



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXII No. 5 November - 2016

THIS MONTH – November 15, 2016

LIES, LIES AND DAMN LIES: Can DNA Solve my Paternal Lineage ? ”

Presented by: Jeffery Vaillant



Jeffery Vaillant lived for some 60 years as a Vaillant only to learn that it ain't so paternally. He focuses first on the discovery of a family surname change and the research it entailed. In the second part he focuses on the process of search for a willing Y-DNA donor to solve his case. Do you have a similar situation? Do you want a chance to compare notes about convincing a potential cousin to take a DNA test.

Jeffery Vaillant is an engaging speaker who will entertain you with the discussion of his journey. Jeffrey currently serves as the President of the Sonoma County Genealogical Society. He is an active member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and is currently working toward his professional certification.

From the October Mini-Seminar

“ Read All about It!: Using Online Newspapers for Genealogical Research”

Presented by Janice Sellars

Reporter: Russ Erickson



In the 1700s and 1800s, seek legal, national and local news, ads. During and after the Civil War, printing presses were mechanized and papers expanded; travel and mail was eased and large papers traveled further. Small papers concentrated on more local news to survive. Look for both large and smaller papers, even neighborhood news with details on people. Ethnic news

spread in late 1800s and early 1900s. In locals, look for club news, businesses, jobs, gossip, military service, births, marriages, and deaths, construction, photos.

On line are NewsBank, ProQuest, and Gale-all institutional and expensive. Family Search accesses News Archives, covering most. Fold3.com has many, but no new added now. For 19th centu-



Janice Sellers

ry British news, Ancestry.com Library edition. Check World Vital Records.com. FindMyPast (index only). There are collections in the CGS library. GenealogyBank.com is good, Newspapers.com (Ancestry) and NEHGS for 19th century and earlier news--all are scattered.

Use News Archive at the FHC, do not buy it. Newspapers.com is best at mid-20th century newspapers. Genealogy Bank has good obits. Check the Library of Congress for "Chronicling America" The California Digital News collection is good for our state. SmallTownPapers.com is mostly current. FultonHistory.com is free for NY and other states, but is a "clunky site". Google News Archive site might be deleted, check it soon; cannot download entire pages. Check Obituaries.com. The Way Back Machine (Internet Archive) varies. USGenWeb.org and en.wikipedia.org/wiki/newspapers_archives online; another site. Cyndislist/newspapers, NewspaperMap.com (will translate languages!), Elephind.com search engine are others. Check WorldCat.org. Most sites have images and index; some only index, but many tell you where to look.

Historical news is usually done with OCR; 95 to 98% accurate, if pristine, but depends on original condition. With OCR, letters can be misread. Words used long ago might also be hyphenated. Recheck databases periodically, they add information constantly. Check Wikipedia Online News Archive. There are no "sounds like" options with newspapers sites and names are misspelled not infrequently. Ms. Sellers went through many newspaper article examples. If not online, seek Interlibrary Loans for newspapers. The UC Berkeley library has a large holding. Google News "about this news" lists holdings. Seek microfilm service copies; the cost is small. Check "US News Directory."

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Murray and Astrid Eiland

Gene Block

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

Announcing the Annual SRVGS Holiday Cookie Exchange!

December is cookie time! Come join in the fun of a relaxing morning of genealogy conversation. Bring a batch, or two, of your favorite cookies - some to be shared and some so that everyone has cookies to take home. We will also have soup, veggies, coffee, and tea. If baking is not your thing - Oreos are mighty good. **Tuesday, 6 Dec 2017, 10 - noon**, at the home of Francie Lloyd in Danville - see your SRVGS Handbook for the address and contact information.





President's Message

By Ted Shapas



With so much focus on the upcoming elections, it's been hard to notice that the holiday season is right around the corner. In many cases, this means family gatherings, sometimes accompanied by travel to be with relatives you might not see very often. While the holidays can be hectic, they are also perfect for setting aside some quality time and holding family history interviews. Even though you may have already found all the vital statistics on your Aunt Gertrude, what you may be missing are the colorful family stories that won't appear in any online search, stories that will disappear unless you engage Aunt Gertrude in a dialogue.

What can you do to prepare? A Google search for "oral history interview" will reveal many lists of good questions to ask your relatives. Write or call ahead of your visit to warm up your interviewee to the notion of helping create their and your family history. For the interview, find a quiet spot away from the holiday ruckus. Some icebreakers might include old keepsakes, letters, or photographs. Besides a pen and paper, a handy device for these sessions is a simple digital voice recorder - you won't miss a word. Try it out ahead of time, though, since you do want it to work with a simple click of a button.

In case you hadn't noticed, none of us are getting any younger, so don't be afraid to assume the role of the one being interviewed. Find another family member who is interested in your family's history, and meet with them. Surely you have some great stories, too!

Happy holidays, and don't forget the Cookie Exchange at 10AM Tuesday, December 6th, at Francie Lloyd's place.



SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

NOTE: For San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Special Interest Group contact information refer to your Society Handbook. For schedules, visit our 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.

Special Note:



The German Research group will be meeting on the fifth Wednesday, November 30th.



The Legacy SIG will not meet in November.



Ancestry/Family Tree Maker – Monday, November 7th (the 1st Monday) **1:15 pm – 3 pm** at the Danville Family History Center.

Study records and family trees using the Ancestry.com web site and learn how to use Family Tree Maker software. **Susan Rush** is the SIG leader. You may contact Susan at gen4you@astound.net.



FamilySearch - Monday, November 14th (the second Monday), 1:15 pm – 3 pm at the Danville Family History Center.

Learn how to search records and study Family Trees on the FamilySearch.org web site. In November we will be "rebooting" and reviewing the whole FamilySearch web site. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader. williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Irish Research - The SIG meets early this month, Wednesday, November 2nd (normally it meets on the second Wednesday) 10 am – 12pm, at the home of Russ and

Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is SIG Leader. You may contact Patty at russpat@comcast.net.



Legacy Family Tree – No meeting in November. We will be back in January. The group discusses how the Legacy genealogy program works and is for beginners as well as experi-

enced Legacy users. Sharon Clay is the SIG Leader and can be contacted at sharonlclay@comcast.net.



Azores Research – Wednesday November 16th (the 3rd Wednesday), **1:15 pm – 3 pm at the Danville Family History Center.** Get help solving some of your research issues and get tips for researching ancestors from the Azores Islands. **Diane George** is the SIG leader. digeorge38@hotmail.com.



Publishing – Thursday November 17th (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.



German Research – Wednesday November 30th, (moved to the fifth Wednesday because of Thanksgiving) **10 am at Helen Odegard's home.** Please contact Helen at odegardsh@gmail.com if you plan to attend the meeting.

The **Danville Family History Center** is located at **2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo, CA 94507, Phone: 925-552-5920.**

Individual phone numbers and email addresses, can be found in the SRVGS Handbook made available annually to all members of the Society.

EDUCATION IN NOVEMBER

By: Kathy Javdani

November is definitely about family with opportunities to learn and share.



This month the California Genealogical Society www.CaliforniaAncestors.org (CGS) again offers a number of learning sessions. For all the following activities, register online:

- November programs begin on Sat., Nov. 5th from 9-3:30 with the **Cyndi Ingle Seminar** at Preservation Park in Oakland. Due to this special event, the Introduction to Genealogy class in November will be cancelled.
- On Sat., the 12h from 1 -3 Tim Cox will present **"Become a Gmail Ninja."**
- On Nov. 19th, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 -12:30.
- In addition, on the 19th, the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1-4.
- From Nov. 13th – 20th, there will be a **NA-RA / Washington, D.C. Research Trip.** Check the CGS website for details.
- Sat., Dec. 3rd from 1-3 there is the monthly gathering of **Introduction to Genealogy.**

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 FamilySearch Library, <https://familysearch.org>, offers the following support :

- On Sat., Nov. 5th at 11, there will be a **Personal History Workshop** which will guide you in writing opportunities.
- On Wed., Nov. 9th our Bill George will lead the **Mac Users Workshop** from 7-8 PM.
- On Thur., Nov. 10th at 1 there will be a presentation entitled **"Lore, Lies, and Logic"** which will evaluate internet sources, pedigree charts for possible errors. Timelines and use of citations will also be included.
- On Wed., Nov. 16th at 6:30 Janice Sellers will present **"Bubbie, Who Are You?: Finding the Maiden Names in Your Family Tree."**
- On Thurs., Nov. 3rd, 10th, 17th and Dec. 1st, from 1-4 Beryl and Wade Olofson will provide individual assistance on **Swedish research.** No appointment is necessary.

- On Sat., Oct. 22nd, at 11, there will be an overview of what is available at the Oakland Family Search Library and on Family Search entitled "Let's Start at the Very Beginning."
- 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., Nov. 5th, from 10 – 11 Barbara Randall will present "**Weaving the Research Quilt.**"
- On Wed., Nov. 16th from 6-7 Tammy Hepps will present "**The Ancestor Deep Dive: How You Can Find Out Everything There Possibly is to Know About Your Ancestor.**"

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

- "**Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides National Archives Website**" 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., Nov. 8th at 8 pm Central, George G. Morgan will discuss **Principles of Effective Evidence Analysis**. Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5160689038658812674>



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 Coordinator Ginevra Morse at gmorse@nehgs.org. Exclusively for NEHGS members:

- On Tues., Nov., 15th, at 12, Sarah Liebenrood will discuss "**Get the Most Out of Your NEHGS Membership.**" Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the free events will be posted to the NEHGS website the following day.



Ancestry.com has 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>



Legacy Family Tree Webinars <http://www.familytreewebinars.com/>. Go to FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register.

This month's webinars include:

- Wed., Nov. 2nd, at 11A "**Analysis and Correlation: Two Keys to Sound Conclusions**" by Chris Staats
- Fri., Nov. 4th at 11A "**PedigreeMap- An Interactive Map of Your Family History**" by Uri Gonen
- Wed., Nov. 9th, at 5P "**Publishing a Genealogy E-Book**" by Thomas MacEntee.
- Tues., Nov. 15 at 5P "**Civil Law Notaries - Using Notarial Records to Build a Family History**" by Melanie D. Holtz, CG
- Wed., Nov. 16th at 7, "**Dating Family Pho-**



tographs” by Jane Neff Rollins.

- Fri., Nov. 18th, at 7 “**Nature & Nurture: Family History for Adoptees**” by Janet Hovorka and Amy Stade
- Wed., Nov. 30th at 7 “**Multi-media Story Telling**” by Devin Ashby.

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/> (See above)
- **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:

- On Thurs., Nov. 10th at 7P the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caccgcs/> will hold its monthly meeting at the Concord Family History Center, 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. Lisa Gorrell will speak on Teaching Moment “**Census Columns You Might Have overlooked**” and Malinda Kashuba will discuss “**Finding Railroad Records.**”
- On Fri., Nov. 18th at 10 the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Katherine Borges will speak on “**DNA Analyses in Pursuit of One’s Ancestry.**” In addition, Phyllis O’Shea will do a mini-presentation on her ancestors who were sea captains in 1839.
- On Feb. 8th -11th, 2017 the Rootstech Conference www.10times.com/rootstech will be held in Salt Lake City.
- On Sat., Apr. 22nd from 9-4 the Sonoma County Genealogical Society will hold

their 2017 Spring Seminar at the Person Auditorium at the Finley Center at 2060 West College Ave. at Stoney Point Rd., Santa Rosa. Thomas W. Jones will give 4 lectures. Contact Audrey Herman, Sono-ma.seminar@gmail.com for further details.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

November 2016

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

December 2015

Our Society will not meet in December. Enjoy the Holiday season and look forward to meeting again in January 2017. The next Board meeting is to be held on Tuesday January 3, 2017.

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

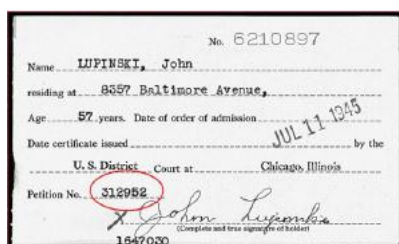
Thursday: 10:00am - 1:00pm



MINI-ED

By: Ted Shapas

A few questions came up after my Mini-Ed on Naturalization Documents at the October general meeting. I pointed to an ancestor's P or Petition Number as being an important key to locating documents online, especially free ones via Family Search, but I wasn't clear on how to find it. You can sometimes find this P-number by doing a general name search and limiting the results to Immigration and Naturalization. If we do this on Family Search for John Lupinski, my relative, we find, among other things, this small Naturalization Index card containing his Petition No. 312952.



We can now go to Family Search Collections > Naturalization > Illinois, Northern District Petitions for Naturalization,

where over 2 million naturalization documents are listed but not indexed.

So, we click on "browse through 2,046,215 images", then "Cook County". It would be a really big chore scrolling through this entire repository looking for John Lupinski, but fortunately, they are arranged by P-number.

Petitions, 1944-1945, v. 1258, no. 312851-313075

So we go to the folder V. 1258 containing P-312952, and scroll until we find that number on the upper right corner of John Lupinski's Petition for Naturalization. Next to it is an entire set of his records!

You may not be so lucky, depending on when or where your ancestor went through the naturalization process, and whether you can actually find their Petition Number. Not every jurisdiction has things arranged on Family Search as yet, but that's bound to improve over time, and at some point, the records themselves will likely be available in complete indexed form.

Here is the link I mentioned - it leads to a great set of resources on Naturalization for all time periods.

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Naturalization_and_Citizenship#Naturalization_After_1906

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ted Shapas

president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Russ Erickson

2nd V.P. Programs:

Wayne Mortensen

programs@srvgensoc.org

Suzanne Johnston

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3rd V.P. Membership:

Bob Thompson

membership@srvgensoc.org

Recording Secretary:

(Vacant)

Corresponding Secretary:

Barbara Shapas

srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Treasurer: Steve Watty

treasurer@srvgensoc.org

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter

editor@srvgensoc.org

Calendar Coordinator:

Bill George

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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