



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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THIS MONTH – February 21, 2012
“Born Irish”
Presented by: Cath Madden Trindle



Your ancestor was Born Irish, but where? Cath Trindle will give us a quick look at finding clues to the origins of your Irish ancestor in U.S. records; as well as an overview of Irish civil registrations, church and census records, with an emphasis on earlier resources for finding 19th century Irish ancestors.

Cath Madden Trindle, a certified genealogist, earned a Certificate of British Research from BYU and a Certificate in Genealogical Studies-Librarianship from the National Institute of Genealogical Studies. Cath owned a bookkeeping consultation business for 30 years. She has served as Treasurer for several genealogical organizations and is currently on the Board of many other societies such as FGS, NGS, CSGA.



January Meeting
"How I broke Down My Brick Wall"
Speaker: SRVGS Members Reporter: Lee Schlenker



At our November meeting we enjoyed Mary Beth Frederick with her topic being “Learning to Love Brick Walls.” At this January meeting we heard from various SRVG members about their own brick walls being conquered.

The moderator was Dick Finn, one of our members, who coordinated the speakers into a brief 10 minute talk from each.

Our first was Ed O'Donnell whose search took him from Ireland (with Pat O'Donnell) to New York to Arizona. Ed tracked the U.S. Census in N.Y. in 1863 and found Patrick, who was told to work in the best hotels he could find in

N.Y. with the future being in gold out west. He met an investor advising him to go to Arizona for the gold. So, for \$2.00, he took the stage to Arizona but had to take a wagon train from Yuma onward to his destination. Through trial and tribulation Pat became one of the drivers on the wagon train going on to Tucson. The 1880 census listed him as a miner and a rancher; the ranch being out in middle of “nowhere” Arizona along with his brother, Anthony, and a Johanna Scheehy and a Jerry Scheehy. Now, who were they? Where did they all meet? Ed's main search was with the Library of Congress newspapers. Ed found some 16 articles on Pat written and some 12 articles about Anthony, Pat's brother. The main article appeared in 1895 with an Arizona dance being held repre-



Our January Speaker Team

(Photos by Nancy Alexander)

(top, from left) Ed O'Donnell, Rae Atwood, and Kathy Javdani,
(bottom, from left) Bill Hewitt, Dick Finn (moderator & speaker), and Patrick Lofft.

senting eight surrounding towns. Pat and Anthony's ranch was 65 miles away so this dinner/dance was perhaps *the* event of the year for folks! Johanna and Anthony met and finally married as a result of this dance.

Ed suggests you try the Library of Congress online which has two places to check out: 1) the digital newspapers; and 2) the 1620 to present newspaper listing which tells you every paper printed in the U.S. and where to find copies of them.

Our second speaker was Rae Atwood with her husband's Irish ancestors. Found them living in Valley Springs, CA with six children and that the oldest was born 1865, but couldn't locate any "where, when or how." She started reading old newspaper articles, checking the obituaries, going through the census. And, by putting small bits and pieces of information together and forming a loose time line, she found some of her answers. She found John had filled out naturalization papers in

1863 in Calaveras County, CA and his wife's name was Alice McLean. On a trip to the Oakland Family History Library she located their names on the computer and found that Alice had come from New Bedford, Massachusetts in January, 1864.

Our third speaker was Kathy Javdani and she literally was the fastest speaker we have ever had! She covered more California ground in 10 minutes with her findings. Her father insisted she and her brother remember *Francis Ward Lewis*. He was a sea captain on the Bark Elizabeth and his wife waited for him to return for 2 years. Through city directories and the 1850-1900 California Census, Kathy found he was born in July 1817, living in either Santa Barbara or San Francisco, CA with his wife's name being Maria Emidia. While searching she came upon her great grandfather living with his widowed mother and brother. Kathy also came across some court records with the name of Maria Emigia Ramona

Guevara which listed everyone who attended the proceedings. Among the names listed was a “Dover” who turned out to Kathy’s great grandfather deduced from F.W. Lewis’ daughter’s death certificate. This last name was incorrect as Kathy knew it which required more digging. But it seemed that between 1920 to 1950 it wasn’t “popular” to acknowledge a Hispanic connection.

Kathy kept on searching: Bancroft Library, Huntington, CA Library (contains missions info), then found Francis W. Lewis’ memoir in a National Guard records along with his picture at the age of 80, just before he passed away. People could pay to have their personal life stories written. She was able to locate forms filled out on a Seamen’s Protection Certificate which was just full of information. Some of Kathy’s hunting places included: local libraries (newspapers), historical houses have information regarding the house, the Bancroft Library, Mystic Seaport, Huntington Library (CA missions).

The fourth speaker was Bill Hewitt with his search starting in 1990 and with his great-grandfather Hewitt who married a Delilah in 1878. He was able to locate the birth register for the children. His great-grandfather had married again in 1888. But what happened to his first great grandmother? So, a trip to an Illinois local newspaper which had an accounting of his father’s death with the administrator of the estate being G. G. Levi. Included was a letter to the judge stating why his report was late saying that his wife, Loretta, had died in 1886 and her sister, Delilah, also had died in 1886. Bill could find no record of her burial but has assumed she and her sister were buried on the family farm.

Dick Finn was speaker five and he told of an interesting story where a couple in Washington County, Maine bought a large piece of land. The hillside was covered in blackberry vines and they decided to do away with all the vines. And as they cleared the land of berry vines little by little they uncovered old tombstones lying flat on the ground which belonged to the previous owners at one time.

Our final speaker was Patrick Lofft who was researching his wife’s great-grandparents Margaret and George Meidenbauer who came to

N.Y. Patrick found an Intent to Naturalize from 1884, showing they were Bavarians. So he went back to local parish records and found the name Kathryn Meidenbauer from Bavaria who had 10 children with only 4 surviving; but there was something written in Germanic script across the record which was hard to decipher. The U.S. census found an immigrant boy with the same name but this wasn’t from George’s first marriage. There was finally a marriage record dated in 1911 stating he was from Welgendorf, Bavaria (the name which was hard to decipher). Patrick took a trip back to Germany only to find there wasn’t a Welgendorf, Bavaria but a Welkendorf, Bavaria. With the correct spelling Patrick was able to find the cemetery and the Meidenbauer tombstone. Patrick got much of his clues from a personal baby book and Civil War records to aid in this quest.



President's Pen

By Sherri Hedman

Recipes and Family History

This month we share two recipes that debuted and were requested at our Christmas Cookie exchange. Typing out my daughter’s recipe brought to mind the SRVGS April 2009 program ***The Holm Family Cookbook***. Four members of that large Livermore Danish family shared the complex process of family cooperation to save old family recipes before they were gone forever. Their oldest member was in her 90’s then and had her many beloved recipes in her head—“a pinch of this and add flour until the dough is stiff” sort of thing. So, with her they recreated these into modern measurements and wrote them down—just in time. Their wonderful cookbook, which also incorporates historical photos of family and Livermore Valley, came to fruition after years of time and effort.

I hope their talk inspired you to pass along some recipes with a bit of family history attached. In any case, have you identified those recipes of your mother and grandmother and aunts, or even your mother-in-law? You know the ones I mean—maybe they are still in your head, or are badly

scrawled, or spilled on, so that no one else will be able to make them out after you are gone. Or you have them written clearly but have not identified them as your mother's favorite, or even your own original recipe. On my mother's side I come from a family of simple-cooks, but Mother did make good hamburger soup and meatloaf--great during the Depression, then WWII. So I should note that, too. And thanks to our church's recent cook book

publication, the two recipes our girls' asked for are in a reproducible form, Swedish Pancakes--which my husband makes for the grandkids, and Pink Arctic Freeze--a holiday favorite. And I hope to help create a favorite cookie recipe with our granddaughter in Tacoma. Please contact me if you have a recipe of your grandmother's or other family member you would like to share, along with a bit of background information.

Anzac Biscuits from Sherri Hedman

Our oldest daughter, Christie, brought this recipe back from Australia as an AFS exchange student during high school. Some of the men at our December Cookie Exchange wanted the recipe so I am including some Anzac history. These original biscuits, i.e. cookies, were made by women on the home front who shipped them to the troops. However, they must have been terribly bland, as they lacked the cocoanut, butter and syrup—I suppose that way even the bugs wouldn't eat them!

Anzac is an acronym for the WWI *Australia & New Zealand Army Corp*. A Turkish Bay in the Gallipoli Peninsula and these cookies were named in honor of those untested and brave troops. Great Britain's Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, maneuvered for the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915, finally convincing both the British government and the French to go along. He may have succeeded in part because the Great War was stalemated in the trenches at the Western Front. The invasion was to open up a path to their ally, Russia, from the Mediterranean Sea--via the Gallipoli Peninsula on the north side of the Dardanelles in Western Turkey to Constantinople and the Black Sea. But instead the result was an extended 11 month battle with severe losses on both sides — 46,000 allied, and perhaps 200,000 Turkish. Many British tactical blunders were made, but, ironically, the allies' final sneak evacuation was their most successful endeavor--with only two injuries and no fatalities! Churchill learned the hard way; not only had he implemented the invasion, but most of their ships were sunk — no one knew the harbor was mined. He had to resign his post and cabinet, and in 1916 was commanding an infantry battalion at the Western Front, probably all useful lessons for his great role in WWII. Further, some of the then innovative naval techniques, including use of amphibious craft, were used again at Normandy and the Falkland Island invasions.

- Preheat oven 325-350

1 c flour
1 c rolled oats
1 c sugar
3/4 c cocoanut

- Mix together above four ingredients.

1 T golden syrup: can substitute--mix dark Karo & pancake syrup, I used all Karo, (or consult Martha Stewart's recipe online for golden syrup brand).
1/2 cup butter (1 cube); If use unsalted butter, add 1/4 t salt

- Mix Melt syrup and butter together.

1 1/2 t baking soda

2 T boiling water

- Mix soda with water and add to melted butter & syrup (caution may boil up) and Add to dry ingredients and mix

- Roll into small balls, or drop from a teaspoon

- Flatten with palm of hand a bit

- Cool 5 minutes, remove to rack (I just loosened with spatula)

- Bake 325-350° 12-20 minutes until light brown--don't over bake, should be crisp, not hard. Temp & time depend on cookie size & your oven; (experiment, as each recipe I checked was different). Makes about 30 cookies.

Oatmeal Cranberry White Chocolate Chuck Cookies

Note: Here is another favorite, brought to the Cookie Exchange by Diane George.

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup butter, softened

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup packaged brown sugar

2 eggs

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups rolled oats

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups all-purpose flour

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt

1 tsp baking soda

1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups dried cranberries

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup coarsely chopped white chocolate

1. Preheat oven to 375° F (190 ° C)
2. In a medium bowl, cream together the butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time. Combine oats, flour, salt, and baking soda and stir into butter mixture one cup at a time, mixing well after each addition. Stir in dried cranberries and white chocolate. Drop by rounded teaspoons into ungreased cookie sheets.
3. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in preheated oven, or until golden brown.
4. Cool on wire racks.

Servings: 30

Reviewers suggested adding 1 -2 tsps. of vanilla.

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Keihl, Lynnet
1111 Vista Point Lane
Concord, CA 94521
925-672-2567
lynnet@Keihl.net



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

February 2012

- 7 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was 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. From the I-680 Freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 1/2 miles.

March 2012

- 6 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be held at the home of Vern Segelke 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.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

We have a few SIG schedule changes this month. There will be no Legacy or MacGen SIG meetings in February and the TNG SIG will meet one week early. Last minute changes are also updated on the web site... just go to <http://srvgensoc.org> and click on "About SRVGS" and then click on "Special Interest Groups".

Jan Unter has compiled a list of resources at the Family History Center that are listed in this newsletter. Please make an effort to use these resources as many of them are our own members, like Linda Bailey, Francie Lloyd, Vern Segelke, Suzanne Johnston and JoAnn Garlington. They all are eager to help you with your research. We'll also have a handout at the General Meeting.

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



DNA - This Special Interest Group will hold a meeting **Thursday, February 9th (second Thursday) at 10:00 a.m. in the Danville Family History Center** on Stone Valley Road. The theme for this meeting will

be to discuss (1) What are Haplogroups; (2) How Legacy handles DNA information. 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 NOT meet during February**. This SIG specializes in the uses of the Macintosh

by genealogists. Bill George, Special Interest Group Coordinator, is the contact person for this Group. You may contact Bill via e-mail, william-cgeorge@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 February 22nd (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 am** at the home of

Marilynn Tanner in Moraga. 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 (925) 932-6796 for more information.



IRISH - This special interest group will meet **February 8th and March 14th (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, russpat@comcast.net or phone 229-0889.



LEGACY SOFTWARE – The Legacy group **will NOT meet during February**. This is a genealogy software users group. 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 **February 16th 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



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 **Tuesday February 21st at 1 pm** at the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. **Please note the change in time.** The theme for this meeting will be How to upload major changes to TNG. 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

- 15 February 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 ABCs of DNA will be presented by Steve Danko. The most common DNA tests are the Y-DNA test that traces paternal ancestors, the mitochondrial-DNA test that traces maternal ancestors, and the autosomal DNA test that traces all ancestors. You will learn what companies offer DNA tests for genealogists and how to choose the DNA tests that are right for you. For more information, visit their web site: www.smcgs.org
- 17 February 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 speakers will be Diane de Golla and Leslie Rupley. Their topic will be: "Publishing a Family History Book." At their March meeting, John Maestri will talk about Research Tips.
- 21 February Tuesday 6:30 to 8:30 pm** A Roots Magic genealogy software special interest group will meet at the California Genealogy Society library, 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2 in Oakland. Pre-registration is not required. You may also look at the calendar on the CGS web site: www.californiaancestors.org
- 25 February Saturday 1:30 pm** A MacGen group will meet at the Oakland Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue. Mac Genealogy enthusiasts from Contra Costa and Alameda counties gather for this meeting. They will cover Editing Charts and producing various types of visual aids in Reunion (genealogy software for a Mac). For further information, you may e-mail william-cgeorge@Gmail.com or you may also visit

the following web site: <http://www.macgen.org>

- 28 February Tuesday 1 to 3 pm** The Sacramento German Genealogy Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Lusk Drive and St. Marks way in Sacramento. Roger P. Minert will speak about "What my students learned about family history research in European archives." Dr. Minert has recently returned from Vienna, Austria where he directed a seminar for American College students who are studying family history research. You may also visit their web site at: www.sacgergensoc.org
- 1 March Thursday 1 pm** The Genealogy Society of Vallejo Benecia will hold its regular meeting at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 634 Marin Street in Vallejo. Gale White will talk about her Quaker Ancestry. The following Thursday afternoon, in this same building, their library will be open to the public.
- 31 March Saturday 9 am to 3:45 pm** The Sacramento Genealogy Society is sponsoring a seminar featuring George G. Morgan. It will be held at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 1427 Fair Oaks Blvd. Mr. Morgan is a popular speaker at international genealogical conferences and an author of ten books. His topics will include:
- The Genealogist as CSI
 - Push and pull, The reasons for Migration]
 - Bring 'em Back to Life: Developing an Ancestor Profile.
- The registration fee is \$30 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. To download the registration form and get additional details, go to: <http://www.rootcellar.org/RCSeminar%20SpringSeminar%20flyer2012.pdf>
- 21 April Saturday 9 am to 4:15 pm** The Sacramento German Genealogy Society is sponsoring a spring seminar featuring

Warren Bittner, C.G. It will be held at the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street in Sacramento. Several topics of interest will be presented. The fee to pre-register is \$40. The fee to register at the door will be \$55. To download the registration form and get more detailed information, visit: www.sacgensoc.org and click on Spring Seminar.

May 9 to 12 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 The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will be held in the Los Angeles area. For more information, visit their web site: <http://www.scsgenealogy.com>

EDUCATION

 The California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.californiaancestors.org/ continues to offer a wide variety of classes in February. By popular request, it has joined with the Oakland Family History Center once again combine forces to offer the BEST GENEALOGY WEBSITE SERIES. This 8 week series will highlight the tricks and tips for using one or two internet sites in each class. On Thursday, February 2, 2012 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 pm the Best Genealogy Websites series continues with **Fold3.com** taught by Susan Goss Johnston. The next in the series will be on Thursday, February 9, 2012, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm with **FamilySearch.com I** taught by Ralph Severson. Thursday, February 16, 2012, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm **FamilySearch.com II** also taught by Ralph Severson. On Thursday, February 23, 2012, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm **Search Engines Fundamentals and the World of Google** will be presented by Kim Cotton. For this series, register online at the CGS website.

 On February 4, 2012, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, the class **Who Do You Think You Are? Intro to Genealogy**, will be taught by Lavinia Schwarz. Register online.

 On Saturday, February 11, 2012, Group one: 10-12 am; Group two: 1-3pm.

How to Go Home: Scanning Photos with 1000 Memories. Register online.

 On Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 6:30 pm - 8:15 pm **RootsMagic Special Interest Group** will meet.

 Saturday, February 25, 2012, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm the class **Using Historical Black Newspapers Online for Genealogical Research** will be taught by Janice Sellers. Register online.

 Finally, on Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, GS and FHC present the second in the series **Ancestral Homelands: A Spotlight Series for Beginners** series with Beginning Research in England presented by Jeremy Frankel. Register online at CGS.

 The National Archives (NARA) www.archives.gov has launched a YouTube Channel. Right now the film clips include workshops on census, immigration, Native American, and military records. Check it out at www.youtube.com/USNationalArchives

Expertise Available at the Danville Family History Center

One thing you might need to know about, is the expertise of the many Danville Family History Center Volunteers that volunteer on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays except for holidays. This is a summary of expertise as of January, 2012.

To be absolutely sure a person will be available for the topic you need, you might call Jan Unter, the Danville FHC Director at 923-389-8860 before going to the Danville FHC at 2949 Stone Valley Rd, Alamo, CA 94507.

Expertise List

- Help with the FHC Library, Familysearch.org and basic genealogy record types are available whenever the Danville FHC is open.
- **Tuesday Evening 7-9 pm**
 - Danish, German, Irish, Norway,

Swedish and US Midwest research

- **Wednesday 10 am - 1 pm**
 - US Research
 - **Wednesday 1 - 4 pm**
 - Irish, Scandinavia, US Research
 - PAF and Ancestral Quest genealogy programs Publishing On-line databases (TNG)
 - **Wednesday Evening 7 - 9 pm**
 - Colonial, Southern US and general US Research, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
 - **Thursdays 10 am - 1 pm**
 - England, Scotland, Wales,
 - Quaker, Utah and Southern US
 - Legacy genealogy program
 - **Thursdays 1 - 4 pm**
 - Legacy, Roots Magic and Ancestral Quest genealogy programs US Research on 1st & 3rd Thursdays
 - **By Appointment**
 - Canadian, Dutch, Chinese, Indonesia, Mandarin and US Research
- ...Bill George, SIG Coordinator

What a Birth Certificate Proves and doesn't Prove

We put a lot of emphasis as genealogists on original documents, and oh **BOY** do we like anything we can think of as direct proof. When I found a birth certificate that says my first cousin twice removed Benjamin Franklin Ernest Schreiner was born to Herman and Augusta on the Fourth of July, 1895, I was absolutely ready to make that Chicago registrar of vital statistics my new BFF.

I mean, hey, this thing is perfect, right? It has everything I could want — his name and that his mother lived at 4839 Bishop, doesn't it?

It says that his father was Herman Franz

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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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

Schreiner, a safe mechanic, 41 years of age, German American, and born in Gera, Reuss Jüngere Linie, Germany, and that his 37-year-old mother was Augusta Paula Schreiner, born Augusta Paula Graumüller in Köstritz, Reuss, Germany. It was signed by the doctor who delivered the kid, and he should know, no? This is absolute total proof of all KINDS of stuff!

Um... er... uh... no. All that it **proves** is that a baby boy was born 4 July 1895 at 4839 Bishop Street in Chicago to a woman who told the doctor who delivered the baby that she was Augusta Schreiner. It **doesn't** prove that's who she was. It **doesn't** prove when or where she was born, or what her maiden name was, or where Herman Franz (called Frank) was born or how old he was or what he did for a living. It doesn't even **prove** that Frank was little Ben Franklin's father. As an appeals court in New Jersey said recently, "A birth certificate simply records the fact of parentage *as reported by others...*"

Judy G. Russell

The Legal Genealogist: 27 Jan 2012

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	5
SRVGS CALENDAR	5
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	6
OTHER EVENTS	7
CONTACT INFORMATION	9
EDUCATION	8
EXPERTISE AVAILABLE AT FHC	8
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
PRESIDENT'S PEN	3
RECIPE - ANZAC BISCUITS	4
RECIPE - OATMEAL ... COOKIES	5
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE	5
WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS	5
WHAT A BIRTH CERTIFICATE PROVES	9

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FIRST CLASS MAIL