



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

Celebrating 25 Years!

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXV No. 10 May - 2010



THIS MONTH – May 18, 2010
"Our 25th Anniversary Celebration"



Unless you were there at the beginning in 1985, you may not know that much about the history of our Society. We are going to take the opportunity to tell you about it by offering an exciting and entertaining 4-hour program. We will be honoring charter members, past presidents, Life Members and others. A professionally prepared video on the History of the Society will be followed by a light lunch. Then there will be a Mini Faire staffed by SRVGS members. It will feature the Society's publications, historic artifacts of family members, and well-staffed tables for our Special Interest Groups: Southern States, Ireland, England, Germany, Scandinavia, The Computer Interest Group (the Master Genealogist) and Windows/Mac.

Join us for the fun. As we review the contributions of our many talented members during our first quarter century we'll also be launching a new era. We expect our second quarter century will unveil many more ways for us to provide research assistance, educational opportunities, access to resources and forums for the exchange of information and ideas. For more details see page 3.



April Meeting
"Genealogical Research: Past, Present & Future"
Speakers: Kathy Javdani, Frances Lloyd, Janet Broderick,
& Lisa Louise Cooke. **Reporter:** Lee Schlenker



This was a very interesting "curve" from past to future this past month and all our speakers were eloquent.

Most of you know Frances Lloyd, our 6th and 14th past President, first V.P. three times running and instructor for the "Beginning Genealogy" classes as well as the "Publishing" class. Francie took us through the past genealogy search by starting with the truly rudimentary items - a quill writing instrument! then took us to the ink pen, then to the ever popular pencil (which was used so that we could erase and make changes when we found that accurate proof) and then to writing on "pedigree sheets" for all posterity. She stated that

not many of the 1700 to 1800's records have changed, but the way we had to find and prove those records has changed. Much of the family history was told through family stories and word of mouth. We were involved with both sides of the families. We were pests to uncles, aunts, grandmothers, grandfathers and cousins - pencil and paper in hand! It was wonderful to find a family bible or a journal kept by a relative with a hint to life, even cookbooks with written notations in the margins. We visited libraries, did car trips (even distant ones), we borrowed books (as in inter-library loans) from the East coast, mastered the Soundex, and learned to read microfiche and ►



Our Panel: (l to r): Lisa Cooke (Future), Frances Lloyd (Past), and Janet Broderick (Present).

microfilm. Then there was the Genealogist's Handybook - very thin to start out with but a monster at the end (over 300 pages) - which was a guide to court houses within the states. Court-house records could be copied for about 50 cents per page. And we copied like crazy to prove our lineage. We wrote letters to the National Archives and got back written responses! We moved on to the DOS system on computers which quickly became the "word" system where we could write manuscripts if we wanted to, and change the fonts, then add photos to make it truly an ancestral story or even a book. We've come such a long way in our "super-sleuthing" - but still good research will always be good research!

Janet Broderick, Family History Center coordinator, took us through the present in genealogy. She had always been fascinated with history since her family was in Utah in the 1880s. And then her interest grew with English research. She remembers going to Family History Centers where the microfilm readers were always busy and you made sure you were there first there so you could get the best reader. She used film from England with pretty good results and spent many hours copying. Today we still need those microfilm readers; but the latest information is that the film itself will not last even in the most perfect conditions. So we must learn to use the internet exten-

sively and learn which data base we need to find that someone or something. Finding an new web-site or a new data base with information can be a great find. Janet urged us to relay those websites that we do find very useful to the FHC. She keeps a binder located in the Danville Family History Center which is accessible to anyone who comes in. There is also a binder on map websites kept in the FHC for your use. Many Societies are also asked to volunteer in indexing census and birth records, so these will be more permanent than the microfilm. (Registering online is simple and easy if you chose.) Janet enjoys indexing Irish Parish records hoping to find the g-grandmother's name in the process - it's a two-fold venture for her!

The next person to the podium was Lisa Louise Cooke who presented her future look at internet genealogy. She has her own website and podcast. With the computer there will be far more avenues and more records to aid in finding ancestral information while at home. There was a time when genealogy was done by the gray-haired group because they had the time and the years to understand the true meaning of heritage. The average age for genealogy use is getting younger with the computer. Right now there are the LDS indexing available, passenger lists, etc. as well as "bogus" websites. Our hardest work will be determining which is bogus and which is true. Often these sites charge you but their information was actually taken from a free site. So check and beware so you're not paying for "free information." One example is Archives.com which links some information to Footnotes.com (which is free at the FHC).

There are more and more television shows which are geared to a younger audience such as "Who Do You Think You Are?" Social media will continue to connect families and expose younger generations to genealogy (e.g. Facebook, MySpace, YouTube). In the education field - "webinars" will become popular because they will reach and teach online; distance will never be a problem when it's on your computer. The host or instructor can be countries or just miles away, but you can listen to him/her in the comfort of your own home. Sharing will continue to go visual. There are genealogical societies across the nation which you can belong to and they can give ►



SRVGS 25th Anniversary Celebration!

We cordially invite you to the
25th Anniversary Celebration
of the
San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society
Tuesday, May 18, 2010 10 a.m. ~ 2 p.m.
At The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo, CA

The Program:

- 10:00 Check-in and pick up your badge. Greet old friends
- 10:15 General introductory remarks and recognition of visitors, Charter Members, Life Members, and Past Presidents
- 10:30 A short business meeting
- 10:45 Presentation of gifts and awards
- 11:00 Viewing of a professionally prepared 55 minute video on the History of the Society
- 12:00 A light lunch
- 12:45 A Mini Faire staffed by SRVGS members. It will feature the Society's Publications, historic artifacts of family members, and well-staffed tables for Southern States, Ireland, England, Germany, Scandinavia, Computer Interest Group (The Master Genealogist), Mac and Windows Genealogy Software.
- 2:00 Close of the Celebration

We hope you will join us as we reflect on the accomplishments of the past 25 years, and the promises of the next 25!

RSVP by May 11, 2010 - Barbara Dittig @ 925 648- 9364, or bdittig@comcast.net

you information you're seeking over the internet just by being one of their members. Often times it's cheaper to belong to - say the Ohio Genealogical Society - than to subscribe to a website which could yield you Ohio information but at a much higher price than the Society's membership price.

"Diversify or die" means making genealogy palatable for everyone - online genealogical magazines, Googlebooks.com, Family Tree University shop, etc. Everyone over the internet has to keep things "fresh" and appealing for its users. So, changes happen all the time.

You can even have your own book printed

from online at lulu.com. Lisa did one for her family for less than \$8.00 (softbound) per book. Your information goes from your "word" file to a PDF file to an upload to lulu.com after you have chosen all the parameters you would like in the book. Pictures are not an extra charge with this website. Black and white is a little cheaper to produce.

Lisa also showed us her latest "gadget" which is called "Hot Spot" which allows up to five wireless people to reach the internet and record data - much better than USB thumb drive or flash drive. Purchase price was about \$60.00.

There was a short question and answer time following the speakers. ■



President's Message

By Barbara Dittig

This past year has been a very satisfying one for me. I feel blessed to have had a fantastic team of officers and chairmen to work with. Yes, it takes a team, not just one person to have a productive organization. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your dedication, your enthusiasm and your willingness to serve. Sometimes we tend to overlook the "behind the scenes" members, those who quietly perform their duties, duties we might overlook or take for granted. To name just a few, our member, **Lee Schlenker** who for over 7 years sits in the front row at the general meeting and takes detailed accountings of the speaker's topic. Her well written articles, which appear in the following newsletter, are a pleasure to read. Another dedicated member is **Vern Segelke**. Vern keeps the newsletter calendar up to date, helps with the annual Handbook and fills in wherever needed. **Peggy Gierke** and her crew always have appropriate goodies at the refreshment table depending on that month's special event. **Lucy Carver** has been doing the newsletter mailing since shortly after joining in the late 80's. These are just an example of the members who are "the glue" that holds our society firmly together.

May 18th will be our Annual meeting and the final meeting of the year. This promises to be a fun filled gathering of current and past members here to celebrate 25 years of our accomplishments in genealogy research. Come join the fun! ■

A Gentle Reminder

The Society year is coming to a close. The new year starts on June 1st, and your annual membership dues are due by then. For your convenience, we have attached a membership renewal form to this newsletter. Please take the time to send it in with your check, now, while you are thinking about it.

We look forward to sharing another eventful year with you and plan on having many more interesting and informative presentations at our monthly meetings.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

May 2010

- 4 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was 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. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/2 miles. Keep this date on your calendar and attend this very special meeting until about 2 pm.

June 2010

- 1 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting will be held at the home of Elaine Franke in Danville.
- 15 **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 NOT meet during May** due to the extended special 25th anniversary meeting. Barbara Johnson is the 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. Meetings are held at the Oakland Regional Family History Center Conference Room, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA.

They will hold their next general meeting on Saturday May 22 (4th Saturday) at 1:30 pm. Bill George will talk about how to "Put Your Family History on the Web."

- Free and low cost Web Sites.
- How to set up the Web Site.
- How to upload to the Web Site.
- How to generate content with Reunion.
- How to generate content with Mac's iWeb.
- Some example Family History Web Sites.

On Wednesday, May 12th (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, May 26th (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 am., at the home of Bob Venter in Livermore. 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 May 12th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am. at the home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. They are also scheduled to meet on June 9th. 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 May 13th (the Second Thursday of the month) at

the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. They are also scheduled to meet on June 10th. 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. Members provide help to do research for Scandinavian genealogical information. For further information, please call (925) 552-5920 or e-mail Linda Bailey: baileylinda100@gmail.com.



CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

15 May, 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. The speaker will be Barbara Leak. The topic will be: "*Evaluating the Evidence: Are your facts proven?*" For further information, visit their web site: www.smogs.org

18 May, Tuesday 7 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 Ron Perisho. He will make a presentation of the history and creation of 3-D slides by photographers during the Civil War. This will chronicle the creation process, collection and archiving of 3-D photographs, and reveal the reasons behind their recent release, interest, and cataloging. Ron Perisho is an Engineer, amateur historian and photography enthusiast. He lives in San Ramon. Visit their web site at www.scchgs.org.

25 May, 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. Marianne Hilburn will be the feature presenter. She has taught genealogy for 10 years and taught writing for adults for 4 years. The topic will be: "*Writing about Your German Ancestors.*"

11 to 13 June The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will be held at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel and Convention Center. There will be over 130 lectures and 69 exhibitors. For the full schedule and registration form, visit www.scgsgenealogy.com

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

- **14 May** Military Records, Revolutionary War to Civil War.
- **18 June** Military Records, Spanish American to Viet Nam.
- **16 July** Federal Land Records.

EDUCATION

MEMBER EDUCATION – MAY 2010

 The class on "*Pursuing Ideas for Publishing*" will meet again at 10am on Thursday, May 20 at the home of Frances Lloyd, 210 Town and Country Drive in Danville. If you are thinking of writing and/or publishing your family history, you are welcome to join the group. Contact Frances Lloyd if you plan to come.

MORE education opportunities:

-  Free classes at the Oakland Family History by Marge Bell:
- Tuesday, May 11 at 7pm – Probate and Guardianship records ►

- Thursday, May 20 at 10:30am – Organization of Research Materials.

To pre-register or for information on other classes, go to <http://www.oaklandfhc.org/classes.php> or call (510) 531-3905.

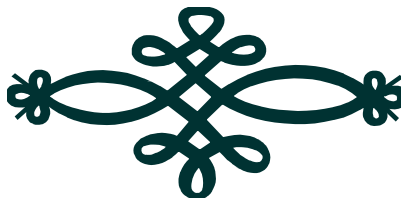
At Our 25th Anniversary Celebration

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. ■

CALLING ALL AUTHORS!

At our 25th Anniversary meeting on May 18, we'd like to honor all of our members who have published some of their family history. This includes not only books, but also contributions to publications like county histories and genealogical society quarterlies, etc. Please contact Dorothy Stanton (dpstant@hotmail.com) so we can add your name to our "Honor Roll." If you plan to come to the meeting, please bring a copy of your work so we can display it on the Publishing table for the inspiration of all.



WELCOME—NEW MEMBERS

**Please extend a warm welcome
to our newest members!**

Charles & Carol Mackey
32 Sterling Drive
Danville CA 94526
925-719-4410
chmackey@aol.com

June M. Mercer
25 Deer Meadow Place
Danville 94506
925-964-1719
jmercer536@aol.com

Peggy Osher
148 Via Bonita
Alamo CA 94207
925-837-9449
josh15star@gmail.com

MALCOLM H. STERN – NARA GIFT FUND

Each year our society, as a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, asks members to donate to the Stern-NARA fund for micro-filming of records in the National Archives. The fund is a nationally supported program to finance preservation and imaging of valuable research materials now preserved in the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. These materials consist of microfilm and digitized images of important genealogical records and indexes. They are produced without government funding, and are then distributed to the 13 National Archives Regional Archives for use by researchers or placed online for access. FGS administers this fund and conducts fund raising campaigns to support records preservation of and ►

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:
Carol Huvane 925-947-5669

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

access to these records. In the past, the fund has paid for many military, land and immigration records.

This year FGS and NARA with the help of the genealogical community have begun an exciting project to digitize the War of 1812 pension files. There are 7.2 million pages in 180,000 pension files that have never been available in any other form before. The **Preserve the Pensions Project** is in progress to digitize and make every page of these information-rich files available as part of a bicentennial commemoration of this historic conflict. The digitization process will enable online access by historians and family researchers to the memories and biographies of those who fought to protect our nation's independence. Nearly 300,000 men served including members of at least eighteen Native American tribes.

For further information on this project, see the website of the Federation of Genealogical Societies at <http://www.fgs.org/1812> . ■

News from the Danville Stake Family History Center

By Janet Broderick

May 2010

This month I just want to congratulate the SRVGS on their 25th anniversary. That is quite an achievement. I appreciate the help you have been to so many genealogists in our area over the years - including me! Thank you to the many members who are or have been staff at the Center. Thank you for your patronage of the Center. I feel we have a positive and reciprocal relationship with each other and look forward to 25 more years of working together!



San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
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FIRST CLASS MAIL