



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

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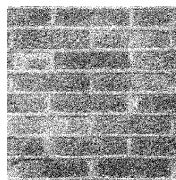
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THIS MONTH – January 17, 2012
“How I broke Down My Brick Wall “
Presented by: SRVGS Members



How many times have you hit a Brick Wall while doing your research? At our January meeting, several members of our SRVGS will tell us **HOW THEY BROKE THROUGH THEIR BRICK WALL**. Join us to hear their stories. **THEIR** accounts and or **SOLUTIONS** may help you break through your Brick Wall.



November Meeting
" Learning to Love Brick Walls "
Speaker: Mary Beth Frederick Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Our speaker, Mary Beth Frederick is from San Francisco and had some interesting ways to persevere tough problems. She doesn't particularly like the term "brick walls" because it gives you a shorthand version of a "stop" and can be a daunting or even an impossible task. She preferred to use the term "a long, winding road leading to the unknown."

When she first started her genealogy she was in search of a John Hall born in 1797 in Cassel, Germany dying in 1881. Her first stop was the U.S. Census of 1850 where she found a John Hall in Atchison, MO. Her mother came up with a written history, but all undocumented, with the surnames matching what was listed in the 1850 census. So, Mary Beth spent hours looking through microfilm to no avail. She did find an Ann E. who had two sons in Ohio (which could be Mary Beth's great, great grandfather's wife) but both sons died and then Ann E. also died. Perhaps this John Hall remarries with a mail-ordered bride.

This was another path. Mary Beth finds an Ann E. (but no sur-maiden name) in 1839 in Lorain, Ohio along with the name Klaus Brandenstein which turn out to be a sister and brother. Using the Germanic names, she went through U.S. records searching for a place, but with no luck and thought this was a dead end.

She then attended a lecture with Shirley Riemer (of the Sacramento German Genealogy Society) who spoke about having to have the "village, parish, and religion" when searching; and the best source was the Meyers Orts. Well, the old German handwriting was difficult to read so Mary Beth joined SGGS and took a total of six classes in German handwriting. She claims it was like going through mazes step by step looking for the names! First Family Search (no luck), then Ancestry.com (no luck), next Michelin Map (oh yes), then ProGenealogist (with another yes). She found Erkhhausen, Evangelical, Seifertshausen, Rothenberg (the city), then Hauser-Kassel in a



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Our November speaker: Mary Beth Frederick

German Map Guide to German Parish Registers.

Rather than spend air fare and not know what you're doing or where you're going, let alone speaking the language, she engaged Marion Wolfert, A.G. (at a \$500.00 fee) to research Rothenberg. Marion found birth, marriage and death records back to 1762 for a Johannes Holl who married in 1831 Anna Elisabeth Knierim! Yes, last names clues!

So the tip of the iceberg was being uncovered. It took Mary Beth into an old cemetery in a town of Linden (which was in deteriorating condition since the state line had been moved years before and no funds had been provided for its upkeep). There she found brothers Justin Hall (1801-1883) and an Andrew Hall (1805-1878) side by side grave markers. She had photographed the sign at the entrance of the cemetery and upon examination of her photo, she found the caretaker of this cemetery was a Ralph Boettner. So, Mary Beth called and his wife, Delores, volunteered in-

formation in a book (similar to a cemetery registration record) which was 100 Years of Boettners (1854 to 1954). And within this book was Johannes Holl (g-g-grandfather of John Hall) born in Germany married in 1767 to Ann E., had two children and came to fight in the American Revolutionary War. He was a soldier with the Saxon-Anhalt Battalion Regiment of the Prince, died in 1779 in America. The IGS said that in 1853 the remaining family was sent for from Germany to come to America (probably from one of his brothers) and they settled in Rulo, Nebraska.

Mary Beth created a "mashup page" for her own benefit since she had just bits and pieces of family history. This "mashup page" consisted of butcher paper (approximately 3 ft. X 6 ft.) and post-it-notes with individual information and as many citations as she had found, all placed in order. This way she could input her found and proven information into Family Treemaker more accurately. And, for her, this worked!

So, her lessons for us: 1) Location, location, location – you most definitely need to *dig*; 2) Look with your *ears* (sounding and spelling are very different); 3) Know when *not* to stop; 4) Study siblings, co-laterals, neighbors and *women*; 5) Ask for help and be willing to pay for it; 6) Walk the cemetery whenever possible; 7) Reach out and phone someone - don't be afraid; 8) Expect *wonderful* surprises!

Brick walls are the challenge!!!

Her handout consisted of websites:

- Mary Beth Frederick - www.frederickmbaol.com
- Meyers Orts on Ancestry.com - <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Meyers-Orts-step-by-step>
- Sacramento German Genealogical Society - www.sacgensoc.org
- Pro Genealogists - www.progenealogists.com
- Map Guide to German Parish Registers - www.familyrootspublishing.com
- Immigrant Genealogical Society - <http://immigrantgensoc.org/welcome.html>

- Sacramento Regional Family History Center - <http://www.familyhistorycenter.info/>
- The German Research Companion 3rd Edition (published 2010) - Shirley J. Riemer, Roger P. Minert and Jennifer A. Anderson.



President's Pen

By Sherri Hedman

Two bits of old business: At our November General Meeting I mentioned learning of a good obituary website from member Gerry Willinger. <http://www.Legacy.com/NS/>

And as a follow up to the November President's Pen article, "Keepsakes--From whom to whom:" Clarice Hart added this at our November General Meeting:

"Personal items should not be included in a will, as they will have to be appraised, thus adding to the value of the estate, and will incur an appraiser's fee." This enlarged upon Sandra Burns's statement about why we want to "Make a separate list to be kept by our attorney with our will of who gets what."

GENEALOGY GOALS, WITH A PLAN FOR 2012

Maybe, like me, you don't care much for New Year's Resolutions. However, we can still set genealogy goals for 2012. Many of you are already pros at this, but some of us struggle. So first, give yourself a pat on the back for what you accomplished in 2011. And if it wasn't as much as you desired, begin this year with a goal--along with a plan to implement it; whether one big goal, a few small ones, or simply fine-tuning what you have already done. Then a plan will allow you to divide the goals into smaller jobs that seem less overwhelming. However, maybe you are still playing catch-up after the holidays, or 2011 wasn't good to you. Then give yourself some time off and try starting again on a certain date; or, instead, set a small goal for the week or the month.

Our group is here to help you! Francis Lloyd offers classes for beginners and we have great speakers lined-up who may impart the information you need. And remember you will always learn something by volunteering with us. Check out the Special Interest Groups (SIG) listed in this newsletter and attend one to see if it is a fit. Also, look under "Individual Help" for overcoming a brick wall (bottom of "How to Reach the Board Members" column).

My Goals Confession. My ongoing goal, "clean my den," was unrealistic: I never formed a workable plan—so only completed the easy parts. However, in a strange way and despite me, this is changing! I just finished (online) my urgent goal to buy a desktop computer on sale before the end of 2011, but mostly before our six year old dinosaur crashed with my genealogy files. Now I must clean my computer desk so our friend, computer guru/professional, can install and fine-tune it!

Another 2011 goal was to learn the Legacy Family Tree Program (I attend Bill George's Legacy group), but my surgery intervened. Now, thanks to Ed Mason, a bright woman is learning Legacy and is willing to enter my data for a reasonable fee. However, this data is scattered on three surfaces and in various boxes, so will I get it organized in time for her to begin in January?! Granted, I accomplish more under pressure, however, this does not account for Christmas activities and travel, or sending cards to include the exciting announcement of the October marriage of our oldest daughter. At our meeting, please share your genealogy goals and plans, as well as help hold me accountable for mine.

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). ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

January 2012

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

February 2012

- 7 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting is scheduled to be held at the home of Rae Atwood in Moraga.
- 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.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

SIG Report - January 2012

Welcome back everyone, from the holidays. You're on a diet now, right?

Our nine genealogy SIGs (Special Interest Group) are on a regular schedule in January.

Please put your name on a SIG list at the main meeting and you will get a heads-up email announcing the next meeting of the SIG you're interested in.

If you have an interest in setting up a SIG, we can help with that too. We can help arrange for a meeting place and publicize your group. Some possibilities for new groups might be:

- Family Tree Maker Database
- Roots Magic Database
- Transferring Data (Gedcom) files.

Members can invite a guest to one SIG meeting. It might get them interested enough to join SRVGS.

I hope to see you at a SIG meeting this month.

...Bill George

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



DNA This new Special Interest Group will hold a meeting **Thursday January 12th (second Thursday) at 10:00 a.m. in the Danville Family History Center** on Stone Valley Road. They will review the 2nd half of "A Short Course in Genetic Genealogy" (available at <http://venter.org>) and hear about one person's DNA results. 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 January 18th 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 to cover Reunion's Miscellaneous List reports. 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, (925) 838-8682 or e-mail, gjohnston3@comcast.net



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday January 25th (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 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 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 **January 11th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am.**, as well as on Feb. 8th, 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, russpat@comcast.net or phone 229-0889.



LEGACY SOFTWARE – The Legacy group will meet **Monday, January 23rd (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 to discuss "Building a Genealogy Research Toolbox". Sharon Clay is the contact person for this Group. You may contact Sharon via e-mail, sharonclay@comcast.net or phone (925) 462-4518.



PUBLISHING – This is a group of several members that are interested in sharing their interest in Publishing their genealogy and family history data. **They are scheduled to meet January 19th at 10:00 am** (the third Thursday of the month) at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.

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

TNG

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 January 24th at the Danville Family History Center** on Stone Valley Road. The theme for this meeting will be how to upload Sources and Citations into your online 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. Your information is dynamically displayed in attractive fashion. Linda Bailey is the contact person and SIG leader. Her email address is baileylinda100@gmail.com or Phone (925) 552-5920 for further information.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 17 January Tuesday 6:30 pm.** The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, Redwood room, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. Jeff Moore, Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society Librarian, will give a talk on Quaker records. Jeff spent five years researching his Quaker ancestors in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The extensive church, meeting and other Quaker records he discovered helped him document hundreds of Quaker lives. For further details, visit their web site: www.scchgs.org
- 20 January Friday 1:15 to 3 pm** The Mount Diablo Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting at the US Bank in the Rossmoor Shopping Center. The speaker will be Suzanne Woods Fisher.

Her topic will be: "History of the Amish People."

- 21 January 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. Stephen P. Morse will talk about "Getting Ready for the 1940 Census: Searching without a Name Index." When the 1940 census is released in April 2012, it will not have a name index. An index will not be available for up to six months after opening day, so finding people in the census will involve searching by location instead. The census is organized by Enumeration Districts (EDs), so the location needs to be converted to an ED before the census can be accessed. The One-Step website contains numerous tools for obtaining EDs. This talk will present the various tools and how to use them. It will also demonstrate a tutorial quiz for determining the best tool to use in each specific situation. For more information, visit their web site: www.smcgs.org

May 9 to 12 2012 The national Genealogical Society (NGS) will hold its conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. For more information, visit their web site: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>

June 8 to 10 2012 The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will be held in the Los Angeles area. For more information, visit their web site: <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com>

EDUCATION

Are you ready to start the new year with a class or two?

 The **California Genealogical Society** continues to offer its "Roots Magic Special Interest Group". January meeting is on the 17th from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the California Genealogical Society Library at 2201 Broadway,

Suite LL2 in Oakland. Registration is not required.

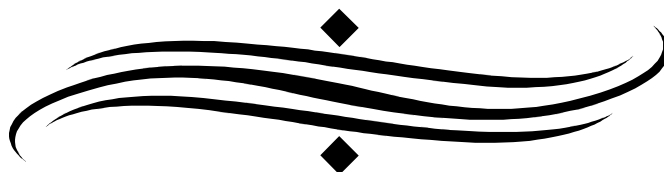
 At the same location the Society is also offering a class entitled "Best Genealogy Websites" on Thursday, January 26th from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.. Register online.

 In Addition, the **California Genealogical Society** and the **Oakland California Family History Center** will be presenting a new series of eight weekly 90-minute sessions and will offer the skills you need to navigate your way to better and more efficient search results on the best sites for family history research. Check the California Genealogical Society website, <http://www.californiaancestors.org/> for registration information. Class size is limited to 40.

 **Acalanes Adult Ed.** www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted starts its Winter Quarter classes in January. "Genealogy: Concepts and Solutions" provides information, tools and techniques for the Beginning to Intermediate family historian. The class runs from January 6th to Feb. 10th 1-3 pm with no class on Jan. 27th. The registration fee is \$35.

"Genealogy: Series of 5 Lectures" topics include Planning Goal setting and time management; Field work - basic techniques and resources; problem solving for family historians, approaches; Finding your California ancestors; and an Overview of European research resources. This class runs from January 4th to Feb. 8th from 7-9 pm with no class on Jan. 25th. The registration fee is \$35.

A third class "Computers and Genealogy" addresses genealogy research and documentation, organization, screen prints and scanned images, annotated maps, combining photos, spreadsheets to plan and track research and word processing software to create mailings to family and friends. The class runs from January 6th to March 16th from 10 am – noon. with no class on Jan. 27th. The registration fee is \$65.





Last Month's Cookie Exchange and a Mystery Man?

Last month's SRVGS Cookie Exchange, held at the home of Francie Lloyd, was, as usual, a tasty affair. For those who missed it, we will be presenting two of the best recipes from that exchange in next month's newsletter.

Francie Lloyd did a wonderful job of staging the event and we all owe her a big "Thank you" for her efforts.

During the event, Francie passed around pictures taken at exchanges of previous years and one showed the man pictured above. The question asked was who is he? Nobody seemed to know. If you recognize this gentleman, please contact Francie Lloyd or our president, Sherri Hedman.

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 (Acting):

Ed Mason 925-838-7848

Recording Secretary:

Carol Huvane 925-947-5669

Corresponding Secretary:

Vern Segelke 925-838-8570

Treasurer: Vern Segelke (acting) 925-838-8570

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 Southern California 2012 Genealogy Jamboree

The 2012 Genealogy Jamboree will be held June 8-10, 2012, with a pre-event day on June 7.

The theme for this year's Jamboree is "Lights, Camera, ANCESTORS! Spotlight on Family History." The theme reflects, of course, Southern California's long history in the film industry. If a group in Burbank can't pull off a theme like this, then it's time to hang it up!

But even more than the film industry, this year's Jamboree will spotlight the many types of artifacts, memories, cold hard facts, and even myths that form a family's history.

Some very excellent activities and events have been planned for the Jamboree. Stay tuned and follow the lead-up to the 2012 Southern California Genealogy Jamboree at the following web site: <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/>

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