San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society **Vol. XXX No. 5 January - 2015**

THIS MONTH – January 20, 2015

"Seeking City Slickers in Lessor Known Records"

Presented by: Susan Goss Johnston

City residents were frequently renters and transients so standard land records may not be very useful. Records such as tax lists, city directories and fire insurance maps can provide a surprising amount of evidence. Case studies involving these city slickers will show how much can be learned from simple lists and maps if the researcher takes the time to study them.

Susan Goss Johnston is a 2011 ProGen alumna, has completed the Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis course at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and the National Archives' lecture and lab course, *Going to the Source*, and has attended the National Institute on Genealogical Research. She is a co-editor of the recently published Source Templates for The Master Genealogist (available on Lulu.com). Her personal research focuses on families in New England and the Mid-Atlantic region, and she specializes in military records. A former Maryland resident, she now lives in California, and continues teaching basic and advanced genealogy courses here and is a frequent speaker at local meetings and conferences. All lectures are PowerPoint presentations that include real-life examples and case studies, all include handouts, and seminar presentations include optional workshops.

1 Step

From the November Meeting

"Case Study: Genealogy of Renee Kaufman"

Speaker: Stephen Morse Reporter: Russell Erickson

Mr. Morse noted his "one step web page" <stevemorse.org> which has over 200 genealogy tools and has won awards. It can be a good starting point for genealogy internet searches.

Searching Renee Kaufman, he began with only the last name. Using Google, he found her first name and maiden name Levkov. Someone had posted part of a family tree for her which today is not uncommon. Birth and death dates were there. A Mexican work visa for her father, Joseph, showed he was a musician, born in Poland. A ►

(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Stephen Morse

second birth date for Joseph was found in the SSDI (Social Security Death Index), and death dates for him and Renee. Multiple censuses were searched from 1940 back, including state censuses for New York. He found searching by partial names (JOS, Levk, etc.) was helpful as spelling could vary and often did. From the 1930 census, he learned Ruth and Joseph, Renee's parents were married about 1927 and immigrated from Russia. In various censuses, the Levkov name was spelled Leakos, Revkow. He searched the NY city marriage index and found Ruth Schrader (Renee's mother) married Joseph "Levkor" (Levkov). In various censuses, birth dates for family ancestors varied from census to census, so do not trust birth dates, especially for the ladies! Note also that immigrant first names are different sometimes when "Americanized". Tombstones can provide genealogy information (those shown had such in Hebrew).

He suggests: "Names might not be spelled as we think, confirm records with other records--the one you have might be wrong, some records cannot be found, and never trust a woman's age".

Lastly, <jewishgen.org> has Eastern European records and not only for Jewish people. ■

President's Message

By Russ Erickson

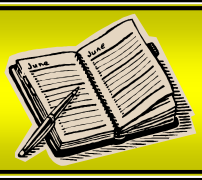
A new year begins. Look at unusual approaches to finding ancestral information. Try historical tax records. They suggest financial status, the value of money, land values, evident possessions, surnames and given names, and might estimate children birth dates when they show up in records. Check state archives, county courthouse records, historical society records and libraries for data. There was a 1798 tax and assessments for 1812 war time as well as from the Civil War to late 1917. Poll taxes, property taxes, and material taxes that might indicate occupations, livestock and slave taxes. The book "Beginner's Guide to Using Tax Lists" by Cornelius Carroll (1997) if findable, is a start. Cyndi's List <CyndisList.com/taxes> provides many internet source connections.

Medical records, both civilian and military, from the past, especially 1821 on, might be a source, and helpful in family diagnosis. National Archives have Civil War data for both union and confederate sides, as well as non-Civil War. Records of the Veteran's Administration can be searched. Would summarizing known family health problems in your genealogy writings be helpful for future generations? Check Cyndi's List for "332,000 links in 200 categories, cross-referenced" under Genetics, DNA and Family Health. The National Genealogical Society Quarterly #82, 1994; #87, 1999, and possibly more recent ones indicate sources.

We look forward to seeing you all at SRVGS general education and social meetings the third Tuesday AM each month in 2015. ■

You Know You're Taking Genealogy Too Seriously If …

1. your house leans slightly toward the side where your genealogical records are stored.
2. a magical genie appears and agrees to grant your any one wish, and you ask that the 1890 census be restored.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

January 2015

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

20 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From the I-680 Freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 1/2 miles.

February 2015

3 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be 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.

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

NOTE: For San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Special Interest Group contact information and schedules, you may also visit the web site at http://srvgensoc.org/sig.htm

ANCESTRY/FAMILY TREE MAKER – This group focuses on how Family Tree Maker interacts with Ancestry.com. This group will have met **Monday, January 5th** (the first Monday) **at 1:15 pm at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road.** Susan Rush is the coordinator for this group.

FAMILY SEARCH / FAMILY TREE - This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday, January 12th** (the second Monday) **at 1:15 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.** The topic for the ► meeting will be, "Finding more records for your FamilySearch Family Tree." Bill George is the coordinator and contact person for this group

IRISH - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday, January 14th** (the second Wednesday) and February 11th at **10:00 am., at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson** in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group.

PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday, January 15th at 10:00 am at the home of Frances Lloyd** in Danville. This informal Group invites you to monthly third Thursday meetings. Members will offer advice, encouragement, suggestions and guide you to publishing sources as you develop your book, big or small. Members share their writings as their progress to a finished project. Society members interested in joining should let Francie, the group coordinator, know that they plan to attend.

LEGACY SOFTWARE – This **is a genealogy software** users group. This group will meet **Monday, January 26th** from **1:15 to 3 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road in Alamo.** If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Sharon Clay, the group coordinator.

GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday, January 28th** (the fourth Wednesday) **at 10:00 am., at the home of Susan Hanck.** The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. Please contact Helen if you plan to join the group. ■

Anonymous Quote

"So many cultural symbols are turned into clichés, for example some by people claim to have an Indian Princess as their great grandmother. Well some ancestor of mine was a lady in waiting to some English queen but it didn't improve my housekeeping abilities and I'm still puzzled by that 3rd fork at good restaurants. "

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

8 **January Thursday 7 pm** The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society holds their regular meetings on the second Thursday at the LDS Building, 1360 Alberta Way in Concord. James M Baker will make a presentation about strategies for "*Finding the Hardest Ones*." His presentation goes step-by-step through seven case studies. Their meeting on February 12 will be for Hands On research at the Family History Center.

12 **January Monday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Janice Sellars will speak about Vital Records and the Calendar Change of 1752. The web address for the society is: http://www.l-ags.org

14 **January Wednesday 7:00 pm** A Macintosh Genealogy Workshop (MacGen) group will meet at The Oakland Family Search Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue in Oakland. This is your opportunity to present problems you're having with your genealogy or questions about how Reunion works. Come early and do some research at the FamilySearch Library. Their web address is: http://www.macgen.org/

17 **January Saturday 10:30 am** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will hold a regular member meeting at the Grace Lutheran Church Hall, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. Ralph Mize will speak about Crossing the Pond, pre 1820. Their web address is: http://www.smcgs.org/

27 **January Tuesday 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm** The Sacramento German Genealogy Society will hold one of its regular meetings at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, at Lusk Drive and St. Mark's Way in Sacramento. German Immigrants in American Church Records will be the subject of the presentation by Roger P Minert, Ph.D., AG. This presentation highlights the superb detail found in the records of German Protestant congregations in the United States (especially in the Midwest beginning in the 1840s). The contents of such records and their availability are demonstrated using the state of Indiana as an example. You may also visit their web site at www.sacgergernsoc.org ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

2015 greets us with a variety of learning opportunities.

As usual, the California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org starts the first Saturday of each month with its

- **Introduction to Genealogy** class from 1-3 pm. This month the class will meet on Sat., Jan. 3rd and next month on Sat., Feb. 7th. Please register on line. Also note that CGS permits non-members to use its library resources for free on the first Saturday of each month from 10 am – 4 pm
- On Jan. 17th, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 – 11:30 am. This SIG always meets on the third Saturday of each month.
- On Sat., Jan. 31st, from 1 – 3 pm, Janice Sellers will present the class **"Reconstructing Your Family When You Start with Almost Nothing: A Case Study".** Register on line

For more upcoming events from Santa Cruz to Sacramento check the CGS "*San Francisco Bay Area General Calendar*" at: http://sfbagenealogy.blogspot.com

In January the Oakland Family Search Library, https://familysearch.org starts the year with:

- On Wed., Jan. 14th, the **Mac Users** ►

Workshop led by Bill George starts at 7 pm. The Mac Users Group meeting will be on Sat., Jan. 24th from 1:30 - 4 pm.

- On Tues., Jan. 20th from 6:30 – 8, pm Bonnie Matteson will present **"Better Research Strategies".** Pre-register at fhcoakland@gmail.com or at 510-531-3905.
- On Tues., Jan. 27th from 7 – 9 pm, Barbara Stack will lead **"Beginning Photo Scanning & Photo Restoration"** Pre-register at fhcoakland@gmail.com or at 510-531-3905.
- On Wed., Jan. 28th, at 6 pm, Alvis Ward Jr. will lead the African American Research Workshop.

Also you can always check the Family Search website https://familysearch.org for tutorials, Wikis, discussion forums, and Webinars.

The Concord Family History Center will hold its first *How To* Class for 2015 entitled **"Advanced Family Search"** on Jan. 17th at 10 am at the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd. The class taught by Chris Young is free.

The Concord Center is also starting a six week class, **"Introduction to Genealogy".** There is a limit of 15 attendees for the class. If you would like a flyer about these classes contact Jackie Hein at 827-4729.

Enjoy learning from home:

The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS) www.scgsgenealogy.com continues to offer free Webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- Wed., Jan. 21st, from 6 – 7 **"Finding Your Female Ancestor' Story in the Newspaper"** by Gena Philibert-Ortega.
- Sat., Feb. 7th, from 10 -11 **"6 Steps to Choreograph Your Research Across the Internet"** by Janet Hovorka ►

There are also free genealogy presentations and PDF notes for researching information at NARA on the SCGS website under Webinars www.scgsgenealogy.com/weinar/overiew.html

The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) www.Americanancestors.org 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 Coordinator Ginevra Morse at gmorse@nehgs.org.

Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the event will be posted to their website the following day.

From an article by Gena Philibert-Ortega here are some Webinars and lectures that are online:

- Legacy Family Tree Webinars http://www.familytreewebinars.com/
- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio http://extremegenes.com/
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast http://genealogyguys.com/
- RootsTech 2014: Featured Lectures Online: https://familysearch.org/blog/en/rootstech-2014-video-presentations-online/
- Genealogy Boot Camp: http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/ thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm

Save the Date:

- **Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy** from Jan. 12th -16th at the Salt Lake Hilton. Register at slig.ugagenealogy.org
- **Roots Tech 2015** from Feb. 12th - 14th in Salt Lake City. To register visit www.rootstech.org
- **The Federation of Genealogical** ►

Societies (FGS) Conference from Feb. 11th – 14th in Salt Lake City. Visit www.fgsconference.org for more information.

May all (or at least some) of your brick walls come tumbling down in 2015. ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Sharon Garrison

Wes Smith

Phillip Tafoya

Please look for these people at our meetings and welcome them to our Society.

COMING UP!

Your society Program Committee is pleased to announce that the following speakers will be appearing in the coming months:

- In February: **Janice Sellers** will be presenting "*Finding Women in your Family Tree*".
- In March: **Gail Chaid** will be presenting "*Eastern European Research*"
- In April: **Lisa Gurnell** will be presenting "*Breaking down brick walls*".
- In May: **Janette Brigham** will be speaking on a topic to be announced.
- In June - **Richard Rands** will be speaking on a topic to be announced.
- In July: **Gena Philibert Ortega** will be speaking on a topic to be announced. ■

BOOK REVIEW

By: Frances Lloyd & Virginia Root

Continuing with our occasional review of books from the Society's collection at the Danville Public Library, here are a few more submitted by Francie Lloyd and Virginia Rood. A complete list of the society's books in provided in your Handbook or can be downloaded from our web site at: http://srvgensoc.org/resources/SRVGS_Danville_Library_Booklist.pdf

A GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY OF THE FIRST SETTLERS OF NEW ENGLAND SHOWING THREE GENERATIONS OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE MAY, 1682, ON THE BASIS OF FARMER'S REGISTER, WITH TWO SUPPLEMENTS IN FOUR VOLUMES.

Savage. Originally Published Boston, 1860. GPC 1965…1998. Commonly referred to as "Savage."

Unlike Farmer, Savage's scope includes every settler without regard of rank or wealth. As he is able, Savage follows each settler for three generations. The settlers place of origin, parentage, means and conditions of transport, locations in New England, occupation, standing/rank, and family members are listed. Similar information is given on members of the second generation. Only names and birth information is included for grandchildren of the settlers.

Review by: Francie Lloyd

Index to US Military Pension Applications of Remarried Widows for Service Between 1812 and 1911

Transcribed by Virgil D. White

This index was obtained from records at the National Archives. The applications are for service in the US Army, US Navy and US Marine Corps. There are a few applications with service during the Revolutionary War and prior to the War of 1812 as well as a few references to applications from WWI. The majority of the applications are based on Civil War service and there ►

are additional entries on regular military service in other wars and conflicts between the end of the Civil War and WWI. The information can be all or part of the name of the veteran upon whose service the widow's claim was issued, the name of widow and name of her other husband or husbands and their service records, pension applications, certificate numbers. Interfiled are some entries by mothers, fathers, sisters, minor and helpless children with application and certificate numbers. Some entries give dates of claims filed, Bounty Land Warrant application numbers, the name of the war, dates of service, units and rank. The index introduction gives more detail and descriptive information.

Review by: Virginia Rood

Public Service Announcement:

Have You Had Your DNA Tested?

Ted Shapas has provided the following notice he copied from a genealogy forum for those who might be interested in taking advantage of this offer.

"Dear Valued Customer, Family Tree DNA is now allowing people that have taken an AncestryDNA™ or 23andMe© (V3) test to transfer their raw data to the Family Finder database for FREE by visiting www.familytreedna.com/AutosomalTransfer! That's right! Pass this news along to your friends and family members that have tested with Ancestry.com or 23andMe so they can discover new matches in the world's largest genetic genealogy database for FREE! Note: Autosomal raw data cannot be transferred to an account that already has Family Finder. What's in it for You? After transferring, you'll get your top 20 matches, complete with their surnames and relationship predictions. You don't have to do anything after uploading your data to see these matches. You've got nothing to lose!

You can unlock ALL of your matches and myOrigins results for free by recruiting 4 other relatives or friends to transfer their results using a link we'll provide!"

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: **Russ Erickson**
president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Vacant

2nd V.P. Programs:
Suzanne Johnston
Wayne Mortensen
Carol Satterthwaite
programs@srvgensoc.org

3rd V.P. Membership:
Gay Scott
membership@srvgensoc.org

Recording Secretary:
Lynnet Keihl
recsec@srvgensoc.org

Corresponding Secretary:
Barbara Shapas
srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Treasurer: **Bill Hewitt**
treas@srvgensoc.org

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: **Bob Venter**
editor@srvgensoc.org

Calendar Coordinator:
Vern Segelke
srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Mailing: **Lucy Carver**

Deadline to put information in the Newsletter is the Last Thursday of the month.

Members are encourage to submit articles for the Newsletter by mail or email to the Coordinator.

INDIVIDUAL HELP

Do you need individual help in overcoming a "brick wall" in your research? Go to the SRVGS web site at: http://srvgensoc.org/, click on RESOURCES, then click on INDIVIDUAL HELP FOR SRVGS MEMBERS.

News from the Danville Stake Family History Center

By Janet Broderick

News from the Danville Family History Center

The FHC will be offering a class, ***"Introduction to the Family History Center" beginning in February.*** Pat Isom will be the instructor and she is an expert at what the Family History Center can offer to you to help you in your family history work.

Date: February 5, 2015, Thursday

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

RSVP: email Janet Broderick at: janetanddennis@gmail.com or sign up at the next general meeting.

Note: We will be offering this class on a regular basis. If there are times or days that would be better for you, please let us know!!

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

BOOK REVIEW	6
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
SRVGS CALENDAR	3
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	3
OTHER EVENTS	4
COMING UP	6
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
DAVILLE STAKE INFORMATION	8
DNA TESTING INFORMATION	7
EDUCATION	4
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	6

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL