

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305

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 VII No. 9

April 1992

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 21, 1992

PROGRAM: "A VISIT TO A NEARBY GHOST TOWN"

Wayne Korsinen will uncover the folklore of Nortonville, a 19th Century eastern Contra County coal mining town from 1860 to 1885. Today it is a ghost town.

He will tell stories about the perils of the miners, labor disputes, childhood tragedies and "Granny Norton".

Wayne Korsinen is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. He has been teaching history at Antioch High School for the past 27 years. He is also a member of Toastmasters International and Bay Area Speaker Services.

— From Sandy Aberer & Priscilla Dietrich, Program

LAST MONTH

by Mary Jo Hosteny

The Irish Special Interest Group, under the chairmanship of Patty Erickson, presented a delightful program on the pursuit of our Irish ancestors. There was a lovely display of Irish books, maps, pamphlets, balloons, signs, the Irish flag, and to top off a delightful morning - Irish refreshments! Members had brought soda bread and Irish oatmeal bread to delight the taste and introduce the general membership to a few tastes of Irish cookery.

Margaret Dougherty spoke on Irish tradition and research aids in digging out clues in this country such as census records and church records to enable us to find those ancestors who came in such hardship to this country. From 1845 at the start of the Potato Famine until 1925 over 4 million Irish emigrated to this country.

Joyce Gunderson spoke on her trip to Galway and the Aran Isles a few years back, and with her inimitable Irish accent and sense

of humor had the membership laughing over her trials and tribulations in getting to the Aran Isles, after first spending a week's time in Dublin at a seminar conducted by Dr. James Ryan, with guest speakers from all of Ireland. The weather was fierce, the scenery was bare, no trees, nothing but rocks, and once she was in her house, time ceased to have any meaning. Joyce admits she lost track of the days - even day and night, but she managed to make it to church on Sunday when she saw some people climbing over the rocks, bundled up, and followed them. Ah! it was Sunday! With the island's cemetery within sight of her windows, she admits she did not get to it.

Marilyn Fullam gave an update on the "Family Heritage Centers" throughout Ireland, and the status of their progress in recording all the genealogical records available from church and civil sources. The Irish Genealogical Project is currently trying to index all the genealogical records available in Ireland. Appropriately our meeting was on St. Patrick's Day.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL

- 14 - Tuesday 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS Meeting, Cong. Beth Emek, 1886 College Av, Livermore.
 Speaker: Gerri Parker on "Native American Genealogy".
- * 15 - Wednesday 10AM Irish Interest Group; 1PM California Interest Group [see p.63]
- 16 - Thursday 1PM Mt. Diablo GS Meeting, HomeFed Bank, Rossmoor Shopping Center, Speaker: Robin Lee
- * 21 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 1PM ROOTS III Interest Group [see p. 63]
- * 22 - Wednesday 10AM Publishing Interest Group [see p. 63]
- 25 - Saturday PAFfers United
- * 28 - Tuesday SRVGS Library Trip

MAY

- * 5 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME! 10AM & 1PM ROOTS III Interest Group [see p. 63]
- 12 - Tuesday 7:30 PM Livermore-Amador GS Meeting, Cong. Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. Speaker: John Heilbronner of Maps Unlimited.
- 16 - Saturday One-day SEMINAR sponsored by Contra Costa Co GS at Presbyterian Conference Center across from Todos Santos park (center of town) in Concord. The speaker will be ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS, C.G., F.A.S.G., Editor of the Nat'l Gen Soc Quarterly. Topics: "Finding & Using Birth, Marriage & Death Records Prior to Vital Registration"; Sweet Potato Simon & White Potato Willie: How to Get More Out of Censuses Than You Ever Dreamed Possible"; "Hidden Clues and Pitfalls in Your Ancestor's Land Records"; "Using Tax Rolls to Prove Births, Deaths, Marriages, Parentage, and Origins". Fee for registration prior to May 1 will be \$15 for CCCGS members, \$17.50 for non-members; registration at the door, \$20. For more info contact Sue Swindell 372-6996 or Barbara Edkin 625-0601 (evenings).
- * 19 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

HELEN SNOW POXSON (Mrs. Elijah G.)
 126 Westfield Circle, Danville CA
 94526 (837-9659). Researching Snow in Massachusetts 1659-1803 and Seibley in Eaton Co., MI 1828

RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

Richmond - A new homeowner doing some landscaping in his backyard thought he was digging up a discarded concrete slab-until he saw an inscription on the stone.

Angel Muniz was preparing his yard for a garden Sunday when he uncovered the century-old tombstone, which an area historian said could belong to early settlers who fell victim to a bubonic plague or cholera epidemic.

"Sacred to the memory of Thomas Tormey - Died December 22, 1882. Aged 36 years. Mary Tormey - Died February 12, 1882. Aged 27 years. May their souls rest in peace. Erected by their sister Annie," the stone read. (Tracy Press, Feb. 6, 1992)

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Frances Lloyd 837-9382
 Vice-Pres.: Mary McNamara 837-7767
 Membership: Mary Jo Hosteny 932-2244
 2004 Reliez Valley Rd.
 Lafayette, CA 94549-1804

Annual Dues: \$12.50; \$18 (family)

NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter is published every month except August & December.



LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

APRIL LIBRARY TRIP

FROM MARY JO HOSTENY:

The April Library Trip will be to the California State Library in Sacramento on Tuesday, April 28th. Members will meet at 7:00 am in the parking lot behind Lucky's on Diablo Road in Danville. Members living in Walnut Creek or farther north, please call May Jo Hosteny (932-2244) to make arrangements.

The California State Library is located at 914 Capitol Mall and there are two public parking garages close by. The Library contains extensive microfilm holdings of most California newspapers, some going well back in the 19th century, the Great Registers of Voters, CA censuses including 1852, county histories, the DAR Extraction Library, Pioneer files, etc. There could well be something of interest for everyone.

CALIFORNIA HISTORY ON THE MOVE

State archivists are packing up the California Constitution and 120 million other documents in preparation for one of the biggest archive moves in the country.

Virtually every scrap detailing California's history and legal process is being shrink-wrapped for moving to a temporary home in Roseville beginning April 6, 1992.

"This is one of the largest archive moves ever attempted in the U.S.," said State Archivist John Burns. "We have some of the most important original laws, Spanish-Mexican land grants, Earl Warren papers and all of the documents surrounding the Robert Kennedy assassinations."

The papers will remain in Roseville while a six-story building to permanently house the archives and a new secretary of state's office will be built on one square block just west of the state Capitol by 1995.

The collection takes up 80,000 cubic feet - enough to fill 20,000 file cabinets.

Once the records reach their temporary home, 21 archive staff members will revamp the document identification system with bar codes like the ones seen on grocery shelves.

Moving the 120 million documents will take up to six weeks and will be overseen by State Police security staff.

The records will be bound in acid-free paper, placed in boxes, then shrink-wrapped before the 18-mile journey.

"The moving staff will only be allowed to touch the boxes with forklifts and to minimize the damage. The boxes will only be touched by our staff, Burns stated.

The demand for archive information is so great that the Sacramento office will remain open during the move.

"Sometimes it's standing room only at the archives," said research coordinator Nancy Zimmelman. "We have a variety of resources that attract legislators, representatives from state agencies, genealogists, students and lawyers."

The collection increases by about 20 percent a year; 90 percent of the material has been generated in the last 50 years.

(SF Examiner/Chronicle, Sunday April 5, 1992)

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

CALIFORNIA - Meets 1PM on the third Wednesday at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meeting: April 15.

GERMAN - There will be no meeting until June 17 due to the 3rd Wednesday preceding the general meeting in April and another Terry wedding in May.

IRISH - Meets 10AM each third Wednesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meeting: April 15.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the fourth Wednesday 10AM. Next meeting: April 22 at Marilyn Fullan's. Contact Jane Steiner 283-0867.

ROOTS III - Meets 1:00PM on first and third Tuesdays. Beginners' Group meets 10AM each first Tuesday. Contact Cindy Wheeler (743-1322). NEW BEGINNERS 10AM second Thursday Call Shirley Terry to confirm.

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM second Tuesday. No meeting in April & May. Next meeting: June 9 at Maryhelen Ewing's (283-1304) will be on the Carolinas. For info, contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.



TAPE LIBRARY

Shirley Terry, our tape librarian, is putting together a notebook containing tape reviews from our newsletter, handouts from some of the conferences, and other materials relating to specific tapes. If you have copies of any of the conference books, please let Shirley borrow them so she can make copies pertaining to our library tapes. She is looking for the following conferences: ALB, AUG, BIL, CHA, DCA, FTW, IND, ORL, OXF, RNC, ROS, SFO, SLC 1990, SPM, Denver 84 and 17th IL. She hopes to make the notebook available soon for checkout, so that members can make photocopies of any material that would help them.

Shirley has also created a list of tapes by the following subjects:

New England States
New York State
Southern States
Other States
Frontier Research
Migration Patterns
Maps/Geography
Immigration Research
Countries
Germany
Ireland
Great Britain
Genealogy
Library Research
Cemetery Research
Court Records
Other Records
How to Find
Miscellaneous
National Archives
Civil War Research
Evidence
Organization w & w/o
Computers
Publishing

RESEARCH AIDS

CZECH OBITS & MORTUARY CLAIMS

An index to Fraternal Herald, Bratrsky Vestnik, Mortuary Claims & Obits has been issued on seven rolls of microfilm. The Czech organization known as ZCBJ (Zapadni Ceska Bratrsky Jednota) printed a monthly magazine from July 1897 to July 1991. This index includes 35,870 names and includes date and place of death, lodge number, and date of the issue where the information appeared. Sometimes the cause of death and occupation are given. All information is translated into English. [Imm. GS N/L 12/91]

FAMILY HISTORY CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

A 528 page interest directory is available from this society. It covers just the UK and Irish ancestors [ed. note: probably Northern Ireland] and covers 17,596 surnames. Anyone can submit entries; there is no cost or commitment. They have arrange in Feb 1992 to have a 32 page booklet distributed to every home in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, so they expect membership to increase next year dramatically, and there to be a very large demand for the '92 directory. You may wish to order a copy of the '92 directory at a special pre-published price of 14.95 paperback or 24.95 hardback. You pay for the book now and are invoiced post and packing at time of dispatch. You may also order a copy of the '91 directory at 18.95 pb and 28.95 hb; add 6.75 for post & packing. Address: 19 Penybryn, Mountain Ash, Mid Glamorgan, CF45 3TJ United Kingdom. All prices given above are in British pounds. [Chicago GS N/L Jan '92]

LOST SOMEONE IN 1850'S?

If any of your ancestors appear to have disappeared during the 1850's, maybe they joined the throngs who headed for California and the gold-fields. So, if you're stuck, try

searching the 1850 CA state census. Another state census, the one for 1852, is even more valuable as it asked for the person's residence. Most answered with the name of the state from which they came. Of those who answered the Gold Rush call, 23,000 had moved on or returned to their former homes by 1855. [Centre Co GS N/L Jul/Aug 91]

"MISSING McPERSONS"

SCOTS CLANS EXCHANGE NEWSPAPER AVAILABLE

The "Family Tree" newspaper is printed bi-monthly for the purpose of informing those interested in the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library and in researching their own family histories.

As repository for fourteen Scots Clans, the Odom Library also hopes to serve as a central source of information and study for those concerned with their Scots heritage. The fourteen clan surnames are: Armstrong, Blair, Donald, Dunbar, Forrester, Henderson, Innes, Johnston/3, Leslie, MacDougall, MacLaren, Ramsay, Ross and Stewart.

The August 1991 issue of The Family Tree newspaper was 20 pages of information on some of the clans listed above as well as those listed here and families not Scottish as well: Boyd, Campbell, Clark, Cuning, Gunn, MacDuff, MacFie, MacInnes, MacLellan, MacNab, Macpherson, MacNichol, MacRae, McConnaughey and Sutherland.

The newspaper is FREE! Postage contributions are very much appreciated and NEEDED! To receive your free issues please write: ODOM Library, Beth Gay, Editor, The Family Tree, P.O. Box 1110, Moultrie, GA 31776.

You may direct your free Queries (please be brief) to the above address c/o "Missing McPersons" as well or FAX (912) 985-0936. (from Mel Douglass BBS, Houston, TX via CCCGS N/L Nov 1991)

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 1992-1993

The Nominating Committee of Patty Erickson, Bea O'Rand and Bette Kot present the following slate of Officers for 1992-1993:

President
First Vice President
Second Vice Presidents
(Program)
Third Vice President
(Membership)
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer
Parliamentarian

Frances Lloyd
Mary McNamara
Sandra Aberer &
Bette Kot
Mary Jo Hosteny
Pat Templeton
Virginia Rood
Bill Allen
Bea O'Rand

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