



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



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San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVII No. 1 June - 2011



THIS MONTH – June 21, 2011

" Joseph Adcock Wilkes, Danville's Own Civil War Soldier "

Presented by: Dave Stephenson



Dave will cover the life of Joseph Adcock Wilkes from birth in 1846 in Missouri until his death at the Sawtelle Veterans Home in Los Angeles in 1937. Special attention will be paid to the investigative techniques used to discover the details of his life and times.

Dave is a native of the San Ramon Valley having attended Stone Valley Elementary and San Ramon High School before graduating from U.C. Berkeley and Boston College Graduate School of Management. He is a retired navy intelligence officer, former high tech executive and entrepreneur and is currently a High School history teacher.

May Meeting

"The Danville Family History Center – What's here vs. in Salt Lake City "

Speaker: Jan Unter

Reporter: Lee Schlenker

Originally our speaker for this past month's talk was to be Janice Sellers who, obviously, could not be with us. So our speaker was Mr. Jan E. Unter the new director of the Family History Libraries in our area. He was gracious enough to step in and give us some insight into the Family History Centers (FHC).

Jan Unter, a former Hewlett Packard employee, became interested in genealogy while at Brigham Young University taking courses in Danish and American research. He was one of the proponents of PAF (Personal Ancestral File) which was first used at the FHC. He wrote the PAFinder Newsletter and co-authored the original PAF documentation guidelines and wrote documentation software utilities, HotNotes and laser PAF. He is an advocate of computerized source citations in genealogical research. For the past

five years Jan has staffed the Danville FHC on Tuesday nights.

He started off by stating the belief of "family is eternal" and with genealogy it continues.

Salt Lake City Family History Library was started in the 19th century as the Utah Genealogy Society but has evolved into Family Search sponsored by the Mormons as ongoing acquisitions in preservation, archiving, cataloging, inter-branch film loans and library services. There are over 4,600 local branch centers with the world's largest records repository containing over 3 billion people from archives and churches from 100 countries. Salt Lake City has what is called "Granite Mountain Archives" – a vault containing 2.4 million microfiche and microfilm; 4,500 periodicals; ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Our May speaker, Mr. Jan Unter

3,725 electronic resources. The 1894 records have been preserved all within this temperature controlled vault.

He went on to the Oakland Family History Center which gives classes on multiple genealogy subjects frequently. The OFHC encompasses 37,000 rolls of microfilm and 19,000 microfiche as well as free online websites not available at the Danville location. (www.OaklandFHC.org).

Jan talked about the new Family Search.org website explaining how it works now. The card catalogue has been made easier to use. The card catalogue "link" will appear in the left-hand corner of the website when you log on to it. Just click on it and browse. He told us once in 1972 it took him a *whole 5 days* to go through the microfilm of the Peoria, IL Censes looking for his ancestor "Nebet Hinkle." Now you may access that from the FHC at the Family Search.org site. It's much easier.

Jan touched on the Athena project which is the indexing done by volunteers only. If you are interested this project is done from home and *the hours are great!* Anyone can volunteer if you have a computer. Indexing is a relatively easy project – read, write, and the cursor holds your ►

place for you. There are projects in countries of Italy, Mexico, Ukraine, and Germany. If you should need more information or are just not sure about it, please contact Linda Bailey (in your handbook). "Many hands make light work."

He gave us a listing of all the "portals" available to us at the Danville FHC:

1. Ancestry.com
2. Footnote.com (Jan says it's a little hard to use this one)
3. Genline.com (good for Swedish research; can cost \$300 p/yr. if you subscribe yourself)
4. Godfrey Library.org
5. HeritageQuestonline.com
6. Find my past.co.uk (good for Irish and English research)
7. TheGenealogist.co.uk
8. WorldVitalRecords.com (English, German, Italian)
9. AccessNewspaperArchive.com (small town stories 1750-1900 & a treasure of info)
10. GenealogyBank.com

These "portals" listed above are available at the FHC in Danville and not from your home computer. Check your handbook for the days and hours of the Center.

Jan reminds us to get ourselves organized; do all your beginning "stuff" at home before you go off to Salt Lake City FHC and don't waste precious time going through the first floor microfilm/fiche. You can do that at home or at FHC. Remember to record you cites – write the film #s, who, when, where, etc. You'll be set to go when you arrive. Photo pictures can be taken but without the flash. Remember also that your CDs have a life about 2-3 years before they become unreadable. And your color photos will eventually fade due to the vegetable dyes used. Black and white photos stand up much better with time.

In the Fall of this year you will be able to order films online using your credit card and then pick them up the your local FHC. Happy hunting!! ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

June 2011

- 7 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Vern Segelke in Danville.
- 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. From the I-680 Freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 1/2 miles.

July 2011

- 5 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek.
- 19 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

We had our first meeting of the TNG SIG in May, 2011 with seven attendees. We agreed to continue it at the Danville Family History Center on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 am. The program is called TNG, short for "The Next Generation of Genealogy Software". They have a web site which shows the variety of ways people are using TNG... <http://lythgoes.net/genealogy/usersites.php>. Linda Bailey is heading up the SIG, and is very fond of her web site that also uses TNG, <http://lindasgenealogy.org>.

The Legacy SIG will change the time it meets to 1 pm, on the 4th Monday of the month. If you would like to view a calendar version of ►

all our SIGS, we have a web page for that at <http://srvgensoc.org/calendar.html>

If anyone is interested in starting an SRVGS SIG on any topic, please contact me at williamcgeorge@gmail.com to get it started. ■

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" program. **They will not meet again until September.** Barbara Johnson is the contact person for this Group. You may contact Barbara by phone, 837-2153 or e-mail bcj616@earthlink.net



MacGen – MACINTOSH GENEALOGY GROUP The MacGen group will meet Wednesday June 22nd at 10:30 a.m. 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 laptop, please bring it, so you will be able to follow along with the examples. The theme for this meeting will be "How to create GEDCOM files." Bill George, Special Interest Group Coordinator, is the contact person for this Group. You may contact Bill via e-mail, williamcgeorge@Gmail.com or phone (510) 538-2449. You may also visit the following web site: <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. to be at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. Suzanne Johnston will work with you on research in England and Wales. If you are interested in getting some help with your English research, gather the material you have about your family line, and bring it on a Thursday morning. Contact Suzanne by phone, 552-5920 or e-mail, gjohnston3@comcast.net ►



GERMAN – The German Group will meet Wednesday June 22nd (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 am at the home of Susan Hanck in Walnut Creek. The contact person for this group is Helen Odegard. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact her via e-mail, shodegard@att.net or phone 932-6796 for more information.



IRISH - This special interest group will meet 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 this group. You may contact Patty via e-mail, russ-pat@comcast.net or phone 229-0889.



LEGACY SOFTWARE – The Legacy group will meet Monday, June 27 (the fourth Monday) at 1:00 a.m. in the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. This is a genealogy software users group. The theme for this meeting will be, a review of past topics (search, tag, entering data) and begin showing how to create charts. Bill George is the contact person for this Group. You may contact Bill via e-mail, williamcgeorge@gmail.com or phone (510) 538-2449.



PUBLISHING – A few members that are interested in sharing their interest in Publishing their genealogy and family history data, **will not meet as such in June.** They will meet at 10:00 am. **July 21st** (the third Thursday) at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville. For further information, contact Frances 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. and 3:00 pm. at the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. A few members are usually there to provide help with research for Swedish, Norwegian and Danish genealogical information. Phone (925) 552-5920 to confirm that they are ►

there or e-mail Linda Bailey, baileylin-da100@gmail.com for further information.



THE NEXT GENERATION of GENEALOGY SITEBUILDING

A new group is being organized for the purpose of members to share their interest in creating their own web site from which their family history data can be found and shared. Their next (second) meeting will be held at 10:00 am Tuesday June 28th at the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. TNG is a powerful way to manage and display your genealogy data on your own web site, all without generating a single page of static HTML. Instead, your information is stored in MySQL database tables and dynamically displayed in attractive fashion. Contact Bill George, Special Interest Group Coordinator, via e-mail, williamcgeorge@gmail.com or phone (510) 538-2449, for further information. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 14 June Tuesday 7:30 pm.** The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society (www.L-AGS.org) will have their regular meeting at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Bert Donlon will talk about "Donlon Family History," what he found and how he put it into print.
- 15 June Wednesday 7:30 pm.** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will hold their regular monthly meeting at Grace Lutheran Church Hall, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. "Power of Google" will be presented by Christine Green. For more information, visit their web site: www.smcgs.org
- 20 June Monday 7:00 pm.** The Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society will meet at Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, room 5/6, in Los Altos Hills. "Family Research in Greater Hungary" will be presented by Vivian Kahn. She will provide an overview of the history of Hungary's Jewish community and ►

discuss resources available, including archival records in Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine and Hungary. For further details, visit their web site: www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs

21 June Tuesday The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting at 6:30 pm at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, Cedar room, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. Professional Genealogist, Janice Sellers, will give an overview of what is available and how to find it, and teach you some techniques to find your ancestors in the newspaper. Millions of pages of the world's newspapers are now accessible online, but there is no one place to find them all. For further details, visit their web site: www.scchgs.org

7 thru 9 July Thursday thru Saturday Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) conference will be held in Salt Lake City. Many lectures will be featured about central and eastern European research. Early registration discount is available until June 15. See details at: [//feefhs.org](http://feefhs.org)

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 their web site: www.fgs.org

18 thru 25 September Sunday thru Sunday The Swedish American Genealogy Workshop will be held in Salt Lake City. They bring experts from Sweden. They can help with reading the old Swedish Script. Elisabeth Thorsell also brings databases that are not available here. She takes requests for these ahead of time, so you can buy them for your use at home. If you are interested, you may contact Sharon Clay for further information. sharon-clay@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 their web site: <http://www.familyhistoryexpo.com/viewevent.aspx?eid=36> ■

EDUCATION



Up-coming at the **Oakland Family History Center**, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland:

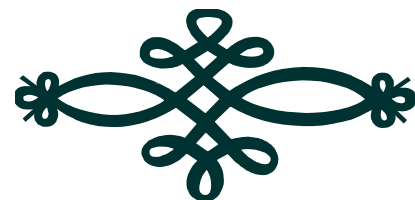
- **Sunday, June 26th, 12:30 - 4 PM**, *Book 'em, Dano! Publishing Your Family's History*, Instructor: Jeff Lewy, Presented by the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society (More info at: <http://www.sfbajgs.org/>)



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

- **Saturday, June 4th, 11 - 12:30 PM**, *Who Do You Think You Are? Intro to Genealogy* Instructor: Ellen Fernandez-Sacco
- **Saturday, June 11th, 1 - 4 PM**, *Writing and Publishing Your Family History*, Instructor Nora Profit
- **Saturday, June 18th, 1 - 4 PM**, *Digital Photography*, Instructor: Mary Beth Frederick
- **Saturday, June 25th, 11 - 3 PM**, *Civil War Research*, Instructor Susan Goss Johnston

For these classes, register on-line at CaliforniaAncestors.org



A Gentle Reminder

A new Society year started on June 1st, and annual membership dues are now past due. For those who have not yet sent in their membership renewal, please take a moment to send in your check, **now**, while you are thinking about it. We really value your continued membership, but ask, should you decide not to continue, to please advise our new Membership VP, Philip Seelinger, family_of_philip@earthlink.net

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

Please extend a Warm Welcome to our newest members!

Donelle Ledo
15 Daisy Court
Danville CA 94506
925-648-7787
donelle.ledo@comcast.net

Gail A. Wherritt
109 Marsha Place
Lafayette CA 94549
925-284-7054
gwherritt@yahoo.com

Patrick Lofft
2353 Redberry Court
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925-462-2545
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How to Find Sources and Records in the Family History Library Catalog

By [Arlene H. Eakle, PhD](#)

The [Family History Library Catalog](#) can be your best friend when tracing a difficult-to-find-ancestor. It can serve as a master finding aid to determine if there is a record or source available to trace your family tree, or to solve a special, difficult research problem. This function draws librarians and catalogers to its use in large numbers.

Realizing the challenge of the Catalog to genealogists, in mid 2011, this appendix is provided--based on my own experience.

My personal preference of all the catalog formats, is the "classic" version. It has several functions that enable you to locate hard-to-find and hard-to-remember items that I know are in the Library - because I have searched them. So I want you to know about them before the "classic" version disappears. (No time has been announced for this to happen - just that it will.)

Locality/Places. The original Family History Library Catalog format was oriented to locality. So when you did a place search, you got the bulk of catalog entries that applied to your locality. So **search by Locality first** for your records and sources. The new catalog is now oriented to people - finding specific ancestors. And it does that well. Finding categories of records and sources that might list an ancestor you haven't a name for, it doesn't do as well, yet.

Authors. Unless you know the exact name of the author and spell it correctly, the catalog may not be able to retrieve the entry by author. (There is no function like *Google* has that asks you "did you mean" with a corrected request in the search bar.) When you get a record you want to search under locality, note particularly who or what the author is. Authors can be persons, groups, companies, government agencies, and others. I always click on the **author links** to determine what other works this author has done. If it is a person, look especially for family histories and cemetery transcriptions in the list-they will often relate to the same place you asked for under local-

ity/place to begin with. The authors often write ► about families they descend from. If the author is a group, what else have they published of interest to their members? If the author is a government agency, what other records did they create? Catalogers designate entries by many subjects. And you have no way to know what catalog number they have assigned to the book or record that has the entries on your family. They will describe the record and the cross-references they assign to that item in the catalog entry. What they don't cross-reference does not always appear in that entry, because they have saved it for its own entry. I have found so many hard-to-find ancestors using this approach to the catalog.

Call number. The call numbers for printed materials are a modified Dewey Decimal system. You can, at this time, access books with a call number as well as author, title, etc. I recommend that you do not identify the records and sources you search by call number only. Add the title, author, facts of publication, and the date the book was published. If there are reprints, note that date. If there is a new version or edition, note that date. These dates will alert you to the presence of indexes, corrections, new matter added, etc. If an entry is inadvertently dropped from a catalog edition or if the call number is changed - both of these occur more than you know - you can still give credit where credit is due. This lends credibility to your work and what you, yourself, write.

Class number. On each catalog entry there is also a **Class** number given after the regular description of the volume. Keep this number handy. If the book you take from the shelf does not cover all the information you need on this subject, you can click on the number (it is a link), and you will get another list of books on the same subject. If the book you used is part of a series, this link will take you to a list of titles for the other books or volumes in the series. Then you will have the whole list. If this access is not transferred to the new catalog, you can call up the book and micro-film numbers by **Title**.

Entries identified only by Volume number and pages. The Family History Library Catalog includes articles in genealogical serials and periodicals. The item is catalogued under author and title as if the article were a full book. Only ►

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Sherri Hedman 925-275-8123

e-mail: president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Ed Mason 925-838-7848

2nd V.P. Program:

Elaine Franke 925-831-1989

3rd V.P. Membership:

Phil Seelinger 925-254-1338

Recording Secretary:

Carol Huvane 925-947-5669

Corresponding Secretary:

Vern Segelke 925-838-8570

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 trvrlr@sbcglobal.net

the volume and page information alerts you that you need more information to find it. Click on the Volume and page link, and you will get the title of the periodical.

View Related Places. You can use this link, at the top of the locality pages, to navigate the catalog back and forth without having to exit and start the search over. You can go from state to county to local towns and back again. But there is a bonus! This is an essential search item added when the catalog expanded the Keyword access. Once all of the places were clickable in the catalog, the Keyword search became really functional. This is another catalog access that I use all the time. And this function has not been transferred, yet, to the new "updated" version. For example, Using the Locality search for the state of Pennsylvania, then the category "Cemetery Indexes" on the menu, one entry only appears: The *Henry R. Baldwin Collection*, which indexes cemetery inscriptions for the PA-OH border area. A Keyword search for "Pennsylvania Cemetery Indexes" yields 73 entries! ■

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**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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