

# 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. 7

February 1996

#### NEXT MEETING: WITHOUT A WILL, THERE'S A WAY

Judith Svoboda, a well known Bay Area genealogist, will cover probate records, testate and intestate, emphasizing ways to determine relationships, even those not stated in the documents.

For the past twenty years, Ms. Svoboda has been active in the Bay Area genealogical community, lecturing and teaching genealogy and family history in conferences and seminars. She also teaches genealogy docents at the Santa Clara City Library.

This is a presentation you won't want to miss. Perhaps Ms. Svoboda can show you how to open doors that have been closed to you. — Jeanette Moses

#### LAST MONTH Reported by Jane Steiner



George Anderson is not only an enthusiastic user of the Internet, but also a docent at the Pleasanton Library where he advises patrons in its use.

In his talk Mr. Anderson pointed out several ways genealogists can use the Internet. You can:

1. Browse through the World Wide Web, a graphics-based system, to find online data. You can transmit pictures and have colorful screens. Gopher, an older and somewhat faster system of browsing the Internet, is text-based, and therefore won't accept pictures.

2. Search the catalogs of some of the great libraries though not the LDS Library as yet.

3. Send E-mail to fellow genealogists. This is especially useful for overseas correspondence. It is fast, cheap and very efficient.

4. Hook up to newsgroups, 11 of which are devoted to genealogy. These newsgroups are "letters to the world," a good way to broadcast interests and queries. *alt.genealogy* is one of the these newsgroups. Any name with *alt* as part

of the address is unmonitored, uncontrolled. It has fewer restrictions and is easier to use than others.

*Soc.genealogy* is another group with a variety of extensions. The extension *.surname* is where you search for your surname; there may also be various ethnic extensions *.german*, *.nordic*, *.jewish* for example.

5. Download data and programs. There are many programs that are either shareware, pay if you like them, or are free.

6. Subscribe to Listservers and get a lot of E-Mail.

7. Search the world for subjects of interest.

8. Open your own home page.

If you are new to the Internet, there are many places to get help. The San Ramon Library has Internet classes; the Tri-Valley Internet Users' Group and the Tri-Valley Macintosh Users' Group offer help; L-Ags (Livermore-Amador G.S.) Computer Interest Group is interested in

(Continued on page 51)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

#### SRVGS EVENTS

- 20 10:00 SRVGS Meeting, Danville Women's Club House, 242 W. Linda Mesa Ave., Danville, CA.  
 22 10:00 a.m. The Mac group will meet at Barney Rubin's, 447 Woodbine Ln., Danville. (838-7238). Note that this is a special day since the group usually meets on the third Thursday of the month.  
 27 9:00 a.m. Stanford Library trip. Details on page 52.

#### OTHER EVENTS

- 13 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador Gen Soc. Enoch Haga will discuss "How to Publish Your Family History." Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. For information call David Abrahams at 447-9386 or John Malden at 443-2057. Non-members are welcome.  
 14 7:30 p.m. San Mateo Co Gen Soc. Rick Sherman on "How to do Research in the Boston Area." Belmont City Hall, 1365 5th Ave., Belmont, Apex Cafeteria. For more information call (510) 447-9386.  
 16 1:00-3:00 p.m. Mt. Diablo Gen Soc. Julia Purdie will discuss "Documenting Your Ancestors." Civic Bank of Commerce Community Room, 1940 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.  
 21 1:00 Gen Association of Sacramento. Carlyle Parker will speak about "How to do Research in SLC." Belle Coolidge Library, Sacramento. For more information call Doris (916) 428-9264.  
 24 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Stanislaus Co Gen Soc. Dwight Radford on Irish research. Modesto Centre Plaza, K Street, Modesto. \$17.50 at the door. For more information contact Don Wilson 865-3996.

### MARCH

#### SRVGS EVENTS

- 5 10:00 a.m. SRVGS Board Meeting at Francis Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME.  
 19 10:00 a.m. SRVGS Meeting Danville Women's Club, 242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue, Danville, CA.  
 26 9:00 a.m. Santa Clara Central Library trip.

#### OTHER EVENTS

- 8-9 California Gen Soc Eleventh Annual Family Fair. See details on page 53.  
 13 7:30 p.m. San Mateo Co Gen Soc. "Finding Your London Ancestors" by Dr. Inge Harding-Barlow & John Bleed. Belmont City Hall, 1365 5th Ave., Belmont, Apex Cafeteria.  
 26 1:00 p.m. Sacramento German Gen Soc. John D. Movius will present up-to-date information on the latest in German research. Northminster Presbyterian Church, 3235 Pope Ave., Box 660061, Sacramento, CA 95866 FAX (916) 42-8032.  
 28 7:00 p.m. Julia Purdie will tell "How to Edit the Ancestral File in Family Search." LDS Family History Library, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord. Phone: 686-1766.

#### OFFICERS to Contact

President: Millie Freitas 837-2483  
 Vice Pres.: Irma Dotson 820-8344  
 Memberships: 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

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The newsletter is published each month except August & December

#### THE BIG MOVE

The San Francisco Main Library has suspended services while moving to their new home on Marshall Square, 100 Larkin Street. Three hundred truck loads later they will open on Tuesday, April 16, 1996.

Meanwhile some general reference questions will be answered by the Telephone Information Service (415) 557-4400, TTY (415) 557-4169.  
 (Submitted by Alice Tiso)

#### TALK TO THE CENSUS BUREAU!

It has been suggested that the Census Bureau be encouraged to include the maiden name of each married woman on future census records. You can express your opinion to Mr. Harry Scarr, Acting Director of the Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233. It is suggested that you might send copies to your senators and representatives.  
 (The Family Tree, December 95/January 96, page 32B.)

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

GERMAN - The group will not meet for the next several months. Members may wish to attend the March 26 Sacramento German Group meetings. See 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 - Ordinarily will meet at Barney Rubin's, 447 Woodbine Ln., Danville (838-723) the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. This month it will meet on the fourth Thursday, February 22nd.

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 Users meets at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays following the general meeting at Ruth Pfeiffer's, 59 Mariposa Ct., Danville (837-5-60).

SOUTHERN - The date and place for the meeting will be announced.

UNITED KINGDOM - No meetings until further notice.

PLEASE REPORT PROGRAM CHANGES TO WENDY HABERMEHL (735-0737)

(LAST MONTH continued from page 49)

computers and PAF as well as the Internet; and the Silicon Valley PAF Users' Group, is an outstanding PAF users' group. All of them welcome new members and are very helpful.

Mr. Anderson cautioned that what you see on the Internet may or may not be correct information. You should always check it for authenticity.

If you are responding to someone's question, it is courteous to repeat the question along with the answer. The sender may have put out several questions, and needs to know to which question you are referring.

Web site addresses start with *http* which stands for *hyper text transfer protocol*. If an address ends in *html*, that stands for *hyper text markup language*.

He uses *NETSCAPE* software, which is free and makes browsing the Web very easy. Netscape makes its money by charging the server.

Newsgroups are just a small part of the Internet which also includes numerous indexes, catalogs and guides.

Mr. Anderson, who brought his computer to the meeting, showed several examples of people's queries. He had a superb handout with pages of *Bookmarks* - addresses used frequently by genealogists. Each bookmark on a subject will refer to other addresses on the same subject.

He recommends to people who want to investigate this amazing world, that they first buy a modem, at least 14,400 pbs, but preferably, 28,800 pbs (the speed with which it transfers data). Such a modem

costs about \$150. The next step is to sign up with one of the on-line services: America On Line, Paradox, or CompuServe. Since you get ten free hours when you start, Mr. Anderson suggests that you use those and just have fun playing around on the Internet.



## BOOK REVIEWS

The following fiche are part of the collection in the Danville Family History Center, Stone Valley Rd. and Smith Rd., Alamo. The hours have recently been extended. The Center is now open:

Monday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tuesday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Thursday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Call 837-4864 to reserve computer time.

♦ *THE NATIONAL GAZETTEER*: A Geographical Dictionary of the United States. 2 vols. 1894. Reprint. A gazetteer of place names in the United States shows towns, townships, counties, states and other jurisdictional and geographical features important for research. Particularly useful for identifying place names used in the 1850 census. (#6046725, 14 fiche)

♦ *A GAZETTEER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*, by John Hayward. A gazetteer of place names in the United States. Shows towns, townships, and other geographical features useful in locating early records. Particularly useful with the 1850 census. (#60446770, 10 fiche)

- Mary Jo Hosteny

## SRVGS NEWS



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You asked. There were 66 enthusiastic genealogists at our January meeting!!

"The grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for." (Joseph Addison) There is no doubt that we are all gloriously happy . . . searching for our ancestors is giving us something to do, we LOVE doing it, and we keep hoping to find that very important clue that will lead us right to the town where our ancestors were born.

I'm still hoping to hear from two elusive ladies who said they "thought they would like to start a Midwest Special Interest Group" as they went out the door. PLEASE TELL ME AGAIN! We will be happy to get you started.

—Millie Freitas



## NEW MEMBERS

Dorothy Baker, 560 El Pintado Rd., Danville 94526 (837-7524).

Russ Erickson, 10 Ridge Pl., Pleasant Hill, 94523-1609, (229-0889), is researching Nicholas Roos in PA 1829-1902 and Myhere & McWold in Norway 1848-1896.

Jeanette Haft 533 Buttonwood Dr., Danville, 94506, (736-0543), is researching Glassenberg in NJ and IL 1990-1996 and Migden in NY 1880 to present.

Lee Schlenker, 2848 Morgan Dr., San Ramon 94583, (829-5390) is researching Schlenker in Canada 1880-1892.

Bob and Fran Schweitzer, 2493 Lariat Lane, Walnut Creek 94596, (935-5744), are searching Daniel Schweitzer in Austria 1895 and Simon Wimmer in Bavaria 1895.

Susan Swindell, 1238 Rolling Hill Ct., Martinez, 94553-4856, (372-6996) is researching Human in MO, TN 1750-1870 and Furgason in VA, NC, AI 1700-1860.

Lori Thul, 221 Dexter Place, San Ramon 94583, (803-0418) is researching Thul in MN 1850-present and Devine MN 1830-1930.

## LIBRARY TRIP

This month we will visit the Stanford Library to explore their newspaper microfiche collection. We will meet at the Lucky store on Diablo Blvd., Danville, at 9:00 a.m. Since we will be heading south, members from Lafayette should join us there. If you did not sign the list at the last meeting but want to join us, please call me, 837-4444. If you planned to go and signed the list but find that you will not be unable to join us, please let me know so that we won't waste time waiting for you.

—Manny Lindner



## MENTOR PROGRAM

The society has many new members this year; some of them are also new to genealogy. The Board would like to generate a list of members who would be willing to share their expertise on an individual basis with someone who needs HELP. If you are knowledgeable in a specific field such as the use of the Internet or resources available in researching a particular geographical area and would be willing to be a mentor, please call Jack Johnston 837-2153.



## TURNPIKE TRIVIA

While dining at the Hard Rock Cafe on a recent field trip to Washington D.C., seven members of Western PA Genealogical Society discovered that six were only or oldest children. The seventh had a sibling ten years older.

On the bus trip home all 43 passengers were poled. The result showed that sixty-five percent are oldest/only children.

The reporter knows that percentages are statistically significant, but can't remember how to perform the statistical analysis. "We don't know why birth order is important (if it is); readers may draw their own conclusions."

(Contributed by Marion Bonwell from Western PA Gen. Soc. Newsletter, December 1995, page XXII-35)



The Society extends its sympathy to Marilyn Fullum whose mother died at the end of January.

## GENEALOGY SOCIETIES NEWS

A genealogist must have the patience of Job; the curiosity of a cat; the stubbornness of a mule; the eyesight of an eagle; be blessed with the luck of the Irish and have the ability and stamina of a camel to go long hours without food or drink! (Diablo Descendants Vol. 10 No. 7 July 1995 page 63)

**CGS FAMILY FAIR  
"Find Your Forebears"**

On Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9, 1996, the California Genealogical Society will present its 11th annual fair at the Concourse Exhibition Center, 8th and Brannan Street, San Francisco, CA. Books, maps, supplies and computer software will be available for purchase from over 70 vendors.

Classes will include instruction in research in other cultures: African-American, Portuguese, Scandinavian, and German. There will also be classes on hereditary diseases; the Internet; publishing; deciphering old handwriting; and research in church, newspaper, library, and immigration records.

The cost for non-members is \$25 for one day, \$40.00 for two days, if you are pre-registered by March 1. Registration forms will be available at the February meeting. For information call (415) 777-9936 (Wed., Thurs., or Sat. from 9:00-4:00.), or write to California Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 77105, San Francisco, CA 94107-0105.



## 1996 CGS FAIR SURNAME INDEX

Again this year the Contra Costa Genealogical Society will publish a surname Index in conjunction with the California Genealogical Fair, March 8 & 9, 1996.

Taking part in this project will give you the opportunity to contact that person (or to look at the original information for submission) to determine if it is really your family, share your knowledge, and to co-ordinate your efforts for the most effective use of research time.

Index submissions will be collected at the Fair on March 9 and from their mailbox (P O Box 910, Concord, CA 94522) on March 10. The index will be prepared and mailed to only those who purchase one. No extra copies will be made.

For more information contact Barbara Edkin, Surname Index Chair at the above post office number or call her answering machine at (510) 625-0601.

## NEW SMC GS PUBLICATION

A FINDING AID FOR NATURALIZATION DOCUMENTS IN SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA by Kenneth R. Tes-sendorff includes the location and description of exact titles, record numbers, the dates covered, whether they have been indexed, whether they are on cards or complete documents in bound volumes or are loose papers in cabinets or boxes. The author points out that "You may have to tell them (county employees) where the documents are, what they look like, and how to find them."

The cost is \$8.00 each, plus \$2.00 mailing charges.

The INDEX TO THE GREAT REGISTER OF SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA has been completed. This 1890 county register index gives the complete name, age, place of birth, residence and registration date for each registered voter.

To order send \$15.30 (cost \$12.00, CA sales tax \$.87, postage and handling \$2.50) to the society at P.O. Box 2494, Fairfield, CA 94533.

## DEFINITIONS FOR GENEALOGISTS

Compiled by Dorothy Stanton

**BACKIN-MYDAY ACT OF 1901** - Law created in the early part of the twentieth century which made it mandatory to build schools at least 20 miles away from all future grandfathers.

[from Unexplained Sniglets of the Universe by Rich Hall & Friends, Macmillan Publ Co 1986]

**CENTAPH** - If engraved on a tombstone, indicates an empty grave. The stone was erected in memory of someone who was buried elsewhere.

[from Paradise GS N/L Apr 91]

**EXPERT** - Often in error - Never in doubt.

[Contributed by Ardith Steger]

**GALVANIZED SOLDIER** - A member of the Confederate forces during the Civil War, who was captured and sent to prison. If he agreed to enlist in the Union Army, he was released. Those who did enlist for the Union may have received pensions. Many families are unaware that their ancestors fought on both sides.

[SGS Root Cellar 16:1 via CCCGS Dec 93]

**MORGEN** - A German-Dutch measure equal to 2-1/10 acres of land; it is derived from "morning," hence the area which can be plowed in one morning.

[from Barbara Smith in CCCGS N/L May 92]

**"MUG BOOK"** - refers to histories which are published by selling subscriptions to the books before they are printed. If you subscribed to the book you got a brief biography added to the book. If you paid a bit more you might get an extra page of biography or perhaps a photograph of yourself or your property included. Remember, inclusion was based on whether or not the person subscribed, not their importance. Bearing this in mind, "mug books" can still be very useful sources for local history.

[CCCGS N/L 3/92]

**RELICT** - The word 'relict' sometimes found on a woman's tombstone means that the lady was a widow when she died. If the tombstone says 'CONSORT of John Smith', it means that her husband, John Smith, was alive when she died.

MEDICAL TERMS

**CAMP FEVER** = typhus

**CANINE MADNESS** = hydrophobia

**CHLOROSIS** = iron deficiency anemia

**CORRUPTION** = infection

**CORYZA** = a cold

**COSTIVENESS** = constipation

**CRAMP COLIC** = appendicitis

**DROPSY** = edema (swelling), sometimes caused by kidney or heart diseases

**DYSPEPSIA** = acid indigestion

**EXTRA VASTED BLOOD** = rupture of the blood vessel

**FALLING SICKNESS** = epilepsy

**FLUX OF HUMOUR** = circulation

**FRENCH POX** = venereal disease

**GREEN SICKNESS** = anemia

**HIP GOUT** = osteomyelitis

**JAIL FEVER** = typhus

**KING'S EVIL** = scrofula [see below]

**LUES VENERA** = venereal disease

**LUMBAGO** = back pain

**LUNG FEVER** = pneumonia

**MANIA** = insanity

**MORTIFICATION** = infection

**NOSTALGIA** = homesickness

**PUTRID FEVER** = diphtheria

**QUINSY** = tonsillitis

**REMITTING FEVER** = malaria

**SANGUINOUS CRUST** = scab

**SCROFULA** = tubercular infection of lymph gland in throat

**SHIP'S FEVER** = typhus

**STRANGERY** = rupture

**SUMMER COMPLAINTS** = infant diarrhea caused by spoiled milk

**VENESECTION** = bleeding

[Connecticut Nutmegger]



## NO COST AND LOW COST RESEARCH AIDS

## ORAL HISTORY

In a special double issue of August 28-September 4, 1995, *U. S. News* presented several 100-year-olds telling the story of our nation's journey to modern times. These articles serve as an excellent lesson in interviewing.

(*The Family Tree*, October/November 1995, page 14A.)



## HELP IN THE MIDWEST

Hunting elusive ancestors in Indiana, Michigan, or Illinois? *Michiana Roots* might be able to help. A weekly genealogical column carried each Sunday by the *South Bend Tribune*, with a circulation of 125,000, *Michiana Roots* offers a free query service to researchers all over the country. Send your query to *Michiana Roots*, The *South Bend Tribune*, 225 W. Colfax, South Bend, IN 46626.

(*The Family Tree*, December 95/January 96, page 15B)

## FORT WAYNE LIBRARY CATALOG

The card catalog of the Allen County (Fort Wayne) Public Library is now accessible by computer modem. Set your software at 1200 baud, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity, VT emulation, and dial (219) 424-1330. Press ENTER and CONTROL O twice to get the Welcome Screen; press CONTROL O to log off. There is no access charge, just the long distance phone call charge.

(SMCGS Newsletter, Vol. 13, Issue 9, Oct. 1995, p. 15B)



## HELP FROM SOUTHERN GEORGIA

If you are searching for someone who lived in southwest Georgia, send a query to *The Colquitt County Family Album*, a genealogical column published each Monday in *The Observer*. Write PO Box 889, Moultrie, GA 31776. Queries are free.

(*The Family Tree*, October/November 1995, page 3A)



## NATIVE AMERICA HELP

If you need help with Cherokee ancestry, contact Thomas G. Mooney, supervisor of the Cherokee National Museum. There is a charge of \$5.00 per name, per search, and will begin with the Dawes Commission Rolls, unless otherwise instructed. They do request both a pedigree chart and SASE. Write: Center, P.O. Box 515, Tahlequah, OK 74465.

(SMCGS Newsletter, Volume 13, Issue 5, July-august 1995, page 119.)

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## BARTERING GENEALOGISTS

A NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF BARTERING GENEALOGISTS is being organized to identify genealogists who are willing to do research in their area in exchange for research in another. No money changes hands. Contact: The Directory Compilers of Arizona, 1795 West Wetmore Road, Tucson, AZ 85705.

(*Diablo Descendants*, Vol. 10, No. 10 October 1995, page 90.)

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## DAR RECORDS

Since 1931 the DAR has regularly deposited typewritten materials in state libraries. These include tombstone inscriptions, bible records, military records etc. Look for them in genealogical libraries. They are also microfilmed and can be found according to states, or under the topic Daughters of the American Revolution. A California collection is in the genealogical department of the L.A. Public Library. Try the library loan microfilm first! (\$3.00 per film).

(SLOCOS Newsletter, Vol. 26, No. 3, Fall 1993, page 75)

## ★★ MISSING VETERANS ★★

The Veterans Administration has discovered some 10 million duplicates of 20th century military records thought to have been destroyed in their 1973 fire. If you have been told the records you need were burned in this fire, you may want to write again: National Personnel Records, GSA, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63131.

(SCGS Root Digger, November 1995, page 95)

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



### ENGAGEMENT CHILD

A child born in less than nine months from the time of the marriage of its parents was referred to in old records as an "engagement child."

(The Family Tree, August/September 1995, page 2 A)

### HANDFAST MARRIAGE

The letters "H/F" may be found beside a person's name on early marriage and birth records. The abbreviation stands for "Handfast." It is basically a sign of the confirmation of a form of "uncannonical", private, or even a probationary form of marriage. Handfasting was a form of announcing a union between a man and woman who wished to live together as husband and wife before receiving the blessing of the church. The couple would stand before a group of peers, hold their clasped hands above their heads and state their intentions. The agreement was good for a year and a day, or until the preacher came to perform the rites of the church. If, at the end of this time, each wished to go his own way, they could do so without ties. Any child born of a handfast marriage was considered legitimate and with inheritance rights.

(The Livermore Roots Tracer, Vol. XIV, No. 3, Summer 1995, p. 569)

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FIRST CLASS MAIL