

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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

President: Shirley Siems 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 5

November/December 1997

THIS MONTH

November 18, 1997

David Abrahams, President of Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society and Regional Director of CSGA, will speak on 20TH CENTURY IMMIGRATION RECORDS, describing what is available from INS (Immigration & Naturalization Service), and how to access it.

LAST MONTH

Reported by Jane Steiner

Rick Sherman began his presentation with a brief account of Kentucky's early history, pointing out that there were few settlers in the area before the Revolutionary War. Soldiers who had fought there in earlier wars brought back accounts of the country, causing a surge of people from Virginia, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania and North Carolina after the Revolution. These settlers discovered that land was more expensive than they'd heard; speculators had bought huge tracts of land. The hunting was good for a while, but after a decade or two, the animals were depleted. The soil was fertile, but there was no market for the crops because everyone grew the same produce. The best available market was New Orleans, not part of the United States. Since business transactions were largely on credit, the economy fluctuated. Many families didn't stay long. After two or three generations they moved to Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi, Louisiana or, later, Texas.

What makes Kentucky research special? It's often hard to learn where your ancestors came

from. Rick suggested these places to look.

1. The 1850 census which listed birth place for the first time.
2. Revolutionary pension records might tell where the soldier enlisted.
3. Land records and powers of attorney. A father in Virginia might send a power of attorney to his son in Kentucky to buy or sell land for him.
4. Probate records might refer to properties the settler owned elsewhere.
5. People who settled in Kentucky may not have paid their bills before they left their homes, especially if they owed a *Tory*. In time these Tories complained to the Crown. A series of articles in the *Virginia Genealogist* was based on public records in England of complaints from merchants in Virginia who were owed money.

Early settlers were involved mostly in hunting, farming, salt mining or lawyering. Lawyers were kept busy settling land disputes and collecting debts. Conflicting claims generated

(Continued on page 35.)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER



SRVGS EVENTS

- 18 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. Regular meeting. DAVID ABRAHAMS on 20TH CENTURY IMMIGRATION RECORDS, Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital, 7777 Norris Canyon Road.
- 19/20 WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY - 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Membership class on Federal Census. Details on page 36.
- 25 TUESDAY - 9:00 a.m. Library Trip to Federal Archives, San Bruno.

OTHER EVENTS

- 13 THURSDAY - 7:30 p.m. Contra Costa Co. Gen. Soc. meeting, Community Meeting room, Concord Police Station, 1350 Galindo St., Concord.
- 15 SATURDAY - 9:00 a.m.-3:45 p.m. San Mateo Co. Gen. Soc. presents Karen Clifford. Details in last month's newsletter.



DECEMBER



DON'T
FORGET!

SRVGS EVENTS

- 2 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. You are all invited to the COOKIE EXCHANGE which replaces the December Board Meeting. It will be held at Fran Lloyd's home, 210 Town & Country, Danville. Bring a dish of your favorite cookies and take home a selection of your choice! It's a great way to begin the holidays.
- 4 THURSDAY - PRE-Internet Membership Class. Details on page 36.



JANUARY

SRVGS EVENTS

- 6 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville. Everyone welcome.
- 20 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. SRVGS regular meeting, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Five members will share their GENEALOGICAL BREAKTHROUGHS.
- 27 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. trip to the Oakland Main Library.

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 9452-1609

Annual dues:

Individual \$15

Family \$20

Membership year: June 1 to May 31

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Betty Vail 283-3596

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Barbara Dittig 648-3146

Lucy Carver 837-3146

This newsletter is published each month except August and December.

TO REACH THE SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

From the North: Driving south on 680, take the Crow Canyon exit. Turn left onto Crow Canyon EAST. Turn right onto Alcosta Blvd., then left onto Norris Canyon Rd. and immediately right. Drive past the San Ramon Regional Medical Center buildings to the last building, the Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital 7777 Norris Canyon Rd.

From the South: Driving north on 680 take either the Alcosta or Bollinger Canyon Rd. exit. If on Alcosta, continue straight to Norris Canyon Rd.; if on Bollinger Canyon Road, turn left onto Alcosta and continue to Norris Canyon Rd. Turn right and right again. Drive past the Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital where the SRVGS meets.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



SOUTHERN - Meets 2nd Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Next meeting January 13 at

IRISH - Meets 2nd Wednesday 10:00 a.m. at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl., Pleasant Hill. (229-0889)
Next meeting January 14.

CALIFORNIA - Meets with the Irish group.

MAC COMPUTER - Meets 3rd Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Next meeting November 19 at Barbara Dittig's, 366 Jacaranda Dr., Danville. January meeting on the 21st. Place to be announced.

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 - Interested members should contact Robert De Roza by E-mail at vrदारोza@ix.netcom.com to be added to the SRVGS list.

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deeds, available in the county deed books. Interesting details of the fight may be found in the circuit court records for that county. Circuit courts dealing with chancery or equity matters as well as criminal cases, moved throughout several neighboring counties. County court records have been published, but most circuit court records have not been.

In 1775 there was just Kentucky County (Virginia); in 1870 there were three counties; in 1792 Kentucky became a state; and by 1800 it had 40 counties. It is important to know the genealogy of the counties. Without moving an ancestor might have lived in four or five jurisdictions.

Before 1852 there were no laws requiring registration of vital records. Even then they were often not adhered to. It was not until 1911 that records were seriously maintained.

Places to look for earlier birth and death records are tombstones, newspapers, old letters and probate records. Land records are a bonanza because they include survey maps of disputed land. Court record order books, which record the legal housekeeping of the county, may list an ancestor as a temporary employee, juror, administrator, etc.

Kentucky has many genealogical societies which publish censuses, marriage records, and cemetery inscriptions. The Margaret King Library at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, has a large Kentucky newspaper project.

Mr. Sherman's handout listed a bibliography for Kentucky research as well as the names and addresses of repositories, calling special attention to the Kentucky Historical Society and Kentucky State Archives in Frankfort and the Filson Club in Louisville.

REVIEW

by Dorothy Stanton

THE FRANK, SMITH PROJECT —INVENTORY OF GENEALOGICAL SOURCES for the **BRITISH ISLES**: England, FHL #6110526 (96 fiche); Ireland, #6110572 (18 fiche); Scotland, #6110528 (18 fiche); Wales, #6110529 (14 fiche).

The project is named for the man who saw the need for more detailed information on the British collections at the Family History Library and who saw it through to completion after 10 years of work by thousands of volunteers. The FHL catalog gives only brief descriptions of what you can find in books, periodicals, film and fiche. This analytical index provides a locator for items hidden within printed (and sometimes unpublished) material.

Most of these sources are not well known to amateur genealogists and might be overlooked. The fiche listed above provide a subject listing by countries, followed by a range of years, then a reference for locating the information. In some cases where the reference is to material not at the FHL, the libraries are listed. FHL numbers are given for items available on loan to local Family History Centers.

If you think you have exhausted all the usual sources (census, vital records, etc.) this is the place to look for the "next step." It would be an excellent place to start when preparing to visit the FHL in Salt Lake.

The Family History Center on Stone Valley road in Alamo now has the fiche for England. The others are on order and should be added in the next couple of months.



SRVGS NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- PEGGY DUENSING, 162 Tweed Dr., Danville, CA 94526 (820-3790) researching Rey in France 1870-1941.
- SUZANNE JOHNSTON, 145 Gil Blas Rd., Danville, CA 94526-2813 researching Swindle in England 1650-1850 and Johnson in VA and England 1850.
- CHARLA MAULDIN, 227 Chestnut Ct., San Ramon, CA 94583 (828-2945) researching Mann in WA, WV 1700's and Engle in OR, MO, WV, PA 1720 to present.
- LESLIE ANN PFEIFFER, 9 Williams Dr., Moraga, CA 94556 (376-1946) researching McKnight in TN 1780 and Doyle in TN 1830.

NEW ADDRESS

- PATRICIA JOHNSON, 743 Ynez Circle, Danville, CA 94526.



LIBRARY TRIP

On November 25th, the library trip will be to the National Archives in San Bruno, one of our favorite — and most rewarding sites. As usual we will meet in the back parking lot of the Lucky Store on Diablo Road in Danville or in the upper parking lot of the Orchard Nursery at 9:00 a.m. Those who have attended Millie's class will be well prepared for a successful day.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fund Balances (10/31/97)	
General Fund Balance	2,648.54
Hospitality Fund Balance	210.00
Publications Fund Balance	623.16
Tape Library Fund Balance	164.61
Library Fund: Gifts & Donations	<u>1,526.49</u>
Overall Total Balance:	5,372.80
— Quentin Alexander	

MEMBER CLASSES

VERNE SELKE's class on the IGI Ancestral File and field trip to the local LDS was very successful. In fact, he had to schedule two sessions.

On Wednesday, November 19 and Thursday, November 20, at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. MILLIE FREITAS will conduct sessions on preparing for a federal census research at her home, 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. This will be very helpful for anyone planning to go to the National Archives this month.

On Thursday, December 4, at 10:00 a.m. at the Terry home, 301 Almond Court, San Ramon, JACK CARVER will present a PRE-Internet Membership Education Class. Go south on 680 to the Bollinger Canyon exit. Move quickly to the left lane. Turn left onto San Ramon Valley Road and left onto Pine Valley. Turn right on Broadmore to Almond Ct.

JANUARY MEETING

If you would like to share an exciting genealogical breakthrough at the January meeting, call JANE STEINER 283-0867.

CURRENT LEGISLATION

Iris Carter Jones reports no activity by Assemblywoman Napolitano. Assemblywoman Bowen's bill on electronic access to identifiable public records was vetoed by the Governor. Senator Kopp's bill concerning public records was also vetoed by the Governor. A symposium on Fraud and Vital Records was held in Southern California. No decisions were reached. Another symposium is planned for next year.

— Millie Freitas





RESEARCHING ACROSS THE US

● **CALIFORNIA:** Genealogical resources found in the California State Archives, 1020 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95841 include:

***Census Schedules** 1852 State, 1860 and 1880 Federal, filed alphabetically by county name. Includes name, age, sex, occupation, birthplace and last residence. 1852 DAR Index on microfilm. 1860 printed index and 1880 Soundex are available.

***Common School Reports** 1862-1960

***County Records** 1850-1987

Military Records 1850-1942

***Prison Records** 1850-1945

Supreme and Appellate Court Cases 1850-1970

Articles of Incorporation 1850-1960

Trademarks 1861-DATE

Departments of Professional and Vocational Standards/Consumer Affairs-Licensing Files 1885-1968

*Some records available on microfilm which can also be obtained through interlibrary loan.

CALIFORNIA: Placer County Archives was transferred from the Records Management Section of the County Administration Department to the Department of Museums, which will now staff and manage the Archives located at 11437 D Avenue, Dewitt Center, Auburn. The Archives houses historical county documents including early probate files; land, court, board of supervisors, accessors, and coroners records; early maps; newspapers; great registers and other area resources.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 7, July 1997.)

ILLINOIS: Two Lee County societies, one historical and the other genealogical, manage a research center at 113 Madison Avenue in Dixon. Holdings include a microfilmed collection of Lee County newspapers as well as books, maps, databases, and periodicals. Communications can be addressed to the center at PO Box 63, Dixon IL 61021-0063.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 7, July 1997.)

IOWA: Maps of all counties in Iowa can be purchased from the Iowa Dept. of Transportation, Accounting Cashier, Office of Inventory, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames IA 50010. These maps are very detailed, showing roads, rivers and streams, townships, towns, rural dwellings, section lines, churches and cemeteries. Request

a "Highway and Transportation Map" order form. If you want a map showing landmarks, ask for "old style" maps which have a scale of 1/2"=1 mile. The maps are \$.75 each.

(CCCGS Newsletter, Vol. 12, No. 7, July 1997.)

OKLAHOMA: Many of the 1890 census records were destroyed by a fire in 1921. There is, however, an 1890 Oklahoma Territorial Census available which was not destroyed in the fire.

(SCHGS Newsletter, Vol. 42, Issue 9, Oct. 1997.)

● **MASSACHUSETTS:** Broderbund/Banner Blue has released a CD titled "Marriage Index, Massachusetts, 1633-1850." This Family Archive CD identifies the names of both spouses, the date of marriage, and the location of the marriage. Records indexed may not be comprehensive for the time and region covered. An alphabetical name index is included. CD #231, \$29.99.

(The Livermore Roots Tracer, Vol. XVII. No. 4, October 1997.)

● **NEW YORK:** *Ancestry*, Vol. 15, No. 4, Jul-Aug 1997 features an article by Ted Naanes entitled, "Exploring the National Archives in New York City." This article discusses the wealth of information available at the facility, located at 201 Varick Street. Among the records available are the New York Vice Admiralty records which contain data on the social life and language of colonial America, admiralty case files, records documenting the slave trade, and ship sinking. Along with other records not cited in this notice, the holdings include Naturalization records, Chinese immigrant records, Veterans Administration records, U.S. Court Records, U.S. Customs Service documents, and records of the Internal Revenue Service.

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

WISCONSIN: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has the second largest collection of newspapers in the United States, surpassed only by the Library of Congress. It is national and spans the period from the 17th century to the present. More than 4000 titles are included and many are microfilmed and available by Interlibrary Loan.

(SMCGS Newsletter, Vol. 15, Issue 10, November-December 1997)

RESEARCHING AROUND THE WORLD

EUROPE: The first census for France was 1801, Saxony was 1815, Austria 1815, Bavaria 1818, Prussia 1810, Spain 1789, Great Britain 1815, Norway 1815, Sweden 1749, Greece 1839 and Switzerland 1860.

(The Livermore Roots Tracer, Vol. XVII, NO. 4, October 1997.)

CANADA: Canada Post's addressing standards include the following. Use upper case letters on all lines. Omit the # sign and punctuation, such as commas. The postal code should be separated from the name of the province by at least two spaces. Use the following two-letter codes, rather than spell out the full name.

AB Alberta
NS Nova Scotia
BC British Columbia
ON Ontario
MB Manitoba
PE Prince Edward Island
NB New Brunswick
PQ Quebec
NF Newfoundland
SK Saskatchewan
NT Northwest Territories
YT Yukon

(FGS Forum, Vol. 9, No. 2, Summer 1997.)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: If you have Czech ancestry, then you should check out the Czech Ancestry Club Website. Queries are free, and they give instruction for posting. Their URL is:

<http://www.muselik.com.cac>

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

ENGLAND/WALES: Birth, death and marriage indexes for England and Wales which were previously located at St. Catherine's House, London, have been moved to: the Family Record Centre, 1 Myddelton Street, London, EC1R 1JW (phone 0171-233-9233). The census records for England and Wales, formerly stored at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London, were also moved to the Myddelton Street address. Cost of a certificate is six pence if you provide exact information as to date, location, names of parents, etc. of the event. There may be extra charges if the information you provide is not complete. When ordering a certificate, an International money draft is required. When writing to England, don't forget to enclose at least two international reply coupons for postage costs.

(CCCGS Newsletter, Vol. 12, No. 7, July 1997.)

GERMANY: If your ancestor emigrated through the port of Hamburg, he/she may have lived and worked in that city for up to six months while awaiting passage. The Hamburg Police Reports would record when he registered with the police upon arrival. These reports have been micro-filmed and indexed by the LDS and are available at LDS Family History Centers.

(SMCHGS Newsletter, Vol. 42, Issue 9, October 1997.)

WEST INDIES: The Internet West Indies Surname List is organized by West Indian country. There is no charge for submitting or subscribing. Distribution is by e-mail. The last issue contained 2,905 surname entries from 554 researchers covering 38 West Indian countries. If you would like to have a copy of the last issue, the list can be downloaded from my Web site: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/vroyal> How to Submit. Send me, Vaughn Royal, a message at vroyal@compuserve.com, including:

1. Your name.
2. Your e-mail address (only one, please)
3. Your location (city, state/province/parish).
4. For each surname you are researching:
 - a. Surname (including spelling variations)
 - b. West Indian country, (if not known, you may use "West Indies")
 - c. Locality in which surname is of interest if known (e.g. parish, county, department, region, etc.)
 - d. The time frame for which you have information (limited to 12 characters; please be concise).
5. Subscription method: either "Subscribe E-Mail" (meaning you want to automatically receive issues of the Surname Lists by e-mail) or "Subscribe Web Page" (meaning you will retrieve issues of the Surname List from my web page). If you do not specify, I will assume you want an e-mail subscription.

(SMCHGS News, Vol. 15, Issue 6 July-Aug. 1997.)

The following items appeared in the Congregational Community Church Communicator, November 3, 1996:

For those who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Wednesday the ladies liturgy will meet. Mrs. Johnson will sing "Put me in my little bed" accompanied by the pastor.

RESEARCHING ON THE INTERNET

CSGA WEB SITE HOME PAGE URL:

<http://feefths.org.csga/frg-csga.html>

CALIFORNIA STATE ARCHIVES

http://www.ss.ca.gov/archives/archives_home.htm

GENEALOGICAL LINKS: For access to over 16,000 genealogical links try Cyndi's Genealogical Page at:

<http://www.oz.net/~cyndihow/sites.htm>

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 7, July 1997.)

MIKE RICE'S HELP LIST: This is a list of volunteers who will look up information in reference sources close to them. It is broken down by country and state. Be sure to follow the instructions. The idea is to have it work as a cooperative. If you make a request, then you might offer to do look ups in a source that is available to you. It is expected you would reimburse the researcher for copy costs and postage.

GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY ONLINE:

This is part of an attractive site by Dorothy Stanley at <http://www.electriciti.com/~dotts/dictum.html#DICT>. She has a wonderful "dictionary" of historic names of diseases, occupations, Latin terms used in genealogy, and much more. Look around her site if you have Iowa or Ohio ancestors. She has addresses and some links for genealogical and historical societies from these two states.

From "Net-Working" by Linda Scot Lilles in SMCBS News, Vol. 15, Issue 6, July-August 1997.)

ADDRESSEES AND PHONE NUMBERS: A searchable database for listings in telephone books in the U.S.

<http://www.switchboard.com>

AT&T 800 DIRECTORY: Guide of 800 numbers, brought to you by AT&T; browse by category, by name, or search by key words.

<http://www.tollfree.att.net/dir800/>

(CCCGS Newsletter, Vol. 12, No. 7, July 1997.)

MAPS ON THE INTERNET: "Mapquest" will allow you to type in an address in the U.S. and see a street map of the location. Mapquest also has street maps of many major cities worldwide, including London, Berlin, Sydney — just to name a few.

<http://www.mapquest.com>

(The Livermore Roots Tracer, Vol. XVII, No. 4, October 1997.)

GENEALOGY MERIT BADGE

One of the most popular Boy Scout merit badges is Genealogy. Over 120 have been issued by our district office since it was introduced two years ago. Would you be able to earn one? Here are the requirements.

1. Explain the meaning of *genealogy* and *genealogical resources*.
2. Begin a pedigree chart with yourself and fill it in as far as you can at the beginning of your project. Add additional names, dates, or places that you find.
3. Show yourself as a child on a family group record form, and show one of your parents as a child on another family record form.
4. Interview an older relative to obtain information about your family. This interview may be in person, by telephone, or by letter. Add any information obtained to your pedigree chart and family group records.
5. Obtain at least one genealogical document showing proof of some information on your pedigree chart or family group research. The document may be located in your home, a courthouse, an archive or library, etc.
6. Tell how you would evaluate genealogical information.
7. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Do a time line for yourself or a close relative.
 - b. Keep a journal for 6 weeks, writing it at least once weekly.
 - c. Write a short history of yourself or a relative.
9. Contact ONE of the following and ask a question relating to its genealogical services or activities. Report the results.
 - a. A lineage society
 - b. A surname organization
 - c. A professional genealogist
 - d. A genealogical education facility or institution
 - e. A genealogical record repository of any type (courthouse, genealogical library, state archives, state library, national archives, etc.)
10. Tell where you would find current information about genealogical records and research methods.

The genealogy merit badge pamphlet contains information on organizing and gathering information, current developments, major genealogical organizations an extensive bibliography.

If you would be interested in becoming a genealogy merit badge counselor, contact Quentin Alexander, retired Scout Executive.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Why are we handicapped and need special consideration? Because, forgetting about e-mail and the Internet, we were born before television, polio shots, frozen foods, plastic, contact lenses, zippers, Frisbees or the pill. We existed before radar, credit cards, split atoms, ball point pens; before dishwashers, dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry cloths — and before man walked on the moon. We got married first, then lived together, (how quaint can you be?) We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent. We existed before computer dating and dual careers. Meaningful relationships meant getting along with cousins. Coke was something you drank, grass was mowed and pot was something you cooked in. The term "making out" referred to how you did on an exam, and "going all the way" meant you rode to the end of the street car line. Before 1941, made in Japan meant junk, a gay person was the life and soul of the party, and any classy sports car had a rumble seat. So, please treat us with respect. We are an endangered specie, a distinct minority.



HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY!



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FIRST CLASS MAIL