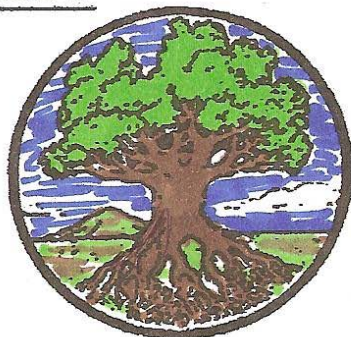


SAN RAMON VALLEY

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. 6 January - 2007

∞ THIS MONTH – January 16, 2007 ∞

”Land and Property Research”

Vera Broyles will be our speaker in January. She has been an active genealogy researcher for over 35 years, and is currently on the staff of the Oakland Family History Center. She has also served in the Sacramento and Orange County Family History Centers. One of her special interest areas is Austria/Hungary. She conducted classes in "European Research" and "Land and Property Research" at the Concord Family History Center Seminar last October. Her presentation will cover Land and Property Research.

∞ NOVEMBER MEETING ∞

“Creating a Family Newsletter”

Speaker: Barbarba Eichel Dittig Reported by Lee Schlenker

Barbara Dittig, our very own past President and member, showed us her example of a family newsletter. She told us how the whole newsletter idea for her “Mock” family started.

Barbara started recording genealogy in the year 1979 “B.C.” (before computers) and then with the Apple 2E computer. She claims it took 15 years to get it just right!

The whole idea started when local California descendants of the Mock family joined at Barbara’s home and decided since there were so many interesting stories about this family to be shared all across the country maybe they should put together an annual newsletter having descendants subscribe to it at a \$10.00 annual fee. The suggestion went out in a letter form and was well received and this family newsletter quickly grew to 175 members. It was also decided to validate each story and any information put into the newsletter. They didn’t want just the facts and only stats, but wanted that particular person to come alive for the reader. So it took seven hard-working people to help put this family newsletter together. The first Mock Newsletter went out July, 1991. And since there seemed to be so many people researching the name Mock, Mauch, Moak, Maught, Mack, Maag, Mauk, or however it might have been spelled, this newsletter went out to 15 libraries such as Fort Wayne and Salt Lake City and places where Barbara knew people where researching the Mocks.

In the beginning Barbara started out using MicroSoft Word but soon found that the Mac PageMaker (for publishing) worked super well and filled 14 pages easily. This program brings input information from headers, volume numbers, dates, page numbers forward onto each page so you never have to retype these pieces of information. So, items such as obituary notices, wills, news stories were printed in the newsletter (but there had to be proof not just hear-say). One time a researcher sent a 1893 Supreme Court publishing regarding a lawsuit - the Mock descendant won the case. And an original passport application was found giving a true description of that person. Another time Barbara received pictures of an Old Mock Whiskey bottle label printed during prohibition. Still another time someone found a very small sampler at the Oakland Museum, CA lent to the museum for Pioneer Days done by a Mock. So, she tries to keep this family newsletter fun, interesting and informative

But one thing has lead to another and they now have “working charts” for family ties as well as an internet website with URLs to help you navigate around the site. They are into the DNA Project, which started in 2002, of the male line of Mocks. One very industrious person purchased an indexing program and has produced a bound book of the Mocks and who is descended from whom and cross referenced. Quite an undertaking!

Each year these descendants have an annual conference in a town or location noted for Mocks just to stimulate more interest in this genealogy line. They have a speaker, engage in story swapping, have a dinner gathering and basically have a good time meeting more Mocks. There are Mock descendants in VA, PA, CA, KY, OH and UT. They have had an annual gathering at the Meeting House in Shenandoah, VA built by a Mock and at a historical Church of the Brethren in Bedford, PA. And each year an award is given to a Mock descendant for “good work well done.”

Lastly, Barbara had to admit to us that the very last Mock Family newsletter will be forthcoming because the internet has taken over and it is faster and quicker and more items can be transmitted. But this small, individual family newsletter sure had legs once it got going and it only spread good, substantiated information far and wide - even internationally!



SRVGS CALENDAR JANUARY - 2007

- 8** Monday – 10:00 am. The Board Meeting was held at the home of Barbara Dittig
- 16** 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.

SRVGS CALENDAR FEBRUARY - 2007

- 6** Tuesday – 10:00 am. The Board Meeting is to be held at the home of Lee Schlenker
- 20** Tuesday – 10:00 am. The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups JANUARY - 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 January 16, after the general meeting at about 12:30 pm. at the home of Peggy Dearman in Danville. Peggy Dearman is the contact person for the group. Phone 837-1621 or e-mail pdearman@earthlink.net. Bring a bag lunch.

GERMAN – On Wednesday January 24th (the fourth Wednesday) the German Group will meet at the home of Marilyn Tanner in Moraga at 10 am. 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 January 10th (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 January 9th (the second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 am. at the home of Nancy Alexander in Danville. They also plan to meet on February 13 at the home of Dorothy Stanton. 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. 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

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

9 January Tuesday - 7:30 pm

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will have its regular meeting at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. "Preserving Your Family History: An Archivist's Perspective" will be the subject of a presentation by Maxine Trost, and archivist at Lawrence Livermore National Lab.

13 February Tuesday - 7:30 pm

Anne Homan, a L-AGS member will make a presentation about her new book, Livermore A to Z

16 January Tuesday - 7 pm

The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will have its regular meeting at the Santa City Public Library, 2635 Homestead Road. Stephen Morse will make a presentation about his One Step Web Pages: A potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools.

Member's New Address

Ardith Steger has moved to:
 950 Diablo Road - Apt 132
 Danville CA 94526



Happy New Year! Since our last newsletter, we have celebrated Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah and the beginning of a new year, 2007. I hope everyone enjoyed each of the special days with joy and happiness.

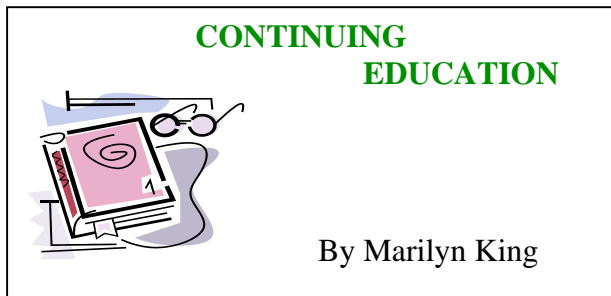
Our November 21st membership meeting was sparsely attended; perhaps too close to Thanksgiving preparations and travel. Those not there missed two excellent and informative speakers plus a life membership award to Virginia Rood.

Our December 5th Cookie Exchange at Francis Lloyd's was very well attended with excellent goodies and conversation.

In January, we will start our Nominating Committee. Please think of how you would like to help our Society. There could be as many as 4 vacancies on the Board this year. Filling our offices is most important to continuing a strong and vital Genealogical Society.

Genealogists are constantly talking about the growth of organizational and technical tools available to increase our family information we collect. However, how many of you are thinking of the safety of your voluminous data? We recently had a house fire in our neighborhood in the middle of the night with the owners out of town. How many of us have given serious thought to preserving our many years of work, and more important, how many of us have actually done something to preserve our family histories in case of catastrophe? Fires, water damage, earthquakes and other disastrous events do occur. We can organize all our histories most precisely, but until we take steps to preserve and safe guard them, all our work could be futile!

Are you making Genealogical New Year resolutions? Don't be so hard on yourself or make so many that you end up keeping none of them. One or two good ones could be reasonably kept throughout the year. How about one resolution to help your Genealogical Society?



Now that we are starting a brand new year, it is the perfect time to sign up for classes to help solve some of those difficult genealogical problems. This might also encourage us to organize our research materials in a more orderly manner!

Several Adult Education centers in our area will be offering classes this next quarter. **Intro to Genealogy** (06-3232 822) will be held at the Rossmoor Computer Club in conjunction with the Acalanes Adult Center. This two hour class is \$10.00 and will be given on *Thursday, February 1 at 10:00 a.m.* Call 280-3984 or www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/adulted for further information.

Also, there will be a **Genealogy Class** (06-5930) for beginning to intermediate students on Wednesday Jan 10- Mar 14 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Del Valle Room A. In addition, a **Genealogy Seminar** (06-5931) Jan 10 - Mar 14 from 10:00 a.m. - noon in Computer Room A. It is designed to address individual research problems. Also being offered is a class in **Master Genealogy** (06-5932) which will introduce students to the Genealogy Software Program. It will be held on Jan 10 - Mar 14 from 3 -5 p.m. You may call the Acalanes Adult Center at 925-280-3980 ext. 8001 for further information. The address is: 1963 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94595. The senior fee is \$20. for a two month session.

Several other Adult Ed programs relating to genealogy and computers are being offered. Check the websites or call to inquire about your area of interest:

Pleasanton Valley Adult Ed
www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted 925 426-4280

Livermore Adult Ed
www.livermoreadulted.org 925 606-4722

Walnut Creek Recreation Division (has class on "Writing Your Memoirs")
www.walnutcreekrec.org 925 943-5858

For further information or clarification, please contact:

Marilyn King
Education Coordinator
(925) 376-1193
Marmal@comcast.net



Virginia Rood was award Life Time Membership in our San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society at the general meeting in November.

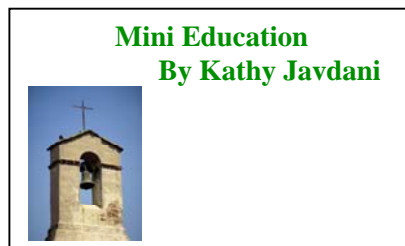
Virginia joined SRVGS in 1989. She served the Society as corresponding secretary from 1990 to 1993. She was our treasure form 1993 to 1995. Again from 2001 to 2003, she served as corresponding secretary. Virginia was our President in 2003 and 2004. She served as parliamentarian from 2004 to 2007.

Virginia is also an active member of her DAR chapter.

She has served and is serving this Society well and is truly worthy of this Life Membership

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 Dougherty	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	



If you have ever wondered what life was like in California prior to the Gold Rush and whatever happened to the families who lived here prior to 1848, then Los Californianos can open fascinating doors for you. You can learn a great deal just by exploring their website (www.loscalifornianos.org) Not only is the section “Map and Index” informative, but also the section “Internet Links” includes three pages of links devoted to early California. Under “Queries” you can have questions that you may have about the early settlers answered on line. This is just the beginning of what is available at their site. Are you interested in Mission Indian life? a glossary of California terms? a genealogy library? a cookbook? Land patents?

Who are Los Californianos? As noted on their website –“ In December 1968, a small group of descendants of Spanish Alta Californians formed Los Californianos in anticipation of the bicentennial year of the discovery of San Francisco Bay in 1769 by the expedition led by Don Gaspar de Portolá. Los Californianos was created for the purpose of preserving the heritage of the early Hispanic Californians in Alta California (also called Californios or Californianos) by conducting research on genealogy and civil, religious, military, social and cultural activities in Alta California in order to provide an accurate and authentic oral, written, and pictorial interpretation of the history of Spanish and Mexican Alta California. To this end, Los Californianos publishes the *Antepasados* periodically and the *Noticias para Los Californianos* quarterly. These publications are free to members. Other services, provided for a nominal fee, include the *Expediente* Program that makes copies of Spanish and Mexican land grants available.”

The organization holds quarterly meetings in January, April, July and October at various locations

in the state. The next meeting in January will be in Salinas. The program will include a presentation by UCSC Professor Lisbeth Haas on the Battle of Natividad. UCSC Professor Julianne Burton-Carvajal will give a dramatic reading of the letters of Jose Castro from 1857-60. In addition, there will be a tour of the Boronda Adobe Complex, a screening of a DVD, along with Californio music and a dance presentation. More information about this meeting is available on the organization’s website.

Membership is open to the descendants of those who were living in California prior to the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on Feb. 2, 1848 (Regular Membership); to historians, authors and scholars (Historian Membership); and to educational institutions, libraries, and historical societies (Corresponding Membership).

California Genealogical Society

The society will be leaving its current library space at 1611 Telegraph Avenue at the end of January. The library will be closed for the month of February while the move takes place. The CGS library will reopen March 1, 2007 in its new location at 2201 Broadway, lower level, Oakland, California.

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Website

Yes, we have a website. Have you visited it? Thanks to Ed Mason, we have our very own website. It is <http://srvgensoc.org/index.html> .

The site contains a wealth of finger tip information. You can learn about our meetings, membership in SRVGS, plus the membership application, our history, contact information of board members, special interest group meeting dates, past newsletters (downloads), and libraries in our area.

Ed has put a lot of time and effort into creating the site. He is continuing to add information to it. We, the SRVGS, thank him.

If you wish to contact Ed about the website, His Email address is: edmason@sbcglobal.net

Golden Opportunity

Stephen P. Morse, whose tools on the [One-Step Web Pages](http://stevemorse.org) (<http://stevemorse.org>) help researchers find ancestors in online genealogy databases, has created a new form for searching the Ellis Island passenger database (<http://ellisland.org>).

The Gold form supplants the Blue and Gray ones (though Morse will keep them available for a short time). The latter forms—as well as the White form, which will stay put—use the EllisIsland.org search engine. The new Gold form uses a different search engine, which Morse says will work faster when you search on name fragments.

Think of the White form as a basic search and the Gold form as an advanced search. Morse recommends starting with the latter and going to the White form if your search is unsuccessful and you need a fresh perspective.

Using the Gold form, you can leave the name fields blank, choose a “sounds like” option for the name and town of origin, search on a traveling companion and marital status, type in a departure port (rather than select it from a drop-down menu), and customize how your results display. The Gold form also uses the Daitch Mokotoff Soundex system, designed to handle Eastern European surnames; whereas the White form uses American Soundex.

Look for tips on using the One-Step Web Pages in the February 2007 *Family Tree Magazine*, (If you do not subscribe to Family Tree Magazine look for it on newsstands Jan. 2.)

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.

Obituaries



Most genealogists are well aware of the importance of finding a death certificate for each ancestor. However, many overlook obituaries as an equally valuable source of information. These items often provide evidence of the individual's marriage, place and date of birth, parents, siblings, and children. Many also give insight into the person's character and the events which shaped his or her life. An obituary may provide a death date and place and the cause of death, where a person was buried (especially helpful if the burial did not occur at the most recent residence), where the individual had previously lived, from what foreign place he or she had emigrated, and when the person arrived in America or at the final residence. While more recent obituaries tend to include more personal information, those of earlier times are sometimes equally extensive and even more important because they may provide such information for periods before vital records were kept.

Because of the value of establishing family connections, obituaries should be sought not only for direct ancestors but also for siblings and children. One obituary may give information which your own ancestor's and other immediate relatives' obituaries do not have. In the case of hard-to-prove lineages, seeking obituaries for other people in the same area with the same surname should not be overlooked as a possible line of research. Information found in obituaries varies widely. Each newspaper had its own policy concerning how much and what kind of information was to be included. In small towns where most people knew each other, a death was often considered highly newsworthy and a lengthy article may have been written, especially if the person was somehow involved in the town's political or social arena. At the same time, the length of the obituary often had more to do with the amount of other news which needed to be included in the small number of pages in the newspaper during the particular week or day. The placement of the article could be at any point in the newspaper where a space remained to be

filled, and the obituary might appear days, weeks, or even a month after the date of death. Larger newspapers generally printed lengthy obituaries only about the area's more prominent people, in part because their families generally paid a fee to extol the deceased person's life.

Information found in obituaries often leads to research in other places. In those cases where a person died through an accident, suicide, or murder, the obituary or article may describe the death as "sudden" and may even mention that an inquest was held, in which case you might find further information in coroners' records. Notice of death at a place of former residence or at the residence of a child may show where to search for death and burial records in a new location, perhaps where an aged person happened to be visiting or even along a travel route. Mention of the deceased person's relatives may enable you to contact them or their present-day descendants so that you can compare and share information on the family.

If you have established the death place of an individual, an obituary should be sought in the immediate area since this is the most likely place for it to have been published. The area may have had many newspapers, some of which have long since ceased publishing. If your ancestor was an immigrant, the obituary might have been printed in an ethnic newspaper. If the individual was active in a religion, you may find the obituary in a church-sponsored newspaper. These smaller newspapers may in fact provide much more information than the larger city newspapers. Each must be searched before concluding that no obituary exists in that area, and you may wish to look in every newspaper anyway, as one version may provide more information than another. Incases where no obituary can be found in the last place of residence, looking in areas where the person's children lived may be successful. The names and present locations of a town's local newspapers are sometimes a challenge to find. County histories and county research outlines can be very helpful. Those newspapers which are still being published are listed in *Gale Directory of Publications and Broadcast Media*, which describes the printing locations and correct titles of newspapers. The predecessor of this directory, the *American*

Newspaper Directory, began publishing in 1869, so many old newspapers can be identified in older issues. Union lists of newspaper files can also help in locating newspapers which have ceased publication. See especially Clarence Brigham's *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820*, Winifred Gregory's *American Newspapers, 1821-1936*, Anita Milner's *Newspaper Indexes: A Location and Subject guide for Researchers*, and the Library of Congress' *Newspapers on Microfilm*. Also see Betty Jarboe's *Obituaries: A Guide to Sources*.

In recent years, some cities and counties have indexed the obituaries in the local newspapers, making a search quite easy. These indexes may be available at your local family history center (a branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Family History Library), a local library, or through correspondence with the county's historical or genealogical society. You may also wish to contact the local genealogical or historical society, as it may know of indexes which have been recently compiled, some of which may still be in private hands but available on request. A few major examples of newspapers with obituary indexes include *The New York Times*, which has a master index that includes the years 1851 to the present and a separate Obituary Index; early Boston newspapers are indexed back to 1704; over 100 Connecticut newspapers are indexed (Hale Collection) up to 1865.

Kathi Sittner describes genealogy as her "pastime and passion." She has been a German teacher and a travel agent, and has been conducting genealogical research for the past twenty years.

Ancestry Magazine
11/1/1995 - [Archive](#)
November/December 1995

Epitaph



**I am ready to meet my Masker
Whether My Maker is prepared for the great
ordeal
Of meeting me is another matter.**

Winston Churchill (1874 – 1965)



Letter to the Funeral Home

Three daughters, first cousins from one branch of my mother's family, had moved away from the town where they all grew up. Other branches of the family had remained in town, but we did not know where. A few years later, one of my cousins sent me a copy of an obituary for the eldest daughter of that family. The obituary was sent to the hometown newspaper by her family in another state. I composed a letter to the daughter and sent it to the funeral home named in the obituary, with a cover letter asking that they forward it to the family. Of course, I provided a postage-paid envelope for their use. A few weeks later, I received a letter from a newly found cousin, establishing contact with that branch of the family once more. Funeral homes can be important resources in your search.

Jeanne Brookman - Ancestry Quick Tip

10/4/1999 - [Archive](#)

Quick Tips may be reprinted, with credit to the submitter



A Self-Made Obituary Form Keeps Documents in Order

When I go to a library to locate obituaries I prefer to make a copy of the obituary and then write the newspaper name and date on the copy. When I get home I type the obituary as it appears (including any errors) in a word document and categorized it into one of several family surname files for quick access later.

However, there are times when obtaining a copy of the obituary is simply impossible because of a lack of reader-printers. In this case, I developed my own form, which makes sure I extract all the information I need from the obituary. I keep a blank form on my computer and make copies as necessary. I don't worry about leaving anything out or waiting for a reader-printer, and wasting time.

Debbi Geer - Ancestry Quick Tip

5/3/2002 - [Archive](#)

San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
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FIRST CLASS MAIL