



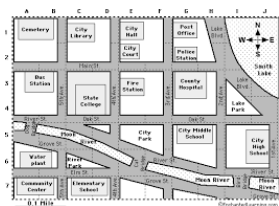
San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org

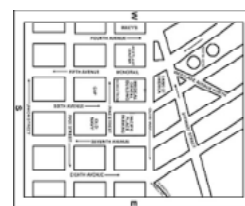


San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIV No. 2 July - 2018



THIS MONTH – July 17, 2018
**"Using Fire Insurance Maps in Urban
Genealogical Research "**
Presented by: Melinda Kashuba



Tracing urban ancestors is daunting work especially during the 19th and 20th centuries. People moved frequently and cities expanded in number and size to accommodate overseas immigrants and rural American migrants. Fire insurance maps, a highly-detailed category of city maps, can assist genealogists in many ways: describing how many rooms or stories your ancestor's house had, whether there was a privy in the backyard, the street address, as well as providing details about the neighborhood: schools, churches, places of employment, and recreation opportunities. Even small towns were represented on fire insurance maps, particularly if the town featured industrial, mining, or transportation facilities.

There are numerous map resources available to help develop understanding of an urban ancestor's life. This lecture and hands-on workshop focuses upon fire insurance maps and what they can tell us about individual properties, neighborhoods, and growing cities in North America. (This is a 2 hour presentation.)

Melinda Kashuba holds a PhD in Geography from the University of California, Los Angeles. She is a popular lecturer and author of *Walking with Your Ancestors: a Genealogist's Guide to Using Maps and Geography* (Family Tree Books, 2005) plus numerous articles in genealogical magazines and other publications. She teaches Geography part-time at Shasta College and is the 2016 recipient of the Gerald C. Hayward Award for Excellence in Community College Teaching given by the California Community College Foundation. Her specialties include land records, migration, using maps to solve genealogical problems, and California genealogical research. ■



From the June Meeting
"British Genealogy on the Internet"
Presented by: Christine Bell Green
Reported By: Russ Erickson



Find My Past (findmypast.com) or (findmypast.co.uk) is good now for UK parish data, probates, and wills. Ms. Bell Green presented SRVGS a fine 4 page resume of all her recommended UK sites, with good comments

about each and traveled a long distance to speak to us; we thank her.

One needs a good on-line planned approach. Consider [National Archives.gov.uk](http://NationalArchives.gov.uk); Genuski with a great many subjects; [on-line parish clerks](#) ►



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

Christine Bell Green

(has all Cornwall) ; [One Place Studies](#); [British History Online](#); [World Cat](#) for books and where available; the [national Library of Wales](#) (most Wales churches were “non-conforming” and the library also has wills, probates, and manorial data); [ukbmd.org.uk/](#) for births (with mother’s maiden name after 1911), marriages, deaths (also available on Ancestry).

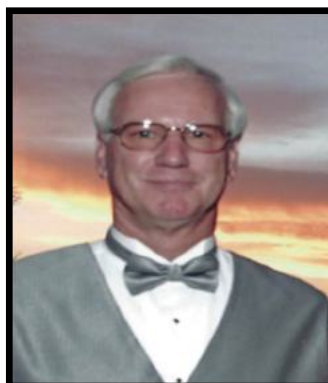
The National Archives UK are very important and also indicate items on varied on-line sites elsewhere. The [Manorial documents Register](#) is worth a look for historical county data. For all sites, the UK went to a national system from church based genealogy data in 1858. For wills and probate, ANCESTRY is now best source. The GRO ([General Records Office](#)) has births and deaths from 1837-1916.

One-place-studies.org/ can be useful and covers the UK, eastern USA, New Zealand and Australia. One might need to know the county or parish. [Proceedings of the Old Bailey](#) has many names--criminal, debtors, jurists (showing they owned property), witnesses, lawyers, etc. ■



President's Message

By Steve Watty



The social media giant “Facebook” was launched only fifteen years ago, so what did our ancestors use a hundred or two hundred years ago to get the same information? The Facebook of that period was the local newspaper. Our ancestors used newspapers to stay informed of life events which included births, marriages and deaths. They also found social activities like birthday and anniversary celebrations, school and social events and vacation details in print. Newspapers were the source for real estate transactions, legal notices, local business, sports and political events, church and organization news.

If these items were important to our ancestors, they are of equal importance to us today. Many of these articles help us, the genealogical researcher, confirm dates, locations, family relationships, nicknames, maiden names and the occasional “rest-of-the-story” to verify or disprove some family lore or find a hidden family secret.

Unfortunately, all the historic newspapers are not in one easy-to-find internet collection. Some have been digitized and are available online from paid or free sites. A good number of newspaper collections have yet to be digitized and, if available, can only be found in the local archive, public or university library, historical society or other private holdings.

A good strategy is needed to find what was available during your ancestor’s time and place, and what is available for research today. First you must determine what was published, whether they are available today, and where the records are housed. A good internet site, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>, provided by the Library of Congress, may help with this process. A search tool is provided on this site. “US Newspaper Directory 1690-Present”, is a directory of all known U S newspapers. The directory provides a catalog of the various newspapers and a listing of where they may be found. ►

Several states, counties and even towns offer free internet connections to localized newspapers, i.e.; California Digital Newspaper Collection. Use Google search to help find links to the localized archives, genealogical and historical societies and libraries.

The three primary paid internet subscription sites, Newspapers.com, Genealogybank.com and Newspaperarchive.com are similar in the type of digitized content they provide and may even have some coverage overlap. Each of these sites may include different newspaper titles and/or the timeframe covered. A note of caution, you may find that sought-after-obituary on one site but not the others, so a review of each sites' collection is suggested prior to any subscription payment.

The above is only a quick overview of the importance of historical newspapers and the type of content they provide. Each day more content is found and added to these collections, so do not give up your search, check back regularly for that illusive piece of history. Happy hunting! ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

July 2018

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

August 2018

The Society does not meet in August. Have a great summer, we will see you in September.

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.

Changes to the SIG schedule this month:



FamilySearch will be on hiatus until September.



Family Tree Maker/Ancestry group has dissolved and will no longer meet.



The **German** group will not meet in July or August. Their next meeting will be their Oktoberfest in September.



Irish/Scottish Research - **Wednesday July 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.



Publishing – Thursday July 19th (the 3rd 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 by contacting Francie at frances_lloyd@comcast.net.



Legacy Family Tree – Monday, July 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: sharonclay@comcast.net ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Let's learn some more genealogy as we relax this this summer.



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

- On Sat., July 7th **Intro to Genealogy** will meet from 10:15 am - 12:15 pm.
- Also on the 7th, the **DNA Study Group** will meet from 1 - 4 pm.
- On Wed., the 11th there will be a field trip to the **UC Bancroft Library** from 11 am - 12:30 pm.
- On Sat. the 21st from 10 am – 12:00 pm the **San Francisco SIG** will meet.
- Also on the 21st the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1 - 3 pm.
- On Sun., the 22nd, Gena Philibert Ortega will discuss **Reliving Their Lives: Experiences, Researching and Writing World War I to the Jazz Age**.
- On Sat., the 28th Ron Arons will present **Mind Mapping**.
- Also on the 28th Henry Tom will lead a **library tour**.
- August activities begin on Sat. the 4th with **Intro to Genealogy** from 10:15 am - 12:15 pm. This will be followed from 1 - 4 pm, 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://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_family_Search_Library, offers the following support: (See website for registration details.) ►

- On Thurs., July 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th and Aug. 2nd, from 10 am - 4 pm, Beryl and Wade Olofson will provide individual help with **Swedish research**.
- On the 5th, 10th, 17th, 19th, 24th and 26th there are **webinars** that you can view from home. Refer to the calendar on Oakland Family Search Library website for time and topic.
- On Wed. the 11th Kim Miller will guide a **writing workshop** in the afternoon.
- On Wed., the 25th from 6 - 8 pm, 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. June'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 Wed., July 18th from 6 - 7 pm, Davon Noel Lee will share **Beginner's Guide to Photographing Family Treasures**.
- On Sat., Aug. 4th from 10 - 11 am, Melissa Barker will discuss **Loose Records in an Archive: What Are They?**
- On Wed. Aug. 15th from 6 - 7 pm, David Dowell will present **How Autosomal DNA is Really Inherited: Case Studies of Siblings**.

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., July 10th, at 8 PM Central Melissa Barker will discuss **Museums Have Records, Too! Locating Your Ancestors Behind Closed Doors**. Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8386075626899201539>
- On Tues., Aug. 14th at 8 PM Central Jane Haldeman will present **The National Archives at the Chicago Branch**. Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7025326633433470723>



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.

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. ►



include:

- 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. April's webinars

- On Thurs., July 5th from 11 am - 12 noon, Geoff Rasmussen will share **Watch Geoff Live: Adding a Will and a Tombstone to Legacy**
- On Fri., July 6th from 11 am - 12 noon, Geoff Rasmussen will present **Watch Geoff Live: Legacy 9 Unlocked (Part 4) Adding Estate/Probate Records**.
- On Wed., July 11th from 5 - 6 pm, Jeanne Bloom will discuss **The Art of Negative-Space Research: Women**.
- On Fri., July 13th from 11 am - 12 noon, Dianne L. Richard will share **Freedmen's Bureau Records – Valuable to ALL Southern Research**.
- On Tues., July 17th from 11 am - 12 noon, MyHeritage Webinars will present **Special Tools That Can Take Your Research to the Next Level**.
- On Tues., July 17th from 5 - 6 pm, Alice Hoyt Veen will present: **It's a Numbers Game! Understanding Recognized Genealogical Formats**.
- On Wed., July 18th from 11 am - 12 noon, J. Mark Lowe will share **Daniel Boone and Other Western Travelers**.
- On Wed., July 25th from 11 am - 12 noon, Jared Hodges will discuss **Photoshop: What You Need to Know as a Photographer**.
- On Tues. July 31st from 11 am - 12 noon, MyHeritage Webinars will present **An Overview of Important Historical Record Collections**. ►

- On Wed., Aug. 1st from 11 am - 12 noon, Schelly Talalay Dardashti will share **Jewish Genealogy for the Non-Jew: History, Migration, DNA**



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 Sat., July 14th from 9 - 11:30 am, the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, www.svcgg.org will meet at 875 Quince Ave., Santa Clara .
- On Tues., July 17th from 6:45 - 8:30 pm, the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, www.scchgs.org will hold its general meeting at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara. Sharon Hoyt will share **The Missing Man: Solving a Mystery with Genealogical Research**. There will no general meeting in August.
- On Mon., July 9th at 7:30 pm, the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will meet at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada ►

Court, Pleasanton. Speaker TBA.

- On Thurs., July 12th from 6:30 - 8 pm, the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will meet. In place of a meeting there will be **Hands-on Research** at the Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd.
- On Fri., July 20th at 10 am, the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society (mdgs.webs.com) will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Gena Philibert-Oretaga will present a - Mini Seminar, **10 Databases You Didn't Know Were On Ancestry.com and 50 Websites Every Genealogist Should Know**. There will be no general meeting in August.
- On Sat, Sept. 1st at 11 am, the Solano County Genealogical Society will meet at the Moose Lodge at 623 Taylor St., Fairfield. Jeane Berry will discuss **Working with DNA Data**. ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani

- ⇒ From Aug., 15th - 18th The Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society will hold the **North-west Genealogy Conference- Beyond Your Family Tree**. Register at www.NWGC.org.
- ⇒ On Sat., Oct. 6th from 8 am - 4 pm, the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will hold their **2018 Fall Seminar** with Thomas MacEntee at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane. Go to <https://cccgs.net> for registration information
- ⇒ The **2018 British Institute** will be held from Oct. 15th -19th in Salt Lake City. Consult the website: <https://isbgfh.org/cpage.php?pt=56> for details. ■

“This packrat has learned that what the next generation will value most is not what we owned, but the evidence of who we were and the tales of how we loved. In the end, it's the family stories that are worth the storage.”

-Ellen Goodman,
The Boston Globe

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Cynthia & Brent Henderson

Vonn Hockenberger

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

**Is Your Society Membership
about to Lapse?**

Society membership dues were due by July 1st. This is a reminder for those who were just too busy to get their renewal application in on time. If your renewal form has not been received by the end of July, ***you will be dropped from our rolls*** and this will be the last newsletter you will receive. Also late renewals will not be listed in the annual publication of the Society Handbook. If you have miss-placed the renewal application we sent you, you can download another from our web site at: http://srvgensoc.org/forms/srvgs_mem_app.pdf Please take a moment to renew your membership now.

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.**

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Steve Watty
president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Ted Shapas
vicepresident@srvgensoc.org

2nd V.P. Programs:
Wayne Mortensen
Karen Olynger
Gladys Warr
programs@srvgensoc.org

3rd V.P. Membership:
Bob Thompson
membership@srvgensoc.org

Recording Secretary:
Russ Erickson
recsec@srvgensoc.org

Corresponding Secretary:
Barbara Shapas
srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Treasurer: Mark McLaren
treasurer@srvgensoc.org

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter
editor@srvgensoc.org

Calendar Coordinator:
Bill George
srvgs@srvgensoc.org

Education Coordinator:
Kathy Javdani
srvgs@srvgensoc.org

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

and 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Closed on Holidays and the month of August

FHC Director:Chris Engstrom: cechocolatego@prodigy.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)

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
SRVGS CALENDAR	3
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	3
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
EDUCATION	4
FAMILY HISTORY CENTER INFORMATION	8
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER	7
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
RESEARCH ASSISTANCE	7
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS	6
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	7

**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305**

FIRST CLASS MAIL