



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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THIS MONTH – January 17, 2017
“Focused Research: Using Research Plans ”
Presented by: Lisa Gorrell



Do you feel like your research just goes in circles, that you keep finding the same information, or you have brick walls you can't solve? Being focused in your research will bring better results. This can be done by using research plans. Lisa Gorrell will explain how to create and use a research plan to help keep you on focus in your research and get better results.

Lisa Gorrell is a graduate of the ProGen program and an alumnus of the following genealogical institutes: Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, and the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research in Birmingham, Alabama. She teaches genealogy courses, lectures to societies, and researches for others. She is a former Recording Secretary for the California Genealogical Society, a board member with the Contra Costa Historical Society and volunteer at their archives at the History Center in Martinez, and a past-president of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society. She has also been tour leader with the California Genealogy Society's research trip to Salt Lake City. 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/>. She has also written a three-generation family history about her husband's Swedish ancestors. ■



From the November Meeting
“LIES, LIES AND DAMN LIES:
Can DNA Solve my Paternal Lineage? “

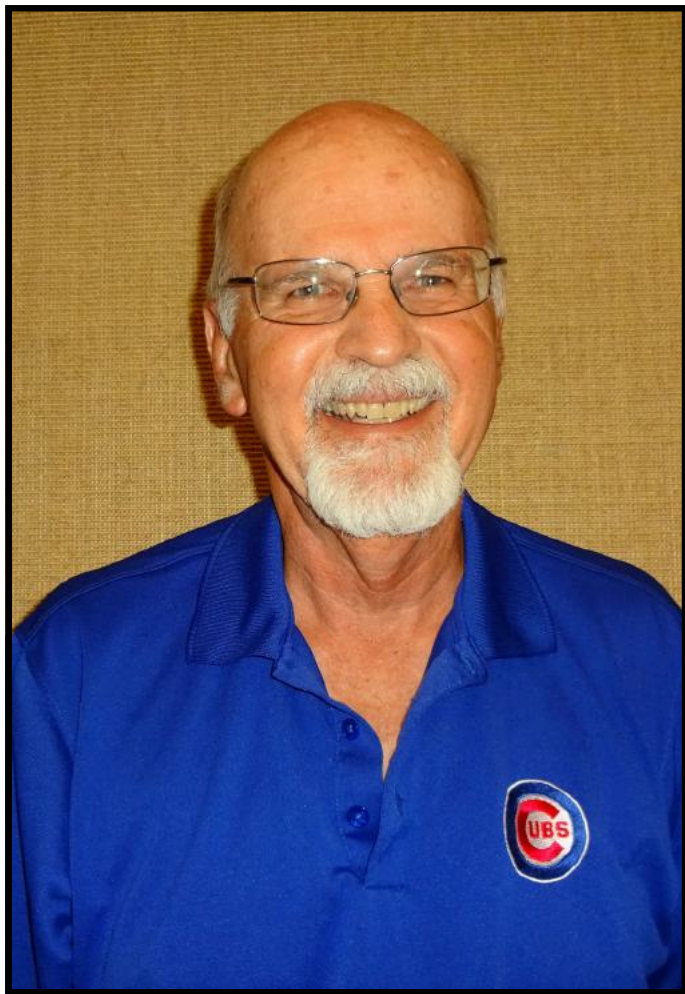
Presented by: Jeffery Vaillant Reporter: Jean Hunt



Our speaker Jeffery Vaillant is currently the President of the Sonoma County Genealogical Society and an active member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. He is also working toward his professional certificate.

Jeffery can tell a great story and did at our

November meeting. Like all of us, he had some information to start with, some expectations of what he might find and an idea of where he would have to search to put the *meat on the bones*, so to speak. The results were that his researching his own surname was full of unexpected and ►



(Photo by: Carol Satterthwaite)

Jeffery Vaillant

unwanted surprises.

Though the volume of documentation was impressive it only pointed out to him that several someones in his family ancestry had boldly, without recourse to legality, changed the family name from Veneziano to Vaillant.

It was soon apparent to him that to prove his line he would have to resort to DNA testing.

By changing his research direction he soon located siblings of his suspected grandfather Augusto Veneziano, who also had migrated to the United States. He was able to put together a list of cousins willing to do DNA testing with him. He spent months dealing with the complications of cousin finding, cousin convincing and cousin testing.

There are several tests offered from **Family-treeDNA**. One is Y-DNA, which produces a direct paternal line, inheritance, a Haplotype, a ►

Haplogroup and, by adding varied numbers of test markers, will add or subtract to the total costs.

There is also the Autosomal test and the Mitochondrial DNA test. Mitochondria passes from a mother to all her children, regardless of gender and only females can pass it on to the next generation. This test will also determine the mtDNA Haplotype and mtDNA Haplogroup.

Ancestry.com offers Autosomal DNA tests, the DNA received from both parents. These are good for 4-6 generations. Another company offering DNA testing is **23andme.com**.

Jeffery expressed his high regard for the use of DNA researching by quoting Judy Russell of The Legal Genealogist, <http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2015/05/24/circling-the-shews/> "Only with the paper trail can DNA become genealogical evidence."

In finishing, Jeffery had a number of the DNA report results generated by his requested tests which, led to his conclusion that there was shared DNA among the cousins he chose to test.

The last photos shown to us were of Augusto Veneziano's wife Mary Branca Veneziano Vaillant and another family snapshot of Mary, with her two daughters June and Francesca flanking her and son Benjamin sitting at her feet. Jeffery has titled this one "The Conspirators".

It didn't seem as if he was ready to forgive them any time soon. ■

Genealogy Research Assistance

Do you need research Help?

Bring your questions to the

Danville Public Library

10:00 until noon

Monthly on the Fourth Tuesday.

**Society Members will be available
to help you with your search.**



President's Message

By Ted Shapas



I recently had an unusual family history experience I thought I'd share. I met my Uncle Al only once when I was a young child, and never knew much about him, although a few photos of him survived in a family album. Around New Year's 1999, just as I had established letter contact with Al, I received a call from one of his neighbors. My uncle had just passed away, and the neighbor wanted to know if I'd be interested in some of his papers and photos. I said of course, and during the next month two large envelopes arrived, stuffed with notes and photos about my family. Included was a short letter, written by my father to his brother Al, announcing the birth of a child - me!

The two envelopes were a treasure trove of information and photos I had never seen before. The neighbor, helping to clean out my uncle's apartment, found our Christmas card on his table and tracked us down via the return address.

Fast forward to this holiday season. As it turns out, Al had befriended the young son of these neighbors. The son is now in his 30s and is a part-time country-western musician. He sent me a text message that included a link to a YouTube music video; he had composed a song as a tribute to my uncle, referring to various times when Al had helped this man out. So an unexpected and unusual holiday present - a song about a close relative, composed by his friend.

The lesson for me is that it's not only relatives and online databases that can help with your family history - sometimes great information comes to us from the remarkable kindness of strangers. Here's to great genealogy success in 2017! ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

January 2017

- 3 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was 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.

February 2017

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

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.

Changes to the schedule this month :

- The Family Tree Maker/Ancestry Group will meet on the 3rd Monday due to the holiday on the first Monday.
- Azores SIG is on hiatus due to illness, hopefully to resume in April.



FamilySearch - Monday, January 9th (the 2nd 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 January we will be finishing our review of the FamilySearch web site, covering images, stories and audios. Bill George is the SIG Leader. williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Irish Research - Wednesday January 11th (the 2nd 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.



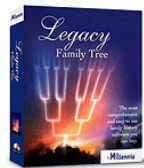
Family Tree Maker/Ancestry – Monday, January 16th **1:15 pm – 3 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center.** Study records and

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.



Publishing – Thursday January 19th (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.



Legacy Family Tree – Monday, January 23rd (the 4th Monday) **from 1:15 pm - 3 pm.** The group discusses how the Legacy genealogy program works and is for

beginners as well as experienced Legacy users. Sharon Clay is the SIG Leader and can be contacted at: sharonlclay@comcast.net.



German Research – Wednesday January 25th (4th Wednesday) **10 am** at **Dorothy Baker's home.** Please contact Helen at

odegardsh@gmail.com if you plan to attend. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Happy New Year! Let's resolve that our brick walls will crumble in 2017 because of our new learning.



This year's learning opportunities begin with the California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org. For all the following activities, register online:

- On Thurs. Jan. 5th from 2 - 4 p.m. the **RootsMagic SIG** meets.
- On Sat., Jan. 7th from 10:15 - 12:15 the **Intro To Genealogy** class meets.
- Later on the 7th from 1 - 3 p.m. the **DNA SIG** holds its meeting.
- On Sat., Jan. 21st the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 - 11:30 a.m.
- In addition, on the 21st, the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1 - 3 p.m.
- On Sat., the 28th from 1 – 3:30 p.m. there will be a presentation on **New York City Genealogy**.
- February begins with the RootsMagic SIG meeting on Thurs, the 2nd, followed by **Intro to Genealogy** and the **DNA SIG** on Sat., Feb. 4th. All meet at the same times as their Jan. sessions.

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 the following support :

- On Wed. Jan. 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and Feb. 1st from 6 - 9 p.m., there will be a **Hispanic Research Workshop**. ►

- On Wed., Jan. 11th our Bill George will lead the **Mac Users Workshop** from 7 - 8 p.m.
- On Wed., Jan. 18th, from 1 - 3 p.m., Patricia Burrow, will present **Legacy Planning: What Happens To Your Research After You are Gone**. Pre-register atfhcoakland@gmail.com or 510-531-3905.
- On Thurs. Jan. 19th, from 11 - 12, Debbie Smith will present **Introduction to the Digital Public Library of America (Website)**.
- On Thurs., Jan. 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th and Feb. 2nd, from 10 - 4 p.m. Beryl and Wade Olofson will provide individual assistance on **Swedish research**. No appointment is necessary.
- On Sunday, Jan. 22nd, at 12:30 p.m. the SFBAJGS meeting's speaker will be Ralph Samuel. He will speak on his own story, **A Kindertransport Survivor Tells His Story**.
- On Wed., Jan. 25th from 6 - 8 p.m. Alvis Ward Jr. will lead the **African American Research Workshop**.

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. 7th, from 10 – 11 a.m. Nick Cimino will present **Chain Migration from Ulster and One Name Studies**.
- On Wed Jan. 18th at 6 p.m., Carl A. Taplin will discuss **Who Lived Next Door? Using the FAN Club in your Research**. ►

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., Jan. 10th at 8 p.m. Central, Jill Morelli will discuss **Finding Dirk: Records of Insane Asylums in Illinois**. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1270444282472510721>



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.

- On Thurs., Jan 19th, at 12 PST Lindsay Fulton will present **Using and Evaluating Mug Books for Family History Research**. Register on-line.

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 offers a number of free webinars each month. Go to FamilyTree-Webinars.com to register. This month's webinars include:

- Wed., Jan. 4th, at 11 a.m., **Strategies to Find the Most Challenging Ancestors with Autosomal DNA Data** by James M. Baker
- Wed., Jan. 11th, at 5 p.m., **Tips and Tricks to Organizing Your Genealogy** by Shannon Combs-Bennett
- Fri., Jan. 13th at 11 a.m., **Legacy Family Tree for Complete Beginners** by Geoff Rasmussen
- Tues., Jan. 17th, at 5 p.m., **Writing Up Your Research** by Michael J. LeClerc
- Wed., Jan. 18th at 11 a.m. **Create a Free Google Earth Historic Map Collection for Your Research** by Lisa Louise Cooke
- Wed., Jan. 25th, at 11a.m., **Playing Nice in the Genealogy Sandbox** by Thomas MacEntee.
- Wed., Feb. 1st, at 11 a.m., **Photography for Genealogy** by Nicka Smith



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

- 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%20Kempe/Genealogy_Boot_Camp/Player.html

Save the date:

- On Thurs., Jan. 12th at 7 p.m., 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. This month's speaker will be Linda Magellan who will discuss **DNA for Beginners**.
- On Fri., Jan. 20th at 10 a.m., the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Kim von Aspern-Parker will talk speak on **"Finding Women"**. In addition, Phyllis O'Shea will provide 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, Sonoma.seminar@gmail.com for further details.
- On Fri. – Sun., Jun 9th-11th the Southern California Genealogy Society Jamboree will be held in Burbank. See www.genealogyjamboree.com for details. ■





(Photo by Ted Shapas)

SRVGS Annual Cookie Exchange

Just some of the holiday delights enjoyed at the cookie exchange last month. Too bad if you missed it. ■

DANVILLE LIBRARY BOOK COLLECTION

The following books have been added to the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society's book collection at the Danville Public Library and are now available for your use:

- Virginia in the American Revolution R929.1072. Grundset
- Massachusetts and Maine in the American Revolution R929.1072. Grundset
- DAR Library Catalog V. 2 R929.20973. Daughters
- DAR Library Catalog V. 3 R929.20973 Daughters
- Calendar of New Jersey Wills Vol IX R929.3749 ■

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ted Shapas

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2nd V.P. Programs:

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Recording Secretary:

(Vacant)

Corresponding Secretary:

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srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Treasurer: Steve Watty

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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

Closed on Holidays and the month of August

FHC Director:Teresa Coons coonieclan@sbcglobal.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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