San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

1985 2010 Celebrating 25 Years!

www.srvgensoc.org

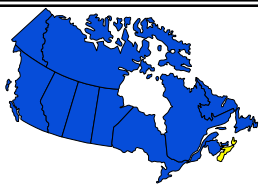
San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society **Vol. XXV No. 8 March - 2010**

THIS MONTH – March 16, 2010
"Paper Sons & Paper Wives "
Presented by: Eddie Fung & Judy Yung

春天

Eddie Fung and Judy Yung, Professor Emerita University of California, Santa Cruz, will be presenting "*Paper Sons and Paper Wives: The Complexities of Researching Chinese Family History during the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943*." They will both discuss their family's immigration history and growing up in San Francisco's Chinatown--he under the shadow of exclusion in the 1930s, as he wrote about it in his book: **The Adventures of Eddie Fung**; and she under the shadow of exclusion and McCarthyism in the 1950s, as she wrote about it in her book: **Unbound Voices: A Documentary History of Chinese Women in San Francisco**. Judy's latest book is: **Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America**.

February Meeting
"Researching Canada From Afar "
Speakers: Lisa B. Lee Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Our speaker the month of February was Lisa B. Lee, a professional genealogist who truly enjoyed researching her ancestors in Canada (her favorite country). She also provided us with a very good hand-out as well as a listing of the Vital Records Chart for all U.S. states. This listing has nothing to do with her talk on finding folks in Canada but she uses it for checking out which state and when that state started keeping vital records. It may make your search shorter if you know where *not* to search and waste time. She keeps her chart close to her computer for quick reference. She also has two websites: www.thegenequeen.com and www.gotgenealogy.com. Her "gene queen" is for her professional services and the "got genealogy" site publishes a free newsletter which provides genealogists with useful information on their online searches.

Lisa says her interest first came at the "ripe" age of 12 years and her interest was raised again with a visit from Alex Haley in 1970 to her high school. There had been slaves at one time on her mother's side of the family. Her great grandfather was one of seventeen children. Her Canadian grandfather had married twice - once to an Irish lass who died and then he remarried a German woman. So, Lisa has "white" relatives as well as "black" relatives. She always felt she had African blood within her ancestors but not so true. Prior to Canada's formation, the Métis people emerged out of the relations of Native women and European men. The offspring of these unions possessed mixed ancestry. The intermarriages of ►

the Métis women and Métis men resulted in the genesis of a new Aboriginal people - the Métis. There is a website for the Métis National Council (http://www.metisnation.ca/).

She had a grandmother who was like our modern day computer: she remembered who married who, names, dates, places, cousins, weather on a particular day, who was born when, etc. So Lisa figured out early on that if she didn't listen and write in her journal all the things her grandmother was talking about, she'd never have a good start to her genealogy quest. Her father had a habit of embellishing stories told about relatives and often times the times and places got switched to suit his mood which Lisa knew was not quite correct.

To start your research it is suggested that: 1) Identify what's available, 2) Go online at (www.ancestry.ca), 3) Go offline (LDS in Oakland has many items and the 1851 Canadian Census, 4) Hit the road! You must become very familiar with Canadian geography and the many names of the Provinces now known as Canada. It was once called the "Dominion of Canada" and "New France" prior to 1763.

What's different about Canadian genealogy? Lisa lists: the *language* (some records are in French), *spelling* (color/colour, center/centre), *citizenship requirements for some records,* earlier *church records* (more records online), *Census released* after 92 years vs. 72 years in U.S., no **public social security** info, *availability of vital records* controlled by province, *accessing some records* may require you to travel. Many people have done a great job of preserving documents, transcribing and publishing information. Some of the best: military records (muster roll, land claims, pension claims), church records, early Canadiana Online (www.canadiana.org), border crossings (both ways), Censuses (both population and agricultural), vital records (most post 1868).

Understand the major migrations: Canada didn't have slavery as we know it here in the States - they used the native peoples not so much for agricultural purposes but for clearing large plots of land prior to farming and building. The Hudson Bay Co. (1600 - 1800) brought in people to work and claimed a defacto government in the plains areas. The War of 1812 gave soldiers land so there are lots of land records which are very good and explicit. Many of the U.S. Court Houses where burned during the war but not so in Canada. The Irish Potato Famine of 1845 brought an influx of Irish. The Underground Railroad (1795-1850) brought in slaves; but after 1850 the Slave Act ran out and slaves started to be rounded up and returned to the States causing them to move farther north into Canada. "Land Best West" (1909-1912) gave land to people free, but created undesirables and not the people who would farm the land.

Lisa found fewer errors on the Canadian Census than the U.S. Census. Canadian Census records were first released in 185l and the last was released in 1911. The records can be spotty before 1851. Check Population and Agricultural Schedules.

Early newspaper searches can go back to the 1800s. The Provincial Archives have great info as well as the church records. Churches kept good records because the population was small and they had "circuit riders" who came periodically to perform marriages and baptize babies. So you may find a Catholic baptism within an Anglican record.

War records can be like gold! United Empire Loyalists (U.E.L.) were promised land in return for their loyalty to the Crown, but many turned it down. After the wars tens of thousands settled into the Maritime Provinces. Our own Civil War brought 30,000 Canadians to fight for the Union, but only 10,000 for the Confederacy. And in WWI there was the C.E.F. (Canadian Expeditionary Force). Lisa's relative used his older brother's name to enlist in the war because he was actually too young to fight. Lisa had a tough time figuring out who was who and why were there two ages for Oscar Douglass.

Lisa told us many interesting stories about her searches. She was a truly interesting speaker who held our attention for her entire hour presentation. Her handout lists more than 15 websites. I am unable to list them all here. So, please find a friend who has Lisa's original handout and copy it. It can be really helpful for your Canadian research! ■

President's Message

By Barbara Dittig

March has arrived signaling the beginning of spring in the San Ramon Valley. Our hills have turned green and the yellow daffodils are in abundance in our yards and can be seen along the 680 freeway.

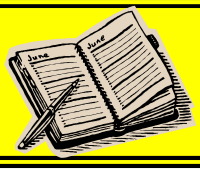
Reflecting on the awakening of yet another new season, I look back on my years as a member of SRVGS (about 23 years) and realize how we have grown as an organization. Computers have replaced the yellow lined writing pads for most of us. The internet has been introduced giving us a wonderful new research tool which is only the beginning of new and exciting avenues to explore – Facebook, Blogs, Twitter are just an example of what's available to us – if we so choose. We've definitely moved into the 21st century!

It now seems appropriate that your committee is in the midst of planning our 25th anniversary, a sure to be fun and festive event featuring a video of past and present members ably produced by our chairman, Ed Mason, booths for our "special interest" groups, tables to display family heirlooms. A light lunch will be available and, of course, a special "25th Anniversary" dessert and much more.

May 18th is the date, so mark your calendars and join in to celebrate our 25th!

LET'S SHARE

Our families are more than census figures and birth and death dates. In our research we all have uncovered some interesting treasures. Your treasure might be a sweet or very stern picture, a piece of handiwork, a map, etc. Or it may be that unidentifiable item that you found in a box but have no idea what it is or where it came from. Do share your treasures at our Artifacts Table at our 25th Anniversary Meeting on May18th. Bring your item(s) to the meeting with a card with your name and brief description of your piece. We hope our display will be a cross between Antiques Roadshow and the History Detectives. Contact Kathy Javdani at 925-736-5464 or kjjsc@aol.com for details.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

March 2010

2 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was 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.

April 2010

6 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting will be held at the home of Elaine Franke in Danville.

20 **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 March 16th at the home of Barbara Johnson in Danville after the General meeting, about 12:30 pm to 1 pm. Plan to bring your bag lunch. Barbara Johnson is 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 Saturday, March 27th, at 1:30 pm – They will have their General Meeting. Meetings are held at the Oakland Regional Family History Center Conference Room, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA. Rich Peterson will show how to produce Family History Slide Shows. He will use iPhoto and one of his favorite slideshow automator programs. Rich will show transitions, adding music tracks, captions and techniques to produce a unique family history experience. On Wednesday, March 10th (2nd Wednesday), at 7 pm – they will have their monthly workshop from 7-9 pm with free-form question and answer sessions.

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, March 24th (the fourth Wednesday). The Group will be going to DJ's Bistro in Concord, for a lunch meeting. They will meet at the restaurant at 11:30. Anyone interested in attending, please call Helen as she will need to make an advance reservation. 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 March 10th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am. at the home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. They are also scheduled to meet on April 14th. 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 March 11th (the Second Thursday of the month) at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. They are also scheduled to meet on April 8th. 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 (925) 552-5920.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

9 **March Tuesday 7:30 pm.** The Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society will have one of its regular meetings at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. "Solving Family Mysteries with Google Earth" will be the subject of the presentation by Lisa Louise Cook. She is a lecturer and the producer of the weekly Family History: *Genealogy Made Easy* podcast, and *The Genealogy Gems Podcast* which features research strategies and expert interviews. Both shows can be heard free in iTunes and at Lisa's website www.genealogygems.tv.

16 **March Tuesday 7:00 p.m.** The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings in the Cedar Room of the Santa Clara Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Road. The speaker will be Mary Hanel. The topic for her talk will be: "What's new for Genealogy at the SCL City Library." This Society is also sponsoring seminars for beginners at this same location on Saturday afternoons, May 1 and May 8. Please pre-register for these free seminars. Visit their web site at www.scchgs.org.

20 **March Saturday 10:30 a.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. "Cite it" will be the subject of a presentation by ▶

Susan Goss Johnston. Susan is an experienced researcher and teacher. Learn how to properly cite your sources. **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.smcgs.org

20 **March Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** The California Genealogical Society is sponsoring a tech workshop with Mary Beth Frederick. "Digital Photography: A tool for Genealogic Research" is the subject. It will be held at the CGS Library, 2201 Broadway, Lower Level suite 2, in Oakland. A lecture will be given in the morning. To take advantage of the afternoon workshop activities, please bring your own digital camera and a bag lunch. There is a $10 pre-registration fee for non-members. Phone (519)663-1358 or visit www.calgensoc.org becoming CaliforniaAncestors.org.

24 **April Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm** The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will present its annual spring seminar. The presenter will be John Phillip Colletta. The location will be the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street in Sacramento. The pre-registration fee for non-members is $50. A lunch can be added. Visit their web site www.sacgergensoc.org or contact Milt Kelley at mekelley4143@comcast.net for further information.

24 **April Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm** The Sonoma County Genealogical Society will be hosting a spring seminar featuring Henry "Hand" Jones, Jr. and Anthony Hoskins. It will be held in the Harry Merlo Theater of the Luther Burbank Center for the Performing Arts off Hwy 101 at River Road in Santa Rosa. There is a $25 pre-registration fee prior to April 16, or $30 at the door. Visit their web site at www.scgs.org for further details or contact Audrey Phillips, registrar at (797) 763-4492. Box lunches are available for $12. The following topics will be presented:

- "When Sources are Wrong" and "Family Traditions: How to Separate Fact from Fiction" by "Hank" Jones, Jr., Lecturer and Author
- "Not Enough Proof" and "Hurdling those Back Country Brick Walls" by Anthony Hoskins, Scholar, Lecturer and Archivist

Upcoming NARA workshops presented by Rose Mary Kennedy at the San Bruno National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive in San Bruno. The workshops are held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays. The cost is $15 payable in advance. Please phone (650) 238-3488

- **19 March**, Census Records Research.
- **16 April**, Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records.
- **14 May**, Military Records, Revolutionary War to Civil War.

EDUCATION

Local Classes:

March 30 1 pm at the **Concord Family History Center** "What's New on the Internet" by Anne Costello. Call the FHC at 686-1766 or Jackie 827-4729

Workshops at the **National Archives, San Bruno, 1000 Commodore Drive;** presented by Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist. Each is $15 payable in advance.

- **March 19, Friday, 9am to 1pm "***Census Records Research***"**
- **April 16, Friday, 9am to 1pm** "*Passenger Arrivals and Naturalization Records*"

For the full schedule see:

http://www.archives.gov/pacific/san-francisco/index.html or call (650) 238-3501.

SRVGS Anniversary - 25 Years!

PART 5

By: Patty Erickson

With our 20th anniversary festivities over, it was back to normal business with Patty Erickson as our 18th President for 2005 to 2007.

In 2006, thanks to Ed Mason, we were given the option of receiving our newsletter either by e-mail or regular mail. This soon showed a saving of $150.00 due to less cost for printing and postage.

At our November 2006 meeting Virginia Rood was awarded our 10th Life Membership.

By January 2007, we had a Web Page! Ed Mason worked diligently to get it up and functioning. He spent time searching for an acceptable name for our Web Page- one that was not already in use using the letters we needed. We ended up with srvgensoc.org/index.html. Naturally Ed became our Web Master.

May 2007 our Society made history by having our first male President; Ed Mason became our 19th President for 2007 to 2009. June was a busy month for us: Sandra Burns addressed the needs of better welcoming guests and helping direct new members to helpful sources at the general meetings. This took some of the burden off the busy membership person and has worked out well. We began a Who's Who in our Society. Each month 2 Board members and committee persons would tell us a bit about themselves and the families they were researching. It was well received. Dorothy Baker , our newsletter editor, gave us the announcement we hate to hear - she must resign as our newsletter editor. The July/August newsletter will have to be her last one. At the June meeting, Patty Erickson became the 11th Life Membership recipient. We began the Individual Help Program chaired by Harry Baggett. Do you need help in Chicago, Ohio, Germany or Poland? A call to Harry and you will be directed to the volunteer member in our Society covering that area. In the newsletter, the German Interest Group gave a special thanks to Fran Schweitzer, out going chairperson of this group, for her work to keep the German Interest Group together since 2001. July began a Family Tree Maker Group with Gail Roche Van Wye as chairperson. September Bob Venter became our 9th coordinating editor/newsletter editor. It also appears that Bob is an expert programmer in html, the language of the web page. Bob has become our Web Master and has given us an excellent web page. A capable member with two big, important jobs. Many thanks!

Our March 2008 general meeting was held at the Family History Center in Oakland. Marge Bell introduced us to the numerous genealogical upgraded programs and those to come in the near future. We were both amazed and impressed. In July, the Board sent out an urgent message --- a Recording Secretary was needed! September 18th a class was offered by the members of the Publishing Interest Group to answer questions and share their experiences with others who wish to publish. That Recording Secretary job was filled at the October Board meeting by some creative job exchanges. Treasurer, Ileen Peterson, became the new Recording Secretary. The new Treasurer was Gail Roche Van Wye, who was Library trip coordinator and chair person of the Family Tree Maker Group.

We began our year of 2009-2010 with Barbara Dittig as our 20th President. In June the Mac Gen Group began meeting on the 4th Saturday of the month at the Family History Center in Oakland. Bill George, an SRVGS member, is the chairperson. This group was set up for Bay area people who use the Mac for Reunion and iPhoto in their genealogy. The Family Tree Interest Group appears to have evolved into the Computer Software Users Group with Gail Roche Van Wye as chairperson. October 10th we helped to celebrate Family History Month by having a booth at the Danville Farmer's Market. This was an important outreach step for our Society to become better known in the local communities. Thanks to all who made this a successful effort. The German Special Interest Group is known for its annual ►

Oktoberfest celebrations with their favorite German foods. This must have been an especially good celebration, as they claim it gets better every year. Maybe we should all become a bit German in October. We are already beginning plans for our 25th anniversary in May of 2010. October 21st was the first meeting of the Scandinavian Research Group. It meets each Wednesday at 1 P.M. in the Family History Center. Linda Bailey is the chairperson and shares her experience in what is available online for researching Scandinavian ancestors. November 19th brought the Publishing Interest Group to begin meeting again with Frances Lloyd as chairperson. The topic is, "Exploring New Ideas For Publishing." Many of us should be attending this class!

This is where our history of 25 years must end. Thank you to all for your hard work and efforts to help us reach our 25th year. Our February speaker, Lisa Lee, left us with good thoughts about our society. We have good turnouts at our meetings. We are attracting new members and we must be doing something right! Let us not forget this as our nominating committee seeks new Board members for 2010-2011. Let me share some names of members who have done their jobs for many years that you might not be aware of. Library Committee selects the books that the Danville Library holds for us; Jack Johnson, Dorothy Stanton, Francis Lloyd, and Ed O'Donnell have been on this committee for many years. Newsletter calendar--the first entry of the calendar was February 2000, with Vern Segelke as coordinator. Vern still holds that position in 2010. Historian--in charge of pictures, newspaper articles of our members, and newsletters. Nancy Alexander began this job in 1994-95. Nancy took 2 years off to be our treasurer, with Carol Glover taking her job for 2 years. By 2004-2005, Nancy again became Historian and still holds that job in 2010. Publicity--Ed O'Donnell began this job in 1995-96 and is still doing publicity in 2010. Hospitality--does this need a description? In 1998-99, Peggy Gierke became chairperson of Hospitality and she is still there with her able assistants in 2010. Newsletter-Speaker write-ups--Lee Schlenker has been doing the bulk of this reporting since January 2000. Newsletter mailing has been done by Barbara Dittig and Lucy Carver since 1989! They have faithfully picked up the newsletters ►

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 trvlrl@sbcglobal.net

from the printer, folded, labeled, stamped and mailed them. Still doing this in 2010, only the load is somewhat smaller. This only goes to prove you do not have to be front and center and in the spot light to be a helpful member to your society. What is your place in our society? ■

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
SRVGS EVENTS	3
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	3
OTHER EVENTS	4
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
SRVGS ANNIVERSARY—25 YEARS	6
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3

San Ramon Valley
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

News from the Danville Stake Family History Center

By Janet Broderick

With the constantly changing world of internet genealogy, new information gets posted online often. The challenge is to know what the sites are and where to find them. For this purpose, the Family History Center has made a binder for each state in the USA plus many countries of the world where we can file this information as we become aware of it. There are also binders on general subject matters such as: Military records, maps, emigration and immigration sites, etc. These binders also can hold information on how to research that particular area or other sources, other than online, that are available. You may want to check out those binders! They may have the site you need!!!

If you discover a site that has online genealogical information, please send it on to me at janetanddennis@gmail.org. ■