



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVII No. 3 September - 2011

**THIS MONTH – September 20, 2011**

**" WHY should I preserve my old family photos and documents?**

**And**

**HOW do I preserve these collections? "**

**Presented by: Mary Ann Wilkman**

Mary Ann Wilkman, will give us her expert advice on the "Best Practices for Preserving Our Family Photos and Documents", from basic preservation, tools and supplies required to the resources that are available to preserve these heirlooms.

Mary Ann is the Historic Properties Coordinator for the city of San Ramon. She supervises the collections, programs and exhibits for the Glass House Museum, an 1877 Italianate style house museum and Forest Home Farms Historic Park, a 16 acre site with various artifacts and buildings dating from 1850.

## **July Meeting**

**"Genealogy Ink: Getting your thoughts together to put your history on paper "**

**Speaker: Frances Lloyd/Chairman and Moderator**

**Reporter: Lee Schlenker**

Our topic for the July meeting was interesting with multiple speakers on each aspect of you creating your ancestor's history in a book format. It gave you an insight as to how to start, proceed and some basic guidelines – but NOT many rules. Our own Society members (within the Publishing Group SIG) were the speakers, each addressing different publishing subjects. The back table had many, many books as guides which you could browse through as well as our own member's publications. We were given a number of handouts also.

Francie Lloyd was the moderator and started with an introduction to whet your appetite for writing.

She then introduced Phil Seelinger. He was grateful that the Publishing Group was there as a leaning-post and joined the Publishing Group as an aid to his writing. He's a stand-alone-genealogist with a very small family whose interest is his alone; but he doesn't want to leave this earth without leaving a small legacy in book form. He found some amazing stuff to write about and it was important to him to "get it down and get it out!" There are no specific rules and no particular style. Since his family is small he published only 8 copies in a ring binder. He had separate narratives for his mother, father and grandfather. Only recently he found out he was Jewish and he says he may have to revise his stories!

The next speaker was Susan Hanck and ►



Our June speakers (l to r): Bill Hewitt, Sue Hanck, Phil Seelinger, JoAnn Garlington, Sharon Clay, Bill George, and Francie Lloyd

(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

she was just a little bit more technical with the inside pages of your book. You should have a Title page in caps for the first page; then a Subtitle page as your second; next, Author and then Publisher. If you choose to dedicate your book to someone, no name is necessary – it's very optional. This Dedication page should come after your Title page. Susan suggests that an Introduction page should be a "grabber" to pique the reader's interest. For your Table of Contents you should use the "dot row" (.....) to the page numbers but the Table Contents shouldn't be too long. This next page should be your Preface page explaining how and why you decided to write the book; and it should be approximately one page long. If you choose to say "thank you" to people who helped/aided you this would be the Acknowledgement page in the back of your book. Usually it would be half a page long but you can make it longer – your choice. This is about the only place where

there are some rules in regards to writing a book/story.

Bill Hewitt got to "the meat of the matter" next. These would be your formatting options. They are easy and a one-time only decision. Hopefully you can do it all by your computer using an 11 to 12 font size. You may want to use a different font for your pictures' captions. You will need to choose your paper size and it should be white for easier reading. You'll need to leave spaces for Pictures, documents or charts if you are going to use them; space for the "footers" and the "headers" as well as for the "gutter" which is the left margin for binding. (Footnotes are information for the reader at the foot of that page – not for your citations.) Many of the new computers have these types of programs on them. Bill suggests using "caps" and/or "bolding" the first time a name appears to draw attention to it, but this is up to you – your choice. He suggests that real ►

information is the most important and interesting (e.g. military service/stories, education, hobbies, jobs, special events, travel, even if there is a criminal in the family). If you should have a handwritten item (e.g. a last will and testament) typing it out word for word will make it easier for the reader to read it. Again, set your own rules and guidelines.

Sharon Clay came to the podium to discuss how hard and frightened she was about writing her ancestor's stories. Her biggest concern was "putting clothes on those skeletons." It took her ten years to get it down on paper. Her questions which she vacillated over: did I have enough information? Oh, it's so complicated! What kind of paper-regular or gloss? Do I use a three-ring binder, spiral, hardbound? Who do I start with? She knew she did not want any pedigree charts since she felt they separated the family. She did a 34 page book format but didn't think it was substantial. When her mother died she started going through the stored memories and found addresses, birth announcements of family, weddings, envelopes with dates and addresses and places. She got involved in an international Swedish Genealogy group and discovered more and more generations with stories. Sharon then revised, rethought, changed paper size, etc. Her cousins said they would help with the book. They now have put her on a timeline to get this book done by next year and present it at a family reunion. Sharon says she really has to step up her pace now!

Our next speaker was JoAnn Garlington who spoke on the "vegetables" to go with "the meat." Those would be the Index listing the items with the page number. Use a format your readers find easy because without an index you may not be able to find the information you're seeking. If you were thumbing through a book looking for something specific, you'd go to the index to see if there was that pertinent item. If there is no index, would you continue with that book? There are many stand-alone indexing programs in the computer world making it easier to do. Next is the Appendix which is in the back of the book but before the Index. This can be used for extra information on a certain subject (e.g. letters, etc.). You can number or letter each if you have a lot for the Appendix. If you want you may put in an Author

Blurb telling a little about yourself, occupation, area you live in, who is within your lineage. The last would be the Citations whose purpose is for documenting your sources (people will take the book more seriously). JoAnn says remember: You are the god of your book! Be consistent with your style throughout your book.

Francie Lloyd came back to pose a few questions: Which format works for your readers? What do you want it to look like? What about the binding? Black ink or blue ink? How many copies? Do I send the master to the print shop? Printing or binding shop? (costs vary on printing and binding). Print two galley prints. Guidelines are stronger than others; make your project FUN!

Bill George was the next speaker who knows the "keys" to creating a PDF (Google Search – "Create PDF Free") and generating websites safely. For much of his research he has used the internet and programs such as Personal Historian (<http://www.personalhistorian.com> - \$29.95). This gives you "life capsules" such as the Industrial Revolution, Epidemics, Music, U.S. History, Radio/TV Shows. Generate websites but be careful with your personal information most often once it's out there it's forever! Programs such as Legacy, Reunion, TNG, and perhaps the Master Genealogist all can create websites. Google Search "Create Genealogy Website". Publishing can be done relatively inexpensively at <http://www.lulu.com>. If you want questions answered or more info to exchange there are blogger sites <http://www.blogger.com> or <http://www.wordpress.com>. For the cell phone user there is Google Search "How to publish ebook" (<http://reviews.cnet.com/how-to-self-publish-an-e-book>).

Francie said each speaker has given you "food for thought" and you need to find the pieces of your puzzle. Pick a date in time and just write about it. It will become easier after the first writing and, perhaps, there will be more books to follow. Remember, that there are no hard and fast rules to putting it on paper!

(The Publishing Group meets at 10:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month at Frances Lloyd's home. See your handbook for her phone number, E-mail and home address.) ■

# Do You Know Who You Are?

## Introduction to Genealogy Research



**Thursday, October 6 at 7pm  
Mt. Diablo Room, Danville Library**

*Celebrate Family History Month with this special  
presentation and discover your family tree!*

Learn how free resources and services can help you take a glimpse  
through the generations and trace your ancestry.

- How to get started with your genealogy research?
- Helpful genealogy books /print resources
- Genealogy websites and databases to take your research further
- How to get more one-on-one genealogy research help?



*Danville Library in Partnership with the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society*

Danville Library  
400 Front Street  
(925)837-4889  
ccclib.org



Library Hours:  
M - Th 10 - 8  
F & Sa 10 - 6  
Sun 1 - 5



## President's Message

By Sherri Hedman

*Thank you to Ed and Elaine for so ably filling in for me in my absence. Further, I greatly appreciate the excellent job done by each board and committee member, sometimes with few accolades.*

My intention was to practice entering data on my Legacy Family Tree Program this summer, but that was short-circuited by my surgery which also delayed our annual trek to Whidbey Island in Washington State. However, today I find myself contemplating the benefits of a different legacy—at the family beach place I inherited as an only child. This modest 850 square foot 1950's home has a special place in my heart, as various family members played a part in construction. Modern, flat roofed, and cement block, my mother designed it, and her father—a brick mason trained in Denmark—built the exterior. The interior was completed by my dad—with wooden wall and floor boards from his brother, while I (age 14), helped nail on the floor and roof. Unfortunately, in December 2006, much was destroyed when a storm with some hurricane force winds ripped off the roofing and rainwater flooded the interior over days, so that the house had to be gutted. Fortunately our children's families rallied to save the furnishings.

Most of these had belonged to my parents who lived in the same Seattle house from the time

I was born until they retired to the beach place. After the rebuild we gave some furniture away, but kept a few well-used pieces belonging to three previous generations. Special pieces include a bar-rister bookcase, a captain's chair, and the tiny tile-topped table my parents purchased with 1930 wedding money, where my Mother and I ate by the fireplace, and our grandchildren now play cards.

Mother also had two china cabinets filled with glassware, as did Grandma. Most of this has been shared with our three daughters over the years, when I verbally identified their source (they also have some pieces from my husband's family). Understandably those memories have faded, so I realize I need a way to document their origin, as it is part of our daughters' family legacy. Perhaps some of you can use help, too.

*Please send me your suggestions* for a November Newsletter article on:

1) How best to I.D. the origin of family items to pass along to descendants? (I am even considering writing directly on the bottom of non-valuable china and furniture with a felt tip marker, and more valuable items on tape.)

2) How to I.D. what goes to whom? - Through Wills and Trusts? With today's complex family structures, have any of you decided you want certain family treasures passed only to a blood relative? Send ideas and experiences (anonymous if you prefer) by October 15 to [president@srvgensoc.org](mailto:president@srvgensoc.org) Thank You! Sherri ■

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## FamilySearch Adds Millions of U.S. Civil War Records

*Records Also Added to Canada, England, Mexico,  
and South Africa Collections*

7 September 2011

[FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) added millions of new records this week of both **Confederate and Union soldiers** who served in the American Civil War. Also now available for viewing are newly added notarial records from Canada, church records and civil registrations from Mexico, and miscellaneous records from England. Begin searching now at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org).



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### September 2011

- 6 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Sandra Burns in Danville.
- 20 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.

#### October 2011

- 4 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting is scheduled to be held at the home of Ed Mason in Alamo.
- 18 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 resume our SIG meetings after taking the month of August off. The Irish SIG will meet (after taking a summer vacation), on the 2nd Wednesday at 10am at the Erickson's in Danville. Our newest SIG, "The Next Generation of Genealogy Software" (Linda Bailey, SIG Leader), aka TNG SIG, will meet on the 4th Tuesday, 10am at the Danville FHC. We plan to start a DNA SIG, possibly on the 4th Thursday, beginning in October. It will be announced on the web site and newsletter. If you add your names to the SIG signup list at the General meeting, reminder emails will be sent to you for each SIG you sign up for.

<http://www.billgeorge.com>

### 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 in September.** Barbara Johnson is the contact person for this Group. You may contact Barbara by phone, 837-2153 or e-mail [bcj616@earthlink.net](mailto:bcj616@earthlink.net)



**MacGen – MACINTOSH GENEALOGY GROUP** The MacGen group will meet Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Producing Reunion Relative Charts with both Descendants and Ancestors. Bill George, Special Interest Group Coordinator, is the contact person for this Group. You may contact Bill via e-mail, [williamcgeorge@Gmail.com](mailto: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. Gather the material you have about your English family line, and bring it on a Thursday morning. Contact Suzanne by phone, 552-5920 or e-mail, [gjohnston3@comcast.net](mailto:gjohnston3@comcast.net)



**GERMAN** – The German Group will meet Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup> (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 am at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek. They are planning to have their annual Oktoberfest luncheon. 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](mailto:shodegard@att.net) or phone ►

932-6796 for more information.



**IRISH** - This special interest group will meet September 14<sup>th</sup> (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am., at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. They are also scheduled to meet on October 12. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group. You may contact Patty via e-mail, [russpat@comcast.net](mailto:russpat@comcast.net) or phone 229-0889.



**LEGACY SOFTWARE** – The Legacy group will meet Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> (the fourth Monday) at 1 pm. in the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. This is a genealogy software users group. The theme for this meeting will be the entering of vital record events (birth, marriage, death) data. Bill George is the contact person for this Group. You may contact Bill via e-mail, [williamcgeorge@Gmail.com](mailto:williamcgeorge@Gmail.com) or phone (510) 538-2449.



**PUBLISHING** – This is a group of members that are interested in Publishing their genealogy and family history data. **They usually meet at 10:00 am on the third Thursday** of the month at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville. But, this month they will meet on the fourth Thursday, **September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Interested members should let her know ahead of time that they plan to attend. For further information, contact Francie at 837-9382 or e-mail, [frances\\_lloyd@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:baileylin-da100@Gmail.com) for further information.



**The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding® ("TNG")** – A group has been organized for the purpose of allowing members to

share their interest in creating their own web site from which their family history data can be found and shared. Their next meeting will be held at 10 am. Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. The theme for this meeting will be Uploading Photos and Thumbnails. 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. Linda Bailey is the contact person and SIG leader. Her email address is [baileylinda100@gmail.com](mailto:baileylinda100@gmail.com) or Phone (925) 552-5920 for further information. ■

## CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 13 September Tuesday 7:30 pm.**  
The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society ([www.L-AGS.org](http://www.L-AGS.org)) will have their regular meeting at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Grant Din will talk about the Angel Island Immigration Station.
- 17 September Saturday 10:30 am.**  
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. "Genealogy Blogs: A Social Medium for Your Family, Your Genealogy Society, and Yourself" will be presented by Steve Danko. Genealogy blogs include a wide range of subjects, including personal family history, genealogical education, genealogy news, local history, and personal diaries. Steve will show how setting up and maintaining a blog is surprisingly easy and can provide benefits for your research in ways that other methods of disseminating genealogical information may fall short. For more information, visit their web site: [www.smcgs.org](http://www.smcgs.org) ►

**20 September 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. Ohio Research will be presented by Richard Ferman, SCCHGS Program Chair and SeniorNet instructor. He is an expert on Ohio genealogy source material and Ohio Archives. He will explain how research materials covering the 88 counties of Ohio are split into 5 district archives. For further details, visit their web site: [www.scchgs.org](http://www.scchgs.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](mailto: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.familyhistoryexpos.com/viewevent.aspx?eid=36>

**15 October Saturday 8:30 am to 4 pm** Family day at the California Archives, 1020 O Street in Sacramento. Short classes, software demonstrations, preservation techniques and other activities will be a part of the happenings that day. This event is free to the public.

**15 October Saturday 8:00 am to 4 pm** An all-day seminar will be held at the LDS Church, 1590 Denkinger Road (between Concord Ave. and Clayton Road) in Concord. Many different classes are available during each of 6 one hour periods. For a \$25 donation, you may attend this all day seminar and get a complete syllabus. For \$7 you may attend without receiving a syl-

labus. September 30 is the registration deadline to guarantee a syllabus. Look for registration forms at your Family History Center or phone Jackie Hein for further information 925-827-4729. Please bring your own lunch - drinks and snack will be provided. ■

## EDUCATION

 **The Acalanes Adult Education Center** begins its fall semester this month. "Genealogy: Concepts and Solutions" and "Genealogy: Series of 5 Lectures", will be taught by our member Gail Roche van Wye. The popular class on "Computers and Genealogy" will also be taught. For further information call [925-280-3980 ext. 8001](tel:925-280-3980) or visit their website at [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted).

 **The California Genealogical Society in Oakland** in September will present classes on "Chasing Your Civil War Ancestors" and "Using Timelines in Your Genealogy Research". In addition there will be a meeting of the "Roots Magic Special Interest Group", and the membership meeting will include a presentation on "Putting Flesh the Bones". Go to the society's website <http://www.californiaancestors.org> to register for classes.

 **The Family History Center in Concord** is taking registrations for its "Digging Your Roots - Family History Seminar" on October 15th. Your registration form and \$25 donation must be received by Sept. 30th to guarantee receipt of a syllabus. For more information call Jackie Hein at [925-827-4729](tel:925-827-4729).

 **The Family History Center in Oakland** is beginning its fall series. Classes in September include four in the "Beginning Genealogy Series", two sessions on "Introduction to Genealogy Data Programs", two on "Adding Documentation and Notes to Your Genealogy Program", an "African-American Genealogy workshop", and the "Mac User's Group Workshop" by our own Bill George. Check the website <http://www.oaklandfhc.org/classes.php> for specifics on the time, date, and registration process or phone [510-531-3905](tel:510-531-3905). ►



NARA does not currently have classes listed for September.. Check the website for updates. <http://www.archives.gov/pacific/archives/san-francisco/workshops.html> ■

*Looking forward to our*

## January 2012 Meeting

*Sharing:*

*“How I Broke Through My Brick Wall”*

Were **you** successful in breaking through a Brick Wall? Will you join other members and share your experience with us at our January 2012 meeting?

Please call Elaine Franke, Program Chairman, at 925-831-1989 to tell her you will join in the sharing.

## WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Linda Chew  
6 Garden Estates Court  
Alamo, CA 94507  
(925) 820 - 4579  
[chew333@comcast.net](mailto:chew333@comcast.net)

Teresa Coons  
273 Marks Road  
Alamo, CA 94507  
(925) 837 - 4950  
[coonieclan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coonieclan@sbcglobal.net)



## HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Sherri Hedman 925-275-8123

e-mail: [president@srvgensoc.org](mailto: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](mailto:rjventer@comcast.net)

**Calendar Coordinator:**

Vern Segelke 925-838-8570

e-mail: [v.m.seg3@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto:trvrlr@sbcglobal.net)

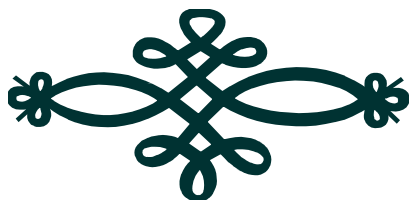
**URGENT: VOLUNTEER NEEDED  
ON PROGRAM COMMITTEE!**

A volunteer is needed ASAP on the Program committee.

We have a binder with Guidelines and information to assist you as a member of the committee. Someone is needed NOW to become familiar with the duties of the committee and experience the expertise of the two CURRENT members.

If you would like to help on this committee, please call Elaine Franke at 925-831-1989.

IF NO ONE COMES FORWARD TO HELP ON THE COMMITTEE, WE WILL NO LONGER HAVE GUEST SPEAKERS.



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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER:**

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