



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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THIS MONTH – October 18, 2011
“Putting the Flesh on the Bones”
Presented by: Ron Arons



Why limit yourself to simply expanding your family tree by looking for names, dates and places. Beyond Who?, When?, and Where?, it is possible to explain the far more interesting question, WHY? Why did our ancestors behave the way they did? In this presentation Ron provides two related examples from his own research experience on how this process works. The unexpected benefit of this approach is that it allowed Ron to push back his family tree four more generations and find many living relatives he never knew before.

For more than a decade, Ron has given presentations on genealogy across the country and internationally. In 2005 Ron won a NY State Archives grant for his historical criminal research. In 2008, he published *The Jews of Sing Sing*, about Jewish criminals who served time at the famous prison in New York. That same year, Ron appeared on the PBS TV special *The Jewish Americans* and talked about famous Jewish criminals of Manhattan's Lower East Side. In 2010, he published *WANTED! U.S. Criminal Records*, to help others research historic criminals across the US. Ron studied at Princeton and the University of Chicago. He sells his books and a variety of 'black sheep of the family' items (toys, jewelry, modals etc.) on his website: www.RonArons.com.

September Meeting

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

And

HOW do I preserve these collections? "

Speaker: Mary Ann Wilkman

Reporter: Lee Schlenker

Mary Ann Wilkman is the city of San Ramon's Historic Properties Coordinator who supervises the collections, programs and exhibits for the Glass House Museum and Forest Home Farms Historic Park. She does not profess to be a professional conservator but was here to give us some helpful hints on preserving your old photos and documents.

Deterioration of almost anything is caused

by heat, humidity, light and pollutants. Mary Ann dealt quite a lot with photos, going through what should be done for many of them and what to look out for. Within the framing, the matting may not be acid-free or lignin-free; masking tape, Scotch tape can discolor or stain prints; non-mated prints can become permanently stuck to the glass in the frame. Careless handling can cause tears, cracks, losses, abrasions, fingerprints and stains. Salts ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Our September speaker: Mary Ann Wilkman

in human perspiration can damage surfaces so cotton gloves should be worn when handling negatives and prints. If you should open an old box of photos or slides and there is a vinegar-y smell from the box it's a sure sign your pictures are starting to decompose! Work smart and work fast!!

But, first off you should identify what you have: is it paper (fiber or wood pulp until 1881, plastic or resin coated paper in the 1960's); is it glass popular in the 19th century (silver can fade and varnish can flake); flexible film (negatives, slides); sheet metal (*daguerreotype* - silver-plated sheet of copper with amalgam and susceptible to corrosion, or *tintype* - iron plates susceptible to flaking, corrosion or rust).

Preserving Paper: always wear cotton gloves when handling photos; don't touch the emulsion surface with fingers or your fingerprints will become permanent; label photos using an archival pen on the edge of the back of the photo; do not use tape, look for acid-free acrylic adhesive

that has passed the PAT (Photograph Activity Test), always tape the *back* of the photo and use the least amount of tape for repair or use acid-free paper with acid-free white glue; DO NOT use paper clips, rubber bands, or plastic clips on photos. You want cool and dry conditions for your photos, slowing down the acidic reaction and this will discourage mold growth. You can use a HEPA filter to facilitate air flow in your photograph area. Keep food and drink away from photos. All photos are extremely sensitive to light; florescent lights and sunlight contain harmful ultraviolet rays fading photos. Light sources also give off heat. Typical ambient (diffuse) home lighting is probably not harmful over the course of several years. If you have a treasured photo which you intend to pass on to future generations, a duplicate copy should be made and displayed while the original is kept safe with other family keepsakes. If you have an old family photo album, do NOT take it apart. Slide acid-free tissue between the pages to prevent photo deterioration.

To frame and display: Photos or photographic works should be matted to museum standards using high quality mat-board for the window mat and back-board should pass the PAT. Then attach the photo to the back board with paper or plastic photo corners or plastic edge strips (which are folded pieces of paper or plastic which secure the edge of photo to back board).

Preserving Glass Plates: Historic plates are laminate objects which are very sensitive to temperature and humidity fluctuations. Low humidity causes flaking, high humidity causes corrosion, so an ideal temperature is 68° F and 35% RH. Never use plastic sleeves, envelopes or folders and use only pH neutral paper using the 4-flap method. Center the glass plate on the neutral paper, fold in left side, right side, then top, next bottom (similar to making an envelope with your plate inside).

Preserving Metal: Don't place daguerreotypes or tintypes in plastic sleeves or in cold storage. Don't touch surface of the images and don't clean these images. Store daguerreotypes at 65-68°F, 40-50% RH. House them in the four-flap method in neutral pH paper enclosures/envelopes. Place photo prints or copies of images on the outside of the boxes to aid in finding images ►

without opening the containers.

Digitizing: This gets a little complicated: Will digitization harm the original? Is there a commitment to keeping up with storage and file standards since they keep changing? Does your computer have the necessary specifications (RAM 2 to 4 gigabytes), processor speed (1.5 GHz minimum), hard drive size (200 to 500 gigabytes), scanner (should do high resolution scans)?

Software: you may have photo editing software with your scanner program. Adobe Photoshop is the best but expensive. Also, Irfan View, very functional and FREE- <http://www.irfanview.com/> - as well as GIMP, Picasa, Photoshop Elements. Organize your photos by provenance and subject. Dublin Core Metadata Element set is a standard for digital information with 15 elements or fields (you don't have to use them all, you can repeat an element if necessary). Fields are: title, date, creator, description, subject, source format, identifier rights, contributor, coverage, language, publisher, relation, type. <http://dublincore.org/documents/dces> Now that you have digitized where shall you store these files? Try on your computer hard drive, or external hard drive, or on CDs or DVDs (using Sharpie CD/DVD markers), storing data in more than one place is a very good idea.

Mary Ann gave us some places (tools of the trade) you might check into: Gaylord Bros., Light Impressions Corporation, Metal Edge West, <http://www.conservationresources.com>, <http://www.utrechtart.com/>, Society of American Archivists - <http://www.archivists.org>, Northeast Document Conservation Center - <http://www.nedcc.org>.

Mary Ann believes we need to preserve our memories so our descendants will know who we were, how we lived, and what we liked to do. Small details in photos provide future researchers with valuable information about our society and culture.

Forest Home Farms (the Boone Family Farm listed on the National Historical Register) and the Glass House of 1877 may be visited through www.sanramon.ca.gov, or call 925-973-3284 for tours and information. ■



President's Pen

By Sherri Hedman

I would like to remind us all to read our newsletter—and if you get it online, to download it or print it to be read at a break at your convenience. Recently I noticed that our business section of the General Meeting is getting a bit too long. Tightening this up will allow our 15 minute Mini-Ed to get started on time, give us our full 20 minute break, and then our program can always start on time. To do this we will try to shorten each announcement and refer you to the remainder in the newsletter, for example, only the next month's program only will be announced, as well any SIG group change, etc.).

I am eagerly awaiting your feedback on how best to identify any material goods one may want to pass along to your relatives--to let them know who owned what? Further, how should one identify what goes to whom?! Some of you may want to address passing along your genealogy to relatives—or we could discuss that in a separate issue. Some of you may have wills or trusts, or other ideas. You can e-mail or call me, but please use my phone number in the member section of the Handbook, as the one on the officer's page is incorrect. Thank you! Sherri ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Curry Gayle

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Alamo CA 94507

925-838-1998

bandmcurry@comcast.net

Scott Garrie "Gay"

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Danville CA 94526

925-820-5720

Gescot@aol.com



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

October 2011

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

November 2011

- 1 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting is scheduled to be held at the home of Ed Mason in Alamo.
- 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.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

We are starting a new DNA SIG that will meet the 2nd Thursday, at the Danville Family History Center at 10am. Genetic DNA is a fascinating subject that will greatly benefit a genealogist's research. DNA is not a technique by itself to identify ancestors. But when used with genealogical proven research, it adds authenticity. Nine people signed up for the SIG and we will be discussing what Genetic DNA is, and DNA Surname Studies at the first meeting. Bob Venter describes his Venter DNA Surname Study on his web site and shows how DNA can help confirm ancestral lines. His web site <http://www.venter.org>. Bob will be the contact person as we begin the SIG and can be emailed at rjventer@comcast.net. An ►

interesting article on DNA testing can be found at: <http://www.dna-testing-adviser.com/support-files/guide-to-dna-testing.pdf>.

At our October Legacy SIG meeting, I will be reporting on a nine day October LegacyFamily-Tree cruise my wife and I will have just completed.

Please check the Society's web site, <http://srvgensoc.org/sig.html> for the current list of SIGs. Thanks to Vern Segelke for providing the current programs for each SIG in the newsletter each month.

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



DNA – Nine members have shown an interest in forming a DNA Special Interest Group. This group will hold its **first meeting Thursday** October 13th (second Thursday) at 10:00 a.m. in the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. They will discuss; What DNA is, What DNA surname studies are, and The organization of this group. Bob Venter has volunteered to be the initial contact person for the group. You may contact him via e-mail, rjventer@comcast.net or phone (925)454-9919. Bob has a Venter family web site, <http://www.venter.org>, from which you may view family DNA information and from which he wants to gather information for the Venter Surname Study.



MacGen – MACINTOSH GENEALOGY GROUP The MacGen group will meet Wednesday October 19th 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 Correcting Mistakes in Reunion. 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. 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



GERMAN – The German Group will meet Wednesday October 26th (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 am at the home of Fran and Robert Schweitzer 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 October 12th (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 November 9th. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group. You may contact Patty via e-mail, russpat@comcast.net or phone 229-0889.



LEGACY SOFTWARE – The Legacy group will meet Monday, October 24th (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 Tips and Tricks. Bill George is the contact person for this Group. You may contact Bill via e-mail, wiliamcgeorge@gmail.com or phone (510) 538-2449.



PUBLISHING – This is a group of several members that are interested in sharing their interest in Publishing their genealogy and family history data. They meet at 10:00 am on the third Thursday of the month at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville. They are scheduled to meet on October 20th. 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



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 Site building® ("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 October 25th (the fourth Tuesday) at the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. The theme for this meeting will be How to Search a TNG database. 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 e-mail address is baileylinda100@gmail.com or Phone (925) 552-5920 for further information. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 12 October Wednesday 10 am** The East Bay Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting in the Meeting Room at the Oakland Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue. The speaker will be Ralph Severson, Director of the Oakland Family History Library. He will talk about the newly revised and changing Family Search web site and how to navigate it for best results.
- 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 the syllabus. September 30 was 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.

- 19 October 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 "The Power of Google" will be presented by Christine Green. Google can better help you with your genealogy once you master the search techniques it offers. But Google is more than a search engine. Have you used Google Images, Google Videos, Google Books, Google Maps and Google Earth, Google Blogs...? For more information, visit their web site: www.smcgs.org

- 25 October Tuesday 12:30 to 3 pm** The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, at Lusk Drive and St. Mark's Way in Sacramento. Nancy Thym and Thilo Vierig, a troupe from Germany, will present medieval stories and ballads with harp, voice, medieval fiddle and rebec. They area called "Cantefable" which is a term for a story which is presented partly spoken and partly sung. ►

- 3 November Thursday 1 pm** The Genealogy Society of Vallejo Benicia will hold a general meeting at the Vallejo Naval Historical Museum, 734 Marin Street in Vallejo. The program will be on the organization of the Colonial Dames. The speaker will be Dorothy Doll who had been past president of the organization.

- 5 November Saturday 8 am to 4 pm** Ancestry.com and the California Genealogical Society and Library are partnering to present Ancestry Day in San Francisco at the Hyatt Regency located on the Embarcadero near the Ferry Building. \$52 registration fee. This full-day event will help you start or hone your genealogical skills. Choose from more than a dozen family history lectures, including a session on using the Ancestry Library Edition. To learn more, visit <http://ancestry.com/ancestryday-sanfrancisco> ■

EDUCATION

 **The California Genealogical Society** in Oakland begins October with a free "Introduction to Genealogy" class on Oct. 1st. Additional classes include "What Happens to Your Research After You're Gone" on Oct. 15 and "German Research II" on Oct. 22nd. There will be a meeting of the "Roots Magic Special Interest Group" on Oct. 18th. The City Directory Library will be open on Oct. 8th and 21st. 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.

 **The Family History Center in Oakland** has begun its fall series. The California Genealogical Society (CGS) and the Oakland Regional Family History Center ►

(ORFHC) present the fourth annual Fall Beginning Genealogy Series. Six 1-1/2 hour sessions will teach you the basics. Enrolled students may attend afternoon or evening sessions, or come to both Thursday afternoons (1-2:30) or Tuesday evenings (7-8:30). Cost is \$30 for six sessions, includes syllabus – \$5 to attend one class, if space available.

 The African American Genealogy Workshops meet the 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. No pre-registration required. Additional help with African American Research is provided the 1st Wednesday of each month from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and every Thursday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

 The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society holds workshops every other month from February through October. Workshops are held on Sunday afternoons from 12:30 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Check the website <http://www.oaklandfhc.org/classes.php> for specifics on the time, date, and registration process or phone 510-531-3905.

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

TRI-VALLEY HISTORY COUNCIL UPDATES

The discussion at the quarterly meeting of the History Council centered on numerous upcoming activities associated with Heritage Happening in October. A Directory of Historical Resources in the Tri-Valley in digital format will be released on October 1st. The **Museum on Main** in Pleasanton is ready to release the “Guide by Cell” which uses cell phones for a Main Street building history tour. A “*Family Backpack*” will have the same program plus a trivia hunt. The **Museum of the San Ramon Valley**’s October exhibit will feature local Indian life. Also this month, the **Eugene O’Neill House National Historic Site** ►

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 trvlrl@sbcglobal.net

is planning a “*Behind the Scenes*” tour of Tao House. This month’s programs at the **Pleasanton Public Library** include a presentation entitled “*Barrooms and Brothels*” and the movie “*100th Anniversary of the Livermore Light Bulb*”. The **Dublin Library** also has a number of programs in October including the presentation: “*History of Camp Parks*”. The **Danville Public Library** announced that by using the county website, www.ccclib.org, you can sign up for free passes for many museums in the Bay Area. You must have a valid Contra Costa County library card. Alameda County Libraries have a similar program. On October 15th, the **Livermore Public Library** will present the “*Great Shakeout*”, a program about earthquakes and how to prepare for them. The **Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area** located on Tesla and Alameda property is providing information to the public on local history and coal mining history. On October 22nd the **Dublin Heritage Center** will sponsor a Harvest Gathering and evening Barn Dance at the Kolb Farm. Let’s enjoy these local events as we celebrate Family History Month. ■

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