

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 305

Diablo, CA 94528-8308

President:

Barbara Dyer

Coord. Editor: Sharon Clay

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.

3rd Tues. Of the Month

(Except August & December)

Alamo LDS Church

Stone Valley & Smith Roads - Alamo

Vol. XVI No. 2

July 2000

THIS MONTH - July 18, 2000 GENEALOGY AND THE INTERNET

Karen Wetherell has been doing genealogical research for about 15 years. She is a member of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, serving on their board from 1992-1999 and has been editor of their bimonthly computer interest group newsletter for seven years. She is currently a computer trainer and tech support specialist, having started using personal computers in 1979, and the Internet eleven years ago, before there were graphics, even before the World Wide Web.

More and more, today's researcher hears comments such as "Let's exchange GEDCOMs"; or "Just do it as an e-mail attachment", and "Go to the web site and download the file". Too often the researcher mumbles a confused "OK", only to struggle with the resulting chaos.

Discover some of the pitfalls as well as the advantages associated with creating, sending, receiving and downloading of files. Gain a clearer understanding of terminology and procedures. Learn to safeguard yourself while avoiding paranoia induced by media and well intentioned friends.

LAST MONTH - June 20, 2000

The Quaker and Loyalist Dilemma in New York during the American Revolution

by Frank Williams and Fran Schweitzer

Evelyn Bentley gave an interesting talk on the problems of those opposed on various grounds to the American Revolution. Her interest in this subject stems from the experiences of her ancestor Silas Deuel whose father was imprisoned for refusing to sign in support of the Revolution. Silas served in military units on both sides during the war; and he and his father were paroled to their family farm for the duration. Evelyn, a retired college history teacher, is a Genealogy Consultant at the Oakland Family History Center on Wednesday afternoons and is an expert on New York, Canada and England.

She began by pointing out that when the Revolution began, most Americans were reluctant to enter a war for independence from England, their mother country. There were family ties, and the colonies had largely escaped the heavy hand of English control while the British were at war with France. Because of the distance and a lack of strong governmental presence,

most repressive laws were ignored or poorly enforced. Americans wanted to continue the status quo.

All of this changed when the French war ended, and England needed revenue and looked to its colonies to "pay their fair share". Some repressive and onerous taxes were enforced for the first time, and the British control increased considerably.

During the prewar period, a migration had begun from New York to the territory which now includes Vermont and New Hampshire, as New York sought to extend its control over this area. In response, Ethan Allen and his forces drove the new settlers away toward Canada. These migrants were fed up with the colonies and not eager to support a revolution.

There were many Quaker families in Pennsylvania and Maryland who, driven from their European homes for their pacifist views, had come to America. They did not want to fight the British or anyone else.

(Continued Page 2)

Continuation of Meeting Presentation - June 2000.

While a relatively few Americans began talking rebellion, it took 14 months after shots were fired in Concord before a representative group could be gathered to support and issue the Declaration of Independence. Resistance began to increase as England made a strong response to "those ungrateful colonists who were ignoring their responsibilities to the mother country during the war". The more repressive the British laws and enforcement became, the stronger was the sentiment for rebellion.

Many Americans still felt all they wanted was a relaxation of the stringent control, and a return to the old days of relative freedom under the protection of the British. Many colonists had been in British military service, and still felt an obligation to the oath they had sworn to the monarchy. Deep rifts began to appear in many American towns; Quakers were driven out and publicly shamed and whipped. Loyalists were banished or imprisoned.

As the war began, one-third of the populace was strongly opposed to revolution. Another third wanted independence, even if it meant going to war. They felt they had developed their own government over some 150 years and wanted to control their own destiny. The last third was apathetic. This group included many people on the frontier who had had neither oppression nor assistance from any government and felt no interest in the outcome.

As the war continued, many Quakers and Loyalists were forced from their villages and sought refuge in Canada. Although promised the right to return to their homes by the terms ending the war, few were ever allowed to do so. Because Canada did not take a census until the middle 1800's, little information is available on the origins of these people. In most cases they were shown only as "came from US". There were no immigration records between New York and Canada. However, Mrs. Bentley feels the majority had come from New York; which during the revolution had more volunteers joining British regiments than those fighting on the American side.

Had England adopted a conciliatory tone with the colonies, the differences might have been resolved short of war. This would have left England in control of the entire continent except for poorly-held Spanish lands to the south and west. The American destiny might have been far different had this occurred.

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Deadline to put information in newsletter is the last Thursday of the month.

SRVGS June 2000 Treasurer Report

by Nancy Alexander, Treasurer 2000-2001

Fund Balances: 6/30/00

General Fund	2968.80
Hospitality Fund	30.78
Publications Fund	962.83
Special Projects Fund :	200.00
N.A.R.A. Fund	57.00
Cassette Tape Library Fund	145.35
Library Fund:	
Prior Year Gifts & Donations	203.80
Current Year Donations	193.50

Overall Total Balance: \$4,762.06

Quick Tips from Ancestry Weekly Digest 6 May 2000

Tape Recorder Helps Verify Cemetery Info:

Whenever I head out for cemetery research, I not only take my camera for photographing tombstones, but I also take a small, palm-sized tape recorder to record names, dates, epitaphs, and other details, such as the exact location of the cemetery, locations of graves, and notes to myself about further research ideas. When I get my photographs, I can then verify the tombstone inscriptions and write the information on the back of each picture (lightly, in pencil)

**A.C. Merritt
Columbia, SC**

SRVGS CALENDAR

JULY 2000

- 6 Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** Board Meeting at the home of Frances Lloyd, 210 Town & Country Dr. in Danville. Phone 837-9382. Members welcome
- 18 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** General Meeting at LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east. The scheduled speaker is Karen Wetherell.
- 20 Thursday - 10:00 a.m.** Member Education Class - Subject: Probate Records. This informational class will be presented by Dorothy Stanton at her home, 501 El Capital Drive, in Danville. Phone 820-3757. Sign up at the general meeting and plan to attend.
- 25 Tuesday** Library Trip to the Santa Clara City Library, 2635 Homestead Road. Carpools will meet behind Albertson's off Diablo Road in Danville at 9:00 a.m. **NOTE that the new Library Trip Coordinator is Michael Fiorenza. If you sign up for a trip and wish to cancel, please call him at 820-8294.**

AUGUST

Meetings are not held during the month of August

SRVGS Special Interest Groups:

None of the Special Interest Groups plan to meet during the months of July and August. Please watch for their schedule to meet again during September. *Please be reminded, however, there is a member education class scheduled for July 20th.*

INTERNET - Interested users communicate via e-mail.

Members should contact Robert daRoza, vrdaRoza@ix.netcom.com to be included.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

July 15, Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. San Mateo County Genealogical Society presents Grace-Marie Hackwell at the San Mateo Presbyterian Church. The topic is the Civil War. Cost at the door is \$13. For further information, e-mail SMCGS@genealogy.org

July 20-22, the National Conference sponsored by the Allen County Public Library. It includes more than 90

lectures. For further information, e-mail Cwitcher@acpl.lib.in.us

August 5, in San Diego, CA. The German Research Assn. Presents Hank Jones at the Joyce Beers Community Center on Vermont Street.

August 19 Saturday, San Mateo County Genealogical Society sponsors a class about Researching at the Pacific Branch of the National Archives. 10 A.M. to noon at SMCBS Library, 25 Tower Road, San Mateo. \$6 fee plus optional handout. Helen Crisman. Leave message at (650) 572-2929.

September 6 - 9 in Salt Lake City, the Federation of Genealogical Societies annual conference. For further information phone (888) FGS-1500, e-mail fgsoffice@fgs.org or view their web page at www.fgs.org/~sdgs.

September 22 - 24 in Salt Lake City, FEEFHS (Federation of East European Family History Societies) will hold their 6th annual convention at the Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel. View their web page at www.feeffhs.org

September 22-23 in Lakewood CO. The Colo. Council of Genealogical Societies hosts an annual regional conference. Featured speakers are Cyndi Howells, Hank Jones and Christina Schafer. For details contact pakemper@aol.com

September 23, in Auburn, CA. The Placer County Genealogical Society will host an all day Seminar. For information contact Pam Dallas at:

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Residents Message by Barbara Dyer

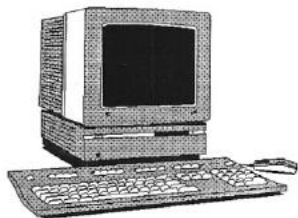
In the early nineties, several SRVGS members in the Publication Interest Group decided to put together a book sharing the knowledge they had gained and to raise money for the Society. The result was "Print, Publish, Preserve" published in the fall of 1993. The book is now in its third printing.

As a result of their hard work and commitment to the project, hundreds have benefitted from the content and our Society has benefitted as well from the profits of the book sales. Among those who worked so hard are local Society members Jane Steiner, Dorothy Stanton, Barbara Johnson and out-of-town members Shirley Terry, Marilyn Fullam and Bea O'Rand. A thousand dollars of the profits from book sales was given to help start the Danville Library genealogy book collection. It is inspiring to see the fruits of their labors helping so many.

In this past month as president, I have received newsletters and other publications describing a variety of projects being carried out by genealogists. There are those that are large and national in scope such as

the Cemetery Records Project, down to small, local projects such as our Danville Library book collection. They may be aimed at saving information by preservation of old books and documents, or they may be aimed at extracting information to substitute for lost records such as the 1890 Census. Or they may provide easier access to resources such as by indexing old passenger lists. Or, they may share how-to information such as "our PPP book". Whatever the case, these are people like you and me giving something back, not just taking.

The point that I wish to make is this, decades of genealogists have copied, recorded, transcribed, printed and published so that there are materials available that we can use in our research. While we pursue our goals to print, publish and preserve our own genealogy, let us also contribute to the larger genealogical community.



INTERNET INFO

Check Your Polish Roots <http://www.polishroots.com>

This site is a must-see for those of Polish descent. Sections include maps/gazetteers, history, and reference, as well as databases and a "SurnameSearch" where anyone can browse surnames and registered users can post their surnames. Databases include: a) Austrian Military Recruitment in Galicia; b) Polish Language Newspapers; c) Polish Aviators 1918-20; d) Polish Army in France Casualty list e) 1835 Posen Address-Kalender (City Directory); f) 1891 Galician Business Director; g) Links to other databases on other Web sites. The reference section includes information on the Polish alphabet; tips on translating; links to libraries, societies and fraternal organizations, museums, bookstores, and other resources; and several beginner guides. There is also information on Polish heraldry, customs, and culture, as well as links to a number of popular immigration sites and a message forum to post queries.

Source: Ancestry Weekly Digest 10 June 2000

More Polish Resources

<http://195.136.195.5/reforma/mapa16.html>, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~polwgv/49provs.html> and <http://www.toledolink.com/polski/changes.html>. (Polish Genealogical Society of Texas: Polish Footprints

VI:1 - March 1999)

Source: FGS FORUM, Spring 2000, Vol. 12 No. 1

VITAL RECORDS INFORMATION ON LINE

Is your "Handbook for Genealogists" just a little out of date? Do you have to call information each time you want to find out how much that birth certificate is for that small county in upstate Vermont? Or whether or not that county courthouse has a record you are looking for (not specifically, but by type)? Put these web sites in your directory and bookmark them.

Some states are now allowing online ordering of vital records. These sites have prices, addresses, phone numbers of county and state offices where you might be able to obtain copies or information on vital records.

Check these sites: VitalCheck Network: (<http://www.vitalcheck.com>)

Vital Records Information (<http://www.vitalrec.com/>)

To find records that may have been transcribed or indexes to vital records, you will want to begin your search by visiting the state and county pages of the USGenWeb project: (<http://www.usgenweb.org/>)

Check out this site. Put in a surname. <http://www.google.com>. Try your own - you might be amazed at what you find.

DID YOU KNOW?.....

1) That the titles of the books that we have bought for our collection at the Danville Library are listed in the back of your handbook, and that is updated each year?

2) That the whole list of tapes in our tape library are also listed in the back of your Membership handbook. Keep it handy - especially before our monthly meeting, then come prepared to rent your tape for a month. Do it HIS month and you get July and August for the same price (since we don't have a meeting next month).

3) If you are non computer literate - and feel kind of left out when you read the newsletter and see all those "incredible" references to on-line research - check out the book "Genealogy Online for Dummies" in our library collection. As you read along - get help from one of our member docents in the library.

For More Genealogy using your computer - check out these tapes:

C-185 The Future of Online Genealogy (RP-GenTech 97, S-23)

C-190 How Do I Get on the Internet and do Genealogy (RP-DGS 96, W-38)

C-158 CD ROMs for Genealogists (RP-GenTech 97, F-12)

M-65 FEEFHS (Federation of Easter Europe Societies) ON-LINE with Internets and World Wide Web 3/96

C-193 Scanning and Genealogy (RP-GenTech 97, F-17)

LIBRARY TRIP FOR JULY - to Santa Clara County Central Library - July 25th

This library contains the collection of the Santa Clara Co. Historical and Genealogical Society, which is located in the Genealogy Rooms. The large collection consists of California plus all other states and some counties. Census films and microfiche collection are available for use. Check out their web site before you go. The library catalog is on line (including the genealogy material). See <http://www.library.ci.santa-clara.ca.us/>.

Standards For Use of Technology In Genealogical Research

Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Mindful that computers are tools, genealogists take full responsibility for their work, and therefore they ---

- learn the capabilities and limits of their equipment and software, and use them only when they are the most appropriate tools for a purpose
- refuse to let computer software automatically embellish their work.
- treat compiled information from on-line sources or digital data bases like that from other published sources, useful primarily as a guide to locating original records, but not as evidence for a conclusion or assertion.
- accept digital images or enhancements of an original record as a satisfactory substitute for the original only when there is reasonable assurance that the image accurately reproduces the unaltered original.
- cite sources for data obtained on-line or from digital media with the same care that is appropriate for sources on paper and other traditional media, and enter data into a digital database only when its source can remain associated with it.
- always cite the sources for information or data posted on-line or sent to others, naming the author of a digital file as its immediate source, while crediting original sources cited within the file.
- preserve the integrity of their own data bases by evaluating the reliability of downloaded data before incorporating it into their own files.
- provide, whenever they alter data received in digital form, a description of the change that will accompany the altered data whenever it is shared with others.
- actively oppose the proliferation of error, rumor and fraud by personally verifying or correcting information, or noting it as unverified, before passing it on to others.
- treat people on-line as courteously and civilly as they would treat them face-to-face, not separated by networks and anonymity.
- accept that technology has not changed the principles of genealogical research, only some of the procedures.

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[Http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/about/content/committees/gene3_stan.html](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/about/content/committees/gene3_stan.html)

RANDOM THOUGHTS:

1. I'm not aging, I just need re-potting
2. I don't repeat gossip, so listen carefully
3. Lord, if I can't be skinny, let all my friends be fat.
4. You know you're getting old when you stop to think and forget to start again.
5. Mom, I'll always love you, but I'll never forgive you for cleaning my face with spit on a hanky.
6. I have a million dollar figure, but it's all loose change.
7. If it's true we are what we eat, I'm either fast, cheap, or easy.
8. "Genuine Antique Person" Been there, done that, can't remember.
9. I cleaned my house yesterday, sure wish you could have seen it.
10. If you don't like my attitude, call 1-800-Who cares.

FRAUDULENT LINEAGES

In an article published in Vol. 19, Numbers 1 & 2, 1991 of the Genealogical Journal of the Utah Genealogical Association, Mr. Robert Charles Anderson reveals that the forgeries and frauds in the works of GUSTAVE ANJOU (1863-1942) should be brought to the attention of everyone who is researching their family ties.

Mr. Anjou was not a genealogist, but a forger of genealogical records that have been passed down for years to unwary clients and researchers who believed that his work was valid. They, then "republished the material in their own works, and the cycle continues".

"Gustave Anjou produced these products for wealthy clients for about \$9,000 and the client, needless to say, always received what they wanted".

Even the Family History Library in Salt Lake City has not been spared. Many of his "genealogies" have been found there - possibly as many as 109. In the words of Mr. Anderson:

"A typical Anjou pedigree displays four recognizable features:

(1) A dazzling range of connections between dozens of immigrants to New England; for example, connections far beyond what may be seen in pedigrees produced by anyone else.

(2) Many wild geographical leaps, outside the normal range of migration patterns;

(3) An overwhelming number of citations to documents that actually exist and actually include what Anjou says they include; and

(4) Here and there an invented document, without citation, which appears to support the many connections noted under item 1 above.

The list of family names is far too long to list in this newsletter. However, please check the full list at <http://www.linkline.com/personal/xymox/fraud>. Please check this website, because if you are using any of these references you may be steered into uncharted waters. Note that any references you use that go back to the works of Gustave Anjou will be suspect.

MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL APPLICATION 2000-2001

It's time to **renew your membership** and pay your annual dues which support our educational programs, and provide knowledge to find our ancestors. Please fill out this form and send it with your check made payable to SRVGS, to: **Audrey Morgan 3607 Perada Drive, Walnut Creek 94598.**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Email: _____ **PHONE:** _____

Dues: \$15 Single: _____ \$20 Family: _____

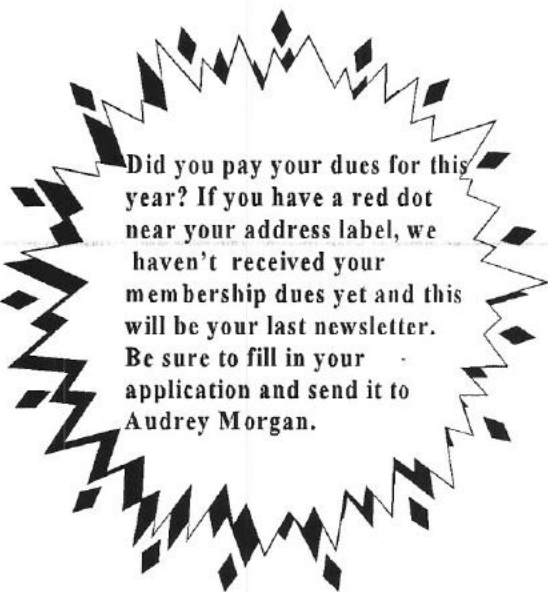
\$ _____ donation for Library resources additions, if desired

\$ _____ \$1.00 donation suggested for National Archives Record Administration (NARA) records microfilming project.

\$ _____ \$2.50 added, please, if you desire a handbook/directory sent to your address and cannot pick one up at a meeting.

_____ If you **DO NOT** wish a Handbook/Directory, please check here so we won't print unneeded copies.

\$ _____ **Total amount of check**



Did you pay your dues for this year? If you have a red dot near your address label, we haven't received your membership dues yet and this will be your last newsletter. Be sure to fill in your application and send it to Audrey Morgan.

Be sure to pay your dues by July 31st or you will not be listed in our member directory.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Tom Lantos Wins Battle to Keep Records at National Archive in San Bruno

Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo) announced that the Immigration and Naturalization Service & the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) have agreed to make changes in record handling procedures that will assure that immigration files which originate in San Bruno will be retained in that regional archive and records center facility.

Nationally, INS files are being centralized in a federal regional record center facility in Missouri, but the INS and NARA agreed in September 1998 that immigration records held in San Bruno, would remain there because of their importance to the community, especially the Chinese-American families of the area.

Congressman Lantos has worked with the INS and NARA to modify new record handling procedures to prevent the transfer of San Bruno A-files or Alien Case Files to Missouri. Under terms of the new procedures, A-files which originate in San Bruno and which are requested for official business or which are requested by family members for personal reasons will be returned to San Bruno.

Source: CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 18, No. 3 (March 2000)