

SAN RAMON VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305
President: Ed Mason
Coord. Editor: Bob Venter
Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of the Month
(Except August & December)
Danville Family History Center
Stone Valley & Smith Rds., Alamo
<http://srvgensoc.org/index.html>

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIV No. 1 June - 2008



THIS MONTH – June 17, 2008
"Key to Success – The Card Catalog"
Presented by: Virginia Kysh



Virginia will discuss the primary searches made in card catalogs and then visit the different websites live on the Internet. The Sites we will visit include Family History Library, Oakland Regional Family History Center, California State Library—Sutro, California Genealogical Society and Library, Godfrey Library, and any others that members may know about.

Virginia Kysh is currently an assistant director of the Antioch Family History Library. She has been speaker at Seminars and groups locally for about the last 10 years. Family History research began with her mother 40 years ago...the days of the long carriage typewriters and snail mail. (Of course she was very young!) Virginia loves learning and in this ever-advancing process of research she is very happy to read, study, attend seminars/conferences and share any knowledge she may gain. Virginia graduated from BYU with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in Library Science.



May Meeting
"... But A Woman's Work is Never Done:"
Speaker: Alison Douglas Reporter: Lee Schlenker



Alison Douglas posed this question: Why do we need to know what a woman did as "work?" Doesn't sound too complicated, right? Well, depending on the times it may lead you to finding out more about your relatives of long ago. Certain periods of time dictated to how the woman was supposed to act whether single, married, or widowed. Still doesn't sound complicated. But the men seemed to dictate to this for lengthy periods of times as well as the current events happening at that same time. And East coast women were different in occupations than West coast women because of those times.

West coast women were farmers, ranchers,

prospectors wives - the prairie wife. East Coast women were more affluent and, hence, the plantation wife.

A woman was not just a wife and house-keeper. Women's records were found through the men's records in the U.S. Census. You couldn't research a woman/wife without going to find her husband first in the census. In the 1850 Census the enumerator was told *not* to ask a woman's occupation only the man's occupation counted; but in the 1860 Census a column was listed for what the woman did. The 1880-90 Census had a listing for even daughters. When looking at your ancestor in the census if you go down to their last listing

under the name you may find a mother-in-law listed who lived with the family or even the name of servants could be listed. It usually listed husband, wife, children and others living in the house. There could even have been a boarder listed.

Back in 1750 in Baltimore, MD the City Directory was started and you could find listings for women who had professions (e.g. seamstress). By 1880, in Boston, out of 362,839 people there were 38,881 females engaged in an occupation (more than 10%). The large majority of them were doing either domestic service, dressmaker/tailoress, hotel employee, barber/hairdresser or clerk.

When women married they had no legal persona. If they needed to work in the field they needed their father-in-law's permission to work his field. Reputation meant everything to a family. There were few resources for a divorced wife - the *husband* got the children. But, social attitudes started to change: in Colonial times they had more freedom and women were valued much more. Within 100 years that turned around and women were back behind those household chores. The Civil War allowed the attitudes to open up again. By the Victorian times the attitude was back being homebound for the husband, children and home; but a woman with white and unworn hands was considered a "lady" - meaning she had servants and didn't do the menial tasks herself.

In early times girls got a rudimentary education. But by the 1820s boys and girls were educated together. Education was tied to family income. The upper class boys were educated by tutors and the upper class girls were educated by governesses. But still girls were relegated to the house doing cooking, sewing and cleaning and the boys went out to the fields to work. Orphaned, illegitimate and fostered children were taken into apprenticeships. If they went into a "good" home they were treated as a son or daughter. If they went into a "bad" home they were treated as just a servant. The upper class girls were expected to do something active between leaving school and marriage: so many became "spinsters" (which is someone who spins flax, cotton or wool into thread) for a weaver. It took 7 spinsters per 1 weaver to make cloth. Then they found that they could sell the thread if the weaver didn't need all

of it - a "cottage" industry started.

Somehow the gender balance always worked out. Women went to the new world to help their pioneer men. When wars ensued leaving widows on the prairies those women had to survive and they became creative often doing interesting jobs. They earned "pin" money by selling extra butter or eggs which they sold to a middle-man who would take perishables to local farms. This idea finally made it to the cities. The women canned, collected feathers for bedding, sewed military uniforms (which paid well from the government), took in laundry and ironing. These women followed the armies earning monies for their work. Often a widow whose husband had owned the local tavern would take up her husband's business and run it because she could! And she had to in order to earn money. It was respectable to run a boarding house if you had the extra rooms. Usually they were close to the railroad. Boarding houses were usually for single men and traveling immigrants. Urban women started to set up shop - millinery, materials and threads, seamstresses: even traveling seamstresses who would come for a few months and create and sew for the entire family in the country and then move on to the next family. Oh, the ladies were creative! And these professions won women status among the men who needed their expertise.

When the Golden Age came about factories took girls off the farms. There are memoirs written about these times working in the factories. The economy moved into a cash economy. After the war immigration was stepped up, population exploded, and men were needed in the factories. Women started to leave the factories finding jobs as teachers, nursing, secretaries, accounting clerks.

Alison told of one woman whose husband owned the funeral parlor, he died, she took over the business, kept it going until her oldest son could help her run it (adding his name to the marriage), and then her other sons joined her in the business. So, it stayed in the family with the family name, giving the wife the income she needed to raise the boys until they were old enough to take over the funeral parlor. Alison had followed this trail through the city directory.

Don't forget to check christening records,

burial records, tax records, land records, wills and probate, county licenses (e.g. bar or tavern, restaurant). They may hold clues for you.

So, by knowing what your ancestor did as a woman in her time period will give you a better understanding of how tenacious she might have had to be, her goals and personality. You might get a "feel" for your ancestor.

Alison gave us a 10 page handout listing multiple female jobs which you might never had thought of for a woman. Also, a listing of surnames from occupations, along with her massive bibliography list. She had a wealth of information to give us.



President's Message

By Ed Mason

When you read this letter, we will be commencing our 2008-09 fiscal year. It is time for me to review the progress that we made over the last year and thank those that helped to make it happen. However, before I do, I want to stress the importance of an up-coming event, the L-AGS' Genealogy Booth at the Alameda County Fair, from June 20 through July 6. Doing booth duty at the fair is fun, educational and it helps expose our Society to potential new members. It has always been well run, but this year should be better than ever. Among the pluses will be three licenses for Ancestry.com's World Edition. All participants will receive free parking passes. Sign-up for the Fair can be done at <http://www.L-AGS.org/fair>

I play doubles tennis and I always do much better when I have a great partner. Having been your president for one year and looking forward to one more, I can say it has been fun, because I have had **many** great partners. So, I have many people to thank.

Most memorable for me was the day last April or May when Bob Venter approached me at the break and asked if I could use some help with our website. I was struggling and there was no way I could continue as Webmaster and take care of my other duties. Bob not only is doing a great job on our website, but he also volunteered to be the Newsletter Editor. Bob didn't just make my

day, he made my year. Next, I want to thank Barbara Dittig and Lee Schlenker. Barbara was our First Vice President, and Lee the Newsletter Program Reporter. More importantly, they both stepped forward to be our Nominating Committee. I wish that was an easy job, but it isn't. It requires a lot of phone calls and arm-twisting. They did a great job, even if we came up short on the Recording Secretary position.

I want to thank all of those on this year's Board and Committees who provided the experience and mature judgment that they have gained from years of serving our Society in a variety of positions. Without their knowledge and advice I would have been captaining a ship without a rudder. The names that come to mind are: Virginia Rood, our Parliamentarian; Dorothy Stanton, Education Chairperson; Russ & Patty Erickson, Membership; Barbara Dittig, First VP & Nominations.

As Membership Liaison, Sandra Burns took a special interest in bringing in new members and smoothing their introduction to our Society. She and Lisa Cooke initiated an outreach effort by getting our brochures into the hands of prospective members and they have scheduled presentations to groups of prospects. Sandra also scheduled all of our Mini-Ed segments.

The Program Committee: Kathy Javdani, Lisa Cooke and Clarice Hart, did a great job. This is not an easy assignment. It requires a lot of research, record keeping and just plain elbow grease. Thanks to all three of you. Carol Huvane did a wonderful job as our recording secretary, producing accurate and detailed write-ups of both the Board and General meetings. We will miss her, but she is still going to pitch in and help this coming year. Vern Segelke was very conscientious as our Corresponding Secretary and Newsletter Calendar Coordinator. He also ably filled in as Recording Secretary on at least two occasions. Our Treasurer, Ileen Peterson, kept the books accurate and balanced and always provided good input at the Board Meetings. Dorothy Stanton was very conscientious as our Education Coordinator and FGS Delegate. She was also part of the Library Committee, which included Jack Johnson, Frances Lloyd and Ed O'Donnell. The committee met several times this year and spent several years of accumulated funds to restock and update our

shelves at the Danville Library.

Ed O'Donnell took care of our publicity, with an assist from Sandra Burns. Lucy Carver coordinated the printing and mailing of our Newsletter and Pat Denton was our Media Librarian. Gail Roche Van Wye was our Library Trip Coordinator. Peggy Gierke headed up our hospitality, as she has for several years now. Thank you, Peggy, and thank you to everyone who contributed this last year.

I also want to thank those who headed up our various Special Interest Groups.



June 2008

- 3 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Ed Mason in Alamo.
- 17 **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

July 2008

- 1 **Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting will be held.
- 15 **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



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 **not meet** during June or July. Peggy Dearman is the contact person for the group. Phone 837-1621 or e-mail dearmanp@gmail.com.



FAMILY TREE MAKER GROUP

This is a genealogy software users group for PC's with their focus on the use of Family Tree Maker. This group will not meet again until September. The date and time of that meeting will be announced in the September newsletter. Gail Roche Van Wye is the contact person for the group. Phone 253-1096 or e-mail gailrvw@aol.com.



GERMAN – The German Group

will meet June 25th (the fourth Wednesday). They will meet at the home of Barbara Johnson in Danville. 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 June 11th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am. at the home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. **They will not meet during July.** Patty Erickson is the contact person for the group. Phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail:

russpat@comcast.net



SOUTHERN – This group will meet

June 10th (the second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 am., at the Heritage Collection room of the CCC Main Library, 1750 Oak Park Blvd in Pleasant Hill They will not meet during July. 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

- 10 June — Tuesday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. "WPA Depression Era Jobs Turn into Great Gifts for Genealogy" will be the subject of the presentation by Pam Dallas.
- 13 June — Friday 9 am to 1 pm** A workshop will be held at the National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive in San Bruno. "Military Part I" will be the topic. Rose Mary Kennedy will be the instructor. "Military Part II" will be presented on Friday June 27. The registration fee is \$15, payable in advance. Phone (650) 238-3488 or e-mail: rosemary.kennedy@nara.gov
- 24 June — Tuesday 1 pm** The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at Lusk Drive and St. Marks Way in Sacramento. "Locating Places in Germany; Gazetteers as Necessary Tools" will be the subject of a presentation by Kory Meyerink AG, of Utah
- 27-29 June — Friday thru Sunday** The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will be held in Burbank, California. For further information go to: www.scgsgenealogy.com.
- 8 July — Tuesday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will hold a regular meeting at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. "Using Maps for Genealogy" will be the subject of the presentation by Marcia Murray Holstrom.
- 9 July — Wednesday** The California Genealogical Society is sponsoring "A Day of Irish Information" with renowned Nora K Hickey. For more information visit their web site at www.Calgensoc.org.

EDUCATION

Two workshops are being offered by the California Genealogical Society in June and July:



Saturday June 14 10:39am -2:30pm

Research in Denmark, Sweden and Norway at the CGS Library, 2201 Broadway, Ste LL2, Oakland. Specialists: Laura Spurrier (Danish), Pat Smith (Swedish) and Gloria Hanson (Norwegian) will dissect Scandinavian research. Topics will include: border changes, census, church books and immigration information - where immigrants settled in the U.S. - and more. Handouts will be provided.

The workshop will consist of a panel discussion (with handouts), a lunch break and a "hands-on" session so attendees can share ideas, do some computer research and talk one-on-one with Gloria, Pat and Laura. Members are encouraged to bring laptop computers; the six CGS computers may not all be available for the program.

Reservations are required; no walk-ins will be permitted. The workshop is free for CGS members but is limited to 15 people. There will be a sign-up fee of \$10 for non-members. (The fee can be applied toward membership on the day of the workshop.) There is a sign-up sheet at the CGS Library desk. Please call **(510) 663-1358** to reserve a space.



Wednesday, July 9 9:30am - 3:30pm

at the Berkeley Yacht Club, 1 Seawall Drive, Berkeley.

A Day of Irish Information by Nora Hickey - four talks to help with your Irish research.

The program:

- 10:00** Debunking some myths of Irish genealogy
- 11:15** Extracting all the important information you can from Griffith's Valuation
- 12:15** Break for lunch and book sales
- 1:15** Little-known and under-used Irish genealogical sources
- 2:15** Common problems in Irish genealogy

Ms. Hickey, a native of Cork, Ireland, was the founder and director of the Irish Genealogical Project. She visits the U.S. several times each year to lecture.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. Lectures will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. Nora will also provide **Personal Consultations** on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at the CGS Library.

The fee will be \$15.00 for fifteen minutes.

Registrants can bring their own lunch or pre-pay for a boxed lunch. For further information about this event or to schedule a Personal Consultation with Nora Hickey, visit the CGS Web site <http://www.calgensoc.org> and download the event flier and reservation form.

News from the Family History Center

By Linda Bailey

It is easy to get in a research "rut" -- relying too much on one source such as the internet, especially www.ancestry.com. But don't forget the gold mines to be found by ordering films from the Salt Lake Family History Library. If it is a genealogically valuable document or database, chances are good that the Salt Lake library has it for loan. Ordering microfilm is simple, fast, and cheaper than airfare to Salt Lake! The FHL catalog is found at www.familysearch.org under the "Library" tab. If you are not sure how microfilms and microfiche can help your research, please drop by the FHC and have one of our mentors give you a quick tutorial.

A Reminder

Now is the time to renew your San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society membership. For your convenience, a renewal form has been attached to this newsletter .

Please take the time to renew now, there is not time like the present.

WELCOME—NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the newest member of our group.

Jenny Kallio
837 Santa Maria Way
Lafayette, CA 94549

(925) 283-6340

jennyjump2@comcast.net

The SRVGS Library Collection

The following new books have been added to the SRVGS Library Collection at the Danville Public Library. They are back from cataloging and currently on the book shelves:

The Great Migration Begins

by Robert Charles Anderson, (three volumes), (A-F), (G-O), and (P-W).

The Great Migration

by Anderson, Sanborn, and Sanborn (five volumes), (A-B), (C-F), (G-H), (I-L), and (M-P)

Society Members' Publications

Some of you may not be aware of it, but a number of your fellow society members have published their own genealogies, publish a family newsletter, maintain a genealogical web site, or are active on the *World Wide Web* in other ways, such as with Blogs and Podcasts. You are encouraged to see what others in the group are doing by checking out our *Members' Publications* page at the society web site at:

<http://srvgensoc.org/resources/pubs.html>

This is a great way to get a little visibility on the web, so if you have something of your own to add to this page, please contact Lisa Cooke at:

genealogygemspodcast@gmail.com

Ode to the Family Tree

By: William Kent Sagenbdorph

I hope that I shall never see
 Another gosh darn family tree,
 A tree that looks from Adam down;
 Upon whose pages will be found
 My ancestors of great renown.

Now, there's my forebear, Peter Brown,
 Upon the Mayflower he was found-
 A cabin boy for all I know;
 But on his breast a wreath has lain,
 A marble slab endured his fame
 While you and me they all distain.

There's Polycarpus Smith, for instance,
 On that tree back there quite a distance,
 The D.A. R. and Sons and Patrons
 Through him trace all of their relations.

And who was he, I'd like to know?
 He died back there so long ago
 His evil deeds no one can show
 While every sin of mine they know.

Who said, "Oh woodsman, spare that tree"?
 I tell you now, it wasn't me;
 For I would like to see it go
 So some of us could have a show.
 It's fools like me that cuss that tree
 It's God who makes a pedigree.

This poem was written about 1935 by a man who at least had a sense of humor about his wife and mother-in-law's genealogical pursuits. (Contributed by Ed Mason.)

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ed Mason 925-838-7848
 e-mail: edmason@sbcglobal.net

1st V.P. (vacant)

2nd V.P. Program:
 Clarice Hart 925-743-9245
 Lisa Cooke 925-831-8537
 Sherri Hedman 925-275-8123

3rd V.P. Membership:
 Jane Nowicki 925-939-7808
 Barbara Dittig 925-648-9364

Recording Secretary:
 (vacant)

Corresponding Secretary:
 Vern Segelke 925-838-8570

Treasurer: Ileen Peterson 510-651-7728

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 trvrl1@hotmail.com



About Your NARA Donation

On our member application/renewal form there is this item: *Donation for NARA Records Microfilming Project (\$1.00 suggested)*. Using your contributions, we generally manage to contribute \$100 to \$150 each year. To what good use is this money directed? We thought that you might like to know.

It goes to the Malcolm H. Stern-NARA Gift Fund. The Fund is a nationally supported program to finance the creation of finding aids and the microfilming of valuable research materials now preserved in the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. These microform copies, produced without government funding, are then distributed to the 13 National Archives Regional Archives for use by researchers.

Access to this information is through any of the regional National Archives, but also through any LDS Family History Center in the world.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies administers the Stern-NARA Gift Fund. FGS uses just 10% of contributions to offset the cost of administering the Fund. Additionally, the FGS NARA Filming Committee will continue to take suggestions for items to be microfilmed. Ideas are solicited from anyone interested in genealogy. The aim is to find material at the National Archives, or its branches, of major interest to genealogists.

Anyone wishing to make direct contributions may send money to: FGS, Attn: Stern-NARA Gift Fund, PO Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940

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