



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

2010 Celebrating 25 Years!

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXV No. 7 February - 2010



THIS MONTH – February 16, 2010
"Researching Canada From Afar"
Presented by: Lisa B. Lee



In her presentation, Lisa Lee will teach us Canadian research techniques: how to use online databases, find the correct names for different regions and their timeline and where to locate the records. She will also inform us of the unique Canadian records and their availability as well as extant records.

Lisa B. Lee, a professional genealogist, is a graduate of the National Institute for Genealogical Studies of the University of Toronto where she obtained her Professional Learning Certificates in Genealogical Studies for the U.S., Canadian and Irish Genealogy and methodology.

Ms. Lee is the owner of two genealogical websites: TheGeneQueen.com, where she markets her skills as a professional genealogist: and GotGenealogy.com, where she publishes a free monthly newsletter, the *Got Genealogy News*, that provides useful information to help genealogists make the most of their online genealogical searches.



January Meeting
"Finding Your English Ancestors"
Speakers: Janet Broderick Reporter: Lee Schlenker



This month's speaker should have been our member Suzanne Johnston, but Suzanne had a family death and couldn't be here. So, in her stead, our member and Family History Center coordinator, Janet Broderick, came to our rescue giving her talk on *Finding Your English Ancestors*.

Janet had come to one of our meetings some eight years ago to hear a speaker on English research (having English ancestors). Since attending that meeting she has been to England twice and with her daughter in order to break down those "brick walls" ailing her research into the

surname "Adams." Her "Adams" ancestors came from England and settled in Utah. Janet was raised in the Provo area of Utah.

In the 1500s, King Henry VIII of England declared that records should be written and kept inside the parishes (births, marriages, deaths). By 1600 Queen Elizabeth ordered Bishops make copies of registrations and send them annually to the Bishop of the Diocese. England fortunately has lots of records to be searched and much of them are online.

The registration is a written record of the event (birth, marriage, death). Above all, you ►

need the registration; you should have the county (shire) and/or parish in which your ancestors lived. Janet suggested that you first start with the www.familysearch.org download (which is a free site offered by the Family History Center) to find your ancestors parish records. The FamilySearch website contains the IGI (International Genealogical Index) where you can search England for parishes. You should also try www.genuki.org.uk as this site provides an overall look at the United Kingdom and Ireland and all records available. It also is organized into regions (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands) followed by counties, towns, then parishes. Janet showed us maps which also have the roads clearly marked so you might be able to decipher which route would have been easier for your ancestor to take while moving or getting to the church to be married or christened. If you go back further then the Civil Registration and the Census it will be helpful to have some knowledge of the geography of England, the counties (shires) and location of the parishes within each county. One source for maps: Parish Maps of the Counties of England and Wales, by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies Northgate, Canterbury, Kent, England (published by Everton Publishers, Inc.)

Civil Records began in England in 1837 - births, marriages, deaths were registered in the county (shire) and not just kept in the parish. Each county sent these registrations quarterly to the Public Record Office in London. *There are four separate sets of records for each county for each year.* You will need either the county or the registration district in which the event occurred. When you search these indexes be sure to note the *quarter* in which the event was registered. This will help narrow down your search. The website for Civil Registration index is www.freebmd.org.uk. Nearly 100% of these registrations have been transcribed up to 1930 with only a few short gaps. You should find a form to be filled out online here, fill out all the information you have then press "search." Anything fitting your search terms will be displayed (individual, registration district, volume and page number). This would also be similar with the birth, marriage, death certificates. When you have verified the correct information you should go to

www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates to order. Certificates can be purchased online using a credit card (your credit card company will do the converting of the 7 pounds fee). It takes about 10 days to receive your order.

Probate records and wills were kept at earlier dates than parish records, so they can be very valuable. There are over 300 church probate courts. The most prominent cases were handled by the Prerogative Courts of York and Canterbury. Since 1858 wills and administrations were probated at district courts or a central court in London called the Principal Registry; then the Probate Registry replaced all earlier probate courts. These records may be found mainly at the County Records Offices and at the National Archives, where they can be viewed, paid for and downloaded online.

Remember: there is always Google to find parish, county, etc. for ancestral records to see what is available as well as local and regional Family History Societies (www.ffhs.org.uk). Society's publications can be located and purchased at genfair.co.uk.

Suzanne Johnston had sent our Society (even though she couldn't make our meeting) a 10 page information sheet to be downloaded. Ileen Peterson had sent it to those signed up for internet information for our Society. It's very helpful. Perhaps you can find a copy of it. ■

SOCIETY NEWS VIA EMAIL

Ileen Peterson is the coordinator for the sending of group emails. This extends our group communication ability beyond the monthly newsletter. In addition, about half of our members have chosen to receive their monthly newsletter by email, the advantages being; faster delivery, a much prettier presentation in full color, and substantial savings for the Society and for the environment. Ileen keeps an email address list of members. She will distribute messages at least once a month. Members wishing to share news may send it to Ileen. If it is deemed appropriate, it will be distributed. Members always have the option to Opt-Out of the email distribution. Notify Ileen Peterson at: ileenpeterson@comcast.net ■



President's Message

By Barbara Dittig

Orphans in the 1800's

The Mock Family Discussion Group is a spin off from the newsletter, the *Mock Family Historian*. I was the editor of this quarterly newsletter for 15 years and there is still a large following that belong to the discussion group.

An interesting question came up recently. The member asked, "What happened to orphans in the 1800's? If a child lost both parents or just the father, the males around 14 or 15 were sent to live with other families. Sometimes these families were relatives".

Our DNA research expert, Doug Mauck answered this query as follows:

"In my research I've found that there was an 'Overseer of the Poor' in Virginia in the very early 1800's that placed orphans. The custom through the 1800's seemed to be that if a wife died, the children would be parceled out to relatives, leaving the husband to start a new life, often without even looking back. A single man could in no way care for children or keep a household without a wife. The bad thing for us is that there was no paperwork involved with the transferring of children to other families. Everyone knew what had happened and few found it necessary to make a permanent note of it. A child would just appear in his relative's household and take on their surname if it was different from its own.

The Y-DNA project has shown instances where one male produced sons and grandsons with DNA that was different from the descendants of his brothers. Informal adoption accounts for many of these cases.

There was also the 'Orphan Train' that operated from the middle 1800's for the rest of the century. Orphans from the Eastern states were put on the Orphan train and given to adoptive parents in the west often without paperwork surviving the generations.

Many orphans in large cities were merely abandoned to survive on the streets as best they

could. That condition lasted until the early 1900's when there were gangs of orphans eating out of garbage bins and stealing what they could. A similar situation exists today in the large cities of Brazil where the police are said to thin the population of homeless children by use of violence." ■

WELCOME—NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our newest members:

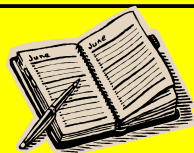
Tom Draeger
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Kathy Oldham
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Lynn and Bill Rennison
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925 984-2131
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Ken Richter
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925 689-6217
KERichter@astound.net



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

February 2010

- 2 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Vern Segelke in Danville.
- 16 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/2 miles

March 2010

- 2 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting will be held at the home of Kathy Javdani in Danville.
- 16 **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



THE MASTER GENEALOGIST INTEREST GROUP

This is a genealogy software users group for PC's with their focus on the use of The Master Genealogist. This group will meet February 16th at the home of Bruce Garner in Danville after the General meeting, about 12:30 pm. **Please let him know if you can attend.** Plan to bring your bag lunch. Barbara Johnson will be the interim contact person for the group. Contact Barbara by Phone 837-2153 or e-mail: bcj616@earthlink.net



MacGen – MACINTOSH GENEALOGY GROUP

This group specializes in uses of the Macintosh by Genealogists. Meet Mac Genealogy enthusiasts from all over Alameda

and Contra Costa Counties. On Wednesday, February 10th (2nd Wednesday), at 7 pm, they will have their monthly workshop from 7-9 pm with free-form question and answer sessions. On Saturday, February 27th, at 1:30 pm, they will have their General Meeting. Pat Burrow will show how to customize and generate genealogy reports using the *Reunion* software. Meetings are held at the Oakland Regional Family History Center Conference Room, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA 94602. Pat Burrow is Leader of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group. She will be dividing her presentation into these segments:

- Getting the Report you want
- Rewording a Report
- Creating batch reports of just one branch of your tree
- Where is my report going (Word, Pages, Textedit)

Please refer to the MacGen web site at <http://www.macgen.org>. Bill George is the contact person for this group. Phone: (510) 538-2449 or e-mail williamcgeorge@Gmail.com. Organizers of the MacGen group are Bill George, Ed Mason, and Rich Peterson.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet Wednesday, February 24th (the fourth Wednesday) at the home of Susan Hanck in Walnut Creek. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Helen Odegard. Helen Odegard is the contact person for this group. For more information, please contact her at 932-6796 or e-mail shodegard@att.net.



IRISH – This special interest group will meet February 10th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am. at the home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. They are also scheduled to meet on March 10th. Patty Erickson is the contact person for the group. Phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail: russpat@comcast.net



SOUTHERN – The Southern Interest Group will meet at 10 am on February 11th (the Second Thursday of the month) at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. They are also ►

scheduled to meet on March 11th. The contact person is Dorothy Stanton; Phone 820-3757 or email dpstant@hotmail.com. New persons interested in attending should contact Dorothy Stanton for information.



SCANDINAVIAN – This special interest group meets each Wednesday at 1 pm at the Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road. Group members provide help to do research for Scandinavian genealogical information. For further information, please call the Family History Center at: (925) 552-5920.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

17 February Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting at the Transfiguration Episcopal Church, 3900 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. Noted blogger, Stephen Danko will share information about new innovative hardware, software and online technology. **Note the new meeting location. Also note that this Society has moved their Library to the Cañada College Library location, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd. in Redwood City.** For further information, visit their web site: www.smccgs.org

23 February Tuesday 1 to 3 pm

The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Lusk Drive and St. Marks Way in Sacramento. Warren Bittner, with a wide background in German research, will share his extensive knowledge of the holdings at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, with ideas about how to use them. The title of his presentation will be: "Using Multiple Sources for Solving an Immigrant Problem".

27 February Saturday 8 am to 4:40 pm

An all day seminar will be held at the Menlo Park Family History Center,

1105 Valparaiso Avenue in Menlo Park. 42 classes and workshops will follow the morning keynote speaker, Suzanne Adams. Learn more details and register online at www.mpfhc.org

Upcoming Classes at the Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue in Oakland

- **16 February, Tuesday 10:30 am**
Adding Sources and notes in PAF, presented by Ken Miller
- **16 February, Tuesday 7 pm.**
Church and Cemetery Records, presented by Marge Bell
- **23 February, Tuesday 7 p m .**
USA Military Records, presented by Susan Goss Johnson.

2010 GENEALOGY CONFERENCES

- **April 23, Sonoma County Genealogical Society Spring Seminar;** speaker, Hank Jones in Santa Rosa CA. For information go to: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com~cascgs>
- **April 28 to May 1, National Genealogical Society Conference** "Follow Your Ancestral Trail", in Salt Lake City, UT visit: www.ngsgenealogy.org
- **June 11 to 13, Southern California Genealogy Jamboree,** in Burbank visit: www.scgsgenealogy.com
- **June 13 to 18, Samford University Institute for Genealogy and History Research** in Birmingham AL, <http://www4.samford.edu/schools/ighr/ighr/index.html> Many courses are filled already – keep in mind for next year. Several SRVGS members have attended; see Frances Lloyd, Virginia Rood or Nancy Alexander for more information.
- **August 18 to 21, Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference** "Rediscovering America's First Frontier", in Knoxville, TN visit: www.fgs.org ■



SRVGS Anniversary - 25 Years!

PART 4

SRVGS HISTORY TO MAY, 2005

By: Patty Erickson

In May, 1999, we began our year with Victoria de Rosa as our 11th president. Pat Isom had come to our rescue and generously offered the use of the LDS Church in Alamo as a monthly meeting place. We accepted the offer.

Our first meeting was held there in September 1999. Our newest home was warm and welcoming. It met all of our needs: plenty of parking, easy access, no chairs to worry about, space for our tape library and freebie materials, name tags, and hospitality (the goodies). We found more than one microphone for meetings and all the audiovisual equipment needed for our monthly meetings. We had meeting rooms available for any of our special interest groups that wished to meet here. Little did we realize what an excellent library facility was also available to us.

At our first meeting at the LDS Church, we were surprised and disappointed that both our new president and first vice-president had resigned! The president for personal reasons and the first vice-president for family health reasons. What did we do? The past president, Dorothy Stanton, had to step in as temporary president until some wonderful members would come forth and took on the job. Our two wonderful members who came forward were Barbara Johnson, who became our 12th president, and Barbara Dyer, who became our first vice-president for the rest of our 1999-2000 year.

May, 2000, Barbara Dyer became our 13th president. There was a change in the program chairman's job - it became a program committee of 3 people. A wonderful, wise, and welcome idea that is still being used. They all wondered how only one person ever did the job. In February 2000, Sharon Clay became our 7th newsletter editor. In October 2000 our original Roots 3 and 4 special interest group, which evolved into Ultimate Family Tree, officially became The Master

Genealogist (TMG) special interest group.

Library news: by February 2001 our book collection at the Danville Library had reached 109 books. Also at the library, was the Family Tree Maker Archive Viewer with its 232 CDs. Seven of our members were volunteers there to help any interested person. They were: Barbara Dyer, Bruce Garner, Sally Germain, Mary Jo Hosteny, Jack Johnson, Bob Kay, and Claudia Mortensen.

May 2001, Frances Lloyd became our 14th president. Our fifth life-time membership award recipient was Jane Steiner in June of 2001. In May 2002, Barbara Dittig became our 15th president. In October 2002, the Danville library received a large donation of books from two of our members, Barbara Irwin and Peggy Frazier. All to be added to our collection. Also in October, Jack Johnson was the coordinator of the internet interest group, began by Robert de Rosa in January 1999. It began as a special means of communication via email for our members, besides the newsletter.

May 2003, Virginia Rood became our 16th president. Sometime during 2002-2003, we awarded Pat Isom and Ron Frye life memberships number 6 and 7. Our September 2003 newsletter had a new coordinating editor, Dorothy Baker who became our 8th newsletter editor. October 2003, Frances Lloyd became our 8th life membership recipient. Also in 2003 to 2004, Barbara Irwin became our 9th life membership recipient.

March 2004, "Dear Genie" was started with the idea of helping our members with their research problems. A wonderful idea, but not enough members took advantage of the offer. Barbara Dittig was "Genie". May 2004 began with Marilyn Tanner as our 17th president. The current membership form was asking for the names, dates, and places of our ancestors. This was to help each of us to find other members researching in the same areas; hopefully to help each other. November 2004, the internet interest group coordinated by Jack Johnson had been the source of internet use in genealogical help for several years. We now started an email communication group with ►

Ed Mason as coordinator. This group helped to share membership news between newsletters.

January 2005, our speaker was Mary Jane de Ross, who spoke on "Free the Memories and Let's Write". We were all inspired and admitted we could and should do this. We enjoyed her so much that we invited Mary Jane back for an all day Saturday workshop.

A BIG EVENT took place in May of 2005. The San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society celebrated its 20th anniversary. We reviewed our 20 years of history with a power point presentation with pictures of our members, accompanied by the story of our history. Especially of our early charter members, that most of our current members did not know. The program was presented by Patty Erickson, with the Power Point pictures scanned and formatted by Bob Dougherty. Dorothy Stanton set up a table that presented our members, who had published books on their families. Peggy Gierke and her hospitality committee had a lovely 20th anniversary cake. After the meeting, many of the past presidents went out for a nice lunch. ■

EDUCATION

SRVGS MEMBER EDUCATION FEBRUARY 2010

 **"EXPLORING IDEAS FOR PUBLISHING"** with Frances Lloyd will meet again on Thursday, February 18, 10 am at the Family History Center. If you're thinking of writing up and, possibly, publishing your research results, come join the discussion group.

 **"ORGANIZING YOUR RESEARCH"** (2-part class) will meet at 1-3 pm on Thursday, February 18 and March 18 at the Family History Center. Frances Lloyd will present ways of getting your research in order to decide what resources to pursue next. Sign up at the February General Meeting or contact Education Coordinator Dorothy Stanton at: dpstant@hotmail.com or 925-820-3757 before Feb. 18. (more on page 8) ►

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Barbara Dittig 925-648-9364
e-mail: president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Ileen Peterson 510-651-7728

2nd V.P. Program:
Sherri Hedman 925-275-8123

3rd V.P. Membership:
Ed Mason 925-838-7848

Recording Secretary:
Lisa Cooke 925-831-8537

Corresponding Secretary:
Kathy Javdani 925-736-5464

Treasurer: Gail Roche Van Wye 925-253-1096

Parliamentarian:
Virginia Rood 925-937-8659

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter 925-454-9919
e-mail: rjventer@comcast.net

Calendar Coordinator:
Vern Segelke 925-838-8570
e-mail: v.m.seg3@sbcglobal.net

Mailing: Lucy Carver 925-837-3146

Deadline to put information in the Newsletter is the Last Thursday of the month.

Members are encourage 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.

Want to help someone who is having research problems in your area of knowledge? Call Harry Baggett at 925.837.7960 to have your name added to the SRVGS Individual Help list.

Harry Baggett trvrlr@sbcglobal.net

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING



For the schedule of classes at the Oakland **Family History Center**, see <http://www.oaklandfhc.org> or call 510-531-3909. Classes are free (nominal charge for handouts) but pre-registration is required. The eight-week Intermediate Genealogy Research Series begins on Feb. 9, 7:30pm.



Workshops at the **National Archives, San Bruno** will begin again in March. Each is \$15 payable in advance.

- **March 19, Friday, 9:00am. to 1:00pm "Census Records Research"** with Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist. For the full schedule see: <http://www.archives.gov/pacific/san-francisco/index.html> (650) 238-3501

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

News from the Danville Stake Family History Center

By Janet Broderick

We are in the process of reviewing the films in the FHC on extended loan. We need to return unneeded films to the Salt Lake Family History Library. If you have a film on extended loan and want it to stay, that is no problem. Just let us know!! I won't send films back without checking with the person that ordered them. However, in some cases, the records do not indicate who originally ordered the film. So, please let me know!!

How do you know what we have in the FHC? Check our online catalog on Athena, sponsored by the Oakland Regional Family History Center. Go to www.oaklandfhc.org. You will see the catalog for not just Danville but for the Oakland and 11 other FHC's in the Bay area. The film you want may already be in another FHC. Check on Athena and see if there is a film you want to stay in Danville!! If you have any questions, come to the family history center and we can help you! ■