



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXV No. 3 September - 2019

This Month's Presentation:

September 17, 2019

FINDING THE UNKNOWN FOR THE ADOPTED OR DIVORCED

Presented by: Sarah Clift



F*inding the Unknown: Tips for Adoptees* will walk you through the steps of creating a “game plan” for discovering your biological parents, including how to request your non-identifying information, how to affordably test at all the DNA companies, and the best DNA tools for solving family history mysteries. These tips are also great for people with one unknown parent and people

with brick walls further up in their family trees.

Sarah Clift started her own genealogical research business, **Past and Present Family Research**, in 2017. She specializes in adoption and unknown parentage cases, and she volunteers with **DNA Doe Project**, a non-profit organization that uses forensic genealogy to identify deceased John and Jane Does. Sarah teaches an online family history course for BYU-Idaho. She earned a certificate in genealogical research from Boston University and has a certificate of achievement from Harvard Medical School's Online Learning genetics course. She also completed the 18-month long ProGen Study program and serves as the coordinator for the upcoming ProGen 44 group. ■

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Notes on Last Month's Presentation:

Anatomy of Birth, Marriage and Death Records

Presentation by: Gena Philibert-Ortega

Reported by: Russ Erickson

'anatomy', Greek for "a study of the internal workings". Birth, Marriage, death vital records vary with the initial informant whose knowledge or memory might vary. Prior to WWII, people, especially women whose memories were fading were often placed in a mental hospital, or insane asylum prior to death, so place could vary. Records also vary with handwriting, what is NOT listed, where ancestors lived vs where they BMD. Note that the national census prior to 1940 did not designate the informant, who could be a family member, boarder, neighbor, etc. with varied knowledge. Note that indexes help find data, but without all the other available information. Marriage and birth certificates were not official--from a minister, physician, midwife and data varied. Certificates do place the ancestor in time and location.

Sources can be original (best), derivative, or authored and information can be primary, secondary, or indeterminant. Be aware of sources with reasons to lie (birth date untrue for a teen marriage, joining army, etc.) or not remember. Evidence can be direct or indirect or questionable. Problems with BMD records include non-availability, redactions, errors, questionable informant, bureaucratic "privacy" issues, price. Birth record confirms age, but not important to society until 1900s with wars, then social security needs, work requirements, voting, and marriage requirements and jury duty. Marriage records involved age, disease carriers (syphilis), later tax needs, consanguinity. Death records were needed for identification, taxes, and benefits. Very early birth records might involve only family Bibles. Some such records were delayed. If records of any variety were typed prior to 1890s, they might have been delayed or redone later. By 1900s, government agencies were pushing physicians, midwives, ministers, etc. to complete good BMD records. Birth certificates should provide mother's maiden names. Delayed records might indicate only the original time of birth, even if done years later. Some states might not have required early records, where counties or cities did. "Archive



Lady" blog was mentioned. Note that women who married a foreigner from 1907 to 1921 lost their American citizenship and had to later re-apply!

Always watch for amendments to BMD records--scan nearby pages when on Ancestry, Family Search, etc. Check newspapers for MBD announcements and milestone events, such as anniversaries. Check obits, school records, home sources, etc. Death records, note where reported, how many informants, educated guesses? Relationships, and number, ICD or ILCD codes. <wolfbane.com/ICD/index.html> provides code answers. Death data can be found in funeral home records, cemetery, coroner inquests, wills and probate, guardianship, and land records. Marriage records might involve running off to marry, lying about age or times married or even bigamy. California licenses have much info, often wrong. Marriage license applications note parental names. There was a 3 day wait in WWII to avoid drunk or "quickie" marriages, often then done in Yuma AZ! Use JSTOR periodical index in your research. Note in California, county records often better than state. Using ANCESTRY, searching by location is best. In Family Search, go to Home Page, to Search, to Catalogue for state, county or city. Use the same for other countries. Use the Search Wiki also where record types are noted on the right side of the computer pages. Use Rootsweb Wiki also. The census from 1850 to 1880 included whether married within the year if no marriage certificate or record. Last, in PERSI the periodical Source index for North America, search by category rather than by name. ■



President's Message

By Steve Watty

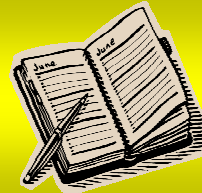


The Dog Days of Summer may have passed but our warm late Summer days continue. This was the time for travel, BBQ, leisure sports and most of all family gatherings. Some of you took a break from your research to enjoy our wonderful weather and the beautiful Bay Area opportunities. I am hopeful that our membership is now recharged after enjoying their month of August sabbatical from the SRVGS activities. Are you ready to resume the scheduled gatherings with fellow SRVGS members, attending SIG group meetings and to learn new research techniques? Our Board and Committees have a full slate of activities scheduled for the remainder of the year and well into next year. These activities are outlined in this Newsletter and on the SRVGS website. Please take advantage of these activities and show your appreciation to this dedicated group for their planning efforts.

Some of us have been busy with training, planning and development of a new SRVGS website. The new site will be rolled out to the membership later this Fall. This new format will help consolidate the communication activities, membership tracking, expand our "Events" listings and offer a dedicated membership area. Stay tuned, more information is on the way.

Again, thank you membership for your donation efforts to the Paradise Genealogical Society. These collection efforts will continue through our next General Meeting, September 17, 2019. The fire that destroyed the town of Paradise in Northern California burned the library and all the contents including books, records and technical equipment. Cash donations and genealogical related books are in great demand and would really help this sister society. (See the Paradise Society's letter of appreciation on page 5) ■

"Done! Everything in the family tree has been found and is completely organized" — said no genealogist. Ever.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

September 2019

- 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.

October 2019

- 1 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 15 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** 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, September 9th (the 2nd Monday). 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 September 11th
 (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 September 16th
 (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 September 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, at: frances_lloyd@comcast.net.

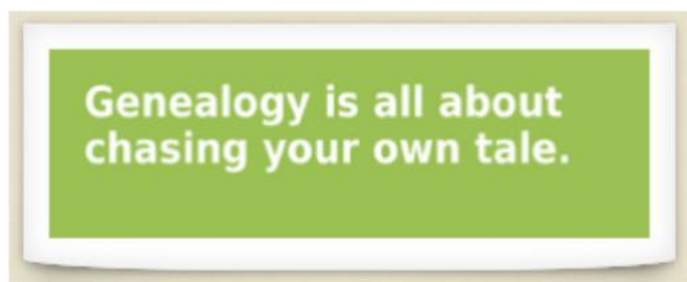


Legacy Family Tree – Monday, September 23rd (the 4th Monday). **Sharon Clay** is the SIG Leader and can be contacted at: sharonlclay@comcast.net



German Research –
Wednesday September 25th,
 (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

School's back in session. Let's learn more genealogy.



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

- On Sat., Sept. 7th from 10:15-12:15 **Intro to Genealogy** class, part 1, genealogical research basics, will meet.
- Also on the 7th from 1-3:30 the **DNA Study Group** will meet.
- On Sat. the 14th from 1-4, there will be a presentation entitled “**Immigrant Sugar Plantation Workers in Hawaii: A Multi-Ethnic Approach to Genealogy**”.
- On Sat., the 21st from 10 – 12:00 the **San Francisco SIG** will meet.
- Also on the 21st the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet from 1-3 pm.
- On Sat., Oct. 5th the **Intro to Genealogy** class, part 2, the census, will meet from 10:15-12:15.
- Also on the 5th Intro to the **DNA Study Group** will meet from 1-3:30.

For more upcoming events in the Bay Area check the Sutro Library “Bay Area Genealogy Calendar” at library.ca.gov/sutro/genealogy/calendar



In September the Oakland Family Search 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.

- **Chinese research** help – every Tuesday from 1-9. Call to schedule an appointment. ►

Paradise Found

As you may know, our Society collected unused books and other genealogy related items along with cash donations to send to the **Paradise Genealogical Society** to help them recover from their devastating loss resulting from last year's fire. The letter they sent us in appreciation of our efforts is displayed to the right. Thanks to all of you who helped make this effort a success.

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. ■



Ms. Karen Olynger
Programs, San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, California 94528-0305

Dear Ms. Olynger,

As members of the Paradise Genealogical Society, we would like to thank you for your generous donations to our group.

As you may know, on November 08, 2018, our Society lost over 3,000 books and over 85,000 obituaries in the Camp Fire. As well, we have lost 40% of our membership as many have chosen to relocate to the safety of their extended families elsewhere.

Those of us who remain have chosen to begin again. In a difficult real estate market, we found a building to rent until we can rebuild in Paradise. We assembled donated shelving and are cataloguing donations of books and materials as we receive them. And we're grateful.

The gift you sent was lovely. It brought to mind the lessons we all learned in church and school and scouting: When someone is down, give them a hand up. When someone is hurt, help them. And the Golden Rule, of course, treat others as you would want others to treat you if you were in a similar situation.

Members of our Society send to the members of your Society our best wishes for continuing success in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Mitchel

Carol A. Mitchel
Member,
Paradise Genealogical Society

Paradise Genealogical Society

5587 Scottwood Dr. Paradise, CA
P.O. Box 460 Paradise, CA 95967-0460
(530) 877-2330
www.pargenso.org
August 14, 2019

- **French Canadian Research** – every Wednesday from 6-9 with Jane Lindsay. No appointment needed.
- **Swedish research** – every Thursday from 10 -4 with Beryl and Wade Olafson. No appointment needed.
- On Wed., the 11th from 7-8 the **Mac Users Workshop** will meet.
- On Wed., the 11th and Wed. the 25th from 6-8:30 Sue Severson will present **DNA and Genealogy 101- parts 1 and 2.**
- On Sat., the 14th from 10:30-12 Ms. Perone will discuss **Family Search Basics #1 –Getting Started.**
- On Sat. the 21st from 1-3 Dawn Kosmakos and Therese Hart-Pignotti will share **DNA Stories Discovered and Resolved.** Registration required. ►

- On Wed., the 25th from 6 -8 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](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars)



At the Concord Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord on Sat., Sept. 21st from 10-11:30 there will be a how-to class. Contact Jackie at 827-4729 for further information.

Enjoy learning 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. Sept. 7th at 10 Melissa Barker will explore **The Home Archivist: Preserving Family Records Like a Pro!**
- On Wed., Sept. 18th at 6 Michael John Neill will present **More Than a Bouquet of Flowers: Increasing Your Chance at the Courthouse.**
- On Sat., Oct. 5th at 10 Daniel Horowitz will discuss **So You Really Want to Research Your Jewish Ancestors?**

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., Sept. 10th at 8 Central, Ginger Frere will present **Telling the Story with Maps: Maps of Early Illinois and Where to Find Them.** Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8652624741277113347>



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., Sept. 19th from 3-4 EDT, Melanie McComb will explore **NextGen Tools for Advancing Your Family History 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.



Legacy offers numerous free webinars every month. Go to FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register. June's webinars include:

- On Tues., Sept. 3rd at 7 Paul Milner will present **Are You Lost? Using Maps, Gazetteers and Directories for British Isles Research.**
- On Wed., Sept. 4th at 11 Michelle Leonard will discuss **Combining DNA and Traditional Research - In-Depth Case Studies.**
- On Fri. the. 6th at 9:15AM Martha Garrett will share **Finding Immigrants Who 'Disappeared': A Research Approach Based on Recognizing and Challenging Assumptions.**
- On Wed. the 11th at 6 Blaine Bettinger will present **Advanced DNA Techniques: Using Phasing to Test DNA Segments**
- On Tues. the 24th at 11Mike Mansfield will discuss **Unlocking English & Welsh Civil Registration Records.**
- On Wed., the 25th at 11 Ruth Craig will explore **Meaningful Tables and Graphs for Correlation in Family History.**
- On Fri. the 27th at 11 Melissa ►

Barker shares **The Home Archivist: Preserving Family Records Like a Pro!**

- On Tues., Oct. 1st at 7 Blaine Bettinger will explore **The Stories Behind the Segments.**
- On Wed., the 2nd at 11 Diahann Southard will present **A Day Out With Your DNA.**



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/>



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., Sept. 7th at 11 the Solano County Genealogical Society, www.scgsca.org will meet at the Fairfield Adult Recreation Center, 1200 Civic Center Dr., Fairfield. Nancy Loe will explore **Scottish Genealogy**
- On Mon., Sept. 9th at 7:30 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will meet at the Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct, Pleasanton. Karen LaDuca will present **Ciao to Your Italian Civil Records.**
- Thurs. Sept. 12th from 7-9 the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will meet at the LDS Building 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. Brooke Schreier Ganz will discuss **Reclaim the Records!**
- On Fri. Sept. 20th at 10 the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, www.mdgs.webs.com will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. Ron Arons will share **Researching Criminal Ancestors.** ■

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.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!*By: Kathy Javdani*

- ⇒ On Sat. Oct. 12th from 9-3:30 the CCCGS Fall Seminar will take place at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center at 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Angie Bush will share four presentations on how to combine DNA evidence and traditional genealogy to unlock family mysteries. Register at: cccgs.net/cpage.php?pt=21
- ⇒ From Oct. 14th – 18th the **2019 British Institute** will be held at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City. Visit: <https://lsbgfh.org/cpage.php?pt=56> ■

**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)

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