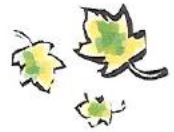




San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

Celebrating 25 Years!

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVI No. 2 July - 2010



THIS MONTH – July 20, 2010
"Lineage Societies "
Presented by: Society Members



Lineage Societies, such as The Mayflower Society, and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), are a vehicle for enjoying and enriching your understanding of the times and places experienced by your ancestors. Many of our Society's members may qualify to become members of a Lineage, First Family or a Pioneer Society.

This month, seven of our members will share with you the society they belong to, the eligibility requirements, the purpose of their group and the advantages of belonging to that society. Each will speak from five to seven minutes on their society. Then there will be a question and answer period.

The speakers will be:

- Nancy Alexander "Daughters of Colonial Wars" and "Daughters of Indian Wars"
- Sue Busenius "Colonial Dames of the 17th Century"
- Clarice Hart "Daughters of the Confederacy"
- Kathy Javdani "Los Californianos"
- Francie Lloyd "The Daughters of the American Revolution" (DAR)
- Virginia Rood "Daughters of 1812"
- Rae Atwood "The Mayflower"

Our speakers have enjoyed these groups and have felt that these societies have enriched their understanding of the times in which their ancestors lived. In addition they have met innumerable interesting people and zeroed in on detail through books or talks of the times in which their ancestors lived.



June Meeting
"Race, Religion, and Reading Records Right"
Speaker: Lavinia Schwartz Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Our Speaker this last month was Lavinia Schwarz who was born and raised between Oakland and Berkeley, CA. In 1984 she moved out into our valley and has enjoyed it ever since. She started off her talk "Race, Religion and Reading Records Right" stating she refers to them as the five R's - or Genealogy 101. And she

claims she has made a million mistakes in her genealogy. While attending a 50th anniversary party for brother Robert, Lavinia made a casual comment about Andrew B. Cresap, her grandfather, being Catholic. Well, this was to become her "genealogy challenge" because she was told that there were no Catholics in the family! She ►

was certain she had heard it from some relative. We will get back to the name "Cresap" by the end of this tale!

Her search took her all the way to New Orleans, LA (NOLA) and had very interesting surprises! There were a few words pertaining to people of color in LA which she explained: *Code Noir*, *Tignon* and *Plaçage*. All these related particularly in New Orleans while it was held by France. *Code Noir* was the written code of conduct for slave owners adapted to New Orleans stating how the owners should treat their slaves at all times. Of course there were some who just didn't abide by this *Code*. *Tignon Law* (pronounced tin-yon) was created in 1786 which was the head covering every woman of color had to wear. But there were rules about that head covering: it couldn't be silk, must be cotton, it stipulated no jewelry on it. So these ladies of color did fancy wraps with their cloths and became quite distinguished-looking with them on. These were worn also to decipher women of color from white women in that period (1724). *Plaçage* - a French term for placer or "to place with" - is a recognized extra-legal familial system among the white French, Spanish and later Creole men who entered into concubine arrangements with women of African, Indian and white (European) Creole descent. This system flourished between 1769 and 1803 and was found in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and gulf coast parts of Florida.

So, Lavinia found the name Martha Bauduc born in New Orleans, 1819. She also found that a "male" Cresap who was a freed person of color! That shed a different light on the subject. And through her research in Salt Lake City, Greg Osborn (a Creole whiz in NOLA who found an undocumented lawsuit in the name of Jeanne Laclotte), discussion groups (*Code Noir*), a lot of digging at the Family History Library in Oakland and working backwards in time, she built a timeline on Martha Bauduc. This timeline let her discover information on the above mentioned words uniquely found in Louisiana. But it took Lavinia from Louisiana back to Cuba to Haiti to France to Saint Domingue. And also showed her why her ancestors traveled; some due to Napoleonic wars (expulsion of French from Cuba), some because of the Reign of Terror and then the Louisiana Purchase. Basic timeline: Jean Pierre ►

Cassou married Francoise Elizabeth Seguien (white wife) and had Marie Francoise Laurence Laclotte (placee) giving birth to Pulcherie Cassou (now a placee) who married Michel Desbans (no white wife) and giving birth to 4 children (2 born in Cuba, 2 born in NOLA- one being James Desban). Joseph Theodore Bauduc married Caroline Patrony (white wife), then had Pulcherie Cassou (placee) giving birth to 3 children (one being Martha Bauduc and one being Joseph Theodore Burdeau "The Captain" which Lavinia had found a history book on riverboats written about him. He had a paid position as an Inspector of boats).

Now - Margaret Cresap had been double counted in the 1850 census - once in LA and then in OH, so Lavinia was able to do a timeline on her children. On a trip to Salt Lake City she uncovered Martha Bauduc Cresap's Last Will and Testament. And in the Will it stated Martha wanted funds donated to the masses (which is a Catholic way of giving) as well as donating to the Blessed Virgin (very Catholic). She found in a Cincinnati City Directory the name Jos. Theodore Burdeau, who was the steamboat captain.

Lavinia has been in touch with a male relative in Haiti who is also a genealogist and will continue to keep in touch. And people she met in Maryland also knew of and visited with the Cresap family. She reminds us the internet is only the tip of the iceberg. Reread your data regularly, create timelines, reach outside of your own experience, visit and write libraries, courthouses, cemeteries. She also gave us a two page handout with websites for NOLA information.

You can only imagine what her relatives thought after she related her findings to them - very, very mixed!

Her message - "assumptions can lead you astray, basic research will bring you home." ■





President's Message

By Barbara Dittig

July, to me, is a busy and exciting month full of fun activities. It's a time for trips, family vacations, outdoor concerts and theater productions, pool parties, backyard barbecues and grilling on the patio/deck and for me, the celebration of yet another year which is indicated on my just renewed driver's license.

Perhaps I feel this way because July begins with the "bang" that marks the 4th of July commemoration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on this date in 1776. This document has been called the birth certificate of our country. Unfortunately, amidst all of the fireworks, parades, parties and picnics that characterize this celebration, it is not uncommon to lose sight of the significance of this event and its consequences over the years.

As John Adams said: "I am well aware of the toil, blood and treasure that it will cost us to maintain this declaration and support and defend these states. Yet . . . I can see that the end is worth all the means. This is our day of deliverance."

Our nation's history reveals how accurate his words were.

I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy whatever activities July holds for you and yours. Cherish the fact that you have the freedom to do so. Never forget those who made it possible.

Hope to see you at our July meeting and remember that there will not be a SRVGS meeting in August.

Happy Summer!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

July 2010

- 6 Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Lee Schlenker in San Ramon.
- 20 Tuesday – 10:00 am.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo .

August 2010

Our Society does NOT hold meetings during the month of August. Enjoy the summer break and look forward to meeting again in September. The next Board meeting is scheduled to be held on September 7.

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 July or August.** Barbara Johnson is the contact person for the group. For further information, 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 July 24th (4th Saturday) at 1:30 pm to ►

3:30 pm. "Census Analysis Techniques" will be the topic.

Documenting and analyzing census records is one of the toughest things to do. It can be very difficult to even read some census records, let alone compare them with records for different years for the same person. Using spreadsheets to consolidate information and spot trends in your relative's life and his family can be done in an easy, straight-forward manner. They have EXCELLENT free spreadsheet templates for you to use.

On Wednesday, July 14th (2nd Wednesday), at 7 pm – is their regularly scheduled 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 william-cgeorge@Gmail.com. Organizers of the MacGen group are Bill George, Ed Mason, and Rich Peterson.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet Wednesday, July 28th (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 am., at the home of Helen Odegard in Alamo. They **will not meet during August**. Helen Odegard is the contact person for this group. For more information, please contact her at 932-6796 or e-mail sho-degard@att.net.



IRISH – This special interest group **will not meet during July or August**. They typically meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am. Patty Erickson is the contact person for the group. Phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail, russ-pat@comcast.net



SOUTHERN – The Southern Interest Group will meet at 10 am on July 8th (the Second Thursday of the month) at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. **They will not meet during the month of August**. Their next scheduled meeting will be on September 9th. 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 usually meets each Wednesday at 1 pm at the Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road. **They will not meet during the month of August**. Members provide help to do research for Scandinavian genealogical information. For further information, please call (925) 552-5920 or e-mail Linda Bailey: baileylin-da100@Gmail.com. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 17 July 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 Ralph Mize. The topic will be What's New at Family Search. For further information, visit their web site: www.smccgs.org
- 20 July 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 John Glead. His topic will be Black Sheep of The Family. For further information visit their web site at www.scchgs.org.
- 27 July 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. The presenter will be Baerbel Johnson. The title of the session is: "How to Make Use of Resources for German Research on the Internet". Baerbel Johnson is on the staff of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and is an expert on German sites on the Internet. She will be building on her 2009 presentation. ►

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 July** Federal Land Records
- **23 July** Freedmen Bureau Records, presented by Deborah Osterberg, an Indian Specialist
- **13 August** Preserving Your History by Rose Mary Kennedy

EDUCATION

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION JULY and AUGUST 2010

In addition to the workshops at the National Archives–San Bruno (listed above), here are some other resources for learning:

 **Saturday, August 7, at 11am – 12:30 pm** “Who Do You Think You Are? Introduction to Genealogy” with Tim Cox. First Saturdays Free sponsored by the California Genealogical Society and Library at 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland.

For other classes and meetings in the Bay Area see <http://sfbagenealogy.blogspot.com>

LOOKING AHEAD

 **October 8-9, 2010** – California Family History EXPO – at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. **Early Bird Special! Register for the Expo before August 31st and pay only \$55.00.** After August 31st registration will be \$65.00. At the door registration is \$75.00. One-day admission is \$40 or \$12/class. For more information see <http://www.fhexpos.com> ►

 **October 9, 2010** Family History Day 8:30 am to 4pm – a FREE event at the California State Archives, 1020 “O” Street, Sacramento. Lisa B. Lee is one of the featured speakers. See more information at: <http://fhd2010.blogspot.com/>

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Betty Casey
356 Ramona Rd
Danville, CA 94526
925-837-4458
caseybj@sbcglobal.net

Ginna Denues
211 Canyon Creek Ct
San Ramon, CA 94583
925-820-4683
gsdenues@pacbell.net

Hazel Wilson
3133 Oakwood Lane
Alamo, CA 94507
925-837-1707
hwilson@aol.com

Do You have Something to Contribute?

Your SRVGS Newsletter is always in need of new material. Do you have an interesting story to relate? Some discovery that you want to share with others? Maybe an unusual experience that could help others in their own research. Anything you think will be of interest to the group. If so, we would be happy to include it in one of our issues. Anything in length from a half page to a page and a half of type written text would be ideal. Just write it up and forward it to the newsletter editor (rjventer@comcast.net). ■

Quarterly Report from the Tri-Valley History Council

The Tri-Valley History Council is a network of local history centers, historic sites, libraries, museums, and genealogical societies with an interest in eastern Alameda County and the south eastern portion of Contra Costa County. I strongly recommend that you google "Tri-Valley History Council" to read "History Trail of the Tri-Valley and Vicinity" by Diana Carey and Dan Meeker. It cites 21 local museums.

On May 25th, representing SRVGS, I attended the Council's quarterly meeting which was held at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. (Each meeting is held in a different local site.) It was fascinating to hear about all the local programs. Here is a summary of the activities.

- At the **Museum on Main** in Pleasanton the exhibit "*The Horse of Course*" will continue until mid-August. It looks at all the uses of horses in the Tri-Valley historically.
- **L-AGS** continues the *Tri -Valley Heritage Families Project*. They are working to record all families in the Tri-Valley area (from Alamo to the Altamont) prior to 1910. So far they have collected over 24,000 names in the database.
- **Forest Home Farms** in San Ramon had the grand opening of the Glass House on May 15th. The house will be open on the 2nd Saturday of every month for tours.
- **The Dublin History Center** is finishing the restoration of the Kolb House. The house is furnished in the 1911 period with a 1950's kitchen. The center is currently recruiting and training volunteers. The grand opening is planned for October.
- Gary Myer of the **Livermore Public Library** is finalizing the Kolb family genealogy. ►

- **The Pacific Locomotive Association / Niles Canyon Railway** ran the *Mud Ball Express* trains in February. On board were local scouts who threw mud balls full of wildflower seeds as the train chugged through Niles Canyon. The results were beautiful. Schools train for the Fremont schools run during the school year. The Chairman of the County Historic Commission has submitted papers to make the Niles Canyon Railway an historic district and have it listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **The Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau** works to bring tourists to the area and maintains a calendar of events in the Tri-Valley.
- The **Livermore Heritage Guild** has three old (1917, 1920 and 1943) fire engines at the Lincoln Highway Garage. They also have a new vehicle that they will refurbish to use as the History Mobile. The Guild has found a location for the Midway schoolhouse. Guild member Don Meeker is currently updating his brochure of local historic sites.
- Beverly Lane of the **Museum of the San Ramon Valley** announced that the Glass House will begin a "Victorian Life" education program in the fall.
- The **Tri-Valley History Council** is planning a month-long event for the all age groups and families in October 2011. The event will run over 5 weekends. Details to follow.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday, August 24th at 2:00 pm at the Glass House in San Ramon. ■

Kathy Javdani



News from the Danville Stake Family History Center

By Janet Broderick

July 2010

New hours: Our hours have changed (slightly)! The Center is open now on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 and will not be open on Monday afternoon from 1-4. The Center is open on:

Monday, 10 am -1 pm;

Tuesday, 7-9 pm;

Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm and 7-9 pm;

Thursday, 10am -4pm.

Many, many thanks to JoAnn Garlington for volunteering on our new Wednesday evening shift!!!

August hours: Traditionally, the Center is open fewer hours during August. This year we will be open on each Wednesday in August at the normal hours (10-4, 7-9). If you need to view a film and cannot come on Wednesday, please contact me and we can make arrangements for another time.

Thank you again for your support and patronage of the Center!

Janet Broderick

Director, Danville Family History Center

Is Your Membership about to Lapse?

Society membership dues were due by July 1st. As a reminder for those who were just too busy to get their renewal application in on time, a **Red Dot** has been placed on their address label of the newsletters that were sent via the U.S. Post Office. For those who receive their newsletters via e-mail a short message was included with the e-mail delivery. If you have received such a reminder, please get your renewal to us by the end of July or you will be dropped from our rolls and this will be the last newsletter you will receive.

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Barbara Dittig 925-648-9364

e-mail: president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Sherri Hedman 925-275-8123

2nd V.P. Program:

Elaine Franke 925-831-1989

3rd V.P. Membership:

Ed Mason 925-838-7848

Recording Secretary:

Carol Huvane 925-947-5669

Corresponding Secretary:

Kathy Javdani 925-736-5464

Treasurer: Tom Draeger 925-9375161

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 encouraged 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

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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 two-thirds of our members have chosen to receive their monthly newsletter by email, the advantages being; faster delivery, a much prettier full color presentation, 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 ■

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