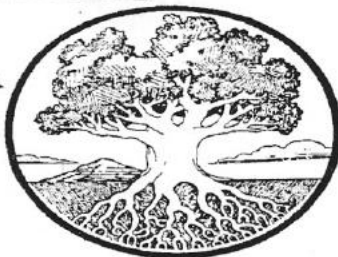


SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



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. 10

May 1998

THIS MONTH

May 19, 1998

Civil War Union Draft Records

Nancy Morebeck

LAST MONTH

Reported by Shirley Terry

Our speaker for April, Margery Bell of Moraga, taught adult education genealogy courses and served as director of the LDS Family History Center when she lived in Allandale, Virginia. She is now a specialist at the Oakland Family History Center. Margery gave us an excellent presentation on Probate Records.

Did you know that when someone makes out their "last will and testament," the "will" concerns land and the "testament" concerns personal effects? When a person dies and leaves a will, he dies "testate." When he dies without a will, he dies "intestate." Or as one student answered, he dies "unwillingly." The records created can be found in the Probate Court Records.

When there is a will, the Executor or interested party presents the will to the court. It is admitted for probate where Letters Testamentary (legal authorization to proceed) are issued. The recording of the will is the act of it's being either photocopied or hand copied into the court's big books. It is indexed at this time (only by initial letter.) The Executor inventories the estate, pays the debts and distributes the estate. When he is finished, he notifies the court and sometimes submits a report describing the settlement.

If an individual dies without a will, and heirs or creditors petition the court for an estate settlement, an administrator is appointed. If he accepts, he has to post a bond. The administrator does the work of an executor and notifies the court of final settlement.

Margery told us that probate records are one of the best sources in the U.S. for genealogy. They predate vital records and even most church

records. Margery uses probate records to check the all-important father-mother-child links in internet pedigrees that often come undocumented. You can expect to find half of your ancestors in probate records (maybe as an heir, not a principal.) These records are kept in large bound books which often have been microfilmed by the LDS. The record includes the date probate begins (shortly following the death), sometimes include the date and place of death, and usually the date settlement is completed. If intestate, it includes the date the letter of administration was sent and to whom. If testate, it includes a copy of the will (this handwritten copy of the will was written by the court clerk and not the testator.)

The loose papers packet includes miscellaneous papers having to do with the estate settlement such as bills, inventory, LIST OF HEIRS and their addresses. They are the most useful record when there was no will. They are almost never available on microfilm so you must go to the courthouse or hire someone to go for you. Margery says the packets always seem to be filed in the least accessible spot in the courthouse. She advised us to dress comfortably in washable, medium colored clothing as courthouses are notoriously dusty. Don't take a lot of "stuff" with you, especially your tote bag advertising "I'm a Genealogy Nut." Be on your best behavior. Don't make demands, and be appreciative of any little favor. Ask for the loose packets only after you've proven you can work quietly on your own with their Probate Record books which have to be made available to the public. (Continued page 76)

**SRVGS EVENTS**

- 5 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville. All members welcome.
- 19 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., General Meeting, 777 Norris Canyon Road, Civil War Union Draft Records, Nancy Morebeck, specialist at the Oakland FHC.
- 26 TUESDAY - 9:00 a.m., Library trip to the Oakland Family History Center. 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

- 12 TUESDAY - 7:30 p.m., Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. Program will be; History of the South of Market
- 15 FRIDAY - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Military - Part 1: Pre-Revolution to War of 1812, National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. Information/Registration 650 876-9009.
- 20 Wednesday - 7:00 p.m., Museum of the San Ramon Valley. A welcome party for the founding of the Guild for the museum to support the museum and its' staffing. For more information call Paula 837-9177.
- 28 THURSDAY - 7:00 p.m., Concord/Walnut Creek Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord, 686-1766. "How to Classes" Let's Get Started in Genealogy, instructor, Helen Crump.

**SRVGS EVENTS**

- 2 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., Joint Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville. This is a joint board meeting for the outgoing and incoming board members, lunch will be served after the meeting. All members welcome.
- 7 TUESDAY - 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.
- 16 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., General Meeting, 777 Norris Canyon Road, "How to Research and Write a Historical Biography of an Ancestor; Two Case Studies: Hanserd Knollys, 1598-1693, John Sayre Marshall, 1846-1922". Muriel James, author and publisher of 17, or more, books.
- 23 TUESDAY - 9:00 a.m., Library trip to Santa Clara 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.

OTHER EVENTS

- 9 TUESDAY - 7:30 p.m., Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore.
- 15 FRIDAY - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Military - Part 2: Civil War to World War II, National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno. Information/Registration 650 876-9009.
- 25 THURSDAY - 7:00 p.m., Concord/Walnut Creek Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord, 686-1766. "How to Classes" Tips on British Isles Research, instructor, Joyce Dye.

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
 Mailing:
 Barbara Dittig 648-9364
 Lucy Carver 837-3146
 This newsletter is published each month except August and December.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SOUTHERN - Meets 2nd Tuesday, May 12th, 10:00 a.m., Dorothy Stanton's, 501 El Capitan Dr., Danville, 820-3757. Next meeting, June 9th, 10:00 a.m., location to be announced. Call Frances Becker, 934-4962, for information.

IRISH - Meets 2nd Wednesday, Next meeting May 13th at the home of Martha Banner, 2557 Golden Rain Road #1, Walnut Creek, 939-6883. Next meeting June 10th at the home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Pl., Pleasant Hill, 229-0889.

CALIFORNIA - Meets with the Irish group.

MAC COMPUTER - Meets the Wednesday after the general meeting, May 20th, 10:00 a.m., Place to be announced. Next meeting June 17th. Place to be announced. Call Barbara Dittig, 648-9364, for information.

PUBLISHING - Meets when needed. A tentative meeting is planned in June, please call Jane Steiner, 283-0867 for details. 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, May 19th, following the general meeting.

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

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the Second American Revolution. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

Today, the Sons of Confederate Veterans is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause. If you would like more information, call 1-800-MY-SOUTH, or 1-800-MY-DIXIE. Or write to: International Headquarters Sons of Confederate Veterans, P.O. Box 59, Columbia, Tennessee 38402-0059

REVIEWS

Dorothy Stanton

NEW TAPE: C-189 TRAFFIC JAM ON INTERSTATE-81: MIGRATIONS FROM VIRGINIA TO TENNESSEE

by Mary McCampbell Bell at the 1996 NGS Conference in Nashville TN.

Interstate 81 parallels the Great Wagon Road which in Colonial days ran from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Bristol, Virginia/Tennessee. Offshoots of this trail were the Wilderness Road into Kentucky and the Warrior's Trace which brought travelers into eastern Tennessee. The title of this talk leads you to expect a history of the early settlement patterns, but it is much more than that.

In 1850, many Tennesseans listed Virginia as their place of birth but the scarcity of early records makes it very difficult to discover the Virginia county they came from. Ms. Bell has compiled a database using Revolutionary War pension abstracts to obtain statistics on the origins of the pensioners and their neighbors who were the testators for their pension applications. She used only those who served in Virginia military units [listed in E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra's *Virginia Military Organizations*] and had lived in Virginia. She has examined the applications for clues to where they had lived in Virginia and where they moved in Tennessee. In this talk she lists the top 10 Tennessee counties and examines the patterns of migration of pensioners within the county.

Anyone who has searched fruitlessly for the Virginia origin of their Tennessean will find Ms. Bell's information very helpful. You needn't have a RWV pensioner to benefit from the patterns of migration she has found. Furthermore, her method of compiling her database will suggest new paths of research even if your county of interest didn't make it to the "top ten." Let's hope that she decides to publish the results of her research.

MOTHER'S DAY

The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. During the 1600's, England celebrated a day called "Mothering Sunday". Celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent, "Mothering Sunday" honored the Mothers of England.

SRVGS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TREASURER'S REPORT

APRIL 1998

Friends,

I have enjoyed serving as your President this past year, but am happy to be turning the office over to an old friend, Dorothy Stanton, who is a charter member of the society. She did such a great job as our newsletter editor for so many years. And I'm sure she will make a wonderful President also. Remember that the board is always anxious to hear your ideas and concerns. We're just a phone call or an e-mail message away.

Wayne and I spent about a week over in the Sacramento area after attending the Sacramento German Genealogical Society seminar. Verne Segelke is the only other member of our society that we saw, but there may have been others. They had six sessions with five workshops each for a total of thirty choices. Shirley Riemer, who was our speaker here in San Ramon last February, gave an interesting demonstration and talk on how and what (specific lists) to pack for a trip to Germany. Ms. Riemer packs lighter for three weeks in Germany than I do for a week-end! I did get to visit a few minutes with Kate Pruenste who some of you know. Kate was our German specialist for many years before moving from San Ramon to Twain Hart about five years ago.

Don't forget to take advantage of our cassette tape library. We have a couple of dozen brand new tapes from which to choose. Tapes are an easy way to hear nationally known genealogy speakers without traveling all over the country to attend the big conferences. But I'd still urge you to attend such conferences if you ever have the opportunity. They're as much fun as a trip to Salt Lake City!

Shirley Siems Terry

MAY LIBRARY TRIP

This month, Tuesday, May 26th, we will visit the Oakland Family History Center in Oakland. Meet in the back parking lot of the Lucky store on Diablo Road, Danville or in the upper parking lot of the Orchard Nursery, Lafayette at 9:30 a.m.

Fund Balances 3/31/98	
General Fund	1,691.46
Hospitality Fund Balance	260.00
Publications Fund Balance	711.66
Special Projects Fund Balance	200.00
Tape Library Fund Balance	52.11
Library Fund: Gifts & Donations	<u>1,210.68</u>
Overall Total balance	\$4,125.91

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1998-99 Slate
Officers & Board

President:	Dorothy Stanton
First Vice President:	Victoria daRosa
Second Vice President:	Claudia Mortensen
Third Vice President:	Patty & Russ Erickson
Recording Secretary:	Carol Thompson
Corresponding Secretary:	Carol Glover
Treasurer:	Quinten Alexander
Parliamentarian:	Shirley Terry
At the May 19 th meeting the membership will vote on the slate and the board will be installed.	

SRVGS COMPUTER SURVEY

Thanks to Shirley Terry here are the results of the computer survey taken at the March general meeting. Of those surveyed:

35 PC's 5 MAC's

Genealogy Programs:

18	FTM (Family Tree Maker)
3	Roots III-V (precursor to UFT)
11	UFT (Ultimate Family Tree)
9	PAF (Personal Ancestral File)
2	TMG (The Master Genealogist)
2	Brother's Keeper
1	Family Scrapbook
1	Family Origins
1	Family Edge

Word Processors:

16 Word 10 WordPerfect 5 MS Works
17 scanners (some answered yes rather than with name of scanner)

Those with on-line services:

21	AOL (America On-Line)
13	other Internet Service Providers
9	Netscape users
7	MS Internet Explorer

(LAST MONTH Continued from page 73)

Margery ended her very interesting talk with Guardianships which are usually found in the child's place of residence, not the guardian's. Look for guardians whenever a parent, especially the father, dies leaving children under age, OR when a young person appears out of nowhere. [Shirley found both parents' names and their separate death dates, marriage record for parents, dates of birth for her gr.gr.grandfather and both sisters along with their maternal grandfather's name as the guardian.]

The two books Margery recommended were "The New A to Zax, a comprehensive genealogical dictionary for genealogists and historians" compiled by Barbara Jean Evans and "The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy" by Val Greenwood.

SRVGS BOOK COLLECTION

Danville Public Library

Dorothy Stanton

R929.50973 Kot *UNITED STATES CEMETERY ADDRESS BOOK* by Elizabeth G. Kot & James D. Kot. Indices Publishing 2nd printing, 1995.

No other single source lists so many cemeteries — over 25,000. The addresses are compiled from state-wide registries where they are available and from telephone directories, church addresses, etc. Each entry is grouped under State, then by town heading and county name. It gives the address, the mailing address if different, then the location. This is the place to start your cemetery record search.

R929.1072 Epperson *NEW NETHERLAND ROOTS* by Gwenn F. Epperson, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1994. 147 pp.

A subtitle for this book is "How to Use the Family History Library for Research." The topics treated are: 1. Establishing the place of origin in New Netherland records (passenger lists, early church records, etc.); 2. Using European Records; 3. Using Dutch Research Aids, e.g. Dutch naming system; 4. Finding and searching European parish registers (Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France and Scandinavia). The author lists an extensive bibliography and gives references to FHL microfilm and microfiche.

EVENTS

"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). May 28th, Let's Get Started in Genealogy, instructor, Helen Crump. June 25th, Tips on British Isles Research, instructor, Joyce Dye.

DUES! DUES! DUES!

Yes, it is that time of year again when dues are to be paid for the coming year! We thank all of you for continuing to support SRVGS and for keeping it a social and educational experience for all of us interested in genealogy and the history of our ancestors. Dues are payable by June 1st and delinquent July 1, 1998. Please look for your membership dues form in this newsletter!

HISTORY OF THE SOUTH OF MARKET

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society May meeting will feature Paul Hawkins of Berkely will present his "History of the South of Market" which goes back to the beginning of San Francisco in 1846. It should prove to be an interesting evening, especially for those of us who have lived in the Bay Area for a long time. For information call Garth Ludwig at 828-9308.

NEW ENGLAND GENEALOGICAL SUMMER CONFERENCE

The conference, July 17 - 18, 1998, will feature two days of lecture topics focusing on New England research and highlighting the expertise of the New England Historic Genealogical Society staff. Information brochures can be found at the May SRVGS meeting.



I like the Montana Census which described a settler "Scalped and left for dead by Indians. Hale and hearty now, but hates Indians."

CONFUSING DEFINITIONS

Mistress - Not necessarily a married woman. A term of respect for any married woman.

Gentleman - Might be used to describe a retired man of wealth or education.

Housekeeper - Once meant property owner and could be used for male or female.

Domestic - Once meant a housewife and not necessarily a servant.

Inmate - As used in the Pennsylvania Archives, refers to a man living in the home of another person - not necessarily a person in an institution. It may also mean someone who did not own the real estate on which he resided.

Freeman - As used in Pennsylvania Archives, meant a young man not yet married.

Alias - Usually meant illegitimacy. The surname of the father and mother were jointed. It did not have a criminal meaning.

Senior or Junior - These terms did not necessarily refer to father and son. If two men in the same town had the same name, the older was "Senior" and the younger "Junior" even if they weren't related. In earlier times, a Father might have done the same in naming his sons.

Niece - This could refer to any female relative but usually a granddaughter.

Nephew - This could refer to an illegitimate son but usually a grandson.

Cousin - A cousin might be a nephew or uncle.

Brother - This term could refer to an adopted brother but could also mean an in-law or lodge or Church brother.

Domestic - A wife could be called a domestic because she was "at home".

Crazy - Usually meant a person who was ill or in generally poor health, not necessarily mentally ill.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. The holiday was first proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers. The South refused to acknowledge Decoration Day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I. It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May.

U.S. MARSHALS AND THE CENSUS

The marshals were given the task of executing the orders of the federal courts. Congress gave the marshals other duties that were outside their normal duties and one of these was the enumeration for the first census of 1790. They were chosen because of their positions in the country.

Each Marshall received a fee at the rate of one dollar for every 150 persons in the country, and one dollar for every 300 persons in cities or towns with a population of 5000 or more. If the population was sparse, as in Maine, the fee was one dollar for every 50 people.

President Washington gave the responsibility of coordination to Secretary of State Jefferson. But since Jefferson was still in France, his secretary Tobias Lear, issued the instructions by letter to the marshals on 5 March 1790. They were given nine months to make the count. Because of difficulties, the completed census was not sent to Congress until 27 Oct. 1791. The total was 3,929,214 free people in the U. S.

One man noted that the census was supposed by many to be inaccurate and "the assumed error was imputed, I know not on what evidence, to the popular notion that the people were counted for the purpose of being taxed, and that not a few had, on this account, understated to the deputy marshals the number of persons in their families".

Secretary Jefferson, when he distributed copies of the results, added a note that the number was far too low, and added in red ink his own estimation. Later censuses proved Jefferson was incorrect and that the marshals numbers were more accurate.

The marshals continued taking the census until 1870 when the Bureau of the Census was created.

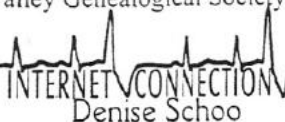
("Prologue, Quarterly of the National Archives" Winter 1989, Vol 21 #4, there is an article, "Agents of Federalism: The U. S. Marshals, 1789-1797")

MEMORIAL DAY FLAG ETIQUETTE

Flags are used to decorate the graves on Memorial Day. When flying the flag, it should be at half-staff until noon.

CASSETTE TAPE REVIEW

Shirley Siems Terry



This month I put out a call to the SRVGS Internet users to send me their favorite genealogical web page. Many thanks to those that responded.

Robert and Victoria da Roza

This site we have found most useful for Eastern European ancestors. We have used it for old maps and surname searches.

<http://feefhs.org/>

Also my favorite for Portugal, the Azores etc. is LusaWeb "Portuguese-American Communities on the World Wide Web." It has surname search and a place to list your own family with the capability for readers to send you an e-mail. Also maps and history.

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

Carol Green

Because of their broad scope and links to tons of information my two favorite sites are: Cyndi's New List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet and Ancestry Library Search.

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

<http://www.ancestry.com/ancestry/search.asp>
Cyndi's List is also a favorite of Quinten Alexander

Claudia Mortenson and Nancy Alexander

Claudia & Nancy like to check into the Roots Web and GenWeb sites.

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

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

Diana Rensing Hancock

My favorite web page is Roots Surname. The data base is surnames and locations. You type in your surname and it locates that surname for you. You then are able to e-mail the person and see if you have a connection. You can also submit your surnames. I found a relative of my husband in New Zealand. He downloaded 30 years of research to my computer! I also found many of my relatives doing research on one line. We have formed an e-mail group! It is great and we have all shared and gained many, many family branches. They live all over the US. Some have inf. I have been trying to find for many years. I could never have found all these people without the internet!

<http://www.rootsweb.com/rootsweb/searches/>

C-203 - "Publishing Your Family History Electronically: A High Tech Method." Speaker: Mike Basham at the GENTECH '97 conference in Plano, Texas.

Remember when Dusk Aylesworth of the San Ramon Kinko's told us about the DocuTec machine? Well, Mike Basham uses that method for publishing his genealogy books. This new tape in our cassette library goes through the various reasons for publishing your genealogy, the preliminary steps involved in organizing and preparing to publish. Mr. Basham also discusses decisions to be made preparatory to publishing. He has evidently published a number of books on his own genealogy and even a compilation of census records.

The main theme of his talk is the advantages of "high-tech" publishing versus the conventional way of sending your manuscript and pictures off to a printer who would take several months to "cast in stone" a minimum of 100 copies costing several thousand dollars up front. It seems that Mr. Basham, like many genealogists, still has 75 copies of his first book collecting dust in his garage.

Instead of taking "camera ready" pages to his printer, he touts the advantages of taking a computer diskette or backup tape of the complete book, including pictures scanned into the document, to a local printer who uses the DocuTec machine. Mr. Basham only has ten copies printed at a time which he takes to a local bindery for hard covers. That way he can sell his ten copies to relatives who always come up with corrections or more information which he then includes in the second edition, etc. His cost per book is much less than with the conventional method and he can constantly update his book as new information comes in. He does give comparison costs, but those would vary from area to area. He is from Dallas, Texas.

He uses GenBook, the computer software that was first created for PAF (Personal Ancestry File) users, but which now accommodates GEDCOM files from other genealogy programs. Even so, he does the final editing in WordPerfect. Some of us have genealogy programs that will do the same sort of thing.

Although I don't agree completely with some of his philosophy, I would recommend the tape to anyone planning to use your computer to publish a book. He never once mentions the time-honored method of pre-orders to cover costs of printing and publication. He has a lot of good ideas and has a very pleasant southern drawl that is fun to hear.

☺ I once came across occupation of deceased as "drunkard" submitted needless to say by his wife!

1998 - 1999 SRVGS MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ E-mail address _____

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

_____ Add \$2.00 for postage if you live outside the bay area and are unable to pick up your handbook.

_____ Check here if you wish to contribute to the library book acquisition fund and add the amount to your check.

Please send this form and your check, made payable to SRVGS to:
Patty & Russ Erickson, 10 Ridge Place, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-1609SAN RAMON VALLEY
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P.O. BOX 305
DIABLO, CA 94528-0305FIRST CLASS MAIL