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SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



TX12 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

TX12 1/68

TX10 Volume VIII No. 3

SEPTEMBER 1992

TX12 NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 15, 1992

PROGRAM: "WRITING A FAMILY HISTORY"

TX10 ALLISON VOIGHT HAMAKER comes to us from Sacramento where she is Associate Editor of "Der Blumenbaum", newsletter of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society. Interested in genealogy since she was eight years old, she has written and published several family histories of her own and her husband's family.

The aim of Allison's presentation will be to illustrate the fun and excitement that result from producing a family history which one should expect to become a family heirloom.

The framing of the questions an interviewer may ask is, she said, the most creative step of the process. Many examples of such questions will be presented to illustrate various methods of eliciting interesting and evocative responses from interviewees.

How to organize the material that has been gathered through asking questions and examining family records is another basic step that will be discussed at the meeting. Recommended materials for use in producing the family history book will be displayed and a number of handouts will be available.

Participants at the meeting will have the opportunity to examine several examples of finished family histories which portray the steps outlined in the presentation.

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-- Sandy Aberer and Bette Kot, Program

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TX10 JULY PROGRAM
 by Sandy Kimball

PRESERVATION DONE RIGHT

"In this age of disposable everything, we must be careful not to dispose of our past...It is no small task to find, organize restore and preserve our photos, but if it is not done, a valuable legacy will be lost. We must establish a new tradition of the family photo historian."

With these words, our July speaker Tina Mraz introduced the Society to a dozen or

more hints for correctly preserving our old photos and memorabilia.

She first explained the two-album concept. The first is the Tomorrow Album -- the one that is maintained and stored with future generations in mind. As she noted, "this album, like the family's heirloom china, is only taken out on special occasions."

The second is the Today Album, an "every day" version of the family's memories that's designed to be enjoyed over and [continued on p. 22]



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- * 8 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p.21]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS Meeting at Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Av, Livermore. Speaker: Shirley Terry on "Beginning Genealogy".
- 9 - Wednesday 10AM East Bay GS Meeting, Mormon Center, Oakland.
- 10 - Thursday 7:30PM CCCGS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. "Scandinavian Research" by Duane Dalley.
- * 15 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 1PM ROOTS III Interest Group [see p.21]
- * 16 - Wednesday 10AM Irish & German Interest Groups; 1PM CA Interest Group [see p.21]
- 17 - Thursday 1PM Mt. Diablo GS Meeting at Friendship Room, HomeFed Bank, Rossmoor Shopping Center - 1938 Tice Valley Blvd, W.C.
- 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.
- * 21 - Monday SRVGS Library Trip [see p. 21]
- 26 - Saturday 10AM PAF Users' Group at Concord FHC, 3700 Concord Blvd. (510/933-6555)
- * 29 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS One-Time Interest Group on Computers. [see p.21]
- * 30 - Wednesday 10AM Publishing Interest Group [see p.21]

OCTOBER

- * 6 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- 8 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS: Wayne Korsinen on Francis Scott Key.
- 17 - Saturday - 8AM-4PM SEMINAR at the Concord FHC, LDS Church, 3700 Concord Blvd: two-hour class on "Preservation" by Julia Purdie and a 4-hour class on "Organization of your Genealogical Records" by Bette Kot. Co-sponsored by CCCGS & the FHC. Bring a sack lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. Cost \$10 for non-members; CCCGS members prior to 1 Oct, \$7.50. Make checks payable to CCCGS-Seminar, mail to PO Box 910, Concord, 94522. For information call: Susan 510/372-6996 or Leigh 510/254-9024.
- * 20 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting: Panel on "Jargon & Tools Genealogists Use".

PLANNING AHEAD - NOVEMBER

- 7 - Saturday Four-Topic Seminar by Wendy Elliott in Concord. Place and fee to be announced.
- 14 - Saturday 9AM-4PM Scandinavian Research Seminar. Speaker Carl-Erik Johansen at Ampex Cafeteria, 401 Broadway, Redwood City, \$17 before 4 Nov, \$20 at door. Make check payable to San Mateo Co GS; mail to SMCGRS - Scandinavian Seminar, PO Box 5083, San Mateo, CA 94402-0083. For information call 415/329-9941.

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GENEALOGY CLASSES TO START

Weekly genealogy classes taught by Bette Kot will begin Friday, September 25 through October 30. Intermediate Part II will be at 10AM to noon; Beginning Class 1-3PM. Classes meet at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country Dr, Danville. Contact Fran (837-9382) or Bette 707/554-4814.
SALT LAKE RESEARCH TOUR - October 25 - 31, led by Marie Prichett and Frances Becker. Cost per person: \$480 includes round trip air and 7 nights at Howard Johnson's (share twin), etc. Down payment of \$200 due 25 Sept. Call Frances at 510/934-4962 or 837-8742, or Marie at 510/530-7525 for more details.

TX12 SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

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CALIFORNIA - Meets 1PM on the third Wednesday at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: 16 Sept and 21 Oct.

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 meetings: 16 Sept and 21 Oct. 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: 16 Sept and 21 Oct

PUBLISHING - Meets on the last Wednesday 10AM. Next meeting: 30 Sept at Jane Steiner's, 1010 Hunsaker Canyon Rd, Lafayette. Maps will be available at the September SRVGS meeting. Contact Jane Steiner 283-0867. No meeting in October.

ROOTS III - Meets 1:00PM on third Tuesday. September 15 meeting place will be announced at the General Meeting. Contact Frances Lloyd (837-9382)

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meeting: 8 Sept at Barbara Irwin's, 1400 Canyonwood Ct #8, Rossmoor, WC (939-8522). September's subject will be Kentucky and Tennessee; October - Maryland, Delaware & lower Pennsylvania; November - Missouri, Arkansas, Texas & Oklahoma. Oct 13 & Nov 10 meeting places to be announced. Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

SPECIAL ONE-TIME COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP Tuesday, Sept 29, 10AM at Carol Glover's. A one-time meeting on using computers in record-keeping and research [see below]*

TX6 • ATTENTION INTEREST GROUP CHAIRPERSONS: Please report programs and changes to Wendy Habermehl 829-8339

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1992-1993 LIBRARY TRIP SCHEDULE

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DATE	TIME	DAY	PLACE
Sep 21	8:30AM	Monday	Mayflower Library, Oakland
Oct 27	8:00AM	Tuesday	CA State Library, Sacramento
Nov 24	9:00AM	Tuesday	Sutro Library, San Francisco
Dec			NO TRIP
Jan 26	8:00AM	Tuesday	Santa Clara Library, Santa Clara
Feb 23	8:00AM	Tuesday	National Archives, San Bruno
Mar 26	7:30AM	Tuesday	Bancroft Library, Berkeley
Apr 27	8:30AM	Tuesday	Solano Co GS Library, Vacaville
May 25	9:00AM	Tuesday	Sutro Library, San Francisco
Jun 29	9:30AM	Tuesday	Contra Costa Library, Pleasant Hill

SEPTEMBER LIBRARY TRIP

The September library trip will be to the Society of Mayflower Descendants in California Library, 405 14th Street, Oakland. Members will meet to carpool at 8:30 AM in back of Lucky's on Diablo Road, Danville on MONDAY, September 21. Those living north of Danville may call Mary Jo Hosteny (932-2244) for an alternate meeting place. In Danville please call Cindy Wheeler at 743-1322.

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OAKLAND FHC The Family History Center has completed its move to the new building at the Temple in Oakland. Peg Frazier reports that the facilities, while probably not a lot larger, seem more spacious, especially at the microfilm readers where there are roomy individual work spaces.

She advises that you take a sweater -- the air-conditioning works "very well!"

The GRAND OPENING of the FHC and Visitor's Center will be 9 Sept, 2-8PM (RSVP 531-0704). A Formal Dedication will be held on 12 Sept, 10:30.

TX10 * INTEREST GROUP SPECIAL

TX8 Have you ever thought about putting your genealogy project on a computer? Are you disappointed by your current software? Are you overwhelmed by the whole idea of just purchasing a computer? We are having a one-time meeting on computers and genealogy at 10AM on Sept 29 at the home of Carol Glover, 333 Goshen Ct, San Ramon.

We will discuss what you need to know to make a prudent decision regarding the purchase

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pa

of a computer and what is currently available on the market. A person's individual needs dictate both the type of machine and dealer best for them.

We will have examples of many of the current genealogy software packages. Our own SRVGS members will be available to discuss their use of these programs and answer your questions. We will also discuss doing your project on the computer or word processor without genealogy software.

If you want information or have questions on computer genealogy or if you would like to share your experiences and successes, please attend.

For more information, call Carol Glover at 829-7207.

[PRESERVATION continued from p. 19]

over. While care should be taken to minimize damage to the contents of this album, it is meant for current enjoyment -- not for preserving family history for the future.

Among the hints for long-term preservation the "Creative Memories" consultant presented were these:

1. Avoid folding paper. It damages the fibers.
2. Avoid using staples, paper clips and rubber bands.
3. Don't use cellophane or masking tape. They turn materials yellow and brittle.
4. Don't store in card board boxes. Use acid-free boxes.
5. Avoid PVC plastics. They're harmful to photos.
6. Protect photos from dust, dirt, pollution and acid from fingers.
7. Never use Kraft or glassine envelopes for storing materials and never laminate them.

In discussing types of preferred albums, Tina explained that magnetic albums could be high in acid and lignin, which turns paper brown. They may also contain glues, caustic materials and plastic covers, a mixture that turns the album into a "chemical bag" that destroys the contents. Also, magnetic albums have no place for labeling photos.

The second type of album, the one with individual pockets, is also usually of the magnetic type. In addition, moisture can get trapped between the photo and the pockets, causing the pictures to stick.

The scrapbook type of album, particularly the older version, are likely to deteriorate because of acid materials, bindings that don't allow pages to lie flat, and misaligned rings that tear pages.

Spiral binding should be avoided because pages cannot be added.

Instead, the preservationist urged members to look for albums that have acid-free and lignin-free pages, buffered pages and plastic covers that are free of PVC.

The correct way to put the "tomorrow" album together is to:

1. attach materials with clear corners or clear appropriate plastic sleeves.
2. Label each photo with a fade-proof, water-proof pigma ink (use black--it lasts longer) and include names, dates, locations and comments about the event.

She suggested that valuable color photos should be re-shot in black and white for maximum longevity, and that once a year a roll of black and white should be taken of the family. Each picture should be identified on the back using a soft lead pencil. She recommended spraying memorabilia with a product called Wei T'o to protect items from acid.

To preserve newspapers, Tina recommended making photo copies of the originals on acid-free paper, using the dry copy process. Proper storage of the "tomorrow" albums includes: standing them upright, never stacking anything on top, placing them in an approximate 40 degree temperature with 40-50% humidity, and avoiding exposure to sunlight.

Negatives should also get special treatment. They should be stored carefully away from the pictures (she suggested putting them in your safe deposit box), in acid-free envelopes with labels indicating dates and comments on what they are about.

SOURCES FOR ARCHIVAL PRODUCTS

Conservation Materials Ltd., Box 2884, Sparks, NV 89431 (702) 331-0582.

Future Packaging, 1426 E. Cypress St., Covina, CA 91724-2145. Send 52 cents postage for catalog "Archivally Speaking".

Genealogy Unlimited, P.O. Box 537, Orem UT 84059-0537 (800) 666-4363. Call or write for free catalog. Good source of supplies in smaller quantities.

Hollinger Corp., P.O. Box 8360, Fredricksburg, VA 22404 (703) 898-7300.

Kusek Genealogical Services, P.O. Box 32060, Shawnee Msn. KS 66212-2060 (913) 383-2458. Their ad in Genealogical Helper for Jan/Jly 1992

[Continued on last page of newsletter]

Tx12 MEMBERSHIP NEWSTx10 WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

- WANDA HOCKMAN BRAKER, 1090 Livorna Rd, Alamo 94507 (937-4297). Researching PEDDICORD, OH; REYNOLDS, OH.

RESTORE TO DIRECTORY:

- NANCY GRIFFIN - Add surnames: HANCHETT, CT 1650-1850; BAER, PA 1800's.
- CHRIS HANSELL, 3410 McEllen Ct, Lafayette 94549-5133 (284-1374). Surnames: NOYES, CT, CA 1700-1900; BRUMLEY, NY 1800+.
- BARBARA IRWIN, 1400 Canyonwood Ct #8, Walnut Creek 94595-3621 (939-8522)
- MARILOU VICTOR, 33 Turrini Cir, Danville 94526-2739 (837-6769)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU: An anonymous donation has been made to SRVGS in honor of Jim Cobb. The Society would like to warmly thank the kind donor.

A SPECIAL EVENT - As you can see from the column to the right and the invitation below, JIM COBB is celebrating a special event. In case you're new to SRVGS and not sure who he is (understandable because you probably didn't guess from his appearance that he was approaching the end of nine decades), Jim is the gentleman who insists he doesn't speak with a brogue -- it's everyone else who has an accent!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Jim! We hope we can all share with you many more years of genealogy and friendship!

Tx12 YOU ARE INVITED

Tx10 Jim Cobb will be celebrating his 90th birthday this year and would like all of the people he knows to celebrate with him. His family will be having a reception for him on 19 September. [see below]

Jim was born just a few days before his father died in 1902 in Montrose, Scotland. His mother, who had 3 other children, all girls, was left to raise her family all alone. Although times were not easy, the family never thought of themselves as poor. There was a wealth of family to draw on; grandparents, aunts and uncles, along with cousins and friends and there always seemed to be enough for all.

His oldest sister had married and was living in the US in the early 1920's when Jim made the long sea voyage to New York and then the long train trek across the country to California. He has remained here ever since.

His interest in genealogy was taken up some years ago when his two nieces needed help in tracing their family roots in Scotland. Jim took up this part of the job and has been very successful in finding records -- tracing back 5 generations using records available in the US through the Family History Center. His friends and family in Scotland are amazed at what he has been able to accomplish without visiting Scotland.

As one genealogist to another he would appreciate your helping him to celebrate 90 years well-lived.

Ruthella Gard-Pfeiffer (Jim's niece)

The family of
Jim Cobb

invites you to a reception in honor of his

Ninetieth Birthday

on Saturday, September 19, 1992
from two to four p.m.

at the Danville Women's Club
242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue, Danville, California

No Gifts Please

(510) 837-5160



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TX6 [Continued from page 22]

TX8 has an archival photo album with acid-free, lignin-free paper & mylar, etc for \$39.95.

Light Impressions, 439 Monroe Av, Rochester, NY 14607-3717 (800) 828-6216. Mary Ellen Jones, archivist at Bancroft Library, lists this company as "good for photos; has brochures on care of photos, slides".

- * TINA MRAZ (510) 682-8387. Call for a catalog with descriptions and prices for archival materials from the company she represents.

Preservation Emporium, P.O. Box 226309, Dallas TX 75222.

University Products, Inc., Holyoke, MA 01040 (800) 628-1912.

On the subject of photography for genealogists, check Ancestry's books:

Photographing Your Heritage by Wilma Sadler Shull; *Video Family History* by Duane & Pat Sturm

(see Frances Lloyd or Bette Kot to order)

Also check American Association for State and Local History's *Collection, Use and Care of Historical Photographs* by Robert Weinstein and Larry Booth.

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L31 TX12 SAN RAMON VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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LH10 LIFE EXPECTANCY OF PHOTOS

LH7 TX8 As we diligently save ancestors' photos and take pictures of our contemporary family members, we may be kidding ourselves that these likenesses will be around for the ages to come.

According to the experts, photos stored under ideal conditions should last as follows:

Black & White -- 100 years at least *["200 to

300 years on fiber-based paper"].

Kodachrome ASA 25, 40, 64 slides -- 100 plus years ["25-30 years, color fades"]

Ektachrome - Up to 50 years ["25-30 yrs"]

High Speed Ektachrome E-4 - about 20 years

Vericolor - (used by professional photographers) - 2 to 5 yrs ["a negative, 15 years"]

Cibacolor & Cibachrome prints (made from slides) - more than 100 years ["50 years"]

Dye transfer prints -- more than 100 years ["costs \$100 or more"]

Ektacolor 74, 78 paper - seven to ten years ["longer, probably 20"]

TX6 From EBGs N/L Mar/Apr 91]

LH8 TX8 *Editor's Note: Most of us store photos in less than ideal conditions, so I asked Jim Tackitt to comment on the above types of photos from his experience with them; his comments are enclosed in brackets.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL