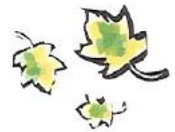




San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

Celebrating 25 Years!

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXV No. 3 September - 2009

THIS MONTH – September 15, 2009

**" Holm Family Cookbook: A Culinary Tale of Danish Tradition
and Western Lore in the Golden State of California"**

Presented by: The Holm Family

Get inspired for creative ways to interest your family in their genealogy, as well as how to write about it. Four members of the Danish Holm Family from the Livermore Valley show us how they involved their large extended family in writing a unique and wonderful cookbook. However, cookbook is but a feeble description. In addition to five generations of mouth watering recipes, this book includes historic images of valley and family using their photos and art work! Check out their easily traversed website to learn much more and read great reviews. www.holmfamilycookbook.com



July Meeting

"The 101 Ranch of Oklahoma"

Speaker: Mary Dillon Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Mary Dillon is a member of our own Society. She presented us with her ancestors' story of a ranch in Oklahoma. She started by giving us background on just who married who in order to end up with this Oklahoma ranch. They came from a Kentucky plantation to Kansas to Oklahoma. It boiled down to two families - the Carsons and the Millers marrying brother, sisters, cousins from both sides. George W. Carson, Sr., who had fought for the Confederacy in Kentucky, had married Molly, but couldn't keep that plantation going after the war. So he moved to Missouri, stayed for 10 years raising hogs, selling them at a profit in Texas then purchasing and driving cattle into Kansas, selling them at a profit. He knew how to make money. He purchased a 180 mile long parcel in Kansas and then leased additional land from the Ponca

Indians known as the Cherokee Strip - a stretch of land along the Oklahoma panhandle approximately 2.5 miles wide and 276 miles long. The homestead was in Winfield, Oklahoma. G.W. was out riding the fence-line, got caught in a torrential downpour, returned to their sod house, succumbed to pneumonia and died 2 days later. His three sons took up the handling of the ranch: Zack, who was a mule skinner (and always up for making money); George, Jr. who was the financier of the ranch; Joe was the agricultural genius. Being diverse, they all worked well together.

The first house burned down in 1908 and was rebuilt to include every convenience known at that time into the house thus giving it its new name the "White House." In the 1900s this was the largest diversified ranch in Oklahoma ►

raising beef cattle, hogs, poultry, sheep, horses, and mules. They grew wheat, corn, cotton, oats, forage for live stock, orchards and vegetables. (At one time it was the nations leader in agribusiness.) They had their own dairy. In 1905 they ran an article in a paper about a round-up they were putting on in which Geronimo would ride. It drew crowds from all over. Since this seemed to be such a big hit they decided to expand and brought in people such as Tom Mix and Yakima Kanute to perform. Bill Pickett was the first to start bulldogging in his unique way by roping the steer, bringing it down part way then finishing by pulling the steer down by it's lip - in Bills teeth! Still they expanded purchasing exotic animals such as elephants, monkeys, a soda-drinking bear. It also included "freak" people as a side show. So by 1908 they put this Wild West Show on the road. By 1913 they had 3,500 employees at the peak of operations. The ranch became like a little city with its dairy, creamery, café, cold storage, store, laundry, gas station, hotel "Riverside," camp dude ranch (for single men), and they even printed their own currency in 1920. They had as many as 64,000 people come to see their Wild West Show. This show traveled to Europe as well as across the U.S. To travel as a unit it took 30 railcars to transport it all - animals (horses, mules, elephants, monkeys, bears, bison) and people (costume designers, booking agents, maintenance, roustabouts, etc). Joe and Zack both rode in the show.

In 1911 E.W. Marland (a friend) had a notion that there might be oil on the 101 Ranch and got permission to drill. The first few wells were dry. But in 1922 he struck oil and by 1923 the oil had brought \$1.3 million to the family. Marland Refining was established which turned into Marland Oil Co. which became Conoco Oil in the years to follow.

The Wild West Show went to Venice Beach and they were asked to be in a movie. The brothers thought they should form their own movie company and 101 Bison Film Co. was born. They produced "War on the Plain," "Battle of the Red Man," with Tom Mix, Hoot Gibson, Buck Jones, Ken Maynard, Will Rogers, Art Acord and Yakima Kanute playing parts. By 1912 Universal films claimed the 101 Bison film name.

In 1925 they had formed their own base-

ball team in which Tom Mix played.

Then while in London W.W.I broke out and most of their show was confiscated: the wagons, horses, mules whatever the English thought they could use for the war at the time. The Wild West Show people were left to find their way back to the U.S.

Just before the Depression hit Joe died of asphyxiation in a garage while working on a car, George died on an icy road shortly after and Zack could no longer handle the ranch. So the land was parceled off little by little. In 1930 the "White House" was sold for lumber. No descendants were living in Oklahoma anymore.

Mary has joined the 101 Ranch Old Timers Association which was started in 1968 and consisting of men and women who lived, worked or were part of the Wild West Show. This nonprofit group is trying to rebuild this legend and bring back some of the history to Oklahoma. It has been given a place on the National Registry of Historic Places and in 1975 became a National Historical Landmark.

Mary will be returning to the site of the 101 Ranch in Oklahoma in August of this year to revisit it.

More information on the 101 Ranch:

- www.kaycounty.info/101_ranch
- www.101ranchota.com

Books:

- *The 101 Ranch* by Ellsworth Collings and Alma Miller England
- *The Fabulous Empire* by Fred Gipson
- *The Real Wild West, The 101 Ranch and the Creation of the American West* by Michael Wallis (the best of the three books listed)





President's Message

August flew by way to fast! Since we don't have a meeting in August, I promised myself to spend some time doing some significant genealogy research. My goal for the month was: Documenting a Revolutionary War Patriot

If you think you have someone in your family who served in the Revolutionary War, there are records to be found. I first found my ancestor, William Shoemaker listed in *Abstracts of Rev. War Pension Files* and wondered just who qualifies for this pension. A document at the Nat'l Archives stated the following:

"Under the Act of June 7, 1832, the following regulations were adopted:

This law has been construed to extend, as well to the line, as to every branch of the Staff of the Army and to include under the terms "Continental Line," "State troops," "militia," and "volunteers," all persons enlisted, drafted, or who volunteered and who were bound to military service, but not those who were occasionally employed with the army upon civil contracts, such as Clerks to Commissaries and to Store Keepers, & Teamsters, Boatmen, Persons who served on board of private armed vessels are also excluded from the benefits of the law, as well as persons who turned out as patrols, or were engaged in guarding particular places at night, and were not recognized as being in actual military service.

Four general classes of cases are embraced in this law:

- 1. The Regular Troops.*
- 2. The State Troops, Militia, and Volunteers.*
- 3. Persons employed in the Naval Service.*
- 4. Indian Spies.*

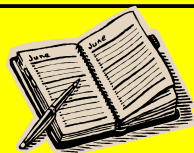
As rolls of the regular troops in the Revolutionary War exist in this Department [War Dept. Pension Office] all persons claiming the benefit of this law as officer, non-commissioned officers, musicians [sic] or privates, will, in the first instance, make application by transmitting the fol-

lowing declaration, which will be made before a Court of Record of the County where such applicant resides. And every Court having by law a seal and Clerk is considered a Court of Record."
From War Department Pension Office

Finding William Shoemaker's complete pension file gave me a great deal of information. Though hand written and very difficult to read, I was able to decipher the following. William Shoemaker applied for his pension 7 Mar 1833 in Fairfield Co, OH. He claims "he was born while crossing from Germany to the now United States sometime in the year 1743 as he believes and understands from a record of the same once in his family but now lost, that he was raised in Sussex Co, in the state of New Jersey where his father settled. In early 1776 he enlisted and entered into the service of the United States as a private to serve for the period of three years.

He states he was in the command of Captain Febloe, a Frenchman and Lieutenant Samuel (unreadable). The company was attached to the 2nd Jersey regiment commanded by Col. -----and the whole under Gen. Wm. Mansfield. They first marched to White Marsh near Philadelphia and thence to Brandywine and fought in the battle there in 1777. Then they marched back to near Germantown and fought there. They marched to the Delaware River with Washington and fought the _____ battle in the state of New Jersey. After serving his three years he agreed to serve for the continuance of the war. He then fought with the main line of the army in most engagements. June 7 -23, 1780 he fought in the battle at Springfield was taken prisoner by the British where he remained in custody for eighteen months. When he was liberated, the war had been terminated and peace restored. The army was disbanded and he returned home after nearly seven years in service to the United States. (from a pension application taken in 1833 when William was 90). William died 5 Feb 1836 in Madison, Fairfield Co, OH and is buried next to his wife Anna Maria in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

This has been a fascinating exercise and the Internet has been an invaluable tool in learning the details of this very important time in our country. Now my work begins to prove that this William Shoemaker is indeed my gggg grandfather. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

September 2009

- 1 Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Rae Atwood in Moraga.
- 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.

October 2009

- 6 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** A Board Meeting will be held at the home of Janet Broderick in Danville.
- 20 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



THE MASTER GENEALOGIST INTEREST GROUP

This is a genealogy software users group for PC's with their focus on the use of The Master Genealogist. This group typically will meet at someone's home after a General meeting. A September meeting location is yet to be announced. Peggy Dearman is the contact person for the group. Phone 837-1621 or e-mail dearmanp@gmail.com



GENEALOGY COMPUTER SOFTWARE USERS GROUP

This is a genealogy software users group for PC's. All member's that are interested in this group, please plan to meet at noon, September 15 after the General meeting. The purpose is to meet with Gail Roche Van Wye for a short period of

time and make future plans for a time and place for the group to meet. Gail Roche Van Wye is the contact person for the group. Phone 253-1096 or e-mail gailrvw@aol.com.



MacGen – MACINTOSH GENEALOGY GROUP

This group specializes in uses of the Macintosh by Genealogists. Meet Mac Genealogy enthusiasts from all over Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. They have a Mac topic, a Reunion Lineage program topic plus questions and answers at each meeting. The MacGen Group will meet twice in September. On **Wed. September 16, at 7:30 pm** we will have a workshop in which Macintosh and Reunion attendee questions and problems are addressed. On **Saturday, September 26th at 1:30 pm** we will hold our 4th Saturday-of-the-month meeting and the topic will be "Using Photos in Reunion". Reunion allows photos to be edited and used to enhance many kinds of charts, reports and slide shows. Please refer to the MacGen web site at <http://www.macgen.org>. Bill George is the contact person for this group. Phone: (510) 538-2449 or e-mail williamcgeorge@Gmail.com. Organizers of the MacGen group are Bill George, Ed Mason, and Rich Peterson. We meet at the Oakland Regional Family History Center on the 4th Saturday of each month (except December).



GERMAN – The German Group will meet Wednesday, September 30th at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek.

This gathering will be their annual Oktoberfest luncheon. After a short meeting at 11 am, they will enjoy German food. They typically meet on the fourth Wednesday. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Helen Odegard. Helen Odegard is the contact person for this group. For more information, please contact her at 932-6796 or e-mail: shodegard@aol.com.



IRISH – This special interest group will meet September 9th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am. at the home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill.

Patty Erickson is the contact person for the group. Phone (925) 229-0889 e-mail: russpat@comcast.net ►



SOUTHERN – The Southern Interest Group will meet at 10 am on September 10th and October 8th (the Second Thursday of the month) at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. 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.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 8 September Tuesday 7:30 pm**
The Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society will have one of its regular meetings at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Ron Arons is scheduled to speak. For more information about the speaker, visit his web site; <http://www.ronarons.com>
- 15 September Tuesday 7 p.m.**
The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society City will hold a regular meeting at the Santa Clara City Library at 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. Rachael Campbell of the Daughters of Union Veterans Lineage Society will speak about how she helps persons document their descent from Civil War veterans.
- 16 September Wednesday 7:30 p.m.**
The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, 1700 South El Camino Real in San Mateo. This is near Highway 92. Topic: Born Irish; presented by Cath Trindle.
- 22 September Tuesday 1 to 3 pm**
The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Lusk Drive and St. Marks Way in Sacramento. "The Helpers Role in German Research" will be the subject of a presentation by Leland Meitzler. Leland is the Managing Editor of the new publication, "Everton's Genealogical Helper."

- 24 September Thursday 10:30 am**
In celebration of October Family History Month, the Oakland Regional Family History Center (ORFHC) and the California Genealogical Society (CGS) are offering an encore **Beginning Genealogy Research Series**. Four classes will be taught on Thursdays at the ORFHC and repeated on Saturdays, at the CGS Library. Enrolled students may attend classes in either or both facilities. Classes start the last week of September. Pre-registration is necessary to insure adequate handouts, though drop-ins will be welcome on a space available basis. Register by telephone (510) 531-3905 or for further details go to <http://www.oaklandfhc.org/> and click on free classes.
- 17 October, Saturday - 8:00 am to 4:30 pm**
The Concord Family History Center will sponsor its annual fall seminar at 3700 Concord Blvd. in Concord. Six class periods will begin at 9:15 am. There is a \$ 25 registration fee which includes a complete syllabus; or a \$ 7 fee for Seminar only. Register prior to September 30 to guarantee a syllabus. Bring your own lunch, only snacks and drinks will be provided. Watch for registration forms at your FHC.
- 23 October, Friday - 9 am to 3:45 pm**
The California Genealogical Society is sponsoring an all day seminar and lunch. Michael J. LeClerc and Christopher Child from New England Historic Genealogical Society will present several talks, including Researching Your New England Ancestors Online, Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 and more. The seminar will be held at the Wedgewood Wedding & Banquet Center at Metro-links Golf Course, 10051 Doolittle Drive, in Oakland. Capping off the day from 6 to 9 pm will be a dinner and presentation entitled, The Lighter Side of Genealogy by Brenton Simons, Ryan Woods, and Jane Lindsey. The registration fee for the day seminar only is \$40 if you register ►

before the end of September. For further details and other week-end activities, view the flier for full event details at <http://calgensoc.org/images/stories/cgs-nehgs-flier-2009.pdf>.

EDUCATION

MEMBER EDUCATION - FALL 2009

 **Thursday, September 17 - 10am** at the Family History Center, Alamo

“EXPLORING IDEAS FOR PUBLISHING”

Frances Lloyd will lead a discussion of ideas and techniques for organizing your family stories and research and getting ready to publish your work. A follow-up session will be held October 15, if there is interest.

 **Tuesday, October 13, 2009 – 10am** at the Family History Center, Alamo.

“FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER”

Janet Broderick will introduce the resources at the Family History Center in Alamo.

Learn about the following topics:

- Accessing Athena (catalog of local Family History Centers) Mining the resources of the Salt Lake City Family History Library
- Computer programs available at our local FHC
- Using locality binders and research outlines
- Fiche readers and digital scanners
- Finding the “forgotten fiche”
- What’s new!

For those interested in attending either or both classes, there will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting or contact Dorothy Stanton <dpstant@hotmail.com>

MORE Educational Opportunities:



From the San Ramon Parks and Community Services

“A Guide to Memoir Writing” is a class designed by SRVGS member Patty Petersen to organize the process of writing a life story. The goal is to produce a limited manuscript, and learn writing skills to develop confidence to finish the project. This class is sponsored, and held in The Alcosta Senior and Community Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. San Ramon, CA. The eight session class begins September 10th and ends October 22nd, Thursdays 10:00 to 11:30 AM. For registration call 925-973-3250, or Fax 925-829-6128. Check out the website at <http://www.ci.sanramon.ca.us>.



The Acalanes Adult Education program at the Del Valle campus (next to Rossmoor) offers two classes on Wednesdays taught by Cat Nielsen.

1. The “Genealogy Basics” class meets 9:30am to 11:30 and covers proper completion of Pedigree Chart and Family Group Sheets; research options using libraries, FHC's, and the internet; keeping track of your research and document sources..

2. The class “Genealogy Research on the Computer” meets 12:30 to 2:30 and is an on-going course for experienced genealogy researchers. It covers learning how to use various software programs and the internet to enhance your family history research and documentation. “Bring your brick walls or great research finds to share.”

The classes start September 16, 2009. Fee \$65 each. Fall and winter class schedules are now online at <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted> or call (925) 280-3980 ext. 8001.



October Is Family History Month

Although the big celebration of the SRVGS 25th Anniversary will take place in May 2010, we will be commemorating the anniversary throughout the club year with various activities. To kick off the club year and encourage all to celebrate Family History Month, you are invited to get in on the fun Saturday, October 10, 2009 at the Danville Certified Farmers' Market from 9 a.m. until 1p.m. If you would like to volunteer to help out for a few hours that day, please call or email Sandra Burns. The San Ramon Valley Genealogy Society table will be encouraging people to find out more about discovering the roots of their family tree, and giving information about membership in our Society.

The Tri-Valley History Council

By: Kathy Javdani

The SRVGS has a number of affiliations with various groups. One local connection of interest is the Tri-Valley History Council,

The council functions as a network serving 14 local history centers, historic sites, libraries, museums and genealogical societies with fields of interest extending from the eastern part of Alameda County to the southeastern part of Contra Costa County, California. Representatives from the various organizations meet four times a year at sites in the area to share information and to address common needs and concerns.

I was lucky enough to attend the August meeting. At the meeting a point of definite interest for our group was presented. **The National Day of Listening this year will be on November 27th**, the day after Thanksgiving. It's one day of the year when most families are together. Everyone is encouraged to visit the website, <http://www.storycorps.org/national-day-of-listening> for suggestions on sharing family oral history. The site is affiliated with NPR and includes a free download of a Do-It-Yourself Instruction Guide. On the site you can also both share and listen to family stories. At the meeting representatives from the Dublin Heritage Center announced that they are doing an oral history project. I'm sure that if you or any of your family has a Dublin connection, they would like to hear from you. You ►

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Barbara Dittig 925-648-9364
e-mail: president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Ileen Peterson 510-651-7728

2nd V.P. Program:
Sherri Hedman 925-275-8123

3rd V.P. Membership:
Ed Mason 925-838-7848

Recording Secretary:
Lisa Cooke 925-831-8537

Corresponding Secretary:
Kathy Javdani 925-736-5464

Treasurer: Gail Roche Van Wye 925-253-1096

Parliamentarian:
Virginia Rood 925-937-8659

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter 925-454-9919
e-mail: rjventer@comcast.net

Calendar Coordinator:
Vern Segelke 925-838-8570
e-mail: v.m.seg3@sbcglobal.net

Mailing: Lucy Carver 925-837-3146

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

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

INDIVIDUAL HELP

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

Want to help someone who is having research problems in your area of knowledge? Call Harry Baggett at 925.837.7960 to have your name added to the SRVGS Individual Help list.

Harry Baggett trvrl@sbcglobal.net

can reach them at 452-2100 or google them.

The representative from the San Ramon Historic Foundation www.srhf.org announced the upcoming Victorian Tea, at the San Ramon Community Center from 1-4 on Sept. 13th. The Tea is to honor Ruth Quayle Boone and celebrate the Foundation's 10th anniversary. Check the foundation's site www.srhf.org or call 828-0586 for more information.

The meeting also included a major discussion on how to go about inventorying and preserving historic local newspapers. Some have already been microfilmed. Should these be digitized and how should the information on original uncopied newspapers be preserved?

Finally a member of the Niles Canyon Railway announced a number of up-coming events. Be sure to check their website, www.rcry.org for further details. Their activities are known to fill-up quickly.

I'm looking forward to attending the next Council meeting in November and sharing more about our local connections.



IN MEMORIAM

Former SRVGS member and resident of Rossmoor, JEANETTE MOSES died 13 August 2009. She was an active member of our Society for many years, serving as the 2nd Vice President (Program) from 1994 to 1996. She is survived by 4 sons, 9 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Jeanette joined the society after the death of her husband Harry in 1986. HARRY MOSES was a charter member of SRVGS, a retired engineer who was a great storyteller. Harry was given the task of presenting a "history" segment each month – enlivening the meeting with tales of his own family and related historical happenings. As we begin our 25th Anniversary year, we remember with gratitude the early members who contributed so much to our society.



**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 305
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FIRST CLASS MAIL