



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIX No. 6 January - 2014



THIS MONTH – January 21, 2014

**“Getting the Scoop on Your Ancestors
with Newspapers”**

Presented by: Lisa Louise Cooke



Yearning to “read all about it”? Newspapers are a fantastic source of research leads, information, and historical context for your family history. Learn the specialized approach that is required to achieve success in locating the news on your ancestors. Lisa's presentation includes 3 Cool Tech Tools that will get you started that you probably are not using, but should!

Lisa is a past SRVGS board member, and is currently the owner of Genealogy Gems, a multi-media production company, and host of the Genealogy Gems Podcast at www.genealogygems.com. She is the author of four books, including “Turn Your iPad into a Genealogy Powerhouse” and the “Genealogist's Google Toolbox”. She is the producer of the video series “Google Earth for Genealogy”, and is an international speaker.



From the November Meeting

“Portuguese Research ”

Speaker: Ralph Severson

Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Ralph Severson has lived in a multitude of interesting places, done multiple jobs throughout his life and is the primary instructor for classes at the Oakland Family Search Library. He has done extensive research on his Portuguese ancestors – who don't enjoy being called “Portuguese” but would rather be called “from the Azores,” “from Madeira,” or “from Brazil.”

Ralph took us from early Portugal up to present day very quickly. The Portuguese people

were a subjugated people for more than 1000 years. Ruled by the Romans, Visigoths, then the Moors; the “Reconquista” of 1128-1250 then gave birth to Portugal lands. A Portugal Empire was established in 1415; the Azores were discovered in 1435; Brazil was settled in 1532. Since Portugal was surrounded by water the seafarers created much of this Portuguese Empire (1400-1600). There was foreign rule again from 1580-1974. Then, finally independence. ►



(Photo by Nancy Alexander)

Ralph Severson

Portugal, Brazil, the Azores and Madeira were Catholic and the Catholic Church records are *the* key for finding ancestors. Priests were the genealogist heroes of the time. 95% of these records are great! By 1833 they were mandated to keep civil records; but in 1911 the government confiscated church records. Each island had their own archives and many of the old, old records were hidden away. 1986 brought the Genealogical Society of Utah (part of Family History Library of Utah) to the Azores and Madeira for microfilming and by 2005 digitizing got underway.

20th century naming traditions varied from country to country but individual name changes were rare. *Historical naming traditions* are a nightmare! Children received only given names at birth with no surnames. Surnames were selected later in life by the individual with very little pattern (they could take a grandparents or spouses surname) and individuals often changed their names multiple times during a lifetime. Ralph's six-great grandfather had a total of 8 ►

different names (5 surnames plus 3 first names) and used them from birth to death. It made it more difficult to follow. So, be flexible looking at records and searching the surnames. Religious titles go **only with given names**. They are not surnames. Usually the first born son was given the name of Manuel; the first born girl was usually Marie or Maria.

Locating first generation U.S. family/ancestors you need to find or know the home island/state and parish from where they came. Potential sources for finding the "home country" would be the U.S. death records (search **every** associated death record), family letters, or immigration and ships records (very worthwhile), as well as Alien Registration Forms.

Emigration, legal or otherwise, was usually due to over population or an opportunity for conscription. Many went early to Brazil and then later to California, Hawaii and Massachusetts. In the "home country" search the passports, emigration filings and ships records. Old country records/registers done by the Catholic parish are the most valuable. The most important record to be found would be the marriage record which would be the only source for verifying surnames. (Prior to the 1790s the name of the groom, bride, parents, birthplace, dates and witnesses were listed. After 1790-1800 grandparents names were included and sometimes baptismal data also.) Second would be the baptism record, but only after finding the marriage record. Often times there are no surnames listed. And thirdly would be the death records which can be spotty, but useful. Both with death and baptism records there is the extensive use of abbreviations with first names. You should familiarize yourself with the abbreviations. Godparent's names are helpful. But be aware there was a "plague of illegitimacies" that leads to dead ends. The illegitimate child was usually dropped off at the church, found by the priest and then just given to a responsible mother who would care for it - hence *no documentation/record*. In the old country the records were originated by the Catholic Church and are very good. Other locations to check on would be Civil Registration from 1833 to present day. Notarial records (land, probate, etc.) are limited in availability and often hard to read. ►

There are several good books written but mostly in Portuguese: Frutuoso's "Saudades da Terra" (1590 and out of print); "Genealogias" 6 volumes by Rodrigo Rodrigues; "Genealogias da Ilha Terceira" which is available at the Freitas Library in San Leandro.

Death Records range from cursory to detailed, but less regulated by the supervising priest. And women got "short changed" often with their names being in the margins and not always spelled correctly.

Ralph was very interesting and had some great stories to tell us about his experiences in his ancestors search. He also gave us a hand-out with some websites you might use:

- Digitized collections on Portugal and Brazil: www.familysearch.org
 - 1) Search;
 - 2) Browse by location;
 - 3) Portugal 33 collections;
 - 4) Brazil 29 collections
- Azores on line:
<http://www.culturacores.azores.gov.pt/>
- Google Groups: Azores Genealogy (including Portugal and Brazil)

You can contact Ralph at:

rfseverson@gmail.com

Remember you can visit the Oakland Family Search Library.

To call ahead about Ralph's availability: (510) 531-3905 – he says he's willing to help! ■

A Few Good Genealogy Quotes:

- You live as long as you are remembered. -- **Russian proverb**
- "People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors." -- **Edmund Burke**
- "Everyone has ancestors and it is only a question of going back far enough to find a good one." -- **Howard Kenneth Nixon**
- "It is a desirable thing to be well-descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors." -- **Plutarch**



President's Message

By Russ Erickson

Welcome to a new year. May you all know good health, warmth, and cheer in 2014.

In October, 2013, Patty and I attended the Concord and Walnut Creek Stake seminar at the C and WC Family History Center. Consider attending in the fall of 2014 to enlarge your experience of Genealogy. Thirteen sections of classes were offered, from DNA to use of electronic devices and internet programs to tips on "breaking out" to use of common computer programs to research in individual country backgrounds. Reunion, Mocavo, My Heritage, Find My Past, Family Search, Roots Tech, and Ancestry all had little gems of knowledge presented. Even Life in a Cloud floated by.

I personally attended sessions on Mobile Technology and Life in the Cloud (nice to know what is way out there for we electronically inept and un-educated), Swedish genealogy, German research, Online Newspapers and heard Virginia Kysh speak of programs like **Find My Past** and **Mocavo**, of which I knew little. Patty remains the genealogist of our household, but gradually a bit remains in my 100 billion neurons. So, plan on stimulating your own mind this year to stay young and vital by attending our own educational sessions and social meetings (socializing also is important to keep those neuron synapses active), and consider the fall seminar. Kathy Javdani monthly brings us information of many other genealogy events and sources around the bay that can add to all this good thinking input. To paraphrase my work place alma mater, "Study and Thrive". ■

Epitaph for a Dentist

*Stranger! Approach this spot with gravity.
John Brown is filling his last cavity.*

A marker in Enosburg Falls, Vermont



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

January 2014

- 7 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.
- 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.

February 2014

- 4 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.
- 18 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

By: Bill George

SIG Schedule Changes

The RootsMagic SIG will not be meeting in January, 2014

The other six SIGs will meet as scheduled. See our SIG calendar on the <http://srvgensoc.org> web site. Please also see Verne Segelke's detail information for each SIG topic elsewhere in this newsletter.

Genealogy Programs that SRVGS support, All Have New Versions

In 2013, Family Tree Maker released its FTM 2014 and FTM 3 for Mac. Along with Legacy 8.0, RootsMagic 6 and Reunion 10 (for Mac), all have been recently updated. Some vendors update yearly and others every two or three years. It pays to stay current with updates. New ►

features such as source templating and online database integration can be very handy. For example, the FamilySearch Family Tree (FSFT) has been integrated into Legacy and RootsMagic. You can find and merge people from these databases into your database. All four of the above programs let you search FSFT from within the genealogy program. Family Tree Maker, which is owned by Ancestry.com, will allow you to up and download whole family trees with Ancestry.com. It is quite difficult to choose a genealogy program these days as they are always very full featured. They are also very inexpensive, being \$39 each, or less (except for Reunion's \$99 price tag). Learn about each at one of our SIGs.

I think an important criterion in picking a program, is what your friends use. By doing this, you can consult with one another on learning new features. If you want to explore other programs, they are inexpensive enough to do that too. ■

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



ANCESTRY/FAMILY TREE MAKER – This group focuses on how Family Tree Maker interacts with Ancestry.com. This group met **Monday January 6th at 1 pm at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road.** Susan Rush is the coordinator for this group. You may contact her by e-mail gen4you@astound.net or phone 674-0929.



IRISH - This special interest group will have met **Wednesday January 8th (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.



FAMILY SEARCH / FAMILY TREE - This Special Interest Group will meet **Monday January 13th (the second Monday) at 1 pm at the Family ►**

History Center on Stone Valley Road. The theme topic for this meeting will be "*What's New?*" Bill George is the coordinator and contact person for this group. You may contact him via e-mail williamcgeorge@Gmail.com



PUBLISHING – The publishing group will meet **Thursday January 16th at 10:00 am at the home of Frances Lloyd** in Danville.

This Group invites you to monthly meetings where you will learn the ins and outs of publishing your family History. 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 that they plan to attend. Please contact Francie via e-mail, frances_lloyd@comcast.net or phone 837-9382.



ROOTS MAGIC - Please note that this group will **Not** meet in January. Look forward to a meeting on the third Monday of February at 1pm, at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road. RootsMagic is a full-featured genealogy program. There is also a free companion RootsMagic program for smartphones. Roots Magic Essentials is a free version of RootsMagic (with some functions) that you might download from their web site, <http://rootsmagic.com>. The program is \$29 and the optional user guide is \$15. Gayle Curry is the coordinator of our RootsMagic group. You may contact her via e-mail bandmcurry@comcast.net.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet **Wednesday January 22nd (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 am., at the home of Vern Segelke** in Danville. The coordinator for this group is Helen Odegard. Please contact Helen if you plan to join the group. **You may contact her via e-mail, odegardsh@gmail.com** or phone 932-6796 for more information.



LEGACY SOFTWARE – This is a genealogy software users group. This group will meet **Monday January 27th (Fourth Monday) from 1-3 pm at the** ►

Family History Center on Stone Valley Road in Alamo. They will be having a workshop. A workshop, with Questions & Answers on Legacy 8.?. They will be working their way through some of the new "stuff" on Legacy, after checking out the January 3rd webinar with all the updates. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Sharon Clay with an e-mail to sharonclay@comcast.net, or phone 462-4518. ■

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 9 January Thursday 7 pm** The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society holds their regular meetings on the second Thursday at the LDS Building, 1350 Alberta Way in Concord. Diane Longshore DeGolea will make a presentation about her family research. Their February meeting will be a workshop.
- 14 January Tuesday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogical society will hold one of its regular meetings at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Their web address is: <http://www.l-ags.org> Janice Sellers will speak about Online Newspapers
- 17 January Friday 1:15 to 3 pm** The Mount Diablo Genealogical Society will hold one of its regular meetings at the Creekside Clubhouse meeting room #3 in Rossmore. They meet on the third Friday of each month. The January speaker will be Debbie Shields, past president of the Santa Clara Genealogical and Historical Society. Her topic will be "Getting Organized." Her talk will include various methods of organizing your files, whether they are folders of papers or computer file folders.
- 18 January Saturday 10:30 am** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will hold a regular member meeting at the Grace Lutheran Church Hall, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo. "Genealogy Beyond the Y-Chromo- ►

some” will be the subject of a presentation by Steve Morse. For more information go to <http://www.smcgs.org>.

28 January Tuesday 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
The Sacramento German Genealogy Society will hold one of its regular meetings at - St. Mark's United Methodist Church, at Lusk Drive and St. Mark's Way in Sacramento. Warren Bittner will speak about “*The A B C's of Reading German.*” You may also visit their web site at www.sacgergersoc.org

5 April Saturday The Sacramento Genealogy Society (Root Cellar) will sponsor a spring seminar. Geoff Rasmussen will be the featured speaker. The theme topic will be Legacy Family Tree Genealogy Software and Webinars. Visit <http://www.rootcellar.org/tokeepposted>.

26 April Saturday The Sonoma County Genealogy will sponsor a spring seminar featuring Donna Moughty. Visit <http://www.scgsonline.org> to keep posted. ■

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

As always there are a number of educational opportunities to choose from this month. Many future conference agendas are also announced in January. So, it is the perfect month to choose our annual goals, polish our skills, and then select those activities that best support our research.

 The California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org:

- CGS starts the month on Sat. Jan. 4th with its **Introduction to Genealogy** class from 1-3. Please register on line for this class that is offered monthly. The Feb. class will meet on Sat. Feb. 1st from 1 -3.
- On Sat., Jan. 18th the **San Francisco SIG** will meet from 10 – 11:30.
- On Tues., Jan. 21st the **Roots Magic SIG** will meet from 6:30 -8:30. ►



The Oakland Family Search Library (FSL) <https://familysearch.org> is offering numerous educational opportunities in January:

- The FHL begins the new year with a hands on **Introduction to Roots Magic** class on Sat., Jan. 4th at 2. The class will also be offered on Tues., Jan. 14th at 10:30, and on Fri., Jan. 17th at 2.
- On Tues., Jan 7th there will be a class on **Introduction to Personal Ancestral File** at 10:30. On Sat., Feb. 1st the FHL is offering **Documenting Research in Personal Ancestral File** at 10:30.
- Our Bill George will lead the monthly **Mac Users Workshop** on Wed., Jan. 8th at 7 and the **Mac Gen. Group** meeting on Jan. 25th at 1:30.
- On Wed., Jan. 15th at 7p there will be a class entitled **Family Search/Family Tree – What you need to know.**
- On Tues., Jan. 21st a class on **Beginning Evernote – Digital Organization of Research** will be held at 7 pm.
- On Thur. Jan. 22nd the monthly workshop on **African American Research** will take place at 6p.
- On Sat., Jan. 25th there will be a class on **Documenting Research in Roots Magic** at 1:30.

Please note that FSL and CGS will have a four part **Beginning Genealogy Series** in February. For further information for all upcoming events and to register please check the website. Many classes are listed at <https://familysearch.org/learn>.



A c a l a n e s A d u l t E d . , www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted , will offer two 10-week genealogy classes during their winter quarter. **Genealogy Beginning** will be offered on Wednesdays from 10 – noon from Jan. 8th – Mar. 12th. **Genealogy and Beyond** will meet on Tuesdays from 1 – 3 from Jan. 7th – March 11th. Please check the website for ►

registration fees and location.



As you know there is so much we can learn remotely from our homes. This month is a good time to check the tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and Webinars on your favorite websites. This year the Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS) www.scgsgenealogy.com continues to offer free Webinars.

- The first of the year, **Beyond the Passenger List**, will be on Sat., Jan. 4th at 10 am.
- The second, **Ticked off! What Can the Pre-1850 Census Tell Me?** Will be aired on Wed., Jan. 15th at 6 pm.



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) www.Americanancestors.org has a growing Online Learning Center that offers educational resources for both guest users and NEHGS members. There is access to archived Webinars, online courses, how-to videos, subject guides, and more. Stay tuned for more resources in the coming months! If you have questions or feedback, please contact Online Education Coordinator Ginevra Morse at gmorse@nehgs.org.

Save the Date:

- Rootstech from Feb. 6th - 8th in Salt Lake City. See <https://rootstech.org> for details.
- CGS 14th Annual Salt Lake City Tour from Apr. 6th - 13th.
- Family History Expo in Sacramento from May 2nd - 3rd. See www.fhexpos.com
- Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree from June 6th - 8th.

Time to get started! ■



HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Russ Erickson 925-229-0889
e-mail: president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Lynnet Keihl 925-672-2567

2nd V.P. Program:

Patty Erickson 925-229-0889

3rd V.P. Membership:

Ed Mason 925-838-7848

Recording Secretary:

Mary Tom 925-376-2756

Corresponding Secretary:

Barbara Shapas 925-820-7943

Treasurer: Vern Segelke 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.

Book Review:

Continuing with our occasional review of books from the Society's collection at the Danville Library, here is another submitted by Francie Lloyd.

CHRONICLES OF THE SCOTCH-IRISH SETTLEMENT IN VIRGINIA – EXTRACTED FROM THE ORIGINAL COURT RECORDS OF AUGUSTA COUNTY 1745-1800. Chalkley. GPC.

First published in 1912 by the DAR under the direction of Mary S. Lockwood, Honorary Vice-President General. This is a compilation of notes and abstracts relating to the history of the area of Augusta County and the Scots-Irish immigrants who settled there. The area originally encompassed all of Virginia west of the Blue Ridge, with the exception of the Northern Neck, all of present day West Virginia, part of present day Western Pennsylvania including Pittsburgh, and the land on the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. At times, Pittsburgh was the seat of the County Court.

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

BOOK REVIEW	8
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	4
SRVGS CALENDAR	4
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	4
OTHER EVENTS	5
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
EDUCATION	6
GENEALOGY QUOTES	3
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATE	4

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL