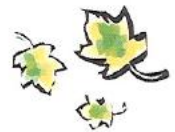




San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



www.srvgensoc.org

Celebrating 25 Years!

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVI No. 3 September - 2010



THIS MONTH – September 21, 2010
"Land & Property Records"
Presented by: Susan Goss Johnston



The descent of land is the purest proof of lineage. Land and property records are the most complete and carefully preserved records available to family historians, but despite their importance, many researchers neglect these records. Few can be found on line, many have not been micro-filmed, and few every-name indexes to these records exist. Understanding these records may require additional research in local histories and law books. Brief case studies will illustrate major land and property record classes, demonstrate how to find and use them, and show a few of the many research problems that can be solved only when land and property records are thoroughly studied.

Susan Goss Johnston was a member of Yale University's first undergraduate class of women, earning a B.A. in physics. After graduation, she began working in medical research while studying voice at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. The natural outgrowth of this experience, mixed with two children, led to genealogy, research that didn't require grant writing! She has been involved in teaching and researching for thirty years. Sue currently teaches basic and advanced genealogy courses in the Community Education division of Las Positas College in Livermore, California, and is a member of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society and co-presenter at the group's Tri-Valley TMG [The Master Genealogist] user group. She is a graduate of the National Institute on Genealogical Research, "Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis" at the Samford University's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, and the National Archives' course, "Going to the Source".



July Meeting **"Lineage Societies"**

Speakers: Society Members Reporter: Lee Schlenker



At our July meeting we had our own members speak to us about Lineage Societies to which you can belong. Rae Atwood introduced each of the seven members who spoke for ten minutes each on their society; then there was a Q & A after the last speaker.

NANCY ALEXANDER spoke on the *Daughters of the Colonial Wars*. The society's objective is to honor and perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who, by their acts and counsel, assisted in the establishment,

defense and preservation of the American Colonies (in Jamestown, May 13, 1607 to the Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775). A woman must be 18 years or older, of good moral character, a proven descendant of an ancestor who rendered civil or military service in any of the colonies prior to July 4, 1776. Proof of lineage is expected. There are 26 categories from which to choose where your lineage can stem. Membership is by written invitation and then voted on by the chapter. The chapters have local and state meetings as well as a ►

national meeting in D.C. in April. They also produce a quarterly newsletter; help support Cathedral of the Pines, William and Mary College, as well as having a repository at the University of Virginia.

Nancy also spoke briefly on the *Daughters of the Indian Wars*. The applicant must be 18 years or older, of good moral character, a citizen of the U.S., Canada or Mexico, should be a lineal descendant of a native, immigrant American ancestor who participated in any capacity in actual hostilities, one against the other, or in any other activity with either between May 14, 1607-1900. There are 16 categories of acceptable service. The society assists and encourages preservation of records, historic sites associated with our native and immigrant American ancestors, to cherish the memory of both, foster spirit of patriotism, support and enforce treaties and laws made and agreed upon between the state and Federal governments, to publish a lineage book of names and ancestral data of members of the society.

SUE BUSENIUS talked on the *Colonial Dames of the 17th Century*. They are located in Washington, D.C. with chapters across the states. Meetings are in S.F. for the local chapter from 11:00-2:00p.m. Their goal is to aid in the preservation of records and historic sites of our country, foster interest in historical colonial research, aid in education of the youth of our country and commemorate noble and heroic deeds. Requirements: 18 years or older, good moral character, invited by the society, is a lineal descendant of an ancestor who lived or served prior to 1701 in one of the original colonies. Must be endorsed by two members in good standing. There are 18 categories of eligibility.

CLARICE HART spoke on the *United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) - General Robt. Garnett* Chapter located in Fairfield, CA. Meetings are held first Wednesday of each month, 11:00 a.m., in the Country Buffet Restaurant, Gateway Shopping Center, Fairfield. Buffet lunch is \$10.00 after the business meeting. The UDC purpose is to honor and remember those Confederate soldiers who fought for a cause they thought to be just and preserve their history through education and memorials. Requirements: you must be descendant of a Confederate who fought in the

Civil War - but you do not have to be a direct descendant (uncle or cousin). Writing to Richmond, VA first for proof that he actually was in the Confederate Army, then proceeding with birth, marriage, death certificates, etc. **This is a very patriotic organization** ending each meeting with "I Wish I Was in Dixie."

KATHY JAVDANI spoke about the *Los Californianos* a non-profit, non-political, non-ethnic group founded in 1968. Organized to preserve the heritage of early Hispanic Californians through research on cultural, civil, religious, and military levels. Requirements: anyone 18 years or older who submits an ancestral lineage chart showing their ancestor to be a descendant of a Hispanic person/persons who arrived in Alta California prior to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Feb. 2, 1848. They meet from Southern CA to Northern CA; the next quarterly meeting being in Martinez and on a weekend. Website: www.loscalifornianos.org.

FRANICE LLOYD talked about *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)*, founded in Oct. 1890 with it's headquarters in Washington, D.C. It is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. They award student scholarships, give financial aid to students, support schools for the under-privileged. Eligibility: any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. The 4 page application is required with proper documentation and showing a solid connection between generations. Proof of military or patriotic service must be included. DAR preserves commemoratives and memorials, major restorations; Patriotism - public outreach, flag and flag codes; service to veterans; patriotic awards; education (addresses A.D.D., Dyslexia, adult literacy, children in family crisis); American Indians; DAR Library. There are 3 chapters locally - Acalanes (meets in Walnut Creek), Anne Loucks (meets in Martinez), Mt. Diablo (meets in Ross-moor).

Also, there is a *Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)* - Virginia Rood knows the local ►

chapter's president; contact her if you are interested in this one, guys.

VIRGINIA ROOD spoke on the *National Society of the Daughters of 1812* founded in 1892 with headquarters located in Washington, D.C. Its purpose is to promote patriotism; preserve and increase knowledge of history of American people through documents and relics; mark historic sites; teach and emphasize heroic deeds of civil, military, naval life of those who molded this government between the close of the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Eligibility: any woman 18 years of age who is descended from an ancestor who rendered civil, military or naval service to our country during the years 1784-1815, is acceptable to the society and takes an oath of allegiance to the USA. The Daughters of 1812 maintain a library, aide the College of the Ozarks, the Hindman Settlement School, Alice Lloyd College and Crossnore Schools, Inc. Virginia belongs to the local David Farragut Chapter.

RAE ATWOOD talked about *The Mayflower Society* established in 1895 taking two years to organize. A 1730 historical house was moved and refurbished in Plymouth, MA to form their library. There is also a Plymouth Plantation and a Mayflower Museum. Their research library is located in Oakland, CA. This society is the third largest hereditary organization; is open to individuals of all faiths who prove lineal descendant from at least one Mayflower passenger (listed are 26 males and 3 females). Their purpose is to educate people about the role of Pilgrims in history and development of America. Eligibility: Any person able to document their descent from one or more of the Mayflower Pilgrims. There is an annual membership fee and membership is gained through your state society, located in Oakland, CA (there are 50 state societies in all).

The Society holds a conference every three years and publishes a quarterly newsletter.

As you can see, a lot of these Societies seem to overlap each other. You'll have to choose which one would fit your ancestral line best.

If you are interested in any of the above lineage societies, simply "Google" the society's name to find the website with information you're seeking. ■



President's Message

By Barbara Dittig

With great sadness I report that we have lost one of our most loyal members, Dorothy Stanton. A note from her husband included a death notice as follows and asked to pass on this information to anyone knowing Dorothy.

"Dorothy died this morning from a complication from an operation. She complained of a terrible pain in her right side early Monday morning and we went into the emergency room at San Ramon Regional Medical. They determined that she had a large tumor on her right side near her ovary. They were arranging for an operation for Tuesday afternoon, but that night the tumor burst and was bleeding. They took her to the ICU and Tuesday morning they operated and took out a 20 cm tumor and stopped the bleeding. She seemed to be recovering better than they expected, but then her blood pressure went down and her kidneys were failing. She died early this morning. We will have an obituary in the Contra Costa times with Memorial Service information.

Jim Stanton

The San Ramon Genealogical Society sadly bids Dorothy adieu. She was such a vital part of our society from the very beginning. The following tributes below from our members express the love, admiration and respect that we all felt for Dorothy.

Janet Broderick: *"I am very, very sad. Dorothy and I have worked the Thursday afternoon shift together for years! She was a kind and generous person - and an excellent genealogist. I will miss her greatly."*

Bob Dougherty: *"The very existence of my genealogy file will always remind me of Dorothy; who was responsible for it in so many ways. However, that is only one of the results of what Dorothy was. She was a gifted teacher and she used that ability to share and improve the life of all who interacted with her. By leadership and ►*



Obituary

Dorothy Arlene Pruett Stanton

(April 26, 1931 - August 5, 2010)

Resident of Danville, CA

Dorothy was born in Chicago, Illinois, to Ben and Winnie (Jacobs) Pruett. She grew up in Chicago and on the family farm on Milan, Tennessee. She attended Wheaton College in Illinois where she received her undergraduate and teaching degrees.

She taught elementary school in Lombard, Illinois, before moving to the Bay Area to teach at Pine Hollow Elementary and Ayres Elementary schools in Concord, California. She married James E. Stanton in Oakland, California, on August 21, 1962.

She is survived by her husband of over forty seven years, her sister Dolores Pruett (Chicago), her three children James Mark, Lynn, and Lauryn (all in the Bay Area), two grandchildren, Alexander and Chloe Walsh, and son-in-law Greg Walsh.

She will be remembered as a loving and devoted wife, sister, mother, and grandmother. She generously volunteered her time to the libraries, the schools, the Family History Center in Alamo, and the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society of which she was a founding member.

Memorial Services will be held on Thursday, August 12th at 10:30am at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley, 825 Hartz Way, Danville, CA 94526. Her remains will be laid to rest next to the remains of her parents in Milan, Tennessee.

► *endless generosity she created a legacy--a wake of improvement along every path she tread. A little corner of the world is, indeed, a better place.*

May she rest in peace."

Patty Erickson: *"A few of us have known Dorothy for 25 years. Many have known her for over 20 plus years. How did we get to know her? We were board members together; members of SIGs together: Irish, Southern, computers-from Roots 3 to TMG; Salt Lake City trips roommates. Wednesday group.*

Dorothy was a competent person. Jobs were always done thoroughly, completely, and superbly. Dorothy was knowledgeable and well read. She always had an answer or good suggestion to our questions. Our Irish and Southern SIGs always received informative emails; so many that

we teasingly commented on the hours she must spend on the computer.

Dorothy was a wife, mother, and grandmother whose family was so important to her. We greeted the news of the births of her 2 grandchildren, Alex and Chloe and their pictures. She lovingly shared the end of the year family photo album that son, Mark so beautifully produces.

To SRVGS, Dorothy will be listed as President, Program Chairperson, Newsletter Editor, Library and Book Selection Committee, Education Chairperson, Southern SIG chairperson, and probably more. At the 25th Anniversary, she was acknowledged as a Charter Member, Past President, and Life Member.

However, Dorothy, to many of us, was even more; a real person, genuine and meaningful, a true and caring friend. How deeply we will ►

miss her!"

Michael Fiorenza: *"This indeed is sad news for me since Dorothy was one of the first persons who helped me get started on my genealogical research about 1993 and whom I would go to from time to time with questions. My Condolences and prayers go out to her husband and family."*

Sherri Hedman: *"I am SO sorry to hear about Dorothy but SO glad she gave her wonderful interviews and we honored her at our 25th Anniversary Celebration!!!"*

Ed Mason: *"What a shock!. Dorothy has contributed so much to the Society and, or course, she continued to contribute in a very active way almost every day. We will all miss her very much."*

Janet Nadol: *"Very sorry to learn of Dorothy's passing. I will not be home in time to attend the memorial. Said an extra prayer in church this morning."*

Ileen Peterson: *"We all know how much Dorothy has contributed to our organization throughout the years. No words can express how much we will miss her."*

How ever can Dorothy be replaced in Education, SIG, library, input to 'Bits and Pieces', TMG and so on???"

Alpha Quincy: *"She was a loving and gracious person."*

IN MEMORIAM

L-AGS Remembers - We were saddened to receive notice from Shirley Siems Terry, founding member of L-AGS and three-time president, that her husband, Wayne, died July 15th of Amyloidosis. We send sincere condolences to Shirley and her family on their bereavement.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

September 2010

- 7 Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Vern Segelke in Danville.
- 21 Tuesday – 10:00 am.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/2 miles

October 2010

- 5 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** A Board Meeting will be held at the home of Ed Mason in Alamo.
- 19 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



THE MASTER GENEALOGIST INTEREST GROUP

This is a genealogy software users group for PC's with their focus on the use of The Master Genealogist. This group typically will meet at someone's home after a General meeting. This group will NOT meet during September. **They plan to meet again on October 19** at the home of Barbara Johnson in Danville. Barbara Johnson is the contact person for the group. For further information, contact Barbara by Phone 837-2153 or e-mail bcj616@earthlink.net ►



MacGen – MACINTOSH GENEALOGY GROUP

This group specializes in uses of the Macintosh by Genealogists. A meeting will be held Wednesday, September 22 at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd in Alamo from 10:30 am - 12 noon. This meeting is free and is sponsored by the San Ramon Valley Genealogy Society (SRVGS). It is expected that if a non-member attends more than three of these Danville meetings, that they will join the SRVGS. We thank the Danville Family History Center for the use of their facility. This will be the first Danville MacGen meeting to see if there is enough interest to sustain a monthly meeting at this location. It is hoped to have at least 5 attendees at this first meeting. The topic for the meeting will be: *Starting Out With Reunion*

We will start at the beginning, that is, we will create a new genealogy database using the Reunion program. Then we will add families to it and make a family group sheet. There are a number of handy things to know about this program, that will have a person up and running in no time. It is recommended that each person bring their laptop and have small headshots of all the people they intend to add to their database. The pictures make the family history come alive. There will also be a question and answer session to address any topic of particular interest. Bill George is the contact person for this group. Phone: (510) 538-2449 or e-mail: williamcgeorge@gmail.com.

Also refer to the MacGen web site at: <http://www.macgen.org>.



GERMAN – The German Group will meet Wednesday, September 22nd (the fourth Wednesday) at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek. This gathering will be their annual Oktoberfest luncheon. After a short meeting at 11 am, they will enjoy German food. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Helen Odegard. Helen Odegard is the contact person for this group. For more information, please contact her at 932-6796 or e-mail shodegard@att.net.



IRISH – This special interest group will meet September 8th and October 13th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am. at the home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is the contact person for the group. Phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail russ-pat@comcast.net



SOUTHERN – The Southern Interest Group is scheduled to meet at 10 am on September 9th and October 14th (the Second Thursday of the month) at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.



SCANDINAVIAN – Members with this special interest may set aside a Wednesday afternoon to be at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. A few members are usually there on Wed from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm to provide help to do research for Scandinavian genealogical information. They will answer any questions and will help with Swedish, Norwegian and Danish research. It might be best to call to make sure they are there. For further information, please call (925) 552-5920 or e-mail Linda Bailey: baileylinda100@gmail.com.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

- 14 September Tuesday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society will have one of its regular meetings at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Kay Speaks will talk about "Passenger List Annotations."
- 17 September Friday 10 am to 4 pm** The Stephen Harris City Directory Library will be open at the California Genealogical Society and Library at 2201 Broadway Suite LL2 in Oakland.
- 28 September Tuesday 7 to 8:30 pm** The Oakland Regional Family History Center (ORFHC) and the California Genealogical Society (CGS) are offering free genealogy and computer use classes held each month September through ►

May. Register by telephone (510) 531-3905 or for further details go to <http://www.oaklandfhc.org> and click on free classes. Information is also available at <http://sfbagenealogy.blogspot.com>

- 8-9 October Friday and Saturday** A Family History Expo will be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. The pre-registration fee is \$65 or \$40 for one day or \$12 per class. To get more information and to register on-line, go to <http://fhexp0s.com>.

- 2 October Saturday OPEN HOUSE** at the California State Archives. 1020 "O" Street in Sacramento. Get a great up-close and personal tour of the Archives. What a great opportunity. There will be MINI TOURS during Family History Day, on the 9th, but if you want to attend the classes that day, take advantage of this opportunity and take the more detailed tour on the 2nd.

- 9 October Saturday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm**
It will be Family History Day, a free event, at the California State Archives, 1020 "O" Street in Sacramento. This will be a full fun day of classes, and learning. It will be geared toward helping beginners get started but it will be helpful to everyone to improve their sleuthing skills and get back to basics. See more information at <http://www.rootcellar.org/>

- 16 October Saturday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm**
The Concord Family History Center will sponsor its annual fall seminar at 1590 Denkinger Road in Concord. **Please note the change of location.** Six class periods will begin at 9:15 am. There is a \$25 registration fee which includes a complete syllabus; or a \$7 fee for Seminar only. Register prior to September 30 to guarantee a syllabus. Bring your own lunch, only snacks and drinks will be provided. Watch for registration forms at your FHC. For additional information, call Jackie Hein at (925) 827-4729.

- 6 November Saturday 9 am to 3 pm**
The San Mateo County Genealogical Society is sponsoring a fall seminar. ►

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Barbara Dittig 925-648-9364

e-mail: president@srvgensoc.org

1st V.P. Sherri Hedman 925-275-8123

2nd V.P. Program:

Elaine Franke 925-831-1989

3rd V.P. Membership:

Ed Mason 925-838-7848

Recording Secretary:

Carol Huvane 925-947-5669

Corresponding Secretary:

Kathy Javdani 925-736-5464

Treasurer: Tom Draeger 925-9375161

Parliamentarian:

Virginia Rood 925-937-8659

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Bob Venter 925-454-9919

e-mail: rjventer@comcast.net

Calendar Coordinator:

Vern Segelke 925-838-8570

e-mail: v.m.seg3@sbcglobal.net

Mailing: Lucy Carver 925-837-3146

Deadline to put information in the Newsletter is the Last Thursday of the month.

Members are encourage to submit articles for the Newsletter by mail or email to the Coordinator.

INDIVIDUAL HELP

Do you need individual help in overcoming a "brick wall" in your research? Go to the SRVGS web site at: <http://srvgensoc.org/>, click on RESOURCES, then click on INDIVIDUAL HELP FOR SRVGS MEMBERS.

Want to help someone who is having research problems in your area of knowledge? Call Harry Baggett at 925-837-7960 to have your name added to the SRVGS Individual Help list.

Harry Baggett trvrlr@sbcglobal.net

The theme is "Using and Interpreting Records." Four lectures will be presented by Michael John Neill. The seminar will be held at the Menlo Park LDS church, 1105 Valparaiso in Menlo Park. Prior to October 24, the non-member registration fee will be \$38. John Michael Neill is the author of, "Casefile Clues", a weekly online genealogy newsletter focusing on genealogy research, methodology and interpretation. "Genealogy Tip of the Day" is his daily online tip for genealogists. Since 1995, Mr. Neill has written genealogy columns for both Ancestry and Eastman's Online Newsletter. Mr. Neill is an Associate Professor of Developmental Mathematics at Carl Sandburg College in Illinois. To copy the registration form and see more information, go to <http://www.smcgs.org>

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	5
SRVGS EVENTS	5
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	5
OTHER EVENTS	6
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER NOTES	1
MEMORIAM: WAYNE TERRY	5
OBITUARY: DOROTHY STANTON	4
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3

**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305**

FIRST CLASS MAIL