SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-8308
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. XXII No. 10 April – 2007

THIS MONTH – April 17, 2007"

" Preserving Family History - An Archivist's Perspective"

MAxine Trost is an Archivest at the Lawrence Livermore Lab. Maxine studied History and Archival Management at New York University and holds a Masters Degree in history from that university. She worked as an archivist at the New York Public Library, the University of Wyoming, and the Massachusetts State Archives and currently is Laboratory Archivist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Maxine has presented numerous workshops and papers on archival theory and practice and has taught archival management at the University of Wyoming and University of Connecticut. "

MARCH MEETING

"My Father's Box Gave Me the Key"

Speaker: Claudia Mortensen Reported by: Lee Schlenker

Claudia Mortensen was our speaker for this month. The former owner of an interior design company (CAM Design) is also a member of long standing in our Society. This enthusiastic octogenarian spoke about finding a 1920s newspaper clipping in a trunk which belonged to her father, Capt. Oren J. Rose.

This article started her really searching for more information about her mother, Sonya Zarlova. Claudia's mother told her very little how things actually were in Russia. She only told little bits and pieces. Sonya Zarlova's father was a Count in Russia. They lived next door to the gentleman who ended up writing the book Lolita which was later made into a movie. The huge ceiling to floor front doors of the Zarlova's residence had large lions heads carved in it. When the Bolsheviks started on their rampage murdering prominent people they flung open the Zarlova's front doors and rode their horses right into the foyer. Some of her relatives were killed and, as Sonya was a student activist, she went underground after this attack to help the cause.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., Oren J. Rose was attending school and accidentally got a girl pregnant, married her and then, not being able to cope, decided to flee to Canada and joined the Royal Air Force. After the war he flew into northern Russia trying to rescue the Czar but couldn't. At a prestigious ball he spotted Sonya Zarlova and immediately fell in love with her. She was still receiving underground information and was captured and imprisoned. When Oren heard that she had been captured, he and a friend managed to get Sonya out of prison, take her over the wall and into his waiting plane which flew to a British Air Base. She was then put onto a British transport. Claudia couldn't figure out why her mother's papers read her description to be 5'7" and blond when she was shorter than that and with dark hair. Sonya didn't come through Ellis Island because she had first class passage. People in first class had priority and docked in New York rather than having

to go through the Ellis Island portion. Oren and Sonya were married. In1922 Claudia was born.

Living in the Los Angeles area was great fun for Claudia with movie stars and famous people - until the 1929 "crash." Her father owned many car dealerships in the L.A. area and the "crash" took him under. One day he packed his bags, loaded the car and took off leaving Sonya and Claudia behind.

To help with an income Claudia's mother had learned to produce her own homemade cosmetics and upon the urging of neighbors she started a cosmetic line which mushroomed in Beverly Hills! It afforded Claudia good schools to attend, a good college and on to the Cordon Bleu in Paris. Claudia speaks both Russian (her mother insisted on it) and French.

With all this said, there was a continuing parallel to this story: Claudia met her first husband while in school. Raymond Lawrence Adair was studying to be a lawyer. With WWII licking at his heels, he decided not to be a foot soldier and went to Canada to join the Royal Flying Corps. He became a B-17 pilot, was shot down over the Aleutian Islands - lost in the Bering Sea.

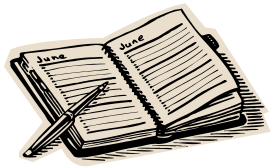
Claudia became a widow after three months of marriage at the sweet age of 19. She went into a mild depression and sought out her father - finding him once again a pilot. He asked her to come visit him. The trip helped her immensely.

But for years after she could never find out any information on her husbands death at sea - it was classified. Many years later she went on the internet and found a book on this Alaskan episode. After reading the book she called the author who directed her to an information office in Alaska. Upon calling she was told 1 out of 3 planes had gone down in the Bering Sea - her husbands was one of them. There was a memorial erected to the men killed in the area just outside the information door. She also learned that there was a memorial to all men lost in WWII located in Honolulu, Hawaii. So she was able to bring closure to another portion of her life.

Claudia remarried a military man by the name of Mortensen (now deceased), which she met at a military function. They had two great sons. Pictures of both husbands hang in her home with equal respect.

Last year Claudia's son gave her a first class trip to Russia so she could seek out more information on her mother. While getting her check-up before leaving on this trip, her heart showed an irregularity. The doctor said she couldn't travel until it was checked out thoroughly. She had to cancel this trip. And, wouldn't you know, after the trip was cancelled her heart turned out to be just fine and healthy with the problem being the machines fault and not Claudia's.

Soon after this, Claudia learned that a choir director from the LDS Church was going to Russia with her group to perform. Claudia asked if she could take a side trip while there in Russia and take pictures of her mother's home and the surroundings. This director was able to locate and photograph Sonya's childhood home, the street and surroundings. The huge doors with carved lions heads were still standing and well kept. This gave Claudia a good feeling that maybe she was not destine to see Russia. That there are mysteries that shouldn't be overturned or looked into too carefully at this point in her life. She's happy and content to leave things as they are.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR APRIL 2007

3 Tuesday – 10:00 am. The Board Meeting was held at the home of Virginia Rood in Walnut Creek.

17 Tuesday – 10:00 am. The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

SRVGS CALENDAR MAY 2007

1 Tuesday – 10:00 am. The Board Meeting is scheduled to be held at the home of Kathy Javdani in Danville.

15 Tuesday – 10:00 am. The 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.

Speaker: Colleen Huntley – "California Genealogical Society - New Location"

SRVGS Special Interest Groups APRIL 2007

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. This group will meet Tuesday April 17th, after the general meeting at about 12:30 pm. at the home of Barbara Johnson in Danville. Bring a bag lunch. Peggy Dearman is the contact person for the group. Phone 837-1621 or e-mail pdearman@earthlink.net.

GERMAN – On Wednesday April 25th (the fourth Wednesday) the German Group will meet at 10 am at the home of Barbara Johnson in Danville. Fran Schweitzer is the contact person for the group; Phone 935–5744 or e-mail franschw@pacbell.net. Please contact Fran Schweitzer for further details or to let it be known that you do not plan to attend.

IRISH – This special interest group will meet April 11th (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 April 10th (the second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 am. at the home of Dorothy Humpal in Danville. The May meeting, May 8, will be at the home of Dorothy Stanton in Danville. 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 address 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 current 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. A reasonable number of members have chosen to receive their newsletter by email. The email edition even has added color. Ed 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

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

14 April Saturday 10:30 am

The San Mateo Genealogy Society will have one of its regular meetings at the Peninsula Community Foundation, 1700 South El Camino in San Mateo. Marcia Murray Holstrom, Geographer and Genealogist, will speak about Maps in Genealogy.

17 April Tuesday 7 pm

The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will have one of its regular meetings at the City Library, 2635 Homestead in Santa Clara. Sharon Pope will speak about "United Daughters of the Confederacy" and Daughters of Union Veterans of The Civil War.

21 April Saturday

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society and the Livermore LDS Church will sponsor a free Genealogical seminar at the LDS Church, 950 Mocho Street in Livermore. The featured speakers will be the well known Stephen Morse and Susan G Johnson. One of Stephen's presentations will of course be his "one-step web pages". Susan is a graduate of Yale with a degree in physics, is a member L-AGS, has completed noteworthy genealogical courses and is teaching genealogical classes at Las Positas College. Her presentations will be about "Adventures in Source Citations."

Go to http://www.l-ags.org/seminar/ for registration details. Although the seminar is free, all attendees must pre-register. You may register online. If you would like a sack lunch for $4.50, LAGS must receive payment by April 13. Otherwise, April 19 is the deadline for registration.

28 April Saturday 9am to 4 pm

The Sonoma County Genealogical Society will sponsor an all day Seminar in Santa Rosa featuring John Phillip Colletta. The location will be the Center for The Arts off Highway 101 at River Road.
The topics in order of presentation will be:
A. Breaking Through Brick Walls: Use Your HEAD!
B. Using Original and Derivative Sources: How to Evaluate Evidence
C. Hacks and Hookers and Putting Up Pickles: Snares of Yesteryear's English
D. Using Newspapers for Family History Research
You can pre-register with Audrey Phillips for a fee of $ 25 or it will be $ 30 at the door. Go to http://www.rootsweb.com/~casgs/colletta2.htm for further details.

28 April Saturday 9am to 4 pm

The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will sponsor a Seminar at the Carmichael Park Community Center, 5750 Grant Avenue in Sacramento. John T Humphrey will be the presenter. John is president of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society, vice-president of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, and a past vice president of the Pennsylvania Chapter of Palatines to America. He has worked in archives, libraries and record repositories throughout southeastern Pennsylvania, Germany, Washington DC, and Salt Lake City.
John's topics will be:
· With Genealogical Research, Obstacles Abound, But They Can Be Surmounted.
· Developing the Skills to Become Proficient in Exploring German Family History.
· Using Church Records in Germany and the United States to Climb Your Family Tree
· Exploring Other Resources - Such as Newspapers, Ortssippenbücher, and Ahnentafeln
Pre-registration fees must be received by April 20. $30 for SGGS members and $40 for non-members. For more information about how to register and possibly order an optional lunch, go to their web site: http://www.sacgergensoc.org/spring_workshop.htm or contact Milt Kelly via e-mail at Mekelly4143@comcast.net, or Chuck Knuthson via e-mail at cknuthson@surewest.net

President's Message
By Patty Erickson

Thank you to the 33 members who responded to the survey at our February meeting. We appreciate your ideas and suggestions.

I am pleased you want to resume library trips even if it is only 3 or so times per year. With a new library coordinator these trips will be possible. what extraneous verbiage we can eliminate from each meeting.

Regarding monthly speakers: Our program committee works extremely hard to find each monthly speaker. Not every speaker is going to peak the interest of every member. However, I feel we can learn something from every speaker. If we are over-looking a topic or an area or speaker you would like to hear about, please contact the Program committee.

Membership has added a new person to its roster. Beginning in June, Sandra Burns will be the "Welcomer" for new members. She will take them in hand and introduce them to what our society does and give them the feeling of being comfortable and belonging to our society.

All Board members and Chairpersons are available to you, if not always in person, by phone or email. Please contact us with your concerns and ideas. Please feel free to speak out!

Slate of Officers For 2007-2008

The Nominating Committee would like to present the following people to lead the SRVGS for the year 2007-2008. Elections will be held in May Officers take their positions in June.

President	Ed Mason
1st Vice President	Barbara Dittig
2nd Vice President	Kathy Javdani, Clarice Hart & Lisa Cooke
Recording Secretary	Carol Huvane
Corresponding Secretary	Vern Segelke
Treasurer	Ileen Peterson
Parliamentarian	Virginia Rood

News from the Danville Family History Center

ancestry.com: As you may have heard, the full ancestry.com subscriptions will no longer be available at any of the family history centers under the present "free" status as of April 1st, 2007. However, the following databases will continue to be accessible: 1. Index and images for the 1880, 1900 and 1920 U.S. censuses 2. Full name indices for the British 1841-1891 censuses (England and Wales) 3. World War I draft cards indices as created, and miscellaneous other databases.

The LDS World Wide Support stated: "Free access to online databases is important. We therefore intend to add many new databases to FamilySearch.org (the website of the Mormon Family History Library). Much of the data preparation will be accomplished through the online indexing program available at FamilySearchIndexing.org. We encourage you to visit the website to learn more. Volunteers have already begun indexing the 1900 U.S. census and other projects. Other censuses and vital record collections will be indexed as soon as the 1900 U.S. census project is completed. The more volunteers that participate, the sooner access can be provided. Since access to databases on FamilySearch.org is free to all, we anticipate that this will be of great interest to individuals around the world. We are also exploring opportunities to provide broader access to additional databases from other online service providers."

I'd like to thank our very own SRVGS members who are already helping out with this indexing program. You are greatly appreciated!

Nova Scotia Vital Records: Early vital records are viewable over the Internet for the first time and for free, thanks to a joint project by the Genealogical Society of Utah, FamilySearch, and the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management (NSARM). The records include one million names found in birth records from 1864 to 1877, marriages from 1864 to 1930, and death records from 1864 to 1877 and 1908 to 1955. Users can search the database at www.novascotiagenealogy.com.

Linda Bailey
Danville FHC Director

Alamo Family History Center
2949 Stone Valley Road
Alamo, California 94526
Phone: (925)552-5920
Hours open: M,W,Th, 10AM - 4 PM and Tuesdays, 7PM - 9PM

LIBRARY TRIPS

Gail Roche Van Wye is now our Library Trip coordinator. Rather than having them on a monthly schedule, she will either suggest trips or they can be requested by the members. Here is her message about the first planned trip:

To get started and to keep it simple I have decided to have the first Library trip be to our own Contra Costa Library Genealogy Room on Monday, April 23 from 1 to 3 PM. It is a good idea to know what is available in our own back yard. The address is: 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. I will have a signup sheet at the April meeting the week before. Or, if you want to let me know in advance, you can email me at GailRVW@aol.com .Since it is close by I suspect most participants will want to come independently but will also have a carpool sheet if needed. I will personally be going directly to Pleasant Hill.

There will be a brief orientation at about 1:15 PM by a docent. The rest of the time will be available for exploration and research. There is limited computer access at this site. This will be more for familiarization with on site resources.

Info about their collection-from the CCC Library Website.

The Heritage Collection

The Heritage Collection is made up of genealogical resources donated to the Pleasant Hill Library's Genealogy Section. All Heritage Collection materials are included in the Library Catalog <http://cweb.ccclib.org/cgi-bin/cw_cgi?5500+CONFIGcw.ini+useDatabase_2100_W_genealogy%20but%20not%20felectronicbook_%5EPHL___:1+6> .

The emphasis is on American genealogy.
Materials include:
General genealogical reference (e.g. "how to" source books, atlases, gazetteers)
- State genealogical <http://cweb.ccclib.org/cgi-bin/cw_cgi?5500+CONFIGcw.ini+useDatabase_2100_W_genealogy%20california> reference (e.g. vital records directories, census)
- Family histories
- War and pension lists for participants of wars
- Immigration and migration (e.g. passenger lists, etc.)
- Patriotic and heritage organizations (e.g. Mayflower descendants)
- Church records, cemeteries, mortuaries
- Records of wills and abstracts of records of wills, marriages, etc.
- Ethnic and cultural genealogy (e.g. England, Scotland, Ireland, Europe, Germany, Native American, African American, Canada, Huguenot, Heraldry)
- California 1890 Great Register of Voters Index <http://cweb.ccclib.org/cgi-bin/cw_cgi?5500+CONFIGcw.ini+useDatabase_2100_W_california%20great%20register> - 3 volume set compiled by the California State Genealogical Alliance. Names, birthplace, age, residence, county, registration date, and naturalization information for those registered to vote in 1890.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Dorothy Baker 925-952-9691
Email: DJDorothy@comcast.net
Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 925-828-8570
Email: 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.

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

We would like to thank Bob Dougherty for all his work on creating, presenting and evaluating the survey. You have given the Board some great ideas. They are working on them. They were very helpful.

We also would like to thank **you,** the members for all your comments. For what **IS** SRVGS without you, our members?

SRVGS Website

While we are thanking people, lets add Ed Mason and Bob Venter to the list for the excellent job they are doing on our very own SRVGS Website. Great work guys!

It now contains:

1. List of our future speakers.
2. All Newsletters since June, 2006. New posting will have a two month delay
3. Hot links enabling you to send emails to Officers, committee, SIG leaders
4. Hot links which open the websites for area libraries with holding of genealogical interest.
5. Downloadable lists of the holdings of our media library and of the genealogy books at the Danville library.

Visit: http://srvgensoc.org/index.html or Google: San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Remember me?

Hello,

Having been away from California for many years (living in Massachusetts and Florida) my husband and I have recently returned to the Golden State. We are now living at Spring Lake Village, a Lifecare residence in Santa Rosa. I am writing to ask that you update both my mailing and my E-mail address.

Jean Blackmur
5555 Montgomery Drive, K-2
Santa Rosa, CA 95409
E-mail jeanarn@aol.com

I was one of the original members of the SRVGS and though I do not expect to attend meetings, I always enjoy reading the Newsletter. Since it is easier for the Society to send it as E-mail, I shall look forward to receiving it on the Internet. Thank you, Jean

Welcome to our New Member
Sharon Brechtel

A Word from the Newsletter Editor

Those of you who are receiving the SRVGS Newsletter by mail must have thought it was a little strange that you hadn't been informed that a new President was elected plus the Newsletter had a new Editor. Well, this is not the case. Patty Erickson is still the President until June. I am fortunately or unfortunately still the Editor of the Newsletter.

I have to do two first pages for the Newsletter each month now that we are sending it to some of our members by Email. So last month, I did the color version correctly. BUT when I switch to the black and white, I put the wrong copy into the printer. I didn't realize that it read:
President: Frances Lloyd and Editor: Sharon Clay. Sorry…… Thanks, Lee for bring that to my attention. I would have probably done the same thing again this month.

Dorothy Baker

P.S. Comments about the Newsletter are greatly appreciated – Pro or Con. Email me.
DJDorothy@comcast.net

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President:
Patty Erickson 925-229-0889
Email: russpat@comcast.net
1st V.P.
Barbara Dittig 925-648-9364
2nd V.P. Program:
Bob Doughtery 925-556-3302
Kathy Javdani 925-736-5464
3rd V.P. Membership:
Ileen Peterson 510-651-7728
Email: ileenpeterson@comcast.net
Recording Secretary: Carol Huvane 925-947-5669
Corresponding Secretary:
Sandra Burns 925-648-4653
Treasurer: Ed Mason 925-838-7848
Parliamentarian: Virginia Rood 925-937-8659

State Records: The Other Censuses

You're familiar with the federal census records. Taken every ten years, they provide a major source of information for tracking your ancestors. But are you familiar with state census records and the information they have to offer?

WHAT ARE THEY?

State censuses were often taken between the federal censuses, falling on years that ended with a "5": 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935, 1945. States took census records for different reasons than the government did. They were taken to determine military strength, figure out where more schools were needed, discover how finances were distributed throughout communities, and gain statistics for urban planning,.

The information contained in a state census differs depending on the reason the state conducted the census. Some contain scanty information, like head of household only; others contain more.

THE PROS

State census records are useful because they can confirm information found in federal census records. They can also fill in gaps. For example, most of the 1890 federal census was destroyed by a fire in the United States Commerce Department in 1921. State census records taken in 1885 and 1895 can help make up for this loss. State census records may also contain information not included in the federal census for the same area.

THE PROOF'S IN THE PUDDING

I decided to use the state census records to see what I could learn about my own family. Since the Kansas State Census Collection, 1855–1915 was recently released and my great-grandmother Margery Kirkton was born in Kansas in 1891, I started my search there.

What I already knew was this. According to the 1880 federal census, Margery's parents, James and Flora Kirkton, were living in Greenwood, Jackson County, Missouri. According to the 1900 federal census, they were living in Canon City, Freemont County, Colorado. Sometime between 1880 and 1891, when Margery was born, they moved from Missouri to Kansas. And sometime between 1891 and 1900 they moved from Kansas to Colorado. Would I find them on any Kansas state census records?

When I entered "James Kirkton" in the Kansas state census search I found my answer: Yes. There they were listed in Garnett, Anderson County, in the

1895 Kansas state census with my great-grandmother Margery listed as a four-year-old toddler.
Now my family timeline for the Kirktons goes like this: 1880, Missouri; 1891, Kansas; *1895, Kansas*; 1900, Colorado. The Kansas state census also gave me one more piece of information I didn't have: James's occupation in 1895. In the 1880 federal census, James is listed as a druggist. In the 1900 federal census, James is listed as a fruit grower. In the 1895 state census, he is listed as a carpenter. Now that's what I call a jack-of-all-trades.

STATE CENSUS RECORDS AT ANCESTRY.COM

To see if a state census record is available for a state you are interested in, go to the Ancestry.com homepage and click the **Search** tab. Click on a state name at the bottom of the page. Under "[State] Historical Records" you will see a list of census records available for that state. Click on "View all Census Records" for a complete list.
Some of the state census records now available on Ancestry.com include the following:

Arizona Territory Census, 1864 Colorado State Census, 1885 Florida State Census, 1885
Iowa State Census, 1895 Kansas State Census Collection, 1855–1915 Michigan State Census, 1894
Wisconsin State Censuses, 1895 and 1905

COMING SOON . . .

If a state census record isn't available for the state you're researching, one may become available in the future. Ancestry.com is currently in the process of indexing state census records for Missouri, New Jersey, Minnesota, North Dakota, Illinois, South Dakota, Colorado, and Florida.
Of special note is the Iowa State Census, 1925, to be released later this month. It is famous for being one of the most comprehensive groups of state census records available. Besides the usual questions, enumerators asked for the place of abode (including house number and street); the number of years the person lived in Iowa; the names of parents (including mother's maiden name); places of birth, age if living, and place of marriage of parents; nine questions about military service; nine questions about occupation; church affiliation; and six questions about real estate. If only all enumerators had been so thorough!

***Jana Lloyd is editor of the* Ancestry Monthly *newsletter*.** Ancestry Daily News 3/8/2007 - **Archive**

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FIRST CLASS MAIL