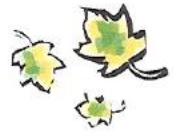




San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXV No. 9 April - 2010



THIS MONTH – April 20, 2010

"Genealogical Research: Past, Present & Future"

Moderator: Kathy Javdani, *The Past:* Frances Lloyd,
Present: Janet Broderick, *Future:* Lisa Louise Cooke.



Come one, come all, for the fun of learning where we started, where we are and where we are headed! April's program consists of a learned panel of our own talented members, so is sure to have broad appeal.

Even if you have knocked down the brick walls in your family research you may be curious about upcoming research tools. However, a few of us are just getting started, and for others our current research suffers from a shortage of time, energy, travel money, or computer skills (or a Jurassic-era computer). So, if a branch of your family is mired in the past, and ghosts of your ancestors pester you to break free, come hear our esteemed panelists--all three give their 10 minute presentations in a row. These are followed up by a Q & A discussion period.



March Meeting

"Paper Sons & Paper Wives"

Speakers: Eddie Fung & Judy Yung Reporter: Lee Schlenker

春天

At our last meeting we had two articulate speakers both born and raised in San Francisco's Chinatown. Their stories, each told in detail, covered Paper Sons as well as Paper Wives which was a brand new term to me. It covered the Exclusion Act (1882 - 1943) era. Judy outlined the background on this Act - 1848-1849 immigration into the U.S. was heavy because of the gold rush in California. Workers were needed to build railroads and help work the mines. Chinese men were urged to come to the states, earn money and send it home to their relatives in China. But by the 1870s depression set in and unemployment was rampant. An anti-Chinese movement didn't want the Chinese immigrants continually taking jobs from the whites. And so,

the Exclusion Act was created which was the first ever in U.S. history. Being a Chinese student, a diplomat, having relatives already here, or a visitor gave you entrance into the U.S. Only these parameters slowed Chinese immigration way down. The 1906 quake in San Francisco occurred and immigrations records along with City Hall were destroyed.

Well, how did the vast majority get through immigration? An exempt category was created - "merchant status" so Chinese merchants of California declared their sons and wives still in China. In Hong Kong true historical stories of Chinese families were written out on paper and sold to whoever could pay the price. They were called "coaching books" or "coaching papers." ►

and they were copied over and over again for sale. A 19 year old man would pay \$1,900.00 for his "papers" (based on his age). The buyer had to memorize these books or papers before gaining entrance into the U.S. so they could answer the rigorous questions from immigration. As an example: Judy's last name is Yung (her "paper" name). Her province in China knew her father's family as Tom. Her father was allowed into the U.S. when single with purchased Yung "papers." At 33 he started to look for a wife so went back to China, arranged a marriage, then had to figure out how to get his new bride to the U.S. It took 4 years to achieve. He purchased 1,000 shares of stock in an Import/Export business giving him "merchant status." His new wife had to memorize his "coaching book" in the name of Yung so she could answer the questions asked by immigration agents on Angel Island (the Ellis Island of the West). There were six children born in this Yung family at Chinese Hospital in San Francisco. By then everyone in Chinatown had two surnames - their U.S. name through purchased "papers" and their Chinese name from home. This fact made it very difficult to trace ancestry trees back to China. Judy's father told her *never, never* tell anyone you are a Tom!

Eddie Fung told his personal story of "Paper Wives" next. His father walked in from Canada in 1890 as a man-servant to a U.S. citizen. His employer walked him across to Montana then said good by to him. His father told him of where he had been. He traveled around by jumping onto railroad cars. His uncle came over as a merchant status. Eddie's father wanted to bring his wife to the U.S. also (this is where "the bones were rattling in the closet"). His merchant brother sold him his "papers." Eddie's mother came over as Eddie's uncle's wife who was barren and had two adopted boys (only one boy came with her to the U.S.). Eddie's father knew the Chinese Counsel General who finally got Eddie's mother and uncle legally divorced. There were eventually 10 children in Eddie's family. His personal story takes place in Chinatown, San Francisco also. He grew up in the '20s and '30s going to U.S. schools and heard different last names for classmates in school as opposed to around Chinatown. He asked his father about the name and was told that those are "paper" names. Eddie spoke Chinese up to the

age of six. (He had to speak Cantonese at home in respect to his mother.) Learning his alphabet and learning to read opened up his new world. The newspaper was a big interest. He decided one day to find out "if the grass was greener on the other side" and left home at a tender age - ending up in Antioch, CA. His dad found him working, brought him back home promising him he could return to finish his work in Antioch at a later time. Well, by the age of 16 Eddie found he was no longer considered a truant and he left home again - all the way to Texas. But his dad found him again and when Eddie asked how did he find him, he simply said, "I went to the bus station, asked if anyone saw a little Chinese kid going out of town." They told him which bus and where it went! You just couldn't fool parents then. He also joined the military later on and ended up a P.O.W. helping to build the Burma-Siam railroad (aka "Bridge on the River Kwai").

The 1950s brought McCarthyism and the anti-communist fever ran high. The "paper" business still kept going until the government got wind that the Chinese community could harbor communist spies. They investigated the community for deportation knowing there were fraudulent "papers" out there. But it was hard to deport hundreds of thousands of Chinese. So, if they confessed then their status was adjusted. With the adjusted status there were no more "paper sons" or "paper daughters." But by confessing (some 30,000 confessed), it created hard feelings with good friends.

Much of Eddie's and Judy's information was corroborated at NARA in San Bruno. There are more than 69,000 case files with hand-written interviews from the immigration questions looking for those false "papers."

Judy traced her mother's side going back 25 generations in China. Her father's side was more complicated but she talked with uncles and finally got to visit her ancestral village in 1982.

Eddie had to ask nephews and nieces their personal information for his basis and they could only go back 4 generations to his great grandfather. By 1980 he too visited his ancestral village.

Both speakers have written books on this and other Chinese subjects. ■



President's Message

By Barbara Dittig

April's three person panel plus moderator is going to be an interesting overview of genealogy research as it was in the past, the present and what to expect in the future. Suddenly the country seems to be taking a new fresh look at researching their ancestors. The new hit NBC show *Who Do You Think You Are?* has certainly sparked and interest worldwide, featuring celebrities who, with the help of professional researchers, find fascinating discoveries about their early families. I think this is a windfall for societies such as ours as well as archives and libraries. I read in *Ancestry* that the San Antonio (TX) Genealogical & Historical Society has scheduled a beginners class entitled "*How to Find Out Who You Are?*" and the first classes are full. What a great idea!

Our panel this month, as well as our 25th Anniversary Celebration next month, is coming at a very opportune time. If you have a friend that is interested in "someday" finding out about their ancestors, encourage them to attend these meetings, April 20th and May 18th at 10:00 at the Family History Center in Alamo. ■

WELCOME—NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our newest members:

Bob Daoust

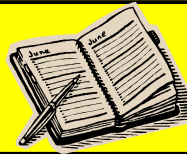
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

April 2010

6 Tuesday – 10:00 am. A Board Meeting was 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. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/2 miles.

May 2010

4 Tuesday – 10:00 am. A Board Meeting will be held at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek.

18 Tuesday – 10:00 am. The 25th Anniversary General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. Keep this date on your calendar and attend this very special meeting until about 2 pm. Light lunch will be served. For further details attend the April meeting and watch for the May newsletter.

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 April 20th at the home of Bruce Garner 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. **Note: This group will NOT meet during April.** Meetings are held at the Oakland Regional Family History Center Conference Room, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA. 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. They plan to meet on Saturday May 22. The topic will be "Put Your Family History on the Web."



GERMAN – The German Group will meet Wednesday, April 28th (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 am. at

the home of Marilyn Tanner in Moraga. 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 April 14th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am. at the

home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. They are also scheduled to meet on May 12th. 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 April 8th (the Second Thursday of the month) at the Family History Center on Stone

Valley Road. They are also scheduled to meet on May 13th. 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

- 10 April Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The Stephen Harris City Directory Library will be open at the CGS Library, 2201 Broadway, Lower Level suite 2, in Oakland. It will also be open on Friday April 16. Phone (519)663-1358 or visit www.calgensoc.org becoming CaliforniaAncestors.org.
- 13 April Tuesday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society will have one of its regular meetings at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Anne Homan and Dick Finn have co-authored a new book entitled, "Vasco's Livermore, 1910." They will talk about their book and show images from it.
- 21 April 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. The speaker will be Mary Hanel, Santa Clara librarian. She will talk about the Santa Clara library collection and resources provided to genealogists including database updates and excellent new genealogy books. **Note the 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
- 24 April Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 pm** The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will present its annual spring seminar. The presenter will be John Phillip Colletta. Learn more about your Immigrant ancestor through Naturalization Records, Passenger Arrival Records and Lesser Used Federal Records. The location will be the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street in Sacramento. Prior to April 19, the pre-registration fee for non-members is \$50. A lunch can be added. Visit their ►

web site www.sacgensoc.org or contact Milt Kelley at mekelley4143@comcast.net for further information.

24 April Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 pm

The Sonoma County Genealogical Society will be hosting a spring seminar featuring Henry "Hank" 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 if received 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

28 April to May 1

The National Genealogical Society Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Visit www.ngsgenealogy.org

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

- **16 April** Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records
- **14 May** Military Records, Revolutionary War to Civil War
- **18 June** Military Records, Spanish American to Viet Nam. ■

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

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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

**At Our 25th Anniversary
Celebration****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 May 18th. 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 Road Show and the History Detectives. Contact Kathy Javdani at 925-736-5464 or kjjsc@aol.com for details. ■

**News from the Danville Stake Family
History Center**

By Janet Broderick

April 2010

The Scandinavian group is gearing up again. Linda Bailey will be available on Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. at the FHC to help those researching in Scandinavia. You can just drop in and ask your questions.

If you know of someone upgrading their computers and have a relatively recent Windows XP computer they would like to donate, please have them call Janet Broderick at 925-831-8516. We are in the planning stages of upgrading the general computer system and would like some faster computers. ■



**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
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FIRST CLASS MAIL