



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXV No. 2 July - 2019

This Month's Presentation:

July 16, 2019

ANATOMY OF BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH RECORDS

Presented by: Gena Philibert-Ortega

Everyone knows about vital records, right? They are one of the first record sets you look for in the hunt for your ancestors. But do you know everything about those records you seek? What do you do when no vital records exist? This workshop explores the history of vital records in the United States, variations of those records, and alternatives. We will also take some time to analyze individual records so that you get more from the certificates you find beyond just name, date, and place.

Gena Philibert-Ortega is an author, researcher, and instructor whose focus is genealogy, social and women's history. She holds a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies (Psychology and Women's Studies) and a master's degree in Religion. Her published works include two books, numerous articles published in magazines and online, two volumes of *Tracing Female Ancestors* (Moorshead Publishing), *Tracing Your Ancestors: Hispanic Research* (Moorshead Publishing) and *QuickGuide* from Legacy Family Tree. She is the editor of the Utah Genealogical Association's magazine, *Crossroads*. Her writings can be found on her blogs, [Gena's Genealogy](#) and [FoodFamilyEphemera](#) as well as the [GenealogyBank blog](#). She is a course instructor for The National Institute for Genealogical Studies and she has presented to diverse groups worldwide. Her current research includes women's repatriation and citizenship in the 20th century, foodways and community in fundraising cookbooks, and women's material culture. (Note: this is a 2 hour presentation) ■

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Notes on Last Month's Presentation:

Swedish Research

Presentation by: Sven-Ove Westberg

Reported by: Russ Erickson

The *Swedish Vasa Society* in Concord has Swedish speakers who could help translate letters. They meet the third Friday of each month, not summers. For Genealogical research: church books (good records 1800 on to 1940), Jurisdiction books, know names, Swedish alphabet with extra letters, other sources. Church books include households, congregations, communion, "moving in and moving out", births and christenings, banns and marriages, deaths and burials. Records are continuous. Household books might include head of farm and farm workers. A cross out mark and date show when someone moved out of the parish, and when a person moved in is noted and dated. Congregation books note where one is born also. Birth books also note father's occupation. Moving out books show much past life data and where the person moves to. Moving out without priest permit was a crime! Moving in books show from where and which parish. Arkiv Digital (\$184 per year or in LDS library) has church records. Always check book indices at front or back of the many books, perhaps 4 or 5, with 300 to 400 pages in each parish. Those in Swedish have more data than transcribed to English.

Marriage books often had parents' names and death books had less data than birth books. Only newer records might have the cause death. Communion occurred at age 14.

Church and jurisdiction records were closely kept for taxes, army needs, and government and church control. There are also criminal case records (jobless could be one). Mr. Westberg uses books to follow a person back to the parents' birth, then forward to the ancestor's death. Look for farms also, as most were farmers or farm workers. Look for county maps more than province maps as they align better with the MANY parishes. In order: village, parish, county, state.

Names: Patronymics used mainly: *Persson* is son of Per. *Persdotter* is the daughter. There were also army names that could change with change in rank or move to another unit! They could be kept when discharged or changed back to patronymic. ►



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

Sven-Ove Westberg

From 1850s on until 20th century, a professional name could be used. From 1901 a family surname was legally mandated. A soldier might often marry the widow of a deceased comrade.

Swedish alphabet adds after z å (with a small circle above) ä (with double dot or umlaut above) and ö with umlaut. The same for capital letters.

A number of internet sources were given in the handout. The Swedish National Archives is free. There are local and national genealogy societies that can be contacted. They have local data on CDs. My Heritage has much Swedish genealogy data. Ancestry bought Gencode data in 2010, but their records from microfiche are terrible. One can wiki Swedish Genealogy. Note in all records, Swedish feast days relate to Easter as a base. Check Bure--1601 book and Rosenberg. Riksarkivet and Lantmateriet for maps in different periods. ■



President's Message

By Steve Watty



Family traditions can be defined as the rituals, practices and beliefs of a family that are handed down from one generation to the next. They can enrich families, promote a feeling of closeness and strengthen family bonds. They create a sense of identity, provide emotional safety, and establish fond memories.

Some traditions have their origin in family culture or religion. Family recipes are one of the best ways of keeping past cultural heritage alive. Recipes brought over from the "old country" or even homemade recipes created by a great-grandmother make excellent family traditions because cooking together keeps families connected.

Some families practice a tradition that follow career paths, e.g. into military, police, law or medicine. Others carry on rituals like taking first-day-of-school pictures, attending the opening day of the baseball season, or something simple like recording a child's height on a doorframe each year to document how much they've grown.

Other traditions serve as reminders of events that have shaped the lives of the family unit, e.g. family coming together for a special holiday or birthday celebration. Ever since I can remember, my extended family gathered on Christmas Eve which also happens to be my birthday. First, we gathered at the grandparent's home, then later at my parents, then I hosted the yearly event. My siblings, children and grandchildren now expect this tradition to continue and the memories are frequently reminisced.

A number of my family's traditions are centered around food. One such item is the "Snickers Snack" recipe handed down from my grandmother. A number of Chex Mix recipes exist but this one is "special". Whenever my grandchildren are scheduled to travel, an order is received for another batch of Snickers Snack. I honestly believe that they could not survive a long car, train or airplane ride without this ►



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

July 2019

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

August 2019

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

► simple treat. The recipe follows:

- 1 – box Wheat Chex
- 1 – box Rice Chex
- 1 – small box Cheerios
- 1 – bag pretzel sticks
- 1 – 16 oz can cocktail peanuts
- 2 cups butter
- 2 tsp garlic puree
- 2 tsp Tabasco sauce
- 2 tbs Worcestershire sauce

Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Combine the dry ingredients (I use a paper grocery bag). Combine the wet ingredients in a saucepan until melted on the stove, stir well. Place the combined dry ingredients in a roasting pan (may take up to 3 sessions, depending on size of roasting pan). Pour combined sauce over dry ingredients (divided to equal amount of dry ingredients, i.e.; 1/3 dry to 1/3 sauce). Stir the combined mixture to coat the dry ingredients. Bake for 45 minutes, stirring the mixture every 15 minutes. Empty cooked mixture into a clean paper grocery bag to cool... then enjoy! May be stored in an airtight container for a week.

Is it time to review your family traditions or time to start a new one? ■

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, July 8th (the 2nd Monday) **1:15 pm – 3 pm**. This month's topic will be how to upload "Memories" (photos, documents, recordings) to the FamilySearch.org web site. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader at: williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



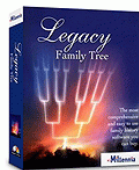
Irish/Scottish Research - Wednesday July 10th (the 2nd Wednesday) **10 am – 12 pm**, at the home of **Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill**. Patty Erickson is SIG Leader. You may contact Patty at: russpat@comcast.net.



DNA - Monday July 15th (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 July 18th (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, July 22nd (the 4th Monday). **Sharon Clay** is the SIG Leader and can be contacted at: sharonlclay@comcast.net



German Research – Wednesday, July 24th, (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. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Here are some great ways to spend you summer:



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

- On Sat., July 6th **Intro to Genealogy** class, part 3, Vital Records, will meet from 10:15 am -12:15 pm.
- Also on the 6th, the **San Francisco Special Interest Group**, will meet from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm.
- On Thursday, July 11th, 18th and the 25th, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm, **Discovering Your German Roots: The Great Migration**.
- On Sat., August 3rd the **Intro to Genealogy** class, part 4, Organizing Your Family History Work, will meet from 10:15 am -12:15 pm.
- Also on Sat. the 3rd the **Intro to the DNA Study Group** will meet from 1-3:30 pm.

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



At the Concord Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord on Sat., July 20th, at 10 am, **Rachel Aaron** will present a class on **Once you've Jumped the** ►

Pond – Where Do You Go for English Research?
Contact Jackie at 827-4729 for further information.

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 Wed., June 17th at 6 pm, Shannon S. Christmas, MCP will discuss **More Power: Genetic Genealogy Apps and Extensions.**
- On Sat., Aug. 3rd, at 10 am, Amy Johnson Crow will present **How Do I Know That's My Ancestor?**

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., July 9th, at 8 pm Central, James M. Beider will share **Online German Church Registers, Duplicates and Substitutes.**

Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8082591733949280259> ►



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., July 18th from 3-4 EDT, James Heffernan will present **Getting Started in Polish Research.**

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. July's webinars include:

- On Tues., July 9th at 11:00 am, Daniel Horowitz will present **How to Better Manage Your MyHeritage Family Site.**
- On Wed., July 10th at 5:00 pm, Melanie McComb will present **Prince Edward Island Records.**
- On Fri., July 12th at 11:00 am, Thomas MacEntee will present **DNA, Genealogy, and Privacy: Handling the Double-Edged Sword.**
- On Tues., July 23rd at 11:00 am, MyHeritage Webinars will present **Introducing the MyHeritage DNA Health +Ancestry test.** ►

- On Fri., July 26th at 11:00 am, Cari Taplin will present **Census Hurdles: How to Jump Over or Go Around.**
- On Wed., July 31st at 11:00 am, Devin Ashby will present **Google Photos: one photo app to rule them all.**



Here are some other webinars and podcasts that are online:

- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio: <http://extremegenes.com/>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast: <http://genealogyguys.com/>
- Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems: <http://lisalouisecooks.com/podcasts/>
- 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 Thurs. July 11th, at 7:00—9:00 pm, the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, <https://cccg.net/index.php> will meet at the LDS Building 1360 Alberta Way, Concord CA. Special guest, Gena Philibert-Ortega, will provide a look into the many types of libraries and share her tips for getting the most out of a library trip.
- On Fri. July 19th, at 10 am, the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, www.mdgs.webs.com will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. There will be a webinar with Gena Philibert-Ortega will be presenting **Solving Your Brick Walls – Parts 1 & 2.** ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

By: Kathy Javdani

⇒ From Aug. 14th -17th the Northwest Genealogy Conference will be held in Arlington, WA (40 miles north of Seattle). For more information and to register go to www.NwGC.org

Grave Research

by Rayene Sperbeck rayene@san.rr.com

A year ago I went to Calvary Cemetery in Fresno, California, to visit the graves of my grandparents, who had died in the 1930s. The graves were nowhere to be found. I knew the spot exactly, but now it was nothing but a large, mowed, and grassy area. When I was a child, the graves were in an elevated plot. I Remember climbing up two stone steps with the family name on it along the inside roadway. When I returned, there was no roadway or steps. The cemetery had filled the roadway with graves and brought the level up over the top of the steps. I knew this had happened because there was an enormous white angel with her arms open wide right next to the graves of my family. That was the key. Someone in the cemetery office told me the graves were in this area, but would not explain what had happened.

On 23 December 2001, my cousins and I, joined by our husbands and shovels, went digging. It was an unusual experience to be in a cemetery looking for gravestones in the misty December Fresno fog. One of my cousins has connections with the church and she said, "Just leave this to me." One of the caretakers had given her a probe. We brought up and reset on the surface two stones we found that belonged to another family. Then we discovered the two steps. It was an overwhelming feeling to see being uncovered the steps with the family name CULLEN on them. We just stood in amazement and wiped away our tears. However, we were unable to find my grandparents and great-grandparents. It was drizzling and the day was so cold that we had to give up.

I returned to San Diego and persisted in calling the cemetery. Finally, they just got fed up ►

with hearing my name and had the caretakers go out and find three of the graves and bring the stones to the surface. Just a few weeks ago, I was in Fresno for a brief time and we stopped by Calvary Cemetery. I was so pleased to find that now my grandparents' stone and a great-uncle's stone are where they can be seen.

There are still three missing gravestones, including my great-grandparents', that I'll continue to work on with the cemetery. Staff members tell me that the gravestones are not in the plot, but all the records say they are, even the cemetery's records. It just depends upon the person you are talking to at the time.

On one of the Irish mailing lists at RootsWeb, I found a verse that has stuck with me. I think of it every time I visit one of the cemeteries where our family members are buried:

I hear ethereal whispers, persuasive, soft and still. Daughter, if you don't remember us, who will?

The next time I am in Fresno and plan to go to Calvary Cemetery, I think that I will take along a box of chocolates

Copied from:

<http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~dgstuart/genealogy/gs65.htm>.

Help – Donate

Paradise Genealogical Society

Many of us remember the devastating fire that destroyed the town of Paradise in Northern California last November. The fire burned the Paradise Genealogical Society (PGS) Library and all the contents, i. e. books, research material and equipment.

SRVGS would like to help this sister society get back on their feet by donating duplicate and unused genealogical related books. Cash donations will also help their cause (make checks out to Paradise Genealogical Society). Please bring any books or other donations to our General Meeting, July 16. We will collect and forward these donations to PGS. PGS appreciates our help and has already sent their gratitude for any assistance.

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
programs@srvgensoc.org

3rd V.P. Membership:
Jerry & Julia Basel
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: Ileen Peterson
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.

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 the Society does not receive your membership renewal 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. Time is running out.



SRVGS is on Facebook!

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

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)

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

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