



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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THIS MONTH – April 21, 2015
“Tips for Breaking Down Brick Walls”
Presented by: Lisa Gorrell



Are you stuck with an ancestor? Can't figure out where to search next? Come hear about more than 6 strategies that will help you work through your brick walls. Included will be a two-page handout with even more tips and links to help.

Lisa Gorrell has been seriously researching her family for over twenty years. It was the birth of her daughters that began the journey connecting the past and the future generations. One trip to Sutro Library to use microfilm of the 1920 census and finding her grandfather's family got her hooked. She is currently the Recording Secretary for the California Genealogical Society, a volunteer and board member with the Contra Costa Historical Society's archives at the History Center in Martinez, and recent past-president of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society. She enjoys giving genealogy presentations and writing about her family on two blogs: “*Mam-ma's Southern Family*” <http://mam-massouthernfamily.blogspot.com/> and “*My Trails into the Past*” <http://mytrailsintothepast.blogspot.com/>.



From the March Meeting
“Eastern European Research”
Speaker: Gail Chaid Reporter: Russ Erickson



Though the topic presumed a wider approach, Gail Chaid's talk centered on Bulgaria. Bulgaria was previously in part Romania, on the historic migration pathway into Europe from Turkey. The Ottomans ruled it for 500 years. Her grandparents were separated 7 years during WWI. She found family letters in Cyrillic and sought many resources to translate them: in Balboa Park international cottages in San Diego; an Ohio church with Bulgarian records. Cyrillic is old and new (after the 1930s). She found a Bulgar-

ian costume designer in San Diego who found Zack, at San Diego University, editor and author for a Bulgarian publisher, who sent her to a translator, “Vera” in a Bulgaria town where her grandfather was born. All the books from 1800 on were discarded! She had tried Ancestry.com, where no Bulgarian records were listed. The “*Family Tree Guide to Europe*” had some data.

“Think of the decade, the time, the culture, economy of the time, and how the government ran things.” When seeking in Eastern Europe, ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Gail Chaid

check the churches and universities, cultural centers, museums, libraries in the USA before doing so in Europe. Pittsburgh, PA has a Bulgarian/Macedonian center! (There are 75 ethnic cultural centers in the USA). People on the cultural boards might have contacts in Eastern Europe. In Bulgaria, districts were poor in records. English is spoken only in large cities. She found 1889 records for her grandfather in a museum. In 1914, many Bulgarians went to Argentina and the USA and after 1914, there were fewer children in Bulgaria due to finances.

In subsequent studies, Gail found DNA Haplogroup U3 is in 90% of Bulgarians and goes back 35,000 years around the Black Sea. Thracians, Romans, Greeks, Turks, and Macedonians were in Bulgaria to 681 AD. Items in the Varma Museum date to 100,000 years; many excavated by Ivan Ivanov, Director of Excavations (now dead). She found a Bulgarian school in Silicon Valley! A Bulgarian eastern orthodox church in Concord. Many Bulgarians came to the USA and some records can be found in Native American Reservations, as many were directed there to help because they were very good hard scrabble farmers. Check immigration centers, check specialty food stores and cultural events for Eastern European data. Some Rotary groups have items. Genie or My Heritage has more East European data. ■



President's Message

By Russ Erickson

How many of us have really looked into the MANY genealogy data resources available on the internet? Granted, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch/FamilyTree, RootsMagic, and Legacy and a few others are widely used. However, have you explored “YouTube”, the Wayback Machine, archives.org, JSTOR, Google Scholar, An Ancestors Public Library, Sources, memory.loc.gov (Library of Congress), worldcatalogue.org, Evernote, the FHL catalogue wiki, Genforum, USgenweb.org, or archivegrid.org? Well, as the nongenealogy detective of the family, mostly, neither have I.

I started with YouTube, which holds plenty enough for this month! Go to Google or your other favorite search engine and type in You Tube, then put “genealogy” in the search box. Our former member Lise Louise Cooke is prominent. There are Ireland genealogy, the Genealogy Guy-for cemetery walks, dating pictures, and other items of interest. Dear Myrtle has been on since 1985! Genfair 2014, Ancestry documentation, Genealogy software and classes, the Records Genie, 200 genealogical videos, and Cherokee genealogy role down the list. Using Evernote for genealogy organizing, Genealogy checklist resources, David Abee tips, Genealogy for beginners, and common mistakes provide resources for learning the genealogy pathways. There are several YouTube videos of the PBS genealogy roadshow, Nextgen, CGS sites, and an advert for full service genealogy help “record click”. There are sites for Armenia and Czech help (do we dare go to East Europe sites?) Items I have listed here cover only part of the first 4 of 10 pages of YouTube Genealogy. One could certainly fill the spare moments for quite some time in genealogy from the trivial to the really important. President messages in future might include tidbits on some of the other sites noted above.

For now, I close with a fervent plea for member interest in joining your SRVGS Board. We still seek a noble soul who would like to join a very welcoming and pleasant group for the next 2 years as president, first VP, or treasurer. Help ►

us keep a 30 year vital organization in full service to our 160 members and all who might join us in genealogy pursuits. Serving on the Board does not require massive amounts of time and is very socially enjoyable! ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

April 2015

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

May 2015

- 5 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 19 **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> . Please **note** some activities take place early in the month, before our newsletter was issued. Be sure to check with the SIG coordinator if you have a particular interest.



ANCESTRY/FAMILY TREE MAKER – This group focuses on how Family Tree Maker interacts with Ancestry.com. This group will have met **Monday April 6th (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. ►



IRISH - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday April 8th (the second Wednesday) and May 13th at 10:00 am., at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson** in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group.



FAMILY SEARCH/FAMILY TREE - This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday April 13th (the second Monday) at 1:15 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.** The topic for the meeting will be *"Uploading Memories."* Bill George is the coordinator and contact person for this group.



PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday April 16th 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 project, big or small. Members share their writings as they progress to a finished project. Society members interested in joining should let Francie, the group coordinator, know that they plan to attend.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday April 22nd (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 am., at the home of Marilyn Tanner in Moraga.** The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. Please contact Helen if you plan to join the group.



LEGACY SOFTWARE – This is a **genealogy software** users group. This group will meet **Monday April 27th (the fourth Monday) from 1:15 to 3 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road in Alamo.** They will do Problem Solving at the April meeting as conducted by Bill and Diane George. **Please note that they will meet May 18, one week early in May, due to the Memorial Day Holiday.** If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Sharon Clay, the group coordinator. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 9 **April 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. Frances Lloyd will speak about Courthouse Oddities.
- 13 **April 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. Bill Levesque will be the speaker. Time Shaker, A Way to Capture History, will be the subject. The web address for the society is: <http://www.l-ags.org>
- 17 **April Friday 1:30 pm** The Mount Diablo Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings at the Creekside Clubhouse meeting room #3 in Rossmore. The meeting will feature Janice Sellers. Janice's topic will be "*What is Forensic Genealogy Really?*" Today the term Forensic Genealogy is used frequently, but what does it actually mean? She will talk about the definition of forensic genealogy and how it is used to establish identity and kinship for legal purposes. They meet on the third Friday of each month.
- 18 **April 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. John Gleed will speak on the topic of migration and how The Great Pacific Railroad Surveys were undertaken to map out possible routes for the new transcontinental railroad across the country. The surveys include hundreds of maps and thousands of illustrations and descriptions of the various routes. The society web address is: <http://www.smcgs.org/>
- 18 **April Saturday 8 am to 4 pm** The Sonoma County Genealogy Society will hold its annual Spring Seminar at the Finley Community Center, Person Auditorium, 2060 West College Avenue in Santa Rosa. The presenter will be Thomas MacEntee. He is creator of Genealbloggers and owner of Hi-Def Genealogy. The deadline for pre-registration was April 4th. For more information go to <http://www.scgsonline.org/events.html>
- 21 **April Tuesday 6:15 pm** The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical society will hold one of its regular meetings in the Cedar Room of the Santa Clara Central Park library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. Krista Van Laan will talk about Frank Delos Wolfe, San Jose Architect. She is the author of "*Frank Delos Wolfe, California Prairie Architecture.*" Ms. Van Laan will talk about her research techniques used in discovering Wolfe's works and their owners. Wolfe designed prairie style buildings between 1912 & 1922. Many of these northern California homes, schools and apartments are still standing. Visit www.scchgs.org for further information.
- 2 **May Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm** The San Mateo County Genealogy Society will hold their Spring Seminar at the Menlo Park LDS facility, 1105 Valparaiso Avenue. The speaker is to be announced. As more information is posted, go to <http://www.smcgs.org/event/spring-seminar>
- 17 **October Saturday 8:30 am to 3 pm** An all-day seminar will be held at St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive in Pleasant Hill. The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will be sponsoring an all day Fall Fling seminar. The theme is: *Back to the Future: Blasting to the Past with tools from the 21st Century.* There will be 2 speakers, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Registration will begin at 8:30 am. Gladys Warr is the seminar coordinator. ■





German Special Interest Group has Annual Luncheon

Once again the German SIG met at DJ's Bistro in Concord to enjoy their annual authentic German meal. Members enjoyed such favorites as Jägerschnitzel, red cabbage and good German beer.

(Pictured, clockwise from left: Helen Odegard, Cathy Tanaka, Carol Huvane, Bob Venter, Ted Shapas, Vern Segelke, Barbara Shapas, Susan and Jim Hanck, and Marilyn Tanner)

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

There are some interesting new learning offerings in April.



Once again 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., Apr., 4th, and next month on Sat., May 2nd. 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 Sat., Apr. 18th, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 – 11:30 am. This SIG always meets on the third Saturday of each month.
- On Sat., Apr. 25th from 12-3 am, Ron ►

Madson will present “**Introduction to Adobe Photoshop for Family History**”. Please 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 March the Oakland Family Search Library, <https://familysearch.org>, offers

- On Sat., Apr. 11th from 10 – 1, Dr. Tim Jansen will present “**Chromosome Mapping and Autosomal DNA Analysis**”. Preticketing of \$10 is required.

Pre-registration is required for all classes.

In addition, you can check the Family Search website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars.



At 10 am on Apr. 18th at the Concord Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Susan Shoemaker will teach the class “**Rookie Mistakes**”. For further information contact Jackie at 827-4729. ►

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:

- Sat., Apr. 4th from 10 - 11 am, **“She has the Same Name. Is She her Sister?”** by Nancy Waters Lauer.
- Wed., Apr. 15th, from 6 – 7 pm, **“Incorporating Social History Into Your Genealogical Research”** by Michael D. Lacapo.
- Sat., May 2nd, from 10 - 11 am **“Around Brick Walls Sideways: Using Collateral Lines to Further Your Genealogical Research”** by Gary M. Smith.

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

- **“National Archives Website Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides”** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **“Military Records at the National Archives”** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **“How to Get the Most Out of a Genealogy Conference”** by George Morgan.

 The Illinois State Genealogy Society (ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=227) has also started a webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public.

- **“Using Evernote as Your Primary Tool for Capturing Notes and Ideas”** by Drew Smith on Apr. 14th at 8 pm Central. You can find enrollment information at the society’s website or go <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8189883145839699201>.

 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 G i n e v r a M o r s e at gmorse@nehgs.org. [EDUCATION](http://www.Americanancestors.org/EDUCATION)

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/>
- Genealogy Boot Camp http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm

Save the date

San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) **Personal Digital Archiving Series** at the Main San Francisco Library from Jan. 15th – Apr. 16th. For further information call 415-557-4277.

On Sat. Apr. 25th from 8 - 4 the Sacramento German Genealogy Society will hold its 2015 Spring Workshop, **“My Germans’- A Workshop for Ancestor Chasers”** by Roger P. Minert. Check the society’s website, www.sacgergensoc.org, for registration information. Pre-registration closes on April 1st.

Southern California Genealogy Jamboree from June 5th – 7th in Burbank. Register at www.scgsgenealogy.com. ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Robert & Mary Johnson

Sue Anderson

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 speaker
will be appearing in May:

- **Janette Brigham** will be speaking
on: *"Using Family Trees On-line."*

MINI-ED

By: Francie Lloyd

Googling: Are you having fun - and success - with the Google tips Diane George shared last month? Is everything working smoothly or do you have questions? Diane will present part two of Exploring Google at this month's Mini-Ed.

Preserving Pensions. Thanks to your generosity, SRVGS has sent \$250 to help with the cost of digitizing the War of 1812 Pension Records located at NARA. The 7.2 million fragile pages are some of the most requested documents at the National Archives and are in need of digitization. Thus far 360,096 images have been preserved. The cost is \$0.45 per digitized page. Ancestry.com has agreed to cover half the cost. The completed documents are available now and will be indefinitely for free at Fold3. Check them out! You and your society are helping.

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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Mailing: Lucy Carver

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

Members are encouraged 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.

Danville Family History Center*2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo*

Phone: 925-552-5920

Monday: 1:00pm - 4:00pm**Tuesday:** 7:00pm - 9:00pm**Wednesday:** 10:00am - 4:00pm

and 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Thursday: 10:00am - 1:00pm

Closed on Holidays

FHC Director:**Taressa Earl** jntaress@hotmail.com**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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