

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



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

President: Millie Freitas
Editor: Betty Vail

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of the month
(except August & December)
Danville Women's Club House
242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue
Danville, CA

Vol. XI No. 5

November/December 1995

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 14

PROGRAM: EMIGRANTS FROM WEST CORK

Joseph A. King is the author of seven books and fifty articles for journals in Canada, USA, England and Ireland. His latest book, *IRELAND TO NORTH AMERICA; EMIGRANTS FROM WEST CORK*, tells the story of a large, extended family who travelled in the Northern Migration in the nineteenth century from Ireland to the Maritimes, then followed the rivers and the pines into Maine, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Pacific Northwest. Mr. King will speak about Irish emigration with an emphasis on Cork.

LAST MONTH by Christine Scott

Ann Marks, a specialist in the conservation of Japanese and Chinese screens and scrolls, spoke on the topic "Evolutionary States in Preservation and Maintenance of Things Treasured." Her background includes training in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and the British Museum. She operates her own business.

Ms. Marks divides the conservation of art and artifacts into five levels, including at each level the degree of care and concern to use and the dangers or problems to overcome. She considers the first level the most important—when an individual saves and gathers. Beware of spring

cleaning, moving and considering space limitations. These are dangerous periods when family treasures are dumped or thrown away.

The next level of conservation is relocating and storing the items in a better place inside the home to protect them from the weather, pests and insects. Protection and documentation form the third level. Record all the information you know about your treasures, and learn how to prevent insect infestation. Avoid making amateur repairs.

The fourth level concerns conservation and restoration.

(Continued on page 35)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



NOVEMBER

SRVGS EVENTS

- 7 Tuesday 10: a.m. SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME.
- 14 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. SRVGS Meeting. Joseph A. King will speak on Irish emigration with special emphasis on Cork. 12:30 p.m. ROOTS IV User Group will meet at Ruth Pfeiffer's, 59 Mariposa Ct., Danville, 837-5160. The German Interest Group will meet at Barbara Johnston's, 616 Camino Amigo, Danville. 837-2153.
- 15 Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Irish and California Interest Groups. Bill Allen will share his trip to Ireland.
- 21 Tuesday SRVGS Library Trip to the California Archives, Sacramento.
- 27 Monday 1:30 p.m. United Kingdom Special Interest Group will meet at Muriel James's, Lafayette. Please call for directions 283-2352.

OTHER EVENTS

- 12 Thursday 7:30 p.m. Contra Costa Co. GS meeting, City Council Chambers. Barbara Hill, who works at the University of California Library at Berkeley, will discuss what the library has to offer.
- 18 Saturday 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Santa Clara County Genealogical & Historical Society and the San Mateo County Genealogical Society presents Judy Svoboda. (Details below)

DECEMBER

- 5 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. SRVGS Board Meeting and COOKIE EXCHANGE at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country Dr., Danville. There's no business this month so come with your cookies and take home an assortment.
- NO MEETING AND NO NEWSLETTER IN DECEMBER!

JANUARY

- 12-19 Salt Lake City Institute of Genealogy. Over 20 hours of classroom training, complete with study and research assignments, feedback from teachers in classes of 20-30. (Details in September newsletter) Request information from PO Box 1144, Salt Lake City, UT 84110.
- 19-20 New England Historic Genealogical Society conference at the Sheraton Long Beach Hotel, 333 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA. For more information call 617-536-5740, extension 202.

JUDY SVOBODA

OFFICERS to Contact
 President: Millie Freitas 837-2483
 Vice-Pres.: Irma Dotson 820-8344
 Membership: Diana Hancock 820-1424
 512 Zephyr Circle.
 Danville, CA 94526
 Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00
 Family \$20.00
 Membership years: June 1 to May 31
NEWSLETTER
 Editor: Betty Vail
 824 Moraga Road
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 283-3596

Mailing: Barbara Dittig 735-9610
 Lucy Carver: 837-3146
 The newsletter is published each month except August & December

The Santa Clara and San Mateo Genealogical Society have joined forces to present Judy Svoboda on Saturday, November 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Apex Cafeteria, 401 Broadway, Redwood City.

The seminar includes strategies for climbing out of research quagmires, library information that exists outside the genealogical collection, and researching in the South before 1850.

Registration will begin at 8:30. The cost for non-members is \$20.00. Deli lunches may be ordered the morning of the seminar. For more information call John Newbery at 415-591-1797.



DAD'S WAR

W. Wesley Johnston will present a workshop on finding and telling your father's World War II story on Saturday, November 11 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Partnership Way Center, 2400 Old Crow Canyon Road, San Ramon.

The cost is \$25.00 if you register and pay early; \$30.00 at the door.

The workshop is limited to 20 people. Register via e-mail to dadswar@aol.com 837-2483. Wes at

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

GERMAN - Meets at Barbara Johnson's 616 Camino Amigo, Danville, (837-2153) every other month after the SRVGS meeting. Check the calendar.

IRISH - Meets at 10:00 a.m. each second or third Wednesday at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl., Pleasant Hill,

(229-0889).

CALIFORNIA - Meets with the Irish Group.

MAC COMPUTER GROUP - To be announced. Contact Barb Dittig 735-9610.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the last Wednesday 10:00 a.m. when needed. If you would like help with a publishing project, contact Jane Steiner 283-0867.

ROOTS USERS - Official Comsoft ROOTS III/IV User's Group - Meets 12:30 a.m. on Tuesdays following the general meeting at Ruth Pfeiffer's, 59 Mariposa Ct., Danville, 837-5160.

SOUTHERN - This group will not meet in November and December. The date and place for the January meeting will be announced.

UNITED KINGDOM - Meets on the fourth Monday every other month at 1:30 p.m. Check the calendar for the next meeting.

PLEASE REPORT PROGRAM CHANGES TO WENDY HABERMEHL 735-0737.

(LAST MONTH Continued from page 32)

If you need the help of a professional conservator or restorer, make sure of his or her honesty. Expect an expert to handle your items carefully.

At the fifth level, when your accumulation looks like a collection, exhibition and transportation will be of major concern. The dangers and the problems at this stage include wars, thieves, and air quality. Are the care takers professional, and is there adequate security to prevent damage and loss?

Evolving from just an accumulator to a collector is a natural growth process continuing as we become more experienced and aware of the methods and problems in our position as custodians of our family treasures.



A GOOD AD MAN

In the fall of 1621, before the arrival of the *Fortune*

the small group of Pilgrims who had survived celebrated what has come to be known as the first Thanksgiving. The event is described by Edward Winslow:

Our harvest being gotten in, our Governor sent foure men on fowling, that so we might after a more speciall manner rejoyce together, after we had gathered the fruit of our labours; they foure in one day killed a much fowle, as with a little helpe beside, served the Company almost a weeke, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Armies, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest King Massasoyt, with some nintie men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deere, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governour, and upon the Capitaine, and others. And although it be not always so plentifull, as it was this time with us, yet by the goodnesse of God, we are so farre from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plentie.

"Winslow was writing to attract new settlers, and he might have overstated the settlers' being in general 'so farre from want.'"

None of the colonist chose to return on the on the *Fortune*.
(PLYMOUTH COLONY, ITS HISTORY AND PEOPLE 1621-1691, Eugene Aubrey Stratton, pp. 24-25)

SRVGS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

MEMBERS WHO PAID THEIR DUES AFTER THE HANDBOOK WAS PRINTED

Martin, Patricia Yellowley	941 Maricaibo Place,	San Ramon, CA 94583	838-9096
Osher, Peggy	148 Bonita	Alamo, CA 94507-1838	837-9449
Thomson, Shirley	563 Monarch Ridge Drive (Please note that Shirley has a new address)	Walnut Creek, CA 94596-2950	945-6337

NEW ADDRESS: PLEASE CORRECT YOUR HANDBOOK

Morse, Joyce	2792 Bollinger Canyon Rd.	San Ramon, CA 94583	820-6763
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If we have missed you, please contact Diana Hancock (820-1424) or Betty Vail (283-3596)

MEET OUR NEW CASSETTE LIBRARY
CHAIRPERSON

Vern Segelke has replaced Jerry Sturgeon as Cassette Library chairperson. Vern says that since he doesn't work at a winery or a cheese factory, he will not be distributing tickets when you take out a tape.

Vern reviewed the first of our new tapes: **FOUR CENTURIES OF GENEALOGY.**

Tape one consists of two speeches. The first speaker, Gary Boyd Roberts, Director of Research for the New England Historic and Genealogical Society, gave a speech titled "Printed Sources for 17th Century Genealogy, New England to the Mid-Atlantic States." The second speaker, Lloyd Bos-truk, Librarian of Dallas, TX Public Library, spoke about "Genealogical Resources for the 18th Century." He talks about dissimilar regional pronunciation of names, sources other than printed sources, 1790 Federal Census difficulties, Revolutionary War records, size records (to prevent double enlistment), pen-

sion records, both State and Federal for the wounded and families. He also discussed the three volumes of "Federal Land Series" for Federal bounty land grants (grants of land within the original thirteen colonies never given by the Federal Government).



A NEW RECORDER

Frank Williams has agreed to report on an occasional meeting for the LAST MONTH column. If you would like to be a recorder, too, just let us know.



A REMINDER FROM WYNN

Wynn Kynett would like to remind people to return borrowed items. He has loaned several that have not been returned. As Wynn says, "I have a short memory. Maybe theirs is short, too."



BOOK REVIEWS

In the microfiche collection at the Danville Family History Center at Stone Valley and Smith Roads, there are approximately two hundred books on fiche. These have been compiled by the Salt Lake City Library as the most commonly requested references on Europe, the United States, and Canada.

GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY OF MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE. 2 volumes. Southworth-Anthoin-sen Press, Portland, ME, 1928-1939. Genealogical and biographical information of early Maine and New Hampshire families, arranged alphabetically. (10 fiche)

VITAL RECORDS OF RHODE ISLAND 1636-1850: A Family Register for the People. Providence, RI. Vol. 1: Kent Co.; Vols. 2-3: Providence Co.; Vol. 4: Newport Co.; Vol. 5: Washington Co.; Vol. 6: Bristol Co.; Vol. 7: Friends and Ministers; Vols. 8-9: Episcopal & Congregational Churches; Vols. 10-11: Town and Church Records; Vols. 12-21: Revolutionary Rolls and Newspaper Deaths. And the accompanying volume as follows:

GUIDE TO THE PUBLIC VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS: BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS. Providence, RI. Historical Records Survey, 1941.

An inventory and guide to the available birth, marriage and death records in Rhode Island. (167 fiche)

- Mary Jo Hostney

A WITCH?

Did you know that Connecticut had its share of witches? Their stories are recorded in Tomlinson's *WITCHCRAFT TRIALS OF CONNECTICUT*. I discovered one of my ancestors among them. The trial of Goody Knapp is also reported by Jacobus in *THE HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILIES OF OLD FAIRFIELD*. In a footnote, Jacobus remarks that "Accused witches in colonial times were usually either weak-minded women, or else of a superior mental endowment which made them seem eccentric in the eyes of their contemporaries."

In 1653 when Goody Knapp was tried and executed as a witch, Mary Staples (another ancestor) expressed doubt that Goodwife Knapp was a witch or that witches even existed.

Roger Ludlow, the Staples' next door neighbor, reported this to the Reverend Mr. Davenport, but, Thomas Staples, Mary's husband, sued Mr. Ludlow for slander in the New Haven Colony Court and was awarded damages of £10.

- Betty Vail

HOW FAR BACK

The hardest ethnicities to research are:

Native Americans and African Americans - 150 years;
Greek and Irish - 200 years;
English - 300 years;
Scots, Scandinavian, French & Italian - 400 years;
Germanic & Slavic - 500 years;
Swiss - 600 years
Spanish - 1000 years.

(The Family Tree via CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 13 No.8, August 1995)

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW ENGLAND

The genealogy room of the Central Contra Costa Library in Pleasant Hill has a large selection of books about New England's history. GENEALOGIST'S HANDBOOK FOR NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH by Marcia Wiswall Lindberg has a wealth of information. Clemens' AMERICAN MARRIAGES BEFORE 1699 includes all of the New England states. Each state has 1790 First Census as well as books about individual towns.

The following list is meant to be a guide. It is not a complete list of the books about New England.

Torrey	New England Marriages Prior to 1700
Banks	Planters of the Commonwealth
Wilson	Saints and Strangers
Sperry	New England Genealogical Research
Holmes	Directory of the Heads of New England Families
CT	Guide to Archives of the Connecticut State Library. 1981
Sperry	Connecticut Sources for Family Historians and Genealogists
Sellers	Connecticut Town Origins
Ritter	Apprentices of Connecticut 1637-1900
Tomlinson	Witchcraft Trials of Connecticut
Bailey	Early Connecticut Marriages
Paige	A List of Freemen of Massachusetts 1630-1691
Pierce	Pierce's Colonial Lists of Plymouth and Rhode Island 1621-1700
Shurteff	Records of Plymouth Colony 1633-1689
Banks	Planters of the Commonwealth
Strattan	Plymouth Colony, Its History & People 1620-1691
Libby	Plymouth Colony Marriages to 1650
Sargent	Maine Wills 1640-1760
ME	Maine Families in 1790, vol. 3
Noyes	Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire
Newman	To Maryland from Overseas, 1400 Maryland Settlers to 1634 to the Federal Period
Brumbbrugh	Maryland Records, Colonial, Revolutionary and Church
MD	Calendar of Maryland state papers 1636-1785
Newman	The Flowering of the Maryland Palatinate

Chamberlain	Rhode Island 1777 Military Census
Sperry	Rhode Island Sources for Family Historian
Roberts	Genealogies of Rhode Island Families
Maggunnigle	Rhode Island Freeman 1747-1755
RI	Rhode Island Land Evidences Vol I 1648-1696
Noyes	Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire
Towle	New Hampshire Genealogical Digest 1623-1900
Ridlox	Saco Valley Settlement and Families
Holbrook	Vermont 1771 Census
Kent	Vermonters
VGS	"Branches & Twigs" Vermont Genealogical Society magazines

NOTE: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU SIGN IN WHEN YOU DO RESEARCH IN THE GENEALOGICAL ROOM OF THE LIBRARY. WHEN MONEY IS AVAILABLE TO BUY BOOKS, THE LIBRARIANS RELY ON THAT LIST TO DETERMINE WHICH AREAS STRENGTHEN.



COLONIAL OCCUPATIONS

Colporteur	Peddler of books
Stuffgownseman	Junior barrister
Docker	Stevedore
Pettifogger	Shyster Lawyer
Almoner	Giver of charity to the needy
Boniface	Keeper of an inn
Hostler	Groom who cared for horses
Wharfinger	Owner of a wharf
Manciple	Steward
Shrieve	Sheriff
Plumbum worker	Plumber
Tipstaff	Policeman
Whitewing	Street Sweeper
Peregrinator	Itinerant Wanderer
Duffer	Peddler
Peruker	Wig maker
Chiffonier	Rag Picker
Bluestocking	Female Writer
Pattiewatch	Town Watchman
Crowner	Coroner

(THE GAS LITES Volume 10 #1)

RESEARCH TIPS

GENERAL

A published guide to the extensive card file index to over 2000 entries of family genealogies available in the Carnegie Library in Oakland, PA was revised in 1993. Listings are national in scope, but primarily cover Pennsylvania heritage. It is available from Closson Press, 1935 Sampson Drive, Apollo, PA 15613-9209 or call 412-337-4482 (CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 13, No 9, Sept. 1995.)



NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY

The Library of Congress has placed 210,000 pictures, sound and text titles from their collection of American History onto Internet. It includes famous Civil War photos among pictures and films whose copyrights have expired. The Library of Congress plans to have 5 million more entries in the National Digital Library by the year 2000. It can be found on Internet's World Wide Web at <http://cweb.loc.gov>. (SMCGS Newsletter, Vol. 13, issue 6, June 1995, p. 102)

INCLINE SOFTWARE ANNOUNCED ANCESTRAL QUEST 1.1

A powerful genealogy database software for windows allows users to easily trace their roots. Ancestral Quest opens the doors of family research and discovery for anyone new to genealogy while containing powerful data organization and report functions for genealogy researchers, students and enthusiasts.

The program supports the standard Personal Ancestral File (PAF) database structure used by hundreds of thousands of amateur and professional genealogists. Ancestral Quest can be used interchangeably with PAF since they both use the PAF database. It is designed to provide existing PAF database and other genealogy software that supports the GEDCOM format. PAF users can now edit their PAF files in Windows using Ancestral Quest and return to PAF without losing the integrity of their data.

Compatibility with PAF makes it easy for Ancestral Quest users to share information with rela-

tives and associates. GEDCOM files can easily be imported into ancestral Quest allowing genealogists to work in formats they are familiar with in the more flexible and manageable Microsoft Windows environment.

The Ancestral Quest list price is \$49.95. For more information, write Incline Software, PO Box 17788, Salt Lake City UT 84117-0788. Call 801-273-1521. Fax 801-273-1535. The order line is 800-825-8864. (The Family Tree, August/September 1995)

CROSSING THE ATLANTIC
FROM IRELAND

Emigrant ships sailed directly from Irish ports to North America in the first half of the 19th century. They sailed only in the spring and summer. The St. Lawrence river is closed by ice from October to April, and although US ports were open, the bad weather in the north Atlantic made the journey too hazardous during the winter months. See chapter 11 of *The Great Hunger* by Cecil Woodham-Smith for a discussion of emigration from Ireland to North America.

(Diablo Descendants CCCGS Newsletter, Vol. 10 No. 10, October 1995)

QUAKERS MAKE HANDSHAKE POPULAR

Handshaking has a long and "shaky" history.

Scholars say that the first shake on record occurred after the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Then warriors grasped each other's forearms as a gesture of peace — and to check for weapons.

In the 16th and 17th centuries and in the beginnings of the 18th century the handshake was not used as a greeting. It served to seal the peace between two parties or as a contract for closing business deals.

Even a warring husband and wife could settle their dispute with a handshake.

The Quakers are believed to be the first to popularize the handshake as a greeting. a group known for its rejection of worldly vanity, the Quakers favored the egalitarian handshake to grander gestures of the day such as bowing, hand kissing and sweeping off one's hat.

(The Family Tree, August/September 1995, p. 34)

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

OH MY GOODNESS!

An early custom in old New England was that if a woman was married for a second time, assuming she was a widow, she might be married in the nude! She would stand inside a closet with only her arm poking through, or hide behind a screen, or wear a sheet over her bare body.

This was her new husband's way of telling everyone that she came to him penniless, and that he would not assume any back debts of her previous marriage. These were called "Smock Weddings."

Another custom was for the bride to cross a major road during the late evening hours when it was totally dark. Her future husband and friends would wait on the other side. Here again, the bride would be naked so that witnesses could testify that she came to the new husband as a poor widow. This gave them both legal relief to start anew.

(The Family Tree, Vol. 5 No. 3, June/July 1944.)



HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY



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FIRST CLASS MAIL