



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXV No. 7 February - 2020

This Month's Presentation:

February 18, 2020

GERMAN RESEARCH **- LET'S GET STARTED**

Presented by: Lisa Gorrell

Nearly 50 million Americans have German ancestry. The earliest Germans came in colonial times. It was land and religious freedom that brought Germans to America. Yet, it wasn't until 1871 that there was a united Germany. Come hear how to get started in your German research by learning about sources here in the U.S. to help bridge you to the German states of your ancestors.

Lisa S. Gorrell is a Certified Genealogist who has seriously been researching her family for more than twenty-five years. She is currently a board member with the Contra Costa Historical Society and volunteers at the archives of the History Center in Martinez. She is also a past-President of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society and past-Recording Secretary of the California Genealogical Society.

Lisa enjoys helping others with their genealogical research and writing about her family on two blogs: "*Mam-ma's Southern Family*" and "*My Trails into the Past*".

Lisa will be leading her fifth Research Trip of the California Genealogical Society in May 2020 to the Salt Lake City Family History Library, the top genealogy library in the nation. ■

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Notes on Last Month's Presentation:

DOCUMENT REPAIR AND RESTORATION

Presented by: Karen Zukor

Reported by: Russ Erickson

Archives, rare books, art works on paper all can require a paper conservationist, removing stains, using chemicals to preserve for the future. Starch paste only is used if required for repairs. Karen undoes past poor corrections. Backing might be removed and better put on to conserve and bring out color. Stains are carefully removed more with water than chemical solvents. She cleans, flattens, using backing and frames to better preserve, with every item acid free. No tape is used--all tapes will damage paper and age it. Temperature changes, smog and sunlight damage and age as well. Wood is acidic. On very rare and expensive pieces (Constitution, Gutenberg Bible, etc.) chambers of inert gas are used, costing into the millions! Some items are too expensive to repair and must just be maintained. Four way acid free plastic covers can be used with unbleached cotton ties and Museum Board packages are used to store important items ("Conservation Board" is wood based, and even though treated with alkaline chemicals, is not as good).

For genealogical data in Bibles, one can carefully photograph, digitize, and enhance by computer. Bibles can be placed in an acid free clam shell box; it should be lignin free also. (University Products is a source). With rolled photos and paper, she slowly humidifies and straightens with weights, then stores in mylar sleeves (polyester, from Gaylord Archival) Store flat. Protect pages in a book by slipping in acid free tissue. "pH pens" have ink that shows if paper is alkaline or acid. For photo conservation, "A Better Image" in Emeryville is good. For large paper pieces, humidity can expand and create or extend tears, then heat shrinks, and one needs careful control. Parchment in old pieces is skin based, can distort, and requires slow humidification.

Ms. Zukor provided a sheet of resource businesses in the bay area. ■



(Photo by: Xan Alexander)

Karen Zukor

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

**Let's all extend a warm Welcome
to our newest member**

Craig Olson

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

BOOK REVIEW

By: Francie Lloyd

Continuing with our occasional review of books from the Society's collection at the Danville Public Library, here is one by Frances Lloyd

A complete list of the society's books is provided at the Society's website at: https://srvgensoc.org/upload/files/SRVGS_Danville_Library_Booklist.pdf

Printed Sources: A Guide to Published Genealogical Records

By: Kory L. Meyerink,

True, the copy in our collection in the Danville Library was published in 1998, but what a vast amount in information! Organized by subject: Background Information, Finding Aids, Printed Original Records, Compiled Records, and then the appendixes which lists CD and ROM, major US genealogical libraries, genealogical publishers and booksellers, and the ever necessary Index!

The New England Historic Genealogical Society was formed in 1846. The NEHGS Register was first published in 1847. Many lists of sources have been printed since that time. *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* by Eakle and Cerny; Filby's *American And British Genealogy and Heraldry: A Select List of Books* and others have been helpful, but this is a most comprehensive source of what records were created, why they were created, and if kept, where they are located.

Published Church Records pp. 269-297 includes a brief history of the denomination, a listing of what type of records were created by the church, how they are organized, if published by whom, where original records are housed - if kept. Some churches are collectors, some are not.

Kory Meyerink contributed the chapter on "County and Local Histories" - the development of counties (Alaska has none).

Some of the other topics are printed land records, county histories, immigration sources, family histories and genealogies, census and tax lists, vital and cemetery records. Each topic is treated in a clear, helpful style. Find out if a record was created before you spend days, weeks or more looking for it - or what else might provide the same information. ■



President's Message

By Steve Watty



Volunteerism has been a key component of SRVGS throughout our history. This tradition continues with several members taking on new and sometimes multiple activities either within the organization or by providing expertise to the general public.

Some members spend years on our board or heading SIG committees without proper recognition. They enrich our society helping guide a smooth agenda and promote our society through outside engagements, even though extremely rewarding this comes at the cost. Personal schedules can be disrupted, and minimal transportation and materials cost mostly unreimbursed.

Please join me in thanking all our board, committee members and SIG leaders, docents assisting in the FHC and other local libraries, those teaching specialized genealogical courses to other societies and the members providing speaking engagements to the interested general public.

It is now time for new blood, show an interest in your society by volunteering to help as a board member or to assist with one of our many committees. No experience necessary, we will train and support you. Can I count on you?

***"You make a living by what you get.
You make a life by what you give."***
~Winston Churchill

'I'm not telling you it is going to be easy, I'm telling you it's going to be worth it.'
~Art Williams



MARK YOUR

SRVGS CALENDAR

February 2020

- 4 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 18 **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 2020

- 3 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd. All members are welcome.
- 17 **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. or at: <https://srvgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=6>.

For schedules, visit our web site at: <https://srvgensoc.org/eventListings.php?nm=45&page=1&nr=10&ec=2&tf=3>.

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.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

Differences from the normal schedule: The **DNA SIG** will meet on the **fourth Wednesday**, instead of the third Wed. All other SIGS meet at their normal dates/times in February 2020. ►



FamilySearch - Monday, February 10th (the second Monday) from **1:15 pm – 3 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center**. Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader at: williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday February 12th (the second Wednesday) **10 am – 12 pm**, at the home of **Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill**. **Patty Erickson** is SIG Leader. You can contact Patty at: russpat@comcast.net.



Publishing – Thursday February 20th (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, at: frances_lloyd@comcast.net.



DNA - Monday February 24th (meeting one week later in February only, normally meets on the third Monday) **1:00 - 3:00 pm**, at the **Danville Family History Center**. 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. **Mark McLaren** is SIG Leader. You may contact Mark at: greatscot@earthlink.net.



Legacy Family Tree – Monday, February 24th (the fourth Monday) from **1:15 pm – 3 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center**. **Sharon Clay** is the SIG Leader and can be contacted at: sharonclay@comcast.net



German Research – Wednesday February 26th, (the fourth Wednesday) **10 am – 12 pm**, at a **members home**. Please contact **Cathy Tanaka** at: cathytanaka622@gmail.com if you plan to attend the meeting. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Let's celebrate February and Valentine's Day with our love of family research. Here are some activities to support our learning



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

- On Sat. Feb 8th. from 12-2 the **Mayflower Descendants SIG** will meet.
- Also, on the 8th from 1-3:30 Pam Brett will present **On the Road Again: Practical Tips for Successful On-Site Research.**
- On Sat., the 15th. from 10-12 the **San Francisco SIG** will meet.
- Also on the 15th from 1-3 the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet.
- On Sat., the 22nd. from 10:30-12 the **Eastern Europe SIG** will meet.
- In addition on the 22nd. from 1-4 Ron Madson will lead a hands-on **Photo Scanning Workshop.**
- On Tues. the 25th. from 10:30 -12 Maureen Hanlon will coordinate a **Field Trip to the California Historical Society** (CGS members only). .
- On Sat. Mar. 7th. **Intro to Genealogy** will meet from 10:15-12:15.
- Also on the 7th., from 1-3:30 the **DNA Study Group** for those who have submitted a DNA sample to 23andMe or to MyHeritage will meet.

For more upcoming events in the Bay Area check the Sutro Library "Bay Area Genealogy Calendar" at library.ca.gov/sutro/genealogy/calendar



In February the Oakland Family Search Library, https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Library, offers the following support: (See website for registration details.) Pre-register for classes at fhcoakland@gmail.com or at 510-531-3905. ►

- **Swedish research** – every Thursday from 10 -4 with Beryl and Wade Olafson. No appointment needed.
- On Wed., Feb., 12th from 7-8 the **MacUsers Workshop** will meet.
- On Fri., Feb., 14th from 10:30 -12 the Family Search Series Classes will begin with #1 – **Getting Started with the Basics.**
- On Sun., the 16th **Black Family History Day** will be held from 1-4.
- On Fri., Feb., 21st from 10:30 -12 the Family Search Series Class #2 will **discuss Sourcing and Attaching Records.**
- On Fri., Feb. 28th from 10:30-12 the Family Search Series Class #3 – **Using Memories and Uploading Photos** will meet.
- On Fri. Mar. 6th from 10:30-12 the Family Search Series Class #4 – **Finding and Merging Duplicates** will meet.

You can check the Family Search website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars. June's numerous webinars are listed at: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars



At the Concord Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord on Sat., Feb. 15th at 10 Martha Whittaker will present **How Knew: Part 2.** This talk will explore a number of surprising sources for genealogical information. Contact Jackie at 827-4729 for further information.

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 Wed. Feb. 19th from 6-7 Tammy Priolo will explore **De-Thorning Interviews, Cold Calls & First Contact.**
- On Sat. Mar. 7th from 10-12 Nicka Smith will discuss **Reverse Genealogy, DNA and Tracing the Living.** ►

SCGS also offers the following webinars at their website for free to the public.

- **Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides National Archives** 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, <https://ilgensoc.org>, continues its webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public. Check website for January offering.

 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

- On Thurs., Feb. 20th from 12-1 PST Molly Rogers will share **Archdiocese of Boston Catholic Records Project: We're Expanding!**

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

 The National Archives -, www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/events offers a Genealogy Tutorial, Genealogy Research topics and a variety of charts and forms. ►

 Ancestry.com offers online courses. Some 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 numerous free webinars every month. Go to FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register. February's webinars include:

- On Wed., the 5th at 11 Cyndi Ingle will explore **Best Practices for Success in Facebook Groups for Genealogy**.
- On Tues., the 18th at 5 Barbara Vines Little will present **A Convincing Argument or a Convoluting Mess**.
- On Wed., the 19th at 11 Nicka Smith will discuss **Newspapers for People of Color Genealogy Research**.
- On Tues., the 25th at 11 Ran Snir will share **Working with DNA segments on MyHeritage**.
- On Wed. the 26th at 11 Colleen Greene will share **Using Snagit for Genealogy Visual Storytelling and Instruction**.
- On Tues., Mar. 3rd at 5 Benjamin Hollister will explore **Using South Australia Land Records**.

 Here are some other webinars and podcasts that are online:

- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio <http://extremegenes.com/>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast: <http://genealogyguys.com/>
- Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems <http://lislouisecooks.com/podcasts/>
- Genealogy Boot Camp: http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%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 Mon. Feb. 10th. at 7:00 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will meet at the Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct, Pleasanton. Grant Din will discuss **Chinese Immigrants on the Titanic**.
- On Thurs. Feb. 13th from 6-8, the Contra Costa Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net>, will meet at the LDS Building at 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. The focus of the meeting will be on **hands-on research**.
- On Tues., Feb. 18th from 6:45-8:30, the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society will meet at the Santa Clara Central Park Library. Victoria Kinnear will present **Find the Records, Tell the Story**.
- On Fri. Feb. 21st at 10 the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, www.mdgs.webs.com will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Mark McLaren will examine Scotland & Northern Ireland Research. ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani

- ⇒ From Feb. 26th. – 29th. **RootsTech 2020** will be held in Salt Lake City. The schedule is posted online. Register at www.rootstech.org/salt-lake
- ⇒ On Sat., May 2nd the **Sacramento German Genealogy Society** will hold its Spring Seminar at Christ Community Church at 5025 Manzanita Ave., Carmichael. The featured speaker, Teresa Steinkamp McMillin will present on several genealogy topics.
- ⇒ From May 20th.-23rd. **Echoes of Our Ancestors – National Genealogical Society Family History Conference** in Salt Lake City. Register at: www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org
- ⇒ From May 25th. – Sun., May 30th. Lisa Gorrell will lead a CGS research **trip to the Family History Center in Salt Lake City**. Register at: www.californiaancestors.org. ■

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Steve Watty
president@srvgensoc.org

1st Vice President:
Ted Shapas

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

3rd V.P. Membership:
Jerry & Julia Basel
membership@srvgensoc.org

Secretary:
Barbara Shapas
secretary@srvgensoc.org

Recording Secretary:
Russ Erickson

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter
webmaster@srvgensoc.org

Calendar Coordinator:
Bill George

Education Coordinator:
Kathy Javdani

Webmaster: Bob Venter
webmaster@srvgensoc.org



SRVGS is on Facebook!

Click on the link below or go to:

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

Genealogy Research Assistance

Do you need research Help?

Bring your questions to the

Danville Public Library

10:00 a.m. until noon

Monthly on the Fourth Tuesday.

**Society Members will be available
to help you with your search.**

Danville Family History Center

2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo

Phone: 925-552-5920

Monday: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Tuesday: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

and 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Closed on Holidays, the month of August

FHC Director:

Chris Engstrom: cechocolatego@prodigy.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)

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

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