

# 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. 9

April 1991

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 16, 1991

#### PROGRAM: "THE WORLD OF GENEALOGY"

Speaker RON BREMER is well qualified to cover such a broad subject. He is a former Research Specialist for the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and is the author of *THE COMPENDIUM OF HISTORICAL SOURCES*. During his more-than-40 years (he started at age 13!) of research experience, he has personally visited the major genealogical record centers in every state and province in North America. He is a contributor to numerous genealogical magazines and is a popular speaker around the country. His lectures are not only informative but also entertaining and inspiring. Sample topics: "Solving Stonewall Problems", "Speeding up Research", "Little Known Sources", "Courthouse to the Outhouse". Don't miss this excellent opportunity to become better informed on "The World of Genealogy"!

-- Patricia Monteath, Program

► REMINDER: SRVGS is now renting the Women's Club for an extra half-hour each month. Come at 9:30AM and you will have more time to exchange tapes, examine the "Freebie Basket" and chat with other members.

#### LAST MONTH

By Ardith Steger

In Pat Monteath's absence, Mary McNamara played hostess for an interesting "show and tell" session: Along with the red velvet sewing box of her Grandmother, ARDITH STEGER showed two fine heirloom watches. ALICE WADE's Meerscham pipe belonged to her Grandfather, and his grandfather before him. The makings of a short story, at least, is the sequence of events (Monmouth Co, NJ to the Nat'l Gallery, Washington to "Elegant Clutter" in Danville) that led PRICILLA DIETRICH to finding a copy of a painting done by her Gt-Gt Grandfather, Charles Spencer Humphreys.

This part was followed by a "makes-you-want-

to-get-busy" panel of speakers:

PEGGY FRAZIER spoke of the boon the new computer system at the Oakland LDS Family History Center can be to genealogists. There are now 4 computers: 2 may be reserved by calling ahead (531-2460); 2 are for 'drop-in' use. Printed copies are 5¢ per page. Peggy mentioned that she takes her floppy discs and transfers information directly. The programs she described are: 1) Social Security Deaths (only contains information on people whose deaths have been reported to SS. 2) FHL Card File (Catalog). Helpful in variations of name spellings. 3) Family Ancestral File. You might be surprised to know who, besides you,

[Continued on page 68]

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR****APRIL**

- \* 9 - Tuesday 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p. 67]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS, Cong. Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. Marilyn Graham: "My Recent Genealogy Trip to Denmark".
- 10 - Wednesday 10AM East Bay GS Meeting, Mormon Center, Oakland. Topic: "Genealogical Jungle: Finding Your Way"; panel of members with hints on buying, subscribing & joining while keeping your budget under control.
- \* 11 - Thursday 10AM German Interest Group [see p. 67]; 7:30PM CCCGS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr., Concord. "Using the Census for Genealogy" by Barbara Edkin.
- \* 16 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 1PM ROOTS III Interest Group [see p. 67]
- 19 & 20 Friday & Saturday 6th Annual CGS Genealogical Fair, St. Mary's Cathedral, SF. (415)777-9936 or (415) 474-2868. Or pick up a flier from Jane Steiner at the meeting.
- 20 - Saturday All-day Workshop, joint-sponsors: LAGS & Livermore LDS, 1501 Hillcrest Av Livermore (Mary Lynne Horton 443-5407); 1:30PM San Mateo Co GS presents "Elegance of Yesteryear" (1850-1950) at Veterans Memorial Sr. Center Bldg, 1455 Madison Ave, Redwood City; reservations \$10 or \$8/group of 4. Send to SMCGRS, P.O. Box 5083, San Mateo 94402. \$12 at door.
- \* 23 - Tuesday Library Trip to CA State Library, Sacramento [see p. 69]
- 24 - Wednesday 10AM Publishing Interest Group [see p. 67]
- 27 - Saturday 10AM Paffers United (PAF Users Group), Family History Center (rear), 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord; 9AM - 12:30PM Archdiocese of SF History Day [see p. 67]
- 28 - Sunday 9:30AM-4:30PM Southern California Genealogical Jamboree, Pasadena Center, 300 East Greene Street, Pasadena. Speakers, classes, exhibits, archival photo copying will be offered. Call (818)THE-SCGS.

**MAY**

- \* 7 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME! 10AM Roots III Beginners' Group [see p. 67]
- \* 14 - Tuesday 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p. 67]
- \* 21 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting: "Scottish Research" by Lindsay Reeks.
- 29 - June 1 Nat'l Gen. Soc. Conference: "Come to the End of the Oregon Trail", Oregon Conference Center, Portland; for brochure write: NGS 1991 Conference, 4537 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399.

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

**DUES NOW to 1 JUNE 1991: \$6.25**

**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

**SPECIAL THANKS!**

THANKS to SRVGS members who were willing to fill in on the following jobs:

Hospitality - SANDY ABERER  
 Publicity - ARLENE GRIMES  
 Education - FRANCES BECKER

**A HINT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE?**

Drum Heritage Group Chairman Charles O'Neill, speaking in County Roscommon Ireland said, "in paying tribute to my committee and our voluntary helpers, I would like to say that every organization is structured from four kinds of bones. There are **Wishbones** who spend all their time wishing someone else would do the work. Then there are the **Jawbones** who do all the talking but little else. The **Knucklebones** criticize everything anybody else tries to do. Fortunately, we have the **Backbones** who get under the load and do most of the work."

[Contributed by Margaret Jensen]

## SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

**GERMAN** - Meets 10 AM Thursday, April 11 at Shirley Terry's, 301 Almond Ct., San Ramon (829-7787). The group will decide about continuing to meet on the second Thursday each month.

**IRISH** - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: April 9 and May 14.

**PUBLISHING** - Meets 10AM fourth Wednesday of each month. Next meeting: April 24 at Marilyn Fullam's, 6933 Prince Dr., Dublin. Contact Marilyn (828-1873) for future meetings.

**ROOTS III** - Meets 1:00PM first and third Tuesday at Sandy Aberer's, 110 El Nido Ct., Diablo (837-8271). Next meetings: April 16 & May 7. BEGINNERS will meet at Sandy's 10AM May 7 if enough people show their interest. Call Sandy to check.

**SOUTHERN** - Next meeting: call Frances Lloyd 837-9382.

## RESEARCH HELPS

### TIPS FROM SRVGS MEMBERS

#### ► FROM IRISH INTEREST GROUP MEMBERS:

The members of the Irish Interest Study Group have developed a method for helping each other make progress with research. At the end of every month's meeting, each member tells the group what he/she plans to do before the next meeting, e.g., write a church to inquire about records, call a cemetery, write a library. Knowing that the other members will expect a report next month helps to get the work done.

This technique is, of course, that of "setting short-term goals" and can be adapted on an individual basis. It's amazing how much research (some put off for years) has been accomplished when there's a deadline to meet.

The advantage of the group setting is that other members can "brain-storm" on how to solve a problem and share their experiences on where to find an answer. But, best of all, when you get that exciting letter that tells where great-grandmother was born, you can share your results, not with your bored family or non-genealogy friends who respond with blank looks, but with other group members who are just as thrilled as you are!

**MORAL:** JOIN an Interest Group or START ONE!

- FROM MARILYN FULLAM: Hearing that the DeYoung Museum in SF will advise on the preservation or identification of old artifacts, heirlooms, etc., Marilyn called them about an old document that had been folded for many decades. She was referred to the Paper Conservation Laboratory Public Clinic at the CA Palace of the Legion of Honor in Lincoln Park, SF. Call (750-3680) on the first working day of the month to get an appointment on the last Friday. Only ten appointments are made each month, so you may have to try several months.

- ALSO FROM MARILYN: The Archdiocese of San Francisco is sponsoring a HISTORY DAY: "Catholic Peoples of San Francisco & the Bay Area" on Saturday, April 27, 9 - 12:30; register 8:30 - 9AM, \$5; at St. Mary's Cathedral, SF. Speakers on Irish, Italian, Filipino, Chinese, Hispanic, & Polish history.

#### ► APRIL-RELATED TIPS

**NO FOOLING:** When researching nineteenth century newspapers, it is recommended to be aware of the significance of the date April 1. Every year, April 1 was the customary date for moving. Deeds are frequently dated March 31, April 1 or April 2. Spring was universally regarded as the time for changing residence or selling the farm. Newspapers at times noted these changes. For instance, a Bucks County (PA) newspaper on 29 March 1879 listed fifty-one removals in Doylestown, forty elsewhere. In some cases the destinations of removals were designated.

[By Albert Carmichael, C.G. in N/L of FGS Nov/Dec 1987 via Immigrant Gen Soc N/L April 1988]

#### ► TAXES

**GLASS TAX** - This tax was taken by the Federal Government in 1798. It contains many of the following items: Number of acres owned, size and construction of buildings, number of stories, doors and windows, adjoining properties, owners and tenants. Do you realize that many families in 1798 lived in a house about the size of what today would be a large living room? [From Oregon GS Qtly Vol 17 #3 Spring 1989]

#### TAX TERMS:

INMATE - renter

UNSEATED - non-resident landowner

FREEMAN: OVER 21, NOT MARRIED - Found work with landowners and is off the tax list.

SQUATTER - did not own land, a horse or cow -- not on tax list.

[From LAGS Qtly, Vol VIII, No 3 Spring 1989]

## ► HELPS FROM HERE & THERE

**SEAMAN'S PROTECTION CERTIFICATE:** If your ancestor went to sea in the 1800's he may have applied for a Seaman's Protection Certificate to protect him from impressment by Great Britain and other (foreign) powers. The certificate program lasted from 1796 to 1897. Proof of citizenship and payment of a fee of twenty-five cents qualified him for a certificate. The application was preserved at the office of the collector of customs where he applied, but every three months the collector sent a list of the seamen to the Sec'y of State in Washington, abstracting each seaman's age, birthplace, height, complexion, hair color. You may write to Civil Archives Division, Nation Archives & Records, Washington, D.C. 20408 to check for your ancestor. If he is found you will be advised of the cost of photocopying. [From Clark Co GS N/L Dec 1990 via SMC GS N/L Feb/Mar 1991]

► **IMMIGRATION HISTORY:** The Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, 826 Berry St., St. Paul, MN 55114, collects, researches, and disseminates materials about the migration to, and experience in, America of twenty-four American ethnic groups. These groups are Albanians, Armenians, Bulgarians, Byelorussions, Carpatho-Ruthenians, Croations, Czechs, Estonians, Finns, Greeks, Hungarians, Italians, Jews (East European), Latvians, Lithuanians, Macedonians, Near Easterners, Poles, Romanians, Russians, Serbs, Slovaks, Slovenes, and Ukrainians. Write the center for their current publications catalog.

[From FORUM Winter 1990]

► **GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE LOST RECORDS:** Dr. Donald D. Bogt, President, Greene County Gen Soc, Rt. 3, Box 243, Limestone, TN 37681 reports that many of the early tax records of Greene Co TN have been recovered. These records which date from 1783-1800 have been lost for over 60 years. Thirty-three of the 88 lists are the originals. The remainder are transcriptions. The originals have been preserved in acid-free storage folders and are in the Nathanael Greene Museum in Greenville. The Greene County Genealogical Society is publishing these lists in their quarterly journal. Write to the above address for details. As no census records exist for this county until 1830, these records are an important find.

[LAST MONTH continued from first page]  
is working on your lines. 4) International Genealogical Index -- not yet complete.

A keen interest in Civil War Bonds was kindled for BILL ALLEN as an outgrowth of his association with his Great Grandmother. As a small child he had visited with Grandmother Sarah often; but it was not until he was older (their last visit was in 1941) that he realized what a unique experience this had been. Sarah had lived in Georgia during the Civil War. An interesting lesson in history accompanied Bill's search for something lasting to honor Sarah's memory. The interesting story about C.W. bonds in general, and the one now in Bill's possession, in particular, is probably more memorable than the lessons he learned in school.

The program concluded with FRANCES LLOYD showing and briefly describing the contents of a number of new books helpful to genealogists.



## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

[Please add names, addresses & surnames being searched to your 1990-91 Membership Handbook]

ABBOT, Barbara, 5700 Verna Way, Clayton, CA 94517 (672-2315) GLESENER-NACE, Luxemborg; ZWICKER, Bavaria, Germany.

CORTESSIS, Phoebe 1624 Reliez Valley Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549 (933-6211) BROOKS, MA NH; MELVIN, MA NH.

GOTTHOLD, Donald R. 40971 Valero Dr., Fremont, CA 94539 (651-0214) GOTTHOLD, GER, OH; LOUTZENHEISER, GER, OH.

WADE, Rose Marie 961 South G St., Livermore, CA 94550 (447-6861) STICKNEY, MI; WADE, MI AZ

## CHANGE OF ADDRESSES:

HUCKABONE, Delores, Rt #1 Box 957, Lakeside AZ 85929 (602/357-0911)

PRUENTE, Kate, 21534 American River Dr, Sonora CA 95370. Kate lives in Crystal Falls.

WINTER, Ann, 12590 Cloudesly, San Diego, CA 92128.

Our former historian's new address is

Diana HANCOCK - 192563

c/o Saudi Aramco

Box 11181

Dhahran, 31311

Saudi Arabia

Diana joined her husband January 13 (!).

## BE A GOOD ANCESTOR PRESERVING YOUR RECORDS

Family historians who have handled disintegrating family records, unlabeled photographs, and even books printed on yellowing wood-pulp paper, often wish their ancestors had taken some thought for the future. The recent newspaper story (opposite page) concerning the possible loss of thirty years of records at the National Archives should make us stop and think about how we will pass on our records and information to our descendants as well as to future genealogists and historians. The following excerpts are food for thought, some warnings, and some ideas for preserving your family's history.

### ► WHERE TO START?

"What is the best thing I could do to leave the index [of my families] now in my head as a legacy to someone who takes over the unending task of family researching?", asked Paul Anderock in *Genealogical Computing* [Vol. 7 #1] as he faced the enormous task of getting his research onto a computer. The answer may help all of us who have boxes of files and keep in our heads how they fit together.

Said Paul: We must organize the lines of the family by names, birthdates, birthplaces, marriage-links and parent-child links. This is the critical path and underlying structure of a family record system. Who are the family members and how are they fitted into the family? All else is life-description and fact-proofs. I do not diminish the importance of a deathplace or the evidence that proves it; I simply mean that if I must sequence my efforts, I will start by putting in names, birthdates and places, marriages, and parents/children links of those persons. If I do that, all other facts and supporting evidence will readily fit the skeletal structure of the family database. . . If we were to die or become unable to continue [before the whole is done] the inherited files can be fitted together.

### ► HOW TO KEEP THE MEMORIES ALIVE

Don't just throw your memories into a shoebox. Sara Glaser, consultant for Creative Memories, a MN company that specializes in photo storage offers these tips for those who want to start a family-history photo album.

- \* Use albums marked archive-safe, low-acid or no-acid. Use only safe plastics such as polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene and triacetate. Avoid magnetic albums.

- \* Use scrapbooks with smooth white pages. Avoid

rough-textured pages, which often indicate high acidity.

- \* Use albums with bindings that allow pages to lie flat so your photos won't bend or crack.

- \* Organize the most recent photos first. You'll feel less overwhelmed that way. "Start with 1985 instead of 1955", Glaser said.

- \* When you tackle the rest, sort them by decades first. Then break them down into approximate years.

- \* Include special mementos. If there's a photo of your child's first haircut, include a lock of hair.

- \* Don't keep newsprint in albums -- it's high in acidity. Make photocopies and keep those.

- \* Crop creatively. Trim your pictures when they include too much sky, grass or other extraneous material.

- \* Don't cut Polaroid prints. Exposing the print's chemistry to the air might cause the image to deteriorate.

- \* Don't keep every shot, just the best.

- \* Store your albums in an upright position; stacking them causes abrasion. Heat and moisture can damage them, so store them in a dry and cool place. [Contributed by Shirley Terry from "Statesman Journal", Salem, OR]

### ► WARNINGS & TIPS

► COLOR PHOTOS - The dyes in your color photos will fade. If you want your descendants to know what you look like, have your photos copied in black and white. Archival quality black & white copies are made on fiber-based papers -- not the resin-coated papers used in automatic processors. You might want to check with former SRVGS Speaker Jim Tackitt, (680-0383), a genealogist & photography teacher who specializes in copying old (& new) photos.

Or copy your photos with a videocamera (but be sure to keep up with technology). The colors in the new lazer photocopyers are said to be longer-lasting than photographs. [Does anyone have any information on this? Editor]

► ARCHIVAL FRAMING - Amsterdam Art Framing Dept Manager Lars Jensen & his staff will provide information on mounting, matting & backing works of art to museum standards. Amsterdam Art is located at 1013 University Ave., Berkeley (649-4800).

► GLAD BAGS - Despite recent reports in some periodicals, "Glad Bags" are not the economical solution to preserving your important documents. They are not made of Mylar, but polyethylene. Information from DuPont, Mylar's creator, says Mylar is a trademark for polyethylene

terephthalate. This material has inherently lower moisture vapor permeability than plain polyethylene and would "probably be a better choice for long-term storage." The few cents more you pay for Mylar is well worth it. [From Gen Assn of Sacramento N/L Fall 1989 via Diablo Descendants N/L Dec 89]

- FADING COPIES - We all know that "wet" process copies (as in copying from microfilm) will fade. BUT did you know that old mimeograph copies (depending on the ink) will fade. So will FAX copies. Make photocopies (dry) if you want to preserve them.

- BUGS IN YOUR BOOKS? The Library of Congress actually "cooks" any books they suspect of containing silverfish, lice or cockroaches. Using dangerous and costly chemical to keep their collections free from insects was impractical; so instead, they place a book in a microwave oven and "cook" it for 60 seconds on "warm" or "low" setting. The heat kills the insects and any eggs. If you pick up a suspect book at a flea market or from an old attic or basement, you may wish to use this method to be sure the book is free from insects. [Blue Grass Roots via Santa Clara HGS N/L]

- DANGER ON YOUR DESK: "Post-It"-type notes may leave behind an adhesive on your precious documents. Adhesive on some tapes, (e.g., Scotch and Magic Mend), contain acid which literally eats paper. The damage is irreversible and leaves acid stains on the paper. Magnetic paper clip holders that magnetize paper clips stored in them are another danger. Should such clips then be used near a [computer] diskette, the magnetized clip can damage or erase the information. [Guthrie Co GS N/L Jan 90 via CCCGS N/L Mar 1990]

- IMMORTALITY - John Stutesman, speaking at CCCGS, said "The closest you will come to immortality in this world is to place your book or family history records in the Family History Library at Salt Lake." You can add your valuable records to the millions on file at the FHL. The material will be microfilmed and then returned to you with a complimentary microfilm copy. Another copy will be added to the permanent microfilm vault and a third copy placed in the Library. To qualify, your material should be organized and indexed. Write Vicky Monson, Acquisition/Patron Microfilming, 50 East North Temple St. Salt Lake City UT 84150.

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