn something new, no matter the topic. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to record this presentation but the handout is available on our website in the members only section for one month.

One thing that I'm sure I will use is the FamilySearch Place Research Tool. Ms. Loe gave us the web address for getting to it during the presentation but it is not on the handout: www.familysearch.org/research/places Check it out if you haven't seen it before. I use FamilySearch extensively but I have never seen this before.

Also an interesting website that is useful for any foreign language is Forvo.com where you can listen to audio clips of words pronounced in other languages. Ms. Loe gave a short history of the area and lots of great information that will help in trying to find records of ancestors from this traditionally difficult area. ■

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.)

Family tree research is one giant step backwards and one giant step forward—usually at the same time.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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webmaster@srvgensoc.org

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

In November, 2022 all SIGs will meet online. Note some variations from the regular meeting dates. All SIG members receive emails from their leaders on how to join each meeting. See details below.



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



Family Search - Monday, November 14, 1-3pm, (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 November 17 (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 November 21, 1-3pm, (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 November 30, 10-12noon, (usually 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. ■

**SRVGS is on Facebook!**

Click on the link below or go to:

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



EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, November is always a special time for family history. As always, there are a number of learning opportunities.

☞ 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 Tue. Nov. 1st at 6, 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.**
- On Sat. Nov. 12th from 1-4, Ron Madson will discuss **Using Photoshop Elements For Genealogy.** Fee.
- On Sat. Nov. 19th from 10-12, the **Eastern European SIG** will meet. Fee.
- On Sat. Nov., 19th from 1-3, Ron Madson will lead a hybrid meeting of the **FamilyTree SIG.** Fee possible.
- On Sat. Dec. 3rd from 10-12, the Introduction to Genealogy Group will meet. The focus of the meeting will be on **Organizing Your Family History Work.**

☞ 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.

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

- On Sat. Nov. 5th at 10, Michael Brophy will share **Shamrocks in Cyberspace: Irish Genealogy Databases.**
- On Wed. Nov. 16th at 6, Forrest Hansen will explore **Finding Huguenot Ancestors.**

☞ 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. Nov. 2nd, 9th and 16th, Sheilagh Doerfler, Lindsay Fulton and James Hefferman will discuss **Finding Origins: Cluster Research in Practice.** \$85.
- On Thu. Nov. 3rd from 3-4, Robert Pinsky will share his work **Jersey Break: Becoming An American Poet.**
- On Tue. Nov. 8th, 15th and 22nd, Curt DeCamillo will present **An Explosion of Beauty: The Art, Architecture, and Beauty of British Country Homes.** \$85.
- On Mon. Nov. 14th from 3-4, Kerri K. Greenridge will share her book **The Grimkes: A Legacy of Slavery in An American Family.**
- On Sat. Nov. 19th from 10-1, Melanie

McComb will discuss **Using DNA in Family History Research**. \$50.

- On Tue. Nov. 29th from 3-4, Stacy Schiff will share her book **The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams**.
- On the 29th following her presentation, Stacy Schiff will discuss **Writing History: Extended Discussion and Q & A**. \$50.
- On Wed. Nov. 30 and Dec. 7th, Hallie Borstel, Sheilagh Doerfler, Rhonda McClure and Melanie McComb will explore **New York City Research: Four Hundred Years of History and Genealogy**. \$115.

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.

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

- On Tue. Nov. 1st at 6, Shauna Hicks will share **Tips & Tricks for Researching Australian Archives**.
- On Tue. Nov. 2nd at 11, Paul Woodbury will discuss **Right Place, Right Time, Right Person: Intersections of DNA and Document Evidence**.
- On Fri. Nov. 4th at 11, Renate Sanders will examine **Freedom Bound: Escaping Bondage for Life in the North**.
- On Tue. Nov. 8th at 11, Gal Zrihen will explore **The Science Behind MyHeritage DNA Testing**.

- On Wed. Nov 8th at 5, Nancy Loe will discuss **European Emigrant Ancestors to America: The Voyages and the Records**.
- On Tue. Nov. 15th at 5, Nicole LaRue will present **Their Mark Here: Signatures and Marks as Identifying Tools**.
- On Wed. Nov. 16th at 11, Francine Griffis will share **Ready or Not: Strategies to Discover Ancestors Playing Hide and Seek**.
- On Fri. Nov. 18th at 11, Lisa Medina will examine **Newspapers in Mexico**.
- On Wed. Nov. 30th at 11, Angela Walton-Raji will explore **Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Freedom Records and Family Stories**.

 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

will host a Zoom meeting with Madeline Yanov as guest speaker. She will explore **Ancestral Road Trips – Part 1: East of the Mississippi**. Register on the society's website.

- 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.

Upcoming Special Events

- On Thu. Nov. 3rd at 1:30, The Genealogical Society of Vallejo and Benicia, <https://gsvb.org>, will present a Zoom meeting with Glenda Lloyd who will discuss **Cemetery Records**. To attend please send a request to GSVBZoom@gmail.com.
 - On Thu. Nov. 10th at 6:30, the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net/>, will have Mark Olsen as guest speaker at its Zoom meeting. He will answer **What's New at Family Tree Maker**. Register on the society's website.
 - On Thu. Nov. 10th at 6, the Napa Valley Genealogical Society, <https://napagensoc.org>, will present Louise Dunlap at a hybrid meeting. She will share **Telling the Truth About Our Ancestors**. Register at [Telling the Truth About Our Ancestors with Local Author Louise Dunlap Tickets, Thu, Nov 10, 2022 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
 - On Thu. Nov. 14th, the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society will hold a Zoom meeting at which Judith Berlowitz will discuss **Family Research Spawns Debut Novel**. Register at <https://www.sfbajgs.org/calendar.html> after which you will receive a confirmation email with details about time.
 - On Mon. Nov. 14th from 7-8:30, the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org,

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 March 2nd-4th the 2023 **Rootstech Conference**, <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/> will be held both in person in Salt Lake City and virtually. ■

Many genealogists neglect telling their own stories, while in the midst of telling the stories about others. Don't let that happen to your family.

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The Cookie Exchange is on again!

*Where: Oak Hill Park Community Center
(Next to our Danville LDS Church—our
regular meeting site)*

When: December 6, 1:30-3:30

We'll have

*Refreshments, info on our
SIGs,*

Freebie Table



*Bring some cookies and take
some home...*

*Share some sweets, in-
person camaraderie and say
Hi and Happy Holidays to
some new and some familiar
faces!*



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](https://www.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. ■