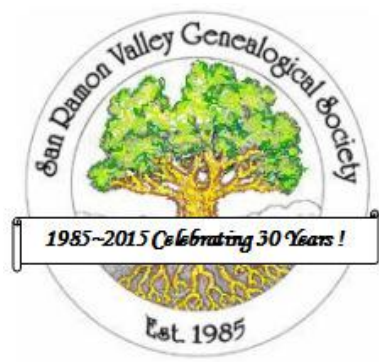




San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXI No. 6 January - 2016



THIS MONTH – January 19, 2016
“Boundary Changes and Lost Ancestors”
Presented by: Kathryn Miller Marshall



A family lived in the same location for two hundred years. So why couldn't any record of their existence be found? The answer lay in boundary changes. County, state, and country boundaries change over time. When they do, a record stored in one jurisdiction may be sent across the new boundary to another jurisdiction, remain where it was, or may be sent to a higher jurisdiction. Animap software is invaluable in tracking county and state boundary changes in the US on a year to year basis. Centennia displays country boundary changes. Your ancestors may be hiding in plain sight -- if you're looking in the right places. Learn how to identify the correct jurisdictions where your ancestors once lived.

Kathryn Miller Marshall holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of California at Berkeley where she taught for many years. Dr. Marshall was the Director of the Lodi California Family History Center, where she served for 16 years. She is a frequent speaker at genealogical conferences and workshops. An expert on the history of California between 1840 and 1865, Dr. Marshall has written biographies on pioneers living in that era. Dr. Marshall provides research expertise as an advisor to the Board of the California Pioneer Heritage Foundation, which builds monuments, provides living history re-enactors at state parks and special events, and preserves historical sites in California. ■

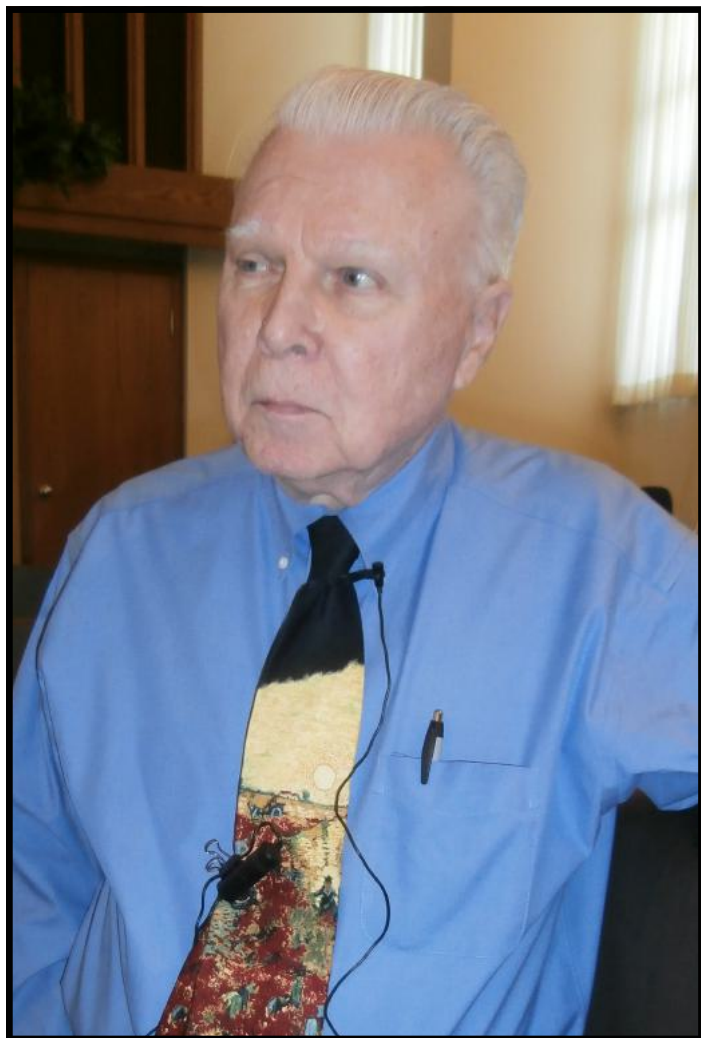


From the November Meeting
“Online and On-Site German Genealogy Sources”
Presented by: James M. Baker Reporter: Lynnet Keihl



Mr. Baker discussed doing German genealogy research, which relies primarily on church records for births (baptisms), marriages and deaths (burials). Unlike American research, early German research does not rely on census, military and property records. Over 93%

of research will be in church records, prior to the beginning of civil vital records. Researchers should consult the Family Search catalog because 60% of German church records were filmed. For those records not filmed, consult German church archives and a local German genealogist. A local



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

James M. Baker

genealogist may also know of home ownership data and town anniversary books.

FamilySearch.com and Ancestry.com are good sites for searches for individuals, keeping in mind that posted family trees may contain errors and often lack sources. The FamilySearch catalog has films of town records, online classes pertaining to German research, and wikis to help find data for specific German areas. Ancestry.com has online the Meyers Orts Gazetteer with data on 210,000 German villages for 1912.

The online site Ancestry.de has German passenger lists and vital data posted by people. Other helpful online sites are: MyHeritage.com, rootsweb.com, cyndislist.com, linkpendium.com, publicprofler.com, kartenmeister.com, google-maps.com, German surname society sites, and German town internet sites. ■



President's Message

By Ted Shapas

Happy New Year!

The passage from December to January is always a time to reflect and think about the clean slate that has been presented to us. This might lead to a listing of New Year's Resolutions (if you need some ideas, Google will help you find plenty to choose from!). Here are three I'll ponder as they relate to genealogy:

- **Get photos organized.** It's a big task, but breaking it down into pieces might help. How about making sure all old photos are labeled to the best of your (and your family's) abilities? After all, that task won't get any easier as time passes. Culling the rejects and duplicates from rapidly exploding digital photo libraries is another important and ongoing project (it really is too easy to take photos with a camera phone!). While you're at it, tag or otherwise label the keepers.
- **Backup everything.** We live in a digital age, so notes, letters, documents, and photos can be scanned into digital form and saved on your computer, from which they can be easily shared with others. But then they need to be backed up on a separate hard drive, or in the cloud, or both, because we all know that your computer will fail at some point. Really.
- **Populate a genealogy database.** There are several good ones available today, and their capabilities continue to grow. Watch out for Family Tree Maker, though - according to Ancestry, it will soon go extinct.

What's on your list? ■

When you search for ancestors,
you find great friends!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

January 2016

- 5 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board Meeting was 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.

February 2016

- 2 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 16 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

Announcing the New

Azores Research SIG

For researchers looking for ancestors in the Azores, SRVGS is starting an Azores Research Special Interest Group. The first meeting will be on February 17, 2016, at 1:15 pm in the Danville Family History Center in Alamo. At that meeting we will determine if there is enough interest to continue with regular meetings. We will discuss sources, help for translation of records, resources and help for each other. The Azores SIG is led by Diane (Silva) George.

In January all SIGs meet at their normal times and places except for the Legacy SIG which is not meeting in January.

I hope you all have a great 2016. ■

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 is 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. The January meeting will have been held on **January 4th** (the 1st Monday) **at 1:15 pm at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road.** February 1st will be the first Monday in February. Susan Rush is the coordinator for this group.



FAMILYSEARCH / FAMILYTREE - This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday January 11th** (the second Monday) **at 1:15 pm at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.** The topic for the meeting will be to discuss FamilySearch "Memories". This group learns step by step procedures for using the many features of Family Tree on the FamilySearch web site. Bill George is the coordinator and contact person for this group



IRISH - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday January 13th** (the second Wednesday) **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 21st** (the third Thursday) **at 10:00 am at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.** This informal Group invites you to monthly **third Thursday** meetings. Members share 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 joining should let Francie, the group coordin-►

ator, know that they plan to attend.



LEGACY SOFTWARE – This is a genealogy software users group. **Please note that this group will not meet in January.** This group is for beginners as well as experienced Legacy users. If any-

one is interested in joining this group, please contact Sharon Clay, the group coordinator at: sharonlclay@comcast.net,



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday January 27th (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 am., at**

the home of Vern Segeke in Danville. The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. Please contact Helen if you plan to join the group.



AZORES (Portuguese) – This is a new special interest group. They will meet on the **third Wednesday at 1:15 pm at the Danville Family History Center,**

2949 Stone Valley Road. Their first meeting will be **February 17th.** Diane George is the coordinator and contact person for this group. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

11 January Monday 7:30 pm The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings on the second Monday at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Ted Shapas will speak about “*What to do with All Those Photos.*” You may also go to; <http://www.l-ags.org> for further society information.

14 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. Patricia Burrow will talk about Legacy Planning, What to do with your Genealogy after You’re Gone. ►

15 January Friday 10:00 am The Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will meet in the Fairway Room at the Creekside Clubhouse in Rossmore. They meet on the third Friday of each month. **Note the change in time and room.** Melinda Kashuba will speak about Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. You may also visit their web site at mgds.webs.com

19 January Tuesday 7 pm The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings in the Margie Edinger Room of the Santa Clara Central Park library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. Ron Aarons, author of “*Mind Maps for Genealogy*”, will share how a Mind Map can be used by genealogists. This is basically a diagram used to visually organize information. From planning genealogical research to correlating and explaining discrepancies in evidence, the mind maps use as a genealogical tool can help break through brick walls. You may also visit www.scchgs.org for further society information.

26 January Tuesday 1:00 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. Meetings are held in the MacMurdo Hall downstairs. Plans are well underway for developing a “German-American Genealogical Collaboration.” Herr Weissleder will offer an overview of how such coordination of efforts will benefit US Researchers. As President of the German Federation of Genealogical Societies, Dirk Weissleder leads the joint effort to form a permanent German-American genealogy structure between countries and organizations for the purpose of sharing contact, research facilities and other research opportunities. ■

Families are like fudge... mostly sweet with a few nuts.

~Author Unknown

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Let's welcome 2016 by broadening our knowledge!



The California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org as usual is providing a variety of learning sessions.

- On Thurs., Jan. 7th the **Roots Magic Discussion** group will meet from 2-4.
- On Sat., Jan. 16th the **San Francisco SIG** will gather from 10 – 11:30. Register online.
- Also on Sat, Jan. 16th, the new **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1-3. Register online.
- On Sat., Jan. 30th from 10 – 12 Pam Britt will present “**On the Road Again: Practical Tips for Successful On-Site Research**”. Register online.
- Also on Sat., the 30th, from 1-3 there will be a presentation on the “**French Canadian Family History**”. Register online.
- February starts with the “**Introduction to Genealogy**” class on Sat., Feb. 6th from 1-3. Register online.

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



This month the Oakland Family Search Library, <https://familysearch.org>, offers support.

- On Sat., Jan. 23rd, our own Bill George will lead the **Mac Gen. Users** monthly meeting at 1:30.
- On Wed., Jan. 27th Alvis Ward Jr. will guide the **African American Research Workshop** at 6 PM.
- On Thursdays throughout the month ►

from 1-4 Beryl and Wade will provide individual assistance on **Swedish research**.



The Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd. offers how-to classes from January through September on the third Saturday from 10-1:30. There is no charge and pre-registration is not required. For questions, contact Jackie Hein at 925-827-4729.

- On Sat., Jan 9th from 10-11:30 Diana King will present “**Census Records: some of the how's, why's, and tips of using census records**”.

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

Enjoy learning from home?



The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS) www.scsgsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- On Sat., Jan. 2nd, from 10 – 11 Jill Morelli will present “**The ‘Push’ and ‘Pull’ Decision-making of the 19th Century Emigrant**”.
- On Wed Jan. 20th, from 6-7 Diahna Southard will present “**Making YDNA and mtDNA Part of your Family History**”.
- On Sat., Feb. 6th, from 10-11, Tom Underhill will present “**Scanning and Photo Retouching for Beginners**”.

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 Genealogical Society (ilgensoc.org) continues its webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public.

- On Tues., Jan. 12th, at 8 pm Central, Drew Smith will present **“Organizing Your Genealogy Research Process”**. To register go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8573458780274373378>



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) www.Americanancestors.org/education/online-classes 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. **EDUCATION**.

- On Thurs., Jan. 21st at 12 PST Alice Kane will present **“Chinese American Genealogy”**. Register online.
- On Tues. Jan. 26th Rhonda R. McClure will present **“Choosing a Genealogical Software Program”**. Register online
- NEHGS will hold a series of classes entitled *“Writing and Publishing Your Family History”* on Wed. Jan. 13th, 20th, 27th, Feb. 3rd and 10th at 3 PST. Cost \$115. Register online.

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



Ancestry.com has recently launched FREE courses at the Ancestry Academy. More than a half a dozen courses 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> ►



From an article by Gena Philibert-Ortega here are some other 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:

- Jan. 26th from 1 - 2:30 The Sacramento German Genealogy Society, www.sgggs.us will present **“The Plan for Collaboration between German and American Societies”** by Dirth Weissleder of Hanover, Germany at St. Marks United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Mars Way, Sacramento.
- Feb. 3-6, 2016 **Rootstech** in Salt Lake City.
- Sat. Apr. 2nd, Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society www.ccngs.org **2016 History Seminar**.
- May 4th - 7th, **NGS 2016 Family History Conference** in Fort Lauderdale.
- June 3 - 5; Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree in Burbank. ■



Danville Family History Discovery Day Fair

Please save Saturday March 5th, 2015 9:30 am - 1:30 pm as our Danville Family History Staff will be hosting their first *Discovery Day Fair*. The event will be for the entire family and will start with a keynote address, "*How to bring FAMILY into Family History*" followed by booths, activities, hands on exhibits, story time, presentations from RootsTech, Boy Scout merit badge workshop, etc. SRVGS is participating and we hope you will want to get involved and share your passion and knowledge of family history. Many of our Society's Board of Directors will be attending and volunteering at our two booths. The event will be held at the Danville Stake Center, 655 Old Orchard Road, Danville, CA 94526. Please contact Bill George if you would like to help out at wiliamcgeorge@gmail.com. ■

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 is another by Francie Lloyd. A complete list of the society's books is provided in your Handbook or can be downloaded from the Society's web site at: http://srvgensoc.org/resources/SRVGS_Danville_Library_Booklist.pdf

IRISH RECORDS SOURCES FOR FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY.

Ryan. Ancestry. 1997.

State records of Irish births and marriages generally did not begin until 1864. The Catholic church, in most cases, did not record these events until after 1800. Ryan gives a list of available records, by county, by the following subjects: "A Brief History; Census and Census Substitutes; Church Records; Commercial and Social Directories; Family History; Gravestone Inscriptions; Newspapers; Wills and Administrations; Miscellaneous Sources; and Research Sources and Services." ■

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ted Shapas

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NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Calendar Coordinator:

Vern Segelke

srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Mailing: Sally Germain & Mary Tom

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 and the month of August

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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