



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXVI No. 3 September - 2020

## This Month's Presentation:

Tuesday September 15, 2020

## "SOS FOR A PHOTO MESS"

Presented by: **Micki Jones**

(This will be via ZOOM video)



Micki will highlight the SOS for a photo mess: Safeguard, Organize and Share. After the wildfires swept the North Bay Area where Micki and her husband live, she feared the loss of a lifetime of print and digital photos. Now Micki is sharing her passion to help others curate their photo collections and has launched *Journeys Photo Solutions*. Micki will cover the basics of organizing your photos...where are your photos, how to inventory, separate, label and scan. She will describe how you can be your own photo hero...to go from overwhelmed to overjoyed.

Micki earned her Bachelor's degree from Old Dominion University in Studio Art and Master of Science in Human Services from National Louis University. This unique combination along with over 30 years of experience in leadership roles in government, non-profit and

the private sector has forged a tenacity to see a vision become reality. She earned certification as a Professional Photo Organizer in 2018.

She and her husband, Jay, have traveled cross-country by motorcycle and were full-time RV'ers before settling in California. They are now raising their 3 grandsons and enjoy supporting them in their music, sports and scout activities. ■

A link to the General Meeting Zoom will be sent to the SRVGS membership just prior to our Sept. 15th meeting. If you have not used Zoom before, it will direct you to download the app. For last minute help, call Steve Watty at 925-766-6706 or e-mail Bill George at: [williamcgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:williamcgeorge@gmail.com) ■

## IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

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**Notes on Last Month's Presentation:****Tuesday, July 21, 2020****FINDING YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS****Presented by: Jeff Vaillant**

Due to a technical problem we do not have notes usually prepared by Russ Erickson on Jeff Vaillant's presentation in July; however this is a good opportunity to remind all of our members that when our presenters allow, we post their handouts and materials, and for limited time periods the Zoom recordings of their presentations, on our website and in this case you can go there to view Jeff's handout presentation which contains many wonderful pictures as well as links and resources for researching your Civil War Ancestors.

Do you remember that the 1910 US Federal Census has a column (30) for indicating whether the respondent was a survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy? Even though the 1890 Census is mostly lost to us, the 1890 Civil War Veterans & Widows Census Schedules are available on Ancestry with the premium subscription. The National Park Service has a lot of information on the Civil War including the ability to search for your ancestor. Jeff's presentation has innumerable links for Civil War searching, and he demonstrates how he found data on one of his ancestors in particular.

To get to our Speaker Handouts, go to our [San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society](http://www.srvgensoc.org) web page and then login to get access to our members-only material. Click on the **Speaker Handout** option on the left side and you will find Jeff's, as well as previous speakers', handouts. ■

**WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS**

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

**Thomas Mathews**

Tom is interested in the DNA SIG

**Ellen Nave**

Ellen works so she cannot attend meetings. Perhaps she'll be able to replay our Zoom meetings that are recorded. She is researching ties to Sweden and ancestors from San Francisco in the early 1900s.

**Brian Miller**

Brian has volunteered for Set-up/TakeDown at meetings and to provide Research Assistance. He would like assistance in researching Welsh and Scottish Ancestors



## President's Message

*By Steve Watty*



Glass half-empty or half-full? The new stage for genealogy learning and research has evolved during this Covid-19 pandemic. For the optimist, technology used in both learning and research has progressed so much that one can partake in many learning sessions that just

were not available on the internet a short time ago. Since travel restrictions limit the audience and speaker, both have turned to the internet to satisfy the previous in-person venues. The mileage distance equation that was so restrictive is now overcome with the Zoom and Webinar applications. These types of presentations open the material to, in most cases, a wider audience, provide the same Q&A forum, and save the recordings which provide flexibility for viewing options. Elite professional speakers previously unavailable due to cost or distance are now embracing this new technology and some are reaching out to schedule their online presentations. Libraries, archives, societies and other data repositories are now placing previously restricted information online either free to the viewer or with a minimal charge.

The pessimist will acknowledge all the above but still longs for the interaction of the previously allowed in-person society meetings and convention gatherings. He will also point out that everything is still not online and misses the trips to the library, archive, courthouse or historical center. The inability to walk in the footsteps of an ancestor, he will concede, cannot be exchanged for a YouTube video of the ancestral location.

The above improvements and limitations are now part of the "New Normal" for the genealogy enthusiast. Accept it, adapt to the norm, take advantage of the new sources and learning sessions, and make a bucket list of places to visit when the world opens again. This will occur with *what* restrictions and *when* are the only unknowns. ►

Our society will continue to take advantage of the available technology to provide options to our members. The monthly speaker presentations are live via the Zoom online application and a recording saved on the website for member flexible viewing. We encourage all our members to join in the Special Interest Group (SIGs) Zoom meetings, and we provide an expanded listing and shared linkage to many live and recorded educational opportunities. Please review the website and newsletter for up-to-date announcements. Stay safe, healthy and, above all, reach out if you need any assistance. ■



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### September 2020

- 1 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held via ZOOM video.
- 15 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The September General meeting will be via a Zoom Link, details to be sent out a few days prior to the event. See p.1 of this Newsletter for details on the Speaker and the Subject.

#### October 2020

- 6 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held via ZOOM video.
- 20 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The October General meeting will be via a Zoom Link, details to be sent out a few days prior to the event. Speaker will be Irene Rossman on **Unknown DNA Matches**.

#### November 2020

- 3 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held via ZOOM video.
- 17 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The November General meeting will be via a Zoom Link. The speaker will be Beverly Lane on **Women's Suffrage**.

## SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

By: Bill George

I'm happy to say most SIGs are still meeting regularly, even meeting in August which is usually our vacation month. Four of the six SIGs (Irish/Scottish, FamilySearch, DNA and German) are meeting at their normal dates and times, except on-line using Zoom (<https://zoom.us>). Members of each group are being notified of the call-in details before each monthly meeting by email. Attendance is as good as it was when we were meeting at people's homes or the Family History Center. Our members like their SIGs.

The Publishing group is having ad hoc meetings via email and some Zoom sessions to further their individual projects. It does look like the Legacy Family Tree SIG will cease, though. The person teaching the group, Veronique Schutz, has some pressing family issues that don't allow her to continue. I want to take this opportunity to thank Veronique for all of her work for the last 2 years on the Legacy SIG. I know the SIG members, in particular, appreciated her devotion to the group, as well as her knowledge, guidance, patience and preparation.

I would encourage any member of SRVGS, if there's an area you want to help others with and simultaneously learn more yourself, please volunteer to head up a SIG group. Especially if you know Zoom (however it's easy to learn it), the meetings only require a talking points agenda and conducting the meeting from the comfort of your own home. When the pandemic is over you may elect to continue the Zoom meetings or start meeting in person in your home or at the Family History Center. Some topics you might consider leading are Family Tree Maker, RootsMagic, Reunion or Legacy (these are all genealogy programs). Geographical research SIGs for the American South, Europe, Asia, Eastern Europe might be considered if you have some knowledge about them and want to engage others and learn more. Genealogy web sites, like Ancestry.com, My Heritage and Find My Past should also be considered as SIG candidates. Email me at [williamcgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:williamcgeorge@gmail.com) if you're interested. ■

Sign on a church in Houston: *Now is not the time to be surrounded by positive people.*

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George



**Irish/Scottish Research—** Wed. Sept 9th (the 2nd Wednesday) 10am-12pm, in a **Zoom Meeting** until further notice. They share information from the internet, journals, DNA and books. Patty Erickson is the SIG leader. You may contact Patty at: [russpat@comcast.net](mailto:russpat@comcast.net).



**Family Search—Mon. Sept 14th** (the 2nd Monday) 1-3pm in a **Zoom Meeting**. Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. You may contact SIG Leader **Bill George** at: [williamcgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:williamcgeorge@gmail.com).



**DNA—Mon. Sept 21st** (the 3rd Monday) 1-3pm 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 Mark McLaren at: [greatscot@earthlink.net](mailto:greatscot@earthlink.net).



**Publishing—**Does not plan to meet in person. Members are contacting each other throughout the month during this stay-at-home pandemic. Francie Lloyd is the SIG Leader and can be reached at: [frances\\_lloyd@comcast.net](mailto:frances_lloyd@comcast.net).



**Legacy Family Tree—** Does not plan to continue online or in person as the person teaching the group is unable to continue. If anyone would like to take over this responsibility, please contact **Sharon Clay** at: [sharonclay@comcast.net](mailto:sharonclay@comcast.net). ■



**German Research—Wed. Sept 23rd** (the 4th Wednesday) 10am-12pm in a **Zoom Meeting**. You may contact SIG Leader Cathy Tanaka at: [cathytanaka622@gmail.com](mailto:cathytanaka622@gmail.com)



## EDUCATION

*By: Kathy Javdani*



This autumn we are blessed with the option to attend an abundance of learning opportunities both locally and throughout the United States from the comfort of our favorite spot. So let's fill our calendar with classes, conferences, and meetings. Enjoy.



The California Genealogy Society's Library, [www.californiaancestors.org](http://www.californiaancestors.org), is closed due to COVID-19. However, it now has a full schedule of online lectures and series scheduled through December. Sign up now on its website. Also, please check its site or Blog for future updates on the closure.

- On Sat., Sept. 5th from 10:15-12:15 **Introduction to Genealogy** will present via Zoom Part 1 –Genealogy Basics Overview.
- On Sat., Sept. 19th from 10-12 Susan Goss Johnston will present online **Exploring Military Records – Part 1-Pension and Bounty Land Applications**. This is the first of 4 sessions. \$10 per session for members. \$30 per session for non-members.
- On Sat., Sept. 19th from 1-3 Ron Madson will lead the **Family Tree Maker SIG** online.
- On Sat., Sept. 26th from 10-11 Colleen Robledo Greene will share via Zoom **An Introduction Researching Your Mexican Ancestors**.
- On Tues., Sept. 29th from 7-8:30 Mark McLaren will present via Zoom the first of six sessions on the **Introduction to DNA and Genetic Genealogy**. The series is \$100 for members or \$140 for non-members.
- On Thurs., Oct. 1st from 6-7:30 Susan Skilton will discuss via Zoom **Researching Mexican Land Grants in Alta California**.
- On Sat., Oct. 3rd from 10:15-12:15 **Introduction to Genealogy** via Zoom will present Part 2 – Using the Census.



The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), [www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html) offers free webinars. Register in advance online. The upcoming ►

presentations are:

- On Sat., Sept. 5th from 10-11 Sara Cochran will answer **Who Needed It Anyway? Researching Around the Missing 1890 Census**.
- On Wed., Sept. 16th from 6-7 Peggy Lauritzen will discuss **Putting America to Work: Records of the WPA and the CCC**.
- On Sat., Oct. 3rd from 10-11 Michael Strauss will explore **Manifest Destiny: Researching Your Mexican War Ancestors**.

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

- **Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides National Archives** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **Neither Filmed nor Scanned: NARA Treasures 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/](http://www.Americanancestors.org/education/) 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 online.

- On Thurs., Sept. 10th at 3, Pam Fessler will share **Carville's Cure: Leprosy, Stigma and the Fight for Justice**.
- On Fri., Sept. 11th at 1, Curt DiCamillo will explore **All Roads Lead to London: Supreme 19th Century World City**.
- On Thurs., Sept. 17th at 12, Melanie McComb will discuss **Northern New England Resources at American Ancestors**.
- On Thurs., Sept. 24th at 3, E.J. Dionne will **Share Code Red: How Progressives and Moderates Can Unite to Save Our Country**.

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](http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy) offers a Genealogy Tutorial, Genealogy Research topics and a variety of charts and forms.

 The DAR Library at [www.dar.org](http://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](http://www.dar.org/libraryevents)

 Ancestry.com offers online courses. Some are FREE, while others require a subscription.

- You can READ about them 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](http://www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com) to register.

September's webinars include: ►

- On Tues., Sept. 1st at 7, Benjamin Hollister will explore **Willkommen in Australien! Researching German-Australian Families**.
- On Wed., Sept. 2nd at 11, Michelle Leonard will discuss **Using Chromosome Browsers, Segment Data and Triangulation**.
- On Tues., Sept. 8th at 11, Dana Drutman will share **New Historical records Available on MyHeritage**.
- On Wed., Sept., 9th at 5, Cyndi Ingle will examine **Cyndi's List in Practice**.
- On Tues., Sept. 15th at 5 Melissa Johnson will present **Reconstructing the Murphy Family Using DNA and Documentary Evidence**.
- On Wed., Sept. 16th at 11, Trish Hackett Nocola will explore **Finding Genealogical Data in the Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files**.
- On Fri., Sept. 18th at 11, Diahan Southard will present **Your DNA Questions Answered Live with Diahan**.
- On Tues., Sept. 22nd at 11, MyHeritage will present **A MyHeritage Webinar**.
- On Wed., Sept. 23rd at 11, Thomas MacEntee will discuss **Introduction to VPNs**.
- On Wed. Sept., 30th at 11, J. Mark Lowe will share **5 Ways to Find Your Family in Southern Manuscript Collections**.
- On Tues., Oct. 6th at 6, Blaine Bettinger will explore **Advanced DNA Techniques: Deductive Chromosome Mapping**.

 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://lisalouisecooks.com/podcasts/>
- Lisa also has an hour genealogy chat on YouTube at 9 am on Thursdays entitled **Eleven-ses**.
- Thomas MacEntee's  
[www.abundantgenealogy.com](http://www.abundantgenealogy.com) ►

- Genealogy Boot Camp

[http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy\\_boot\\_camp/player.htm](http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm)

- Judy Russell's  
[www.legalgenealogist.com](http://www.legalgenealogist.com)
- [blog.familyhistoryfanatics.com](http://blog.familyhistoryfanatics.com)

### And there is more!

ConferenceKeeper.org, [www.ConferenceKeeper.org](http://www.ConferenceKeeper.org), lists conferences, events, calls for papers, contests, grants, volunteer opportunities, tours and more. You can sign up at [mail@sendfoxmail.com](mailto:mail@sendfoxmail.com) to receive **Tami at Conference Keeper** which lists events that have been added in the last week. ■

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

*By: Kathy Javdani*

Please note that some conferences are opting to hold virtual presentations instead of their usual on-site conference. Visit the conference site for registration and updates.

- ⇒ From Sept. 2-5th at Kansas City, the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) <http://fgs.org>. As of now this conference, **Blazing Trails In the Heart of America** is still listed as on-site
- ⇒ From Sept. 10- 12th at Albany, New York the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society will hold the **2020 New York Family History Conference**. Virtual participation is available. Go to [www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org) and click on Events.
- ⇒ On Sat., Oct. 10th and 17th the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will hold its **2020 CCCGS Fall Webinar**. D. Joshua Taylor will present 4 sessions over the two-day period. Register [www.cccgs.net](http://www.cccgs.net).

## OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**President:** Steve Watty  
[president@srvgensoc.org](mailto:president@srvgensoc.org)

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Russ Erickson

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

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**Calendar Coordinator:**  
Bill George

**Education Coordinator:**  
Kathy Javdani

**Webmaster:** Bob Venter  
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**SRVGS is on Facebook!**

Click on the link below or go to:

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

**Save the Date:**

- On Thurs., Sept. 10th from 6:30- 8 pm the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, [www.cccgs.net](http://www.cccgs.net), will have a Zoom meeting. Ron Arons will explore **Sex, Lies and Genealogy**. Check website for details.
- On Mon. Sept. 14th from 7-9 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, [www.l-ags.org](http://www.l-ags.org), will have a Zoom meeting. Stephanie West will discuss **Canadian Genealogical Resources Online**. For additional information contact: Tom Mathews at [program@L-AGS.org](mailto:program@L-AGS.org)
- On Sat., Sept. 19th from 12:30 -2:30 the Sonoma County Genealogical Society, [www.scgsonline.org](http://www.scgsonline.org) will have a general meeting and presentation on Zoom. Check website for details.

**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 and the month of August

**FHC Director:**Chris Engstrom: [cechocolatego@prodigy.net](mailto: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)

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