



# San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



[www.srvgensoc.org](http://www.srvgensoc.org)

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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**THIS MONTH – May 15, 2012**

**“Church Records: How to Tell if They are Lying “  
Presented by: Richard Ferman**



Dick corresponded with three ladies who found letters written in the 1880's claiming that all their families were related. His extensive research into church and court records eventually disproved this but it did prove and verify his genealogy and he was accepted into the Sons of the American Revolution.

Richard J. Ferman is a graduate of Ohio University. He majored in History and taught on the High School and College levels. He currently teaches at Willows SeniorNet of San Jose. His business career was spent as an operating system and compiler programmer and he specialized in machine language programming. He retired from IBM in 2004. Dick is a past President of the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society and is active in several local societies.



**From the April Meeting**

**"Civil War Research:  
It's More than Compiled Service and Pension Records "**

**Speaker: Susan Goss Johnston      Reporter: Lee Schlenker**



Our speaker this past month was Susan Goss Johnston, a knowledgeable lady on Civil War records, and just how to go about finding what you're looking for. And you must be a little knowledgeable in order to navigate your way through the archives.

Susan gave us a six page hand-out (which you can find on SRVGS Bits and Pieces for download) or try to obtain it from another member. This is a great tool to have.

She recreated the life of the Civil War soldier through records only and traced two brothers

plus their brother-in-law through the Civil War. Her handout shows you how she arrived at her information. But she reminded us that each of those 3,500 + soldiers or sailors were different from one another. Also, there were three time periods or types: pre-service, service and post-service. All these factors come into play when looking for your subject. Pre-service records were created before an individual enters the military (draft or alien registrations, oaths of allegiance). Service records were the records created by the individual while in the military (company, fort logbooks, medical, prisoners of war records, ►

courts martial plus various rolls). Post-service records are veteran's records (pensions, pension payments, soldier's homes, national cemeteries, applications for headstones and survivors records). Where you find each record will depend on these considerations: on what side did they serve? – Union pension records are federal records found at the National Archives; whereas Confederate pension records are state records kept by the relevant state; did your subject serve in the regular Army or U.S. Navy? – These records are federal and found in specific records groups (**RG**) at the National Archives; did your subject serve in a volunteer unit? – these records will be found both in state archives as well as the National Archives; was your subject an officer or an enlisted man? – Additional records were created by and about officers; was your subject a “substitute?” (a wealthy person could opt out to serve and pay someone else to serve in his place). Susan's handout tells you just how to arrive at Number 18 for finding substitutes, through NARA, then to RG 110, go to Advanced Search. (This is a simplified version. You do need her handout.)

The National Archives and its regional repositories contain federal record groups (RG) so when searching you may need to know these:

- **RG 15:** Records of the Veterans Administration
- **RG 46:** Records of the U.S. Senate 1789-2006
- **RG 92:** Records of the Office of Quartermaster General 1774-1985
- **RG 94:** Records of the Adjutant General's Office 1780's-1917
- **RG 153:** Records of the Office of Judge Advocate General (Army)
- **RG 217:** Records of the Accounting Offices of the Dept. of the Treasury
- **RG 109:** War Dept. Collection of Confederate Records
- **RG 110:** Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War)
- **RG 112:** Records of the office of the Surgeon General (Army) 1775-1970

- **RG 233:** Records of the U.S. House of Representatives 1789-2006
- **RG 249:** Records of the Commissary General of Prisoners 1861-1905

The Provost Marshal General Bureau (PMGB) can be found at the National Archives which should hold the draft records: the enrollment of men, enlisted volunteers, compiled physical conditions of recruits, army casualties and arrested deserters; also regimental records. There could be “morning reports” done by the Captain which would be daily reports of men ready to fight as well as men in the brig. You should be able to find medical records at the National Archives which might tell you how many times a soldier was hospitalized, which hospital they were sent to and the outcome of their hospitalization.

The Judge Advocate General Office (Army or Navy) contains records of indexed arrests and court martial as well as staff and officers names. The Office of the Commissary General of Prisoners (which has not microfilmed all their information) contains prisoners of war for the Union. Confederate prisoners of war can be found on Ancestry.com and at the Archives. Office of the Quartermaster General should have pensions, relief petitioners, burial headstones, campaign badges. The Adjutant General's Office (state) has some digitized records but maintained the personnel records.

Repositories Holding Major Collections of Civil War Records:

- The National Archives and its regional repositories <http://www.archives.gov/research/>
- The Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov/index.html>
- State Archives and Libraries – Begin search at the relevant state archives' online website. All have finding aids for Civil War resources.

Susan warns us that not all of these records can be accessed from your computer at home. You may have to get dressed, put on your shoes and take a trip to the National Archives or regional NARA to get some of the information you seek! ►

Several online repositories you might use are:

- <http://www.Ancestry.com/>
- <http://www.footnote.com/>
- <http://books.google.com/>
- <http://www.archive.org/>  
(to access records quickly use the finding guide provided at Donslist.net)
- <https://www.familysearch.org/>  
(access material from the Records Collection page, not the search box.)
- <http://www.donslist.net/PGHLookups/GuidesM.htm>

Online Public Access System:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/search/>

Susan's handout gives you a "List of Sources" (categories) detailed as to pre-service, service and post-service and where you might find your person listed on an online site. If you are searching for a Civil War subject don't forget to get her handout, it's very informative! ■



### President's Pen

*By Sherri Hedman*

You are a wonderful genealogy group and I have many to thank for helping make my 1 & 2/3 year tenure as president almost easy! For, I had agreed to run for V.P. only if I never had to be president, but then President, Barbara Dittig, announced she was moving at the September 2010 Board Meeting and was gone by November. So, I relied heavily on V.P. Ed Mason for direction, (as well as filling in during my surgery and trips), since he was twice president, has a great memory and is like the Energizer Bunny. As Ed says, "Our Society is in excellent health, the membership is stable the financial condition is solid and our programs have been well received."

Also, kudos for his work on the Nominating Committee--an especially difficult task this time as serious surgery and health issues tainted this winter and spring for three officers, and two com-

mittee members, as well as our upcoming presidential nominee! I am grateful to note that everyone is doing much better. A big thank you to those of you filled in for those incapacitated: Rae Atwood & Kathy Javdani for Elaine Franke--Program Chair, Russ Erickson for Lee Schlenker--Newsletter Program Reporter and Mary Tom for Carol Huvane--Recording Secretary; Vern Segelke and Ed Mason didn't need subs. Much gratitude is extended, as well, for those who ran for office and filled the committees! See below.

Moreover, each year the board and committee members did a fantastic job because they are "professionals." And they responded to my e-mails quickly!

### A BIG THANK YOU TO:

Officers and Board Members: Ed Mason, Elaine Franke, Philip Seelinger/Ed Mason, Carol Huvane, Vern Segelke, Tom Draeger/Ed Mason/Vern Segelke, and Virginia Rood

Board and Committee members who did double duty with more than one regular job: Ed Mason, Vern Segelke, Sandra Burns, Kathy Javdani, and Bill George who created the SIG Coordinator position and with other SIG leaders work to maintain and revitalize the offerings.

Board and Committee members who keep/kept re-upping! Ed Mason, Vern Segelke, Rae Atwood, Virginia Rood, Sandra Burns, Bob Venter, Lee Schlenker, Jack Johnson, Frances Lloyd, Peggy Gierke, Nancy Alexander, Harry Baggett, Lucy Carver, Ed O'Donnell

Committee Chair who moved away, yet still helps: Ileen Peterson--Bits & Pieces

Newer members who stepped up: Barbara and Ted Shapas, and Lou Meyer; now Ed has a new volunteer list! It is easy to take for granted set-up of tables and of equipment for our speakers, our monthly refreshments, our newsletter creation and distribution, advertising our group and everything else--but volunteers do all of this! I want also to thank all the members who attend our meetings so faithfully each month, as well as those who help recruit new members for Sandra Burns and Frances Lloyd to so ably nurture. Bye for now.

*Forgive me if I have forgotten anyone--let me know.*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### SRVGS CALENDAR

#### May 2012

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

#### June 2012

- 5 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be held at the home of Dick Finn.
- 19 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*

In May, our Legacy SIG will not be held because the 4th Monday is Memorial Day. Otherwise our normal schedule as listed at <http://srvgensoc.org/sig.html> is in effect. The MacGen and DNA SIGs are coming back after several months off and there needs to be a half-dozen attendees to keep them going. If any of you want to take DNA tests, the DNA SIG is the group to help you. If you have a Macintosh computer, the MacGen SIG will teach you new tips and tricks about your Mac and also show you how to get the most out of your Reunion genealogy program. The DNA SIG is the 2nd Thursday at 10 am and the MacGen SIG is the 3rd Wed. at 10:30 am. Both are held at the Danville Family History Center.

#### 1940 Census Indexing Project

I'm also helping with the 1940 Census In-

dexing project. Thanks all of you who have signed up to index with SRVGS. We will again have a laptop at the General SRVGS Meeting on May 15 to show people how to sign up for indexing and choose SRVGS as their Indexing group. To start indexing, go to <https://the1940census.com/getting-started/> and follow the instructions there. We will answer your indexing questions at the general meeting and there will be a "trainer" to demonstrate how indexing works. It's a lot of fun to index the 1940 census and it's getting indexed at breakneck speed. If you want to track the overall progress of all indexers go to <https://www.familysearch.org/1940census/>.

1940 Census Indexing Project Update: Congratulations, Phil Seelinger, you topped the field in April. Of all six indexers, currently signed up with the SRVGS indexing group, Phil indexed a whopping 1160 records, narrowly edging out Jo Ann Garlington and Vern Segelke who had 1,040 each. Rounding out the total of six indexers were Bill and Diane George and Sharon Hawkins. A total of 3,640 records were indexed in the first month of SRVGS 1940 Census indexing. Please don't forget to join the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society indexing group when you sign up to do 1940 census indexing. If you've already begun indexing and you are willing to join us, email Bill George ([williamcgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:williamcgeorge@gmail.com)) with your familysearch.org account name and I will transfer you in. Thanks for helping! ■

### SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



**DNA** - This Special Interest Group will meet **Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup> 10 am (second Thursday)** at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. The theme will be matching DNA results.

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](mailto: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 May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am (second Wednesday)** at the Family

History Center on Stone Valley Road. The theme will be Direct Lines Bold. This SIG specializes in the uses of the Macintosh by genealogists. Macintosh owners are also welcome to attend the Oakland Regional Family History Center MacGen group that typically meets on the third Saturday. 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, [william-cgeorge@Gmail.com](mailto:william-cgeorge@Gmail.com) or phone (510) 538-2449.



**GERMAN** – The German Group will meet **Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am (the fourth Wednesday)**.

The German group will meet at the home of Barbara Shapas in Alamo. Her e-mail is [bgms524@g-mail.com](mailto:bgms524@g-mail.com). The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact her via e-mail, [shodegard@att.net](mailto:shodegard@att.net) or phone 932-6796 for more information.



**IRISH** - This special interest group will meet **Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:russpat@comcast.net) or phone 229-0889.



**LEGACY SOFTWARE** – The Legacy group **will NOT meet during May due to the Memorial Day holiday.** 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](mailto:sharonclay@comcast.net) or phone 925- 462-4518.



**PUBLISHING** – The publishing group **will meet Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 May 22<sup>nd</sup> 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. Her email address is [baileylinda100@gmail.com](mailto:baileylinda100@gmail.com) or Phone (925) 552-5920 for further information. ■

## CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 15 May Tuesday 6:30 pm** The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting in the Cedar Room of the Santa Clara Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Road. Learn how to create you own genealogy website, how to create html files, how to modify the files and add other pages for your own genealogy website. Also learn how and where to post the files to create this website, all using free software. The speaker will be Debbie ►

Shields, a past President of SCCHGS. For more information, visit their web site: [www.scchgs.org](http://www.scchgs.org)

**18 May 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 Virginia Kysh."

**19 May Saturday 10:30 am.** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will hold their regular monthly meeting at the Grace Lutheran Church Hall, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. "Probing into Wills, Estates, Guardianships" will be presented by Cath Trindle. For more information, visit their web site: [www.smcgs.org](http://www.smcgs.org)

**22 May Tuesday 7 to 8:30 pm** The California Genealogical Society and the Oakland FHC will sponsor Ancestral Homelands: A Spotlight Series for Beginners, *Beginning Research in Germany*. It will be presented by Robert Jackson. The fee is \$10. Pre-registration is required. Get further information and register online at [californiaancestors.org](http://californiaancestors.org)

**22 May Tuesday 1 to 3 pm** The Sacramento German Genealogy Society the door will hold its regular monthly meeting at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Lusk Drive and St. Marks way in Sacramento. "More Tools and Strategies for Finding Your German Ancestor" will be presented by Baerbel Johnson. This speaker is a popular staffer at the help desk at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. You may also visit their web site at: [www.sacgergensoc.org](http://www.sacgergensoc.org)

**6 June Wednesday 8:30 am to 3:30 pm** The California Genealogical Society is sponsoring an all day Seminar featuring Maureen Taylor, a well-recognized photo curator, photo identification and preservation expert as well as a genealogist. It will be held at The Veterans Memorial Building, **3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette**. A pre-registration fee of \$48 includes lunch if received by May 6. The fee ►

will be \$58 thereafter. Maureen Taylor will present 4 lectures. To learn more about the seminar, go to <http://CGSphoto.weebly.com> You may also visit the SCGS web site at [www.scgs.org](http://www.scgs.org) for further details.

**June 8 to 10 Friday through Sunday** The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will be held in the LAMarriott Burbank Airport Hotel. For more information, visit their web site: <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com> There will be nearly 60 speakers, many presentations and vendors. It is the largest genealogy conference on the West Coast. ■

## WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

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

Sharon Hawkins  
40 Laurel Drive, Apt 4,  
Danville, CA 94536  
925-718-5658  
[Shawkins6161@att.net](mailto:Shawkins6161@att.net)

## EDUCATION



CGS, the California Genealogical Society, <http://www.californiaancestors.org/> continues to offer a variety of classes.

- On Saturday, May 5, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., it will present **Genealogy: An Introduction** with Craig Siulinski. Register online.
- It's **RootsMagic Special Interest Group** will meet on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 6:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
- On Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., the class **Bounty Land and the War of 1812 Soldier**, will ►

be taught by Susan Goss Johnston. Register online.

- On Tuesday, May 22, 2012, **Ancestral Homelands: A Spotlight Series for Beginners Beginning Research in Germany** by Robert Jackson will be presented from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Register online.
- Mark your calendars for a Special Event - **A Day with the Photo Detective**, on Wednesday, June 6, 2012. By popular request, Maureen Taylor will present four lectures at a full-day seminar. Download the registration flier. Visit the CGS site for full information and registration.



On Friday May 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 am-1 pm at NARA [http://www.archives.gov/pacific/archives/san-francisco/workshop9am-1pm\\_s.html](http://www.archives.gov/pacific/archives/san-francisco/workshop9am-1pm_s.html) at the Leo J. Ryan Federal Building, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, Rose Mary Kennedy will present **Passenger Arrival & Naturalization Records**. To register and reserve a space, please contact: Rose Mary Kennedy - Phone: (650) 238-3485, Email: [sanbruno.archives@nara.gov](mailto:sanbruno.archives@nara.gov). Fees are \$15 payable in advance. Please note that 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.



The Oakland Family History Center is offering **Beginning Research in Germany : Crossing the Pond** with Robert Jackson. – Tuesday, May 22, 2012 - Focusing on the great wave of German immigration from 1840 to 1900, this class will outline the numerous resources available that can help you narrow the search for your ancestors' place of origin. We'll also touch on the special challenges posed by the spelling of German surnames and place names and by the movable feast of German geography in the 19th century. Finally, we'll glance ahead to the main issues involved in accessing archives and records in Germany. For more information: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=4fa9r6bab&oeidk=a07e5h9etab6c9567bc>



Don't forget. The 42nd Annual **Southern California Genealogy Jamboree**

## HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

**1st V.P.** Ed Mason 925-838-7848

**2nd V.P. Program:**

Elaine Franke 925-831-1989

**3rd V.P. Membership (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](mailto:rjventer@comcast.net)

**Calendar Coordinator:**

Vern Segelke 925-838-8570

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

**Mailing:** Lucy Carver 925-837-3146

*Deadline to put information in the Newsletter is the Last Thursday of the month.*

Members are encourage to submit articles for the Newsletter by mail or email to the Coordinator.

## INDIVIDUAL HELP

Do you need individual help in overcoming a "brick wall" in your research? Go to the SRVGS web site at: <http://srvgensoc.org/>, click on RESOURCES, then click on INDIVIDUAL HELP FOR SRVGS MEMBERS.

Want to help someone who is having research problems in your area of knowledge? Call Harry Baggett at 925-837-7960 to have your name added to the SRVGS Individual Help list.

Harry Baggett [trvrlr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trvrlr@sbcglobal.net)

will be held Friday through Sunday, June 10-12, 2012. The conference will be held at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505. Check the website, <http://scgsgenealogy.com/2011jam-home.htm> for registration fees and details. ■

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### **A Gentle Reminder From Our President**

A parting nudge. Please remind your younger friends and relatives to begin now to ask their parents and relatives about their history and ancestors. Friday I was reminded of this by two friends, the first as she lamented about the questions she wished she had asked her dad whose mind is being rapidly destroyed by Alzheimer's Disease, and another young woman who had just lost her beloved father-in-law after only a two week illness. Sherri

### **IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER**

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

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