

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-8305
President: Shirley Terry
Editor: Denise Schoo
Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tues. of month
(except August & December)
Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital
7777 Norris Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA

Vol. XIII No. 7

February 1998

THIS MONTH

February 17, 1998

Shirley Riemer
German Research

LAST MONTH

Reported by Fran & Bob Schweitzer

Interesting research stories were given by the following members:

Robert Da Roza was looking for a grandfather whom he believed was from the Azores. A church document (confirmation, age 11) gave another location of his whereabouts. While on a tour in Portugal Robert was able to go to the church where his grandparent was baptized. From there he was directed to another location where he was able to search church records. With the help of an interpreter, he found several generations of ancestors.

Patty Erickson had done extensive research on her family in Indiana, but there were bits and pieces missing. While at a Texas library Patty found the actual probate pertaining to her family. With the added names in the probate, she got marriage records and the parents names. The family had moved from the east coast to Indiana and Ohio, which explained why they were not be in the census. Property, land purchase, tax and estate records completed a migration pattern and several leaves of her family tree.

Denise Schoo had only a copy of her great grandfathers will when she started her research a year ago. She started with the trust company, who had handled the will, and obtained the death date. Being comfortable with computers she tried the internet.

She was lucky to find a volunteer in the state she was researching in and two other researchers, with a common surname, who went out of their way to help her. After a year she has had much success as well as three additional computer friends.

Lee Garrison was told that her father died when she was eighteen months old. Lee felt that she and her mother were very close, however, when her mother passed on she found her parents marriage certificate and a record that her father had passed away at the age of fifty-one. The marriage certificate revealed her grandparents name and the location of Webb City. She went to that area and obtained even more records, thus adding to her family tree.

Manny Lindner has been searching for his grandfather for sometime. Manny got in touch with distant cousins in New York, but was unable to make a positive connection of relationship. In the meantime he became good friends with one of the relatives. Sometime later they sent a lot of pictures, documents and internal passport. Glued to the back of a picture was a business card identifying the grandfathers business in San Francisco between 1859 and 1874. There was also a letter written by his grandmother to her in-laws which provided the family connection.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR**February****SRVGS EVENTS**

- 3 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., Board Meeting at Fran's Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville. All members welcome.
- 17 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., General Meeting, 777 Norris Canyon Road, Shirley Riemer on GERMAN RESEARCH
- 20 FRIDAY - Beginning Computer Class, at the home of Denise Schoo, 924 Woodland Dr., San Ramon, 830-1235. Details page 52.
- 24 TUESDAY - 9:00 a.m., Library trip to Sutro. 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 in Lafayette at 9:30 a.m.

OTHER EVENTS

- 10 TUESDAY - 7:30 p.m., Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore
- 12 THURSDAY - 7:30 p.m., Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord. Show and tell WHERE YOUR ANCESTORS WERE A HUNDRED YEARS AGO. Details page 53.
- 28 SATURDAY - 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., San Mateo County Genealogical Society presents GEORGE SCHWEITZER in an all-day seminar. Details page 53.

March**SRVGS EVENTS**

- 3 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., Board Meeting at Fran's Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville. All members welcome.
- 17 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., General Meeting, 777 Norris Canyon Road, SRVGS Irish Interest Group will present a panel on their experiences with research.
- 24 TUESDAY - 9:00 a.m., Library trip to the Napa Genealogical Library. 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 in Lafayette at 9:30 a.m.
- 31 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., Probate class.

OTHER EVENTS

- 10 TUESDAY - 7:30 p.m., Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore.
- 21 SATURDAY - 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Sonoma County Genealogical Society Spring Seminar presents SANDRA HARGEAVES LUEBKING. Details page 53.
- 27 FRIDAY - 12:00 p.m., The California Genealogical Society's Centennial Family History Fair, A CENTURY OF PROSPECTING FOR ANCESTORS, Concourse Exhibition Hall, San Francisco. Details page 53.
- 28 SATURDAY - 12:00 p.m., The California Genealogical Society's Centennial Family History Fair, A CENTURY OF PROSPECTING FOR ANCESTORS, Concourse Exhibition Hall, San Francisco. Details page 53.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SOUTHERN - Meets 2nd Tuesday, February 10th, 10:00 a.m., Peggy Dearman, 749 Morninghome Dr., Danville, 837-1621. Next meeting, March 10th Place to be announced. Call Francis Becker, 934-4962, for information.

IRISH - Meets 2nd Wednesday, February 11th, 10:00 a.m., Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl., Pleasant Hill, 229-0889. Next meeting March 11th. Place to be announced.

CALIFORNIA - Meets with the Irish group.

MAC COMPUTER - Meets the Wednesday after the general meeting, February 18th, 10:00 a.m., Barney Rubin, 447 Woodbine Ln., Danville, 838-7238. Next meeting March 18th. Place to be announced. Call Barbara Dittig, 648-9364, for information.

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

ROOTS USERS - Learning to use Palladium Family Tree, will meet in Room AB, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, Tuesday following the general meeting.

INTERNET - Interested members should contact Robert DaRoza by e-mail, vrdafoza@ix.netcom.com, to be added to the SRVGS list.

OFFICERS TO CONTACT

President: Shirley Terry, 829-1433

Vice President: Carol Glover, 829-7207

Membership: Patty Erickson, 229-0889

10 Ridge Place

Pleasant Hill, CA 9452-1609

Annual Dues:

Individual \$15

Family \$20

Membership year: June 1 to May 31

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Denise Schoo

924 Woodland Drive

San Ramon, CA 94583

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Barbara Dittig 648-9364

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This newsletter is published each month except August and December.

REVIEWS

Dorothy Stanton

SRVGS LIBRARY COLLECTION (Danville Reference Shelves)

German-English Genealogical Dictionary [R929.103 Thode] by Ernest Thode. GPC 1992

Words are listed under categories such as family relationships, days of the week and months, ordinal and cardinal numbers, legal terms, etc. Also useful are maps with historical territories and place names, including Latin versions. Male and female given names are listed with Latin forms also. Another useful category: common genealogical words from Danish, Dutch, French (used during the Napoleonic period), Latin and Polish.

Address Book for Germanic Genealogy [R929.10893 Thode] by Ernest Thode. GPC 1997.

An indispensable source for researchers of German, Austrian, Swiss and other German-speaking areas of Europe, this 6th edition has been updated to include the new five-digit German postal codes. The book starts with German-American sources (societies, archives, booksellers, religious organizations and newspapers.) The sources in Germany and related countries are even more extensive. Also included: a list of genealogists specializing in German research; German genealogy addresses on the internet.

SRVGS TAPE LIBRARY Recommended Listening

C159 "National Archives Finding Aids" by Craig Roberts Scott (NGS Conference)

If you plan to visit the National Archives in Washington D.C. and spend your time looking at microfilms, you are wasting your time and money, says Mr. Scott. You can do that at Regional Archives and libraries. What you want to do in Washington is to put your hands on some of the paper document collections that have never been microfilmed. You can do this in Central Reference Room #203. Ask yourself what relationship existed between your ancestor and the government, what Federal agency had oversight and is the current custodian. He then tells how to use the Finding Aids to locate records groups you need. He guarantees that by following his suggestions, your family tree will have "fleshed out" individuals - not skeletons with just names and dates.

SRVGS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
FEBRUARY 1998

I am writing this soon after our January meeting as Wayne and I will be down south for several weeks. We are spending a few days in San Diego with the newlyweds before meeting some relatives at Quartzsite, Arizona, for a week. We understand there will be thousands of R.V. vehicles at this annual event on the desert.

Congratulations to our five members who spoke at the January meeting. Congratulations, not only for your breakthrough genealogical successes of this past year, but for your very interesting presentations. Your enthusiasm, successes and various methods gave us all hope.

I am really looking forward to our February 17 meeting. Shirley Riemer, editor of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society's quarterly, will be speaking on German Research. This is sure to be an informative meeting. Please try to attend. Even if you don't have German ancestors, there will be methods you can apply to your own research.

Our library trip coordinator, Verne Segelke, has planned a February 24 trip to Sutro Library in South San Francisco. Sutro is one of our favorite genealogical libraries. It has everything. They even loan out many of their books, either direct or via interlibrary loan. (Be aware that if you check out books direct from Sutro, you must return them direct.)

Mark your calendars now for the California Genealogical Fair in San Francisco on March 27 & 28. There are always wonderful speakers and vendors with all kinds of good stuff. We really should take advantage of these educational opportunities when they are within driving distance.

Your president,
Shirley Siems Terry

☺ Found a Yankee in my tree - will trade for horse thief or black sheep.

FEBRUARY LIBRARY TRIP

This month, Tuesday, February 24th, we will visit the Sutro Library in San Francisco. 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 in Lafayette at 9:30 a.m.

COMPUTER CLASS

A beginning computer class will be held Friday, February 20th, at the home of Denise Schoo, 924 Woodland Drive, San Ramon (Woodland Dr. is off Alcosta Blvd., between Norris Canyon Rd. and Bollinger Canyon Rd.) A sign up sheet will be passed at the February meeting or call Denise, 830-1235. This will be a beginning IBM compatible computer class, please come with your questions prepared.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fund Balances 1/31/98	
General Fund	2,134.24
Hospitality Fund Balance	260.00
Publications Fund Balance	638.66
Special Projects Fund Balance	200.00
Tape Library Fund Balance	215.61
Library Fund: Gifts & Donations	<u>1,526.49</u>
Overall Total balance	\$4,975.00

☺ I shook my family tree and out came a forest of friends!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to our newest member, Helen Sam, 4031 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton 94566, CA 485-3283. Helen is researching the surnames CAREY and HARRINGTON in the Sacramento area, 1850 to the present.

Change of Address: Marilyn Fullam, P.O. Box 1525, Mi Wuk Village, CA 95346, 209 586-4433.

STANDARDS FOR SOUND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Remembering always that they are engaged in a quest for truth, family history researchers consistently—

- ♦ Record the sources of each item of information they collect.
- ♦ Test every hypothesis or theory against credible evidence, and reject those that are not supported by the evidence.
- ♦ Seek original records, or reproduced images of them when there is reasonable assurance they have not been altered, as the basis for their research.
- ♦ Use compilations, communications and published works, whether paper or electronic, primarily for their value as guides to locating the original records.
- ♦ State something as a fact only when it is supported by convincing evidence, and identify the evidence when communicating the fact to others.
- ♦ Limit with words like 'probable' or 'possible' any statement that is based on less than convincing evidence, and state the reasons for concluding that it is probable or possible.
- ♦ Avoid misleading other researchers by either intentionally or carelessly distributing or publishing inaccurate information.
- ♦ State carefully and honestly the results of their own research, and acknowledge all use of other researchers' work.
- ♦ Recognize the collegial nature of genealogical research by making their work available to others through publication, or by placing copies in appropriate libraries or repositories, and by welcoming critical comment.
- ♦ Consider with open minds new evidence or the comments of others on their work and the conclusions they have reached.

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EVENTS

SAN MATEO SEMINAR: Saturday, February 28, 1998, 9:00-4:00 at the SamTrans Building, 1250 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos, CA. DR. GEORGE K. SCHWEITZER will speak on Revolutionary War Genealogy, Obscure Genealogical Sources and Virginia Genealogical Research. \$25 pre-registration by February 21, \$27.00 at the door. Mail check to: SMCGS Schweitzer Seminar, 1944 Parrott Drive, San Mateo, CA 94402

SONOMA COUNTY SEMINAR: Saturday, March 21, 1998, 9:00-4:00 at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, Harry A. Merlo Theater, Hwy 101 at River Road, Santa Rosa, CA. SANDRA HARGREAVES LUEBKING will speak on Finding Females - Grandma, Where are you? Census strategies for 1880-1920. Problem for Genealogical Research and Circumventing Blocked Lines. \$18 pre-registration by March 7, \$20 at the door. Mail check to: Natalie Gehl, Program Registrant, 5321 Santa Teresa Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95409. Questions: (707) 538-0658 or (707) 576-7478. Box lunches available for \$10, must be paid with registration by March 7.

CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL CENTENNIAL: Friday, March 27, noon - 8:00, Saturday, March 28, 9:00-5:00, CGS will hold its 1998 Family History Fair at the Concourse Exhibition Center, San Francisco. Carpools will be offered both Friday and Saturday from the back parking lot of the Lucky store on Diablo Road in Danville or the upper parking lot of the Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. Sign up sheets will be passed at our March meeting. For information about carpooling call Vern Segelke, 838-8570. For information about the fair pick up a registration sheet at the general meeting or call CGS (415) 777-0036 Thursdays or Saturdays, 9-4, Fridays 11-6.



Ancestors: They can hide, but they can't run anymore!

THE U.S. RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD & GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Administers a Federal retirement program covering the nation's railroad workers. The records it maintains deal primarily with the administration and payment of these benefits. The Board will provide information from its records on deceased persons for the purpose of genealogical research. However, it will not release information on persons who are still living without the written consent of that person.

The Railroad Retirement Board was not established until the mid 1930's, and it began maintaining its own records of all covered rail service in 1937. Therefore, the Board's records are essentially limited to individuals who worked in the rail industry after 1936. The Board does not have records of persons who died prior to its inception. Also the Board's records are only on persons whose employers were covered under the Railroad Retirement Act. Employers such as street, interurban, or suburban railways are not covered under this Act.

The Board's records are kept by the railroad employee's social security number. In some cases if that number is not available, having the employee's full name, including middle name or initial, and complete dates of birth and death may be of some help in determining whether they have any records of that person. However, in dealing with relatively common surnames, it is usually not possible to make a positive identification without the employee's social security number.

The fee for searching records is \$16 for each individual. This fee is payable before any search is attempted. It is not refundable, even if they are unable to locate the information requested or the file has been destroyed. Check or money order should be made payable to the Railroad Retirement Board, and sent to the Office of Public Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Generally, the Board requires at least 30-60 days to reply to genealogical inquiries.

SHANGHAIED

An act of Congress in 1796 made provisions for Seaman Protection Certificates, which were issued as proof of citizenship to protect U.S. seaman from being "shanghaied" into a navy in a foreign port.

These certificates are on file in Washington, DC, indexed by the WPA in the 1930's. For information write Judicial Fiscal and Social Branch, Civil Archives, Washington, DC 10408. (The Family Tree, Oct/Nov 1997, Vol VII, No.5, pg 3B.)

VALLEY FORGE

You are eligible to join the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge if you have an ancestor who was in Washington's Army at Valley Forge. Write for more information, P.O. Box 915m, Valley Forge, PA 19842-0915.

(The Family Tree, Aug/Sep 1997, Vol VII, No.4, pg 3A.)

CIVIL WAR "REJECTED MEN" FILE

Many men were rejected from Civil War service because of illness or injury. Medical records of drafted and rejected men are at the National Archives, group record #110.

They are arranged by congressional district as of 1863. Data may include residence, occupation, age, place of birth, physical characteristics or reason for rejection under "remarks." There is no record in these files if the recruit was accepted into military service.

(The Family Tree Online, Dec/Jan, Vol 2, No.6.)

NATIVE AMERICAN

The Texarkana USA Genealogical Society has a useful chart for those who are researching Native American ancestors. It is a series of boxes that tell you what to do next if you do - or do not find your ancestors in certain documents. For a copy of this chart send a SASE to: Odem Library, PO Box 2323, Texarkana, TX 75504-2323.

(Family Tree, Aug/Sep, Vol VII, pg. 7B)

INTERNET CONNECTION

by Denise Schoo

Using the Internet is a powerful way to get access to information from around the world. The Internet is made up of thousands of computer databases which are linked together. The goal of this page is to assist all of our members in their research efforts. The Net is constantly changing therefore not everything described here will work well or all the time as sites close, and files and addresses change. If you would like me to send you an e-mail with these addresses hyperlinked for your convenience just e-mail me: NiseyS@AOL.com

Irish Immigration

A series of lists, of ships arriving in the US or Canada from Ireland or England, and their Irish passengers

<http://www.genealogy.org/~ajmorris/ireland/ireemg.htm>

Index to Maine Marriages 1892-1966

While subject to data entry errors, it serves as a reference resource for records held in the Archives (1892-1922) and for general information about these marriages through 1966.

One may search on each of the following fields: Bride's Name, Bride's Town/City of Residence; Groom's Name, Groom's Town/City of Residence; Year of Marriage.

<http://www.state.me.us/sos/arc/archives/genealog/marriage.htm>

Pennsylvania Family Bibles

Extracts from Pennsylvania family Bibles or links to such information by county or surname.

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/3955/bibles.htm>

18th & 19th Century Rhineland & Hessian Emigrants

Name lists of 18th century Rhineland emigrants and 19th century Hessian emigrants.

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/German_Genealogy/sfemiger.htm

AmeriSpeak - American Ancestors Expressions

A place to record those phrases passed down through the generations.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/amerispeak.htm>

Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia

This three volume series contains most of the abstracts of court records in Augusta County between 1745 - 1800. Volume one is on-line. Volunteers will look up names in Volumes two or three until they are on-line.

<http://bl-12.rootsweb.com/~chalkley/>

Titanic Passenger List

Have you seen the movie? This site contains the passenger list, crew list and where they embarked.

<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/cataloging/vnp/titanic/p2.htm>

Ancestral Findings

Two free look-ups per day in the genealogical CD Rom holdings. Birth, Census, Death, Land, Marriages, Military Indexes, State Records indexes and World Family Tree CD's.

<http://web.mountain.net/~wfmoney/cd/>

Valdez, Alaska Gold Rush

Database of the participants of the 1898-1899 Valdez, Alaska gold rush.

<http://www.alaska.net/~vldzmuse/frame243504.html>

Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid

This is a pointer database consisting of the surnames, cemetery name and location of over 1.1 million interments from approximately 2000 distinct cemeteries, cairns, memorials, and cenotaphs in Ontario Canada.

<http://www.islandnet.com/ocfa/homepage.html>

WORLD WAR II VETERANS WANTED

The US Army Military Institute is conducting a major survey to acquire source material on WWII. They invite all veterans of this war to join in the effort. If veterans will write to them, they will send an 18 page questionnaire and the postage to return the form to the institute.

The Army Services Experiences Questionnaire has several parts: general military service questions, overseas service, combat service, occupation and mobilization and post war experiences. Completing this questionnaire and returning it will help preserve the veteran's personal memories and add to the personal history of the conflict as a whole. Contact the US Army Military History Institute, 22 Ashburn Drive, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA 17013-5008. Phone (717) 245-3611.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

SOULFUL SALUTATIONS

Here lies the body
Of Margaret Bent
She kicked up her heels
And away she went.

Margaret Bent, Winterborn Steepleton Cemetery, Dorsetshire, England

Here lies the body
of Jonathan Blake
Stepped on the gas pedal
Instead of the brake

Jonathan Blake, Uniontown, Pennsylvania

Here lies the landlord Tommy Dent
In his last cozy tenement.
Tommy Dent, St. Stephen Churchyard, West Purford, England