



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVI No. 10 May - 2011



THIS MONTH – May 17, 2011
"Newspapers Online"
Presented by: Janice M. Sellers



Newspapers are valuable in genealogical research because you can find information about births, deaths, marriages, moves, business, naturalizations, court cases and more. Millions of pages of the world's newspapers are now accessible online, but there is no one place to find them all. Janice will give an overview of what is available and how to find it, and teach you some techniques to find your ancestor in the paper.

Janice M. Sellers is a professional genealogist who specializes in Jewish research. She is the editor of *The Galitizianer*, the quarterly newsletter focused on Jewish research in the former Austrian province of Galicia, and of *ZichronNote*, the newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical society. She is also the publicity director for SFBAJGS and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Genealogical Speakers Guild, California State Genealogical Alliance, California Genealogical Society, and Geshen Galicia. She has been on the staff of the Oakland Regional Family History Center for eleven years. ■



April Meeting
**"Remember the Ladies, Celebrating the California
Centennial of Women Suffrage, 1911-2011"**
Speakers: Jean Blaser, Betty Casey, and Roxanne Lindsay Wederman
Reporter: Russell Erickson



From the Museum of San Ramon Valley, Jean Blaser acted as monitor, "Rose Lawrence Peters" was portrayed by Betty Casey (SRVGS member), in period costume, and Roxanne Lindsey Wederman (once president and now docent of the museum) presented her local family history.

Women civil rights campaigners finally received the vote in 1911, with California one of the first states ratifying it. Abigail Adams urged her

husband, future President John Adams to give women the vote in 1776; New Jersey gave them the vote and took it back in 1807! The Louisiana Purchase brought forces out against expansion of slavery and again for equal treatment for men and women. In 1869, some western states (where scarce women were highly regarded) provided the vote. In 1896, the Women's Christian Temperance League sought the vote in California. The liquor lobby defeated them.

Rose Lawrence Peters (RLP) was born ►



Jean Blaser



Betty Casey



Roxanne Lindsay Wederman

Our Three April Presenters

in Danville in 1874, of immigrant parents from the Azores.

Her mother immigrated to New York, worked 2 years as a housekeeper, saved her small salary, and came to California, to the Wood ranch in San Ramon Valley, where she milked cows in winter mud (no barn). Wood hired a young man educated for the priesthood before migrating. He had no money, but could read and write. RLPs mother had saved \$400, and they married, share cropped, and later bought 150 acres. They had 12 children, all educated to the 8th grade. The older were sisters and the boys the youngest. RLPs father died suddenly at age 44. The mother struggled on, though bitter, with the help of cousin immigrants from the Azores who came and went. Finally Joe Foster came and stayed--a great help. (He later prospered and started the Danville Emporium which burned in 1924).

RLP had one short leg, was not terribly attractive, and stayed with mother until all children had nearly left home. One day, Joe Peters, illiterate, and a widower with 7 children, visited and RLPs mother promised her to him as wife. Joe, old school, felt children needed to work, not be educated, but RLP saw that all 7 of her new brood

went to school in San Ramon. Their added 5 children also went to 8th grade. Joe was a good farmer, hired field men, and RLP spent long days cooking, canning, sewing, and keeping the farm books. It was a marriage of convenience, but they prospered in farm and later business. RLP pushed HER children to high school. 2 became carpenters, and 3 went to UC Berkeley College. Her son became the first Portuguese background general in the US Army, "all 5 foot 4 of him"!

Roxanne Lindsey Wederman's (RLW) GGF came to San Francisco from Germany in 1855 as a ship's carpenter, escaping the Danish-German war draft. He worked in a dairy and with partners, bought land in SR Valley in 1865, from the War of 1812 widows, who had it in lieu of government monetary payment.

He raised cattle, then fruit trees. He met and married Katrina Whitmer in 1868. Their 4 children went to school locally; Fred, the youngest and RLW's GF, became a cowboy and showman. He bought a ranch and married Mattie in 1912. RLW's father was born in 1917 in Dougherty Valley. He married in 1943 and RLW was born in 1944, the oldest of 3. The family raised cattle, hay, and walnuts. Her mother taught tailoring, ►

canning, and other farm skills via a UC Berkeley extension program in the valley. RLW and sibs took snacks and coffee to field workers and helped about the ranch. Her dad served on the local fire board, and later RLW did likewise. Early in the 1900s, a stagecoach came from Martinez to the Valley.

Later, the train took over, with a station in Danville, which subsequently out grew San Ramon.

Later, the freeway expanded both.

Jean Blaser: After Suffrage, women lobbied for equal jobs and pay, for pure milk, and less child labor.

In WW II, Rosie the Riveters worked in war and other industries, women went more often to college and into public service. Today, we have 2 female Senators, 3 on the Supreme Court, one Secretary of State.

Women have come a long way. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

May 2011

- 3 **Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Sherri Hedman in San Ramon.
- 17 **Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

June 2011

- 7 **Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** A Board Meeting is scheduled to be held, the location of which will be announced.
- 21 **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 NOT meet again until September.** 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

The MacGen group will meet Wednesday, May 18th at 10:30 am in the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. This SIG specializes in the uses of the Macintosh by genealogists. If you have a Mac lap top, please bring it as you will be able to follow along with the examples. Reunion Notes and Text will be the topic for the meeting. An important part of Genealogy is documentation. Reunion has very flexible ways to include notes in people records and text in source records. Your Reunion documentation will improve dramatically after learning how to do this. Bill George, Special Interest Group Coordinator, is the contact person for this group. E-mail williamcgeorge@Gmail.com or phone: (510) 538-2449 You may also refer to the web site at <http://www.macgen.org>.



ENGLISH - Members with this special interest may set aside Thursday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 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. Phone 552-5920 or e-mail Suzanne Johnston: gjohnston3@comcast.net



GERMAN – The German Group will meet Wednesday, May 25th (The fourth Wednesday) at 10 am. At the Home of Dorothy Baker in Walnut Creek. 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 May 11th and June 8th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am. at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is the contact person for the group. Contact her by phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail russpat@comcast.net



LEGACY SOFTWARE – The Legacy Software group will meet on Monday May 23 at 10:00 am at the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. This is a genealogy software users group. Due to Memorial Day they will be meeting one week earlier than usual. They will finish entering data and start showing how to enter sources. This is one of the most important steps of recording your genealogy data, that will make your work credible, or maybe in your case, incredible! Bill George is the acting coordinator for this group. To contact him; e-mail williamcgeorge@Gmail.com



PUBLISHING – A few members that are sharing their interest in publishing their genealogy and family history data, will meet on May 19th (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



SCANDINAVIAN – Members with this special interest may set aside a Wednesday afternoon between 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, 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.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

This month of May, because of the Memorial Day holiday on May 30th, we have to schedule the Legacy SIG a week early, on the Monday, May 23rd. Other SIGS will be meeting on their normal days. We have sign-up sheets for each of our eight SIGS at the General Meeting so we can follow up and send a reminder email in advance of the SIG meetings. We also have a SIG Calendar on the SIG web page that makes it a little easier to schedule your SIG meetings. <http://srvgensoc.org>.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 10 May Tuesday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society (LAGS) will have their regular meeting at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. "Inspiring Ways to Capture the Interest of Non-genealogists in Your Family" will be the topic of the presentation by Lisa Louise Cooke.
- 13 May Friday 9 am to 1 pm** Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist, at the National Archives, Pacific Region, in San Bruno, will present a workshop. The subject will be Military Records, Revolutionary War to Civil War. The fees are \$15 payable in advance. To register and reserve a space, phone her at (650) 238-3488. The address is 1000 Commodore Drive in San Bruno. She will present part 2, Spanish American to Viet Nam War Records" on Friday, June 17.
- 21 May 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. Marcia Holstrom will speak about "Social Networking for Genealogists." Social Networking may be great for some and a mystery to others, but does it help us in ►



our Family History Research? For more information, go to <http://www.smcgs.org>

- 24 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. The Presenter will be Baerbel Johnson, A. G. The title of the presentation will be "Occupations in German Research." As one who works every day with records, mostly German, this Family History Library expert will tell how German occupations figure into family research and will also present them as social history

- 10 thru 12 June Friday through Sunday** The Southern California Genealogy Jam-boree will be held in Burbank, California. The theme will be; "They Came from Someplace Else." Search <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com> for further information.

- 7 thru 10 September Wednesday thru Saturday** The Federation of Genealogy Societies will hold their conference in Springfield, Illinois. The theme will be "Pathways to the Heartland." For further details, visit www.fgs.org

- 18 - 25 September Sunday thru Sunday** The Swedish American Genealogist Workshop will be held in Salt Lake City. I have attended about 6 or 7 of these workshops in past years and they are great if you are doing Swedish research. They bring experts from Sweden to help with reading the old Swedish script. Also Elisabeth Thorsell brings databases that are not available here, and she also takes orders for these ahead of time so you can buy them for your own use at home. If anyone is interested in this, I have the information, prices, etc. Sharon Clay sharonlclay@comcast.net

- 7& 8 October Friday and Saturday** A Northern California Family History Expo will be held at the San Mateo County Event Center, 2495 S. Delaware Street in San Mateo. For further details, visit, www.familyhistoryexpos.com

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Diane Shelby Loranger
57 Live Oak Lane
Danville CA 94506
925-736-5128
shelbyd111@hotmail.com

Robert Stellmacher
630 Brookside Drive
Danville, CA 94526
925-389-0176
ResJas1@comcast.net

EDUCATION



- Up-coming classes at the Family History Center at 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland
- May 6th 1:30 PM *Introduction to Genealogy Programs* (fee \$4) Instructor: Ken Miller
 - May 7th 1:30 PM *Newspaper Research: Using the Subscription and Free Web Sites available at the Oakland Regional FHC* (fee \$4) Instructor: Janice Sellers
 - May 7th 1:30 PM *Adding Notes and Documentation to your Genealogy Program* (fee \$4) Instructor: Ken Miller
 - May 20th 1:30 PM *Using the PAF Focus Feature* (fee \$4) Instructor: Ken Miller
 - May 25th 6 PM *African-American Genealogy Workshop* Instructor: Judith Collins

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

 Up-coming class at the California Genealogical Society & Library, 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland

- May 7th 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM ***Who Do You Think You Are? Intro to Genealogy*** Instructor: Craig Siulinski

Register on line at CaliforniaAncestors.org

Do You Ever Wonder How We Obtain Speakers For Our Meetings?

The Program Committee searches for speakers and various topics via:

- Local genealogical seminars at Family History Centers ex. Oakland and Concord
- Area Genealogical Society speaker presentations, ex. California Genealogical Society (CGS) and Livermore Amador Genealogical Society (L-AGS)
- Review area publication/ newsletters of genealogical societies
- Members' first hand recommendations.

Since joining the committee, I have become more interested in attending genealogy sessions. This is where I find many of our knowledgeable and enthusiastic speakers. If you have a speaker recommendation, please inform a committee member. Elaine Franke, Program Chairman.

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 newsletters. 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). ■

From our:

Mini-ed for April 19, 2011

By: Russ Erickson

A special note as Janet Broderick, our FHC Director, will leave us for 2 years. Jan Hunter will be the new Director, with an assistant to help SRVGS on our monthly meeting, as Jan works full time during the daytime. The FHC will also shortly have Comcast cable internet, for faster service in the library.

Janet and husband (who speaks Portuguese from his mission days in Brazil) will be a LDS "Senior Couple" teaching church leadership to converts in Cabo (Cape) Verde, consisting of 10 volcanic islands off the west coast of Africa with about 1 million people, most of whom are poor.

The Cape Verde Islands were originally a Portuguese colony and early slave station. The Portuguese officially left it in 1975.

The Brodericks will center on Humanitarian Services, to alleviate suffering and promote self reliance.

The LDS church will, along with developing leadership ability:

1. Provide \$150,000 to hook up a water system for people able to pay for maintenance.
2. Help provide neonatal resuscitation skills for local medical people (via US medical volunteers).
3. Provide wheelchairs to those in need.
4. Provide vision care via ophthalmology volunteers from the US.
5. Provide emergency response in case of major disaster (the LDS church can have a ship ready within 24 hours in such cases, world wide).
6. Help with schools and supplies.
7. Help farmers via Benson Institute food programs.

Janet is "nervous, scared, excited, and eager to help, with God's help, to change lives." The people there have finite resources and infinite need. ■

MY BIGGEST BRICK WALL

Brick Wall Reinforced

By: Ed Mason

In the February Newsletter I wrote about **My Biggest Brick Wall**, Daniel Perry, my GrGrGrGrandfather, born in 1780 in Massachusetts, died in 1858 in Jackson County Michigan. **Chapter 2**, printed in the March Newsletter, told about the techniques used in a successful search for a **second** live cousin still carrying the surname Perry. However, at the time **Chapter 2** was submitted, only telephone contact with Ronald Perry had been established. Since he did not have email, I was waiting for his promised letter. It arrived a couple of weeks later, four pages of printed but messy handwriting, with spelling and grammatical errors, but nonetheless quite informative. After establishing email contact with his daughter, a family rumor was revealed – that Ron's grandfather might have been adopted. A review of my records showed that the grandfather who was born in 1879 could not be found in the 1880 Census. He first showed up in the Perry family in 1900 at the age of 21. Thus the hope was shattered of doing a second Y-Chromosome DNA test to compare with the first. While adding a little more mortar to the brick wall, I vowed to regroup and continue the search. ■

A 97 Year-Old Mystery Solved

By: Ed Mason

My Wife, Margaret McDonald Mason, was number 8 in a family of 11 children, all produced by the same mother and father. All of the children thought that they knew their father very well – but he had a secret.

In the 1940's the song *Rosalie*, sung by *Nelson Eddy*, was very popular. Whenever the children would have that song playing on the radio, their father would ask that it be turned off. A suspicion arose that their father's first love, or perhaps first wife, might have been someone named Rosalie. Their father died in 1955 at the age of ►

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

62 and the secret died with him. A couple of years ago, some of the eastern New York State newspapers became searchable and I started a search. Up popped a very short article announcing a November 12, 1914 marriage of James McDonald to a Rosalie Lane. From there I found a family tree on Rootsweb's WorldConnect that enabled me to identify her parents and other details. Rosalie had died of an infection seven weeks after the marriage.

With quite a bit of information, I was able to produce a short video to share with the McDonald family. Since then I have become a paid subscriber to Ancestry.com and have posted my tree on my site via a Gedcom. Despite its many faults, Ancestry also has some great benefits.

A couple of days ago I heard from one of Rosalie's nieces. I now have 2 pictures of Rosalie, 3 of her parents, a few of her 13 siblings and several of the various gravestones. Margaret and I have a big head start on some additional research that we plan to do when we are in the east for 12 days in July. ■

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	3
SRVGS CALENDAR	3
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	3
OTHER EVENTS	4
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
EDUCATION	5
HOW WE OBTAIN SPEAKERS	6
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
MINI-ED REVIEW (19 APR 2011)	6
MY BIGGEST BRICK WALL	7
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE	4
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	5

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