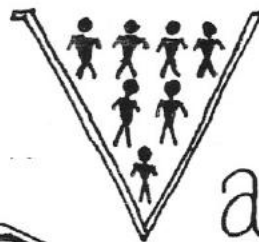


San Ramon



Valley

Genealogical Society

Box 305

Diablo, California 94528

Vol. 1

April 1986

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Monday, 14 April - Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society
7:30 p.m., Hacienda Business Park, Community Room,
Pleasanton. Speaker: Rosemary Kennedy of the National
Archives in San Bruno on "Making Use of the National
Archives for Genealogical Research".
- Tuesday, 15 April- SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
10 a.m., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo
Road, Danville. Speaker: Bette Gorrell Kot "Planning
a Genealogical Research Trip".
- Saturday, 19 April-Contra Costa County Genealogical Society
11:30 a.m., Pleasant Hill Adult Center, 3100 Oak Park
Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Mini-Seminar includes beginning
and intermediate genealogy, beginning German Genealogy,
computers, how to write a family history, southern
research, using newspapers as a research tool, using
the Oakland LDS Library, land records and preservation
of records. Classes conclude at 3:30 p.m. followed by
a panel discussion. Fee is \$7.00. Call 934-4960 for
further information.

Our last meeting: Last month's speaker, Philip S. Breck, made a persuasive presentation on the value of the historical perspective to genealogy. He pointed out how well-positioned one is in mid-life for familiarity with at least five generations: one's own generation, the lives of our parents, and to some degree our grandparents, also the lives of our children, and quite likely our grandchildren. By adding data and personal sketches and taking into account historical events and conditions of the times, one can produce a five family history of the most recent and current generations.

Our next meeting: Bette Gorrell Kot is a member of SRVGS and needs no introduction to many who have attended her excellent classes in beginning and intermediate genealogy. Bette is a lecturer and researcher in genealogy as well as a teacher. She is currently the North Central Regional Director of the California State Genealogical Alliance and Librarian at the California Genealogical Society. Bette's topic will be "Planning a Genealogical Research Trip". She will suggest some ways to get ready for your trip as well as how to make the best use of your time while in the research area.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When thinking of travel, many people are captivated by the allure of sunny beaches, fabulous dining, and exotic adventures. Not so much hardened genealogists!

For us, we often choose an adventure which includes visiting the communities once peopled by our ancestors, imagining their lives there, - their homes, businesses, churches, schools, or farms. We visit town halls, local libraries, historical societies, cemeteries, and any living relatives we can find. There is a very personal thrill in thinking we are possibly walking the same streets, travelling the same roads or even in visualizing the family gathered at a graveside, watching a loved one lowered into the ground below.

Our itineraries include farm towns in Iowa, cities in Illinois or Ohio, villages in New England, or maybe even "the Old Country". The vast genealogical resources of Salt Lake City, Washington, D.C., New York and Boston become our Meccas. There are genealogical conferences and seminars, as well as family association reunions sponsored annually all over the country.

As summer approaches and we start planning vacations, consider making a genealogical pilgrimage. It can offer amazing rewards and sometimes valuable contacts which may not be possible as relatives' age and memories fade.

Jean Blackmur

MAYFLOWER LIBRARY

In March several of our members visited the library of the California Society of Mayflower Descendants located at 405 14th Street in Oakland. This small library houses a wealth of information for anyone likely to have ancestors in New England in the 17th and 18th centuries. It matters not that you have a known Mayflower connection (though you may discover that you do). A number of Mayflower families have been reliably documented for five generations resulting in excellent information on hundreds of related families.

The library is open on Mondays 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and frequently at other times when their helpful volunteer staff is available. Call ahead (415) 451-9599. No set charge to patrons, but a "donation" is welcomed.

SALT LAKE CITY TRIP

One ticket is available for the trip to the LDS Genealogical Library April 21 - 27. Cost of \$317.00 includes airfare and hotel. Those going are Patty Erickson, Jean Blackmur, Cliff Gant, Bette Kot, Sandy Kimball, Lee Meola, Ruth Phelps, and Guinevere Mills.

BEGINNING GENEALOGICAL PACKETS

These packets will be available at our April meeting at a cost of \$1.00. Bette Kot will be available before or after the meeting if you have any questions about the forms in the packet.

"HOW TO CLIMB YOUR FAMILY TREE"

We have this book for sale at cost. See Fred Potter.

TAPE RENTAL

If you notice any problem with the tapes, please notify Fred Potter immediately. Rewinding tapes on a machine with a dirty head will erase some of the sound. Avoid getting the tapes near magnetic material as this will cause erasure. Rental is \$1.00 per month. Please try to get the tapes back in one month - others are waiting to rent.

LETTERHEAD CONTEST

The April Newsletter letterhead is the last entry in our contest. We will vote, by secret ballot, at our April meeting on which letterhead will be our permanent one. Pick up ballots at sign-in table.

NEW MEMBERS TO ADD TO YOUR SOCIETY ROSTER

Marjorie Stenger, 933 Dirkcrest Road, Alamo, CA 94507 837-1498
Robert Reynolds, 121 Rubicon Circle, Danville, CA 94526 820-1140

They add when they multiply

If you take your family back 14 generations, which would be more than 300 years, you have in that period of time 16,384 direct ancestors from whom you are equally descended.

In the period covered by 10 generations of American ancestors, you would find your line from Colonial days to the present includes 1,024 ancestors, all of them your grandparents with, of course, many of them being great-great-greats, etc.

Many people ask why there is such a difference between the number of ancestors in the 10th generation

and the total for 15 generations.

The answer is due to the fact that, every generation, your number of direct forebearers doubles. For example, you have two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, etc. Thus, the 16,384 ancestors representing 14 generations becomes 32,768 in the 15th, since every marriage represents another whole set of ancestors.

Remember the saying that we are all related? Till you follow your ancestry back to the year 1,000, your forebearers already number in the billions--that's only roughly half way back to Biblical times. The astronomical figure reached when you get back to the days of the earliest recorded history would be much higher than the number of people living on earth at that time. The conclusion is that we are all descended from those earliest inhabitants of earth and, yes, we are all related.

MAY LUNCHEON

The membership (and their guests) are invited to attend a luncheon at the home of outgoing President, Jean Blackmur, following the Annual Business Meeting and speaker on May 20th. Jean lives at 1941 Alameda Diablo in Diablo, a short drive from St. Timothy's Church.

The menu has been planned by our member Suzanne Guinivere:

Chicken Oriental Salad
Pasta salad with fete cheese and tomatoes
Tossed green salad
Toasted pita bread parmesan
Fresh fruit and cookies

Cost is \$6.00 per person and reservations must be made by Tuesday, May 13.
Make check payable to SRVGS and mail to Box 305, Diablo, CA 94528.
(Use form at bottom of membership dues form).

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1986-1987 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Payable by June 1, 1986

Please complete as you would like to appear in the next membership roster.

NAME: _____ Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Two surnames being researched per individual member:

(1) _____ Locale _____ (2) _____ Locale _____

(1) _____ Locale _____ (2) _____ Locale _____

Individual membership \$10.00 _____ Family membership \$15.00 _____

Detach and mail with check payable to SRVGS, Box 305, Diablo, CA 94528

My check includes \$6.00 per person for _____ people for the luncheon.