



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIV No. 10 May - 2019

This Month's Presentation:

May 21, 2019

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY A GENEALOGICAL POTPOURRI

Presented by: GEORGE FULTON

George Fulton is a retired chemist and industrial hygienist. His interest in genealogy began when his father inherited the family papers of cousin's Alice and Edna Rolins which included numerous family obituaries, photographs, notes on the family for several generations, and Alice's DAR application papers. His interest in genealogy continued as a teenager hearing stories of his mother's family in Europe. His grandfather was born in Vienna, Austria, and his mother was born in the part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire that became Czechoslovakia. Family stories included the statement that his family is related to Gregor Mendel, the founder of the modern science of genetics, although none of the relatives knew how. To make a long story short, we now know exactly how, and are amazed at the quantity of genealogical records now available for all parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This talk will be an overview of the resources available. ■

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A Summary of Last Month's Presentation:

Breaking Down Brick Walls; East Europe research tips

Presentation by: Lisa Alzo

Reported by: Russ Erickson

Editor's Note: Due to travel complications, our scheduled speaker, **Karen Zukor**, presenting "*Document Repair & Restoration*", was not able to make it to our April General meeting. Fortunately, our Program Committee was ready with a back-up presentation of Lisa Alzo's webinar presentation of "*Breaking Down Brick Walls*" with eastern European research tips. What follows is a summary of her presentation.

Lisa Alzo's main area of research is her Slovakia and Hungary ancestors. Failure to exhaust all resources, not reading directions on sites, not noting what collections contain, and using indexes instead of actual records are all at fault for not being able to locate missing ancestors. Do not rely only on the internet; use FamilySearch and other books, look at all lines in a record, not just your main item; know the era and consider translating languages. Learn naming patterns and practices for different countries.

Note: in Eastern Europe, one might have a *Name Day*, instead of a birthday. For females, "ova" might be added to a surname in East Europe countries. Find a town name if feasible, even in or around main cities. Check all usual source records, even the unusual sources like fraternities and funeral homes. Sources: Slovakia General Genealogical Research Strategies <iabsi.com>, <Milpos.sk> and right click for English translation. A FamilySearch book on Slovakia town name changes is extant. Check Stephen Morse "one step web sites". In FamilySearch (FS), look for the camera icon to view actual images. Read all directions in FS and descriptions of content so you miss little.

Review your research yearly and recheck absent items; and don't forget to site sources. Look for names of witnesses and associates in documents. Create a timeline (Lisa used Scrapple in 2015). There are several timeline sites. Try Google Translation for foreign languages. **The Polish Genealogical Society of America** (PSGA) <www.pgsa.org> ►

has books of words for languages. The Steve Morse website has a list of language tools. Search the web repeatedly. Use social media and Google Alerts. ■

MINI-ED

By: Russ Erickson

Presentation by: Ted Shapas

Ted Shapas found a Polish Facebook (FB) Genealogy Groups to be helpful for his research. A lady in Turen, Poland pointed him to marriage and birth records in Cyrillic Russian!

He then found a FB translation group to translate records to English. This group was helpful with another translations as well. FB groups for common interests are roughly 600 million strong, and Katherine Wilson tracks 13,000 genealogy groups! <socialmediagenealogy.org> Groups have moderators to keep the "drama" from group sites. Sign in to Facebook, click "join" to start with a free account. You will hear from the group leader within a few days. Click on the search box in the upper left corner to begin group searches.

These groups are SIG type sites on FB, such as "Genetic Genealogy", Virginia, Lithuania, etc. There are discussions, chats, announcements, events, photos, files, and recommendations on sites. Once in a group, if you type in the name you are researching, past posts come up. Make FB a part of your genealogy tool kit. Ted and others in the audience found no problem with spam; the sites appear to be secure from hackers, etc. Some genealogy organizations have no webpage but use FB only to communicate. (Ted's PowerPoint presentation can be downloaded from the society web site at: http://srvgensoc.org/files/Shapas_Facebook_groups.pptx ■



President's Message

By Steve Watty



Finding your ancestors in books, magazines, newsletters and other print media can feel like finding buried treasure. One site that helps you find this buried treasure and should be in everyone's research toolbox is **Genealogy Gophers** found at

<https://www.gengophers.com>.

GenGophers lets you search a library of 80,000 genealogy books and other print media. It's like *Google Books* but specifically for genealogy. Search on names, dates, places, and relatives' names, and get back snippets from book pages where the matching information is found. This makes it easy for you to quickly scan the possible matches and determine which ones to review in more detail. Click on a matching snippet to go to the book, where you can search the specific book, navigate back and forth, print pages, or even download the entire book.

I sat with the developer of this site, Dallan Quass, at a Dick Eastman dinner after the 2018 RootsTech conference. He was surprised and pleased that I was already using his site with my own family research. He explained that the search tools used on his site are based on *artificial intelligence* algorithms which significantly increase the chances of finding relevant search term matches.

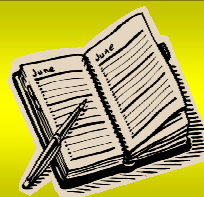
You can perform as many searches as you want and read up to three books a week for **free** or read an unlimited number of books for \$3 per month or \$20/year. Give this site a review from the comfort of your home, you may be pleasantly surprised at what you discover. ■



SRVGS on Facebook!

Did you know that your Society has a Facebook Group?

Click on the icon or go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/srvgensoc>



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

May 2019

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

June 2019

- 4 **Tuesday - 10:00 am** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 18 **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.



Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday May 8th (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.



FamilySearch - Monday, May 13th (the 2nd Monday) **1:15 pm – 3 pm at the Danville Family History Center.** Learn how to upload

"Memories" (photos, documents, recordings) to the FamilySearch.org web site. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader at: williamcgeorge@gmail.com. ►



Publishing – Thursday May 16th (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.



DNA - Monday May 20th (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.



German Research – Wednesday May 22nd, (the 4th Wednesday) **10 am – 12 pm, at a members home.**

Please contact Cathy Tanaka at: cathytanaka622@gmail.com if you plan to attend the meeting.



Legacy Family Tree – Due to the Memorial Day Holiday the Legacy Group will not meet in May. 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. ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Laura Ashizawa

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

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Editor's Note: The Society's Education reporter was busy with personal matters and could not submit an Education report this month. What follows is an attempt by your newsletter editor to accomplish that task. Your understanding would be appreciated if it is not up to the usual standard.



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

- On Sat., May 4th **Intro to Genealogy class, part 1, Genealogy Basics Overview**, will meet from 10:15 am -12:15 pm.
- Also on the 4th from 1-3 pm, the DNA Study Group will meet.
- On Sat., May 11th, from 1:00 - 3:00 pm, **Pamela Meeds Williams will present: Californians: Early California Settles.**
- On Thurs., May 16th, from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, **there will be a field trip to the San Francisco Public Library**
- On Wed., the 29th at 6 pm, there is the **Intermediate Records Series—Land, Church Court and Immigration for genealogy.**
- On Sat., June 1st, the **Intro to Genealogy class, part 2, Using the Census**, 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 May the Oakland Family Search Library, [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oak-](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Library)
[land 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 Wed., the 8th from 7-8 pm, the **Mac Users Workshop** will meet.
- On Thurs., the 9th, 16th, 23th and 30th from 10 am - 4 pm Wade Olofson will provide individual help with **Swedish research**.
- On Sat. the 18th and June 1st from 10:30 – 11:30 am, Mr. Perrone will lead an **Indexing Workshop**.
- On Wed., the 22th 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.scsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- On Sat., May 4th at 10 am, Rick Crune will discuss **British Genealogy Online: The Top English & Welsh Family History Websites**.
- On Wed., May 15th at 6 pm, Annette Burke Lyttle will present: **The Marriage of the Waters: The Erie Canal and the Opening of the Midwest**.
- On Wed., June 19th at 6 pm, Janet Hovorka will present: **Heirloom, Documentation or Junk: What to keep and what to Toss**.

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., May 14th at 8 pm Central, Colleen Greene will present: **An Introduction to Researching Your Mexican Ancestors**.

Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2110383221450902275>



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., May 23rd from 12-1 pm PDT, Meaghan E. H. Siekman will present “**Introducing the GU272**”, a discussion of the 272 enslaved men, women and children Georgetown University sold to plantations in Louisiana. [Register online](#).

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://www.ancestry.com/academy/courses/recommended/featured>
- And at https://www.ancestry.com/academy/courses/recommended/getting_started
- Also at https://www.ancestry.com/academy/courses/recommended/short_hosted_videos



Legacy offers numerous free webinars every month. Go to: <https://familytreewebinars.com/> to register. This month's webinars include:

- On Tues., May 14th, at 11 am, MyHeritage Webinars will present *Advanced Features on Geni.com*.
- On Wed., May 15th at 11 am, Lisa Alzo will present *The 10 Most Useful Databases for Eastern European Research*.
- On Tues., May 21st at 5 pm, Jeanne Bloom will present *Valid and Unsound Assumptions: What Was She Thinking*.
- On Wed., May 22nd 11 am. Dear Myrtle will share *Google Drive: an Office in the Cloud*.
- On Fri. May 24th at 11 am, Craig R. Scoot will explore *Compiling a Military Service Record*.
- On Tues., May 28th at 11 am, MyHeritage Webinars will present will examine *New Developments from MyHeritage DNA*.
- On Wed., May 29th at 11 am, Thomas MacEntee will share *Tools for Translating and Transcribing Genealogy Records*. ►



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



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

Save the date:

- On Mon., May 13th at 7:30 pm, the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will meet at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Teresa Parham will discuss **The Life & Times of F. C. Ewer, California Pioneer**.
- On Fri. May 17th at 10 am, the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, www.mdgs.webs.com will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Dawn Kosmakos will speak on **"How I Solve Unknown Parent Searches"**.
- On Thurs., May 30^h from 1:00 – 4:00 pm, at the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, www.scchgs.org, Patricia Burrow and Pam Fujii will hold a class at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara. The class is intitled: **"DNA Basics for Genealogist – How Three Testing Companies Can Change Your Family Tree"**. [Registration](#) is required. ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani

- ⇒ 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> ■

Special Parking Notice

During our General Meetings at the Alamo LDS Church the availability of parking spaces in the front of the church has become limited in recent months. As an alternative, additional parking is now available in the rear of the church. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this additional parking. ■

It's Time to Renew Your SRVGS Membership!

The SRVGS year runs from June 1st through May 31st. As we are now a few weeks into May, it is time to renew your membership. At only \$20 per year for individuals, this is a great value and, remember, it is tax deductible. With monthly speakers on relevant topics, Special Interest Groups, research assistance, a great social experience and many other ways to help you enjoy your genealogy pastime, you couldn't do better. Please fill out the membership form which came with this month's newsletter or download a copy from http://srvgensoc.org/forms/srvgs_mem_app.pdf and return it with your check as soon as possible. We have another wonderful year ahead of us. ■

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

- President:** Steve Watty
president@srvgensoc.org
- 1st V.P.** Ted Shapas
vicepresident@srvgensoc.org
- 2nd V.P. Programs:**
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Karen Olynger
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- Coordinator:** Bob Venter
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- 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.

Genealogy Research Assistance

**Looking for your ancestors?
Could you use a little help?
Bring your questions to the**

Danville Library

10:00 until noon

Monthly on the Fourth Tuesday

Members of the

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

will be available to help
you with your research.

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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