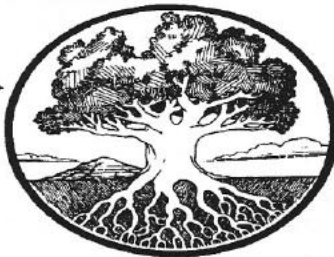


SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



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. 8

March 1998

THIS MONTH

March 17, 1998

Irish Research

Marilyn Fullam, Carol Glover,
Mary Jo Hosteny, Ed O'Donnell, Dorothy Stanton

LAST MONTH

Reported by Jane Steiner

Shirley Riemer, of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society, has a very strong foundation in German genealogy. She has compiled and published, *The German Research Companion*, a book so chock full of good information that one wonders how she got so much into the 638 pages. She developed "The German Card," an eight-panel, laminated, accordion-folded, wallet-size card with some basic information that is helpful to have along when doing German research. She is the editor of *Der Blumenbaum*, the informational quarterly of the SGGS. And finally, she travels to Germany annually, so she has become very familiar with the country and the culture. She stressed some important points to be aware of regarding Germans.

1. Germans traveled in groups among relatives, from the neighborhood, from the church, or from the hometown. They stayed in those groups when they settled in a new place, forming "Little Germanies." They had German churches, read German-American newspapers, formed German fraternal organizations and German military companies during wartime, and did business with other Germans. That is why enumeration districts in the US Censuses are so important. They are by streets.

2. Old Germans were homebodies for many generations. They stayed in one village generation after generation; they married within the village or parish; it was not easy to move you had to get permission to leave. Therefore, the village lineage books are valuable. Once you locate the village your ancestor came from, you have hit gold.

But in your initial search, the parish records are more important; not every little village had a church.

3. Germans were prolific, which resulted in lots of siblings to trace. If you can't find your ancestor's parents, maybe you can find one of his siblings' parents. They were the same parents.

4. Germans were superb record keepers. The Church was responsible for keeping the baptismal, marriage, death records, and burials, but few birth records as they weren't important to the church. She stressed that the records are all local; there are no centralized records available. Germany didn't become a nation until 1871, almost 100 years after this country, and before that there were about 300 little nations making up what we call Germany.

Shirley also explained some things about the German language. Many German letters have different sounds than those same letters have in English. She had a list of those letters. Her book has a chapter on German language, and contains, as does the German card, the complete German alphabet in the old Gothic script, upper and lower case, both printed and handwritten.

She went over some of the main words found in German records: birth, born, illegitimate, christening, christened, marriage, married, death and dead, listing them in German. She discussed the umlaut the two dots over letters. A letter with an umlaut is pronounced differently from that letter without the umlaut. And in an index, the umlauted letters come before that letter without an umlaut.

(Continued page 61)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR**SRVGS EVENTS**

- 3 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., Board Meeting at Frances 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., Introduction to Probate Records Class, Dorothy Stanton's, 501 El Capitan Dr., Danville, 820-3757.

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 61.
- 26 THURSDAY - 7:00 p.m., Concord/Walnut Creek Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord, 686-1766. "How to Classes" Using the International Genealogical Index computer version and the LDS Ordinance Index, instructor Sandra Ruefenacht.
- 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 61.
- 28 SATURDAY - 12:00 p.m., The California Genealogical Society's Centennial Family History Fair, AA Century of Prospecting For Ancestors, Concourse Exhibition Hall, San Francisco. Details page 61.

**SRVGS EVENTS**

- 7 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville. All members welcome.
- 21 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., General Meeting, 777 Norris Canyon Road, In Search of Probate Records, Margery Bell, specialist at the Oakland FHC.
- 28 TUESDAY - 9:00 a.m., Library trip to the National Archives, San Bruno. 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.
- 30 THURSDAY - 10:00 a.m., Carol Glover will present a class on the use of newspapers, city directories and voter registration records for genealogical research. The class will be held at Carol's home, 333 Goshen, San Ramon, 829-7207.

OTHER EVENTS

- 10 TUESDAY - 7:30 p.m., Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore.
- 11 SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Concord/Walnut Creek Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord, 686-1766. Spring seminar, Genealogical Research in Germany, instructor, Larry O. Jensen, details page 61.
- 23 THURSDAY - 7:00 p.m., Concord/Walnut Creek Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord, 686-1766. "How to Classes" Using the Family History Library Catalog Computer and Microfiches versions, instructor Sandra Ruefenacht.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SOUTHERN - Meets 2nd Tuesday, March 10th, 10:00 a.m., Nancy Alexander's, 50 St. Mark Court, Danville, 820-1593. Next meeting, April 14th, 10:00 a.m., Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl., Pleasant Hill, 229-0889. Call Frances Becker, 934-4962, for information.

IRISH - Meets 2nd Wednesday, March 11th, 10:00 a.m., Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl., Pleasant Hill, 229-0889. Next meeting April 8th at Patty Erickson's.

CALIFORNIA - Meets with the Irish group.

MAC COMPUTER - Meets the Wednesday after the general meeting, March 18th, 10:00 a.m., John Lyle, 2660 Stone Valley Way, Alamo, 837-4489. Next meeting April 22nd. 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 Ultimate Family Tree, will meet in Room AB, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, Tuesday, March 17th, following the general meeting.

INTERNET - Interested members should contact Robert DaRoza by e-mail, vraroza@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

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Lucy Carver 837-3146

This newsletter is published each month except August and December.

☺ Goldilocks had three bears. Genealogists have forebears.

REVIEWS

Dorothy Stanton

SRVGS LIBRARY COLLECTION (Danville Reference Shelves)

Ancestral Roots of 60 Colonists Who Came to New England Between 1623 and 1650 [R929.7 Weis] 6th Edition, by Frederick Lewis Weis with additions and corrections by Walter Lee Sheppard, Jr. GPC 1988. Donated by Robert and Jane Coyle.

First published in 1950, the author worked from manuscript sources and by correspondence in the 1940's. The editor, Mr. Sheppard, describes it as the "best work of its kind in print (but) it is NOT a reference work and should not be cited as evidence." Go to the SOURCE material. Bearing that in mind, you may find some valuable leads if you have families with roots in New England. Contents are divided: Saxon & English Monarchs; German & French families; Charlemagne; Norman Barons. Research, e.g., records showing local history, residence, military & pioneer history, immigrants, etc.; III - Key Source Material (by regions) which lists 2700 titles with call numbers. The authors give simplified instructions on how to use the card and computer catalog.

EVIDENCE: Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian by Elizabeth Shown Mills. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1997, 124pp. \$16.95

Do you know how to write a source citation for a ship's passenger list, the Social Security Death Index, an electronic web site, a photograph? This successor to Lackey's Cite Your Sources, Evidence! expands and brings up to date the information genealogists need now that the electronic age brings so many sources with such ease.

Ms. Mills, editor of the National Genealogical Society's quarterly publication, goes beyond providing the correct formats for source citation (traditional as well as the new technology ones). She also provides standards and guidelines for analyzing the evidence we uncover through research.

Our SRVGS library collection will have a copy of this book. Family historians planning to pass their work on will find this book so useful, they'll want Evidence! handy on their bookshelf. (Available from GPC or contact Frances Lloyd at Genealogical Resources, 837-9382)

SRVGS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
MARCH 1998

Friends,

I hope you're all enjoying the beautiful flowering trees, Spring flowers and SUNSHINE as much as I after several soggy, rainy months. My shamrock plant in my kitchen window is starting to bloom again which reminds me that several members of our Irish group will be presenting this month's program on March 17. I'm sure they will have some interesting talks with some ideas we can apply to our own research. We "old" members are particularly looking forward to seeing Marilyn Fullam, one of our charter members, who moved away about five years ago after many years of active involvement in our society.

The nominating committee is busy this month putting together a slate of officers for the year beginning in June. Remember, that the more you put into any activity, the more you'll get out of it. So, when the committee calls and asks you to do something, either say yes, or suggest another job you'd rather do. They are finding they have more slots to fill than they had anticipated since a few of us have declined to run for a second term. Even our brand new newsletter editor dropped a bombshell on us at the board meeting saying she'll be moving to Seattle this summer!

The Singletons are putting together a cassette tape order which they hope to send off this month. We can look forward to over twenty-five new tapes in our library! I urge you to take advantage of this wonderful educational bounty your society has provided for you. The current list of tapes is in the back of your directory. Oh, and please check your shelves and return any past-due tapes

Your president,
Shirley Siems Terry



☺ Hi Ho, Hi Ho! Where did my ancestors go?

MARCH LIBRARY TRIP

This month, Tuesday, March 24th, we will visit the Napa Library in Napa. 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.

PROBATE CLASS

An introductory class to using probate records will be held Tuesday, March 31st, at the home of Dorothy Stanton, 501 El Capitan Dr., Danville. A sign up sheet will be passed at the March meeting or call Dorothy, 820-3757.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fund Balances 2/28/98

General Fund	1,994.56
Hospitality Fund Balance	260.00
Publications Fund Balance	673.66
Special Projects Fund Balance	200.00
Tape Library Fund Balance	230.61
Library Fund: Gifts & Donations	<u>1,526.49</u>
Overall Total balance	\$4,885.32

APPROXIMATE AGES OF
ANCESTORS FIGHTING IN
U.S. WARS

First column indicates "if born between ages", second column names the war, and the third column indicates dates of war.

1600-1644	Dutch Indian War	1655-1664
1626-1656	Bacon's Rebellion	1676
1639-1743	Inter-Colonial Wars	1689-1763
1713-1743	Pontiac's Rebellion	1763-1766
1720-1750	Boston Massacre	1770
1715-1770	American Revolution	1775-1783
1740-1791	Indian Wars	1790-1811
1756-1802	War of 1812	1812-1815
1762-1812	Black Hawk War	1832
1780-1820	Texas War (Alamo)	1836
1796-1828	Mexican War	1846-1848
1806-1849	Civil War	1861-1865
1849-1880	Spanish-American War	1898
1870-1900	World War I	1914-1918
1900-1930	World War II	1939-1945
1910-1935	Korean War	1950-1953
1915-1957	Vietnam War	1956-1975

KISS THE BLARNEY STONE AND RECEIVE THE GIFT OF GAB!

While visiting Blarney Castle you may kiss the Blarney Stone and get the gift of gab. Queen Elizabeth I coined the phrase due to her exasperation with Lord Blarney's ability to talk endlessly without ever actually agreeing to her demands. To kiss the Blarney Stone, you must bend over backward and lower yourself down about two feet at the top of the castle. The castle itself is a tower house and was built around 1446 on a solid limestone mound.

Blarney Castle for the most part is in ruin. But, you can still climb the spiral staircases to the top of the castle. The spiral staircases are narrow and steep and were used to protect the inhabitants because only one invader at a time could come up the spiral staircase. The narrow windows were also used to defend the castle. Arrows could easily be shot out the narrow windows at invaders, but it would almost be impossible to shoot an arrow in from outside.

* HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY *

(LAST MONTH Continued from page 57)

When writing to Germany for information, make it easy for them to answer. Have an interpreter write the letter in German, and send enough International Reply Coupons, therefore supplying the return postage. It is very expensive in Germany.

Don't go to Germany until you know for sure the town where your ancestor was from. If you go, don't bother trying to find the cemetery. It doesn't exist. Graves are only held for 7 to 20 years.

She ended on a sad warning: We may be the last hope of tracing our German family lines. Surnames are becoming difficult to keep track of. Women are hyphenating their names or keeping their maiden names for work, and with divorces and multiple marriages the population has mongrelized. Family Bibles are no longer kept. All the knowledgeable archivists are old, young people are the archivists, and they can't read German script! People don't write letters any more; e-mail vaporizes after it is read. It is up to us to leave a record of our German heritage. If we don't, our children or grandchildren may find it impossible to do.

EVENTS

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.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN GERMANY

Saturday, April 11, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Concord/Walnut Creek Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord, 686-1766. Spring seminar taught by Larry O. Jensen, accredited genealogist and Senior Reference Consultant in the International Reference Unit, Salt Lake Family History Library. Seminar will cover, determining places of origin of immigrant ancestors, German reference and research tools, locating vital and other records, and resolving common and difficult German research problems. Lunch break will be from 12 to 1, bring a brown bag, eat out or order Subway sandwich on registration form.

"HOW TO CLASSES"

"How to" classes will be held at the Concord/Walnut Creek Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord, the fourth Thursday of each month (except July, August, November and December). March 26th, "Using the International Genealogical Index (IGI) Computer Version and the new LDS Ordinance Index, instructor Sandra Ruefenacht. April 23rd, Using the Family History Library Catalog Computer and Microfiche Versions, instructor Sandra Ruefenacht. May 28th, Let's Get Started in Genealogy, instructor, Helen Crump. June 25th, Tips on British Isles Research, instructor, Joyce Dye.

☺ When there's a will, I want to be in it!

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & MEDICAL RECORDS

If an ancestor's military records indicate he received a medical discharge or was wounded, resubmit the form to the National Archives and request the complete medical records by writing on top of the form in large letters "SEND COMPLETE MEDICAL FILE". Medical records are not part of military records and will not ordinarily be with military records sent to you.

FINDING GRAVES IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES

To find out what National Cemetery an ancestor was buried in during the Civil War, write: Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20420.

FIRED

Clans throughout history rid themselves of the unwanted among them in one way more than any other. No, not by murder. That often was taboo. What they did was set fire to the unwanted's place. They literally "fired" out the rejected person. To get "fired" from a job is an allusion to that ancient evil.

(GSNOC nsltr. July 1997)

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Sesquicentennial 1848-1998. Apply for a Pioneer Certificate from the County Genealogical Society. To be eligible, your pioneer must have settled in Grant County prior to 1899. You will need to provide documentary sources, along with a pedigree chart mapping to the direct descent ancestor. Send \$5 per ancestor to Joyce Esser, 8054 Burton Lane, Potosi, WI 53820-9749, or call Lois 805 496-0653. Deadline is April 3, 1998.

(The genealogist, Vol. XVIII, No. 11, Nov. 1997)

LOST TOWNS

If you are looking for "lost towns", try writing to U. S. Board of Geographic Names, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 22092.



"Bother," said Pooh as the gene pool sprung a leak!

Only part of the 1930 census will be indexed: the southern states. The indexes were a WPA project to employ people. They started on the 1930 census in the south but, before they could finish, the war broke out and the labor force was needed elsewhere. The ten southern states which were indexed for the 1930 census are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia plus 7 unnamed counties in Kentucky and 7 more in West Virginia. The 1940 and the 1950 censuses have no indexes at all. The 1930 census will be released sometime in 2002 (exact date has not been set) pursuant to the 72 year restriction on public access to protect people's privacy.

(News 'n' Notes, St. Louis Gen. Soc., Vol. 29, No. 12)

MAIDEN NAMES

In the lower left-hand corner of most deeds, you will find signatures of two to four witnesses. The first one is always from the husband's side. The next one is always from the wife's side. This is to protect her 1/3 dower right under the law. Nothing you will use will give greater clues to maiden names than witnesses to old deeds!

Also in the 1800's and before, it was traditional when the daughter got married, as part of her dowry, the father either covered the loan or carried the note for his son-in-law. If you know the husband's name but not the wife's maiden name and you can find out to whom they were making their mortgage payments, about 70% of the time it was her father.

Loved Ones Lost Medals

If you want to obtain lost medals of your loved ones who served in the Army, you can write to: Army Commander, U. S. Army Reserve Personnel ATTN: DARP-PAS-EAW 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

GREAT AND GRAND

The sister/brother of your GREAT grandparent is GREAT GRAND aunt/uncle. The sister/brother of your grand parent of your GRAND aunt/uncle. Technically, there is no such thing as a GREAT aunt/uncle.

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

Colonial Occupations

Want to know what your ancestors did? What was a Sucksmith? This page has a very complete listing of those old occupations.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/occupaton.html>

Perks County, PA Register of Wills

Indexes to most files in the Register of Wills Office have been computerized. To find information concerning an ancestor's estate, check the computerized index. The computerized index consists of: Estate Records (1752-1914); Delayed Birth Records (Generally, 1941-1957); Birth Index, City of Reading (1876-1905); Birth Index, County of Berks (1876-1906); Marriage Index, County of Berks (1885- present); Marriage Index, City of Reading (1876-1906); Death Index, City of Reading (1873-1905); Death Index, County of Berks (1876-1906).

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

Ellis Island, The American Immigrant Wall of Honor

From this site you can search the Wall of Honor and see if your ancestor is listed.

<http://www.wallofhonor.com/empty.html>

World Genealogy Archive

This page contains a search engine to search the data contributed by fellow researchers. Some of the data contained on this page; baptism, bible, birth, cemetery, court and tax records.

<http://oasis.slcc.edu/search/>

Harleian Manuscripts

Over 20,000 early English families registered their lineage from the Conquest down to the 17th century. These are a record of the "Visitations". Also included are some Irish and Scottish families.

<http://www.infokey.com/hon/harl.htm>

Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet

Please note that Cyndi's List has moved the new address is:

<http://www.cyndislist.com/howto.htm>

American Revolutionary War Soldiers & Their Descendents

This page contains the e-mail or the URL address of the person who can give you some information on the revolutionary soldier listed.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ars/index.htm>

Notable Women Ancestors

There have been many famous (and infamous) women throughout history. This Web Page has been designed with all of these notable women in mind, offering both historical and genealogical information about them.

<http://members.aol.com/samcasey/ancestors/nw.html>

Ancestors - The PBS series

The homepage for Ancestors, a family history and genealogy television series.

<http://www2.kbyu.org/ancestors/main.html>

Wills at the Cheshire Record Office

This index includes all the wills 1492-1857 proved at the Chester diocesan consistory court and now held at the Record Office.

<http://midas.ac.uk/genuki/big/eng/CHS/wills/>

Books We Own

A list of resources owned by others who are willing to do lookups in them.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~bwo/index.html>

A Little Bit of Ireland

Various Irish records accumulated during this researchers ancestral quest.

<http://home.att.net/~labaths/>

SOULFUL SALUTATIONS

This stone was raised to Sarah Ford,
Not Sarah's virtues to record—
For they're well known to all the town—
No Lord; it was raised to keep her down.
Sarah Ford, Kilmurry Church, Ireland



Life is a jest, and all things show it;
I thought so once and now I know it.
John Gay, Westminster Abbey, London, England



Reader if cash thou art
In want of any
Dig 4 feet deep
And thou wilt find a Penny
John Penny, Winborne, England

She always said her feet were killing her
but nobody believed her.
Margaret Daniels, Hollywood Cemetery,
Richmond, Virginia



Once I wasn't
Then I was
Now I ain't again.
Arthur C. Homans, Cleveland, Ohio



He is not here
But only his pod;
He shelled out his peas
And went to his God.
Ezekiel Pease, Nantucket, Massachusetts



That is all
Thomas Stagg, St. Giles Churchyard, London, England

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL