

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528

Editor: Dorothy Stanton

Meetings: 10 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of month
(except August & December)
Danville Women's Club House
242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue
Danville, CA 94526

Volume VI No. 2

July/August 1990

► NEXT MEETING: JULY 17, 1990

PROGRAM: Former SRVGS President MARILYN FULLAM (who, she says, learned how to do genealogy from Bette Kot) has been researching her children's ancestry almost full-time for the last five years. As the research progressed, it also grew until it became too much to pass on, as is, to someone else. Marilyn's talk is entitled:

❧ HOW TO TURN YOUR GENEALOGY INTO A WELCOME LEGACY ❧
(or, How to Keep Your Research from Ending Up as Land-fill!)

LAST MONTH

BETTE KOT reminded us of some of the excellent sources for research available in most public libraries and made some practical suggestions about how we can use them to best advantage. For example: use *Ayers Directory of Publications* to find the name of a smalltown newspaper in the area of the family you are researching; write a short letter to the editor explaining your desire to contact anyone with information on that family.

The *American Library Directory* can be used to find the address of the nearest public library in the locale of your research. Always address your queries to the "Reference Librarian."

Besides directories, Bette's

handout listed some general indexes and compilations of genealogies. She gave examples of their contents and some words of warning about their trustworthiness.

For those of us just starting research, the program was an excellent introduction to what our libraries have to offer; for those who learned about some of these sources in Bette's classes, it was helpful to be reminded about the tools readily available which we could use more effectively.

For MORE on LIBRARIES: See Delores Huckabone's article on page 13 about some of her "finds" while browsing at local libraries.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY

- 10 - Tuesday 7:30PM Livermore-Amador Gen Soc Meeting at new Pleasanton Library. Program: Dedication of the Gayle Pipes Memorial Library Collection followed by individual browsing and research.
- 11 - Wednesday 10AM East Bay GS at Mormon Center, Oakland. Barbara Hill will talk on UCB Doe Library.
- 12 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa County GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr., Concord. Report on NGS Conference by Fran Becker, Bill Dickinson and Virginia Meadowcroft.
- 14 - Saturday 1:30PM California GS Meeting, 300 Brannan St., SF: topic: "Establishing an Archive in Your Home" by Mary-Ellen Jones, ret. Archivist, Bancroft Library.
- * 17 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 1:30PM ROOTS III Interest Group (see page 11)

AUGUST

- * 7 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- 8 - Wednesday 10AM East Bay GS at Mormon Center Oakland. Topic: "Success at Last!" by members.
- 12 - Sunday 1-4PM CGS Special: "Researching Illinois" by Mary Sweetman; 300 Brannan St, Suite 409, SF
- 14 - Tuesday 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS Meeting, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. Program: Sharing by members.
- 18 - Saturday - German Research Seminar by Michael Palmer, Modesto Centre Plaza, 10th & K St., Modesto. Contact Stanislaus Co GS, P.O. Box 4735, Modesto, CA 95352-4735.

REMINDER! NO MEETING, NO NEWSLETTER, NO LIBRARY TRIP in AUGUST SEPTEMBER

- * 4 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- 8 - Saturday 9-12, Friends of the Archives Workshop: "Genealogy in Hispanic Heritage" Beginning Workshop by Evelyn Martinez. This lecture ties in with the Sept 16 celebration of Mexican Independence from Spain. 1000 Commodore Dr, San Bruno. Call 876-9009 for reservation. Pay \$10 at door.
- * 11 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Irish Interest Group. Call Carol Glover 829-7207.
7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS Meeting [see August]
- 12 - Wednesday 9AM to noon, National Archives Workshop: "Chinese Immigration Records" by Neil Thomsen. 1000 Commodore Dr. San Bruno, \$7.50 at door. Call 876-9009 for reservation.
- 22 - Saturday Volunteer Training at the National Archives

PLAN AHEAD

- October 28 to November 4, 1990 - GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH TOUR to SALT LAKE CITY led by Vera Bosko (582-2305) and Frances Becker (934-4962). Cost: \$435. Down payment of \$200 due Sept. 27.
- November 3, 1990 - All Day DR. GEORGE K. SCHWEITZER SEMINAR in Redwood City

[Some calendar items extracted from "Friends of the Archives" CONSOLIDATED GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR received via Peggy Frazier's MODEM]

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

A WORD ABOUT DUES from CAROL GLOVER

A few members have not renewed. If you intend to do so, your check and information must be received by July 10.

The 1990-91 Handbook will not be distributed until the September meeting. Kinko's annual 1/2 price sale doesn't start until July 17, our meeting date.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

PENELOPE BROWNE, 3838 Terra Granada Dr. 2A, WC 94595. (944-5713) Researching: FULLER in VT, CT; CHESEBRO in CT, CO.

CHRIS HANSELL, 3410 McEllen Ct. Lafayette, 94549. (284-1372) Researching: THOMPSON in MA, CA, ENG; NELSON in New Orleans, ENG, DK.

HELEN PHILLIPS, 100 Quantas Lane, Moraga D94556. (284-1967) Researching: REED in MO, TN; DUNNEGAN in MO, IL, TN.

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Barbara O'Rand 837-1760
 Vice-Pres.: Frances Lloyd 837-9382
 Membership: Carol Glover 829-7207
 333 Goshen Ct.
 San Ramon, CA 94583
 Annual Dues: \$12.50; \$18 (family)

NEWSLETTER

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 735-9610

The Newsletter is published each month except August & December

TREASURER'S REPORT 1989-1990

CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENSES STATEMENT
 SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 FISCAL YEAR 31 MAY 1989 to 1 JUNE 1990

<u>INCOME</u>	
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$ 890.00
INCOME FROM SALE OF RINGBINDERS	93.50
TAPE DONATIONS	76.10
INFORMATION TABLE SALES	33.50
FIELD RESEARCH INC., REFUND	20.00
DONATION	12.50
	<u>\$1125.60</u>

<u>EXPENSES</u>	
NEWSLETTER	\$ 429.07
RENT, DANVILLE WOMENS CLUB	400.00
STAMPS	286.25
MAY LUNCHEON	217.00
NATIONAL ARCHIVES, DONATION	102.00
SRVGS HANDBOOK	72.83
SPEAKERS	70.00
SPEAKER SUPPLIES	54.45
ARCHIVES	39.95
DUES REFUNDED DUPLICATION	31.25
TAPE STORAGE CASE	26.55
RESEARCH TAPES	25.50
INFORMATION TABLE, REPRINTS	23.76
MEMBERSHIP CALENDAR, SMGS	20.00
CALIFORNIA STATE GEN. ALLIANCE	20.00
REFRESHMENTS	11.76
POST OFFICE BOX RENTAL	6.50
	<u>\$1836.87</u>

BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR,
 1 MAY 1989 \$1194.44

BALANCE AT END OF YEAR
 1 JUNE 1990 (15 MAY) 703.28

ACCOUNT OF SPECIAL FUND AND RELATED EXPENSES

Funds for special projects,
 raised by auctions, and money
 banked at the end of that effort \$ 505.00

Less expenses: Special projects to
 be voted on by the Board of Directors.

Friends of the Archives, SMGS,
 for the purchase of microfilm -102.00
 Membership Calendar, SMGS - 20.00
 (122.00)

SPECIAL PROJECTS Money available \$ 383.00

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- ROOTS III meets after July 17 meeting, 1:30PM, at Sandy Aberer's, 110 El Nido Ct., Diablo (837-8271). Bob Heacox will be gone but members will help each other with techniques and solutions to problems.
- IRISH INTEREST meets next on September 11 at Carol Glover's (829-7207).
- GERMAN INTEREST and "German for Genealogists" by Kate Prunte (838-9873) will resume October 11.

OTHER SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS WILL RESUME THEIR SCHEDULE IN THE FALL. DATES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER. Please call Patty Erickson (229-0889) for information and to schedule interest groups.

➡ MISSING TAPES

Tape Librarian BOB HEACOX reports that the following tapes have not yet found their way back to our tape collection:

- C-26 PRE-1820 CENSUS RECORDS
- C-28 TRACING THE IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR
- C-30 NY STATE RESOURCES IN SALT LAKE
- M-1 TRACING LOST PERSONS by John Ferris
- M-12 OLD PHOTOGRAPHS by Jim Tackitt

Unfortunately, cards are missing also for many of the tapes, so we can't call you with a reminder. Please check your desks shelves, closets, etc. and send the tapes back "home" so others may benefit from them. "HOME" is presently at Shirley Terry's, 301 Almond Ct. San Ramon 94583. Give Shirley a call (829-7787) if you want to borrow a tape in between meetings.

- REMINDER: Many of our tapes are purchased from TRIAD, P.O. Box 120, Toulon, IL 61483. The talks are recorded at various genealogical conferences. The NGS Conference at Arlington VA this June should be available soon.

Write for Triad's catalog to get copies of talks on some of the topics of special interest to you. The tapes cost about \$7.00 (amount of "donation" due on some of the above tapes!). When you're finished listening to your tape, consider donating it to the Tape Collection so others can benefit from it.

Tape cassettes are great companions in the car on long trips or while doing boring things like housework, walking, or painting your house. Shirley Terry reports that the last library trip car-pool made good use of Tape C-35, "Genealogical Resources in the California State Library" by listening to it on the way to Sacramento.

MAY MEETING & LUNCHEON

PHOTOS BY WIN KYNETT



BOOK & TAPE REVIEWS

► SAN RAMON VALLEY LIBRARY BROWSING

by Delores Huckabone

[The San Ramon Library at San Ramon is about 10 min. from downtown Danville. Take the 680 Freeway South to Bollinger Canyon Road. Turn left on Bollinger Canyon and travel about 2 miles to Montgomery Street (at the Marketplace). The Library sits on the left corner - the opposite end of the shopping place from Petrini's. There are many excellent places in the Marketplace for lunch. Library hours at this time are Mon/Wed 10AM to 6PM, Tues/Thurs from Noon to 8PM and on Fri/Sat 1PM to 5PM.]

- *Recording Your Family History* by William Fletcher, Dodd, Mead & Co., NY, c1986. 313 pp. Call letters: 920.0028 Flet

A guide to preserving oral history with videotapes and audiotapes. Covers interviewing techniques, sample questions to use during the interview, suggestions for labeling and cataloging your finished tapes. This book would be helpful not only for interviewing others but for recording your own life story as well.

- *How to Trace Your Family Tree* by the American Genealogical Research Institute, published by Doubleday c1973. 197 pp. Call letters 929.1028 Amer.

The beginner receives advice by the experts on organizing material and data, printed sources, local, state, federal sources, church, cemetery and lodge resources. Stresses the importance of the study of history to genealogy. Tells how to begin research with your own family including tips on correspondence with and interviewing relatives. No matter how many "beginner" books I read, I always find something new to help me organize, or a new source for research.

This book focuses on the novice and helps one set realistic goals, e.g., in answer to that question we all ask as beginners, they state "it is possible to go back prior to 1500 if you are related to nobility. The ordinary man of these far-off days was not only unable to write his own name, but never had his name written by anyone else. To trace your line back to Adam is absolutely impossible. Though there are rare cases of genealogies considered to be accurate back to 600 AD." The authors state further "If one can accomplish a complete American genealogy, that person can consider their accomplishment a great success."

And to the other question we all ask: "to do nothing with your findings and records is like planning to build a new house, but stopping all action after assembling all necessary plans and materials." This book is well worth your time, no matter how little or much you have accomplished in your research. For one thing, you'll find out how much you have done right and I promise you will find much to inspire your efforts.

- *Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy*, 2nd Edition by Emily Anne Croom, Betterway Publications, VA, c1989. 184 pp. Call letters 929.1 Croom

At first glance I wasn't crazy about this book but the more I got into it, the better I liked it. Croom focuses on a biographical approach to genealogy which is what I have tried to do. She stresses the oral interviews, photographs, personalities of individuals, giving many good suggestions for oral interviews. She states that after trying several systems, she settled on a series of three-ring notebooks. In her notebooks she keeps everything, including notes and photographs and, most interestingly, she includes drawings of floor plans of homes and layout of properties and surrounding territories, in some cases including placement of neighboring homes, stores, etc.

The book has an informative chapter on names and nicknames and the Americanization of names. Additional chapters are about computer genealogy, writing and publishing your work, and even an explanation of the Soundex system. The appendix starts in the middle of the book and includes: a glossary of terms; abbreviations commonly used; a cousin chart; many pages of local, state, federal addresses, Canada, and a few other countries. She includes several forms to use in your organization of materials -- all 8-1/2 x 11 and easy to copy. I'll end with a quote from the author: "You are now ready to begin one of the most fascinating, rewarding, never ending, mystifying and addictive hobbies available to mankind." Amen...

- Now for some fun... Try this delightful record set, *Frontier Ballads*, sung by Pete Seeger and his 5-string banjo, published by Folkways Records and Service Corp., NY, c1954.

This is a set of two 33-1/3 RPM records in three sections: Immigrants, The Trek, The Settlers. Includes a 30 page booklet about

[LIBRARY BROWSING cont'd]

the history and times behind each ballad. The shortest one goes like this:

"My sweetheart's the mule in the mine.
I drive her without any line;
On the bumper I sit and I chew and I spit,
All over my sweetheart's behind."

Others you'll like are titled "No Irish Need Apply" from the Immigrant section, "Cumberland Gap" from the Trek section, and "Young Man Who Wouldn't Hoe Corn" from the Settler's section.

We liked the ballads so much we recorded them on tape and copied the booklet. I think you'll like it too.

* * *

➔ THE GAYLE PIPES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

How many of you picked up the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society's publication *The Bookshelf* at the May Luncheon and Book Browse? [If you didn't get one, see Shirley Terry or Marilyn Fullam.] This is a listing of the genealogical collection called *THE GALE PIPES MEMORIAL LIBRARY* which is now housed at the new Pleasanton Library. This new library is about 20 minutes from downtown Danville. Take the 680 Freeway to Bernal offramp. Turn right and travel approximately 2 or 3 miles to the library which sits on the left just before entering Pleasanton downtown and just past the Alameda Fairground. Hours are Mon-Thur from 10AM to 9PM; Fri/Sat 10AM to 5PM and on Sun from 1 to 5PM. *The Gayle Pipes* Collection numbers over 300 books and has something for everyone.

* * *

➔ EDITOR'S NOTE:

While browsing at the Danville Library (555 South Hartz), I found the following book on the table with the over-sized atlases: *We the People, An Atlas of America's Ethnic Diversity* by James Paul Allen & Eugene James Turner. Call #R305.80097Allen.

The authors use maps, charts as well as narrative to describe the location and major settlement areas of various ethnic groups who immigrated to this country. Under the heading "French-Canadian", I was surprised to find a rather detailed account of one settlement in Kankakee County, Illinois in the mid-1800's, the name of the area in Canada they came from, the priest they came with, and the location of the communities they moved to from Illinois. Not all groups have as much detail but the general patterns shown might give some clues in following your families.

NEW TAPES

[The following are reviews of tapes recently added to our JOHN KOPCIE MEMORIAL TAPE COLLECTION.]

◇ "HOW TO WRITE A GOOD GENEALOGY BOOK!"

Tape speaker: Joseph Carvalho III

Reviewed by Marilyn Fullam

The qualifications of this speaker are never mentioned but, from listening to the whole 54 minutes, I gathered that he is an editor. The tape is devoted to skimming over what a book writer needs to know such as audience, editors, publishing houses, printers, glossary, index, etc. Mr. Carvalho never really gets down to practical advice and it seems that the whole talk is aimed at the experienced professional writer. I cannot recommend this tape.

◇ "HOW TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE COURTHOUSE RESEARCH"

Tape Speaker: Marsha Hoffman Rising

Tape Review by Shirley Siems Terry

Mrs. Rising is a good speaker who obviously knows her subject. She is a professional genealogist who has researched in 75 courthouses, observing genealogists and talking about them to courthouse employees.

The tape is clear and easy to understand. It was taped at some genealogical conference with 220 in her audience. She refers to her handout and says it includes a list of all the records you will find at courthouses which she does not list in the talk.

I would recommend this tape for anyone planning a research trip to a courthouse. I wish I had listened to it before my trip to Nebraska in May. The longest portion of the tape covers 11(?) points which she entitles "Ten Reasons Why Genealogists Are Not More Effective Courthouse Researchers." Evidently, the majority of us do not leave good impressions when we visit courthouses. Along with the negatives, however, she gives the positive things that will help us be more productive.

She also tells how to find answers to specific questions, e.g. finding ages or children's names. In fact, even for those who can't go to the courthouse, there may be a few tips that could be applied when using micro-filmed records.

[cont'd on page 15]

SUMMARY

- * Be professional in dress and demeanor.
- * Move from the simple to the complex. Start with marriage, probate, and then lands, deeds, taxes.
- * Know the state and county structure of the county you search.
- * Know the holdings of that particular courthouse.
- * Obtain a detailed county map.
- * Investigate the indexing system and learn whether a WPA survey of the county records has been conducted.
- * Before your trip, order by inter-library loan, indexes to marriage, deeds and probate that are on microfilm. You will appear prepared and you'll then have more time to search the un-indexed records.
- * Always ask whether any old records have been transferred to another facility. Know the state law regarding public access to public records and be able to cite it, chapter and verse.

NOTE: Our tape library contains another of her tapes entitled "Solving Problems Using Records of Collateral Relatives" which is probably also very good.

LIBRARY UPDATES

- CA STATE LIBRARY, SACRAMENTO - Members who went to this library in June report using the new 1870 *California Census Index*. It is in 2 volumes, the 2nd containing San Francisco.

- FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY: ACQUISITIONS UPDATES
The March/April 1990 issue of the *News of the Family History Library* lists the following new sources that are available on microfilm from Salt Lake. Check the bulletin board to the left as you enter the Oakland FHC for a listing of newest acquisitions.

Civil Vital Records from New York City [listed in the locality section of the FHL Catalog] Some of the earliest documents (pre-1850) were recorded in Manhattan and are cataloged under New York County. Pre-1898 town vital records and card indexes are usually listed in the FHL Catalog under "New York, [county], [village or town] - Vital Records."

Bronx - Death Certificates 1898-1919.

Kings Brooklyn marriage certificates and returns 1866-1924+; Brooklyn death certificates 1898-1920.

Kings, Brooklyn Brooklyn birth certificates 1866-97; Brooklyn death certificates 1862-97; Brooklyn coroner's reports of deaths 1898-1914; Brooklyn

coroner's journal record of deaths 1897-1914.

Kings, Brooklyn - Vital Records Indexes Brooklyn card index to birth returns 1866-96; Brooklyn card index to death ledger 1848-66; Brooklyn card index to death certificates 1862-98.

New York - New York - Vital Records Manhattan birth certificates and index, 1866-97; Manhattan death registers, 1798, 1801-04, 1808, 1811-65; Manhattan death certificates, 1866-1919; Manhattan card index to deaths, 1868-90.

New York, New York (City) - Vital Records Manhattan birth registers and index, 1847-48, 1853-73; Manhattan groom index to proofs of marriage 1866-1910; Manhattan bride index to proofs of marriage 1866-1937; All borough, groom indexes to proofs of marriage 1910-27; Manhattan marriage certificates 1866-1916+; New York City coroner's inquisitions, 1823-98.

New York, New York (City) - Vital Records - Indexes All borough birth certificate index, 1881-1965; All borough death certificate index 1888-1965.

New York, Queens - Vital Records Queens death certificates, 1898-1919; Queens indexes to births in towns and villages, 1847-1898.

New York, Richmond - Vital Records Staten Island death certificates, 1898-1920.

Volunteers are currently indexing Manhattan and Brooklyn birth records through 1885 and marriage records through 1895. Names from these records will be listed in future editions of the IGI. More acquisitions of NYC marriage records and indexes are expected in the future.

- NOW AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES, SAN BRUNO:

1857 Minnesota Territory Census T1175, Rolls 1-5;

1885 Colorado State Census M158, 8 rolls;

1885 New Mexico Territory Census M846, 6 rolls;

1885 Nebraska State Census M352, 56 rolls - Some on order; you may donate at \$6.80/roll. [The entire 56 rolls are available at Sutro Library]

1885 Florida State Census - Some on order; you may donate at \$6.80/roll.

REMINDER: THE ARCHIVES IS NOT OPEN FOR RESEARCH ON SATURDAYS from Memorial Day to Labor Day. A Training Workshop for Volunteers will be given on September 22 at San Bruno.

- LDS FAMILY HISTORY CENTER, SAN BRUNO, 975

Sneath Ln, San Bruno (415/873-1928) has the following 1890 Census Substitutes:

CALIFORNIA 1897, Los Angeles, San Jose, San Diego;

HAWAII 1890 (except Oahu); IOWA 1885 & 1895 State

Census; KANSAS 1885 & 1895 State Census; MICHIGAN

1884 & 1894 State Census; MINNESOTA 1885, 1895 State

Census; NEW JERSEY 1885, 1895 State Census; NEW YORK

1890 Police, 1892 Upstate NY; [cont'd page 16]

[1890 Substitutes cont'd]

OKLAHOMA 1890 Territory; RHODE ISLAND 1885 State Census; SOUTH DAKOTA 1885 Territory, 1895 State Census.

NOTE: Check on the availability of the above at Oakland FHC before going to San Bruno FHC.

[List compiled by Chuck Arnold at San Bruno FHC via San Mateo Co GS N/L Feb 1990]

* * * * *

CALIFORNIA "KEEPSAKE" BC

State officials announced last July the availability of "keepsake editions" of Birth certificates for native Californians born here since 1905. The keepsake heirloom-type birth certificates cost \$30. They have been described as having a gold-embossed state seal, a likeness of the state Capitol, and a color design of the state animal, tree, flower, bird, and insect. They carry the name, place, and date of birth, the parents' names, and the signature of the state registrar, which makes them legal documents. . . an excellent gift idea for a newborn or grandchild.

[From San Mateo Co GS N/L Feb 1990]

GET THE ADDRESS RIGHT

When writing to genealogical societies and family associations, be sure to check on their current address. An excellent source is the *Genealogical Helper* by Everton Publishers. The "family" issue is now in each year's March/April issue. This includes "Family Association and Their Leaders" and "Family Periodical Publications". The May/June issue contains the "Directory of Locality Periodical Publications". The July/August issue has the "Directory of Genealogical Societies and Libraries". Copies of *The Genealogical Helper* can be found in The Heritage Collection at the Contra Costa Central Library, Pleasant Hill.

MORE ON MAILING: Postage to Germany has increased. When requesting information, send three International Reply Coupons.

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MIND ON GENEALOGY?

FROM WIN KYNETT: The Preacher came to call the other day. He said, at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do, all the time. No matter where I am, in the parlor, in the kitchen, or in the basement, I ask myself: What am I hereafter!"

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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