

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. 10

MAY 1993

NEXT MEETING: MAY 18, 1993

PROGRAM: SERENDIPITY IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

BILL WEST, an East Bay genealogist, will be our speaker on Tuesday, May 18. He was born in Galesburg, Illinois in 1922. After attending Knox College there, he graduated with a degree in chemistry and mathematics. When World War II intervened, Bill and his wife Shirley both joined the Navy for the duration. He then entered the University of Illinois (Urbana) where he received a doctorate in organic chemistry. His next 32 years were spent working for Chevron Research Corporation, now Chevron Research and Technology.

Bill's hobby is using computers to aid genealogical research. His talk on "Serendipity in Genealogical Research" will, however, touch only peripherally upon computer/genealogy technology.

-- From Sandy Aberer and Bette Kot, Program

LAST MONTH

by Christine Scott

BETTE KOT served as our tour guide on the "Armchair Tour of Sutro Library". An active member of SRVGS, Bette wears many hats - librarian, author, speaker, teacher and professional researcher.

She began the program discussing the filing system in libraries: the Dewey Decimal System used by public libraries dividing material into ten large groups; the Library of Congress System which is much broader; and finally "early hodgepodge" which is what everybody else uses including the Mormon Church and the Newberry Library. It is important to know which system each library has in order to use it effectively.

Bette estimated that Sutro has about 65,000 books and 40,000 microforms including

films and fiche which are located by using the card catalog. Every book is listed by author and title, and sometimes subject headings.

Every quarter the new acquisitions are printed and can be obtained upon request. The holdings at Sutro are divided on microfiche into locality and surname. They have been filmed by the California State Library and should be available at the reference desks of public libraries.

Sutro owns The Rider Index - the American Genealogical-Biographical Index which lists in the first volume and several others all of the approximately 600 sources. This comprehensive index is not complete. Four volumes a year are published. To use this index select a surname and a first name. This reference will give a list of citations with page

numbers where this person can be found. This is a way of finding a "hidden genealogy" which is any reference to a family name not given in the title of a book. Sutro has the Newberry Library Catalog Index which is a very good source for "hidden genealogies" also.

Bette distributed copies of the map of Sutro Library found on a table between the stacks of catalog drawers. One side of the map listed the material by call numbers, and on the back side located all the books about the states. Where the map says "YOU ARE HERE" is now occupied by a large table with two computers and a printer. Available are the IGI, Personal Ancestral File, and Social Security Death information. The LDS computer disks are found behind
[CONTINUED ON LAST PAGE]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR**MAY**

- * 11 - **Tuesday** 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p.77]
- * 12 - **Wednesday** 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p.77]; 10AM East Bay GS Meeting at Mormon Center, 4780 Lincoln Av, Oakland. Speaker John Stutesman on Pennsylvania Research.
- * 13 - **Thursday** 10AM Scandinavian Group [see p.77]; 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr Concord. Program: "Show & Tell" & Installation of Officers.
- * 18 - **Tuesday** 10AM SRVGS Meeting: Speaker Dr. William W. West; 1PM ROOTS Computer Interest Group [see p.77]
- * 19 - **Wednesday** 10AM PRODIGY Demonstration [see p.77]
- 20 - **Thursday** 1-3PM Mt. Diablo GS Civic Bank of Comm Community Rm, 1940 Tice Valley Blvd, WC; "Use of Land Records" by Lee Lowry.
- 20 to 23 - **Thursday thru Sunday** 7th Gathering of the Cornish-American Heritage Society in Sacramento. Hosted by the CA Cornish Society, includes programs on historical and genealogical research. Contact Joe Roberts, 5638 N. Alpine Rd, Stockton, CA 95215 for details.
- 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.
- 22 - **Saturday** 1PM Sonoma Co GS presents Migration Patterns in the US & Their Clues to National Origin" by Karen Clifford, Santa Rosa Jr College Rm 2004 Lark Hall. Contact Carman Finley, 707-544-2972.
- * 25 - **Tuesday** SRVGS Library Trip [see p.78]
- * 26 - **Wednesday** Publishing Interest Group [see p.77]
- 29 - **Saturday** 10AM PAF Users Group, Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord.

JUNE

- * 1 - **Tuesday** 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- * 8 - **Tuesday** 10AM Southern Interest Group; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS Meeting at Cong Beth Emek, 1866 College Av, Livermore (510-447-9386)
- * 9 - **Wednesday** 10AM Irish Interest Group; 10AM East Bay GS Meeting at the Mormon Center, Oakland. Virginia Wakeman, "Holdings of the Napa GS Library".
- 10 - **Thursday** 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Richard Boucher: "French-Canadian Role in American Independence."
- * 15 - **Tuesday** 10AM SRVGS Meeting, "Adventures of a Genealogical Researcher", Kathleen C. Beals of California GS.

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: Individual \$15
 Family \$20
 Membership year: June 1 to May 31
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 The Newsletter is published each month except August and December.

NATIONAL EVENTS

JUNE 2-5 - National Genealogical Society "Chesapeake

Homecoming", Baltimore, MD. Brochures available at SRVGS meeting.

JUNE 21-27 - American Historical Soc of Germans from Russia 24th Internat'l Convention, Denver CO. Information available from Dorothy Nickerson, 11122 Hudson Pl, Thornton, Co 80233.

JULY 17 - Germanna Colonists of VA Seminar, Germanna Community College, Locust Grove, VA 22508. For details write Mary Doyle Johnson, 1995 Clays Mill Rd, Lexington KY 40503-1239.

JULY 26-30 - Genealogical Institute of Texas courses. For

full brochure write to Gen. Inst. of TX, P.O. 799004-Box 118, Dallas TX 75379

AUGUST 4-6 BYU 1993 Genealogy & Family History Seminar. Call 801-378-4853 or write Conferences & Workshops, 136 Harman Bldg, Provo UT 84602.

AUGUST 5-7 Federation of Genealogical Societies & Missouri State Gen Assoc. Conference, St. Louis MO, "Gateway to the Past". For info write FGS Business Office, PO Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-4735.

AUGUST 26-28, British/Irish Research Seminar by British Isles Fam Hist Soc of LA. Details from BIFHS/Los Angeles, 2531 Sawtelle Blvd., #134, Los Angeles, CA 90064-3163.

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

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

IRISH - Meets 10AM each second Wednesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: May 12, June 9.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the last Wednesday at 10AM. Next meeting: May 26, place to be announced or contact Jane Steiner 283-0867.

ROOTS III - Meets 1-3PM on Tuesdays following the general meeting at the Danville Women's Club House. A donation of \$3/person is needed to cover rent & copy costs. Contact Cindy Wheeler 743-1322. Bob Heacox will demonstrate the use of a modem [see below for more details] and discuss options for getting more hard disk capacity in preparation for version IV.

SCANDINAVIAN - One-time meeting 10AM on Thursday May 13 at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct, San Ramon (829-7787).

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meetings: May 11 at Kitty Goodholme's (735-1402); June 8 at Dorothy Stanton's, 501 El Capitan Dr, Danville. 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 HELPS

● GENEALOGY BY MODEM

Interested in how a computer MODEM can be used to obtain genealogical information and to contact other researchers? You'll have two opportunities in May to learn more.

First, at the next ROOTS III meeting, BOB HEACOX will demonstrate using a modem and communication program to access Bulletin Board and Information Systems.

Then, on Wednesday, May 19 at 10AM there will be a demonstration of the use of PRODIGY at SHIRLEY TERRY's, 301 Almond Ct, San Ramon (829-7787).



● FREE HELP

The Union Pacific Railroad keeps a historical file of towns along its right-of-way located mostly in NE, KS, WY, CO, ID, OR, CA, NV, and UT. If you would like a picture of a particular place during a certain time frame, write: Union Pacific Railroad, Public Relations Dept, 1416 Dodge St, Omaha, NE 68179. They will send whatever they have on file at no charge. [from LAWGS 9:92 via CSGA N/L Feb 93]

● PENNSYLVANIA & VIRGINIA

Lost on the PA-VA Border? When searching records in Virginia and Pennsylvania border counties, keep in mind that before definite boundaries were established, many settlers would file their claims and records in a nearby jurisdiction with a lower fee.

In the southwest corner of PA between 1748 and 1785, PA was selling its land for five pounds per 100 acres. Many residents of Fayette and Green filed their transactions in Augusta Co, VA and paid the lower price. Land records were recorded in the county where the purchase was made, not always where the land was located.

If you cannot find a land record in the place you think it should be, look in the adjoining county or state. Not only does VA have records of land now located in PA, WV, and KY but Fayette and Greene Counties have some of the property records of land that is not in VA. [From Tacoma-Pierce Co GS via CSGA N/L Feb 1993]

● SCOTLAND

Maps of crofting townships,

farm districts, and villages in Scotland as they existed in the 19th century are available from P.J. Adams, 8 Rutherford Folds, Inveries, Aberdeenshire, Scotland AB5 9JH. The maps are taken from the original surveys which are kept in the National Library in Scotland. [Chicago GS N/L Apr '93]

● FOREIGN MAILINGS

- GERMAN - The German Federal Post Office has provided an address where you may write to determine the new postal codes effective 1 July 1993:
Postdienst-Service-Center
Postfach 26 01 01
W-5300 Bonn 2 GERMANY
- CANADA - For a better price on return mail, instead of International Reply Coupons, consider Canada Post's philatelic outlet (National Philatelic Centre, Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2R8) for current postage at face value plus a service charge.
- IRC - When asking for help from someone in another country, you can't, of course, send the usual SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) with US postage attached. Enclose International Reply Coupons purchased at your local post office -- it takes two for most countries.

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● MAY LIBRARY TRIP

The May library trip will be to Sutro Library in San Francisco. Members can meet to carpool at 9AM in back of Luckys on Diablo Rd, Danville on Tuesday, May 25. Those living north of Danville can meet at Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. Please call Cindy Wheeler at 743-1322 to add your name to the list or to cancel going.

● LIBRARY SURVEY

Last month's survey taken at our meeting to determine the group's wishlist for next year's library trips resulted in the following list:

- #1 Sutro Library
- #2 National Archives
- #3 Family History Library
- #4 CA Gen. Soc. Library
- #5 Doe Library, UC Berkeley
- #6 State Library, Sacramento
- #7 Mayflower Library
- #8 Santa Clara Library

Thank you for your input; all of the surveys will be given to next year's library chairman: Mary Jo Hosteny.

-- From Cindy Wheeler

● LOCAL LIBRARIES

- PLEASANTON - The LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Library housed at Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Av, has acquired the 1920 census for Alameda County (7 rolls of microfilm). The LAGS Library now owns all census films that exist for the Livermore and Amador Valleys from 1860 to 1920. Other holdings consist of 1 microfilm (1860 Contra Costa Co) and 5 microfiche: a printed and indexed transcription of the 1860 Contra Costa census (2 fiche); the 1890 Louisiana Veterans' Census index, Records of the Church of Christ

in Bristol, RI 1687-1775; and a bibliography of MA vital records, 1620-1895.

However, the PLEASANTON LIBRARY itself has a much larger collection of microfiche: the Genealogical Helper "Roots Cellar" (269 fiche); Sutro Library Catalog (182 fiche); AGLL Catalog (9 fiche); CA Death Records 1950-1986 (371 fiche); and CA Marriage Records 1980-1985 (146 fiche).

- LIVERMORE - The LDS FAMILY HISTORY CENTER collection is housed in the LDS church at 1501 Hillcrest Av in Livermore while the Mocho St church is being remodeled. The hours are from noon to 3PM on Mondays and from 6 to 9PM on Wednesdays, or by appointment with Mary Lynne Horton, 443-5407. The collection contains the computerized CD-ROM files, the IGI, Accelerated Index System indexes and the Church of Scotland Christening and Marriage Records. [Above two items from an article by George Anderson in LAGS ROOT TRACER Spring 1993]

- FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY - Russian Records: The FHL will have 54 cameras microfilming records for the next five years in 200 regional Archives in the new Commonwealth States. It is said that one in every four Americans has ties with the old Soviet Union. [CSGA N/L Oct '92]

● LOS ANGELES LIBRARY

The nearly completed (and almost doubled in size) LA Central Library is being prepared for a gala reopening the 3rd of October. Its closure was due to the disastrous arson fires of 1986. Fortunately, the extensive Genealogical

Dept. was spared much loss.

To effect the move, the Central Library will close its present location at 433 S. Spring St in mid-June. If you are planning a visit to the library around that time, call ahead for information as to the exact date it will close: 213/612-3200.

[CSGA N/L May 1993]

● ILLINOIS LIBRARIES

The November 1992 issue of "Illinois Libraries", entitled Genealogy Collection III, contains articles on ethnic and religious collections and libraries in Illinois. Sample titles: "Genealogical Resources of the Polish Museum Library", "The Dutch Heritage Center", "Germans from Russia Research", "Genealogical Research and Resources at the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center", "Irish-American Falley Collection (Northwestern Univ)", "The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Archives", "Genealogical Research Policy of the Archdiocese of the Chicago Archives and Records Center", etc. A free copy is available (while supplies last) by writing to Illinois Libraries, Illinois State Library, Springfield, IL 61701-1796.

SRVGS member VIRGINIA CLAY reports that the first two "Illinois Libraries" issues on Genealogy Collections in private and public libraries, reprinted by the Illinois State Genealogical Society (see SRVGS N/L March 1993) has a surcharge of 20% for those who are not members of an Illinois genealogical society.

[Editor's Note: I'll try to have copies of both books at the next meeting, if anyone would like to see them.]

●SLATE OF OFFICERS for 1993-94

President	SHIRLEY TERRY
1st Vice-Pres.	CAROL GLOVER
2nd V-P (Program)	FRANCES BECKER
3rd V-P (Membership)	ED O'DONNELL
Recording Secretary	PAT TEMPLETON
Corresponding Secretary	CINDY WHEELER
Treasurer	VIRGINIA ROOD
Parliamentarian	FRANCES LLOYD

● WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- MORGAN, AUDREY B. , 3607 Perada Dr, Walnut Creek 94598 (939-9442). Researching: BARR, PA 1710; REILLY, IRE pre 1900.
- MUELLER, THOMAS & MARGARET, 91 Scenic Dr, Orinda 94563 (254-8996). Researching: MUELLER & MCGILL, OH; GIBSON, OH; McCLEARY, OH & PA.
- PERSON, JUDY HATMAKER, 1651 Ramblewood Wy, Pleasanton 94566 (846-6972). Researching: SCHILLING, PA; ROWLEY, NY.
- ROMERO, ALICE TISO, 129 Samoa Ct, San Ramon 94583-1421 (735-8172). Researching: TISO. MOORE.

● NEWS OF FORMER MEMBER

❧ CONDOLENCES ❧

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! DUES ARE PAYABLE JUNE 1st, DELINQUENT JULY 1st!
SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

[illegible]

ADDRESS		
Street	City	Zip Code (9 digits)

(1)	Locale & yrs
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(2)	Locale & yrs
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(3)	Locale & yrs
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(4) Locale & yrs

Individual Membership \$15.00 _____ Family Membership \$20.00 _____

Please send this form and your check, made payable to SRVGS, to:
ED O'DONNELL, PO BOX 366, DIABLO, CA 94528-0366

- [LAST MONTH continued from page 75]
the reference desk. You cannot take in your own disks but eventually you will be able to buy disks at the library for downloading information.

Before going to the Library, decide what you want to research. Bette advised it will take longer to decide what you want to do and where you want to look for it than actually doing the work.

The LOC system begins with a letter and the Dewey Decimal System begins with a number. Remember that books are cataloged by what is stated on the title page of the book and not what is given on the spine of the book. The most popular books at Sutro Library which begin with "CS" are the family histories, collective and individual.

The Sutro catalog is divided

into surnames, localities, and miscellaneous. Other parts of the catalog include family crests and German families. Also available are early California mortuary records which are called the Book of the Dead. One section contains city directories and another one has 10,000 phone books. On microfiche are all the telephone directories for the US except for CA. Holdings include 700 rolls of film on Indians, the DAR Lineage Books, military pension indexes, the Boston Transcript from about 1904 to 1940 (indexed in Rider). Sutro has been buying filmed copies of family histories from the NY Public Library.

City directories from 1780 through 1860 are on microfiche. Machines are available for copies.

A new set of books available at Sutro is PERSI (Periodical Source Index). Ft. Wayne Public Library in Indiana indexed many of the old periodicals from 1845 through 1985 by surname, localities, and subjects. Updates were published for each year up to 1992. Although Sutro does not have all of the magazines, you can write to Ft. Wayne for a xeroxed copy of an article found in the index.

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- When consulting the list of new books at Sutro Library, please note SRVGS member JANE STEINER's book, *George Washington Irving: The Civil War Diary of a PA Volunteer*. She joins JIM DOTSON, whose book(s?) is also on the shelves there. Are there others?

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FIRST CLASS MAIL