



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVII No. 9 April - 2012



THIS MONTH – April 17, 2012
**“Civil War Research:
It’s More than Compiled Service and Pension Records “**
Presented by: Susan Goss Johnston



Pension records are wonderful presents waiting to be unwrapped and studied. They are rich in genealogical information, but they’re not the only records worth exploring. In fact, these records are only a fraction of the many records that were created during the Civil War. Case studies will be used to find and examine records – and record substitutes – created in the time between a soldier’s draft registration and his burial. What records exist? Where can they be found? What will they tell us?

Susan Goss Johnston was a member of Yale University’s first undergraduate class of women, earning a B.A. in physics. After graduation, she began working in medical research while studying voice at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. The natural outgrowth of this experience, mixed with two children, led to genealogy, research that didn't require grant writing! She has been involved in teaching and researching for thirty years. Sue currently teaches basic and advanced genealogy courses in the Community Education division of Las Positas College in Livermore, California, and is a member of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society and co-presenter at the group’s Tri-Valley TMG [The Master Genealogist] users group. She is a graduate of the National Institute on Genealogical Research, "Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis" at the Samford University's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, and the National Archives' course, "Going to the Source." On her first day of research at the National Archives, Sue found three Civil War pensions, and she has loved military records, especially those of the Civil War era, ever since. ■

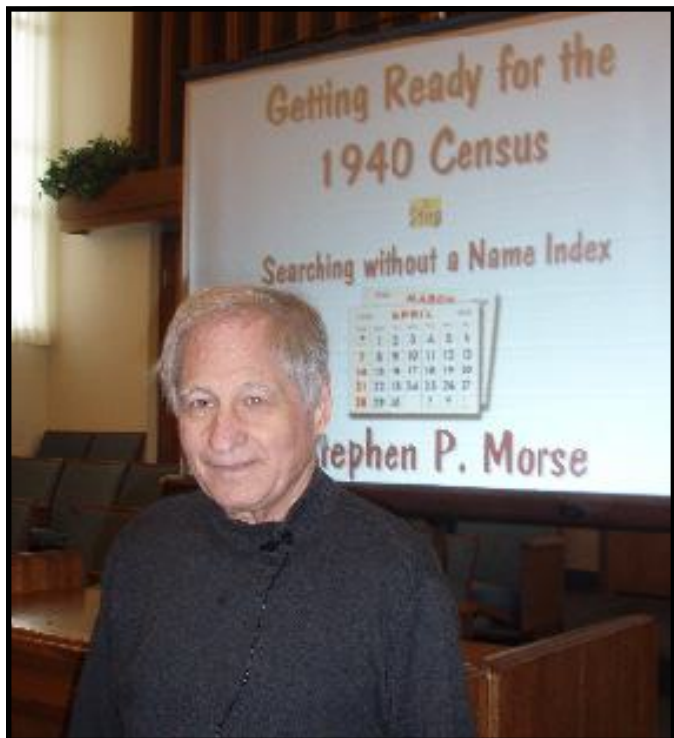
From the March Meeting
"Getting Ready for the 1940 Census: Searching without a Name Index "
Speaker: Steve Morse Reporter: Russ Erickson

Mr. Morse has a one-step “how to do it” website; stevemorse.org. Note: .org, not.com!!

Mr. Morse has a distinguished career, working for IBM, GE, and other noted firms, and architect of the Intel 8086 chip.

The census of 1940 includes data for April

1, 1940, with births up to 12:01 AM! It comes out April 2, 2012, but name indexing will take 6 to 9 months via commercial firms and Family Search (LDS). The original census sheets were destroyed long ago after microfilming. Copies in the past went out to all National Archives offices, but now they are scanned and put on-line for all to survey, free. To use the census, one needs to know the ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Steve Morse, our March Speaker

ED (enumeration district), an area canvassed by a single census taker. Each ED has 2 numbers; one for the county or city followed by numbers for a district within a county or city. San Francisco is both a city and a county; there are 12 cities in the USA like that. There are 42 cities INDEPENDENT of counties in the USA; 39 of them in Virginia! One can relate addresses to each ED via the Morse website that is so useful that NARA lists it in their website.

Find the address of the person you seek by city directories of 1940, old letters, certificates, school records, WWII draft requests, and other sources you can find. Using the Morse website, denote state, city or county, and street with cross street if known. An ED common to the selected street/s comes up. There is a map function allowing finding cross streets if unknown, helping narrow the search to 1 ED.

The 1940 census notes informant (marked with a (x)), abode inhabitants, sex, race, ages, marital status, owner or renter, house value/rent level, school attendance, highest grade attained, place of birth (country name as of 1937), residence in 1935, work status--current or last ►

occupation. 4 extra forms were used statistically; 80% asked one and 3 others asked of only 5%. The 5% questions included birthplace of parents, mother tongue, whether a veteran, have a SS number?, for females whether married now or in past, age of first marriage and number of children born alive.

The website has 1100 city EDs. Use the ED Definition Tool for rural areas (by township, state, county, and keyword). If you know the ED for the 1930 census (upper right hand corner of census sheet), there is a 1-step converter to the 1940 ED number (the 1930 ED might change due to increased population and more than one census taker). To Review: Large City ED finder, Rural ED Definition tool, 1930 ED converter are all available at stevemorse.org.

For other resources (second opinions):

1. Census tracts provide stable geographic units to present statistical data across census years. Find the census tract and use with the 1-step census tract tool.
2. ED definition on NARA T1224 microfilm; go to ED Definition tool and click "details".
3. ED maps; enter state, county and obtain a map image giving the streets within that ED. Clicking "details" gives the blocks in each ED.
4. Missing streets; names might have changed. The website has street name changes for most areas!

When a Name Index is finally produced, the location tools will still be valid, because transcribers do not always get names written correctly, so one will often have to go back to the original ED! The advantage of the 1-step name search:

1. More search fields
2. Easy to search different years
3. Name and location search both on one site
4. It has a tutorial quiz--what do you know to start?
5. You can view the original images
6. You can enter the ED numbers and ►

find streets

7. You can find street name changes
8. You can access census images (after April 2, 2012)
9. There is a Unified Approach; put in what you do know and it unifies the 3 most popular ED tools.

Expect the unexpected: why am I not in the 1940 census? It counted only people IN THE HOUSE on April 1, 1940. There are numbering gaps. A second census sweep starts at page 61A and a transient sweep on 81A, so if the first sweep ended at 40B, pages from 40B to 61A are missing, etc. There are code numbers for occupations, with several types of work included in each code. The 1-step tool lists the types for each code number. There is a code for relationship to head of household.

The 1-step website might overload and crash for the first few days after April 2 due to demand, so seek ED numbers earlier. On the NARA site, *APGQ December 2011* gives this talk. Finally, Joel Weintraub works with Steve Morse and has information on people overseas at census time. You can contact him via the Morse website. ■



President's Pen

By Sherri Hedman

Sharing Family Stories

Congratulations if you have published your family stories, or are attending Francie Lloyd's great publishing class to get your stories into book form. But, maybe you are like me and know you will never write a book. Yet I truly love family stories and believe they should be preserved beyond the notes that fit into our family tree programs. Picture your teenage or young adult great-great-grandchild finding some family papers. Which do you think will catch their interest: a few paragraphs about some feisty ancestor or a court house record? Stories that cause a tad of discomfort as you write them may be the ones that hook your descendants on family history, and eventually into completing their genealogy. ►

Chances are unless you write your family's stories no one else will. Let's face it, who else has the same knowledge, has witnessed those events, or heard the same stories you have? If you use the computer sit down when you have a few minutes between chores--when waiting for food to cook, or a repair person to show up--and start typing a paragraph of one memory or a story. No computer? Keep a notepad in the kitchen by the stove, or by your chair where you watch TV--for those long commercials. Then begin writing what you remember, and forget about editing for now. Not sure if a story is true? Just say so and then re-search it when you can, as what you find out may be more interesting than the original tale. And you may be surprised how easy and addictive writing these vignettes becomes once you start. And need I remind you about interviewing all of your relatives in a non-threatening way? I missed a great opportunity when I assumed a double cousin of my grandmother's had already died, but it turned out she had lived to 101--with an intact memory!

A sample:

Kate, the unique younger sister of my Danish Grandpa turned 16 in transit here on the SS United States. She settled with her husband and had five children on Miller Hill--named for her, in the foothills of Mt. Rainier in Western Washington. There she boarded numerous horses, but her husband grew weary of the solitary life and finally gave her an ultimatum, "Either you move down to civilization with me, or stay with the horses." She chose the horses. Many years later her kids worried about her living in isolation so gave her a telephone, but when the ringing annoyed her she threw it out the window. Despite having little money, she refused Social Security benefits in a simple but eloquent letter. She was in her late 70's when a horse she was riding spooked and rolled on her, breaking her leg. She set her own leg and it was crooked thereafter, but it helped hold her up until she died at age 99.

To encourage you we will have a table set up at the April meeting. So bring some samples to display of a paragraph or two about one or more of your relatives that would encourage descendants of yours to want to learn more about your feisty family! ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

April 2012

- 3 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Sherri Hedman in San Ramon.
- 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.

May 2012

- 1 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be held at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek.
- 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

A couple of SIGs will not be held in April... the DNA (2nd Thurs) SIG and the MacGen (3rd Wed) SIG. All other SIGS are being held as scheduled. Please see the SIG area on our web site, <http://srvgensoc.org/sig.html> for a list of our SIGS with the latest news. See also the SRVGS SIG calendar at <http://srvgensoc.org/calendar.html>. By the way, we're using Google's calendar and any of you could set one up for yourself, for free. Just sign up for a free Gmail account and included, for free, is the use of a free personal calendar.

I have taken on being the SRVGS "Administrator" of the 1940 indexing project. The main responsibility is urging you to take part in the FamilySearch indexing project at ►

<http://the1940census.com>. See a separate newsletter article this month entitled "1940 Census Community Project". I really hope everyone will strongly consider participating in the indexing project, and associate yourself with SRVGS so we get credit for records you index. There will be much more about this in the upcoming months. Phil Seelinger is helping with this and will encourage you to join indexing at the April meeting. March's speaker, Steve Morse focused on how you can find people before the census is indexed after it is released April 2, 2012. If you missed this presentation he will be giving it at the next LAGS meeting on April 10, 2011, 7:30pm. See <http://l-ags.org>. If anyone else wants to help with indexing please email me at: williamcgeorge@gmail.com. You will get individualized training so you can help others to begin indexing. We will include short segments about indexing at the Legacy and TNG SIGs

Please consider helping our Society. Get involved by just helping out or becoming one of the leaders. There are as many areas to get involved as you have interests. The people you meet are wonderful and it is just a very rewarding thing to do. You will learn how to conduct your own genealogy research, by helping others learn how to do it. ■

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



DNA - This Special Interest Group will **Not meet during April**. Bob Venter is the contact person for the group. Please contact him to express your interest in 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 April**. This SIG specializes in the uses of the Macintosh by ►

genealogists. Macintosh owners are welcome to attend the Oakland Regional Family History Center MacGen group that typically meets Saturday April 28th at 1:30pm. You may also visit the following web site: <http://www.macgen.org> 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.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday April 25th** (the fourth Wednesday). The

German group will be going for their annual German lunch at DJ's Bistro in Concord. **Please contact Helen Odegard if you plan to join the group so she can include you in the reservation.** 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 **April 11th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am., at the**

home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is the contact person for this group. You may contact Patty via e-mail, russ-pat@comcast.net or phone 229-0889.



LEGACY SOFTWARE – The Legacy group will meet **April 23rd** (the fourth Monday) at 1p.m. in the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. This is a genealogy software users group. Mem-

bers are asked to bring their Legacy database on a flash drive or on your laptop. 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 – The publishing group will meet **April 19th at 10:00 am** (the third Thursday of the

month) at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville. Are you a family historian who has spent years digging out the facts only to see the results collect dust because you don't know how to transform ►

the history into a published book easily distributed to family, friends or maybe the whole world? Publishing a book about your family's story need not be a mysterious process. The Publishing Group invites you to monthly meetings where you will learn the ins and outs of publishing. This informal group of members will offer advice, encouragement, suggestions and guide you to publishing sources as you develop your book. Members that are interested in joining should let Francie 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") –

This 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 April 24th at 10 am** (the fourth Tuesday) at the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. This 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.

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CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 11 April Wednesday 10 am** The East Bay Genealogical Society will hold its regular meeting in the conference room of the regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue in Oakland. Vera Boyles will give tips on *How to Make Your Research Easier and Accurate*. Get more information by visiting their blog at caebaygs.blogspot.com
- 18 April 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. Come hear about Victorian Marriage and Mourning Customs. The topic will be presented by Jen Roger, a freelance Historian and lecturer. For more information, visit their web site: www.smcgs.org

20 April 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 Lynnet Keihl."

21 April Saturday 4 pm The California Genealogical Society will sponsor a class about Hard Drive Organization-Making use of your file folders. It will be presented by Tim Cox. Their address is 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2 in Oakland. Get further information and register online at californiaancestors.org

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 register at the door will be \$55. To get more detailed information, visit: www.sacgergensoc.org and click on Spring Seminar.

21 April Saturday 9 am to 4 pm The Sonoma County Genealogical Society is sponsoring a Seminar featuring Connie Lenzen. It will be held at The Wells Fargo Center for the Arts off of Hwy 101 at River Road in Santa Rosa. A pre-registration fee of \$30 must be received by April 7. Visit the SCGS web site at www.scgs.org for further details.

28 April Saturday 9 am to 3 pm The San Mateo Genealogical Society is sponsoring a Seminar. It will be held at the Menlo Park LDS Church, 1105 Valparaiso in Menlo Park. "A Cooke's Tour of Google" will be presented in 4 lectures by Lisa Cooke. Lunchtime will also allow a silent auction and book sales. The registration deadline is April 20. The fee for non-members will be \$30. The ►

registration form and further details may be found at smcgs.org.

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 Family Search Center in Oakland https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Oakland_California_Large_Multi-stake_Family_History_Center will present "Beginning Research in Louisiana" lead by Sue Severson on Tuesday, April 24th. The class will highlight Louisiana family history through its diverse history, peoples and cultures beginning with the colonial period. The presentation will include an overview of many record sources available, including civil, church, land and military. In addition there will be a preliminary look at the some sources specific to African American and Native American family history. Register online at the Oakland Family Search Center site noted above.

 The California Genealogical Society <http://www.californiaancestors.org/> continues to offer its "Roots Magic Special Interest Group". The April meeting is on the 20th from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at the California Genealogical Society Library at 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2 in Oakland. Registration is not required.

Also at CGS is First Saturday Free - Saturday, April 7, 2012, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. with "Who Do You Think You Are? Intro to Genealogy", with Mary Beth Frederick. Register online.

 The National Archives (NARA) <http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/index.html> at The Leo J. Ryan Federal Building, 1000 Commodore Drive San Bruno, will present "Census Records" by Rose Mary Kennedy ►

on Friday, April 13, 2012 from 9am – 1pm. To register and reserve a space, please contact Rose Mary Kennedy by phone: (650) 238-3485 or Email: sanbruno.archives@nara.gov Fees are \$15 payable in advance. A minimum of 12 people must have registered by the week of the workshop. If 12 people have not registered in advance, the workshop will be cancelled and no fees will be charged



Reminder: (NARA) www.archives.gov has launched a You Tube Channel. Currently the film clips include workshops on census, immigration, Native American, and military records. Check it out at www.youtube.com/USNationalArchives.



The Southern California Genealogical Society <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/> will air the webinar “Turn iGoogle into Your Personal Genealogy Research Homepage” by Lisa Louise Cooke on Saturday April 7th at 10 am, and “Grandma’s Flak Jacket: Why Your Children Need You To Do Family History” by Janet Hovorka on Wednesday April 18 at 6 pm. The initial airings are free to the public. ■

Change in Fee Structure for New Year

In April we will start reminding you about membership renewals for our new fiscal year, 2012-13, which starts on June 1. The good news is that our membership fees of \$15 (\$20 for family of two) will not change, even though it has been at that level since 1992. The bad news is that the \$10 fee for printing and mailing of the Newsletter will no longer be optional. If you elect to have a hard copy mailed, you will be asked to pay for what it costs us, namely \$1 per month for ten months. ■

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Joins the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society has joined forces with genealogy societies and organizations around the country as part of the 1940 ►

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 trvlrl@sbcglobal.net

U.S. Census Community Project. The initiative aims to publish a free, online searchable name index of the 1940 U.S. Federal Census after images of the census are released to the public in April 2012. This online index will be free forever, offering family history researchers a rich genealogical data set for their ongoing use. Three leading genealogy organizations, Archives.com, FamilySearch International, and findmypast.com, launched the initiative at the end of last year, and the project is already engaging volunteers to help provide this invaluable resource to family historians around the world as soon as possible.

The index created by the project will allow the public to easily search every person found in the census and view digital images of the original census pages where he or she is listed. The highly anticipated 1940 U.S. Census is expected to be the most popular U.S. record collection released to date.

“The 1940 Census is attractive to both new

and experienced researchers because most people in the United States can remember a relative that was living in 1940. It will do more to connect living memory with historical records and families than any other collection previously made available,” said David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch.

The 1940 U.S. Census Community Project is also receiving support from leading societal organizations like the Federation of Genealogical Societies, National Genealogical Society, and Ohio Genealogical Society, as well as other societies around the United States.

Go to www.the1940census.com/society and register to participate with our society. Simply select San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society on the profile screen when creating your account. Every new person indexing with our society gets us closer to milestones that qualify us for incentives provided by the sponsors of the project. Sign up today! ■

**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
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FIRST CLASS MAIL