

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo CA 94529-0305

President: Millie Freitas
Editor: Betty Vail

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of month
except August & December
Golden State Rehabilitation
Hospital
7777 Norris Canyon Road
San Ramon CA

Vol. XII No. 10

May 1997

THIS MONTH

CIVIL WAR RESEARCH

RONALD DOMER of Danville spent most of his engineering career designing and building power plants, dams, navigation locks and other heavy civil works. But since his retirement three years ago, he has changed his focus from Civil Engineering to Civil War history spending his time researching and writing military history. He has had articles published in both "Military History" and "America's Civil War" magazines, and is writing a book about Civil War skirmishes around his hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee. He will speak about THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONTROL OF EAST TENNESSEE.

In addition to his handout on that topic, there will be a handout about RESEARCHING YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS as well as copies of the application form necessary to request military and pension records from the National Archives.

-- Shirley Terry

LAST MONTH

Reported by Betty Vail

SRVGS members take the admonition to "publish or perish" seriously. A surprising number have written both genealogical and historical books. Last month four of them shared their adventures in the publishing world.

BRUCE GARNER emphasized organization. In the first chapter of THE GARNER BOOK, he introduced his family, giving a detailed history of his wife, himself and his children. Chapters two through five are devoted to each of the parents' families. Each chapter includes an introduction with pedigree charts, reports on each surname, photos, documents, sources and an index. Bruce found Family Tree Maker very helpful.

JIM DOTSON shared the knowledge he had learned in publishing his third

book, JOHN FIESS AND KATHARINA MOSER, about his grandparents who immigrated from Switzerland in 1853. Jim stressed the importance of research, particularly public documents. He also found the Mormon Library and a professional Swiss researcher helpful. Cousins, Jim pointed out, are a very good source of information.

The first part of his book consists of six chapters of descriptive material, photos, maps and copies of documents, and an index; the second part includes genealogical charts, references and sources.

Jim also discussed how he had the book printed, how he has marketed it and how he registered it at the Congressional Library.

(Continued on page 81.)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY

SRVGS EVENTS

- 20 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. General meeting, 7777 Norris Canyon Road. RONALD DOMER on THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONTROL OF EASTERN TENNESSEE.
- 21 WEDNESDAY - 10:00 a.m. Workshop on using archives resources led by MILLIE FREITAS at 607 Diablo Road. (Page 84)
- 27 TUESDAY - 9:00 a.m. Library trip to National Archives. (Details on page 84.)

OTHER EVENTS

- 14 WEDNESDAY - 10:00 a.m. East Bay Gen. Soc. Mormon Center, 4780 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA. VALERIE GROSS, Executive Director of the Mechanics' Institute in San Francisco on the vast holdings of this historic institution.
- 16 SATURDAY - 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. National Archives Pacific Region at 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. Workshop on PASSENGER ARRIVAL AND NATURALIZATION RECORDS. ROSE MARY KENNEDY, Genealogy Specialist. For info call (415) 876-9009. \$15 in advance; \$20 at door.
- 18 SUNDAY - 1:00 p.m. San Mateo Co Gen Soc. Building C, Room 205, Ft. Mason. MELISSA LEVINSON on DATING PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLOTHING WORN BY SUBJECTS.
- 27 TUESDAY - 1:00 p.m. Sacramento German Gen Soc, Northminster Presbyterian Church, 3235 Pope Avenue, Sacramento, SHIRLEY SIEMS TERRY on CREATING AND PUBLISHING A FAMILY NEWSLETTER. (See page 85.)
- 31 SATURDAY - 10:00 a.m. PAFers United, CCC Co Gen Soc, 3 Concord Blvd. KIMBLE SMITH on HARDWARE.

JUNE



SRVGS EVENTS

- 3 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting and luncheon for new Board Members and Chairpersons at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville.
- 17 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, JOAN & DON KURTZ on PIONEERS TO CALIFORNIA VIA SHIP OR WAGON.
- 19 THURSDAY - 10:00 a.m. Program Planning Committee meeting at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville. (See page 85.)
- 26 THURSDAY - 10:00 a.m. Workshop on organization and beginning genealogy at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville.

OTHER EVENTS

- 27 FRIDAY - 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. National Archives Pacific Region, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. Workshop on CENSUS INFORMATION: A POTPOURRI FOR RESEARCH. JACKIE JOHNSON, TERRIA BREMER and ROSE MARIE KENNEDY. \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door.

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 year: June 1 to May 31
 NEWSLETTER
 Editor: Betty Vail
 824 Moraga Road
 Lafayette, CA 94549
 283-3596
 Mailing: Barbara Dittig 735-9610
 Lucy Carver: 837-3146
 The newsletter is published each
 month except August and December.

COMING EVENTS

● NATIONAL ARCHIVES WORKSHOPS:
 To register and reserve space contact Rose Mary Kennedy at (415) 876-9009. Fees are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door.
JULY 11 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.
 Using the Internet for Family History: Basic Techniques ELAINE BUKOVE, Genealogist.
AUGUST 15 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.
 Chinese Immigration and Chinese in America-How to Find Files. WAVERLY LOWELL, Archivist.
AUGUST 22 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Military-Part I, Pre-Revolution to War of 1812. ROSE MARIE KENNEDY, Genealogy Specialist.

SEPTEMBER 19 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 Military -part II, Civil War to WW II. ROSE MARY KENNEDY, Genealogy Specialist.

● THE FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES & THE DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY invite you to UNLOCK YOUR HERITAGE WITH CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING. This 17th annual conference of the Nation's Genealogists will be held from September 3-6 1997, at Dallas, Texas.

For additional information contact FGS at P.O. Box 830220, Richardson, TX 75083-0220 or E-mail <fgs-office@fgs.org> or DGS at P.O. Box 12648, Dallas TX 75225-0648 or E-mail <dgs@chrysalis.org>

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

GERMAN - No meetings at present.

SOUTHERN - Will meet at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 13 at Barbara Irwin's, 1400 Canyonwood Ct. #8, Walnut Creek.

IRISH - Will meet at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 14, at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Rd., Pleasant Hill.

CALIFORNIA - Will meet with the Irish group.

MAC COMPUTER - Will meet at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 21, at Barbara Dittig's, 366 Jacaranda Dr., Danville; will meet Wednesday June 18, place to be announced.

UNITED KINGDOM - Will not meet until further notice.

PUBLISHING - Meets when needed. If you would like help with a publishing project, contact Jane Steiner at 283-0867.

ROOTS USERS - Official Comsoft ROOTS III/IV users will meet in room AB, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd. Tuesday following the general meeting.

MIDWEST - Will meet at 10:00 a.m. at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville. (See page 85.)

INTERNET - Will meet at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, May 22 at Shirley Terry's, 301 Almond Ct., San Ramon.

(LAST MONTH continued from page 79.)

IRMA DOTSUN shared her evolution as an author and publisher. Irma's first book, the story of local pioneer August Hemming and his contributions to agriculture, appeared in 1972. Since then she has published a wide variety of books, some of which have been sponsored by the San Ramon Valley School District, the Historical Society of Danville, and the Museum of San Ramon Valley. Irma has also published a number of personal genealogical books.

Irma suggested three keys to a successful experience in publishing and selling books: (1) Use acid free, good quality paper; (2) donate the first 10 copies to local libraries and the LSD library in Salt Lake; and (3) have a very intelligent spouse who is willing to help you.

DIANA HANCOCK, who has published four books on her family genealogy, had some practical advice. She suggested that documentation by footnotes enables you to refer to one item many times without taking up too much space and that pictures are expensive but important in selling a book.

All the speakers are knowledgeable about researching, developing a format, and publishing. We are lucky to have such a wealth of information in our Society.

* * * * *

PRINT PUBLISH PRESERVE, by the SRVGS Publishing Interest Group, is packed with information to help you have a successful publishing venture. It is \$7 (including tax). If you are interested in obtaining a copy contact Jane Steiner or Fran Lloyd.

THE PRICE IN BLOOD

At last 618,000 Americans died in the Civil War, and some experts say that the toll reached 700,000. At any rate, these casualties exceed the nation's loss in all its other wars, from the Revolution through Korea.

The Union armies had from 2,500,000 to 2,750,000 men. Their losses, by the best estimates:

Battle deaths:	110,070
Disease, etc.:	250,152
Total:	360,222

The Confederate strength, known less accurately because of missing records, was from 750,000 to 1,250,000. Its estimated loss:

Battle deaths:	94,000
Disease, etc.:	164,000
Total:	258,000

The leading authority on casualties of the war, Thomas L. Livermore, admitting the handicap of poor records in some cases, studied 48 of the war's battles and concluded:

Of every 1,000 Federals in battle, 112 were wounded.

Of every 1,000 Confederates, 250 were hit.

Mortality was greater among Confederate wounded, because of inferior medical service.

Experts have pointed out that the famed Light Brigade at Balaklava lost only 36.7 per cent of its men, and that at least 63 Union regiments lost as much as 50 percent in single battles. At Gettysburg 23 Federal regiments suffered losses of more than half their strength, including the well-known Iron Brigade (886 of 1,538 engaged).

(Burke Davis, THE CIVIL WAR Strange & Fascinating Facts, (New York: Wings), pp. 215 & 219.)

RESEARCH TIPS

● **PASSPORTS:** Passport applications, which are available for many periods between 1795 and the present, can include date and place of birth, names of family members, occupation, residence at the time of application, and destination (a clue to a possible hometown).

The Family History Library has records from 1795 to 1947 on over 2,150 reels of microfilm. These records contain indexes as well as registers. Search United States-Passports in the catalog and narrow your search from there.

(SMCGS News, Vol: 15-5, May 1997.)



● **GENEALOGY ON THE WEB:** If you're just getting started using the Internet for genealogical research, a good place to place to get started is with the US GenWeb Project. You can access this site at:

< <http://www.usgenweb.com/> >

The GenWeb Project covers all 50 states and acts as an umbrella for information on resources, extracted data, addresses, links to other sites and much more.

When you get the US GenWeb site, you will be directed to select your state of interest. By selecting say, New York, you will then be taken to a site for the state of New York. You will be able to access information about resources in New York State as a whole. Then you can select your county of interest and find a treasure trove of information about that county. Sites have directions for obtaining vital records, histories, a listing of libraries, archives and societies within the county, and other specialized resources. You can also enter a query and read other queries in addition to finding people willing to do lookups.

All of this is volunteer work so some counties are better than others. You will find some are now offering "real" data like cemetery lists, for instance. Many are frequently updated. Take a look!

(SCCHGS Newsletter, Vol. 42, Issue 5, May 1997.)

● **NATIONAL ARCHIVES:** A listing of the holdings of the National Archives in San Bruno can be found on the Internet at the following address:

<<http://www.nara.gov/nara/regional/holdings/09nss1st.html>>

(SCCHGS Newsletter, Vol. 42, Issue 4, April 1997.)

● **CALIFORNIA GENWEB:** This site includes links to all the California counties and many other California oriented sites.

<<http://www.compuology.com/cagenweb/>>

(SCCHGS Newsletter, Vol. 42, Issue 4, April 1997.)

● **IOWA:** A map locating 60 cemeteries of Jasper county may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, legal size envelope to the Jasper County Cemetery Commission, PO Box 944, Newton, IA 50208. The cemeteries contain over 40,000 burials, the earliest for which a stone has been found for 1846. Information on specific cemeteries may be obtained from John Dahler of the Jasper County Genealogical Society, PO Box 163, Newton, IA 50208.

(SCCHGS Newsletter, Vol. 12, No. 1, January 1997.)

● **CIVIL WAR RESEARCH:** RD Winthrop suggests starting your research on CW units by looking at LSU's online "Civil War Center" <<http://www.cwc.lsu.edu/>> There is a primer at <<http://www.cwc.lsu.edu/other/genealogy/>> with links to state archives and information on how to order service records. Also there is a list of unit and unit researchers at <<http://www.cwc.lsu.edu/links/cwsunifo2.htm#index>>

(SMCGS News Vol. 15-5, May 1997.)

● **CANADIAN CENSUS MICROFILM:** Sutro Library has acquired the Canadian censuses of 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, for the provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, New Brunswick, British Columbia, and the Territories. These microfilm censuses may be used on site or loaned to libraries in California.

(SMCGS News, Vol: 15-5, May 1997.)



BOOK REVIEW

by
Dorothy Stanton

THE SOURCE: A Guidebook of American Genealogy Revised Edition. Edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs & Sandra Hargreaves Luebking. Published by Ancestry, Salt Lake City, 1997; 834pp, \$49.95.

First published in 1984, THE SOURCE received the "Best Reference" award from the American Library Association. It was edited by Arlene Eakle and Johni Cerny and quickly became the standard reference in genealogy for its wide scope and depth of coverage of sources for family history research.

In twelve years many collections have expanded and changed and repositories may have shifted. The new editors have updated sources, rewritten and revised some sections and, with larger print and clearer design, made a more readable book. It is still a highly detailed source of a wealth of information.

Two new chapters have been added: "Twentieth Century Research" and "Foundations of Family History Research," an introduction for the novice to basic skills and knowledge. Other changes noted: authors have been changed for some topics and added to others. "Military Records:" is written, in addition to Johni Cerny, by David Thackry and Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck. Kory Meyerink has added Databases to the discussion of Indexes and Other Finding Aids. The Vital Records section (costs have changed from \$3 to \$10-12) adds a phone number for price updates to the information on "where to write."

Other changes include dropping the separate section of Asian-American research and putting it as part of the "Locating Immigration Sources;"

eliminating the list of Jewish Records in the FHL from the section on Jewish research now written by Gary Mokotoff instead of Johni Cerny. George Ryskamp's chapter on "Tracking Hispanic Family History" replaces George J. Nixon's "Genealogical and Historical Sources in the Spanish and Mexican Southwest." The 1984 edition had separate Subject and Bibliographic Indexes. The new one combines the two.

I examined two subjects in more detail to see what had changed. The section on "Directories" has expanded from 18 pages to 25 with more information on professional directories but less on religious directories. The chart on census/directory compatibility is by cities and includes all the census years. The new chart is for the 1910 census, organized by states and then cities, and gives information on whether or not the directories are available in the FHL. The section on Court Records still is 65 pages long and, although rewritten and redesigned, covers the same detailed analysis of legal systems and documents. It follows sample civil, criminal and equity cases through the court process.

In short, if you have room for only one book on genealogical research for your bookshelf, this is the one to buy.

The old edition can be found in the Danville Library Reference Collection or at the Central Library in the Heritage Collection. The new edition can be purchased from Ancestry (when their distribution system is straightened out) or from Frances Lloyd at Genealogical Resources (837-9382). She has copies in stock. You can pick one up at her house or she can bring it to the next meeting.



SRVGS NEWS

● **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** I regret that my two years as president are drawing to a close. I "signed on" with the promise that it would be for only one year. . That year went by so fast I was into the second one before I knew it!! Everyone has been so supportive and congenial. You gave me a great board both years and my committee chairmen were fantastic. These two years have been good for the Society and the board. Committee chairmen and membership can all give themselves a pat on the back. Thank you!

I shall miss most of all ringing
that bell!! — Millie

● **LIBRARY TRIP:** This month, on Tuesday, May 27, we will visit the National Archives. Departure time is 9:00 a.m. from the rear parking lot of the Danville Lucky Market on Diablo Road and from the upper parking lot of the Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. Library trips are a good way to meet Society members and to profit from their expert advice and help.

● **MEMBERSHIP EDUCATION CLASSES:** On Wednesday, May 21 10:00 a.m. at 607 Diablo Road, Danville, MILLIE FREITAS will lead a workshop on how to use the Soundex and both microfiche and microfilm readers. Those who plan to go on the May Library Trip to the National Archives will find this workshop very helpful. There will also be an afternoon class if there is enough interest.

● **BINGER CLASS:** On Thursday, June 26, at 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville, the Education Committee will present a workshop on organization and beginning genealogy. Bring a bag lunch.

The regular class schedule will begin in September.

● At the May General Meeting, members will vote on the following slate.

1997-98 SLATE

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: SHIRLEY TERRY
First Vice President: CAROL GLOVER
Second Vice President: JANE STEINER/
(Program) FRANCES LLOYD
Third Vice President: PATTY ERICKSON/
(Membership) RUSS ERICKSON
Recording Secretary: CAROL THOMPSON
Corresponding Secretary: CLAUDIA MORTENSEN
Treasurer: QUENTIN ALEXANDER

1997-98 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Alliance Representative: FRANCES LLOYD
Book Reviews: DOROTHY STANTON
Cassette Library: BOB & JANE SINGLETON
Education & Classes: VERN SEGELKE,
Chair, CAROL GLOVER & PATTY ERICKSON
Freebie Basket: FRAN SWEITZER
Historian: NANCY ALEXANDER
Hospitality: KAYLENE K ALTEMUS & FRED POTTER
Library Trips: VERN SEGELKE
Newsletter Editor: BETTY VAIL
Newsletter Back-up: DOROTHY STANTON
Newsletter Publication: BARBARA DITTIG, LUCY CARVER
Program Taping: CAROL GLOVER & VERN SEGELKE
Program Reporting: JANE STEINER, BILL ALLEN & FRANK WILLIAMS
Publicity: ED O'DONNELL
Library Acquisitions: JACK JOHNSON, Chair, DOROTHY STANTON, SHIRLEY TERRY, & IRMA DOTSON
Membership Holdings: ALICE TISO
Special Interest Groups: Open

● **JUNE BOARD MEETING:** The June 3rd Board meeting will be a combined meeting of the old and the new Board & Committee Chairs. At this time all job descriptions and materials will be turned over to the new 1997-98 Board. New members will be the Board members' guests for luncheon.

MORE SRVGS NEWS

● **HELP!!!** It takes a lot of people to make the Society run smoothly. For instance, MILLIE FREITAS has agreed to serve as Parliamentarian next year. Since Lois Taylor is moving to Ohio, we need a volunteer to contact the Special Interest Groups each month and to report to the newsletter editor the place and time of their meetings. This is not a demanding job, but it is very helpful to the newsletter editor.

● **OUR VERY OWN BRICK:** At its May meeting the Board voted to buy a brick to help the Museum of the San Ramon Valley restore the 1891 depot on Railroad Avenue in downtown Danville. The 4 x 8" brick, which cost \$125.00, will have the Society's name on it and will be laid at the Depot Courtyard.

● **PROGRAM PLANNING:** The 1997-98 Program Committee will meet on Thursday, June 19, at 10:00 a.m. at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville. Everyone is invited to attend to help plan next year's programs. If you cannot attend the meeting but know of an interesting speaker, let Jane Steiner or Fran Lloyd know.

● **MIDWEST INTEREST GROUP:** The Midwest Interest Group covers the states of OH, IL, IN, MO, KS, NE, IA, MN, MT and the Dakotas. It meets at 10:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Fran Lloyd's. The June 5th meeting will be "open-ended." Bring your midwest research for sharing or just come to listen and learn.

● **GUEST SPEAKER:** President-elect SHIRLEY SIEMS TERRY will be the guest speaker at the May 27 meeting of the Sacramento German Society. She will discuss, among other topics, the naming of the family newsletter, suggestions for information to include in it, and how to seek out sources of suitable material.

● **LIBRARY BOOKS:** JACK JOHNSON reports that about thirty SRVGS books are now on the shelves of the Danville Library. Society members are encouraged to use them. Note too that there is a place on the membership form for next year has a space to indicate that you would like to make a contribution to the Library Acquisition fund.



Don't forget to send in your membership dues. Unless the form is received before July, your name will not appear in the 1997-1998 handbook.

1997-1998 SRVGS MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ - _____ E-mail address _____

Please list two surnames being researched to be listed in our Handbook's Surname Index.

Surname _____ Locale _____ From _____ to _____
Surname _____ Locale _____ From _____ to _____

Individual Membership \$15.00 _____ Family Membership \$20.00 _____

--- Add \$2.00 for postage if you live outside of the Bay Area and are unable to pick up your handbook.

--- Check here if you would like to contribute to the Library Acquisition Fund and add that amount to your check.

Please send this form and your check, made payable to SRVGS, to

PATTY AND RUSS ERICKSON, 10 RIDGE ROAD, PLEASANT HILL, CA 94523-1609

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

ROLL OF HONOR: CIVIL WAR UNION SOLDIERS

"The Roll Of Honor" is the only official memorial to the Union dead ever published. Today it remains the most comprehensive source of information on Civil War fatalities. Genealogical Publishing Company republished "The Roll of Honor", supplementing the government's 27-volume work with the valuable "Index to the Roll of Honor" and "The Unpublished Roll of Honor." The books on this CD reference the names of approximately 191,000 Union soldiers buried in over 300 national cemeteries, garrison cemeteries, lots and private cemeteries. CD #351, \$49.99.

(The Livermore Roots Tracer, Vol. XVI, No. 2, April 1997.)

CIVIL WAR HUMOR

A Monsieur Chillon, a French army veteran who had migrated to California, walked cross-country to war in 1661, through Indian territory accompanied only by his donkey, Jason, with whom he slept.

Chillon was welcomed by the French-speaking 3rd Louisiana of the Confederate Army and settled down. There was one trouble, the regiment's colonel bore a strong resemblance to old Chillon, and at bedtime Jason invariably pushed into the commander's tent and tried to curl up next to the officer, to the joyous yelping of the troops.

(Burke Davis, THE CIVIL WAR Strange & Fascinating Facts, New York: Kings Books) 1994 ed. p 136.)

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL