



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIV No. 7 February - 2019

This Month's Presentation:

February 20, 2019

Scotland & Northern Ireland Research

Presented by: Mark McLaren

The population of Scotland and Northern Ireland today is less than 7 million combined. Yet, the number of people worldwide with an ancestry from those areas is estimated between 70-90 million. Chances are you or someone's genealogy that you are working on has roots from there.

This presentation will provide information to assist in Scottish genealogy research and include the following topics: 1) The intertwined history of Northern Ireland and Scotland and why both are part of Scottish research; 2) Understanding key moments in their shared history and how those influenced emigration throughout the British empire, primarily to Australia, United States, and Canada; 3) Scottish surnames and how to differentiate which are tied to clans or houses; 4) Review of books and on-line resources available to the researcher; 5) A review of documents available in the Scottish archives and the information they provide. Also, why they should be considered the "Gold Standard" compared to other on-line data bases.

Originally from the Philadelphia area, Mark graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder with a B.S. degree in Business. His interest in genealogy began in the early 2000s and has expanded over the years. His primary areas of focus are genetic genealogy and Scottish research. He is currently a member of the National Genealogical Society, California Genealogical Society, and the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society. In SRVGS he is a board member and treasurer. He is a member of the Clan McLaren Society of North America, having served as its treasurer for 12 years, and currently as its president. He also is a member of the Clan Douglas and Ross societies.

Genetic Genealogy is also a strong area of interest. Mark currently is an administrator for 2 projects at Family Tree DNA. Additionally, he manages or supports over 35 DNA kits for both family and clients. In 2017, he developed and taught an "introduction to genetic genealogy" class for SRVGS. ■

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From the January Meeting
“How Genealogists can use Freedom of Information Laws”
Presented by: Brooke Schreier Ganz
Reported By: Russ Erickson



Mrs. Schreier Ganz is the founder of *Reclaim the Records.org*, a non-profit organization that seeks to open military, civil service, birth, marriage, death, tax, and passport public records from federal, state and city archives for genealogists and archivists. The goal is online, free data. So far, 28 million records have been obtained by legal and communication means. They crowdsource ideas and use Facebook and Twitter to reach their growing members and interested people. Companies are allowed to use the opened records. Some, such as Family Search, index the records obtained.

The idea started with New York City, where many records were unavailable, despite state law to the contrary. Her initial law suit obtained a box of microfiches that were then sent to Family Search, indexed, opened to public, and she received a hard disk. Next was New Jersey which was more helpful and a non-profit 501C3 was started. The group won court cases and later attorney fees. Wyoming was next, reasonable, and sent microfiches for a nominal fee. In another phase, a web site was added. Often, at all government levels, only one site held wanted records and few were digitized. Entities did not want the public to know (usually because records were poorly done and revealed a sloppy keeping or approach), some used records as “cash cows”, some “cost too much to review and send”. FOIA (federal open information acts), and state laws under varied labels (e.g., ‘Sunshine law’, ‘open public record act’, ‘right to know’, etc.) were used. There are 51 state laws. “Ballotpedia” lists them. If denied access to desired records, one can appeal the decision. States have ombudsmen for this. Five states now allow your attorney fees if you win, with more coming. You only need pay the actual cost of sending a record. States can say WHEN and sometimes WHO can obtain records. You can get indices of such records. <muckrock.com> is a site to use on how to create requests. In a request, state “willing to pay”, “it is not for profit”, be specific, and tell why you are entitled to a record. ►



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

Brooke Schreier Ganz

In one case, the New York City department of health tried to charge \$152,000, when the actual cost of record review was \$4,000. The case was won and now online without fee. At present, a Missouri law suit is still in progress. Despite state law, an agency wanted \$1.5 million! The records were used as a “cash cow” which they do not want to give up. This bureau received the “Golden Padlock” award. Brooke and her organization is now after Veteran’s Administration, national archives, other state and national records. Reclaim the Records.org needs your help! You are encouraged to join if interested. ■



President's Message

By Steve Watty



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

February 2019

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

March 2019

- 5 Thursday - 10:00 am** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 19 Tuesday - 10:00 am** 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://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, February 11th (the 2nd Monday) **1:15 – 3 pm at the Danville Family History Center.** Learn how to search records and study family trees at FamilySearch.org. **Bill George** is the Leader at: williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday February 13th (the 2nd Wednesday) **10 am – 12 pm, at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill.** Patty Erickson is SIG Leader. You may contact Patty at russpat@comcast.net. ►



The SRVGS General Meeting scheduled for February 19, 2019 will feature two main programs following a very short business meeting. The first, during an extended social period, will feature information tables highlighting our various Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The last hour will contain a presentation on Scotland/Northern Ireland Research by our own Mark McLaren.

The meeting format is designed to help our new and potential new members understand the resources available to them from the SIG groups and the Society. Representatives will be available at each SIG table to answer your questions and provide handout material. We encourage you to bring any friends and family members interested in genealogy and let us attempt to answer their family history questions.

This meeting also provides the perfect venue to investigate the many SRVGS Board and Committee positions needed to operate this society. Learn about current openings and volunteer to fill one of these positions. **WE NEED YOU, VOLUNTEER AND HELP SUPPORT SRVGS!** ■



DNA - Monday February 18th (the 3rd Monday) **1:00 - 3:00 pm, at the Danville Family History Center.** This SIG assumes a basic knowledge of Genealogical DNA testing and therefore is only open to those who have completed the SRVGS *Intro to DNA* class or an approved equivalent. Mark McLaren is SIG Leader. You may contact Mark at: greatscot@earthlink.net.



Publishing – Thursday February 21st (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, at: frances_lloyd@comcast.net.



Legacy Family Tree – Monday, February 25th (the 4th Monday) **from 1:15 - 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 February 27th, (the 4th Wednesday) **10 am – 12 pm, at a member's home.** Please contact Cathy Tanaka at: cathytanaka622@gmail.com if you plan to attend the meeting. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

It's Valentine month. Let's fall in love in learning more about family history.



As usual, the month begins with the California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org

For all the following activities, register online:

- On Sat., Feb, 2nd the **Intro to Genealogy** class will meet from 10:15 am-12:15 pm. ►

- On Sat., the 9th the class **Using German Documents to Build a Family Tree** will be held from 1 – 3:30 pm.
- On Sat., the 16th from 10 am – 12:30 pm, the **San Francisco SIG** will meet.
- Also the 16th the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1-3 pm.
- On Sat., March 2nd the **Intro to Genealogy** will meet from 10:15 am-12:15 pm.

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



In February the Oakland FamilySearch Library, [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland California FamilySearch Library](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Library), offers the following support: (See website for registration details.) Pre-register for classes at fhcoakland@gmail.com or at 510-531-3905.

- On Thurs., the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th, from 10 am—4 pm, Beryl and Wade Olofson will provide individual help with **Swedish research**.
- On Sun., the 10th from 1-4 pm, **Black Family History Day** will be held in the large auditorium.
- On Wed., the 13th from 7-8 pm, the **Mac Users Workshop** will meet.

On Fridays from 10:30 am – 12 noon, **Family Search Basics** series will meet as follows:

- on the 1st, **Part 4 – Finding and Merging Duplicates.**
- On the 8th, **Part 5 – Learning More about the Temple Box (Church Members Only),**
- On the 15th, **Part 1 – Getting Started with the Basics,**
- On the 22nd, **Part 2 – Sourcing and Attaching Records**
- On Mar. 1st, **Part 3 – Using memories and Uploading Photos.** ►

- Also, on Tues. from 7-8:30 pm, the series will meet as follows:
 - on the 12th, **Part 1**,
 - on the 19th, **Part 2**,
 - on the 26th, **Part 3**.
- On Sat., the 16th from 10:30 – 11:30 am, Mr. Perrone will lead an **Indexing Workshop**. The workshop will be repeated on Sat. Mar. 2nd from 10:30-11:30 am.
- Beginning on Tues., the 19th from 1-2 pm, Karina Robinson, California State Library genealogy, will lead a 4 part series; the 19th – **Land Ownership**, the 26th – **National Archives**, Mar. 19th – **Immigration**, and Mar. 26th – **Newspapers**.
- On Wed., the 27th 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 Sat., Feb. 2nd at 10 am, Paul Woodbury will present **Looks Like We're Cousins – Tips for Genetic Genealogy Collaboration**.
- On Wed., Feb. 20th at 6 pm, Tessa Keough will discuss **Is Your One-Place Study at a Distance? No Worries with the Internet**.
- On Sat., Mar., 2nd at 10 am., Donna M. Moughty will share **Irish Research – What's New**. ►

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, <https://ilgensoc.org>, continues its webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public.

- On Tues., Feb. 12th at 8 Central, Judy Russell will discuss **Revelers, Hog killers and Disobedient Children: Early Illinois Laws**.

Register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/158055935435030074>



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:

- On Thurs., Feb. 14th from 3-4 EST Claire Vail will present **Introducing American Ancestrees**. This is a new, free online genealogy tree experience on AmericanAncestors.org. ►

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

The National Archives, www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/events offers a Genealogy Tutorial, Genealogy Research topics and a variety of charts and forms.



Ancestry.com offers online courses; Some 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. November's webinars include:

- On Tues. Feb 5th at 5 pm, Jill Ball will present **Six Feet Under Down Under – Cemetery Records in Australia.**
- On Wed., Feb. 6th at 11 am, Shelee Morehead will explain **DNA and the GPS Solves a Mystery: Hamiltons in Colonial New England.**
- On Wed., Feb. 13th at 5 pm, Blaine Bettinger will describe **Reconstructing Your Genetic Family Tree,**
- On Tues., Feb 19th at 5 pm, Melissa Johnson will explore **Applying Evidence to Genealogical Research Questions.**
- On Wed., Feb. 20th at 11 am, Paul Woodbury will discuss **Online Resources for French Genealogy Part 1: Compiled Records, Church Records and Civil Registration**
- On Fri. Feb. 22nd at 11 am, Cari Taplin will present **Using Timelines and Tables to Analyze Your Research.**
- On Wed., Feb. 27th at 11 am, Mary Kircher Roddy will present **Spreadsheets 401: Excel-lent Inspiration.** ►

- On Tues., Mar. 5th at 11 am, Carol Baxter will explore **Polled! Finding Your Ancestors in New South Wales Colonial Muster and Census Returns.**



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., Feb. 9th from 9-11:30 am, the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, www.svcgg.org, will meet at 875 Quince Ave., Santa Clara. Topics to be announced.
- On Mon., Feb. 11th at 7:30 pm, the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will meet at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Lisa Gorrell will share *Tips For Breaking Brick Walls.*
- On Tues., Feb. 19th 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. Bill Cole will discuss *Stagecoach Robbers, Murder Trials and the California Supreme Court – Oh My.*
- On Fri. Feb. 15th at 10 am, the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, www.madgs.webs.com will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Speaker to be announced. ►

- On Feb., 2nd at 11 am, the Solano County Genealogical Society, www.scgsca.org will meet at the Fairfield Adult Recreation Center, 1200 Civic Center Dr., Fairfield. Barbara Leak will present *Jump Start Your Family History Research: An Introduction to Genealogy*. ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani

- ⇒ **RootsTech 2019** will be held from Feb. 27th – Mar. 2nd in Salt Lake City. Register at: <https://www.rootstech.org/>
- ⇒ **Building Skills for Successful Family History Research Seminar** - 4 classes will meet on the Wednesdays in March from 6-8 pm, at the Oakland Family Search Library. For more details consult www.CaliforniaAncestors.org on the EventBrite page.
- ⇒ The **National Genealogical Society 2019 Conference** will be from May 8th - 11th in St. Charles, MO. Register at: <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>
- ⇒ From May 30th – June 2nd the **2019 Jamboree** will be held in Burbank. Go to: genealogyjamboree.com.
- ⇒ From June 15-17, 2019 the Second International German Genealogy Conference will be held in Sacramento. For information visit: <http://iggpartners.org> ■

Sutro Library Trip via Public Transportation

Submitted by: Virginia Root

I have been asked by several members of the society to write about how to get to the Sutro Library using BART and MUNI transportation. Since the Sutro Library has moved to the San Francisco State University Library it is now on the campus and there is very little parking available, especially when school is in session. I have found it very easy to take BART to San Francisco and transfer to the MUNI, which will take you to the school.

Take BART to either Embarcadero, Montgomery, Powell or Civic Center station and transfer to the MUNI system. Before trying to enter the MUNI station you will need to purchase a round trip ticket at the machine near the entrance. If you have ques-

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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president@srvgensoc.org
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vicepresident@srvgensoc.org
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- 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.

tions usually there is an agent there. However, the machines are easy to use and give directions. It is best to buy a round trip ticket, as there is no machine out on the Avenue. It will be \$1.50 for seniors. Proceed to the entrance and swipe the ticket at the gate and go down the stairs to the train. You will take the M car out to 19th Ave. and Holloway. Holloway is the next stop after you see and stop at the Stonestown Galleria. After exiting the M car you will cross the street to the right of the track and enter the campus. Walk the campus path to the Library – it will be in front of you, and it is not far. Once inside the building enter into the actual library section on your left and turn left to the elevators and go to the 5th floor. There are the usual lockers and sign in. There is a Peet's Coffee concession in the lobby for snacks or lunch if desired along with places to sit and eat. To return follow the path back to 19th Street and cross to the middle of the street and wait for the M car. Then transfer to BART at one of the four downtown stations. I hope that this will work for you

Editor's Note: Please check schedules and prices as these may have change since this article was originally written. ■

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, the month of August
and Thanksgiving week.

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)

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