

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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

President: Carol Glover
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 IX No. 9

APRIL 1994

PROGRAM: APRIL 19, 1994

JOLENE ABRAHAMMS, past president of the Livermore Genealogical Society and co-editor of their quarterly publication, "Roots Tracer," will speak about **ADOPTION** and how she found not only her birth family but also **seventeen (!)** generations of her ancestors. Among other amazing discoveries, Jolene found she was **not** an only child and she had already known a member of her birth mother's family for twenty five years!

LAST MONTH

by Christine Scott

Mrs. Bea Hicks spoke to us about "What Do You Do With Conflicting Evidence?". She is a native of New York and now lives in South San Francisco. Mrs. Hicks brought several books dealing with research in New York State for the members to peruse.

In Watertown NY, when visiting with a cousin, she was asked, "How did you get this way?", when she revealed her interest in studying land records. Then Mrs. Hicks asked herself the same question: "How indeed did I get this way?"

Growing up in Wilson in western NY she attended the annual family reunion of the Stockwell Family before she was aware of what was going on. She was instilled with the immense pride of being a member of the Stockwell Family. After she left that area she

lived in Texas, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Arkansas, Virginia, Long Island, Germany, and finally California. She kept in touch with the family reunion committees during all these years. In the 1970's she began to ask some questions regarding details found in the Stockwell Family History which was read every year at the family reunion and added to each year.

Evidence collected by Mrs. Hicks about her ancestors of who they were, where they lived, who they married, the children they had, and when and where they died and the documentation of these events is plain and convincing and beyond any reasonable doubt. It never occurred to her that she would collect what she refers to as "too much evidence". In doing our research we gain respect for and love for these families and an

understanding of the challenges they faced daily. It is more than involvement, it is engrossment. This feeling, in Mrs. Hicks eyes, is the difference in compiling an adequate genealogy or an exhaustive genealogy.

She cited the experience she had with a Revolutionary War soldier for whom her relatives had certificates for participation in a Connecticut regiment. She was able to prove that this information was not correct but she did find two additional ancestors, a father and son, who served in the Revolutionary War.

Another incidence of incorrect evidence were marriage licenses of two ancestors giving wrong ages of the brides. Sometimes these documents have the wrong parents or other errors which demand another kind of proof.

In searching for the death of another ancestor she could not

[CONTINUED ON LAST PAGE]



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



APRIL

- * 12 - TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group [see p.73]; 7:30pm Livermore-Amador Valley GS meeting at Cong Beth Emek, 1866 College Av (at M St), Livermore. The program will feature George Anderson discussing "How to 'yoomp' the Atlantic to find Scandinavian ancestors". For more information, contact Felicia Ziomek 510/847-9260.
- * 13 - WEDNESDAY 10am Irish Interest Group [see p.73]
- 14 - THURSDAY 7:30pm CCCGS Meeting, Concord City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr.
- 15 & 16 - FRIDAY 12am-8pm & SATURDAY 9am-5pm Ninth Annual CGS FAMILY HISTORY FAIR, 699 Eighth St, SF; \$18/one day, \$28/two days; late admission: \$10 Fri after 4pm, Sat after 1pm. For further information, call the CGS Library 415/777-9936 W-Th-S 9-4.
- 18 - MONDAY 7-9pm "Tracing Your Pedigree Across Western New York" - Arlene Eakle Seminar sponsored by Santa Clara Historical & Genealogical Society to be held at Buchser Middle School, Auxiliary Gym, 1111 Benton St, Santa Clara CA (cross streets: Lafayette & Washington). Send \$10 donation with name, address and phone # to Dennis Lewandowski, 560 Bellwood Dr, SC 95054. Call Sandy Shafer 415/967-2017 for more information.
- * 19 - TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting; 12:30 ROOTS Users Group [see p.73]
- 22 - FRIDAY 10am-12 noon National Archives Workshop, 1000 Commodore Dr, San Bruno - Basic Part II - Beyond the Census: correlating other resources and research aids available in Archives. Cost \$12 in advance or \$15 at door. Call 415/876-9009.
- * 23 - SATURDAY SRVGS Library Trip [see p.75]; 9:30am-12:30 SRV Historical Soc Open House
- * 25 - MONDAY 1:30pm UK Special Interest Group [see p.73]

MAY

- * 3 - TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- 6 - FRIDAY 9am -12 noon (limited enrollment) National Archives Workshop at San Bruno: California Indian Records, a hands-on workshop. [see details on April 22 above]
- * 7 - SATURDAY 9am-4:30pm LLOYD DEWITT BOCKSTRUCK SEMINAR sponsored by SRVGS and Contra Costa Co GS at Danville Theater [see attached flyer].
- * 10 - TUESDAY 10AM Southern Interest Group; 7:30pm Livermore-Amador Valley GS meeting at Congregation Beth Emek, 1866 College Av, Livermore.
- 14 - SATURDAY 8:30am-4pm GS of Stanislaus presents Jayare Roberts, Senior Specialist at the Salt Lake City Family History Library. Seminar Topics: Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestor 1820-1950; Cemeteries; Using Lineage Society Records; Research in the Old Northwest (OH, IN, IL). Place: Modesto Center Plaza, Pistache/Ginkgo Rm, 1000 "K" St, Modesto. Contact Linda Johnson (209/522-8244) or Don Wilson (209/869-3966)
- * 17 - TUESDAY 10am SRVGS General Meeting. Judy Svoboda will speak on library sources for genealogists outside the genealogy collections.
- * 19 - THURSDAY 1pm Start of 7-week course in Basic Genealogy by Bette Kot [see p.]

OFFICERS to Contact

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 Family \$20
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• YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

to an Open House and Exhibit Saturday, April 23 & 30, 9:30am-12:30 at 355 Railroad Avenue, Danville -- the future home of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.

• NATIONAL CONFERENCES

June 2-4 Houston Texas - NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE: "Exploring a Nation of Immigrants." The conference program and registration brochure will be available at the April SRVGS Meeting.

June 12-17 Samford University INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGY AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH. For details write to Dr. Joan Mitchell, IGHR, Samford University Library, Birmingham AL 35229.

June 26-30 GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE OF MID-AMERICA sponsored by Illinois State GS. Contact Julie Slack, Continuing Educ, Sangamon State University, Springfield IL 62794-9243 (217/786-7464)

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

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

GERMAN - No meeting in April. Contact Barbara Johnson for future meetings (837-2153)

IRISH - Meets 10AM each second Wednesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: April 13 & May 11.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the last Wednesday 10AM. No meeting in April. Contact Jane Steiner (283-0867) if you need help with a publishing project.

ROOTS USERS - Meets 12:30-2:30PM on Tuesdays following the general meeting at the Danville Women's Club House. Contact Sandy Kimball (945-0277).

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meetings: April 12 at Nancy & Frank Williams', 516 McBride Dr, Lafayette (283-6135); May 10 at Peggy Dearman's, 749 Morning-home Rd, Danville (837-1621). Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

UNITED KINGDOM - Research in England, Scotland, & Wales. Next meetings: April 25 1:30pm at Mary Helen Ewing's, 1033 Upper Happy Valley Rd, Lafayette (283-1304); May 23 1:30pm at Muriel James', 725 St Mary's Rd, Lafayette (283-2352). Contact Ron Skilton 254-6989.

ATTENTION INTEREST GROUP CHAIRPERSONS: PLEASE REPORT PROGRAMS & CHANGES TO WENDY HABERMEHL 735-0737

* * * RESEARCH INFORMATION * * *● TIPS FROM MEMBERS● FROM SHIRLEY TERRY

(now living in Houma, LA): Anyone with Terrebonne Parish, LOUISIANA, ancestors is very lucky as the society here is very active in publishing local records. The quarterly is about 75 pages of local family and records information; the 3-4 page monthly newsletter includes obituaries and births of relatives of current members (about 500). The society is very helpful to those who write with south-eastern LA heritage including Creole, Cajun or Acadian, even some German as the LA German Coast was settled in the 1700's! The address is Terrebonne Genealogical Society, Sta. 2 Box 295, Houma, LA 70360.

● FROM SHIRLEY TERRY & MYRA BOLINGER: The New Orleans Times-Picayune has a column entitled "Louisiana Ancestors" by Damon Veach. Queries having a Louisiana connection by heritage will be printed free. Send to Damon Veach, Louisiana Ancestors, c/o Living Section, The Times-Picayune, 3800 Howard Av, New Orleans, LA 70140.

The Nov 7 1993 column from Myra contains a review of two books on Italian family research; the March 1994 column from Shirley reviews a book containing a revised listing of Pocahontas' descendants. Both will be posted at the April Meeting.

● FROM BARBARA IRWIN: MAPS - Write the local Chamber of Commerce in the town you are researching and ask for a copy of any historical maps available.● FROM ARLENE GRIMES: This is what could happen when you don't donate that family history, etc., to a library. [Article from L.A. Times on a rare engraving donated to the Nixon Library]. As a child, Wilbur Wright 71, saw the copy of the Declaration of Independence hanging at his grandfather's house in Pomona. It had traveled from Maryland to Missouri, to Omaha, to Pomona, in the family for 150 years. When he asked manuscript expert William Coleman to look at the document, it was found to be one of only 32 surviving copies commissioned in 1820

by John Q. Adams, then Sec of State, because the original Declaration of Independence was showing signs of deterioration.

According to family lore, the family acquired the document from a black woman who knocked on the door desiring to sell it. This happened around the 1840's. The full details and exact date remain unknown because the family history commissioned by his grandfather was lost in 1975 when his parents moved into a retirement home.

● FROM DOROTHY STANTON: CHICAGO death certificates can be obtained from either the Chicago City Clerk's Office or the Cook County Clerk's Office. At the Chicago office they are \$10 each plus \$2 for each additional copy. At Cook County, the charge is \$5 each plus \$2 for each additional copy.● VITAL RECORDS UPDATE CALIFORNIA - Effective 1 Jan 1994, the fee schedule for California is as follows:
Births - \$13.00
(\$4.00 of this fee goes to the "State Children's Trust Fund".)

Marriages - \$13.00**Divorces - \$13.00**

(\$4.00 of this fee will be used by the Family Conciliation Programs.)

Deaths - \$9.00

State Dept of Health Services, Office of State Registrar of Vital Statistics, 304 "S" Street, Sacramento CA 95814. Mail to: PO Box 730241, Sacramento CA 94244-0241.

The Registrar has records from July 1905 through April 1993 at this time. If the exact date of the event is not known, indicate the years to be searched. An additional fee will be charged for each 10 years searched. One Certified copy or Certificate of No Record is included in the fee. Processing time of requests for vital statistics records is approximately 6-12 weeks. Payment must accompany the request. Send postal or bank money order (no checks) made payable to: State Registrar of Vital Statistics.

[SCCH&GS Feb 1994]

• ENGLISH RESEARCHER

For those who missed the excellent presentation by Joyce Buckland at the Danville LDS-SRVGS Family History Seminar on March 26, you can obtain up-to-date research information and articles on British sources from the quarterly newsletter she publishes: The English Researcher. To obtain a free copy, send a size #9 or larger self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to Krans-Buckland Family Association, PO Box 1025, North Highlands, CA 95660-1025. If you wish to receive all four issues for the year, send four SASEs or \$2.00 to cover postage & envelopes. This is the last year the newsletter will be available for SASEs. Starting next year, it will be available only for \$5/yr--a real

bargain because it contains a wealth of information. The November 1993 issue had an interesting article on Emigrant Children and Foundlings, and a listing of surnames in the Guild of One Name Studies. Following are two samples from the newsletter:

• QUAKER FHS

During the 1650's a new religious movement swept the English countryside and many thousands of families, mainly farmers and tradespeople, became Quakers or Friends. Within a few years there was a meeting in most market towns of England and Wales. The records of the Quakers survive in large numbers and are well known for their detail and completeness.

A group of people with Quaker ancestry have decided to found a Quaker Family History Society and provide all the usual services. The annual subscription fee of £8.00 should be sent to Dr. Margaret Bennett, 486 Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, London E107DU.

Correspondence or material for the society's journal should be sent to Michael Gandy, 3 Church Crescent, Whetstone, London N10 0JR England.

[The English Researcher Nov 93]

• ASSISTED EMIGRATION TO CANADA

The British Isles Study Group of the Brant County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society is planning to compile a database of people who came to Canada through the "Assisted Pauper Emigration" plan. They are asking for assistance from anyone who may have details from various parishes that made use of this scheme to send some of their paupers abroad.

It is too early to make enquiries but if you have information to share, please write to

"The British Isles Study Group", Brant County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, PO Box 2181, Brantford, Ontario, Canada N3T 5Y6. US postage to Canada is currently 40 cents.

[From Midland Ancestor Sep 93 via The English Researcher Nov 93]

• FRENCH ANCESTORS?

If you are of French descent, there is a new organization that might be able to assist you with your research. The purpose of France Louisiana Franco-Americaine, a non-profit association recognized by decree of the French government, is to facilitate the research of those family ties by launching the operation "Retrouvaille" whose aim is to help cousins of France and America meet each other. For more information write to France-Louisiana Franco-Americaine, 17 Quai de Grenelle, 75015 Paris, France. If possible send a genealogical chart with dates and birthplaces of French ancestors.

[From Odom Family Tree Nov 93]

• NEW PUBLICATION

ANCESTRY, formerly a quarterly newsletter, is now a magazine appearing 6 times a year. The new format includes articles on genealogical collections, methods for effective research, discussions of issues affecting research and regular columnists. Sample: Linda Swisher "Back to Basics"; Suzanne McVetty "Ethnic Origins"; Loretto Szucs "Unlikely Sources" and David Thackery (Newberry Library) "Library Sources"; Dewayne Lener "Preserving the Past".

We'll have a copy of the Jan-Feb 1994 issue at the April meeting. Subscription is \$18/yr: PO Box 476, Salt Lake City UT 84110-9949. (1-800/531-1790)

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

• APRIL LIBRARY TRIP

The library trip for April will be to the California Genealogical Library in San Francisco on Saturday, April 23. The library is located at 300 Brannan St, Suite 409, on the corner of 2nd St. Members will meet at 8:30AM in the parking lot back of Lucky's on Diablo Rd in Danville. Those wishing to leave from points north please call Mary Jo Hosteny at 932-2244.

The CGS library contains over 30,000 genealogical records including 10,000 local and family histories, films, fiches, maps, reference books, passenger lists and many unpublished manuscripts and lineage charts. The holdings on New England and eastern states are particularly strong. CGS charges a \$5 user fee for non-members.

DANVILLE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

The new Danville FHC located at Stone Valley and Smith Road is open to the public on Mondays 1-4pm and on Saturday 10am-1pm. The Center contains the new IGI, the updated Ancestral File, Military Death Records, the new 2.3 release of PAF on a computer; a microfiche reader, and the Salt Lake FHL Card Catalog of over 2 million titles. Call Will or Evelyn Bentley for details: 838-9618. [Also see p. 77]

FAIRFIELD FHC

The Family History Center at Fairfield has a copy of Phone-Disk USA on CD-ROM. This is the data bank containing over 80 million names, addresses and phone numbers. However, the FHC located at 2700 Camrose Ave. will be closed from March 3, 1994

until midsummer, due to asbestos removal from the church building. Any questions about the FHC can be directed to Jim Benton at 707/422-8584. [Solano Co GS Feb & Mar 94]

SANTA CLARA

The Genealogy room at the Santa Clara Public Library on Homestead, closed since last fall for earthquake repair, has reopened. The result: new carpet & paint, no cracks and more shelf space. New volumes added since the closure are marked with bright yellow stickers. The collection includes all volumes of "Germans to America" and the first volume of the new set "Italians to America". Hours: M-Th 9-9, F-Sat 9-6 and Sun 1-5.

[San Mateo Co GS Apr 94]

SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA PIONEERS

456 McAllister St. SF 94102; 415/861-5278. Hours M-F 10am-12:00 and 1-4pm by appointment only. The museum is closed for inventory prior to moving. The Alice Phelan Sullivan Library and Archives is a basic reference library containing more than 10,000 volumes on California History, especially Gold Rush history. There is no card catalog available to patrons in the library; however the library is a member of OCLC Pacific Network [see below]. If you wish to use the collection, do so within the next few months as the library will be closed for some time after their move. The exact date and place of reopening are not known.

OCLC

The Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) Pacific Network lists the collections of more than 17,000 member

institutions. Many libraries have the system but do not make it available to the public; they will, however, look up a specific title to see if it is carried by any of the institutions. The University of California at Berkeley has this catalog available to the public. Be sure to call the library to find out library hours and the availability of the program "First Search". OCLC also has a feature called EPIC that is available for a yearly fee plus connect time plus a per record charge of approximately \$.18/page. For more information call 1-800/848-5878.

[Above two items from SMC GS Apr 94]

TENNESSEE

EASTERN TN - If you have roots in Washington Co TN which once covered parts of NC and most of eastern TN, check out the Archives at East Tennessee University in Johnson City, TN. They now hold all the loose papers from the early days of that county.

[CSGA N/L Jan 94]

MORE LIBRARY DESTRUCTION

IRELAND - The new year began with an attempt by the Provisional IRA to destroy the Linen Hall Library, Belfast, reports *IRISH ROOTS*. Two incendiary devices, placed in stacks of books, started a fire that spread quickly. By a stroke of luck, the fire brigade had already been called out to a nearby building and was on the spot when the library's smoke-alarms went off. About 1,000 books, all general biographies, were destroyed. Without the prompt action of the emergency services, a significant amount of irreplaceable genealogical material would have gone up in smoke. The

fire was spreading to 1,500 volumes relating to Scots-Irish and Irish family history. The Blackwood Pedigrees, which give the genealogies of almost 300 family from Counties Down and Antrim were five minutes from destruction, as were the indexes to birth, death and marriage notices in *The Belfast News Letter* 1750-1860. The library suffered some smoke and water damage.

Three weeks after the Linen Hall Library incident, an incendiary device was sent to the library of Trinity College, Dublin by, it is believed, a Loyalist quasi-military group in a misguided attempt to get even.

[From IRISH ROOTS No. 1 1994]

BOSNIA - The "ethnic cleansing" now taking place in Bosnia is not only destroying Bosnian Muslim lives, it is wiping out Bosnian history and records as well. Eye witnesses have described the destruction of the National Library in Sarajevo with its extensive collection of oriental manuscripts and microfilms, the Franciscan monastery in Mostar which contained the main historical archives for Hercegovina including records before the Ottomans conquered the region in the 15th century, and a library adjoining a Sarajevo mosque with a treasure-trove of Jewish and Islamic calligraphic and illuminated manuscripts dating to the 12th century. Ironically, the Serbs' efforts to destroy an anthropological collection in the Sarajevo regional museum also destroyed a huge collection of Serbian records. [From the Washington Post via Odom Family Tree]

• COMPUTER RESEARCH

- The **REGIONAL HISTORY** Center of USC and the L.A.

Historical Society are cooperating to produce a Regional History Information Network which researchers and repositories can use to exchange information via computer. The database will include a bibliography and directory of historical repositories. The two groups are sponsoring four conferences where they will distribute information about their projects. The History Database software program used to create the Information Network runs on IBM PC compatible computers. You may receive a free copy of the 80 page tutorial and a workshop schedule by writing to: History Computerization Project, 24851 Piuma Rd, Malibu CA 90265. You may also call 818/HISTORY.

[Immigrant GS N/L Mar 1994 via CSGA N/L Mar 94]

- **AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL LENDING LIBRARY (AGLL)** became available via computer modem beginning February 7 on a new genealogy BBS. The BBS will make available 35 different databases including census indexes, marriage records, the AGLL catalog and a national Genealogy Message Center. AGLL expects to add 10 new databases monthly to its BBS the next two years.

Subscription fee is \$15 per month or \$165 for 12 months. AGLL members receive an additional month free. Subscribers receive on hour free online time per month but pay fees for various services used. The BBS's toll free 800 number eliminates personal phone call expenses.

You may watch a free five minute demonstration of the AGLL BBS by calling via modem 801/299-0087 or you may subscribe by calling 801/298-5446.

[IGS N/L Mar 94 via CSGA N/L Mar 94]

- **EVERTON PUBLISHER** invites you to try their On-Line Search before you subscribe. You can access the "ROOT1" database containing approximately 330,000 ancestor names and 30,000 submitter names. You may also browse through other menus to see what is available through on-Line Search. Call modem number: 1-801/752-6095. (Setting: N-no parity; 8-data bits; 1-stop bit; 1200-14400 baud; ANSI-terminal emulation). Subscribers have access to 7 databases of over 200,000 names each and will soon have available the 1851 English census information of over 500,000 names. Special subscription rate (which includes a year of Genealogical Helper): 6 mos/\$80.50 or 12mos/110.50. For Everton's International Genealogical Society members, the rate is about \$30 lower.

• **JEWISH FAMILY FINDER**

The Jewish Genealogical Society of New York in 1980 created JGFF, the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder. It is a computerized database collection of ancestral surnames and towns being researched by over 1,500 Jewish genealogists throughout the world. Each Jewish Genealogical Society has a print-out available and there are several computer bulletin board systems throughout the US and Canada which carry the JGFF. For applications to include your name and research, or for information about the JGFF, write to: Jewish Genealogical Society c/o Data Universal Corporation, 1485 Teaneck Rd, Teaneck NJ 07666.

For a 5-page bibliography of other major Jewish resources, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to SHHAR, PO Box 5294, Fullerton CA 92645. [CSGA N/L Jan 1994]



SRVGS NEWS

• NEW MEMBERS

FORD, Louise H. - 43 Arroyo Dr, Moraga 94556 (376-4587). Researching: VANDIVER in MO; LILLICH in KS.

CONNETT, Patricia - PO Box 25, Danville CA 94526. Researching: GREY in PA, late 1800's; SMITH in OH, late 1800's.

• MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

MARY ELLA PARROTT will be a speaker on Cape Cod research at the New England Genealogical Conference April 22-23 in New Hampshire.

SHIRLEY TERRY sent SRVGS a letter recently telling of her local society in Louisiana [see p. 73] as well as some photos of the St. Patrick's Parade in Houma. The local custom is to throw cabbages & other vegetables from the floats. People come with bags and even fish nets to catch them -- the makings for Irish Stew! We'll post the photos at the April meeting.

Shirley is still looking for a room-mate for the NGS Conference in Houston on June 1-4. Contact her at 504/876-9036.

• VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The new Danville FHC [see p. 75] is presently being staffed by Evelyn and Will Bentley of the LDS church and SRVGS members MARY JO HOSTENY (Mondays) and ARDITH STEGER (Saturdays). The library needs two more volunteers (preferably somewhat

computer literate) for Saturdays 10am to 1pm, in order to allow the volunteers to alternate Saturdays. Also they need one more volunteer for Mondays 1-4pm. Call Evelyn Bentley: 838-9618.



• APPLAUSE

In case you didn't know: in September 1993 DOTTIE RICHARDSON officially took over the job of Forms' Chairman. Her responsibility is to copy forms used in recording genealogical research data and to make the forms available to members at general meetings. Although she hasn't been able to be regular about attending meetings, her exhibit of forms when she is there, her explanations about which forms are available and their purposes are excellent. She has spent \$139 on duplication and sold \$132 worth of forms. This is not a profit-making project but a service to members. Congratulations, Dottie, you're doing a great job.

• PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

BETTE KOT and SHIRLEY THOMSON have published *California Cemetery Inscription Sources: Print & Microform* (contains 2800 entries). Look for it at the CGS Fair! Also, copies will be available at the next SRVGS meeting. This book is the first of a series on cemetery inscriptions. The next, on Michigan, will be out this summer. BETTE & JIM KOT have completed, and expect to have published soon, *US Cemetery Address Book* containing 22,000 entries with mailing addresses.

For more information, send for a brochure from Indices Publishing, 228 Sandy Neck Way, Vallejo CA 94591-7850.

IRMA DOTSON already has published a Supplement to her 1993 book, *Our McGinnis Family*. From the experience of several of our authors, the sure way to get people to respond to your requests for information is to get your book all finished and published!

Jane Steiner reports that, as of March 26, we have sold 183 copies of *PRINT, PUBLISH & PRESERVE*, the SRVGS Publishing Interest Group's Guide to Self-publishing. A second printing has been completed so we can have it available at the SRVGS Booth at the CGS Fair in San Francisco and for the May 7 Seminar in Danville.

• BASIC GENEALOGY COURSE OFFERED

Are you a beginner in genealogy and want to get started right? Or have you been at it awhile and feel bogged down by all the paper you've collected? Here's your opportunity to learn how to organize what you have and learn easier ways to collect more.

On May 19, Bette Kot will start a 7-week course in basic genealogy techniques. The classes will meet on Thursday afternoons, 1-3pm, at the home of Frances Lloyd, 210 Town & Country Dr, Danville. The course will include a trip to the National Archives and possibly other libraries.

The fee is \$50. You can sign up at the April meeting; a minimum of 8 members is needed for the class to start. If you have questions, call Bette at 707/554-4814.

[LAST MONTH]

a death certificate at the county records office or the state records office. A grave stone was located but the will indicated another date for the death. Because of the conflicting information Mrs. Hicks felt she was always in need of one more record for verification.

Many times the names of the children were changed to satisfy a particular situation in the family such as other adult family members with the same name. Changes were made to avoid confusion. Often these children were "lost" when searching for them as adults. This may explain the term "probably died young" as seen in many written records.

On several occasions Mrs. Hicks feels she should have been satisfied with the proof

that she had and not feel that need to find one more proof for a birth, marriage or death. The special quality that she brings to genealogy is her marvelous sense of humor which she freely shared with the audience, particularly a poem she wrote entitled "How Do You Know?" questioning the Stockwell Family organizations about many of the stories and information which is contained in the Stockwell Family Genealogy.

ETHICS

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) Ethics Committee studies issues related to genealogical ethics, as well as options for formal responses from

the genealogical community. Already under study are surname compilations of questionable validity or limited usefulness. These compilations are often aimed at the non-genealogist or beginning genealogist. Such products take advantage of the unsuspecting and cast doubt on the reputations of even ethical genealogists and publishers of genealogical reference materials.

To contact the committee, write:

NGS Ethics Committee
National Genealogical Society
4527 17th St. N
Arlington VA 22207-2399



SAN RAMON VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
BOX 305
DIABLO, CA 94528-0305



FIRST CLASS MAIL