

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305

Diablo, CA 9452/8-8308

President: Patty Erickson

Coord. Editor: Dorothy Baker

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.

3rd Tuesday of the Month

(Except August & December)

Alamo LDS Church

Stone Valley & Smith Rds.-Alamo

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXI No. 6 January - 2006

THIS MONTH - January 17, 2006

"Fleeing From Russia in 1940; The Road To Immigration To The US in 1955"

Irmgard Hess Schlenker was born in Bessarabia, the county of Bender, at that time Rumania. In 1940, Hitler and Stalin made an agreement to give the 90,000 Germans the option to stay, or be relocated in Germany. Most of them left. Her family, after living in camps in the Vienna woods for one year, was relocated in West-Prussia, which is now Poland. In 1945, they fled from the Russians and arrived in West Germany. In 1955, Irmgard immigrated to the United States.

Before immigrating to America, Irmgard lived in Switzerland and attended the University Basel. She holds degrees in Nursing and German. She practiced nursing at the Mercy Hospitals in Sacramento for 34 years, and taught German classes for 25 years at the California State University Sacramento Extension program. She also taught German in Elementary schools within the San Juan Unified School District. Additionally, she has held several German Language and Culture workshops for executives of the Siemens, and Hewlett Packard Corporations, and also participated in German Language Summer Camps. She has led 14 tours as Group Director for teenagers and adults. These tours were mainly to the German speaking countries, but at various times also included the neighboring countries of England, France, and Scandinavia.

At present she is the Director of the STV German School. In cooperation with other members of the Turn Verein, Irmgard has established a Scholarship Trust Fund. This year, they are awarding their second scholarship to Susannah Kitek, to attend the Berchtesgaden Goethe Institute in Germany. She has also served as a member of the Advisory Board of Directors of Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District from 1997, until June 7, '2005, which ended an eight year term.

Irmgard is married and has two sons, a daughter, and three grandchildren. Her main hobby is Genealogy. She loves to travel and has had the opportunity to travel, as a nurse, to Mexico and the Asian countries.

November Meeting

"Research in England - Prior to 1837"

Speaker: Evelyn Bentley

Reported by: Lee Schlenker

Our speaker at the last meeting was Mrs. Evelyn Bentley who has multiple degrees in history as well as teaching this subject at Cal State East Bay. She has been researching for some 20 years starting in the U.S. then in to Canada and over to England looking for her grandfather. She served as a full-time volunteer at the LDS Hyde Park Family History

Center in London, England. She now continues to lecture to various organizations throughout the East Bay. She has published two books. She also helps out at the Oakland Family History Library with her husband

If your ancestor left England before 1840 there will be no record found in England because

passenger records were not required when leaving England. Departure notices were not required. You may find 1600s, 1700s, 1800s indexed in Filby's Passenger and Immigration Lists. These books are found at the Oakland Family History Library. If you find your surname in the original 3 volumes then check in each supplementary volume. He indexed many passenger lists, indenture papers, and a variety of miscellaneous papers.

The most important records for research within the last 150 years are the Census and Civil Registration Records. These are national records of birth, death and marriage certificates. The British census started in 1841, 50 years *after* our U.S. census. So, the 1851 the British census records list all members of household including servants, birth parish and county for each person. If you've found your ancestor, you can now use the birthplace to locate Church Records (which might take you back 200 or 300 years). Learning the county where your ancestor was born is important. Also, Manor Records were records kept by the master of the manor who was the lawgiver, judge and the jury. They began in 1066 and ended about 1900. They can be invaluable.

In the 1500s Henry the VIII led England out of the Catholic Church and by 1538 ordered the minister of each Parish to keep records of baptisms, marriages and deaths. These were called Parish Registers. By 1598 Queen Elizabeth ordered an annual copy of each Parish Register to be sent to the Bishop of the Dioceses and called the Bishop's Transcripts. When searching look at both records (which can be found in Salt Lake City Family History Library). The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers (found in Oakland) lists Parish Registers in the first half of the book and maps in front. Remember: Church Parish didn't always have the same name as the Civil Parish, but Census records usually gave the Church Parish. If you can't find the Parish in Phillimore's book, look at the Gazetteer Book or microfiches to find what parish that locality is in. A man usually married within a 10-mile walking radius. Weddings usually took place in the bride's parish, but their children were usually born and baptized in the groom's parish. If you still have

trouble finding the marriage check Boyd's Marriage Index which covers about 15% of the marriages in English Parish Registers. Parish Records are more readable and complete after 1750.

Other records you might look into are the burial records, baptism records, Bastardy Bonds (were often reported in Parish Records), Poor Relief Records (which were removal orders or workhouse records. Each Parish was responsible for "poor relief" of all born in that parish. 50% of all English people were on "poor relief" at on time or another). Other Parish Records might show Overseers Accounts of the Poor, Quarter Session Reports, Rate Books, Vestry Minutes and Vagrancy Records. Remember: Many women died in child birth so a man might outlive two or three wives and by getting the death of each wife you can tell which child belongs to which mother.

If you still can't find your ancestor within the Church of England Parish perhaps he/she was a non-Conformist (a person of another faith). In 1743 officials formed a central registry for births for Presbyterians, Baptists, and Independents. This is called

Dr. William's Library (which is on film) and covers up to 1837. Methodists didn't separate from the Church of England until about 1799. Prior to 1837 the only Non-Conformist marriages considered legal were those done by the Catholics, the Quakers, Justice of the Peace or by a Church of England minister.

Occupation records of trades people in the larger cities can give you information. One had to apprentice for some years, then serve as a journeyman before becoming a master craftsman. The number of craftsman were limited by Guilds and usually open only to sons of guild members; but, if a son learned a craft directly from his father there may not be a record of apprenticeship.

Some Military Records can be found in Ottawa, Canada - Military C Index, listing any British Regiment serving in North America, including Loyalists, during the Revolution. The Index can be ordered from Salt Lake City LDS. Other military records have been filmed and kept in England at the

Public Records Office at Kew on Ruskin Ave.

If you go to England searching for county records, Hyde Park LDS Family History Center on Exhibition Rd, London has binders for each county regarding information available in that county. But the Society of Genealogists at Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd, London is a good place to start. They have collected transcriptions of Parish Records, Cemetery Records, plus other records from each county. Some Wills, Tax Records, Cemetery Transcriptions, Manor Records, Bastardy Indexes, Newspaper Indexes, and Indexes of Marriages could be found.

Mrs. Bentley gave us her handout which has addresses and phone numbers of many places in London to go to for research. There are Court Records, Probate Records, Land and Property Records, Tax Records, all to be researched. Make sure you have all your pertinent family history before you travel there. Using the Family History Library in advance is probably a great idea. And get a copy of Mrs. Bentley's Research in England handout, it is a very good timeline and guide to researching.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR - JANUARY 2006

- 3 **Tuesday- 10:00 am. The Board Meeting**
was held at the home of Ed Mason in Alamo.
- 17 **Tuesday - 10:00 am. General Meeting**
will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/2 miles. The speaker will be Irmgard Hess Schlenker.

SRVGS CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2006

- 7 **Tuesday- 10:00 am. The Board Meeting**
will be held at the home of a member.
- 21 **Tuesday - 10:00 am. General Meeting**
will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups January/February - 2006

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP (The Master Genealogist) - This is a genealogy software users group for PC's with their focus on the use of The Master Genealogist. Peggy Dearman is the contact person for the group. Phone 837-1621 or e-mail dearman@pacbell.net.

This group will meet Tuesday January 17 after the general meeting at about 12:30 pm. Sherry Titus (shertitus@hotmail.com) will host the January meeting at the Westcliffe Homeowners Clubhouse in Walnut Creek. Please contact Peggy Dearman or Sherry Titus for directions. Bring a bag lunch.

GERMAN - This group regularly has a meeting at someone's home on the fourth Wednesday. On January 25th, they will gather at the home of Marilyn Tanner in Moraga. For further details, the contact person for the group is Fran Schweitzer; phone 935 - 5744 or e-mail franschw@pacbell.net. Please contact the host if you do not plan to attend.

IRISH - This special interest group will meet January 11 and February 8 (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am. at the home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail russpat@comcast.net for further information.

SOUTHERN - This group will meet (the second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 am. On January 10, they will meet at the home of Linda Sada in Danville. On February 14, they plan to meet at the home of Dorothy Stanton in Danville. Members of the group usually receive directions via email. The contact person is Dorothy Stanton, Phone 820-3757 or email dpstant@hotmail.com. New persons interested in attending should contact Dorothy Stanton for information.

INTERNET INTEREST GROUP VIA EMAIL - Interested members communicate and receive email messages via the network established by Jack Johnson, group coordinator. This group does not otherwise get together for meetings on a regular basis. Their purpose is more to alert it's participants to useful genealogical sites on the Web. Receiving a message from someone in this group allows a group member to communicate with ALL group members

by saving a message and sending a reply to ALL. Member Internet/e-mail users may join this group by sending an email request to jackmj@earthlink.net. Please use "SRVGS Internet User" as a subject line.

NEWS VIA EMAIL -

Ed Mason is the coordinator for an additional method to improve the timeliness and frequency of communication by emails. The purpose of this general email is simply a way to extend our group communication ability beyond the monthly newsletter. He keeps an email address list of members. He will distribute messages a minimum of once a month. Members wishing to share news may send it to Ed. If it is deemed appropriate, it will be distributed. Members will always have the option to Opt-Out. Notify Ed Mason at:

edmason@sbcglobal.net

1. If your email address **does not** appear in Handbook, and you wish to receive these messages.
2. If your email address **does** appear in the handbook and you do not wish to receive these notices.
3. If you have some information that you would like to make available to the membership.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

4 February Saturday 8:30 am to 4 pm An all day Irish Genealogy Seminar will feature Nora Hickey from Kinsdale, County Cork of Ireland. It will be held at the United Irish Cultural Society in San Francisco. For reservations and information please contact Sally Warren (415) 435-1038 or saw33@msn.com.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Dorothy Baker 925-427-4883

Email: DJBDorothy@cs.com

Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 925-828-8570

Email: Vmseg3@greaterbaynet.com

Mailing: Lucy Carver 925-837-3146

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

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

President's Message

By Patty Erickson

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. Now all is put away in a careful and organized manner so we can find it next year and it is time to get down to business again.

Business:

We have set up 3 months of short educational sessions for right after our business meetings. We would like to hear from our membership during these short educational sessions but you are being very shy about stepping forward. This will be a good time to share your breakthroughs and successes.

Some of our membership have come up with some excellent ideas for our general meeting programs. You will be hearing from them soon.

It takes 31 people to keep our Genealogical Society functioning smoothly. Nominating time is coming up and we have 3 members of our board who have completed their 2 years in one position.

Change for the February meeting!! Our speaker will probably come before the business meeting and educational session which will come after the break.

Need some Genealogical New Year's Resolutions? Check out the February - 2006 issue of Family Tree magazine-- "365 Ways to Discover Yours Roots" (one for every day) Page 23

Patty Erickson

State Research Guides

Family Tree Magazine

February Issue - 2006

California and Arkansas

Thought for Today

Booker T. Washington

1856-1915

"Lay hold of something that will help you, and then use it to help somebody else."

CONTINUING EDUCATION

As the new year begins, it is time to renew our commitment to genealogy and the many opportunities that are available to us as researchers.

On **TUESDAY, JANUARY 31**, Linda Bailey the Director of the FHC will help us "Find Our Way Around the Library." A two hour class from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon will be held at the FHC in Alamo and will be limited to ten people in attendance. A SIGN UP SHEET will be available at the JANUARY 17th GENERAL MEETING. The following topics will be included:

- *Accessing Athena (the "card" catalog of the Oakland and Danville Family History Centers)
- *Mining the resources of Salt Lake City from our local FHC
- *What the FHC computers can offer in addition to free Ancestry.com.
- *Finding the "forgotten fiche"
- *Using the locality binders and Research guides.
- *An overview of library equipment from fiche readers to digital scanners.

As part of the GENERAL MEETING ON **FEBRUARY 21**, a "mini education class" will be presented by the German Special Interest Group. If you have questions regarding German research, now is the time to ask! Feel free to e-mail Marilyn Tanner (jtanner@nothingbutnet.net) and your questions will be addressed by members of the group on 2/21.

Also of interest are the various classes being offered in our area through ADULT EDUCATION. Be sure to check with the ROSSMOOR COMPUTER CLUB at (925) 256-8537. Several computer classes will begin in January. Seminars on subjects such as "Introduction to Genealogy" and "Writing Life Stories" are planned for March. Schedules may change so it is best to call or stop by their Computer Room for further information. It is located at 1963 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.

Schedules of other Adult Ed programs for our area were not available due to the holiday vacation.

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions or suggestions. (925) 376-1193 or marmal@comcast.net

Marilyn King, Education Coordinator

**NEW ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS
TO THE SRVGS HANDBOOK**

Alpha B. Quincy
1529 Rancho View Drive, Lafayette CA 94549
(925) 935-2582 AlphaQ@aol.com

Lloyd Ramsey
135 Mattos Ct, Danville CA 94506-1140
(925) 964-1695

New Members

Gayle Bone
100 St Alicia Ct., Alamo CA 94507
(925) 820-0903
gtbone@comcast.net

Michael Blackford
815 Winterside Circle, San Ramon, CA 94583
(650) 269-2655
meblackford@comcast.net

Gail Roche Van Wye
15 Stanton Ct., Orinda, CA 94563
(925) 253-1096
gailvww@aol.com SHOULD BE gailrvw@aol.com

Guida & Edmond Thiede
709 Las Barrancas Dr., Danville, CA 94526
(925) 837-0664
eddiegt6528@sbcglobal.net

LATE RENEWAL

Laura Jacoby
1159 River Rock Lane, Danville CA 94526
(925) 820-1129
ljjacoby@comcast.net

Pat Levy
1336 Boulevard Way #208
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
(925) 938-3301
palev46@aol.com

E C. Rodekohr
1009 Phoenix St., Danville, CA 94506

Mary Teicheira
111 Cameo Dr., Danville, CA 94526
(925) 837-2245

Sylvia Landgraf has a new address
sylvia.landgraf@sbcglobal.net

NOT MEMBERS AS OF 11/05

Bryan, Jon (passed away 9/05)
Dreeson, Richard
Escalmilla, Jan (drop)
Hill, Gerald
Kerman, Daphne
LaFortune, Hazelle
Long, Richard (drop)
Lowry, Lee (drop)
MacEachern, John (moved)
MacLay, Marilyn (drop)
Martin, Gerald
Moses, Jeanette
Scott, Christine & Bob (resigned)
Skelton, Nancy
Swindell, Susan (drop)

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President:

Patty Erickson 925-229-0889
Email: russpat@netvista.net

1st V.P.

2nd V.P. Program:

Sandra Burns Marilyn Tanner Bob Dougherty
648-4653 376-6733 556-3302

3rd V.P. Membership:

Ileen Peterson 510-651-7728
Email: ileenpeterson@comcast.net

Recording Secretary: Helen Odegard 925-932-6796

Corresponding Secretary:

Mary Tom 925-376-2756

Treasurer: Ed Mason 925-838-7848

Parliamentarian: Virginia Rood 925-937-8659

Local Church Histories

Ruth Anselm

A source that you may not think of is the local church history. A letter to the church that was probably attended by your ancestor will tell you whether one exists and if any copies are still available, either through the church or in the local historical society archives.

One such find may reveal formerly unknown facts, such as marriages, baptisms, deaths, etc. Through one such find, I found that my grandmother had been married three years before her marriage to my grandfather to a man with a name that was unfamiliar to me.

This had apparently been an unmentionable subject in the family as one cousin had written a very complete and scholarly family history which did not include this fact.

This discovery has opened an entirely new line of search on a family that already had the work done on it (or so I thought). If you don't know the church, contact the local historical society which may be able to help you.

Ancestry Quick Tip Oct. 20th

Help with Property Descriptions

George (Goodrich) Farrell

In tracing ancestors you will frequently find references to property. It may be described in metes (metes) and bounds, or as section, 14 Twp number 20, or SW 1/4 of NE 1/2. What does it all mean and how can you locate the property? There is an excellent website that will take you through the whole procedure. It explains it very clearly. If on the other hand you encounter the word "porciones" (there are other spellings) it is Spanish for portions. This is a term used in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California to describe early Spanish Land grants. In dry country they were often very long and narrow, fronting on a river to give each holder access to water. The website is at:

http://nationalatlas.gov/articles/boundaries/a_plss.html.

Ancestry Quick Tip

October 17th

Things to do in 2006

By Michael John Neill

The end of a year means another one is headed in. With that in mind, this column contains a list of things to do in 2006.

Contact Offline Relatives Recent work on two of my families has reminded me that a significant number of my relatives do not have e-mail or cannot be initially be contacted electronically. As several of these individuals may hold the key to additional generations of ancestry, they will have to be contacted. One of my goals in 2006 is to write letters to these individuals in an attempt to gain family history information. Are there relatives you have not contacted in your search for family history information? Are any of these relatives "offline?" Hesitating to contact them may result in them being permanently unavailable when you "get around to it."

Identify People in Pictures This is something I almost always mention when giving a lecture or a workshop, because I believe it is one thing that almost every genealogist probably needs to do. Even though I have gone through my pictures many times, I still have a few pictures that include people who cannot be identified. My first priority this year is to talk to those individuals who are most likely to know the people in the pictures. And of course, I will write on the cardboard backing of these photographs with a media that is archive safe, not a ball-point pen.

Tie up Loose Ends I have several files, ancestors, and e-mails where a lead or a loose end has been left dangling. Life does get in the way. Before I forget completely or start work on additional projects, I will follow these leads. Who knows, perhaps the answers to my questions will lead to even more information than I expected?

Enter Data There are stacks of copies and documents in my files that have yet to be entered into my computer database. I know there are few people in this situation (grin!). Before I spend hours or days accumulating new information it would be a good idea to incorporate this un-entered data into my computer files. In the case of some of the non-English speaking families I was working on, I have actually wasted time by not entering the data shortly after I

obtained it. While working with the Swedish and Belgian records discussed in some of this year's earlier columns, I became reasonably adept at translating simple church records. I have lost that skill in the interim and will have to re-learn before entering the information into my database. Wasted time is lost time and we never get it back.

Write a Biography While I have long known that this is an excellent organizational tool and a great way to share and preserve information, I have been lax in composing biographical information on my ancestors. To create less work and less confusion, the first biography will be for an ancestor I'm already working on. Starting an additional project will only mean one more thing that does not get finished!

Learn about the Language Incorrect spellings of names and locations present a significant hindrance to the researcher. This problem is exacerbated when the ancestral family does not speak the language in which the records are written. I think there may be a few cases where I would have better chance of success if I were more familiar with how words were pronounced in the native language of my ancestors, particularly their names and the village or town in which they were born. Foreign language dictionaries and texts are one place to learn this information.

Read More Local and Regional History Learning about the area where an ancestral family lives always offers the researcher insight into the day-to-day lives of our family members. This knowledge also can help to solve difficult research problems. One goal this year is to read and learn more about some of the eras and locations in which my various families lived.

Review Old Problems Regular readers of the *Ancestry Daily News* know that I have a few old problems that have plagued me for years. As 2006 begins, I will look some of these problems. In certain cases it may be a good idea for me to "restart" my work on these lines, beginning from scratch as much as possible. If I have not already done so, I should consider creating chronologies, maps, and timelines for the people and families involved in these problems. I should reread research guides to the locations where these people lived and see if any new materials have been published or developed that

might be applicable to the problem.

Stay Focused Working on too many lines at one time will only confuse me. A better approach is to work on one location or ethnic group at a time. If I decide to focus on my wife's Swedish lineage, I would be better served by doing the Swedish data entry, the Swedish research, the reading about Swedish culture and history, and the learning about Swedish pronunciations at the same time. It can be terribly confusing working on several lines at the same time and the problem is only compounded when the families under study were living in different times in different places and speaking different languages.

Do Something Non-Genealogical There is a world outside of genealogy. Sometimes this world includes our living family members. Reading a non-genealogy book, keeping in touch with other family members, and pursuing non-genealogical activities will make your family history search seem like less of a job and reduce your "genealogy stress level." And the less stressed we are while researching, the more effective and the happier we are. And isn't that what it is all about!

Ancestry Daily News 12/29/2004 - [Archive](#)

Michael John Neill is the Course I Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) held annually in Springfield, Illinois, and is also on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois. Copyright 2004, MyFamily.com.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL