

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 V No. 10

May 1990

NEXT MEETING: MAY 15, 1990

ANNUAL BOOK BROWSE & SALE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS MAY LUNCHEON

BROWSING and a short BUSINESS meeting will be held at the usual time of 10 AM with installation of officers for 1990-91. Book tables will be set up on the patio for display of resource materials (books, maps, charts, etc.) which members have found helpful. Materials will be arranged by geographical location. Other tables will display genealogical items which members no longer need and want to sell. (Please price items for sale; label with your name those items for display). NEW THIS YEAR for your inspiration: an exhibit of books written by our own members. Contact Peggy Frazier, 837-6594, for more information about this part of our program.

Part II at 11:45 will be the annual LUNCHEON. This year it will consist of a Salad Buffet catered by Emilio's of Danville. The deadline for reservations has been extended to May 11. Call Patty Erickson, 229-0889, if you have a question about the luncheon.

● LAST MONTH

BETTE KOT was unable to be with us at the April meeting, but we look forward to hearing her when her talk is rescheduled.

Once again, we had a demonstration of the wonderful resources available among our members when several were able to fill in at short notice. Program Chairperson MARTHA BANNER chose a panel of speakers for the topic "Recent Successes in Genealogical Research".

PATTY ERICKSON told of receiving a reply to a letter written eleven years previously which led to a joint effort with some cousins in locating a 3rd-gt. grandfather.

SHIRLEY TERRY spoke on how she used the census and the soundex to find clues to an immigrant ancestor.

SANDY ABERER told of bringing home several floppy disks of information obtained from the new compact disk data retrieval system at the LA Family History Center to enter into her own computer.

FRANCES LLOYD gave a short review of several new genealogical books and reprints.

FRANCES BECKER told of locating missing death information in a deed during a recent trip to a Missouri courthouse.

THANKS TO ALL for an interesting and instructive program!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY

- ★ 8 - Tuesday 10 AM Irish Interest Group; 1 PM Missouri Interest Group [see p. 65]; 7:30 PM Livermore-Amador Vly GS Meeting 1886 College Ave. Livermore.
- ★ 10 - Thursday 10:30 AM & 1 PM German Interest [see p. 65]; 7:30 PM Contra Costa Co GS, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr., Concord
- 11 - Friday 9 AM - 1 PM National Archives Workshop: "Federal Land Records" by Dan Nealand, 1000 Commodore Ave., San Bruno. Call 876-9009 for reservation. \$10 at the door.
- 12 - Saturday Friends of the Archives DOUBLE HEADER: 9AM - noon, "Tracing Your Ancestors in Great Britain" by Barbara Myers; 1-4PM "Modems: A Tool for Genealogical Research" by Dennis Lewandowski. 1000 Commodore Ave., San Bruno. Call 876-9009 for reservations. \$10 each workshop, pay at the door.
- 14-20 - Monday thru Sunday - Solano County museums and historical organizations celebrate International Museum Week. SOLGS presentation, in "Historic Old Town Hall" in Vacaville depicts the life of a typical Solano County pioneer through genealogical records.
- ★ 15 - Tuesday 10 AM, SRVGS May Book Browse & Luncheon; 1:30 PM Roots III Beginners [see p.65]
- 17 - Thursday 1-3 PM, Mt. Diablo GS Meeting, Home Fed. Svgs. Mtg. Rm. 1938 Tice Valley Blvd. WC
- ★ 22 - Tuesday SRVGS Library Trip to Heritage Collection, CCCo. Library, 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Meet 9:30 AM behind Lucky's, Diablo Rd. Danville. The library opens at 10 AM. [Note change of schedule: CA State Library, Sacramento will be in June]
- ★ 23 - Wednesday 10 a.m. Publishing Interest Group [see p.65]
- 26 - Saturday No Friends of the Archives workshop due to Memorial Day. NOTE: Archives not open Saturdays, Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- 26 - Saturday PAF Users Group Organizing Meeting, Pleasant Hill Adult Center, Rm. 203, 3100 Oak Park Blvd., PH. For info: Barbara Edkin, 625-0601; Julia Purdie, 933-6555; or Sue Swindell, 372-6996.

JUNE

- ★ 5 - Tuesday 10 AM, SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. All members welcome!
- 11 - Monday 9 AM - noon, Nat'l Archives Workshop "Federal Court Records" by Claude Hopkins; \$7.50 [see above]
- ★ 12 - Tuesday 10 AM, Irish Interest Group; 7:30 PM Livermore-Amador Vly GS Meeting
- 12 - Tuesday 9-12, Friends of Archives "Researching PA Records from CA -- Part II" by Helen Graves. \$10
- 13 - Wednesday 9 AM to noon. Nat'l Archives Workshop: "Merchant Marine Records" by Neil Thomsen. \$7.50
- ★ 14 - Thursday 10:30 AM & 1 PM, German Interest; 7:30 PM CCCGS Meeting, "Research in PA" by Helen Graves.

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

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Barbara O'Rand 837-1760
 Vice-Pres.: Frances Lloyd 837-9382
 Membership: Carol Glover 820-7207
 333 Goshen Ct.
 San Ramon, CA 94583
 Annual Dues: \$12.50; \$18 (family)
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 820-3757
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 735-9610

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COMING CONFERENCES

June 6-7 NGS "A Capital Conference", Arlington, VA. Contact NGS, 4527 Seventeenth St., North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399

June 17-22 Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, 26th Annual session at the S.U. Library, Birmingham, AL. Also offered July 2-25: "Genealogy in the British Isles," a 3-1/2 week study trip to England, Wales, & Ireland. Contact Samford University Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research, Samford Univ. Library, Birmingham, AL 35229, (205)879-2780



CORRECTION:

Please note that our new members are LIZ and THERON NELSON not Larsen, as listed in last month's N/L. The Editor's apologies to the Nelsons. We welcome you both!



SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

IRISH GROUP Meets May 8 & June 12, 10 AM at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (820-7207)

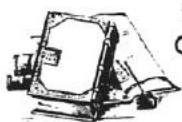
MISSOURI GROUP Meets May 8 & June 12, 1 PM at Carol Glover's [see above].

GERMAN GROUP Meets May 10 & June 14 at Kate Prunte's, 91 Madera Ct. Danville. German Interest is at 10:30 AM; "German for Genealogists" meets at 1 PM. Call 838-9873 a week before if attending the class.

ROOTS III Beginners' Group meets 1:30 PM May 15 and 10 AM June 6. The Continuing Group will meet June 6 at 1:30 PM. The May 15 meeting will be at Sandy Aberer's, 110 El Nido Ct., Diablo (837-8271). Bob Heacox will continue with External History Files. The June 19 meeting will be at Shirley Terry's.

PUBLISHING GROUP plans to visit Paragon Press, Concord on May 23 at 10 AM. Call Marilyn Fullam (828-1873) a couple of days ahead to confirm meeting place.

RESEARCH HELPS



HAVE YOU CHECKED THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER?

By Sandy Kimball

If you're researching in Contra Costa County, you should know about the Contra Costa County History Center.

Located at 1700 Oak Park Blvd., Rm. C5, Pleasant Hill (next door to Central Library and in the same complex with Hayward State's C.C. Co. campus), the Center contains thousands of local documents (22,000 catalog cards have already been created and volunteer catalogers have only scratched the surface, 35,000 photos and negatives of county people and places, books newspapers, maps and more.) The majority of the materials at the Center are from the Louis Stein Collection, which Louis and Mildred Stein gave to the Contra Costa County Historical Society five years ago.

From county censuses to Contra Costa tax books and court cases, from probates to obituaries and biographies--local histories, untold numbers of newspaper clippings from every community in Contra Costa, this is the most complete and comprehensive history of our county in existence. Indeed, the scope of the work--thanks to Mr. Stein's lifelong addiction to collecting documents and photos of every description--may well be one of the largest available in any one local source in California.

Scholars, researchers, city planners, developers and realtors, archeologists and geologists, engineers, public information officers, area newspapers and many others, as well as members of the Board of Supervisors, East Bay Regional Parks, etc. are frequent visitors to the History Center.

While a modest fee is charged for research, anyone who joins the Contra Costa Historical Society (\$15.00 a year) can enjoy this service free.

The Center has purchased a computer so that before long research here will be even faster and more complete. So, if you're fortunate enough to have ancestors who lived in Contra Costa, you can enjoy a wealth of records right in your own backyard. (Would that every community any of us is researching had but a fraction of the materials available here.)

The Center is open five days a week, but it's best to call (415-939-9180) for specific days and hours or to arrange for research.

[Written for SRVGS Newsletter by SRVGS Member Sandy Kimball]

FHL UPDATES

When you visit the Oakland Family History Center, be sure to check the bulletin board opposite the sales counter as you enter. The posted *News of the Family History Library* will list the latest microfilm acquisitions available from the Salt Lake Library. The March/April 1990 issue detailed NY City Vital Records and Immigration Records.

REVIEWS

* BOOK REVIEW

by Delores Huckabone
Index to American Genealogies,
 Reprinted: Genealogical Pub. Co.,
 1984.

This book is a companion to *The American Genealogist* (same publisher). It is also a compilation of the fifth edition of Munsell's published in 1900 and the supplement published in 1908. It is arranged by family surname in bold print alphabetically. After each surname is listed the name of the genealogical material where the surname can be found along with page numbers. All the works will have been published before 1908. In most cases, say the publishers, the references are to matter which consists of at least three or four generations.

I found several of my surnames in this volume which I hope will lead me to successful investigations. It's hardcover, approx. 6x9"; 450 pp. \$25. Call Frances Lloyd at Genealogical Resources for availability. Sutro has the 1900 edition as does Pleasant Hill Central, both in the reference section only. I think CGS library also has this one but you'll need to call to find out for sure.

* TAPE REVIEW

by Delores Huckabone
Is the Computer for You?
 SRVGS Tape #M10 approx. 45 min.

This very informational meeting was taped by our own Win Kynett at our February 1987 meeting. If you have thought about using a computer for your genealogy pursuit but just can't quite decide, I highly advise you to check out this tape and give it a good listening to. You will hear our own members - Peggy Frazier, Charles Graves, Carol Glover and Bette Kot, as well as others whose voices I could not recognize, tell you about what can be expected

from a computer and a computer genealogy program. Peggy, Charles and Bette each had different computers and programs and valuable information to share. Carol tells us how to do it without a computer. Even though computer technology has changed by leaps and bounds since and during the time of this meeting you will still gain valuable hints on organizing your mounds and mounds of genealogical material. A few statements I will pass along from this tape: 1) you will not decrease your file cabinet space and 2) if you do intend to buy a computer - do it soon, and 3) be prepared for a new learning experience. Since this tape was made, Carol Glover and I'm sure many others have purchased their computers and programs - including me. It was good to know I had done a few things right without listening to this tape but there was much more there that would have been helpful. "Check-out" this tape; we all have so much to learn from each other and after all, that's what SRVGS is all about.

[SRVGS thanks Delores Huckabone for all the interesting and helpful reviews she has written for the Newsletter over the past two years. We have all benefited from her hard work and willingness to share. As she will be unable to continue, we hope other members will contribute reviews of any helpful genealogy-related materials they find.]

JOE KING BOOK

Our March speaker, Joseph A. King, has a pre-publication offer on his new book, *The Un-counted Irish in Canada and the U.S.* If you send your order to him by May 15, you can purchase the book for \$26 plus \$2.50 postage (add \$1 each for addit'l copies). Send order directly to Joe King, 1161 Nogales St., Lafayette, CA 94549.

Following is a review of one of the six new tapes recently added to the SRVGS JOHN KOPCIE MEMORIAL Tape Collection. More reviews will be in the June Newsletter. Tape purchases are made possible by your donation of \$1 when you borrow a tape for a month.

OVER-THE-MOUNTAIN FOLKS: EARLY MIGRATION TO TENNESSEE & KENTUCKY

Tape Speaker: James R. Johnson

Reviewed by Shirley Siems Terry

This is a very interesting and informative talk about Kentucky and Tennessee research (perhaps heavier on TN). Dr. Johnson is humorous & easy to understand. The title might be a little misleading in that little time was spent on actual migration trails or transportation. He is concerned mainly with British colony ancestors who generally migrated "Over-the-Mountain" from Virginia to Kentucky and North Carolina to Tennessee. He gives historical dates for early settlements and much information about the State of Franklin which did exist as a political entity from 1785-1789.

Have you ever heard of Melungeons? They were an olive-skinned people already in the area, (not Indians), when the first white settlers arrived after 1750. He gives several interesting theories to their origin including their own tradition of a Portuguese ship that mutinied off N. Carolina.

Several prominent theories about the type of people that left homes and families to go over the mountain are advanced. One was that the West was made up of people that had been less than successful back home, leaving old debts, old problems and old worries (including some old wives and families). Later Thomas Abernathy advanced an opposing theory in "From Frontier to Plantation," saying

that those making such big moves were made up of more affluent peoples instead of the "scourings of the earth". He pointed out that they had to have money to purchase good quality wagons and new equipment as well as land. They needed long-range capital to be able to live for a year till they cleared land, grew crops and took them to market.

The over-view of the Draper Papers is reason enough to borrow this tape. Lyman C. Draper collected 486 volumes of manuscripts that have transferred to 147 microfilm rolls. The ones dealing with "over-the-mountain men" are Draper's Life of Boone, the "Papers" of Daniel Boone, Wm. Crogin, Robert Patterson, William Preston, Kentucky, Tennessee, portions of the George Rogers Clark Papers, and the Kings Mountain Men.

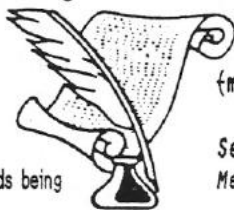
He gives helpful information about census, land, military and county records including the W.P.A. County Record Transcripts and Goodspeed's histories.

The full-hour recording is very clear with no interruptions, lulls or shuffling of paper. After a short question and answer period, someone tells you that the session is over and advises you to fast-forward your tape so it will be ready to use on side one.

SRVGS BUSINESS

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for the year starting June 1, 1990-91:
 President, BARBARA O'RAND
 1st Vice-president, FRANCES LLOYD
 2nd V-P (program), PAT MONTEATH
 3rd V-P (membership) CAROL GLOVER
 Recording Secretary, JANE STEINER
 Corresponding Secretary, JO BOLENBAKER
 Treasurer, JESS SUTFIN
 Parliamentarian, MARILYN FULLAM
 The slate will be voted on and, if approved, installed at the meeting on May 15.

PROPOSED BY-LAW REVISIONS



[Words in italics are being added; strike-out denotes words being deleted from the original by-laws]

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section B: Dues. Annual dues shall be payable June 1. ~~The treasurer shall notify members whose dues are not paid by June 1. If dues are not received by July 1, the name shall be removed from the membership roll.~~

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

Section B. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Society may be called by the President, the Board of Directors, or the written request of ten members. ~~The call for such a meeting shall be given at least ten days written notice which states the purpose of the meeting. A written notice stating the purpose of the meeting shall be given at least ten days prior to said meeting. No business other than that stated shall be conducted.~~

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section B. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director unless that person is a member in good standing.

ARTICLE VII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section A. 1. President shall:

f. Furnish the incoming officers and committee chairpersons with copies of all papers and books necessary for the proper performance of their respective duties.

2. First Vice-President shall:

a. Assume the duties of the President in the absence of, or at the request of, or the resignation of the President.

c. Present a yearly report at the Annual Meeting.

3. Second Vice-President shall:

a. In the absence of the President and the First Vice-President, or at their request, assume the duties of the First Vice-President.

~~b. In the event of a vacancy in the Presidency, assume the duties of the First Vice-President.~~

5. Recording Secretary shall:

b. Keep and have available at all times a record of the proceedings of the Society.

~~d. Furnish the officers and committee chairmen with copies of all papers and books necessary for the proper performance of their respective duties, including membership lists.~~

6. Corresponding Secretary shall:

~~b. Mail the Society Newsletter (may be delegated).~~

b. In the absence of the Recording Secretary, take minutes at the Board or Regular Meeting.

7. Treasurer shall:

a. Be custodian of all funds and financial records of the Society.

d. Be Director of Finance and Budget, with appointed assistants in charge or helping with the following:

~~1. Notify members of their delinquent dues, and report such delinquencies to the Board of Directors.~~

~~2. Maintain a current membership list of all members in good standing. (An original or copy of quality for duplication purposes shall be provided for the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries).~~

f. File yearly tax returns.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

1. Nominating Committee shall:

b. Nominate candidates for offices to be filled at the Annual Meeting. Except for the formative year of the Society; Candidates for offices must have been active members in the Society for at least one year.

c. Report the list of consenting candidates to the Board of Directors at the April Board Meeting and present to the general membership at the regular April Meeting, accompanied by consent of each nominee.

3. Other Standing Committees. Other Standing Committees, such as the editor of the Society newsletter and publicity chairperson and membership, may be appointed, as appropriate, by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Duties, names and term of appointment of committee members, shall be recorded in the Standing Rules of the Society. [Cont'd on last page]

