

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. 9

APRIL 1993

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 20, 1993

PROGRAM: "ARMCHAIR TOUR OF SUTRO LIBRARY"

With the aid of maps learn your way around the Sutro branch of the California State Library. It is a gold mine of information for genealogists but often appears difficult to use if one does not understand the layout. This information will be useful for using the California Genealogical Society Library, and large research libraries.

Speaker BETTE KOT has been wandering about libraries for several years and finds them exciting and rewarding. She is currently looking for names and addresses of cemeteries to complete a book and solves many of her problems at Sutro.

LAST MONTH

By Jane Steiner

Dr. Muriel James is a renowned psychotherapist who has practiced in Lafayette for over 30 years. Although her father was a U.C. professor, she didn't go to college until she was 35! Today she has had 17 books published; the best-known is *Born to Win* which has sold 4 million copies in some 20 languages.

A dynamic speaker, she held everyone enthralled with her discussion of "putting clothes on our skeleton ancestors." She admitted she was new to genealogy but not to history. When her niece wanted to join the DAR and asked Muriel to help her prove the connection to her Revolutionary ancestor, she started attending Bette

Kot's classes and, like so many of us, became addicted.

She began to wonder what were the circumstances that brought her first ancestor to this country from England. And she encourages all of us to try to understand what might have motivated our ancestors to make major migrations.

People are motivated by seven "Passions for Life" which are universally applicable goals:

1. MEANING; the urge to live; that life has meaning. The quality needed is *hope*.
2. SELF-DETERMINATION; the urge for freedom. The quality needed is *courage*.
3. SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE; the desire to understand. The quality needed is *curiosity*.
4. ORIGINALITY; the urge to

create. The quality needed is *imagination*.

5. HAPPINESS; the urge to enjoy life. The quality needed is *enthusiasm*.
6. LOVE; the desire to make connections. One must be *caring* in order to give and receive love.

7. UNITY; we cannot be isolated; we are part of a family and part of each other's families. For this we must be *open*.

Which one or more of these *passions* brought your ancestor to America? You need to find out what kind of person your ancestor was in *his* time and in *his* location and not judge him by present day standards. What was his religion? What was his education? What was his occupation? What was the government where he lived?

[continued on p.74]



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL

- *13 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p.69]; 7:30 Livermore-Amador GS Meeting.
- *14 - Wednesday 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p.69]; 10AM East Bay GS at the Mormon Center, 4780 Lincoln Av, Oakland. "Master Indexing and Organizing Genealogical Materials" by Bette Kot. Contact Josef Schmitt 510/532-5947 or June Lindquist 510/524-6685.
- *17 - Saturday 9AM to 4PM - **ARLENE EAKLE SEMINAR** at Village Theater, 233 Front St, Danville. Registration: \$20 at door. See below for topics to be covered.
- *20 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 1PM ROOTS III Interest Group [see p.69].
- 24 - Saturday All-day Seminar "Researching Your Family History", 8AM-4PM, LDS Livermore Stake, 1501 Hillcrest Av, Livermore. Featured speaker: Ron Bremer; plus many classes. Cost: \$8 per family. Co-sponsored by LDS & Livermore-Amador Valley Gen Soc. Call 510/447-9386 for information; 10AM-noon PAFFERS UNITED at Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord.
- *27 - Tuesday SRVGS Library Trip [see p.71]

MAY

- 1 - Saturday 10AM CCCGS Computer Interest Group at CC Water District Bldg, Concord. Topic "Help with PROCOMM". Call 372-6996 for information.
- 1 & 2 9AM-4PM Southern California Gen Soc Genealogical Jamboree at The Pasadena Center, 300 East Green St, Pasadena. Flier available at SRVGS meeting or call 818/THE-SCGS.
- * 4 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- * 11 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p.69]
- * 12 - Wednesday 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p.69]; 10AM East Bay GS Meeting, speaker John Stutesman on Pennsylvania Research.
- * 13 - Thursday 10AM Scandinavian Group [see p.69]
- * 18 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting. Speaker Dr. William W. West, "Serendipity in Genealogical Research."
- 22 - Saturday 8:30AM-4PM Elizabeth Shown Mills Seminar hosted by Gen Soc of Stanislaus Co. at the LDS Church, 731 El Vista Av, Modesto. Registration (includes a buffet lunch) is \$20. Register before May 14 to insure lunch. Contact Don Wilson 209/869-3966.

OFFICERS to Contact

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 Membership: Mary Jo Hosteny 932-2244
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 Family \$20
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ARLENE EAKLE SEMINAR APRIL 17 - DANVILLE

SRVGS and Contra Costa Co Genealogical Society are co-sponsoring the one-day seminar by Dr. Arlene Eakle. Following are some further details on the topics to be covered (not necessarily in order):

1. "Are Your Immigrant Ancestors on Microfilm? Thousands of rolls of film are available to you through the Family History Library and other microfilm vendors. These include passenger lists, debt clearances, permits to travel or leave the country (protocols), manumissions, passports, naturalization,

religious creed registers, and many other emigrant/immigrant documents.

2. "Migration Patterns into the Central United States." OH, IN, IL, MO, KY, TN specific sources and their locations, exact routes (including stopping places along the way), places of origin for group migrations, and the foreign influx directly from Europe and Canada. Includes a special cemetery evidence segment.

3. "Tracing Ancestors Who Lived in Cities." Over 65% of our ancestors before 1900 lived in cities. Special research strategies and sources available
 [EAKLE continued on p.73]

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

CALIFORNIA - Meets with Irish Interest Group [see below].

GERMAN - The group will meet 10AM each 3rd Wednesday (only if it follows the general meeting) Contact Shirley Terry (829-7787) for next meeting.

IRISH - Meets 10AM each second Wednesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: April 14 & May 12.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the last Wednesday 10AM. Next meeting: April 28 at Marilyn Fullam's (directions at next general meeting). Contact Jane Steiner 283-0867.

ROOTS III - Meets 1-3PM on third Tuesdays at the Danville Women's Clubhouse [see below]. Contact Cindy Wheeler 743-1322.

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meetings: April 13 at Nancy Williams' 516 McBride Dr, Lafayette (283-6135); May 11 at Kitty Goodholme's (735-1402), 213 Majorca, S.R. Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

UNITED KINGDOM - If you are interested in research in England, Scotland, & Wales, contact Ron Skilton 254-6989.

ATTENTION INTEREST GROUP CHAIRPERSONS: PLEASE REPORT PROGRAMS & CHANGES TO WENDY HABERMEHL 829-8339.

* * * RESEARCH NOTES * * *

● SCANDINAVIAN GROUP

Carol Glover announces that the Scandinavian Interest Group, a one-time meeting originally scheduled for March 30, has been rescheduled. It will be held at 10AM on THURSDAY, MAY 13, at 333 Goshen Ct, San Ramon. Please note that this is a change from the May 11 date announced at the last meeting. Call Carol at 829-7787 for more information.

● ROOTS USER GROUP

From Cindy Wheeler: The ROOTS User Group (those using Commsoft's ROOTS II, III, and soon-to-be IV genealogy software) has found a new (old?) home at last? The meetings will be held after SRVGS meetings at the Women's Club. We have an agreement to extend our current contract so that the User Group can meet 1-3PM. Plan to bring your bag lunch and we'll eat and chat on the back patio until 1PM. We will be asking for a donation of \$3 each meeting to cover the rental charges and copy costs.

● VITAL RECORDS UPDATES

● ILLINOIS - OPEN, CLOSED,

OPEN - Because of a few unscrupulous individuals using vital records to obtain false identification, the Cook Co (Chicago) Clerk closed off access to vital records in July 1991. The state's attorney ruled that "open access" was in violation of the state's Vital Records Act. An appeal by Illinois Genealogical Societies to legislators resulted in a bill introduced by Sen. Cullerton which was passed and signed into law on 1 Jan 1993. It applies to all counties. County clerks may issue copies stamped "For Genealogical Purposes Only" of birth records 75 years old, and death records twenty years old. Another law provides that certain indexes be made available to "persons for the purpose of genealogical research".

[FORUM Spring 1993]

● KANSAS - As of Oct 1991, fees for KS vital records increased to \$7 for the first copy and \$4 for each additional copy of the same document. Send to Office of Vital

Statistics, Dept of Health & environment, 900 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612-1290

[CSGA n/1 10:4]

- NEW HAMPSHIRE - Birth, death and marriage records are now \$10.
- OREGON - Marriage Certificates are now \$13 if you get them from the State Health Division.
- TENNESSEE - Death certificates are \$5; send name, date & county of death, state how you are related and why you need the certificate. For a birth certificate send \$10 and give name, date & county of birth, both parents full names, state how you are related, and for what purpose the certificate is needed. Send check or money order to: Tennessee Vital Records C-3, Cordell Hull Bldg, Nashville TN 37247-0350 [NNY-BBS Dec 1992 via CCCGS N/L]
- TEXAS - Several newsletter articles have indicated that the Texas Legislature has closed its death records to the public because illegal aliens are using information from death records to create fake i.d. records.

Was this true? The editor of the California State Genealogical Alliance checked with the Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics and was told there have been no changes in their policies. Records of deaths within the past 25 years are available only to those who can establish a relationship to the deceased. Older death records are available to anyone. Access to birth records for the past 50 years are likewise restricted to relatives. Current fees are \$9 for death records and \$11 for birth records. [CSGA N/L Oct 1992]

● PASSENGER LISTS

See Dr. P. William Filby's article "Update IV - Passenger and Immigration Lists" in the Jan-Feb 1993 *Genealogical Helper* for additional published sources of immigrant lists.



● COMING TO AMERICA

How long did it take to reach America by ship?

In 1824, 68 days from Rotterdam to Baltimore.

In 1832, 58 days from Bremen to Baltimore.

In 1834, 44 days from Bremen to Baltimore.

In 1843, 66 days from Bremen to New Orleans.

In 1854, 47 days from LeHavre to New Orleans.

From 1867-1890 most sailing ships used steam auxiliary engines on days when there was little or no wind. However, many sailing ships remained in service and their fares were often lower than the faster steam ships. In 1892 a steamship made the trip from Ireland to New York in only 10 days. [German-American Gen Spr 1992]

● FIRST ARRIVALS?

Thirty-four years after Columbus reached the New World in 1492, a Spanish

lawyer, Lucas Vazquez de Ayllon, sailed the Antilles with over 600 men, women and children along with their horses, pigs, tools, equipment and enough food to settle in the New World. Their colony was probably located in Sapelo Sound in what is now McIntosh Co, Georgia.

The colony survived only a few weeks, but its existence predated the establishment of a colony at St. Augustine in what is now Florida by 39 years. For more information, contact the Troup Co Historical Soc and Archives, PO Box 1051, LaGrange, GA 30241

[From *The Family Tree* Odom Gen Library, Feb-Mar 1993]

● CHURCH RECORDS

- STRAY CATHOLIC MARRIAGES - An index of all the stray and unusual Roman Catholic marriage entries found in the Liverpool Record Office has been compiled by Mr. E. Crook. The index covers thousands of entries and can be searched by surname or date. The charge is £5 for a specific marriage or £10 for a print-out of one surname, plus postage, payable to John O'Byrne Computing. Although the index is quite large, it is still only a fraction of the total number of RC marriages in Liverpool. For more info write to Mr. E. Crook, 25 Gerneth Rd, Speke, Liverpool L24 1UN, England. [From *The English Researcher* May 1991]

REUSCH UPDATE - Ruesch International Financial Services (listed in the March newsletter) has a Los Angeles office: (800)696-7900; Ruesch International, 1875 Century Park East, Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA 90067. [SGGS Apr '93]

- BAPTIST SOURCES - The Ethel Taylor Crittenden Collection, located on the campus of Wake Forest Univ in Winston-Salem, NC serves as the official depository for North Carolina Baptist historical materials. These materials include some 12,000 books and pamphlets, 1800 bound journals, 10,000 biographical files, 425 personal papers and legions of church and association records. Although emphasis is placed on Baptist resources in NC, materials from other states as well as from the Southern Baptist Convention, black Baptist churches, Free Will and Primitive Baptist churches are also included. As of April 1, 1992 approximately 1000 churches had their records, some dating back more than a century, on microfilm in the collection. [from an article by Alva Stewart in *Wilson Library Bulletin* Oct 92, via Chgo GS N/L Jan 93]
- METHODIST ANCESTORS - Try writing for information to Drew University, PO Box 127, Madison NY 07940. The United Methodist Archives for the entire country are stored there. [Champaign Co IL Summer 92]

● CGS GENEALOGY CLASSES

BEGINNERS DAYS - Introduction and Use of a Genealogical Library. April 18 11AM-3PM; June 6 11AM-3PM. \$5.

IRISH RESEARCH - by Dr. Brian Trainor, Dir of the Ulster Historical Fdn. The latest on research in Ireland. April 25 10AM-3:30PM; \$20.

PREPARING FOR A RESEARCH TRIP by Corky Taylor. May 16 1-3PM; \$5.

INTERMEDIATE GENEALOGY by Judy Svoboda. Covers major record groups, such as land and probate records. Limited to 16 people. May 23, June 13, June 27 9AM-12noon; \$35 for 3 classes.

All classes at CGS Library, 300 Brannan St, Suite 409, S.F. (415/777-9936). Mail checks payable to CGS to the California Genealogical Society, PO Box 77105, San Francisco, CA 94107-0105.

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● APRIL LIBRARY TRIP
FROM CINDY WHEELER:

The April library trip will be to the Solano County Genealogy Society Library in Vacaville. We'll meet to carpool at 9AM in back of Lucky's on Diablo Rd in Danville on Tuesday, April 27th. A sign-up sheet will be circulated during our monthly meeting; if you're not there, please call Cindy Wheeler (743-1322) to add your name. Call also if your name is on the list and you can't make it; this keeps people from waiting unnecessarily for you to arrive. This library has many reference books and county histories in addition to Solano County records. They also have indexes to pension files for Indian Wars, War of 1812, Civil War, etc. and a microfiche file of California deaths.

● LAST MONTH'S TRIP

The trip in March to UC-Berkeley was truly an adventure! After finally arriving a half hour late (rainy traffic), we had a very insightful tour led by Annegret Ogden. While most of us only accomplished finding our way there and back, Millie Freitas found an obituary she had needed for several years. Congratulations!

The real key to UCB is knowing how to use their computerized card catalogs GLADIS and MELVYL. Some of us spent out time experimenting, but we all decided taking a class was the best approach. Call 642-5071 for a schedule of classes (Term Paper Research Workshops). You also may access their online library catalogs from your personal computer using a modem and communications software; see Cindy Wheeler

(743-1322) for an instruction sheet.

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS PART III:● RLIN - RESEARCH LIBRARIES INFORMATION NETWORK

RLIN is an electronic data base for manuscript material in archives and libraries. The over 35 million records which can be accessed through RLIN are much the same as those covered by NUCMC and NIDS [see SRVGS N/L for February & March]. The index covers records of families, individuals, businesses, institutions, and federal and state governments. Plans are for all NUCMC entries to be entered into RLIN as well, for on-line access at computer terminals. Material can be located by author, subject, or title. RLIN also includes indexes by donor and by type of document (e.g., photographs, diary, letter, etc.) Because of the format, a search can be limited to particular dates, repositories or descriptive terms. A surname search would produce a listing & description of all manuscript collections pertaining to that family name.

RLIN terminals are available in two types of institutions: (1) libraries and archives which belong to the Research Library Group and (2) members of a network know as CLASS (Cooperative Library Agency for Systems and Services). The first is available to students, faculty & staff of certain academic or archival institutions. The second is open to everyone for a service fee. For more information on the RLG (group 1) write 1200 Villa St, Mountain View, CA

94041-1100; for information about the second group, write CLASS, 1415 Koll Cir, Suite 101, San Jose, CA 95112-4698.

More detailed information on RLIN can be found in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly Vol 77 No 3, Sept 1989, article by Mary M. Bell, Clifford Dwyer, & Wm. A. Henderson.

● CA STATE LIBRARY

The California State Library is seeking materials documenting how the war affected life in California and the lives of State employees. Gary Kurutz, curator of the Library's California collection, states "we are looking for all kinds of historical materials, such as diaries and private letters of California's hometown patriots; photographs of defense workers on the line; Air Force, Army and Navy base yearbooks; photographs and diaries of interned Japanese-Americans, and other materials which reflect the wide range of WWII experience in CA." If you have items to donate, please WRITE to Gary Kurutz, CA State Library, PO Box 942837, Sacramento, CA 94237-001

[From GAS Lites 16:1/2 via CCCGS Apr 93]

- NEW ADDRESS - The California State Library Foundation has a new address and phone, effective March 15th, 1993: California State Library Foundation, 1225 8th St, Suite 345, Sacramento CA 95814; (916) 447-6331.

[via Solano Co GS n/1 Mar '93]

● FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

- Good news for researchers in Salt Lake: Starting Jan 1 this year, the FHL has extended Saturday hours to

10PM. This later closing time allows out-of-town visitors more time for research during trips. The hours now are Monday 7:30AM to 6PM; Tuesday thru Saturday 7:30AM to 10PM.

- **GERMAN RECORDS** - "A Directory of Agricultural Properties in Pomerania, 1939" is available on microfilm from the FHL (#1,573,108, roll 715, item 5). This 1939 register lists Pomeranian Counties (Kreis) with the names of owners in each county listed alphabetically. These lists include persons living in that area at the outbreak of WWII -- six years before the expulsion of all Germans from that area. [*Die Pommerschen Leute* Oct 92 via Immigrant GS Jan 93]

- **1938 CENSUS** Germany took a census of minorities in 1938 in order to help identify persons who were Jewish. The FHL has now acquired copies of that census for many cities. The records may not yet be cataloged under individual localities. The census included name, birthdate, place of birth, schooling and whether grandparents were Jewish. It also included the actual signature of the head-of-household for each entry [IGS Nov '92]

● **NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

- **GERMAN PHOTOS** - Aerial photographs of German villages are available from the National Archives. You must send a map on which the location of the village is marked or provide exact geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) of the village, along with any variant spellings of the village name. The Cartographic and Architectural Branch will reply with an order form and the negative numbers they have of your

village and a cost list. A 4"x5" black and white negative and an 8"x10" glossy print will cost about \$11. Address requests to the Cartographic and Architectural Branch (NNSC), National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, DC 20408. Allow four to six weeks to receive the order.

[from *Stanislaus Researcher* Nov 92, verified as current info 1/93 by FGS FORUM]

- **GERMAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of AMERICA** has a new location for their library: 2125 Wright Av, Suite C-9, LaVerne, CA. The mailing address remains the same, PO 291818, Los Angeles, CA 90029. [CSGA n/1 Oct '92]



BOOK REVIEWS

- **THE GENEALOGIST'S ADDRESS BOOK** by Elizabeth Petty Bentley. Publ. by Genealogical Pub Co, Baltimore MD, 1992. Soft cover, 539 pp. [Review by Mary Jo Hosteny] This up-dated 1992-93 edition of the ADDRESS BOOK is a national Yellow Pages for the genealogist. It is classified by subject, cross-referenced and alphabetized, and gives the sources of genealogical information, with names, addresses, phone numbers, contact persons, and business hours of libraries, archives, genealogical societies, others too numerous to list. It also has an advertising supplement and an index to all main entries for quick and easy reference.

[Available from Genealogical Resources, Frances Lloyd (837-9382) or Bette Kot (707/554-4814)]

- **IN SEARCH OF YOUR GERMAN ROOTS**, by Angus Baxter. A complete guide to tracing your ancestors in the Germanic areas of Europe. GPC, 1991, soft cover, 116 pp.

[Review by Mary Jo Hosteny] This guide by Angus Baxter continues the type of help contained in his various "In Search Of" books. It shows you how to conduct your research by correspondence to trace your German ancestry not only in Germany itself but in all the German-speaking areas of Europe, from the Baltic to the Crimea, from Czechoslovakia to Belgium. This is a new "United Germany Edition" reflecting the changes brought about by the unification of East and West Germany in 1990.

- **THE GERMAN-ENGLISH GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY** by Ernest Thode

[Review by Kate Pruenle]

I was quite pleased with this new offering by Thode. It combines in one place, arranged alphabetically, all the genealogical words and phrases one encounters doing German research. He extended his coverage to include Latin, Dutch, Polish, and French words which show up particularly in church record books. Especially helpful to me are the one letter abbreviations, which he covers quite well. He includes a marvelous list of suffixes, which help you to understand some naming patterns. Given names, and their nicknames or variations are also given. With each letter, he shows examples of Old Script and how the letters would look. Additionally, he includes some heraldry patterns and genealogical symbols.

Thode has done excellent research aids in the past and this book is no exception. Available from: Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc, 1001 North Calvert St, Baltimore, MD 21202 (#5758) @\$29.95 plus \$3 p&h. Or by phone: 1-800-296-6687 for Visa and Master Card orders only. [Editor's Note: Or order from Genealogical Resources & save the postage]

● **GOING TO SALT LAKE CITY TO DO FAMILY HISTORY RE-SEARCH** by J. Carlyle Parker.

Available from Marietta Publishing Co, 2115 N. Denair Av, Turlock, CA 95380, for 10.95 + 1.50 shipping. At Danville Library: 026.9291 Parker. ISBN 0-834153-05-1 [Review by Dorothy Stanton]

This handy 84-page booklet is divided into sections titled Before You Go, When You're There, & Back Home Again. There's even a timetable of how to use the book if you have anywhere from three hours to three months to get ready. The section on preparation for the trip is a good introduction to research anywhere and is helpful even if you just want to do your research from the local Family History Center.

The section on the Salt Lake Library will help you make good use of your time and contains many practical suggestions. It treats modes of transportation to and from Salt Lake and also lists places to stay (in order of proximity to the Library), including campsites.

● **FROM OUR MAILBOX**

Notices about the following publications were received by SRVGS. They will be posted on the Bulletin Board at the April meeting.

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY information on Conference June 2-5 in Baltimore, MD.

Southern California GENEALOGICAL JAMBOREE.

Ancestry BULLETIN listing books on Irish research.

The Roy Family Vol I PHOTO ICONS, Photograph copying and restoration by Sharon Deveau (415/927-4110). A quarterly newsletter is free: 5643 Paradise Dr, #28, Corte Madera, CA 94925.

▷ **[EAKLE cont'd from p.68]** to locate and document lives of ancestors in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Charleston, San Francisco, Chicago. Also included: how to search small-town America whose records are separate from county sources. This will also include references to Occupations, Employment and Your Ancestors. Not everyone in America was a farmer! Many immigrants were skilled workers or had been trained in a specific occupation in the old country. This workshop examines the wide variety of sources created by defunct companies, labor unions, merchandising firms, and other employers of American ancestors. Also discussed: unemployment and poverty program records before 1900.

4. "New Immigration Sources." An explosion of new Immigrant sources, indexes, finding aids has occurred in the last 10 years. What are they? Where can they be found? A new research strategy will be demonstrated to use these indexes more effectively.

As you can see, there is something for everyone. SEE YOU THERE !!!

● **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**



**IN MEMORIAM
JAMES COBB
1902-1993**

Those of us who heard his hearty singing of "Scotland the Brave" at his 90th birthday celebration last September expected Jim Cobb to be with us for many years more. He was proud of his heritage, loved people and was a loyal & interested member of SRVGS since 1986.

Although Jim came to California from Montrose, Scotland at age 19 and had been a citizen since 1929, he never lost his Scottish brogue -- nor his quick wit. He served in the army as a Sergeant during WWII, retired from the US Postal Service and was a Mason for over 50 years. Jim was active mentally and physically until he succumbed to a bout of pneumonia on March 25. As his niece put it, "he lived a full and happy life, did everything he wanted to do, and the loss is ours." We'll miss him.

Our condolences to his nieces, SRVGS members Ruthella Gard-Pfeiffer and Evelyn McCauley, and other family members.



● **SRVGS SLATE of OFFICERS** for 1993-94 will be presented at the April meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the membership. The slate will be voted on at the May meeting.

● **SPECIAL THANKS** to SHEILA FASS for treating us to Irish Soda Bread at the March meeting. She continued the tradition started by PATTY ERICKSON last year. *Gura Mile Maith Agat!*

● [LAST MONTH cont'd]

What crises were occurring in the world? Was there a war?

How to learn all of these facts? Read history books, but read more than one version so that you may be aware of both sides of issues. Also, look for other records -- early records, though always question original sources.

Some of the history books she suggested were: *The Timetables of History & The Timetables of American History* by Bernard Grun; *Encyclopedia Dictionary of American History*; and even the College Outline history series.

When you begin to learn about what was happening in his part of the world in his time period, you can begin to put clothes on your ancestor.

SOLUTION TO THE GREAT TOMBSTONE MYSTERY

[Last month Kate Prunte sent us a puzzle. The Tuolumne Co Genealogical Society was given a tombstone with no identification or explanation. Kate challenged members to solve the identity of the deceased and why it ended up in private hands. Here's how she solved the mystery with only two phone calls! See last month's newsletter for the wording of the inscription]

Assumption #1 = S.F. stands for San Francisco.

Assumption #2 = Italian, therefore, Catholic.

Phone Call #1: Catholic Cemeteries of San Francisco.
Result: no record but

recommended Old Italian Cemetery.

Phone Call #2: Old Italian Cemetery. Records were there. A third person, female, died in 1930. The three were reburied in a vault and a new stone with three names made. Old stone put on discard pile. It was picked up by someone. The stone was not wanted or needed by cemetery. It was ours.

The calls were faster, and cheaper, than writing to the state for a death certificate for the person who died in 1929.

* * * * *

APRIL IN HISTORY

April 15, 1849 - The first Protestant church in California, a Presbyterian church, was established in Benicia.

April 18, 1906 - The San Francisco Earthquake hit at about 5:12 AM.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL