

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. 10

May 1991



NEXT MEETING: MAY 21, 1991

PROGRAM: "SCOTLAND"



LINDSAY REEKS has been tracing family history in England and Scotland for over 35 years. He has made numerous trips to England in this regard, and also conducted classes in travel & researching Family History. He has authored two books: *Scottish Coalmining Ancestors* and *Ancestors of Reeks and Rogers*, as well as many articles. At present he is researching Canadian Royalists in the province of Ontario.

WEAR YOUR KILT, Tam-o-shanter or Scottish tie for an informative and entertaining morning!

-- From Patricia Monteath, Program

REMINDER: The business part of our May meeting will include the election and brief installation of the new SRVGS Board. The Nominating Committee presents its 1991-92 slate of officers on page 80.

LAST MONTH

By Ardith Steger

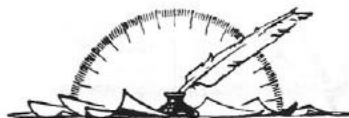
Our April meeting was one of the fastest moving ever! No one -- but no one dozed during that meeting! Our speaker, Ron Bremer, is a remarkable source of information. The title of his presentation was "The World of Genealogy". The whole world, that is! The scope of his knowledge and experience is unbounded.

Taking notes became futile -- best to just listen! It's just possible you missed a few details. We are grateful to member Winston Kynett for taping speakers. Each month he

prepares a tape for the Society's collection. See Shirley Terry about borrowing Ron Bremer's presentation. Remember there was a short power-out, so a portion will be missing.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ron Bremer's Seminar Transcript, a word-for-word copy of his All-Day Seminar is available for \$20 from Ron Bremer, P.O. Box 16422, Salt Lake City, UT 84116-0422.

See page 78 for a message from President Barbara J. O'Rand as we come to the end of another fiscal year. Fill out the form on page 79 to be sure your name gets into the 1991-92 Membership Directory!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY

- 9 - **Thursday** 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Installation of Officers plus Problem-solving panel of experts.
- 11 - **Saturday** 9:30AM - 12:30PM DVC Class by Ruth Sutter [see below]; CA Czechoslovak Club: call Kathryn Dankowski (415) 479-8483 for details; 1:30PM CGS Meeting at 300 Brannan St. Suite 409, SF. Topic: "Genealogical Treasures of the State Archives" by Joe Samora.
- * 14 - **Tuesday** 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p. 75]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS, 1886 College Ave, Livermore. Topic: "Entrance Requirements for DAR"
- 16 - **Thursday** 1-3PM Mt. Diablo GS, Home Fed'l S&L Meeting Rm, 1938 Tice Valley Blvd, WC.
- 18 - **Saturday** 9:30AM - 12:30PM DVC Class by Joan Hodgkin [see below]
- * 21 - **Tuesday** 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 1PM ROOTS III Interest Group [see p. 75]
- 25 - **Saturday** 10AM Paffers United, Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord.
- * 28 - **Tuesday** SRVGS Library Trip [see p. 77]
- 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.

JUNE

- 2 - **Sunday** "Jewish Genealogical Workshop" SF Bay Area Jewish GS; at Jewish Community Library, 639 14th Ave at Balboa, SF. Bring Brown Bag Dairy Lunch. For info: Bob Weiss (415) 242-1622.
- * 4 - **Tuesday** 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting, 210 Town & Country Dr, Danv. 837-9382. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME! 1PM ROOTS III Interest Group [see p. 75]
- 8 - **Saturday** 9:30AM - 1:30PM DVC Class by Joan Hodgkin [see below]
- 9 - **Sunday** 1:30PM "What German Records Offer to Family Historians" by Henning Schroeder of Gummersbach, Germany at German-American Hall, 230 Plymouth St. Santa Cruz
- * 11 - **Tuesday** 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p. 75]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amadore GS Meeting, 1886 College Ave, Livermore.
- * 13 - **Thursday** 10AM German Interest Group [see p. 75]; 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr., Concord.

PLANNING AHEAD

August 15-17 Federation of Genealogical Societies & Allen Co Pub Lib Conference. Write to 1991 FGS Conference, Curt Witcher, 900 Webster St, PO Box 2270, Fort Wayne IN 46801-2270.

[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 829-7207
 333 Goshen Ct.
 San Ramon, CA 94583
 Annual Dues: \$12.50; \$18 (family)
 NEWSLETTER
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 month except August & December

DVC OLDER ADULT PROGRAM

Diablo Valley College is offering several family-history related classes through their Older Adult Program in May and June:
 RUTH SUTTER, DVC history instructor, will offer a workshop called "Voices & Views of the Past in Central County" illustrated with photos and tape recordings. It will include information on methods of preparing visual & oral histories. It's on **Saturday, May 11**, 9:30AM to 12:30PM at DVC in the Humanities Bldg, Rm H107. Fee \$20.00
 JOAN HODGKIN will offer "Celebrate Yourself", a workshop to help you capture your memories on paper and learn how to present that "you" to the world. Attend **Saturday, May 18**, at DVC Humanities Bldg, Rm h107 or **Saturday, June 8** in the Clubhouse at Concord Mobile Home Park, 1056 San Miguel Rd, Concord. Both 9:30AM-1:30PM. Fee \$15.00.

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

GERMAN - No meeting in May. The group will meet in June, probably on the 2nd Thursday (June 13) at 10AM 11 at Shirley Terry's, 301 Almond Ct., San Ramon (829-7787). Call Shirley to confirm the date.

IRISH - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207).
Next meetings: May 14 and June 11.

PUBLISHING - No meeting in May. Contact Marilyn Fullam (828-1873) for future meetings.

ROOTS III - Meets 1:00PM first and third Tuesdays at Sandy Aberer's, 110 El Nido Ct., Diablo (837-8271). Next meetings: May 21 and June 4. The BEGINNERS group will meet again in the fall.

RESEARCH HELPS**TIPS FROM SRVGS MEMBERS**

FROM ARDITH STEGER: GETTING OTHERS STARTED IN THE SEARCH - If you have kith or kin in another part of California or in another state interested in genealogical research, you can ask at the Oakland LDS Family History Center for a copy of other centers. The smaller centers, like Concord and Fairfield can order most materials from Salt Lake City, just as the Oakland Center does. All are welcome to use these services. I made such a request recently for a friend's cousin who lives in Colorado. I learned there are 16 centers in Colorado, 14 in Idaho, 5 in Minnesota, 4 in South Dakota, 9 in Missouri -- and many more in other states. Addresses and phone numbers are provided, but no mail service is available due to shortage of personnel.

FROM MARILYN FULLAM: On your family group sheet or pedigree chart, put the verified facts in pen and the facts that need further proof in pencil. You can tell at a glance what work needs to be done.

HELPS FROM HERE & THERE
SCOTTISH ANCESTORS?

FREE HELP: If your Scottish ancestor is reputed to have come to America in the period 1757-63 and was born before 1741, he may have been a soldier with Col. Simon Fraser's 78th Highlander Regt. which was recruited in the Inverness area and came over to fight the French in Canada at Louisbourg, Quebec, Montreal, etc., and remained in America after discharge in 1763. Walter H. McIntosh, Box 214, Topsfield, MA 01983 has regimental rosters listing all officers and private soldiers in the 14 companies of the regt. and a separate list of the 170 men who remained in North America at their own choice following discharge. A number remained in Canada and married French-Canadian women, others trickled down into New England and New York state. If you suspect this might be the solution to your own ancestor's arrival, please give full name

and Mr. McIntosh will check these records to see if the name appears. Please send 29-cent-stamped legal-size envelope for reply.

[From CSGA N/L March 1991]

CANADIAN CLAN GATHERING: The International Gathering of the Clans is held every four years throughout the Canadian province of Nova Scotia. Two months of Scottish cultural activities, July 1-Aug.31 begins with the International Tattoo in Halifax July 1. The oldest Highland games in North America, the Antigonish Highland Games, will be held July 12-14. The 40 Scottish festivals and 40 clan family gatherings will include a Pipers Picnic in Earltown, Canadian Highland Dance Championships in Halifax and the Fiddle & Folk Festival in Cape Breton. For details, call 1-902-424-5000. [Contributed by Marilyn Fullam from Valley Times, Feb 17, 1991]

CHEROKEE INDIAN ANCESTRY?

Is there a Cherokee Indian in your ancestry? If so, you may want to consult a collection at The McCain Library, Univ of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS. Betty Drake, genealogy librarian, herself descended from a Georgia Cherokee, is putting together an important archive on this tribe. If interested, contact Dr. Drake at Southern Station, Box 5148, Hattiesburg MS 39401. [CCCGS N/L May 1991]

GERMAN MAIL GUIDELINES

As of October 3, 1990, East and West Germany became the Federal Republic of Germany. Until a new postal system is enacted, mailers should observe the following procedure to distinguish the postal codes in the two sectors. Postal codes for addresses in the East should be preceded by the letter O (Ost is "East" in German). Codes for the West addresses should be preceded by a W, with a hyphen following after these letters. The country name for both sectors is the **Federal Republic of Germany** **EXAMPLE: NAME**

ADDRESS

W-1000 Berlin 12

Federal Republic of Germany

NOTES ON WOMEN'S NAMES

EDITOR'S NOTE: Do you, as I do, read newspaper obituaries of women just to solve the puzzle of what her name might have been before she married? If you're lucky, a brother might be mentioned. In a recent survey of American undergraduates, three-fourths of the students couldn't give the first and last names of all four of their grandparents. The first to be forgotten is usually the maiden name of a maternal grandmother who died before the grandchildren were born. Anyone who has done much genealogical research knows that women's maiden names are the hardest to identify -- unless you are lucky enough to be working in Scottish or Scandinavian records where women always kept the name they were given at birth. So, in honor of MOTHER'S DAY here are some gleanings on finding women's names.

● USE COURT RECORDS

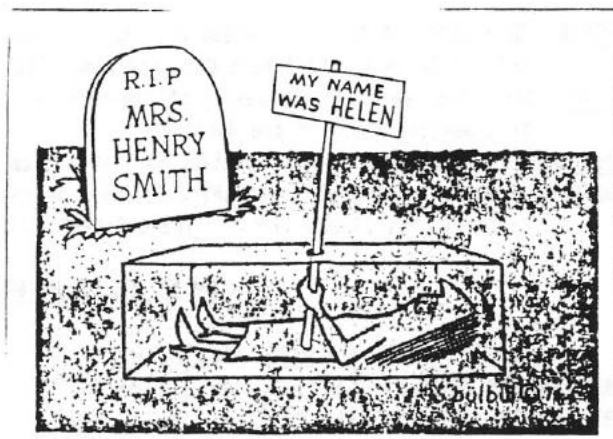
We tend to overlook two of the most prolific sources. . . They can be found among the local property record archives. Namely, they are "DEEDS" and "MORTGAGES". The techniques are as follows:

1. "DEEDS" - In the lower left-hand corner of most deeds you will find the signatures of from two to four witnesses. The first one is always from the husband's side. The next one is always from the wife's side. That is to protect her one-third dower right under the law. Nothing you will ever use will give you greater clues to maiden names than the witnesses on those old time deeds.

2. "MORTGAGES" - In the 1800's and even long before that, it was traditional, when the daughter got married, as a part of her dowry, for her father to either cover the loan or carry the note for his son-in-law. So, if you are working in Nova Scotia or New York in 1840 and you know his name and he is married to Anna Maria, but, you don't know her maiden name, find out who they were making their payments to because 70% of the time it will be her father!! [By Robert Hoover in CRACKER CRUMBS 13:1 Manasota FL GS]

● LIST OF SOURCES

1. Check **all** censuses, even if you don't need the data from them. A mother-in-law may be living with the family after the death of her husband.
2. Locate through tax records, censuses, or land ownership maps, a list of families who lived on surrounding farms. Then check these surnames in the county probate records. You may find a father leaving something to his married daughter who had married a young man



[Cartoon from Bulletin Board at Oakland FHC. Source unknown]

on the adjacent farm.

3. Check Grantor indexes of the county for any sale of property by your ancestor under her married name. If she had inherited the property from her father, and wished to sell it, the father's name would appear in the deed.

4. If a husband predeceases his wife, a guardian may be appointed for the children. It may be her brother, and he may be identified as the children's uncle.

5. Pension and bounty land application forms frequently asked the petitioner to identify his wife by her maiden name, and to give the date and place of their marriage.

6. Marriage bonds, which in some states exist back to the 1700s, list the bride's maiden name, and sometimes identify parents who signed for the woman.

7. Tombstones often give the maiden name of the wife.

8. Clues can be found when the middle name of one or more children appears to be a surname.

9. County histories, family Bibles and family histories are wonderful secondary sources.

10. DAR records, and those of other lineage societies, often identify the wife by her maiden name. [By Gladys Muller from Pomona Valley GS N/L May 1988]

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

- INEVITABLE LAWS OF GENEALOGY: Your grandmother's maiden name for which you've searched for years was on an old letter in a box in the attic all the time!!! [Her. Quest]
- "I'm glad to get a chance to change my name," said Miss Katherine Ottorordemgentichenfelde, when she was handed a marriage license at Terre Haute, IN. She married Louis Kalen, a farmer. [American Weekly, Nov 1, 1911]

prepared refreshments. Yet others brought enthusiasm and interest to the handling and promoting of the Kopcie cassette library, the careful scheduling of the special interest groups, the library trips, the publicity about meetings. My thanks to each of you and to others, whom I have not mentioned, who have also helped to keep the society running smoothly.

I hope that, as some jobs change hands, retiring board members and committee chairs will seek out their counterparts for the new year, discuss job responsibilities and share tried and true shortcuts. In other words, try to make the change overs as smooth and easy as possible.

Again, my sincere thanks. Together we have been successful. This month is time for membership renewals. Through our membership and support of the society, let us continue to enjoy genealogy, to improve our research skills and to support our new leaders.

Bea O'Rand

April 22, 1991



A MESSAGE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! Dues are again \$12.50 per person or \$18.00 for a family membership, and are due by June 1st and delinquent by July 1st. Please make this a special year by getting your dues in early, and taking advantage of all our special benefits such as our monthly speakers, library trips, tape library, and all the special interest groups, etc. Be sure to fill out and update your special research interests for our surname index.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____
(9-numbers, please-off your utility bill.)

Please list 2 surnames being researched (for individual membership) or four names (for family membership) so that they may be listed in our directory's surname index.

(1) _____ Locale & yrs _____

(2) _____ Locale & yrs _____

(3) _____ Locale & yrs _____

(4) _____ Locale & yrs _____

Individual Membership \$12.50 _____ Family Membership \$18.00 _____

Please send this form and your check, payable to SRVGS, to:
Mary Jo Hosteny, 2004 Reliez Vy Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549-1804.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 1991-1992

The Nominating Committee has completed its work. The following members have been contacted and have agreed to stand for office:

President	FRANCES LLOYD
First Vice President	MARY McNAMARA
Co-Second Vice Presidents (Program)	PRISCILLA DIETRICH
Third Vice President (Membership)	SANDY ABERER
Co-Recording Secretaries	MARY JO HOSTENY
	BOB SINGLETON
	MANDY LINDNER
Corresponding Secretary	VIRGINIA ROOD
Treasurer	BILL ALLEN
Parliamentarian	BEA O'RAND



The incoming president will be seeking volunteers for the standing committees: Alliance Rep, Book Reviews, Cassette Library, Education, Freebie Basket, Friends of the Archives Rep, Historian, Hospitality, Information Table, Interest Group Coordinator, Library Trips, Newsletter Editor, Newsletter Publication, Program Taping and Publicity. The present members who are doing these jobs may volunteer to continue. However, a few are moving into other assignments; there will definitely be openings.

Bill Allen
Jo Bolenbaker
Patty Erickson

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