



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

2010 Celebrating 25 Years!

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVI No. 5 November - 2010



THIS MONTH – November 16, 2010
"Missing Cousins"
Presented by: Ed Mason



The goals of genealogy include determining who your ancestors were **AND** finding out more about them. Going to libraries, courthouses, the Internet, as well as other sources is vital, but, in most cases, is not likely to yield intimate portraits of your recent ancestors. Ed, in his travels and his research, has uncovered, corresponded with and met many second, third and fourth cousins who have provided stories and writings that were handed down in their families, pictures of many relatives including great-grandparents and key data enabling brick walls to be smashed.

Some cousins may feel the same way about being “found” that the natives did when Christopher Columbus showed up. However, most are delighted to hear from a long lost cousin and prove to be very helpful. A few even become friends and research partners.

Ed's presentation will incorporate a couple of videos of his visits with newfound cousins. He will explain how he found them, what he gained from his visits and provide you with some hints on how you can do the same.

Ed earned a BSE from Princeton in 1955 and an MBA from Harvard in 1959. He and his family moved from the Boston area to California in 1968 when he started what is now a family business as a manufacturer's rep and distributor. He has been retired since 2003. He has been doing genealogy since 1981.

Ed has been a member of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society since 2002, an officer since 2004, president from 2007 to 2009, and is currently 3rd VP Membership. He and his wife, Margaret, have 3 children and 8 grandchildren, all of whom live locally.



October Meeting
"Solving Family Tree Mysteries with Google Earth"
Speaker: Lisa Louise Cooke Reporter: Jean Hunt



We were delighted to have Lisa Louise Cooke take us step by step on a sleuthing adventure. Lisa is a great fan of the software program Google Earth. First; it's free and second, as a tool, it has the ability to unlock some of the mysteries of our genealogical research and

put meat on our family stories.

Many of the documents genealogists work with such as censuses, plat maps, old pictures that include intriguing surrounding geography, etc. can be used in our research to solve old mysteries. ►

Use the syllabus Lisa made available to us online and at the meeting, and follow part II, "Getting Started with Google Earth". Go to <http://earth.google.com/>. Click the blue *Download Google Earth 5.0* button from the Install Google Earth with Google Updater page; unclick the Include Google Chrome box if you don't want to install Google Chrome. Read the Terms & Conditions, if you agree to them, click the *Agree* and *Download* buttons. Follow the installation guide. When complete click the *Run Google Earth* button.

You should now be looking at the Google Earth program screen on your computer. If you aren't looking at it, you are probably at the same level of expertise as I am. I finally realized I had to disable the spy ware I had protecting my computer and then I was finally able to complete the download.

The screen is divided into two sections. The "Panel" side on the left and the larger part, the "3D Viewer" screen on the right. The Panel is where you do the work on your computer and the "3D Viewer" is the on line connection. You do have to go online to use the information that Google Earth collects.

The "Panel" is divided into three sections:

1. Search. Self explanatory
2. Places. Where you organize your files and create folders.
3. Layers. Where you explore on the internet and collect items.

You might want to try the Google Earth tutorial to help you in the Panel area or in any case, explore it to familiarize yourself with what pops up.

In part III of the syllabus "How to Save A location in the Places Panel" Lisa showed how to use the pushpin in the menu bar. Following 1 through 2 you will start adding places and adding folders (right click) just by following steps 1-12. Lisa recommends that you have one folder per family that you are researching.

Part IV addresses the "Layers" panel. Lisa talked a bit about the "Gallery" where historical maps can be found and we saw something of that on her presentation. Other sites to find maps and

records are the Bureau of Land Management Web Site: <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch/Defaul.asp> and the BLM online homestead records at <http://earthpoint.us/Townships.aspx>. She explained many of the boxes in the "Layers" area, what they offered and how they could be applied.

Lisa has a collection of old family photos which she wanted to know more about. That is how she became interested in using Google Earth.

Starting with a photo of her grandfather as a baby being held in his father's arms she wanted to know where exactly it was taken. She knew they had lived in San Francisco and she had a 1900 U.S. Federal Census of San Francisco that showed their address was 1144 Kentucky Street. She entered that address in the search area but it came up negative. That address did not exist on the 2010 San Francisco map. She then took their address from the 1910 Federal Census and a 1907 Voter Registration which now showed the address as 288 Connecticut Street. She couldn't find that street on the 2010 map either. She had an old plat map of San Francisco that she had copied while at Sutro Library which she had scanned on her computer and save as a file. After trying several things Lisa laid the old map over the new city map and Connecticut Street turned out to be Third Street on the modern map. She then searched again and found 288 Third Street on the 2010 map. She pushpinned it and named it and save it.

She put up her family picture side by side with a view of the street today and easily compared the buildings and they were the same profiles. Lisa solved the mystery of her family photo and showed us how exciting a tool Google Earth is.

Learning to navigate and use Google Earth to its fullest potential is going to be hard for me but I hope easy for you. ■

IN MEMORIAM



The San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society would like to send our condolences out to Jackie Reising and her family on the death of her husband, Paul.



President's Message

By Sherri Hedman

Disclaimer: Write a President's Message? But I am the "default president" who agreed to run for VP only if I never had to be President! Further, I was just going to return to my own genealogy. And Tuesday I began a long overdue project when I hired my helper to drag everything out of the large overstuffed closet under the stairs -- while my husband is busy with his seasonal employment. Alas, my colorful fall decorations downstairs are lost in the clutter of boxes and bags awaiting sorting and purging, (and painfully reminding me of my bigger genealogy mess upstairs).

I have thought about volunteering to give a Mini-Ed, but unlike the inspiring success stories mine would be on my reverses. I have found no wealthy, brilliant, or famous ancestors, (although Mother's younger brother, Bob, did "make good"). But, farther back those who had any hint of money, or a decent estate, managed to lose it. My first ancestor in America, (NY State 1640's), seems to have started out OK. I knew he ran his own ship up and down the Hudson, but he had a bad temper, as he threatened to throw an important person overboard who annoyed him! One day online, looking up something totally unrelated, I stumbled upon a wild documented story about his death by drowning -- how he fell through the ice in the Hudson River while being pursued by the law after breaking out of prison. (Most likely, The Colonial Dames will not be throwing out the welcome mat.)

More recently: I tried to clarify conflicting data over the accidental death of Walter, (Mother's older brother), while serving on a navy mine sweeper in WWII. Instead, I received additional widely varying versions of Walter's death -- including those from The National Archives, and from a telephone interview with an eye witness. Next, when I recently found the ship's record for their father, my Danish grandfather, my joy quickly turned to dismay and confusion. For I discovered he had a Danish wife accompanying him, and this was only five years prior to his ►

marriage to their mother, my non-Danish Grandmother! So perhaps I will be the President who makes you pat yourself on the back and say, "I am doing really well with my genealogy, after all."



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

November 2010

- 2 Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Ed Mason in Alamo. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 4, 2011 at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek.
- 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.

December 2010

NOTE: The San Ramon Valley Genealogy Society will NOT have a General Meeting during the month of December.

NOTE: Special Interest Groups of The San Ramon Valley Genealogy Society will NOT meet during the month of December.

January 2011

- 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 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.

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 typically will meet at someone's home after a General meeting. They will meet on November 16 at the home of Peggy Dearman in Danville. Plan to bring your bag lunch. 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. A meeting will be held Wednesday, November 17 at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd in Alamo from 10:30 am - 12 noon. This meeting is free and is sponsored by the San Ramon Valley Genealogy Society (SRVGS). It is expected that if a non-member attends more than three of these Danville meetings, that they will join the SRVGS. It is hoped to have enough attendees to sustain a monthly meeting at this location. The topic for the meeting will be "Reunion Sources and Citations." We will discuss how to create sources and source citations in Reunion for the Mac. Reunion has flexibility in setting up sources. One great feature is being able to store pictures, audio and movies in sources and in people's records. It is recommended that each person bring their laptop. There will also be a question and answer session to address any topic of particular interest.

Bill George is the contact person for this group. Phone: (510) 538-2449 or e-mail: williamcgeorge@gmail.com. Also refer to the MacGen web site at: <http://www.macgen.org>.



ENGLISH - We have a new English Research Group meeting on Thursday morning, November 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will be led by Suzanne Johnston, and will work ►

on research in England and Wales. If you are interested in getting some help with your English research, gather the materials you have about your line leading to your current research project, and bring it on a Thursday morning. It will be an open research time every Thursday morning. Please join us if you are interested in English research. Come prepared to do some research. Phone 552-5920 or e-mail Suzanne Johnston: gjohnston3@comcast.net



GERMAN – The German Group will meet Wednesday, November 17th at the home of Helen Odegard in Alamo. **Please note that they are meeting one week early because of Thanksgiving.** The contact person for this group is Helen Odegard. If you are interested in joining the group please contact her at 932-6796 or e-mail shodegard@att.net for more information.



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



PUBLISHING – A few members that are sharing their interest in publishing their genealogy and family history data, will meet on November 18 (the third Thursday) at 10:00 am. at the home of Francie Lloyd in Danville. Members are welcome to attend. For further information, contact Frances Lloyd at 837-9382 or e-mail: frances_lloyd@comcast.net



SOUTHERN – The Southern Interest Group will NOT meet during November or December. They will meet again at 10 am on January 13th (the Second Thursday of the month) at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. Nancy Alexander and Jo Ann Garlington are the new co-chairmen. If you have questions before the meeting call or e-mail either Nancy Alexander at (925) 820-1593, lxnancy@aol.com or Jo Ann Garlington (925) 689-2458, Chiefjoret@gmail.com. ►



SCANDINAVIAN – Members with this special interest may set aside a Wednesday afternoon between 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, to be at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.

Please note that the FHC will be closed during the week of Thanksgiving. A few members are usually there to provide help to do research for Swedish, Norwegian and Danish genealogical information. It might be best to call to make sure they are there. For further information, please call (925) 552-5920 or e-mail Linda Bailey: baileylinda100@Gmail.com. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

9 November Tuesday 7:30 pm.

The Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society will have one of its regular meetings at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Marge Bell will tell about updates to Family Search Pilot.

9,13 November Tuesday & Saturday 7 to 8:30 pm.

The Oakland Regional Family History Center (ORFHC) and the California Genealogical Society (CGS) are offering free genealogy and computer use classes held each Tuesday through May. Register by telephone (510) 531-3905 or for further details go to <http://www.oaklandfhc.org> and click on free classes. Information is also available at <http://sfbagenealogy.blogspot.com>

10 November Wednesday 7 pm.

The Mac Genealogy enthusiasts will have their regularly scheduled monthly workshop at the Oakland Regional Family History Center Conference Room, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA. A project is underway where each attendee will create a set of standard reports for review. The reports will be shared during the workshop sessions so that attendees can compare their research to others.

There will be no general meeting of this group in November on the fourth ►

Saturday. Bill George is the contact person for this group. Phone: (510) 538-2449 or e-mail williamcgeorge@Gmail.com. For further information, you may also visit their web site: <http://www.macgen.org>.

11 November Thursday 1 to 3 pm.

A Swedish research workshop will be held at the Oakland Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA. Kathy Meade a long time Swedish genealogist and the U.S. representative for Genline AB will be giving a free 2 hour workshop. Please reserve your spot by phoning (510) 531-3905 or e-mailing fhcoakland@Yahoo.com.

16 November Tuesday 6:30 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. Pamela Erickson will speak about one of her areas of expertise: Tracing your Canadian ancestors and how to locate Canadian records. She is a MetroEd Adult Education and independent genealogy instructor.

20 November Saturday 10:30 am.

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will have one of its regular meetings at The Transfiguration Episcopal Church, 3900 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. They plan to have 10-15 minute talks by 4-6 SMC GS members, revealing the ways they have used to share their family history with other family members. For more information, go to: <http://www.smcgs.org> ■

Quote of the Month

"This packrat has learned that what the next generation will value most is not what we owned, but the evidence of who we were and the tales of how we loved. In the end, it's the family stories that are worth the storage."

-Ellen Goodman,

The Boston Globe

News from the Danville Stake Family History Center

By Janet Broderick

A **BIG thank you** for the generosity of the SRVGS members! You donated \$161 towards a new monitor in the memory of Dorothy Stanton. With all the donations from the Wednesday's group and Judy Gustafson, we have enough to purchase 3 new large flat-screen monitors. We are very appreciative. We are looking for them now!! They will be a wonderful addition to the new computers we are installing!!

Center Closing dates: The Center will be closed on:

- *Veteran's Day (November 11),*
- *the week of Thanksgiving*
- *and the last 3 weeks of December.*

If you need to order films during November, you will have at least a month to view them despite our being closed. We are automatically given a free month's extension on orders shipped early November through mid December. You may even have more than a month!! If you have any questions on days we are open, feel free to call the Center at 552-5920. If the center is closed, there will be a phone message with the current hours.

Beta.familysearch.org: will soon be familysearch.org. Information I have received indicates that within the month of November, the original familysearch.org will be merged into beta.familysearch.org. Once the merge has happened, for the time being, it will not be possible to upload your genealogical information to the pedigree resource file. Eventually it will, though.

There are going to be many changes in FamilySearch over the next year. So, keep tuned!!

FHC Portal: The Family History department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has negotiated with several subscription sites to allow access to those sites at family history centers for free. Come in and try them!! The sites are:

- 19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive ►

- FamilyHistoryLink
- FindMyPast.co.uk
- Footnote.com
- The Genealogist
- Genline.com (launcher)
- Godfrey Memorial Library
- Heritage Quest Online
- Historic Map Works Library Edition
- World Vital Records
- Alexander Street Press - The American Civil War:

- Research database,
- letter & Diaries,
- Images, Photographs, Posters, and Ephemera ■

CHRISTMASTIME

COOKIE EXCHANGE

Replaces December Board & General meetings

Everyone, one and all--new members especially, are invited to attend the annual SRVGS Cookie Exchange the morning of Tuesday, December 7th, at 10 am. Frances Lloyd will again host this event at her home, 210 Town & Country Drive, Danville 94526. Participants are asked to bring two dozen cookies to exchange, and make/bring cookies reflecting a particular ethnicity or cultural heritage. Francie has promised to have soup and veggies on hand to make the cookie tasting almost "guilt-free"! We hope many of you will gather to celebrate the season with friends in SRVGS. ■

Newsletter not to be Published!

Please note that your Society Newsletter will not be published for the month of December. Look for your next issue in January, 2011.

ALSACE, FRANCE RECORDS

ON-LINE

By: Bob Venter

There are not many political jurisdictions that have made the effort to put their birth, marriage and death records on the internet and the few that have are usually not ones we are interested in. So, when we find one that is an area in which we are interested it is cause for great celebration. I have recently come across just such a case.

Like me, I'm sure some of you who have ancestors from the French Department of Bas-Rhin, also known as Alsace. If you do, you have probably already searched the many microfilmed records of that area which can be ordered from the Family History Center. However, you may not be aware, that these same records are directly viewable from the comfort of your own home, on-line.

While researching information regarding my great-grandmother's Alsatian ancestry on the internet, I came across the web site of the *General Council of Bas-Rhin* (Conseil Général Bas-Rhin) at the following URL : <http://www.bas-rhin.fr/etat-civil> Or, alternately, you can do a google search for "etat civil numerise du bas-rhin", with the quotes. Using that query, my google search yielded only two results, the first of which was the link above.

This site has most Alsatian church and civil records, starting in the late 1600's and running to 1900. The website is, of course, in French and I don't speak a word, but after playing around a little, it was not hard to get to the good stuff.

The link indicated above gets you to the obligatory page where you accept their conditions of use. Just click on the box at the bottom of the page, next to "*L'accepte ces conditions*", and two new links will appear below it: *Application Flash* and *Application accessible*. Both of these links eventually take you to the same information, so, which ever works best for you is the one to use.

Give it a try and if you find you need a little help, please contact me, my contact information is in the Society handbook. Good luck. ■

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Sherri Hedman 925-275-8123

e-mail: president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. (Vacant)

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 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

Wanted! Old SRVGS Handbooks

Ed Mason is trying to put together a collection of one each of our annual Handbooks. Such a collection is important for our historical records. For example, one for every year would have been very handy when he was preparing the Video for our 25th anniversary celebration. Once assembled, they could show a record of individual Society members, length of time as an officer or committee member, etc. The following lists show what is already on hand and what is missing:

On hand

1997-98
2002-03
2004-05
2006-07
2008-09
2009-10

Missing:

2007-08 2005-06
2003-04 2001-02
2000-01 1999-00
1998-99 1996-97
and all prior years

If you have any of the missing years and are willing to part with them for the benefit of the Society, please let Ed know, at: edmason@sbcglobal.net, or bring them with you to the Nov, 16 meeting. ■

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER:

ALSACE, FRANCE RECORDS ON-LINE	7
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
SRVGS CALENDAR	3
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	4
OTHER EVENTS	5
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE	6
FAMILY HISTORY CENTER NEWS	6
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
MEMORIAM	2
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
SRVGS HANDBOOKS WANTED	8

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL