



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIII No. 8 March - 2018



THIS MONTH – March 20, 2018
**"Irish Research:
Finding the Bump in the Boreen "**
Presented by: Sean Michael Conley



Mr. Conley will discuss various topics related to Irish genealogy. A discussion on Irish surnames, details on geography and breaking down brick walls in finding the origins of an ancestor within 60,000 townlands of Ireland. Discussion on translation and Irish spelling variants will also be discussed in addition to using various resources available on the internet to assist with research. A demonstration will be given on using Griffith's Valuation to locate an ancestral home and use it in conjunction with Google maps to take a virtual tour of the area.

Sean Conley was born and raised in California. He has a B.S. in Economics from Santa Clara University and an M.B.A. in Finance-Investments. He has worked in high technology his entire professional career. He has studied various languages including French, German, Italian and Irish.

He has been doing genealogical research for over 30 years. Born and raised within a very large Hiberno-Californian family, he knew 4 of his great grandparents and all of his grandparents, all with Irish ancestry. He has visited Ireland 15 times since then and has studied Irish in County Donegal as well as the Bay Area. He has successfully found many ancestral homes of both his wife and his ancestors. In addition, he has traced the townland, parishes and native counties of many other ancestors. ■



From the February Meeting
"Discovering your German Roots
The Great Migration: 1815-1914"
Presented by: Robert Jackson
Reported By: Russ Erickson

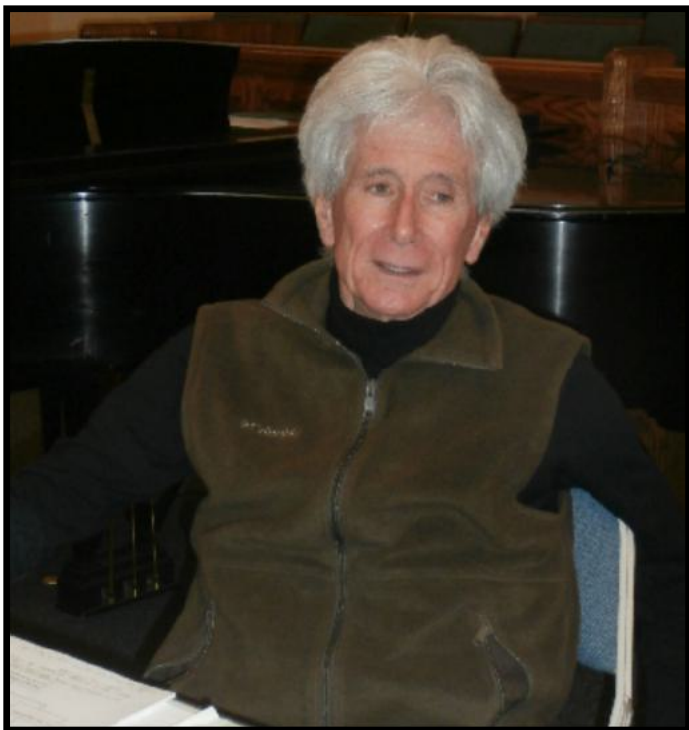


Internet sites noted: Archion.de (de for Deutschland)--\$140 yearly or go to Oakland LDS church for use. Wikitree is global.

Rootsweb is now under repair, but good when it gets back. Dr. Jackson demonstrated use

of marriage and burial records in depth.

In Germany, the 30 year war in the 1600s destroyed many records (as well as MANY people). Going back further is hard genealogically. Early history shows most people as farmers or ►



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

Robert Jackson

laborers. In Germany, those interested in genealogy as here, are rare.

Seek a local genealogist or historian for help once you reach back to Germany. The key is to locate an ancestor's village, then parish.

To research records, you need to know only 50 to 80 words in German. Be flexible; spelling often varies, hand writing can be a challenge, there are 3 given names, but people sometimes changed one. Given names were given most often by godparents, as they took in children if parents deceased or could not cope. Pastors often made mistakes in names. Men when married sometimes took the wife's surname, especially if she might inherit a farm. The youngest son most often inherited, being home longer, but a daughter with a good husband could as well (30%). Postman's Guide books, as in 1911, can be very helpful for finding people and addresses.

One needs parish church books for records to the late 1800s. Many were destroyed in East Germany in WWII. Catholic records are not as likely to be on-line and records are not as good as Protestant churches. After 1875, less are on line for privacy reason.

Before going to Germany, seek USA church records if feasible. Marriage licenses give good data even for parents of bride and groom, except when marriage involved a widow or ►

widower, when the deceased spouse might instead be listed.

Burial records have more family information than birth records, so check them first. Remember, birth, marriage, and death records could occur in different parishes.

LDS church has Parish record books on line, especially south Germany. There are few for Hanover and Brandenburg. Almost all Protestant church records are now on line or will be by 2019. Land records in Germany are in Archives, which are seldom open, then briefly, and need an expert



President's Message

By Ted Shapas



Please don't forget that SRVGS is in the midst of its annual efforts to find members to help run our organization. Several people are being "termed out" of their posts (to be replaced in June),

and anyway, why should they have all the fun?! Our Nominating Committee (**Steve Watty, Francie Lloyd, and Sande Burns**) has been busy identifying likely candidates, but if you have a little extra time and an interest in helping this great organization, please contact any of them for more information or to put your hat in the ring. Upcoming openings include, but aren't limited to: **First Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Chair, another member of the Program Committee, and Audio Visual Coordinator**. If you've held an SRVGS position before, that's OK, we'd love to have you back. Never held a position? Don't worry, the jobs are pretty easy, fun, and you'll receive lots of help as you learn the ropes! ■





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

March 2018

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

April 2018

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

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Gary Lee Darnsteadt

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

Genealogy Research Assistance

Do you need research Help?

Bring your questions to the

Danville Public Library

10:00 a.m. until noon

Monthly on the Fourth Tuesday.

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

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://www.srvgensoc.org/sig.html>.

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.



FamilySearch - Monday, March 12th (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. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader. williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



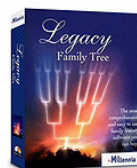
Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday March 14th (the 2nd Wednesday) **10 am – 12pm**, at the **home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill**. Patty Erickson is SIG Leader. You may contact Patty at russpat@comcast.net.



Publishing – Thursday March 15th (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.



Family Tree Maker/Ancestry – Monday, March 19th (the third 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.



Legacy Family Tree – Monday, March 26th (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 March 28th, (4th Wednesday). **NOTE: This month the group meets for its annual luncheon at**

D. J.s Bistro in Concord at 11:30 a.m. Please contact Helen at odegardsh@gmail.com if you plan to attend so she can make reservations. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

This month let's march to new learning.



As usual the month begins with the California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org. For all the following activities, register online:

- On Sat., Mar. 3rd with Intro to Genealogy from 10:15 a.m. — 12:15 p.m.
- On Wed., Mar. 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th from 6—8:30 p.m., there will be a session of the **Building Skills Series**. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/n934jn9>. These sessions meet at the Oakland Family History Library.
- On Thurs., Mar. 8th from 5:45 – 8:35 p.m., there will be a **Special Event with the California Historical Society** at 678 Mission St. in San Francisco. View the CHS Alexander Hamilton and Early California exhibits, then hear Bill Cole talk about the 1864 Bullion Bend Stagecoach Robbery a unique California happening. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/y8whue4u>
- On Sat. the 17th from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., the **San Francisco SIG** will meet.
- Also on Sat., the 17th the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1—3 p.m.
- On Sat., the 24th from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., there will be an **Irish Ancestry Network MeetUp**. ►

- Also on the 24th from 1—2:30 p.m., there will be a presentation on **Irish Townlands**. Register online.
- April meetings begin on Sat. the 7th with **Intro to Genealogy** from 10:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m. . This will be followed from 1—4 p.m., by the **DNA Study Group**.

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://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland California familySearch Library](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_familySearch_Library), offers the following support:

- On Wed., Mar. 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th from 6—8:30 p.m., in coordination with CGS there will be a session of the **Building Skills Series**. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/n934jn9> or contact Maureen Hanlon at mhanlon@californiaancestors.org.
- On Wed., the 14th, from 7—8 p.m., the **Mac Users Workshop** will meet.
- On Sun., Mar. 18th from 12—3 p.m., Steve Morse will be the speaker at the **SFBAJGS** meeting. Contact Barry Klezmer at 415-740-9909 for further information.
- On Wed., the 28th from 6—8 p.m., Alvis Ward will lead the **African American Research Workshop**.

You can check the Family Search website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars. February's numerous webinars are listed at: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars

Enjoy learning more 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:

- On Sat., March 10th from 10-11 a.m., Peggy Clemens Lauitzen will share **The Scots-Irish Migration Into North America.**
- On Wed., Mar. 21st from 6-7 p.m., Emily Garber will present **When It Takes a Village: Applying Cluster Research Techniques.**
- On Sat., April 7th from 10-11 a.m., Michelle Goodrum will discuss **Land Records: Using Indexes & Deeds to Move Your Research Forward.**

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.
- Neither Filmed or Scanned: NARA Treasurers Await by Kerry Bartels
- Military Records at the National Archives by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- The Many Facets of the National Archives Website by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- How to Get the Most Out of a Genealogy Conference by George Morgan.
- National Archives Website Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.



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

- On Tues., Mar. 13th, at 8 p.m. Central, Lisa Alzo will share **Finding Clues for Your Immigrant Ancestors in Ethnic Newspapers and Publications.** Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5780153904231740931> ►



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., Mar., 15th from 12-1 p.m., Lindsay Fulton, Director of Research Service, will present **Creating a Research Plan: Tips from NEHGS Research Services.** Register online.

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 many courses at the Ancestry Academy. Some 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 numerous free webinars every month. Go to FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register. March's webinars include:

- On Wed., Mar., 7th from 11 a.m.—12 noon, Mary Hill will present **Overcoming Brick Walls Caused by Record Loss.**
- On Fri. Mar. 9th from 11 a.m.—12 noon, Denise May Levernick will discuss **Secrets in the Attic: Break Down Brick Walls With Home Sources.**
- On Tues., Mar. 13th from 11 a.m.—12 noon, MyHeritage Webinars will share **True Stories of Families Reunited Thanks to Genetic Genealogy.** ►

- On Wed., Mar. 14th from 5—6 p.m., Cyndi Ingle will discuss **The Case of the Broken Link: Decoding the URL**.
- On Tues., Mar. 20th from 5—6 p.m., Catherine B. Wiest Desmarais will share **From Baltimore to Burlington: Hazen P. Day's Neighbors Bring Him Home**.
- On Wed., Mar., 21st from 11 a.m. - 12 noon, Geoff Rasmussen and Yoav Naveh will present **Hands-On with MyHeritage DNA**.
- On Fri., Mar. 23rd from 11 a.m. —12 noon, Mike Mansfield will present **Introduction to DNA: Testing in Genealogy and Family History**.
- On Tues., Mar. 27th from 11 a.m. -12 noon, MyHeritage Webinars will discuss **How DNA Can Reveal Your Ethnic Roots**.
- On Wed., Mar. 28th from 11 a.m.—12 noon, Blaine Bettinger will present **Formulating a DNA Testing Plan**.



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%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm



The DAR Library at www.dar.org offers two different types of programming. The *Library Lecture* series features authors discussing their historical work and the *Genealogy 101* series offers presentations on a variety of genealogical topics led by the professional genealogists on staff at the DAR or by other experienced genealogists. Both series are held throughout the month on Saturdays and are free to the public. See the upcoming schedule here: www.dar.org/libraryevents ►

Save the date:

- On Mon, Mar. 8th from 7-9 p.m., the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will meet at the LDS Church at 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. Madeline Yanov will present **A Rose By Any Other Name: Using Nicknames to Find People**. For info email cccgsca@gmail.com
- On Sat., Mar. 10th the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group will meet from 9—11:30 a.m., at 875 Quince Ave., Santa Clara. The meeting offers three presentations: **Genealogy Research Class - Researching Your Civil War Ancestors** by Mary Boyle; **Genealogy Technology Class Root-sTech Review Panel** by Pamela Brigham; and **Websites in the Family History Center**, by Martha Wallace.
- On Mon Mar. 12th at 7:30 p.m., the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will meet at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Kay Speaks will share **Crafting Your Google Search**.
- On Fri., Mar., 16th at 10 a.m., the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society (mdgs.webs.com) will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. This month's format will be a mini-presentation featuring our Russ Erickson discussing **Boston Medicine in the 1900s**. His presentation will be followed by Lisa Gorrell sharing **German Genealogy Research**.
- On Sat., Mar. 17th from 10-11:30 a.m., Verner Laursen will present **Who Are You** at the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord. To register and for further information contact Jackie Hein at 925-827-4729.
- On Tues. Mar., 20th from 6:45—8:30 at the general meeting of the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, www.scchgs.org Craig Siulinski will share **Life Story Writing**. The meeting will be held at ►

the Santa Clara Central Park Library.

- On Sat., Mar. 24th from 10:30-12 noon the monthly meeting, the San Mateo County Genealogy Society www.smgs will host Dr. Jan Joyce Aherns. She will discuss **Making a Family Video to Share**. The meeting will be held at the Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo.
- On Mar. 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th and Apr. 2nd and 9th at the Concord Family History Center, Lisa Gorrell will teach **Intermediate Genealogy: Beyond the Basics**. To register and for further information contact Lisa at 925-238-4029 or snrylisa@gmail.com. There is a \$30 fee for materials. ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani



From Apr. 22nd - 29th CGS has scheduled its **Annual Salt Lake City Research Trip**. Contact CGS for registration information.



From May 2nd - 5th, the **National Genealogical Society Conference** will convene in Grand Rapids, MI.



The annual **Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree** will convene in Burbank from May 31st - June 2nd. Check www.genealogyjamboree.com for registration information. ■

Reminder – Intro to Genealogy “Bag Lunch” Session Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

The next session of the *Intro to Genealogy* series will be held **after** the general meeting at the Danville Family History Center. Bring any family information and questions. Assistance will also be available to help with the History Center Library if needed. Anyone interested in genealogy is welcome to attend these free sessions. So bring your bag lunch, stay after the general meeting and pick-up some tips to aid in your genealogy research. ■

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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Education Coordinator:
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srvgs@srvgensoc.org

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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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