

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. 6

JANUARY 1991

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 15, 1991

PROGRAM: "HOW I FOUND MY FAMILY; HOW YOU CAN FIND YOURS"

WILBUR DUBERSTEIN, our January speaker, is a local attorney who has traced his family from Russia and Sweden. He is an author, has been a taxi driver, was a partner in the development of Mandarin Tower in S.F. Chinatown and, more recently, has spent many hours tracing relatives in this country. He recently attended a reunion of 250 Dubersteins in New York. This is a lecture not to be missed!

[From Pat Monteath, Program]

NOVEMBER MEETING

by Millie Freitas

PROGRAM: SHARE AN ANCESTOR/SOLVE A PROBLEM

WIN KYNETT shared two of his prized possessions with us. A sailor's money belt owned by John Hamilton in 1898, of canvas, is in mint condition. His great-great-grandfather, born in 1817, was a dentist and Win displayed the hand-made tools he used.

Four members described their researching pursuits through libraries, county clerks, cemeteries and just plain luck!

BILL ALLEN, researching the Blanchard family, was looking for Sarah & Thomas A. Blanchard. After the Civil War, Thomas was a sheriff, then disappeared. Bill found Sarah's grave and next to her was "Scott Blanchard". He could find nothing on Thomas A. Later, while watching "Wheel of Fortune"(?), a sudden thought came to Bill. He look at the pictures he had dutifully taken of the gravestones and hadn't looked at again for some time. On the tombstone next to Sarah he suddenly "saw" SGT T. BLANCHARD! --Sgt. T. Blanchard.

CHARLES GRAVES, only knowing his father was

born in 1882, had problems getting started in his research and looked for his father's brothers and sisters. He didn't give up and finally found, through searching his paternal grandparents, a large cemetery in Waterford, which contained many of his relatives. His advice: "don't give up!"

DOROTHY STANTON first gave an update on her progress with the "Gen Storm" problem of James Brown. County deeds enabled her to eliminate the 1830-census James Brown. The second part was "detective work" on the Stanton family, said to be kin to Edwin Stanton, Lincoln's Sec'y of War. Clues from an uncle and a bit of Irish luck in the form of a cemetery plot in Chicago led to a long-lost cousin (in Denver) who had traced the family back to its home in Ireland. Moral: sometimes the truth is more interesting than family legends.

JANE STEINER, on a trip to Aurora, Illinois, stopped in Mills County, Iowa, to look for her grandparents. She found two great-grandmothers; she only knew their names, but now is in the process of finding their death certificates. Serendipity leads to progress!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JANUARY

- * 8 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Irish Interest Group [see p.43]; 7:30 Livermore-Amador GS Meeting, 1886 College Ave., Livermore.
- * 10 - Thursday - 10:30AM German Interest [see p.43]; 7:30PM Contra Costa Co. GS Meeting, Concord City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr. Topic: "Know Before You Go", a panel discussion on research at the FHL in Salt Lake by Frances Becker, Dorothy Stanton, Marie Prichett and June Lindquist.
- 12 - Saturday - 9AM-5PM Genealogy Class at Pleasanton Library [see p.43]; 9:30AM All-day Seminar by WENDY ELLIOTT, Contra Costa Co. Water District Office, 1331 Concord Ave, Concord. Topics: "Using Tax Records"; "Lost Court House Records, Alternate Sources". \$12.50 at door. Sponsored by CCCGS. Wendy Elliott is co-author of *The Library* and contributing editor to *The Redbook*.
- 14 - Monday - 1-3PM Family History Class [see p.43]
- * 15 - Tuesday - 10:00AM SRVGS Meeting; 1:30PM Roots III Interest Group [see p.43]
- * 17 - Thursday - 10:00AM Southern Interest Group [see p.43]
- * 22 - Tuesday - SRVGS Library Trip to CA State Library at Sacramento. Meet 8AM behind Lucky's on Diablo Rd., Danville. Call Mary Jo Hosteny (932-2244 if you plan to go.
- * 23 - Wednesday - Publishing Interest Group [see p.43]
- 26 - Saturday - 10AM PAffers United, FHC, 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord.

FEBRUARY

- * 5 - Tuesday - 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- * 12 - Tuesday - 10AM Irish Interest Group; 7:30PM LAGS Meeting.
- * 14 - Thursday - 10:30 & 1PM German Interest; 7:30PM CCCGS Meeting: "Maps" by Judy Svoboda.
- * 19 - Tuesday - SRVGS Meeting: "Researching from a Distance" by Christine Rose.
- 23 - Saturday - All-day Seminar on Genealogical Research in Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia by Daniel M. Schlyter & Shirley Siems Terry. American Legion Hall, 15th & H Streets, Sacramento. \$15/\$17.50.
- 24 to March 3 Genealogical Research Tour to Salt Lake City [see below]

PLANNING AHEAD

MARCH 16 - "Ancestor Safari" with Dr. George Schweitzer, Genealogical Assn of Sacramento, \$17.

April 19, 20 California Genealogical Society Fair

MAY 19 through JUNE 1 - 1991 National Genealogical Society Conference "Come to the End of the Oregon Trail" in Portland, Oregon. For more info write: NGS, 4527 Seventeenth St. North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399.
[Some calendar items extracted from "Friends of the Archives" CONSOLIDATED GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR received via Peggy Frazier's MODEM]

HAPPY 1991!

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Barbara O'Rand 837-1760
 Vice-Pres.: Frances Lloyd 837-9382
 Membership: Carol Glover 829-7207
 333 Goshen Ct.
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SALT LAKE CITY RESEARCH TOUR

A genealogical research tour to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City is scheduled for February 24 through March 3, 1991. The cost per person is \$445 which includes round trip air; 7 nights at Howard Johnson's (next door to library); transfers; orientation & a dinner at Lion House. The price is for sharing a twin; singles and quads are available. Down payment of \$200 due by Jan. 22, 1991, final payment by Feb. 8. Call Frances Becker at 934-4962 or 837-8742 for more information.

WANTED: SHOW & TELL ARTIFACTS

Do you have an umbrella used by your great grandmother? Or a shaving kit used by Grandad? Seriously, if you have any articles from your research that you would be willing to talk about and share with our members, please contact Patricia Monteath 426-1803. We would like to make this kind of presentation a regular part of our program.



SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

- GERMAN** - Meets second Thursday of each month 10:30AM at Kate Pruenete's, 91 Madera Ct., Danville (838-9873). At 1:00PM on same day, Kate will continue her "German for Genealogists" at \$10/3 classes. This series will alternate between Christening, Marriage & Death Records. Call Kate a week prior to class. Next meetings: January 10 and February 14.
- IRISH** - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: January 8 and February 12.
- PUBLISHING** - Meets 10AM fourth Wednesday of each month. Next meeting, January 23 will be at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country Dr., Danville. Contact Marilyn Fullam (828-1873) for future meetings.
- ROOTS III** - Meets 1:00PM (Note Change) first Wednesday of each month and 1:30PM on the third Tuesday at Sandy Aberer's, 110 El Nido Ct., Diablo (837-8271). Next meeting: January 15.
- SOUTHERN** - Next meeting: 10AM THURSDAY January 18 at Frances Lloyd's. Call 837-9382 for information.

RESEARCH HELPS

GENEALOGY CLASSES OFFERED

- **ADVANCED CLASS** by Annette Perry on Saturday, January 12, 1991, 9AM-5PM at Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton. The \$20 fee includes packet of forms and 8 hours of class. Topics covered: Using Probate & Wills, Tax & Court Records, Land & Military Records, and Passenger lists. Co-sponsored by Pleasanton Library League, the Livermore-Amador GS and Pleasanton & Dublin Libraries. For more information, call Judy Person at Pleasanton Library, 462-3535.
- **FOUR WEEKS TO A FAMILY HISTORY** - by Bette Kot will meet Jan. 14, 21, 18 and Feb. 4 at 1-3PM, Rossmoor MPR#1, \$25. Class topic: preparation of a brief three or four generational history of your family. Learn how to assemble the documents and photographs and stories you have into a form which will delight your children or grandchildren.
- **GENEALOGY (INTERMEDIATE)**, also by Bette Kot, at Acalanes HS 305 on Wednesdays 7-9PM, for 7 weeks starting Jan. 16. \$35. Learn to use the wealth of local libraries; extend your pedigree by use of military, probate and land records, come to share your problems and solutions. [Both above classes are offered through Acalanes Adult Education. Register at first class.]

LOCAL SOURCES

Announced at our November meeting: two local sources for materials helpful to genealogists.

MAPS UNLIMITED, 2005 Crow Canyon Pl., San Ramon (277-1885) has a large selection of maps, globes, travel books, etc. U.S.

Geologic Survey maps for the western states are in stock but they will fax an order to Washington for any others you need.

UNIVERSITY PRESS BOOK STORE 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Sunset Magazine says they have an excellent selection of publications from (mostly western) university presses. They also have catalogs so you can order from most of the others around the country.

COPY SCREENS

At one of our meetings, the use of a copy-screen was demonstrated as a help when making copies of photographs on a copy machine. The screen emulates a half-tone print used in publishing. WIN KYNETT found this description which gives some details on the subject.

"When copying photography on the photocopy machine, the quality can be improved by using a copy-screen. Copyscreens are available in the 65 line and 85 line sizes. Use of the screen (under the photo being copied) creates a dot matrix image and produces a copy with better detail and contrast balances." The article states that the dot screens are available through a Xerox Distribution Center. They have a toll-free 800 number and are listed in the white pages under Xerox Sales & Services. [The Family Tree Digest, Wauseon, OH, June 1990]

EDITOR'S NOTE: Most large art supply stores carry the screens. I found them at Amsterdam Art 1013 University Ave. in Berkeley. The screen I've found most helpful in photocopying is called LETRACOPY HT, Letraset #HT-1-USQ. It was \$3.96 when I bought it last year. They are vinyl sheets that can be used over and over; however, I bought several so that I could cut the screen the exact size of the photo.

VITAL RECORD UPDATES

- NEW YORK STATE has announced a new form and fee structure to use when requesting birth, marriage or death vital records. DOH-1552 is the number for the form "General Information and Application for Genealogical Services". The fee is dependent on the span of years you request to have researched and the fee is on a per name basis. For 1 to 3 yrs, \$6; 4 to 10 yrs, \$10; 11 to 20 yrs, \$16, 21 to 30 yrs, \$21; 31 to 40 yr, \$26; 41 to 50 yrs, \$31; and 51 to 60 yrs, \$36. [SCGS' The Searcher July, '90]
- CALIFORNIA INCREASE! Birth Certificates \$12; Marriage Certificates, \$12; Death Certificates \$8. [From CSGA N/L Dec 1990]
- CALIFORNIA, L.A. COUNTY - The Registrar of LA County provides the following information as of March 1990. Search fees for a certified copy of a record or a search performed by a deputy, or an order requiring pulling more than 5 records or folders: birth-\$11/copy, death-\$/copy, marriage-\$11/per copy. No fee is required to inspect your own birth and/or marriage cert., birth cert. of your children, or death cert. of your immediate family members. No fee is required to search available indexes. [IGS N/L, Sept. 1990 via SMCSS Sept. 1990]
- MASSACHUSETTS - You must use their request form and send a stamped, self-addressed business envelope. As of Jan. 1989, the fee for a ten-year search of B, M, & D records was \$6.00

[Contributed by Marilyn Fullam]

FORUM EXCERPTS

- SRVGS members will begin receiving Forum as soon as SRVGS' membership in the Federation of Genealogical Societies is processed. Until then our N/L will glean items of interest. If you receive the quarterly from other societies, the following information will not be new.
- NEW JERSEY - The State Dept of Health is still not answering genealogical requests due to budget cuts, and no change is foreseen in the near future. Fortunately, the NJ State Archives (185 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 06618) has received microfilm records of birth (to 1923, marriages (to 1940), and deaths (to 1940). These are indexed on a statewide basis and are open to researchers. However, no mail requests are accepted. For earlier years, the State Archives has vital statistics for NJ (1848-78) that can be researched by mail. All later records must be researched in person or by a hired researcher.
 - TEXAS - Legislation in Texas now closes all death records. This is due to the fact, or possibility, that illegal aliens were using these records to establish ID's.
 - CANADA - Cost of New Brunswick vital statistics per certificate has been reduced from \$25 to \$15.
 - OKLAHOMA - The Muldrow GS has an extensive collection of the records of the Five Civilized Tribes, with an emphasis on the Cherokee Nation, as the Muldrow area was originally part of the Sequoyah District of the Cherokee Nation. Among the holdings on microfilm are the Old Settlers Rolls (before the Trail of Tears) and tribal census for 1880 and 1890. The collection also includes the census records of the other tribes as well as payment rolls and the Indian rolls on microfilm, the 1900 federal census of Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory, and the 1910 federal census of the state of OK. The Muldrow Public Library, where the GS keeps its files, also has many publications dealing with the Five Civilized Tribes as well as other information dealing with early statehood days. (Info provided by Donald J. Stewart, President, MGS, P.O. Box 1253, Muldrow, OK 74948)
 - FLORIDA - The GS of Hernando Co. reports receiving a letter from their State Representative on the availability of FL death records. A bill (HB 2541) reference to confidential records of vital statistics is pending before the FL Legislature (similar bill in the Senate). If the bill passes, it becomes effective 1 Oct 1990.
 - ILLINOIS - La Salle Co Clerk's office has received approval from the IL Dept of Public Health to provide microfilm copies of birth indexes 100 years and older, death indexes 50 years and older, and marriage indexes 75 years and older to the Starved Rock Library System. The Gen Soc of Utah will be doing the microfilming.

ENGLISH RESEARCH HELP

The Centre for English Genealogy has produced a "Catalogue of Searches in the Genealogical Records of England for the Family Historian on a Shoestring Budget". Send \$3.00 to: The Centre for English Genealogy, P.O. Box 11631, Salt Lake City, UT 84147. Most searches average \$2.00. [From The English Researcher Nov 1990]



REVIEWS

AUDIO TAPE REVIEWRESEARCH IN NEW YORK CITY
By Roger D. Joslyn (Tape C-68)

Roger Joslyn evidently is a professional researcher; at any rate, he is very familiar with the genealogical repositories for New York City's five boroughs. He points out that Manhattan has, by far, the most records available, but the other boroughs are beginning to have more of their records indexed and made available.

The five boroughs have corresponding counties, though only two have the same name. The island of Manhattan (also the Borough) is New York County; Brooklyn is Kings County; and Staten Island is Richmond County. Queens and Bronx are the two with corresponding names.

Mr. Joslyn says he will give a "meat and potatoes" talk, and he does just that, even adding some gravy! He goes into detail on what records are available for what dates and where and how to find them. He covers the holdings of the Municipal Archives, the various county courthouses, the New York Public Library, the NY Geneal. & Biographical Society, the NY Hist. Soc. and more.

If you had relatives in New York City, this tape is a must; and be sure to have paper and pencil at the ready.

--by Jane Steiner

BOOK REVIEW

GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY OF THE FIRST SETTLERS OF NEW ENGLAND, VOLUMES 1-4 by James Savage, 1860-62, and edited by G. P. Dexter in 1881. Genealogical Publishing Company, 1990.

For researchers with ancestors from early New England, up to 1692, these four volumes are a must. Exhaustively researched

by James Savage, they contain a wealth of material besides the bare bones of dates of birth, death, marriage, etc. He traces lineal descent for three generations from the earliest colonist of a given name, thus extending biographical detail beyond 1692 in some cases. I was fascinated to learn that one of my collateral ancestors, James Britton (or Brit-taine) of Weymouth, was whipped in 1639 for casting aspersions on the minister, and finally hanged in 1644 for adultery. Comments on the times, together with political comments, flesh out the bare bones and make for hours of delightful reading. Savage uses a shorthand of sorts in his many abbreviations, but they are listed at the front, and familiarity soon makes for rapid reading. Recommended heartily, but expensive! [Available through Frances Lloyd, Genealogical Resources]

--Review by Mary Jo Hosteny

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IF IT'S IN PRINT, IT MUST BE TRUE, Chapter 2

Noted genealogist, Eugene Stratton, asserts that every person calling himself or herself a genealogist should subscribe to at least one of the current genealogical journals and be familiar with using others in libraries. These journals carry articles on genealogical techniques, new books, as well as new evidence by experienced genealogists which corrects many of the early published genealogies. They can save hundreds of hours and dollars of research, not to mention the embarrassment of finding you have perpetuated a long-disproved & erroneous family connection in your own writing.

Some journals to consider are: The National Genealogical Society Quarterly, The American Genealogist, and The New England Historical and Genealogical Register as well as some of the other regional journals. Take a look at them in the library and see which one appeals to you.

[from Applied Genealogy by Eugene A. Stratton, Ancestry Inc. 1988]

EDITOR'S NOTE: Do you find the type style (sans serif) on this page easier to read than that on page 44? Let me know what you think.

"THERE'S ALOT OF THAT GOING AROUND"**WARNING: GENEALOGY POX**
(Very Contagious to Adults)

SYMPTOMS: Continual complaints as to need for names, dates, kinships, and places. Patient has blank expression - sometimes deaf to spouse and children; Has no taste for work of any kind except feverishly looking through records at libraries and court houses; Has compulsion to write letters; Swears at mailman when he doesn't leave any mail; Frequents strange places, such as cemeteries, ruins, and remote desolate country areas; Makes secret night calls; Hides phone bill from spouse; mumbles to self; Has far away look in eyes.

TREATMENT: Medication is useless; Disease is not fatal but gets progressively worse; Patients should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogy magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he can be alone.

REMARKS: The unusual nature of this disease is - the sicker the patient gets, the more he enjoys it.

[From the N/L of the Ohio Chapter Palatines to America, Oct. 1981 and the Miami GS Bulletin, Spring 1982.
Contributed by Bea O'Rand]

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FIRST CLASS MAIL