

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 month
(except August & December)
Danville Women's Club House
242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue
Danville, CA

Vol. XI No. 9

April 1996

THIS MONTH The Oregon Trail

Shann and Bill Rupp have been active in the California-Oregon Trails Association since 1988. They have attended outings with the California-Nevada Chapter and with the National Group at annual conventions. Shann is involved with the census of Overland Census Documents. They are also members of the Trails West, a group that marks the trails from Idaho to California. Mr. and Mrs. Rupp will have some interesting facts to relay to us about that part of the move westward. The main thrust of their presentation will be the California Trail after it forks off from the Oregon Trail. They will answer your questions about the experiences along the trail.

LAST MONTH Reported by Bill Allen

A dynamic, extremely knowledgeable John Movius, President and Webmaster of the Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies, spoke on "Who, what and why is FEEFHS."

Founded in 1992 by a small dedicated group of American and Canadian genealogists with diverse ethnic, religious and national backgrounds, FEEFHS now represents over 130 organizations with members in 15 countries. It continues to mushroom in growth.

With the fall of the Iron Curtain, exciting new possibilities for genealogical research have risen with accompanying new problems in knowing where to find needed records for genealogical research. FEEFHS develops online and printed databases of pertinent resources, maintains liaison with organizations world wide and serves as a clearinghouse for information on the existence and services of member societies. FEEFHS also helps to create new

ethnic or national genealogy societies where none exist but are needed.

FEEFHS has a newsletter published each quarter; maintains a table at major national, state and regional conferences; publishes *Resource Guide to East European Genealogy* annually; and has a "HomePage" on the Internet's World Wide Web. The 20+Meg destination web site includes the weekly FEEFHS FrontPage newsletter, a HomePage or Resource Guide, and 50+ detailed maps (1882) of Central and Eastern Europe.

The permanent address of FEEFHS is P.O. Box 510898, Salt Lake City UT 84151-0898. Minimum membership is \$20.00. Mr. Movius may be contacted at P.O. Box 4327, Davis CA 95617 or eMail:feefhs@wheel.dcn.davis.ca.us or FEEFHS7777@aol.cos.

In his closing remarks Mr. Movius emphasized that use of the Net reduces the time element when doing research. (Continued on page 73.)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL



SRVGS EVENTS

- 16 - TUESDAY 10:00 a.m. SRVGS Meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rupp will speak on "The Oregon Trail"; 12:30 Roots Users will meet at Ruth Pfeiffer's, 59 Mariposa Ct., Danville, (837-5160)
- 23 - TUESDAY 9:00 a.m. UC Bancroft and Doe Library trip.
- 30 - TUESDAY 10:00 a.m. First SRVGS genealogical class will meet at Frances Lloyd's. For details see page 70.

OTHER EVENTS

- 10 - WEDNESDAY 7:30 p.m. San Mateo Co Gen Soc. "How to Use Persi" by Betty Kot. Belmont City Hall, 1365 5th Ave., Belmont. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m..
- 11 - THURSDAY 7:30 p.m. Contra Costa Gen Soc. Dorothy Mackay Collins, a curator/archivist/oral historian will speak on Scottish research. LDS Church, 4700 Concord Blvd., Concord.
- 17 - WEDNESDAY Livermore-Amadore Gen Soc classes begin. Details on page 69.
- 20 - SATURDAY LDS Family History Seminar in Alamo. Details on page 69.
- 20 - SATURDAY Root Cellar Seminar in Sacramento. George Schweitzer. Details on page 69.
- 20-21 SATURDAY/SUNDAY Re-enactment Battles of the Civil War, Lagoon Valley Park, Vacaville. Battle times: Sat. 1:00-2 p.m. & 4:00-5:00 p.m.; Sun. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Parking \$3.00.
- 27 - SATURDAY San Mateo Co Gen Soc Seminar. George Schweitzer. Details on page 69.
- 27/28 SATURDAY-SUNDAY National Civil War Assoc Civil War Enactment, Naval Weapon Station, Concord. Contact (408) 927-7651.

MAY



SRVGS EVENTS

- 7 - TUESDAY 10:00 a.m. SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME.
- 21 - TUESDAY 10:00 a.m. SRVGS Meeting at Danville Women's Club. Rose Marie Silva will speak on "Hereditary Diseases."
- 27 - MONDAY 9:00 Trip to Mayflower Library. NOTE THAT THIS TRIP IS ON MONDAY RATHER THAN TUESDAY!

OTHER EVENTS

- 9 - THURSDAY 7:30 p.m. Contra Costa Gen Soc. Don Baker, member of the New England Historic & Genealogy Society will discuss New England research. LDS church, 4700 Concord Blvd., Concord.

JUNE



- 18 SRVGS meeting. George John Curtis will speak on finding family after an adoption in the Tennessee Courts.

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Millie Freitas 837-483
 Vice-Pres.: Irma Dotsun 820-8344
 Memberships: Diana Hancock 820-1424
 512 Zephyr Circle,
 Danville, CA 94526
 Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00
 Family: \$20.00
 Membership year: June 1 to May 31
 NEWSLETTER
 Editors: Betty Vail
 824 Moraga Road
 Lafayette, CA 94549
 Mailing: Barbara Dittig 735-9610
 Lucy Carver: 837-3146
 The newsletter is published each month except August & December.

A WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

SANDRA J. CESPED, 258 Larie Place, Danville, CA 94526. Phone 743-1771. Researching McDonald - St. Helena, Canada, Scotland 1800-1900's; Kay - Canada, WI 1800 to present.
 SELMA FORKASH, 3380 Deer Hollow Dr., Danville, CA 94506. Phone: 736-9205. Researching Kabo - Russia in early 1900's; Cholfin or Choeffin - Russia 1906.
 BOB OLIVER, 3386 Roosmoor Parkway # 8, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Phone: 932-5634.

Researching Grenfell - Cornwall 1700-1800; Turner MD 1720-1800.
 HOWARD NEMIR, 1566 Ramona Way, Alamo, CA 94507. Phone: 939-1566. Researching Shavor/Doty NY 1620-1996; Kelly - NY 1800's to present.

HANDBOOK ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS
 BARBARA A. IRWIN, 1400 Canyonwood Ct. #8, Walnut Creek, CA 94595-3621. Phone: 939-8522.
 MARY L KIMBALL Phone: 945-0277.
 SHIRLEY TERRY Phone: 829-1433.
 RUTH M MONDOT Phone: 837-8029

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

GERMAN - Will not meet this month.

SOUTHERN - Will not meet this month.

IRISH - Meets 10 a.m. each second or third (announced) Thursday of the month at Patty Erickson's, 10 ridge Road, Pleasant Hill (229-0889). Next meeting April 11.

CALIFORNIA - Meets with the Irish Group.

MAC COMPUTER - Meeting will be announced.

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 will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays following the general meeting at Ruth Pfeiffer's 59 Mariposa Ct., Danville (837-5160).

UNITED KINGDOM - Will meet Monday, April 29 at 1:30 at Ron Skilton's, 19 Martha Rd, to discuss local library resources and programs for the future. Please call ahead: 254-6989.

MIDWEST - Will meet on Thursday, May 2 at 10:00 p.m. at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country Road, Danville.

CONFERENCES AND CLASSES

BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASSES

The Livermore-Amadore Genealogy Society is offering beginning genealogy classes for 8 weeks starting April 17 and ending June 5, 1996. The classes will be held on each Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the Sonoma School on Sonoma Street in Livermore. Fee for the classes is \$32.00. Call 606-4722 for registration.

SAN MATEO CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR

Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sam Trans Building, 1250 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos, CA. GEORGE SCHWEITZER. "Migration Routes and Settlement Patterns", "Tracing Your Ancestors Back Across the Atlantic," and "Genealogical Research in North Carolina." Preregistration before April 20 \$22; \$25 at the door.

LDS FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR

Saturday, April 20, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Alamo Chapel, Stone Valley & Smith Roads, Alamo, sponsored by the Danville stake. \$10.00. Sack lunch provided. For information call Colleen Justice 837-1844.

BYU CONFERENCE

July 30-August 2 The annual Genealogy & Family History Conference will be held in Provo, UT. Details next month.

ROOT CELLAR SACRAMENTO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR

Saturday, April 20, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. GEORGE SCHWEITZER. 3 lectures: "How to Find Your Ancestor's Parents", "Virginia Genealogical Research", Pennsylvania Genealogical Research." Citrus Heights Elementary School, 7085 Auburn Blvd., Citrus Heights, CA. Non-members \$24.00 at the door. For more information call Bobbie Rowland (916) 983-3434.

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE

"In Your Ancestor's Image", a conference sponsored by The Federation of Genealogical Societies and hosted by the Rochester Genealogical Society, will be held in Rochester, New York 14-17, August 1996. It will feature more than 110 lectures and over 130 booths with a wide variety of genealogical books, supplies and computer products. For information write to In Your Ancestors' Image, FGS, P.O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385 or call (214) 907-9727.



SRVGS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

The Board has organized a series of classes which will be taught by different members of the Society.

The Board has also been investigating the possibility of developing a genealogical section in the new Danville Library. A committee has met with library representatives. In the near future they will discuss a contract between the Society and the Contra Costa Library. — Millie Freitas

SRVGS GENEALOGY CLASSES

The SRVGS genealogy classes will be held at members' homes. A charge of \$1.00 per class will be collected to cover the cost of copying handouts. Dates and times for future classes will be discussed at the first meeting.

FIRST MEETING: 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 30, at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country Rd. SUE SWINDELL — Pedigree Charts, Family Group Sheets, Documentation, and Organization.

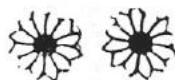
SECOND MEETING: MILLIE FREITAS — the Federal Census: What to expect and how to access via Soundex and other index sources. This class will include a trip to the National Archives in San Bruno for some "hands-on" experience.

THIRD MEETING: SHIRLEY TERRY — Libraries, Archives, Historical Associations and Genealogical Societies.

APRIL LIBRARY TRIP

On Tuesday, April 23, we will visit the UC Bancroft and Doe Libraries in Berkeley. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the rear parking lot of Lucky's on Diablo Blvd., Danville. Those living closer to Berkeley will meet at the Orchard Nursery upper parking lot in Lafayette. Questions? Call Manny Lindner at 837-4444.

WYNN KENNET has had a slight stroke but is doing fine.



THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE

1996-1997 SLATE OF

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President-MILLIE FREITAS

First Vice President-IRMA M. DOTSON

Second vice President (Program)

SHIRLEY TERRY

Third Vice President (Membership)

DIANA HANCOCK

Recording Secretary-CINDY WHEELER

Corresponding Secretary-BARBARA JOHNSON

Treasurer-JACK JOHNSON

Parliamentarian-CAROL GLOVER

This slate will be presented at the April 16 General Membership Meeting, members will vote on the slate, and the Board will be installed. Committee chairpersons will be listed in the next newsletter.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the Nominating Committee for their hard work: IRMA DOTSON, chair, DIANE HANCOCK, CAROL GLOVER, and SUE HUGHES. FRANCES LLOYD served as consultant.

HELP! HELP!! HELP!!!

Two Committee positions remain to be filled. The LIBRARY CHAIR PERSON plans the society library visits. It is not necessary to be from the Danville area or to go on all trips. This task can be delegated to other members. The SPECIAL GROUPS COORDINATOR is aware of the meetings so that persons who want to learn about these groups can be directed and sees that these group meetings are listed in the newsletter.

THE MIDWEST GROUP

On Thursday, April 4, the Midwest Interest Group held its first meeting. The twelve members had a great time getting acquainted and sharing backgrounds, areas of research (OH, IL, IN, MO, KS, NE, MN, MI, and IA), and favorite source books. We hope those who missed the first meeting will be able to join us at our next meeting on Thursday, May 2, at 10:00 a.m. at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country Rd., Danville.

RESEARCHING ALONG THE OREGON TRAIL



MISSOURI

Did you ever notice that there is a small "boot heel" at the southeast corner of Missouri that extends down into Arkansas? It seems that John Hardman Walker of Tennessee crossed the Mississippi in 1810 when he was 16 to begin farming and raising stock in that area. He killed and skinned the wild cattle roaming the area and shipped the skins down to New Orleans. During the New Madrid earthquake in 1811-12 the place he had settled disappeared into the Mississippi. He relocated to Caruthersville and convinced politicians to change the state line drawn in the Missouri Compromise so that his land remained in the state of Missouri, rather than going to Arkansas.

(CSBA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 3 March 1996.)

If you are searching for someone born in Missouri between 1805 and 1812, check Louisiana records. During those years Missouri was part of the Louisiana Territory.

When researching Missouri records during the early 1860's to about 1875, and you find a woman selling property, do not automatically assume that she is a widow; it could be that she was acting as head of a family because of her husband's loss of civil rights because of his service in behalf of the South, or sympathy for the Southern cause. In such a case when his civil rights were restored later, you will find him handling financial transactions for the family again.

(CSGS Newsletter, Vol. 13 No. 11, November 1995.)

Be sure to check Bette Kot and Shirley Thompson's *Missouri Cemetery Inscription Sources: Print and Microform*, Vallejo, CA., Indices Publishing.

In *Missouri Birth and Death Records, Volume One* published by Heritage Books Inc., Sherida Eddlemon points out that registration of births and deaths began as early as 1863 in some areas of Missouri. From 1883 to 1893 county clerks were required by law to register births and deaths in Missouri. Since the state did not have complete compliance with this law until 1911, other sources such as church, military, cemetery, tax and probate records and newspapers from the time were the main tools in establishing dates of birth and death.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 13, No. 11, November 1995.)

KANSAS

A large collection of original volumes from the Shawnee County Probate Court have been micro-filmed by the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT.

(FGS Forum, Fall 1995, vol. 7, No. 3)

Each year (except one) since 1976, the Topeka Genealogical Society has compiled an index to the Kansas vital records and genealogical materials published that year by various genealogical groups in their state.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 13, No. 2, December 1995.)

Orange County, Kansas Cemeteries & Old Soldiers & Obituaries by Arleen Bayles & Jill Herzog, 33,000 names plus Osage County map with plat maps of 11 of the 35 cemeteries canvassed has been published by the Topeka Genealogical society, PO Box 4048, Topeka, KS 66604-0048.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 3, March 1966.)



BRANCH INTO A GENEALOGY WITH NEW RESOURCES

It has been said that a genealogist is someone who traces his ancestry back as far as his money will go.

Thanks to computers, the Internet and the increasing number of people taking up what may be America's most popular hobby, watering the family tree is easier on the wallet or purse these days.

New resources abound for the ancestor hunter. Among the help available in the world of shareware and freeware are these files.

ADVICE (DOS) Novices and old hands are likely to find useful tips and names and addresses in a compilation called **ROOTS3.ZIP**. It includes a guide for beginners, a list of local publications that can help, a listing of genealogical societies, a dictionary of terms for research, and a thorough discussion of record keeping. There's more useful advice in "Jewish Genealogy for Beginners," which includes not only advice on tracing Jewish roots but also an excellent general bibliography on genealogy and useful advice on tracking down ancestors in the United States and Europe. Earlier versions may still be found as **TRACEJR.ZIP**. The current version is available as **JGHOW1.ZIP**.

Get help in British records in files from England's Public Records Office. Two useful ones are **PR002.TXT.ZIP** and **PR028TXT.ZIP**.

BBS LIST (DOS) Once a month Richard Cleveland in Arlington, VA, issues a list of genealogy-oriented computer bulletin boards. Prepared for the National Genealogical Society, the list is unusually accurate and up-to-date, although you'll find that some of the BBSes keep up with new software much better than others. The current list is **GBBS9603.ZIP**.

INTERNET RESOURCES (DOS) Internet research is greatly aided by "Genealogy Resources on the Internet." It includes mailing lists, telnet sites, file downloading sites, usenet newsgroups, Web sites and e-mail addresses. The current version is in **GRI-0396.ZIP**.

You may even find a Web page devoted to research into your family.

BROTHERS KEEPER (Windows) This shareware program is now available in a windows version, which will be found in some places as **BKWIN01.ZIP** and in others as **BKWIN52.ZIP**. The graphics are handsome, you can use Windows' TrueType fonts in your printouts, and you get a point-and-shoot selection of family records. Where the DOS version limits your pictures of family members to PCX graphics, this version lets you use any type of computer graphics. If you have the DOS version, this one can install in the same directory and use the same files.

OTHER DATA-BASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS (Windows) One first-rate new Windows program is **BirthWrite (BIRTHW15.ZIP)**. It works best with SuperVGA set for the best resolution possible.

Look, too, at **Kith and Kin (KK302.ZIP)**. It has the ability to link pictures, maps, diagrams and even sounds to a person or family. You can also see a timeline that relates family events to notable events in world and U.S. history. Registered users can edit and add events in the timeline.

ROOTS MASTER, EZ-TREE (DOS) Easy-to-use but thorough, either program can handle an unlimited number of people and generations. It can print ancestor and descendant charts and a wide variety of reports. Look for **ROOTS2.ZIP** and **EZT231.ZIP**.

FORM PRINTING (DOS) If you have an HP LaserJet 4 or compatible printer, **HP4FRM10.ZIP**, a freeware program, enables you to print census forms, research calendars, family group records and other forms.

MACINTOSH PROGRAMS

HERITAGE (Mac, system 7) The latest version (2.17) of this shareware program features free-form entry, tracking and displaying of photos.

GENE You can throw just about any kind and amount of ancestral data its way, (Continued on page 73.)

(LAST MONTH Continued from page 67.)

Years become months, weeks become days when Web users take advantage of what is "out there." But hard copies of source data are still needed for examination and documentation.

(COMPUTERS Continued from page 72.)

and Gene will sort it out and help you make sense of a family tree that has branches all over the place. Shareware.

GENEALOGY PRO (Mac, but not Plus or SE, System 7) Enter information, dates, people's names, and soon this program will be drawing family trees for you. REUNION You can reach back as far as 99 generations to find out why you're still not welcome in some counties of North Dakota. The demo version is limited to 35 people per family, but, again, it's generous as far as demos go in other respects: family groups, histories, charts, even mail merge and mailing list functions.

For copies of all the IBM genealogy programs reviewed in this column, send \$20, plus tax for Californians; \$15, plus tax, for the Macintosh programs, to Shareware, P.O. Box 7037, Long Beach, Calif. 90807. Credit cards: (800) 395-7797. Fax (310) 426-0110 E-mail: noahshare@aol.com.

(San Jose Mercury News, March 24, 1996)

NEW PAF 2.31 IS OUT

The LDS Church Distribution is now accepting orders for PAF.Mac Version 2.31. Order by phone, using a Visa or Mastercard. The price is \$35.00, sales tax added for your state if applicable plus a \$2.00 charge for the phone order. Call 1-800-537-5950 or send mail order to Salt Lake Distribution Center, 199 West 1700 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84104-4233. (CSGS Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 3, March 1996.)

(OREGON TRAIL Continued from page 71)

death, marriage and divorce certificates originally filed with Vital Records. Previously considered confidential, a new policy adopted by vital Records makes available death, marriage and divorce certificates 50 years old or older. The cost for a photocopy from the Archives is 50 cents and a certified copy is \$4.00. Birth certificates are not included. They continue to have a 100 year restriction and access to them is only possible through Vital Records.

(FBS Forum, Vol. 7, No. 3, Fall 1995.)

COLORADO

The Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies is publishing a free pamphlet on the Colorado State Archives. Write: Colorado State Archives, 1313 Sherman St. Room 1B20, Denver, CO 80203 or call (310) 866-2358.

Birth, marriage, death notices, and obituaries in the Greeley Tribune from 1870-1890 (and beyond) have been indexed on computer. There is a \$5.00 search fee. Send request to Weld Co. Gen. Soc., P.O. Box 278, Greeley Co 80632.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol 14, No. 1, January 1996.) The

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) records for Colorado are ready for public use. Of particular interest to genealogists are the enrollment records which contain information such as the place of birth, physical description, discharge information, naturalization data, and information about the enrollee's family, etc. For further information call the Colorado State Archives (303) 866-2055. (SMCGS Newsletter, Vol. 13, Issue 10, Nov/Dec 1995.)

OREGON

A repository for information on the Oregon Trail is the Pierce Library, Eastern Oregon State College, La Grande, OR 97850.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

PAUL REVERE VS THE MASSACHUSETTS AUDITORS

An archivist at the Massachusetts State Archives has discovered a copy of Paul Revere's bill to the Colony of Massachusetts for expenses incurred in connection with his famous ride on April 18-19, 1775.

Among the items listed are "For riding for the Committee of Safety . . . 17 days at five shillings." "To my expenses for self and horse during that time. . . two pounds, 16 shillings." When the Colony Legislature got a look at the bill, they had a few questions. They had no problem with the expenses, but Revere's per diem was reduced from five shillings a day to four!

(The Family Tree, Vol. V, No. 2, April/May 1994.)



FAMILY REUNION

On March 9 a "Cousin In-Gathering" took place at LUCY CARVER's home. Twenty-five people, from 8 months to 75 plus years, were present.

Four generations of Fitch descendants gathered to share family stories, "photo-ops", a large bulletin board of photos and, of course, food. Most of those present live in the Greater Bay Area; the farthest came from Massachusetts. Lucy only knew her father's 3 first cousins, 2 of whom she grew up with in Pasadena but hadn't seen for over 30 years.

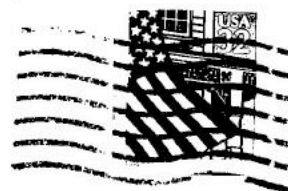
The gathering was such a success that the chances are they will gather together again.



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