



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



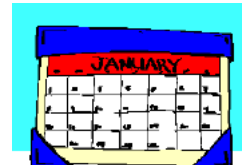
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San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVI No. 6 January - 2011

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

THIS MONTH – January 18, 2011
"Genealogy and the Changing Map of Eastern Europe"
Presented by: Stephen Danko



Finding the place of origin of an immigrant is crucial to finding historic records for that immigrant's ancestors. Complicating matters are the changing borders in Europe during the past two centuries as the territorial acquisitions obliterated some nations from the map. Border changes in Europe affected not only the map of Europe, but also the records on which genealogists depend to document their ancestors' lives.

Steve Danko was born in upstate New York and currently resides in San Francisco, California. He began seriously researching his family history ten years ago and, in the course of that research, Steve has studied American, Canadian, and Polish Records. He has conducted research on location in Poland and Lithuania and has visited the villages in which his immigrant ancestors lived.

Steve holds a PhD in Botany and Plant Pathology and recently completed requirements for the Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies (PLCGS) from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies / University of Toronto.



November Meeting **"Missing Cousins"**

Speaker: Ed Mason Reporter: Lee Schlenker



As you know Ed Mason is a member of our genealogy society as well as past president twice for us. His very extensive biography can be found in the November issue of our newsletter.

He has been persistently on the hunt to find relatives who could help put his family stories together and create a profile (as much as possible) of relatives he had been unable to find. In his handout he listed many options and websites to check to aid in his search. On quite a lot of his searches if he wasn't able to find exactly what he wanted from a particular site, he only picked a lit-

tle part of the info and took that info to another website to check it. Most times he was able to put two and two together - including "cold calling" names which he thought might be a missing cousin - found at www.anywho.com/ (an AT&T site). Remember, for this, you need to have some background names and dates at the ready when calling. Throughout his talk and through his search he was extremely creative.

Ed uses the program "Reunion" on his Mac computer. Another approach which worked well for Ed was putting his family tree on a GEDCOM (Genealogy Data Communication) ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Our November Speaker: Ed Mason

format and posting it on a website so others could read and find him. Even names he didn't recognize contacted him through this site. (He has over 9,000 names within his GEDCOM tree.) He stated that most relatives didn't mind being found by another relative and sharing their stories as well as old photos. Most of the "found relatives" had an interest in their genealogy or were genealogists themselves. Through open dialog he found stories and times as they used to be: one cousin said that they lived so far out they had square dances frequently as *the* social event for the spread out area.

But his object was to find out the more personal side of his relatives. Not just the written info from the courthouse or the census, death, birth, marriage records; something more personal. He presented us with his two videos on his searches (oh yes, he is creative!) complete with photos, personal interviews, family charts, newspaper clippings, court records, etc. but for this he needed to take a trip to Michigan. His search was for relatives on his father's side of the family as well as his mother's side. This 2004 Michigan trip yielded children, parents, dates, news articles.

Ed's search was for a Daniel Perry and where he had originated. There had been 9 children in the family and Ed had names and communicated with them. He found 200 new cousins of which 6 were very helpful. A Pat Perry was very glad to be found and he did a DNA with Family Tree and continues to research in Michigan sending Ed info he has found; but still no Daniel Perry.

The 2009 video started with a photo in 1912 in Ohio with 7 girls and 1 boy and the name "Spencer." Ed tried many various websites and found nothing tangible until he went to Google books which yielded an article mentioning a name on page 238 and further down that page he picked up that name, went to the US phone book, found another cousin listed and of course "cold called." He found more cousins who sent items to him in which he found on a slip of paper with a name and only a city and a state beside it. So being creative, he went to AT&T Anywho, he found another long lost cousin.

Most of the websites Ed uses are free. He did break one of his rules though and *paid* for a phone number!

But through perseverance and lots of patience, Ed has found more cousins who have provided him with great stories and pictures and long lasting friendships. He paraphrased an article by Dick Eastman saying, "don't keep you family tree in your own computer – get it out there."

Some of the websites Ed uses:

- <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>
- www.livermore.lib.ca.us/

(you need an Alameda County library card)

- www.raogk.org/
(Random Acts of Genealogy Kindness)
- <http://new.familysearch.org/>
- <http://www.findagrave.com/>

There are more of these sites listed on:

<http://www.peoplesearching.com/people-searches/people-search.php?keyword=PeopleLookup.com&source=google> ■



President's Message

By Sherri Hedman

January seems to be a time to make resolutions, clean house, and perhaps even decide how we want to be remembered--genealogically speaking. During a rare visit this week by Seattle daughter, Christie, we were going through items and she surprised me by asking us to save our large 1940 Gothic style oak table and chair set for her. My husband's Aunt gave it to us in the 1970's when she downsized, and when we had a much larger home. I had actually hoped to give it away--now, not later--as it was never "to our taste." But then, when I consider what we have kept over the years, our taste could be called "eclectic sentimental family hand-me-downs."

I have been thinking of how I want to be remembered by family and friends, after the recent wonderful examples set by SRVGS members', Dorothy Stanton and Diana Hancock. Further reminders came when our church lost two members on the same day. Anne was our spunky parliamentarian extraordinaire, and at 91, it was no surprise. However, Shaun was only 48, a fun and gifted musician raised in Hawaii, he collapsed with a massive coronary soon after arriving at our men's retreat weekend. He left three daughters--two still teens. His three hour service was music, but mostly loving and humorous testimony, including a cousins' fond story describing their unsuccessful trip in freezing Maine to search for family tombstones--at cemetery after cemetery; now she continues the search!

I am left to ponder, how my family and friends will remember me? (If I don't get my act together it will be as one with so much disorganized paperwork that everything got tossed!) I will never be remembered as the one with an online family tree with a zillion relatives, and I will never author a complete family history. However, I love human interest stories, so I have written vignettes about family members to pass along. Further, wherever I go I encourage others to do the same with their families--"write down what you know," (especially if they will never do a family tree), even if only a paragraph. ►

Chances are no one else is going to do it! And hopefully, I will show my grandchildren and others that the subject of genealogy does not have to be musty/dusty, automatically cause yawns and evacuate a room! So, if necessary, I will dub it family history, or even "family secrets" to pique their interest.

Have you given much thought to how you want to be remembered genealogically? And what do you plan to do about it in 2011?

Happy New Year!

Sherri



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

January 2011

- 4 Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Vern Segelke in Danville.
- 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

February 2011

- 1 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** A Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at the home of Elaine Franke in Danville.
- 15 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** 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. They will meet again on January 18 at the home of Barbara Johnson in Danville. This group typically meets at someone's home after a General meeting. Plan to bring a sandwich for your 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, January 19 at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd in Alamo from 10:30 am-12 noon. The topic for the meeting will be "Creating Web Content with Reunion." There will be a demonstration of how to create genealogy web content with Reunion and how to use Reunion Bookmarks. Web content such as Web Family Cards, Family Group Sheets and various genealogy reports (Family History, Register, Ahnentafel, and Descendant) will be created. It is recommended that each person bring their laptop.

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.

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 now have an English Research Group meeting on Thursday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It will be led by Suzanne Johnston, and interested members 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 them 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, January 26th (The fourth Wednesday) at the home of Bob Venter in Livermore. 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 January 12th (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 russ-pat@comcast.net



PUBLISHING – A few members that are sharing their interest in publishing their genealogy and family history data, will meet on January 20th (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 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. 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

12 January Wednesday 10 am The East Bay Genealogy Society will have one of its regular meetings at the Oakland Regional Family History Center Conference Room, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA. The Speaker will be Karen Zukor. The topic will be Document Preservation. Repairing precious papers is Karen Zukor's art. She has been a conservator for 31 years and has been working in her Oakland, CA studio for 19 years. She is an expert, and we look forward to her presentation. Feel free to bring a document needing some repair and get her advice and opinion on how to go about it.

12 January Wednesday (2nd Wednesday) 7 pm and...

22 January Saturday (4th Saturday) 1 ; 3 0 pm Mac Genealogy enthusiasts from all over Alameda and Contra Costa Counties will get together. They meet at the Oakland Regional Family History Center Conference Room, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA.

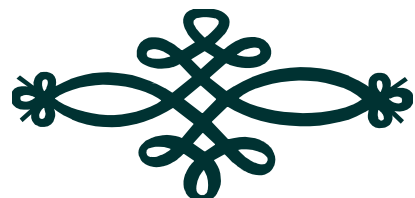
The Wednesday gathering is a regularly scheduled monthly workshop with free form question and answer sessions.

The topic for the Saturday meeting will be "Evaluating Your Research with Patrick Lofft." 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>.

15 January Saturday 10:30 am The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will have one of its regular meetings at the Grace Lutheran Church Hall, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. **This is a new meeting location.** Newspaper Research Online will be presented by Janice Sellers. Although millions of pages of the world's newspapers are now accessible online, finding the one you want isn't easy because there is no one place to find them all. Janice M. Sellers is a professional genealogist specializing in Jewish research. She is the editor of "The Galitzianer" and "ZichronNote," the publicity director for SFBAJGS and a long-time staff member at the Oakland Family History Center. For more information, go to <http://www.smcgs.org>

25 January 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. Warren Bittner will speak about "*Impossible Immigrants, I know Everything About the Man, Except where He Came From.*" Learn how to associate neighbors and distant relatives to pinpoint the places of origin for 3 "brick wall" immigrants.

4 February Friday 10 am. The Santa Clara Historical and Genealogical Society and Santa Clara Central Park Library will host the California State Genealogical Alliance Board Meeting. Everyone is invited to attend the open combined Board and Annual Meeting of CSGA at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Road. ■



EDUCATION

5 January Wednesday 10 am to noon

The first of 5 **Starter Genealogy** classes to be held in Computer room A of the Rossmoor Computer Club at the Acalanes Adult Education Center, 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard in Walnut Creek. The Instructor will be Gail Roche van Wye. The cost is \$25.

5 January Wednesday 1 to 3 pm

The first of 5 **Genealogy Research** classes for more experienced genealogy researchers. They will be held in Computer room A of the Rossmoor Computer Club at the Acalanes Adult Education Center, 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard in Walnut Creek. The Instructor will be Gail Roche van Wye. The cost is \$25.

18 January Tuesday 7 to 8:30 pm

Probate and Guardianship Records presented by Margery Bell will be the beginning of ten sessions of Winter Intermediate Genealogy classes. The Oakland Regional Family History Center (ORFHC) and the California Genealogical Society (CGS) are offering classes held each Tuesday through March. The cost is \$30 for all ten classes or \$4 per session for walk-ins if space is available. Easy Online Registration at the CGS Website: CaliforniaAncestors.org. The complete schedule is available online. For further details go to <http://www.oaklandfhc.org> or telephone (510) 531-3905.

5 February Saturday 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

The Santa Clara Historical and Genealogical Society will host an all day free seminar at the Family History Center, LDS Church, 875 Quince Ave, in Santa Clara. The seminar will feature four popular speakers:

- Melinda Kashuba, PhD: *Using Maps in Genealogical Research*
- Junel Davidson, CG: *Courthouse Records in Cyberspace* ►

- Peggy Rossi: *I wish I had asked: A guide to doing oral History interviews*
- Cat Nielsen: *Spreadsheets in Genealogy* ■

We need an Education Coordinator!

A major focus for the SRVGS is helping members learn of the many resources and techniques that will help them in their genealogical research. An important component of that is informing members of family history classes provided by organizations throughout the Bay Area as well as sponsoring classes for our members.

To make this focus work, we need someone to coordinate the classes we sponsor as well as disseminating information from other organizations. If you are interested in this service, please let Sherri, or any board member, know. Also, if there are several SRVGS members that would like to share the responsibilities, that would also work. Here is what is needed:

Education Coordinator (Job Description)

1. Coordinate classes sponsored by the SRVGS. This might include: beginning genealogy, the ongoing publishing class, periodic introductions to the Family History Center, or other topics that would be of interest to some of the members. Responsibilities include contacting class leaders for date, time and place.
2. Be aware of classes given by other local organizations and relay the information to the Society via the newsletter and/or Bits and Pieces emails. There are many links to these types of organizations that can be provided to start with.
3. As appropriate, send in a newsletter article with the class schedules of the SRVGS classes and any other classes deemed of interest. You may also send the information to the Bits and Pieces editor for email dissemination.
4. Attend Board Meetings as needed to report on educational opportunities. ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Susan Daly Freeman
P.O. Box 361
Diablo, CA 94528
925 736-1397
SMDFreeman@mac.com

Jim Stanton
501 El Capitan Drive
Danville, CA 94526
925-820-3757
jestanton@hotmail.com

Mary Caroline Chunn
204 Caldwell Avenue
Los Gatos, CA 95032
408-455-2182
marycarolinescousins@gmail.com

News from the Danville Stake Family History Center

By Janet Broderick

January 2011

The holiday season is over and the Danville Family History Center is OPEN! We invite all to come in and use our resources. We have several subscription sites available for free - and some wonderful staff that can help you. Our hours remain the same:

- Monday 10 am to 1 pm
- Tuesday 7-9 pm (and 1 hour following the SRVGS meeting)
- Wednesday 10 am to 4 pm and 7-9 pm
- Thursday 10 am to 4 pm.

You may have discovered that ►

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

FamilySearch.org has changed dramatically over the last month. It is the taste of things to come. If you have any questions or problems, please come to the Center where our staff can help.

We are also pleased to receive 4 more computers sent to us from Salt Lake FamilySearch!! We will be installing them in the near future. Along with the new wide screen monitors that were recently donated, we are getting a much more up-to-date look and function.

The New Year is a good time to start indexing!! This is a wonderful opportunity to "give back" to the genealogy community in a very meaningful way. All indexed records will be available for free for everyone!! Go to www.familysearch.org and click on the "Give Back" button. Or you can go directly to the site at: <http://indexing.familysearch.org>. If you have any questions, please call me or come to the FHC!!

Thank you for all your support over the past years. We look forward to a wonderful Family History 2011! ■

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