

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-8305

President: Shirley Terry
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. XIII, No. 4

October, 1997

THIS MONTH

October 21, 1997

Frederick "Rick" Sherman, who has just returned from a month in Kentucky and New England, will speak on KENTUCKY RESEARCH. Rick, a retired UC professor is currently president of the California Genealogical Society. This should be a very interesting program.

— Jane Steiner

LAST MONTH

Reported by Frank Williams

Bette Kot discussed FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND SUTRO LIBRARY, giving tips on more efficient use of the library.

- She handed out a diagram of the shelves at Sutro, showing locations by country or state and by Library of Congress book number.
- When you arrive, use **directionals**, reference books that point to the books with the information you need.
- Familiarize yourself with the way Sutro arranges books on the shelves — they are catalogued by **title**. Broaden your search by first using the LDS subject indexes at your local Family History Center to identify books whose titles do not indicate the contents of interest to you.
- Since Sutro is part of the state library system, the state has prior claim on books. If only one copy of a California book is available, Sacramento will probably have it.
- Sutro primarily buys **major reference books**, such as the *Rider American Genealogical Index* and *PERSI* (an index of 2000 periodicals which

have been acquired by the Fort Wayne IN Library). There are two sets of the Rider indexes which mostly cover New England. The second, newer set, includes more books.

- Sutro also buys large fiche or film collections like the Massachusetts vital records for several generations.
- A quarterly bulletin, "New Arrivals in American Local History and Genealogy," lists all acquisitions for that period. Once a year the bulletin is an index for the year.
- It is wise to have the author and title of the book you want before going to the library. Titles of many books don't describe the contents.
- A copy card, bought at the check-out desk, can bring the cost of xerox copies down as low as 8 cents each.

Bette discussed the location of various special collections.

- Sutro has a card file collection of entries from genealogical queries from the Boston Transcript, filed by surname. These are frequently
- (Continued on page 27.)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



OCTOBER

SRVGS EVENTS

- 21 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting, FREDERICK "RICK" SHERMAN on KENTUCKY RESEARCH.
 27 MONDAY - 1:00 p.m. Member Education Class on the IGI. See page 28.
 28 TUESDAY - 8:30 a.m. Library Trip to Sacramento State Library and Archives. Details on page 28.

OTHER EVENTS

- 14 TUESDAY - 7:30 P-p.m., Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. Speaker will be CLARE JUST, a descendant of Robert Livermore. Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore.
 15 WEDNESDAY - 1:00 p.m. Gen Ass of Sacramento presents DIANE BERRY on INTERPRETIVE CHARACTER THRU HAND WRITING. Belle Coolege Library, 5600 Southland Park Dr., Sacramento. For info: 916-682-8004 or 916-428 - 9264.
 23 THURSDAY - Gen Soc of Santa Cruz presents A DAY WITH HANK Z. JONES. Details in last month's newsletter.

NOVEMBER



SRVGS EVENTS

- 4 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. Board meeting at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & County, Danville. Everyone welcome.
 18 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. General meeting. DAVID ABRAHAMS ON 20th CENTURY IMMIGRATION RECORDS. 7777 Norris Canyon Road.
 19/20 WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY - 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., depending on the number of students. Member Education Class on Federal Census. Details on page 28.
 25 TUESDAY - 9:00 a.m. Library Trip to Federal Archives, San Bruno.

OTHER EVENTS

- 13 THURSDAY - 7:30 p.m. Contra Costa County Genealogical Society meeting, Community Meeting Room, Concord Police Station, 1350 Galindo St., Concord.
 15 SATURDAY - 9:00 a.m.-3:45 p.m. San Mateo County Genealogical Society presents KAREN CLIFFORD. Details below.

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Shirley S Terry 829-1433
 Vice Pres.: Carol Glover 829-7207
 Membership: Patty Erickson 229-0889
 10 Ridge Pl.
 Pleasant Hill CA 94523-1609

Annual dues:

Individual \$15
 Family \$20

Membership year: June 1 to May 31
 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Betty Vail 2833596
 824 Moraga road
 Lafayette CA 94549

Mailing:

Barbara Dittig 648-9364
 Lucy Carver 837-3146

This newsletter is published each
 Month except August and December.

SMCGS FALL SEMINAR PRESENTING KAREN CLIFFORD

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 15, 1997

Sam Trans Building, 1250 San Carlos Avenue,
 San Carlos

1. Finding and Using U.S. Church Records
2. Digging the most out of Land Records
3. Probate: An Untapped Source
4. Accessing Manuscripts

Preregistration \$20 for individuals; \$30 for couples. \$22 at the door. Free parking. Bring your sack lunch or enjoy one of the many restaurants within walking distance. For more information call Lois (415) 341-4038.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SOUTHERN - Meets 2nd Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Next meeting November 11 at Dorothy Stanton's. 501 El Capitan Dr., Danville..

IRISH - Meets 2nd Wednesday 10:00 a.m. at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl., Pleasant Hill. (229-0889)
Next meeting November 12.

CALIFORNIA - Meets with the Irish group.

MAC COMPUTER - Meets 3rd Wednesday 10:00 a.m. No meeting in October.

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

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

INTERNET - To be announced.

(LAST MONTH Continued from page 25.)

referred to in the Rider indexes. These may be easier to locate at the California Genealogical Society which has books with the columns arranged chronologically.

- Sutro has most **census indexes**.
- The library has 10,000 **phone books** on the shelves and on fiche.
- **Vertical Files**, a catchall for items such as articles that can't be shelved, are filed by subject, location and surname.
- Check the **card catalog** — both surname and locality — behind the reference librarians's desk, and if you have a problem, check the older **general card catalog** in the back corner, even though cards have not been added since 1980.
- Periodicals whose titles include a **place**, are filed in the **Periodical File** by place name. Otherwise the periodicals are grouped alphabetically along the left wall.
- Sutro's extensive collection of **City Directories** has been microfilmed. The films are marked by town name and years. They may be catalogued in the **Local History** and **Surname** catalog by state and then locality.
- Also on cards is the San Francisco "**Book of the Dead**", a listing of S. F. deaths covering many years.
- Additional smaller collections include lists of Argonauts (people who came to California to hunt gold and then went back home), Quakers, and those with coats of arms.
- Sutro also has an extensive collection of **DAR Lineage Books** which can be useful.
- The library has two **computer/printer** setups which can be reserved for an hour. A list of available CDs is located at each computer.

REVIEWS

by Dorothy Stanton

RECOMMENDED LISTENING
FROM THE SRVGS TAPE LIBRARY

C-138 "Circumventing Blocked Lines. Strategies for Those Lines You've Given Up On," by Sandra Hargreaves (NGS 1993 Chesapeake Conference in the States at Baltimore MD.)

Most of us have family lines where we seem to have run into a brick wall. Ms. Hargreaves suggests we stand back, take a fresh look and approach the problem from several new angles. She suggests and explains six strategies under the following headings: Regrouping; Quantity vs. Quality of Sources; Sins of Omission; Bullseye Approach; Surrogate or Collateral Approach; and On Site Research. She suggests a seventh: Bring in a professional. But you will need to go through all her strategies in order to present your problem to the genealogists. If you do, you probably won't need the professional.

MUSICAL ROOTS

Combine a nationally known opera singer with an interest in Civil War family history and the result is a musical CD entitled "Epitaph." Tenor Robert Trentham performs songs as his ancestors might have sung them 130 years ago. The music is so authentic that the Civil War Trust in Arlington, Virginia chose selections to be used in its interactive multimedia exhibit, "The Civil War Explorer," at Gettysburg, Antietam, and Prairie Grove, Arkansas. "Epitaph" can be ordered for \$12 plus \$2 p&h from Spring River Music, Box 1408, Lenox Hill Station, New York NY 10021.



SRVGS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoyed your visit to Sutro Library after Bette Kot's informative talk at our September meeting. Remember the upcoming trips to the Sacramento Library on October 28 and the San Bruno Archives on November 25 arranged by Library Trip Coordinator VERNE SEGLEKE.

Only 4 or 5 people attended the organizational meeting for European groups. This was after 38 of you declared an interest including 19 Germans, 16 English, 9 Scandinavians and 8 Scots plus a few others. As a result of the poor attendance, no new groups were formed. We can only suggest that ANYONE willing to host a meeting for any of these groups will have to take the initiative to set up a meeting. You only need to clear the date with CAROL HUVANE, Interest Group Coordinator, and then call newsletter editor BETTY VAIL to have the meeting added to the calendar.

If you are interested in sharing and receiving Internet information, E-mail Robert de Roza at vrदारोza@ix.netcom.com to be added to the SRVGS list. For those who already have E-mail, this is a quick way to share a new site or ask a question related to surfing the net or regarding the society. For those of you who would like to hitch a ride on the information highway, there will be a meeting in early December to address your questions and give some help for getting on-line.

Shirley Siems Terry

NEW MEMBERS

The following members joined soon enough to get their names in the handbook, but we would like to welcome them to SRVGS: FRANCES GROTEFEND, PAT ISOM, COLLEEN JUSTUS, DONOVAN LINESAND, MARILYN TANNER, CLYDE WALDEN and PAT WILLIAMS.

The following members joined at the September meeting. Please add their names and addresses to your handbook.

- BOB & MARY ELLEN BROWN, 24 Sorrel Dr., Danville, CA 94526.
- LORRAINE GILL, 19882 Wisteria St., Castro Valley, CA 94546-4119 (886-3885).
- CAROL GREEN, 66 Edgegate Ct., Danville, CA, 94506-1331 (76-3142).
- BARBARA ANN POLLARD, 7091 Allegheny Dr., Dublin, CA 94568 (829-4249).
- JOHN J. SCHEMBRI, 33 Diablo Creek Place, Danville, CA 94506 (831-9870).

- JOHN & JOHANNA (JO) WALKER, 2928 Deerpark Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94598, (937-2829).

NEW ADDRESSES

- JANICE CLAPP, 4603 Balfour Rd. Space 100, Brentwood, CA 94513 (513-0960).
- GUINEVERE MILLS, 9199 Fircrest Lane, 255, San Ramon, CA 94583 (828-5722).

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE 1997-1998 HANDBOOK

Remember to pick up your handbook at the October meeting. PATTY and RUSS ERICKSON have done a great job publishing it, but there are a few corrections and additions.

- QUENTIN & NANCY ALEXANDER
E-mail addresses: Qmarsden@aol.com
Lxnancy@aol.com

- LOIS TAYLOR's is researching Boswell in NC 1650-1815. Her E-mail address is: lborjftaylor@value.net
- FRANCES GROTEFEND (omit the s in her last name.

MEMBER EDUCATION CLASSES
EXPLANATION OF THE IGI ANCESTRAL FILE AND A TRIP TO LOCAL LDS FHC.
Monday, October 27, 1:00 p.m. and most of the afternoon. The class will meet at VERNE SEGELKE's, 1121 Camino Tassajara, Danville (838-8570), and then adjourn to the local LDS Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.

PREPARING FOR YOUR FEDERAL CENSUS RESEARCH Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at MILLIE FREITAS'S, 607 Diablo Road, Danville. For directions call her at 837-2483. Learn how to find the correct roll of film to view and also get firsthand experience with fiche and microfilm viewers. Those who plan to go on the Library Trip to the National Archives will find this WORKSHOP very helpful.

LIBRARY TRIP

The Sacramento State Library and Archives opens at 9:30. It takes over an hour to drive there. Therefore the Danville group will meet in the parking lot of Lucky's on Diablo Road at 8:30 p.m. The Walnut Creek/Lafayette group may wish to choose a special place to meet. (More SRVGS news on page 31.)



RESEARCH TIPS

BCC ABANDONS TERM

"PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE"

The Board for Certification of Genealogists has announced that it will no longer use the term "preponderance of the evidence", having decided that the term is more confusing than helpful. The board is not changing the requirement, but is rewording it to describe specifically how applicants are to show their ability to handle complex evidence problems, avoiding the words that have caused the confusion.

The term "preponderance of the evidence" was originally borrowed from the legal system, where it describes the standard of proof necessary in civil trials. However, genealogical literature shows that genealogists have come to require a higher level of proof for their conclusions.

Adding to the confusion has been the use of the term to describe how complex evidence problems are resolved, but without general agreement on procedures to be followed or the degree of complexity the term implied.

(NCGS News, Vol. 21, No. 3, Summer 1997.)

RESEARCHING AN AMERICAN PHYSICIAN?

More than two years ago, NGS was contacted by David Grissom, Director of Data Collection for the American Medical Association. His offer was an exciting one — to donate to NGS a large collection of records of deceased American physicians. The offer was gratefully accepted and NGS prepared to receive the records, which were first to be filmed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Unfortunately the filming has taken much longer than expected. NGS has received the first half of the cards — more than one ton of them!

The cards provide the best information for doctors who died between 1906 and 1969. A few earlier cards can be found but these include only the name of a medical school and date of graduation. The post 1906 cards typically include date and place of birth, schools and medical school attended, place of residency and internship, details of license, type of medical practice, and date and cause of death. The records include no information about parents, spouses or children, but those that reference an obituary may lead to family information.

If you are interested on a search of the Deceased Physicians Records, please write:
National Genealogical Society; Attn. AMA Research; 4527 17th Street North; Arlington, VA

22207-2399. Include: first and last name of physician, time period, location (if known).
Research fee: \$15 per name (prepayment required.)

(National Genealogical Society, May/June 1997.)

GOLD FEVER

Oakland's Museum of California is preparing an exhibit of more than 600 historical artifacts pertaining to the history and impact of the Gold Rush in the state. "Gold Fever! The Lure and Legacy of the California Gold Rush" will address both myth and fact as well as introduce new multicultural perspectives.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 10, October 1997.)

CALIFORNIA RESEARCH

1997 *California Family Researcher's Directory* (released in May by CSGA) should be a great asset to anyone. For more information contact Barbara Edkins at (510) 625-0601.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 5, May 1997.)

SPANISH SURNAMES

Unless you understand the system for writing Spanish surnames, you may have difficulty tracing a person with a Spanish ancestry. A person uses the father's surname, but may add the mother's surname too. For example "Maria Garcia y Soler" means Maria's father's surname is Garcia and (y) her mother's surname is Soler. Her unmarried brother would be "Jose Garcia y Soler." After marriage he would probably not use his mother's surname. A married woman uses her maiden name, followed by her husband's surname — "Maria Garcia de (property of) Menzel." She could also write her name as "Maria Garcoa y Soler de Menzel."

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 8, August 1997.)

QUAKER ROOM

The Whittier College Library has a "Quaker Room" which is open by appointment only. If you are looking for your Quaker ancestor, you might want to give it a try. They have 175,107 books, 400 microfilm, 21,000 microfiche, a Society of Friends Depository Library, a Quaker Necrology, and Quaker genealogies. The library is located at 7031 Founders Hill Rd., Whittier, CA. Call ahead to find out when the records are available.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 10, Oct., 1997.)



IN THE SPIRIT OF HALLOWEEN

RESEARCHING IN CEMETERIES

HELPFUL BOOKS

† The *United States Cemetery Address Book* by Bette G. Kot and James D. Kot, is among the SRVGS holdings at the Danville Library.

† *The Funeral Director's Yellow Book*, arranged geographically by state and city, lists the names and addresses of funeral homes throughout the US and Canada and some international locations. The full-sized edition also includes addresses for newspapers in the US and Canada as well as a national hospital directory and VA information.

† The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution have published the first volume of *Revolutionary War Graves Register* and are accumulating information for the next volume. Write to SAR National Headquarters, Grave Registry - Revolutionary Graves Committee, 1000 South Fourth St., Louisville, KY 40203 for a form to complete.

PHOTOGRAPHING GRAVESTONES

To enhance gravestone photographs, use only inert or natural materials such as talc or powdered limestone (crushed TUMS works OK) for dark-colored stones. DO NOT use shaving cream, blackboard chalk or soil. These contain acids that can damage stones. For more information, check out the Association for Gravestone Studies webpage:

<http://www.history.rochester.edu/ags.html>

(CCCGS Newsletter, Vol. 10, No. 5, May 1995.)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Initials after ancestors' names may provide useful information. The following are a few of the puzzling letters found in old wills or other documents.

- a.s.s. Died in the year of (his, her) age.
- d.s.p. Died without issue.
- d.s.p.l. Died without legitimate issue.
- d.s.p.m. Died without male issue.
- d.s.p.m.s. Died without surviving male issue.
- d.s.p.s. Died without surviving issue.
- d.unm Died unmarried.
- d.v.p. Died in the lifetime of his father.
- d.v.m. Died in the lifetime of his mother.

(SLOCOS Newsletter, Vol. 26, No. 2, Summer 1993.)

ON CEMETERIES

A cemetery is an area of land set aside for the burial and memorialization of the dead.

A graveyard is a small, old-fashioned burying place. Graveyards were generally adjuncts of old, not abandoned, community churches or special burying fields set aside by small towns or townships. Today some are overgrown with weeds and the stone markers are in decay.

Kinds of cemeteries —

† **Traditional** - a cemetery in which stones or markers may rise above the level of the ground.

† **Memorial garden** - a cemetery generally consisting of open lawns with no upright monuments or memorials; they are level with the grass.

† **Columbarium** - a building for the housing of cremated remains of and memorialization of the departed.

† **Mausoleum** - a building for the housing and memorialization of the dead.

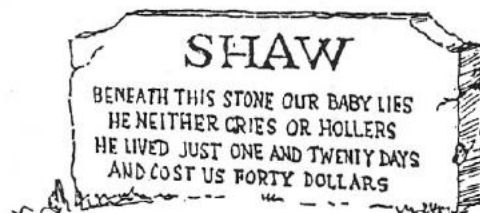
† **Family Mausoleum** - a building for the housing and memorialization of the dead of a family.

† **Community Mausoleum** - a building for the housing and memorialization of the dead for numerous families.

† **Garden Crypt** (out of doors community mausoleum) - a building for the housing and memorialization of the dead. The crypts face into courtyards or open lawn and halls.

(NE State Genealogical Society Newsletter, Spring 1996)

† Note: A **Cenotaph** is an empty tomb or a monument erected in honor of a person buried elsewhere. You may find more than one cenotaph for an ancestor.



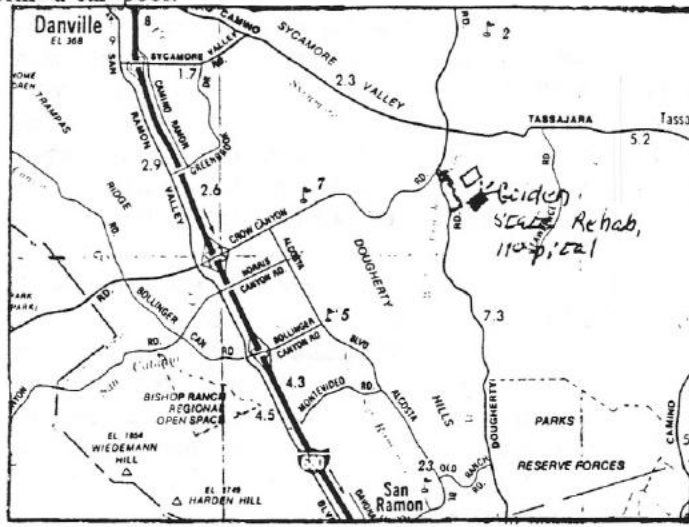
FROM A CEMETERY IN
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

(Contributed by Frances Becker.)

DIRECTIONS TO THE GOLDEN STATE REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

NEED A RIDE? A MAP?

If you need help getting to the meetings, call Patty Erickson 229-0889. She may be able to help you form a car pool.



From the north: Take 680 south. Exit Crow Canyon Rd. Turn left (east). Go to Alcosta Blvd. Turn right. At the first traffic light, turn left onto Norris Canyon Rd. and follow the signs up the hill. The Rehabilitation Hospital is the second large building.

From the south: Take 680 north. Exit Bolinger Canyon Rd. Turn right (east). Go to Alcosta Blvd. Turn left. At Norris Canyon Rd, turn right and follow the signs up the hill.

There is parking on both sides of the hospital. You may use the service entrance at the back of the building.

We are lucky to have such a large, attractive room in which to hold our meetings. Both the San Ramon Medical Center and the Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital need volunteers. If you would like to offer your services, please contact Carole Burns, Director of Services 275-8291.

JANUARY MEETING

Have you had a wonderful genealogical breakthrough? Do you have an amazing story to share? Our January meeting will be members' 10-minute success stories. If you would like to participate, call JANE STEINER 283-0867.

CORRECTION

DENISE SCHOO's name was misspelled in the last newsletter. (It is spelled correctly in the handbook!)

RESEARCHING ON THE INTERNET

THE INTERNET FOR GENEALOGISTS: A Beginner's Guide by Barbara A. Renick and Richard S. Wilson. This beginners book helps you understand the Internet, teaches you about getting online and includes Internet resources for genealogists. \$15.95 plus \$3.00 s/h. CA residents add \$1.39 tax. Order from Compuology, 330 Serna Dr., La Habra, CA 90631-2801; phone (562) 690-3467; fax (562) 690-5180 or E-mail: sales@compuology.com (CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 5, May 1997.)

FLORIDA: The University of South Florida, Tampa Campus Library offers online marriage records and other records including pages taken from the Special Collections Department of the University Library. The website address is: <http://www.lib.usf.edu/speccoll/genea.html> (CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 7, July 1997.)

The following is from NET-WORKING, compiled and written by Linda Scott Lilles, <http://www.AskQuailind.com-quailind@netwizards.net>

Source List for Genealogy Research by Don B. Dale — This is a good site to bookmark to check these resources when you have time. They cover vital records, cemeteries/obituaries, libraries, maps, telephone lists, surnames, states, programs, military, government, publishing, and more: <http://www.ukans.edu/heritage/research/dbd/html>

Cindy's Southern Genealogy and Helpful Links — You may view transcribed online censuses of selected southern counties. There are links to southern families, surnames, and Homepages. <http://members.aol.com/Cindy14/index.html> (SMCGS News, Vol. 15-9, October 1997.)

A GENEALOGIST AT WORK

Researching for her latest book, *Religious Liberty on Trial*, SRVGS member MURIEL JAMES experienced many of the frustrations that plague the serious genealogist.

She first became interested in the life of Hanserd Knollys when her niece, who wanted to join the DAR, asked her to help find some documents for the Knowles family who settled in Hampton, New Hampshire, in 1660.

The first problem she encountered was the variety of ways in which the name could be spelled at a time when records were kept by clergy who, as Muriel points out, "recorded what was reported to them orally and then wrote down what they heard, or thought they heard, spelling words phonetically."

She found a microfilm of an old parish record that showed a John Knowles was baptized by his father, the Rev. Hanserd Knollys, in Lincolnshire, England.

In search of Knollys' manuscripts and other information, Muriel went to England to look for primary records and to confirm or correct data in secondary sources. In the archives of the British Museum in London she read, under the watchful eyes of a guard, Knolly's very short

biography. Since other short articles and books about him did not show his life in the wider context of history, Muriel decided to study national and local history and search for civil and ecclesiastical documents to discover more about the chain of events that led to his extraordinary life. She was able to locate his grandmother's will; parish records of birth, marriages, and deaths; poll and land taxes; customs and excise records; and original records from schools and universities.

Muriel has written more than the biography of a man who lived by faith through almost the entire seventeenth century when violence was very common against those who spoke in favor of religious freedom. She has explored not only how a person is shaped by his environment but also how an individual can affect local and national history.

Muriel ends her introduction with the comment that "As for me, Hanserd Knollys captured my admiration, and whether he is one of my ancestors or not, I am grateful for a kinship of spirit."

Religious Liberty on Trial will be in print this month and should be in local book stores soon.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL