



San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXV No. 8 March - 2020

This Month's Presentation:

March 17, 2020

BRICK WALL BUSTERS:
TECHNIQUES FOR GENEALOGICAL SUCCESS

Presented by: Sharon Hoyt

We've all experienced the dreaded genealogical brick wall...that place where your research seems to stop. No one method can address each and every brick wall problem, so we'll cover several techniques to help you get unstuck and move your research forward.

Sharon Hoyt became interested in genealogy after her husband's research on his Mayflower ancestors made her curious about her own family origins. What began as a hobby quickly became a passion, and in 2002, she traded a career as an information architect managing internet content and search tools for large technology companies to focus on genealogy research.

As a native Californian whose family has lived in the state since the 1880s, she enjoys helping clients trace their ancestors' paths to the Golden State. Her areas of interest include New England, New York, and the Midwest, with a particular focus on Civil War research. In addition to her client research, she serves as a consultant to Ancestry.com. She is a member of APG, NGS, NEHGS, and the Southern California Genealogical Society. ■

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Notes on Last Month's Presentation:

GERMAN RESEARCH - LET'S GET STARTED

Presented by: Lisa Gorrell

Reported by: Lynnet Keihl

Find the village! Before you can search for your roots in Germany, you must know the village of your ancestor. To find the village, consult American sources, such as obituaries (especially in ethnic newspapers), Bible records, baptismal and confirmation records, church records from ethnic churches, naturalization records, letters and envelopes with addresses, and local county histories.

Other sources that can be helpful in finding the village are "German Immigrants in American Church Records," by Roger Minert, which is a series of volumes of Protestant German church records by American states. The Ancestry.com database, "U.S. Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Records, 1875-1940," is a good source. Ancestry also has records for immigration, emigration, naturalization, passport applications and border crossings, which might include village names.

When the village is known, Meyers Orts Gazetteer (available on Ancestry) can be used to locate and get a description of the village. Websites, such as www.meyersgaz.org, explain how to use the gazetteer. Remember that FamilySearch.org has digitized some German records, which can be found in the catalogue, and that its Wiki provides much useful German research information.

Church records and civil records for the village can be consulted. Church records began in the early 1500s but are mostly available since 1650. These records include births/baptisms, confirmations, marriages, deaths/burials and family registers. Some areas were Catholic and some were Protestant. Civil records began in 1876 throughout Germany and include births, marriages and deaths. Census records similar to American census records do not exist.

Lisa provided a brief history of the German people and hints for reading German church records. Before 1871 "Germans" were part of many



Lisa Gorrell

small kingdoms, principalities, duchies, bishoprics and lands. Germany was not a unified country. Many cultural activities in Bavaria, for instance, were different from cultural activities in other Germanic areas. The Sacramento German Genealogy Society has monthly meetings and publishes the award-winning "*Der Blumenbaum*."

Lisa suggested several good websites with sources for German research – World GenWeb Germany (primarily English site) and Genealogy.net (primarily German, but the Chrome browser can translate the pages). Her 4-page handout, which was emailed to SRVGS members, provides lists of online and print resources for German research. ■



President's Message

By Steve Watty



As family historians and genealogists, we spend countless amounts of time, money and effort gathering information on our ancestors. This information can contain family stories and interviews, pictures of places and people, documents,

books, letters, keepsakes and any other tidbit remotely associated with each researched family member. Most of this information can be digitized and then saved somewhere. The question then is where should these digitized files be stored and how often should backups be made? The answer is not difficult, but you will have to establish a plan, invest some time and possibly a small amount of money to ensure that your work is not lost for yourself or later generations.

Most of us have experienced the loss of an important file due to accidental deletion, hard drive failure, theft, natural disaster or some other loss. A good backup plan should eliminate the anxiety associated with this type of event. You need to get to your genealogy files if your hard drive fails and keeping the only backup copy on the same hard drive is not the answer. You need copies of important files on other media; such as an external hard drive, flash drive and preferably cloud storage.

Some experts suggest keeping three copies of your digital files. One copy can be on your hard drive for quick access, another on some type of external device, i.e.; external hard drive, DVD, or flash drive and the third is storage to the cloud. Maintaining a hard copy offsite is a good practice (I keep a flash drive copy in my bank safe deposit box replaced and updated every couple months). ►

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Don Copland

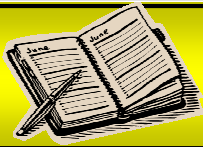
Please look for him at our meetings
and welcome him to our Society.

► Many “cloud” storage options are available and multiple sites can be used as an inexpensive alternative. Some of our current genealogy software companies offer “free” cloud storage of files associated with their product. My use of Family Tree Maker's new “TreeVault Cloud Services” provides a copy of my “Tree” and attached documentation. Other automated, real time, total hard drive backup services, like Carbonite, are available by subscription.

Other alternative tools include free or upgraded subscription note taking sites like Dropbox and Evernote. These sites are good for temporary storage and file sharing between users but should not be used for complete backups. Files can be opened, saved and edited on any of your devices (desktop, laptop, iPad and Smartphone) and then any changes are synced to all these devices.

When to back up? Each media type has their own requirements. Let the automated back up service or external hard drive capture any real time changes as they occur. Proceed with manual backups to your hard drive, flash drive, DVD when you add large amounts of new information. A good rule is to back up your complete Tree and associated documents at least once a month. Back up files that you may want to share or access quickly from another device as you first capture them.

These are your files, your history and your life's work.... Treat them with care and back up often. ■



MARK YOUR

SRVGS CALENDAR

March 2020

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

April 2020

- 7 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd. All members are welcome.
- 21 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.



FamilySearch - Monday, March 9th (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 March 11th (the second Wed) **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.

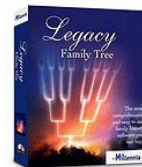


DNA - Monday March 16th (the third Monday) **1:00 - 3:00 pm**, at the **Danville Family History Center**. This SIG assumes a basic knowledge of Genealogical DNA testing and therefore is only open to those who have completed the SRVGS Intro to DNA class or an approved equivalent. **Mark McLaren** is SIG Leader. You may contact Mark at: greatscot@earthlink.net.



Publishing – Thursday March 19th (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.



Legacy Family Tree – Monday, March 23rd (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: sharonlclay@comcast.net



German Research – Wednesday March 25th, (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 be like the lion in March, roar and find for some wonderful learning this month.



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

- On Wed., Mar. 4th, 11th and 13th ►

from 9:30- 12 the Intermediate Records Series will continue.

- 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.
- On Sat. Mar. 14th from 12-2 the **Mayflower Descendants SIG** will meet.
- Starting on Wed. Mar. 18th and continuing on the 25th, Apr. 1st and 8th from 6-8:30 the class on **Building Skills for Successful Family History Research** will be held at the Oakland FamilySearch Library.
- On Sun., Mar. 15th from 11-2 the **Irish Ancestry Network Meetup** will take place. Free for members. \$30 for non-members.
- On Sat., Mar. 21st from 10-12 the **San Francisco SIG** will meet.
- Also on the 21st from 1-3 the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet.
- In addition, on the 21st from 10:00 there will be **The Naughty and Notorious Tour Mountain View Cemetery**.
- Another opportunity on the 21st from 1-2:30 is the class **West Coast Immigration to the United States in the 20th Century**. This class will be held at the Oakland Family Search Library.
- On Sat. Mar. 28th from 1-3 there will be a class on **Blogging to Share Your Family History for Writers and Non-Writers**.
- On Sat. Apr. 4th **Intro to Genealogy** will meet from 10:15-12:15.
- Also on the 4th, 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 March 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 Fri., Mar. 6th from 10:30 -12 the **Family Search Series Classes - Intermediate** will work on **Adding Photos & Docs to Memories** will meet. If possible bring smart phone, flash drive with photos or photos to scan.
- On Wed., Mar. 11th from 7-8 the **MacUsers Workshop** will meet.
- On Fri., Mar., 13th from 10:30 -12 the **Family Search Series -Advanced** will discuss **Finding/Merging Duplicates & Fixing Problems/Making Corrections**.
- On Wed., Mar., 18th from 10-3 the **Bay Area Chinese Genealogy Group** will meet.
- On Fri., Mar., 20th from 10:30-12 the **Family Search Series- Advanced** will explore **Research Using FamilySearch and Outside Resources**.
- On Sun., Mar. 22nd from 12:30- 4:30 the **San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society** will meet.
- On Wed., Mar. 25th from 6-8 the **African American Research Workshop** 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



There will be a **How-To Class** on Sat., Mar. 21st from 10-11:30 at the Concord Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord. Samantha Ricks will present "**How to Work with Family Search- things you may not know**" 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 Sat. Mar., 7th from 10-11 Nikka Smith will share **Genealogy, DNA, and Tracing the Living**.
- On Wed. Mar., 18th from 6-7 Diane L. Richard will discuss **1867 Voter Registration and Beyond**.
- On Sat., Apr. 4th from 10-12 Julie Goucher will present **Foundations to Researching in Europe**.

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 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., Mar. 19th from 12-1 PST Don LeClair will present **Mayflower Resources on AmericanAncestors. Org**.

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 www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register. March's webinars include:

- On Wed., Mar. 4th at 11 Roberta Estes will examine **3 Genealogy DNA Case Studies and How I Solved Them**.
- On Tues. the 10th at 11 Janice M. Sellers will present **Mining the Newspaper Databases on My Heritage for Your Family History**.
- On Wed., the 11th at 5 Blaine Bettinger will share **Genealogy LucidChart and Other Tools for Genetic Genealogy**.
- On Thur., the 12th, starting at 2 pm Thomas MacEntee will lead **The 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon**.
- On Tues., the 17th at 11 Karen Stanbary will explain **Techniques for Integrating Documentary and Genetic Information in a Research Report**.
- On Wed., the 18th at 11 Daniel Smith-Ramos will share **Top 5 Resources to Expand Your Spanish Genealogical Research**.
- On Tues., the 24th at 11 Mike Mansfield will examine **City Directories: Much More Than Ye Olde Phonebooks**. ►

- On Wed., the 25th at 11 Craig R. Scott will explore **Using Fold3.com to Your Advantage**.
- On Tues., the 31st at 6 Carol Baxter will present **'Stop Thief'! British Crimes and Punishment**.
- On Wed., April 1st Mags Gaulden will share **Betty Jeans Story – Forensic Genealogy, DNA and Adoption**.



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 Sat. Mar. 7th at 11 the Solano County Genealogical Society, www.scgsca.org, will meet at the Fairfield Adult Recreation Center, 1200 Civic Center Dr., Fairfield. Brooke Schreier Ganz will present **Reclaim the Records: How Genealogists Can Use the Freedom of Information Act**.
- ◇ On Mon., Mar. 9th at 7:00 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will meet at the Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct, Pleasanton. Linda Harms Okazaki will examine **West Coast Immigration in the 20th Century**.
- ◇ On Thurs. Mar. 12th from 7-9 the Contra Costa Genealogical Society, <https://cccgs.net>, will meet at the LDS Building at 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. Sarah Clift will share Tips on **Getting Youth Interested in Family History**.
- ◇ On Tues., Mar. 17th from 6:45-8:30 Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society will meet at the Santa Clara Central Park Library. Christina Siegel will discuss **Eco-History of the Santa Clara Valley: How People Have Shaped the Landscape**.
- ◇ On Fri. Mar., 20th at 10 the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, www.mdgs.webs.com will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. See website for details on the meeting. ■

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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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>

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!*By: Kathy Javdani*

- ⇒ On Sat. March 14th the Greater Sacramento African American Genealogical Society will present its **15th Annual Family History Seminar**. Nicka Sewell-Smith will be the keynote speaker. There will also be numerous classes on various topics. Register at www.aafhs.com
- ⇒ On Sat. March 28th Root Cellar-Sacramento Genealogical Society – **2020 Spring Seminar** will present Joshua Taylor. He will speak on 4 topics. The seminar will be at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 11427 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks, CA. Register at: <https://rootcellar.org/cpage>
- ⇒ On Apr. 17th and 18th the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society in Medford, OR will hold its annual seminar. John Philip Colletta will lead 5 classes focusing on **Immigration: They Came in Ships**. For details phone 541-512-2340 or go to www.rvgsociety.org ►
- ⇒ On Sat., May 2nd from 9-3 the San Mateo County Genealogical Society Spring Seminar will feature Lisa Louise Cooke. She will present **four topics to up your technology skills for genealogical research**. Register at www.smcgs.org/programs/seminars.
- ⇒ 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. See www.sggs.us/cpage for details.
- ⇒ 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 24th – May 31st Lisa Gorrell will lead a **CGS research trip** to the Family History Center in Salt Lake City. Register at www.californiaancestors.org . ■

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Genealogical Society
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