

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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

President: Frances Lloyd
Editor: Dorothy Stanton

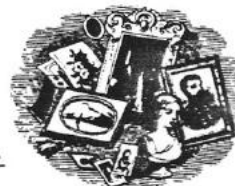
MEETINGS: 10 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of month
(except August & December)
Danville Women's Club House
242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue
Danville, CA 94526

Volume VIII No. 2

JULY/AUGUST 1992

● NEXT MEETING: JULY 21, 1992

PROGRAM: SHOEBOX TO SHOWCASE -
Creating Heirloom-quality Photo Albums



TINA MRAZ, our speaker, started keeping scrapbooks as a child but only recently learned that she was destroying the very photos she had intended to save. She has been trained by Creative Memories as to proper material selection as well as techniques for adhering photos safely.

The July meeting promises to be informative to genealogist and photographer alike. Tina will present tips for creative photo album assembly and interesting layout ideas while safely preserving your memorabilia. Her background includes teaching workshops in album assembly and photo preservation for Parks & Recreation in Walnut Creek, San Ramon, Dublin, Concord and Pittsburgh.

-- Sandy Aberer, Program



● LAST MONTH

by Christine Scott & Jane Steiner

"Don't you wish you had started your genealogical research when you were 17?" Jim Tackitt did. Also, thirty years ago, he began publishing a quarterly magazine for the Tackett Family. By studying old photographs a researcher can use clues such as clothing, transportation, housing and architecture to help determine the age of the photos.

Mr. Tackitt discussed the history of photo processing starting with the early daguerreotype begun in 1839 and the tinplate in 1852. In the early 1890's the box camera was invented for use by the amateur.

A wonderfully descriptive brochure, "Dating Old Photographs" was

handed out at the meeting. At the next meeting check the "freebie" basket for a copy or inquire about obtaining one.

Jim Tackitt is extremely knowledgeable about all phases of photography. Currently he uses computers and a laser printer in teaching drafting and graphics design.

* * * * *

● SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

The speaker for the September 15th meeting will be Allison Voigt Hamaker of Sacramento. Her topic will be "Writing a Family History" which will be likely to become a family heirloom.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY

- * 14 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p.11]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS Meeting at Cong Beth Emek, 1886 College Av, Livermore. Topic: Members will share an experience instructive to research or pose a problem needing help.
- * 15 - Wednesday 10AM Irish Interest Group; 1PM California Interest Group [see p.11]
- 16 - Thursday 1-3PM Mt. Diablo GS Meeting, Home Fed'l S&L Meeting Room, 1938 Tice Valley Blvd, WC. Speaker: Jim Tackitt "Reading History in Photographs."
- * 21 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting
- 25 - Saturday 10AM-12 PAFFERS UNITED! Concord Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord; 8AM-4PM Mission Oaks Gen. Club Midsummer Seminar: Jimmy Parker from Salt Lake City will speak on Gen. Problem Solving, US Church, Probate & Military Records. At Mission Oaks Rec & Park Community Ctr, 4701 Gibbons Dr, Carmichael. Before 15 July: \$15; mail to Mission Oaks Gen. Club, PO Box 16, Carmichael 95609.

AUGUST

* * * NO MEETING AND NO NEWSLETTER * * *

- * 1 - Saturday - Oakland Heritage Alliance's Historic Fruitvale Walking Tour, led by EBGs Editor Josef M. Schmitt. Includes visit to St. Elizabeth Catholic Church. Call Mr Schmitt (510/532-5947) or OHA (510/763-9218)
- 12 - Wednesday 10AM East Bay GS Meeting, Mormon Center, 4780 Lincoln Av, Oakland. Speaker: Mary Williams, Director of the Graduate Theological Library in Berkeley, on the holdings and genealogical strengths of GTUL.
- 13 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Speaker: Bette Kot on building your personal genealogy library collection.
- 20-22 1992 Annual FGS Conference in Phoenix, AZ: "New Horizons --A Conference in the Southwest". For more information contact FGS/AzGAB Conference, P.O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT, 84110-3385 or call Betsy Gottsponer at 602/782-6887.
- 29 - Saturday PIONEER DAY, Pioneer Cemetery, 4795 Blum Rd. Pacheco, CA. A History Awareness Day at the 130+ years old cemetery to honor the early settlers of the Bay Area. "Pioneer Attire" is optional. For info contact John Verrico, 510/229-4961

SEPTEMBER

- * 1 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS BOARD MEETING at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME! SRVGS Newsletter articles and items are due.
- * 8 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p.11]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS Meeting.
- 9 - Wednesday 10AM East Bay GS Meeting, Mormon Center, Oakland.
- 10 - Thursday 7:30PM CCCGS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Concord. "Scandinavian Research" Duane Dalley

PLANNING AHEAD

SEPTEMBER 17-19 - California Historical Society Annual Conference at Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza in Sacramento. Theme: "The Making of Californians - Experiences of a World Community". Speaker: Stephen Ives, co-producer of the PBS "Civil War" series. For info call 415/567-1848.

OCTOBER 17 - Saturday - Six-hour Seminar at the Concord FHC on Preservation and Organization of your Genealogical Records by Julia Purdie and Bette Kot. Co-sponsored by CCCGS & the FHC. Still in the planning stage, price and details to be announced later.

NGS 1993 CONFERENCE is scheduled for 2-5 June in Baltimore MD. The theme: "A Chesapeake Homecoming." The 1994 Conference will be in Houston, TX.

[See more CALENDAR listings on last page]

OFFICERS to Contact

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Annual Dues: Individual \$15
 Family \$20

NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter is published every month except August & December.

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

CALIFORNIA - Meets 1PM on the third Wednesday at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: July 15 & Sept 16.

GERMAN - The group will meet 10AM each 3rd Wednesday (only if it follows the general meeting) at Shirley Terry's, 301 Almond Ct., San Ramon (829-7787). Next meeting: September 16. Call Shirley to confirm.

IRISH - Meets 10AM each third Wednesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: July 15, Sept 16. Contact Patty Erickson, 229-0889.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the last Wednesday 10AM. Next meeting: September 30. Contact Jane Steiner 283-0867.

ROOTS III - Combined groups will meet 1PM on 3rd Tuesday starting in September, place to be announced.

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meetings: July 14 at Dotti Richardson's, 24 Prado Way, Lafayette (284-4566); topic, the "Lower South" -- FL, GA, MS, AL, LA. Sept 8: at Barb Irwin's, 1400 Canyonwood Ct #8 [Rossmoor] WC, (939-8522); topic, KY & TN. For more info, call Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

● FROM SRVGS MEMBERS

FROM ARLENE GRIMES: Arlene has a copy (from a Garage Sale) of *Ancestors & Descendants of Walter Covey, Dutchess Co NY, 1750-1834, Vol 1 & II* by Mary Lancaster Quist. She will be glad to check it for a name. Call 372-6366.

● FROM HERE & THERE

- **WARNING! DON'T COOK YOUR BOOKS!** - Several newsletters (including SRVGS April 1991) have printed information about the way the Library of Congress "cooks" their books in a microwave over to rid them of insects. The latest issue of the *Reporter* states: "Please DO NOT do this in your microwave, as it may result in a malfunctioning of your microwave or burning of your books. The Library of Congress has a special timing method and specific procedures to prevent the above problems from occurring." [Chicago Genealogist Summer 1992]

- **IS YOUR ANCESTOR FROM PRUSSIA?** - Saying your ancestor is from Prussia is much like saying that he settled east of the Mississippi River! Prussia is a name that has been applied to almost three-fifths of the German Empire at one time or another. From 1701, the Kingdom of Prussia was ruled by the Hohenzollerns with Berlin as the capitol. Areas which at one time or another were under the control of Prussia include the following:
Brandenburg, Silesia, Hesse, Hesse-Nassau, Pomerania, Posen, Saxony, Thuringia, Schleswig-Holstein, Westphalia, Mecklenberg, Rhineland (parts), The Duchies of Wenden and Crosses, Engern and Geldern, Magdeburg, Cleve and Juelich, Burg and Stettin, Cassubia, and don't forget many parts of what are today Poland!
[Centre Co PA GS N/L: 17:2 via CCCGS N/L May 1992]

- **NEW GERMAN SOCIETY** - "A new society for persons of Westphalian heritage is being organized. Membership for individual members is \$10/yr. Request info from the Westphalian Heritage Society, P.O. Box 244, Westphalia, MO 65085." [Hoelscher-Buxkemper Family N/L Nov 1991 via Forum Spr 1992]

- **PORTUGUESE HERITAGE** - The first issue of the *Portuguese Heritage Journal* was published 4 Nov 1991. This is a biweekly newspaper for Portuguese and Brazilian Americans. It includes news from Portugal and includes a column, "California Chronicles," which discusses Hawaiian ties. Write to the Portuguese Heritage Journal, 6851 Yumuri St, Suite 9, P.O. Box 144620, Coral Gables, FL 33114-9797. [From "What's New," by Marjorie K. Catojo, *American Portuguese Genealogical and Historical Society* 12:3 via Forum Spring 1992]

VITAL RECORDS

- **NEBRASKA** - Good news for genealogists: The NE Attorney General has issued an opinion recently that birth and death records qualify as open records under state statute. The Vital Statistics office is accepting requests for this information. There is now no fee and no requirement for "proper purpose" if you research the records in person. A certified copy of a birth certificate is \$6, death certificate \$5. This service CANNOT be accessed by mail or phone.
[EDITOR'S NOTE: The bad news is that the NE Medical Association officials are now asking the state legislature to limit access to death certificates]
- **MISSOURI** - A certified copy of marriage license jumped from \$2.00 to \$22.00. The increase is going to combat child abuse and

domestic violence. The charge for birth and death records is \$2.00 each which includes the search and one certified copy.[Above two items from NE State GS N/L contributed by Shirley Terry]

HELP WANTED

- German Emigration - Does your family tree contain an emigrant from Pomerania, Brandenburg, or Mecklenburg-Strelitz between 1815 and 1914? Three researchers at Rostock Univ engaged in a research project on East Elbian emigration are seeking info on German emigrants. Data collected indicates the majority of these emigrants went to North America -- in particular, the Midwest, especially Wisconsin. The researchers would like the help of American descendants. If your ancestor migrated from Radow or Lauenburg counties (districts Stettin and Lauenburg, Pomerania) or the Uckermark, Prignitz or Ruppiner areas (district Potsdam, West Brandenburg), please submit information to Dr. Rainer Mühle, Janstr. 9, W-0-2500, Rostock, Germany. Readers knowing of emigrants from the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, are asked to contact Axel Lubinski, Gdansk Str.31, Lutten Klein, W-0-2510 Rostock 22, Germany. Descendants of emigrants from the East Brandenburg counties of Friedeberg, Landsberg, Soldin, Arnswalde, or Cottbus should write to Uwe Reich, Egon-Schultz-Str.12, W-0-1590 Potsdam, Germany. Additional information on the project may be obtained by sending a SASE and one international Postal Coupon to any of the researchers. [CSGA N/L J1 1992]
- EMIGRANT SOCIETIES - Information on emigrant societies, popular in many states or cities in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, is sought for a proposed publication. Emigrant societies were formed to encourage immigration into a particular area and usually published promotional literature that was distributed in Europe. If you know the name and location or one of these societies or have information on the whereabouts of their records, please send details to Sandra H. Luecking, P.O. Box 355, Western Springs, IL 60558. Any assistance will be appreciated and acknowledged. [FGS Forum Spr 1992]
- RUSSIAN - A history of Russian immigrants who came from the Volga River region south of the city of Saratov to the US is in progress. The author wants recipes, life stories, photographs, factual information on religion, education, geography, chronological dates, embroidery, crafts, icons, etc. Contact Connie Meskon, 3112 Noeske, Midland, MI 48640-3347 (517/835-4518).
- NORWAY - Norwegian Emigration Records have been collected in a newly established Emigration Center in order to better meet the needs of genealogical researchers. As well as assisting researchers, they are interested in copies of Norwegian-American family

histories. Contact: The Emigration Center, Hotel Atlantic, Vernbaven 1, 4000 Stavanger, Norway. [IGS N/L, 99 via CCCGS N/L J1 1992]

- BRITISH "POOR LAW" ENTRIES SOUGHT - Elizabeth Simpson, founding secretary of English Family History Assoc., has discovered a gold mine of genealogical information that can be derived from workhouse registers, settlement certificates, removal orders, bastardy bonds, and other legal records kept by British counties in dealing with the poor. In association with LDS microfilming project, she is asking anyone who researches in British county records, if they come across this kind of "poor law" information, to please extract it and send it to her in any format. Send to: Elizabeth Simpson, 2 Stella Grove, Toller-ton, Nottingham NG12 4EY, England [FGS Forum Winter 1991]
- US MAINE - Here's another potential place to see your ancestor's name in print -- this one to be a sad and tragic project. If you're a descendant or related to any of the sailors who were aboard the U.S Battleship Maine when it was blown up in Havana Harbor February 15, 1898, your help is solicited.

Julio Vera, 1601 Greenfield Ave., Los Angeles CA 90025-3510 is writing a book on the incident. He'd like to see letters written by the officers and crew members during the last few weeks before the explosion. He'll welcome any type of information you have regarding the ship and its crew. [SoCA GS N/L Jn 91]

● BUYER BEWARE!

From Georgia GS N/L comes the following warning: "Although most GGS members undoubtedly know the difference between genuine and false genealogies, the proliferation of fraudulent family history schemes continues to exploit both the novices of genealogy and the many individuals who simply possess an interest in their heritage..." Some who have been curtailed by lawsuits simply change their name. One such now solicits business through mailings supposedly dispatched by someone of the same surname as the addressee, subliminally suggesting that someone of the same surname, after years of diligent research has published a complete genealogy of the family. [The article goes on to list some of the genealogical frauds, including The International Genealogy Consumer Organization's list of cautions. See the SRVGS Editor or Barbara Irwin - or send a SASE for the complete article.]

* * * * *

- FOR THE "ORGANIZATIONALLY IMPAIRED":
A thought from A.A. Milne: "One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries."



LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

- OAKLAND FHC CLOSURE - The Family History Center at the Oakland Temple will be **closed August 3 through August 24** for the move to the new building on the Temple site. Plan to order your microfilm from the Concord FHC for August viewing. Or try one of the other Bay Area FHC libraries. Each one has different strengths. For example, the San Jose FHC has a large collection of early numbers of "The Utah Genealogical & Historical Magazine".
- FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY, SALT LAKE - The FHL and the Colorado State Archives have signed a contract to begin filming records in CO. The project is expected to take several years. Filming approval has been given for courthouse and church records as well as some privately-held manuscript materials. [Denver GS via *Forum* Winter 1991]
- WWI DRAFT CARDS - A new microfilm collection at FHL is a set of 24 million cards of WWI draft registration. Cards exist for about 24.2 million men who registered for the draft, which eventually included all men between the ages of 18 and 45. Not all served and not all men who served in the military registered for the draft. The cards are **not** military service records. The information on the cards includes: full name; full date and place of birth; race, citizenship, and occupation; personal description and signature. The cards are arranged by state; then county or city (except CT, MA & RI which are arranged by divisions and counties); then alphabetically by names of registrants. As of April 1992, states Alabama through North Carolina were available. The rest will be available as cataloged. To find film number, search the locality section of the FHL Catalog under UNITED STATES - MILITARY RECORDS - WORLD WAR, 1914-1918. [News of the Family History Library via Gen Helper May-June 1992]

● NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The NORTHEAST REGIONAL ARCHIVES has relocated from its Bayonne facility to 201 Varick St in lower Manhattan. This regional archives is responsible for federal records from NY, NJ, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. All microfilm and readers have been moved to the 12th floor of the completely renovated building located close to the Holland Tunnel.

● STATE ARCHIVES

- CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY - "An Index to the Biographies in the 19th century California County Histories" has been a standard source for many researchers. Now it has been nearly superseded by the "California Information File" (CIF). This is a large microfiche copy of one of the CA State Library's card indexes. The CIF indexes not only 19th century CA county histories but also 20th century ones, as well as biographical directories, numerous periodicals and newspaper articles, manuscripts, theses and dissertations relating to Californians and CA history. It contains an estimated 1.4 million citations (721,000 cards) on 550 microfiche.
The CIF covers events in CA from the 1840's through April 1986. The CIF is now available at many CA public and university libraries. It is also available through the Family History Centers on microfiche 6333977. It may be purchased for \$137 from the CA State Library Fdn, P.O. Box 942837, Sacramento, CA 94237-0001. [From J. Carlyle Parker, CSGA N/L May 1992]
- COLORADO ARCHIVES - In the fall of 1991, Staff and friends of the CO State Archives waged a campaign to block closure of the archives. Although the future is still uncertain, the archives will attempt to become self-supporting. Measures include increased fees for copies, search etc. Out-of-state requests for routine research will be charged \$20 for the first item and \$8 for each additional item. Requests requiring in-depth professional archival staff research will be conducted under special arrangement at \$8 per half hour of research. [Denver GS via *Forum* Winter 1991]
- GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY has resumed mail service at increased rates. Out-of-state requests are \$25 and in-state are \$15. The fee covers the services of a professional researcher, a report of sources checked, and photocopies and postage. Payment by check or money order payable to the dept. should accompany the request mailed to 330 Capitol Av, Atlanta, GA 30334 [Forum Winter 1991]
- NEWBERRY LIBRARY - CHICAGO
Many libraries have copies of the Genealogical Index of the Newberry Library [Pleasant Hill included]. The following is a copy of a letter concerning the library's policy about services available by mail:

"We regret that we are unable to undertake even relatively simple genealogical research by correspondence. In spite of this, there are a few instances in which we can perform some limited service by mail. The following will detail the services we cannot and the services we can perform by mail.

WE CANNOT:

- conduct genealogical research;
- check library catalogs for unspecified works on given families and locations;
- conduct searches of census and soundex;
- peruse newspapers for death or other notices when a specific date is not provided.

WE CAN:

- check ONE specific, fully identified, and indexed book (not a series of a journal) for ONE name;
- check ONE printed census index for ONE surname;
- locate ONE specific citation from the Genealogical Index of the Newberry Library (not to be confused with the Newberry Library's catalogs which, again, we cannot check);
- check the Chicago Biography and Industry File for ONE name only;
- check ONE Chicago newspaper for ONE obituary only if provided with an EXACT date of death.

If we are able to locate the information needed, we will copy UP TO (AND NOT TO EXCEED) five pages from a given title at no charge. If more than five pages should be required, the request will be handled as a standard photoduplication order and will be billed accordingly." [Chicago GS N/L Dec 91]

Address: Newberry Library, 60 West Walton, Chicago, IL 60610 (312/943-9090)



BOOK REVIEW

by Mary Jo Hosteny

- **FAMILIES WRITING**, by Peter R. Stillman. Writer's Digest Books, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1989, soft cover, 191 pp.

It is ironic that we treasure family heirlooms, put a value on them sometimes far beyond their real price, while we ignore family treasures made of words. The author believes passionately that writing should be at the heart of any family - that if we don't value ourselves on paper, if we don't write to, for, about, and with family members, it is because we haven't thought deeply about what holds families together. This is a book about why we should become a family that writes - along with considerable details about how. He relates some of the old, very decent reasons

to write, among them to make a mark, to leave a record, to tell a story.

The author feels the best way to approach this book is to pretend to be six or seven - back when you loved to write - when there was nothing to it; when creating a story was less complicated than reading one.

Genealogists should love this book.

After all, what thrills us more than to find old letters, detailing the experiences of our ancestors, the trivia of their family lives, which unfolds to us their character, their loves, their dreams?

This is a beautiful book - and should be in every genealogist's library. BUY IT! Available from Genealogical Resources: Bette Kot (707/554-4814) or Frances Lloyd (510/837-9382).

TAPE REVIEW

- C-93 - "FRONTIER GENEALOGY"

Tape Speaker: James L. Hansen

Tape Reviewer: Shirley Terry

The entire title in the 1991 NGS syllabus was "Frontier Genealogy: Special Sources and Techniques for Tracing Pioneer Ancestors." By the way, his definition of "frontier" is anytime the records are someplace other than where they would be deposited today, i.e. boundary changes.

Mr. Hansen is the Reference Librarian at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. He is a great speaker and gives an excellent talk with lots of ways to help us further our lines. But I recommend this tape to anyone planning to publish, whether or not you think you have a "pioneer" in your past.

Mr. Hansen presents a multitude of ideas on the types of places to look for information that can help us understand why our ancestors did what they did when they did it. Places to find out about the history and geography, both physical and political, of the frontier. This is what we need, even if we do have all the names, dates and places, to make our ancestors interesting to the reader.

You might ask Shirley, Marilyn or Virginia to photocopy pages 67-70 of the syllabus for you. They include a wonderful list of source that might give you ideas of where to find the elusive information you need. Among them are:

- Boundaries and Land Records
- The "Territorial Papers" Series
- National Archives Microfilm Publications
- Historical Records Survey
- Early State Records



NOTES ON SUMMER



● YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER

The year of 1815 was known as "the year without a summer" in North America. In April the snow was four to six feet deep. In May the surface only had melted so the ground could not be reached for planting and in June was still frozen; on the morning of July 4 the water froze in wells and pitchers and snow fell. -- And that was in Virginia!

The cause, according to meteorologists, was the cloud of ash produced by the eruption of Tambora volcano on the Indonesian island of Sumbawa. It was said to be a more powerful eruption than that on Krakatoa in 1883. The ash from that eruption not only lowered temperatures but colored sunsets around the world for 2 years.

County histories (those that go back as far as 1815) around the country often contain anecdotes of the unusual weather and its effect on the early residents. Many years afterward, they passed on stories about the "old-time winters".

From Erie County NY, an area with abundant young apple orchards: There was no fruit crop that year not only because the buds froze on the trees and failed to blossom, but because there were no bees.

From "Old Virginia": "The spring was so short and severe that no vegetation could grow in it. In August the corn ... went to tassel so early that it was useless for anything except fodder. In the spring of 1817, farmers were obliged to pay unheard-of prices for seed corn" raised the year before. Flour brought \$17 a barrel. Many domestic animals perished in the cold. Deer, however, were easy to hunt because their feet broke the crusts of the snow and they couldn't escape the hunters. [Reminiscences of ex-slave Pharaoh Chesney of Union Co TN reprinted in "East TN Roots" 5:2]

The winter following the remarkable summer was also one of intense cold. Public health, however, was never better, and although the crops were a failure the old-time settlers bore up under their trials and did not lose spirit.

I started collecting these stories (as well as those of other major events, such as the 1811 "New Madrid" fault earthquake in the Midwest) to "flesh out" the stories of ancestors' lives. In addition to emphasizing what a few degrees of temperature can do to climate in general, the stories demonstrate the hardiness and endurance of our forebears who were far more dependent on the weather than we are. The ones who survived were a hardy breed indeed!

-- Dorothy Stanton

● REUNIONS

Although it's too late to put together a Family Reunion for this summer, you can start planning for next year. Here are a few suggestions and sources to help you.

● PLANNING A REUNION?

"Reunions" a magazine that debuted in Sept 1990 is filled with ideas and stories on how to make your family and school reunions the best they can be. Write to: P.O. Box 11727, Milwaukee, WI 53211-0727 to subscribe.

The National Association of Reunion Planners will do all the work for you. They will plan the reunion, find participants, mail invitations, provide decorations and music and staff the event. Call 1-800-654-2776 for the current list.

Celebrating the Family: Steps to Planning a Family Reunion by Vandella Brown is available from Ancestry for \$8.95.

To trace missing cousins, use "Phonedisc" at Redwood City Library [see Feb 1992 newsletter]

● SOME REUNION SUGGESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Choose a date early so families can plan vacations in advance.
- Search for a place to hold the party, one that's big enough for games and that has cooking facilities. Don't forget any handicapped members and any seniors who aren't as mobile as they used to be.
- If your family is large, with many coming from out of the area, consider naming a committee of officers to be in charge of set-up, serving, clean-up, games, etc.
- Record the event with a group photo.
- And, of course, have a Family Tree on display [see below and next page].

● HOWDY COUSIN!

Puzzled about the way to solve the problem of cousinship? If your common ancestor was a:

- Grandparent** -- you are first cousins;
- Great-grandparent** -- you are second cousins;
- Great-great-grandparent** -- you are third cousins;

- Great-great-great-grandparent** -- you are fourth cousins;

- Great-great-great-great-grandparent** -- you are fifth cousins.

If your father or mother was a third cousin to someone, then you are that person's third cousin once removed. not his fourth cousin.

[from Nuggets From Paradise Feb 1992]

YOUR FAMILY TREE

If you are concerned about running out of ancestors to trace, consider this. If you go back ten generations you have 2,046 names to collect, not counting uncles, aunts, and cousins!

2 parents
4 grandparents
8 great grandparents
16 great great grandparents
32 great great great grandparents
64 great great great great grandparents
128 great great great great great grandparents
256 great great great great great great grandparents
512 great great great great great great great grandparents
1024 great great great great great great great great grandparents

[From JAMES N. LONGWELL]

[MANASOTA FL GS]

● COUSINS ALL?

A fascinating article by Robert P. Kingett [see *Ancestry Newsletter* IX:4 July-Aug 1991] suggests that, if we go back far enough on our family tree, we may all be cousins! At about the time of Marco Polo, only 28 generations removed, your ancestors alive at that time numbered 268,435,456 -- about the population of the US today. If you go back just to about 1000 AD your ancestors alone would number 68.7 billion.

A formula devised by Nathan Keyfitz of the U of Chicago gives the total number of people for all time as 69 billion. Obviously, we are interrelated. As Mr. Kingett concludes, "next time you get angry with your neighbor, don't punch him in the nose, for he may well be your double double cousin twice removed on your mother's side -- or on your father's side -- or both."

● [IN]FAMOUS ANCESTOR?

Q. How far back in a family genealogy can one go before the probability of sharing common genes with that generation becomes negligible?

A. Your chance of sharing a particular gene with a particular one of your ancestors falls off by one half with each generation, becoming less than 1 percent within seven generations.

Our genes are contained on 46 chromosomes. You got 23 chromosomes from your mother and 23 from your father. Since you only got half of each of your parent's genes, that means you have a 50 percent chance of inheriting any particular gene from either your mother or your father.

If, for example, your mother had the gene for the neurological disorder called Huntington's Disease, you would have a 50

percent chance of inheriting that gene from your mother.

The percentage of your genes you got from any one of your forebears falls off by roughly one half with every generation. And therefore so does the chance that you got any one of your genes from that person. For example, you can figure you got roughly one quarter of your grandmother's genes, so the chance that you inherited any particular gene from her is about 25 percent.

Your chance of having inherited a particular gene from your great grandmother is 12.5 percent: from great-great grandmother it is 6.25 percent; and if you were to go back seven generations, to your great-grandmother's great-grandmother's mother, the chance of sharing any particular gene would be only 0.8 percent.

[from *Allentown Morning Call*, 27 Dec 1989 via Mt. Diablo GS N/L May 92]

● THE HUMAN BLUEPRINT (The Race to Unlock the Secrets of Our Genetic Script)., by Robert Shapiro. St. Martin's Press, NY, 1991, hard cover, 412 pp. Review by Mary Jo Hosteny

This book traces the development of genetic theory from its origins with Mendel's famous experiments to Thomas Hunt Morgan's first genetic maps, to Watson and Crick's 1953 research that revealed DNA stored the genetic information of life in a 4-letter script. Once scientists understood this, a "human blueprint", the race to map its components was on.

Shapiro takes us inside the laboratories of geneticists involved in this project whose discoveries could give us the cure to ancient diseases, catalog exactly the genetic makeup

of each individual, identify the risk of disease, identify a criminal from a single fragment of skin, and a thousand other wonders not dreamed of a few years ago. The implications are manifold, the ethical dilemmas varied and troubling.

This is the Human Genome Project, the effort to read human genetic information. It is not a book for everyone - it is not science fiction, but the subject could be of engrossing interest to the serious genealogist. [This book is available in the LAGS collection at the Pleasanton Library.]



● NOSE PRIDE?



Dr. Marian Diamond, Professor of Anatomy at UC Berkeley, tells her students to be proud of their noses. "The size of your nose depends on the environment in which your ancestors lived," she explains. The nose warms, cleans, and moistens air, "so in dry, hot climates, you find large noses; in cold, northern climates, you get small ones. You should be proud of your nose," she says, "because it's your heredity." [from California Monthly, Dec. 1989]



SRVGS BUSINESS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS '92-93

Book Reviews: MARY JO HOSTENY
California State Alliance Rep: MARY McNAMARA
Cassette Library: SHIRLEY TERRY
Education: VIRGINIA MEADOWCROFT
Freebie Basket: LEE LOWRY
Historian: MILLIE FREITAS
Hospitality: BARBARA JOHNSON; Committee: JO BOLENBAKER, JEAN GUERRA, JANE SINGLETON, CHARLOTTE THOMPSON
Special Interest Groups - Monthly Meetings
Coordinator: WENDY HABERMEHL; New Groups: CAROL GLOVER
Library Trips: CINDY WHEELER
Newsletter Editor: DOROTHY STANTON
Newsletter Mailing: BARBARA DITTIG & LUCY CARVER
Program Taping: WINSTON KYNETT
Publicity: DAVE & PENNY BROWNE
Special Projects: MARILYN FULLAM
Program Reporters (Newsletter): CHRISTINE SCOTT, SANDY KIMBALL, JANE STEINER

● WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

BONWELL, Marian, 1904 Linwood Wy, San Leandro 94577; researching STAFFORD & TURNER in MD.
FARGIS, George B. Jr., 116 Cortona Dr, San Ramon 94583 (735-7701)

PASQUAL, Miriam 2941 Calais Dr, San Ramon 94583. Researching Portuguese ancestry.

● CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

To SRVGS Member MARY ELLA PARROTT (now living near Brewster, MA), new V-P of Cape Cod Genealogical Society. Mary Ella plans to introduce some SRVGS ideas to Cape Cod, e.g., interest groups and a tape library.

To SRVGS Member KATE PRUENTE for winning the Sacramento German Genealogical Society writing contest! Her article "Gottschée -- the German Linguistic Island", printed in *Der Blumenbaum* 10:1, is about the birthplace of her grandfather.

● MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR: READER BEWARE!

The new issue of the Federation of Genealogical Societies' *Forum* has an article about the "misinformation" frequently circulated by genealogical newsletters. The article points up one of the problems confronting newsletter editors. In an effort to pass along research information, we "glean" from other newsletters and periodicals. Usually there is no time to verify the "facts". The example used in the *Forum* was the information about witnesses on deeds "always" being family members, one from each side. Experienced researchers are suspicious of "always" -- in genealogy, there are too many exceptions to the rule -- but novices may have been misled.

One way to avoid spreading erroneous information is to print articles from our own members' experience -- information that you've verified and know works. That's why I urge you to contribute and share your knowledge with other members. Take a few minutes to write out a paragraph or two -- your information may be just what someone else needs to solve a research problem.

Please let me know about any errors that you note in our newsletters, so we can stop the spread of any misinformation. And continue to keep in mind the first rule of historical and genealogical research: **Just because it's in print, doesn't mean it's true!**

TWO THOUGHTS: (1) This is the Society's newsletter -- not the Editor's [and she likes to do research too!]. (2) While a large percentage of the membership indicated they wanted to continue with a monthly newsletter -- and the Board voted to do so -- only a very small percentage has ever written anything for the newsletter.

-- Dorothy Stanton

● SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: September 1





CALENDAR OF GENEALOGICAL EVENTS

- JULY 31-AUGUST 1** New England Historic Gen Soc Summer Conference in Farmington, CT. Contact NEHGS, 101 Newbury St, Boston, MA 02116.
- AUGUST 27-29** British & Irish Genealogical Research Seminar, at Los Angeles Family History Center Library, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd, West Los Angeles, CA. Cost: \$52 payable to British FHS of LA, c/o Sharon L. Moel, Treasurer, P.O. Box 5196, Chatsworth, CA 91313-5196.
- SEPTEMBER 3-7** Ulster Historical Foundation "Irish Homecoming Festival" at Stranmillis College and at the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh, Co. Tyrone [features an Appalachian Blue Grass festival!]. Cost £245 includes full board and 4 nights accommodation. Contact: John A. Walsh, Ulster Historical Fdtn, 12 College Sq East, Belfast, BT1 6DD (Tel (0232/332288)
- SEPTEMBER 22-24** Worldwide "Mary & John" Conference, Windsor, CT. To be added to the conference mailing list, send name & address to Don Bergquist, Family Society Tours, Ltd, 24 Murray St, Norwalk, CT 06851
- OCTOBER 25-31** TRIP TO SALT LAKE PLANNED - A Genealogical Research Tour to Salt Lake, led by Marie Prichett and Frances Becker, is scheduled for October 25-31. Cost per person \$480 (single supplement is \$205) includes round trip air; seven nights at Howard Johnson's, etc. Down payment of \$200 due by September 25; final payment October 12. For further info call Marie at 510/530-7525 or Frances at 510/934-4962 or 837-8742.
- OCTOBER 30-31** Orange Co CA: "New England Comes West" by NEHGS. Contact Bill Schoeffler (617/536-5740.
- NOVEMBER 14** San Mateo CA: Carl-Erik Johansson will present a Scandinavian Seminar for the SMGS. Write SMGS at P.O. Box 5083, San Mateo, CA 94402-0083.



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