

# SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305  
Diablo, CA 94528-8308  
President: Dorothy Stanton  
Coord. Editor: Jean Hunt  
Meetings: 10:00 a.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tue. Of the month  
(except August & December)  
Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital  
7777 Norris Canyon Road  
San Ramon, CA

Vol. XIV No. 3

September 1998

### THIS MONTH

by Claudia Mortensen

#### GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH AT U. C. BERKELEY Presented by Jeremy Frankel

Mr. Frankel is an English-born genealogist, cartographer and author. He gained his research experience while directing government records management.

His expertise lies in his knowledge of the University's library system as a tool. He has found successful avenues in using the Cal-Berkeley system, as well as other library systems, for genealogy resources.

He will help us learn how to effectively use these libraries by understanding their internet catalogue capabilities at local libraries.

### LAST MONTH

by Frank William

Our July speaker began writing scripts for radio programs and training films, and later managed corporate communications groups. This led to forming his own consulting firm with customers like New York Life and Weyerhaeuser. He wrote a well-known book on letterwriting. For the past 15 years he has been researching and developing his method of retrieving, organizing, and using autobiographical memories to improve the quality of our lives. The result of his research is "The Memory Memory Triggering Book", published in 1995.

He describes memory triggering as a collection of tools to help us remember more about our lives. It helps recall incidents to share with family and friends, and is a great conversation stimulant. Most people have blank periods in the memories of their life, especially their early childhood. While you cannot will back memory, you can try to trigger a memory from that period. As an illustration, the author Marcel Proust describes dipping French cookies into his tea and kindling a flood of memories about his childhood. He suddenly remembers visiting his aunt every Sunday and being served cookies

and tea.

Other examples given of memory triggers included the smells of baby powder, or new mown grass; feeling grief at someone's death; sounds or scenes of crying; Jo Stafford singing: "Long Ago And Far Away"; the smell of a certain flower, or of hot tar on a summer day.

He cautions that when a memory trigger comes you must make a note of it, as often it will recede in a few minutes. By noting it you can systematically attempt to connect it to a time and place and try to bring up more details. If another person is involved in the memory, you can both work together to dredge up more details.

You can develop your memory triggering ability. Prepare a map associated with the place or event you want to remember. Start practicing with the town where you grew up. Visualize the limits of your small world then (probably with your house at the center) add in your school, ball park, library, and other locations. Try to picture your walk to school each day, remembering the houses and stores you passed, and the people in them.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS****SEPTEMBER**

- 1** **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting** at Frances Lloyd's 210 Town & Country, Danville. All Members welcome.
- 12** **Saturday - 12:00 p.m. San Francisco Bay Dist. of the Alliance Council Wide Meeting** will meet at the "Hut" in Lafayette. They would like a representative from every Genealogical Society. For details call Betty Timmers, 283-8864.
- 15** **Tuesday - General Meeting; 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon.**  
**Topic: "How to use the U.C. Berkeley Libraries by Accessing the County Libraries Systems".** Speaker, Jeremy Frankel.  
**CLASSES** are offered by the Acalanes Adult Education and taught by Bette Kot. \$15.00 per class.
- 21 & Nov 2** **Beginning Genealogy Class - "For beginners or those who need help with Paper Management".**  
**Mondays 10:00 - Noon at Lafayette Senior Center.**
- 14 & Oct 26** **Mondays 1:00 pm. - 3:00 p.m. at Walnut Creek Senior Center.**  
**Thursday "Intermediate Genealogy".** (Includes 3 library trips).
- 24 & Nov 12** Lafayette Senior Center; Fee \$15.00. Call 988-7730 for details on all classes. The brochure states that bus transportation is available from Rossmore.
- 22** **Tuesday - Library Trip. U. C. Berkeley, Doe Library & Newspaper room/Bancroft.** 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. **Call Vern at 838-8570 to be added to the list or to cancel.**

**OCTOBER**

- 6** **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting** Frances Lloyd's 210 Town & Country, Danville. All Members welcome.
- 10** **Saturday - "Digging for your Roots",** An all Day Seminar for Beginners & Experts, Sponsored By Concord Stake, Walnut Creek Stake and Concord/Walnut Creek Family History Center. Pre-Registration deadline Oct 1st. At Door Registration; \$15.00, no Syllabus. Pick up Registration Forms at our Sept. General meeting or call Sandra Ruefenacht (925) 672-2108.
- 15** **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting** at 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon.
- 16** **Topic: New England Research** presented by Jane Knowles Lindsey.  
**Wednesday- Education Committee. 1:00 p.m.** Vern Segelke's 1121 Camino Tassajara, Danville.
- 21** **Wednesday - San Mateo Genealogical Society hosts "Saving of the Archives" meeting** 7:00 p.m. at the National Archives in San Bruno. Please send a Representative.
- 26** **Monday - Library trip to 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. **Call Vern at 838-8570 to be added to the list or to cancel.**

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

|                               |                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SOUTHERN</b>               | <b>September 8th.</b> 10: a.m. Meets the 2nd. Tuesday of the month at Frances Beckers home; 3264 Eccleston Avenue, Walnut Creek. 934-4962.                  |
| <b>IRISH &amp; CALIFORNIA</b> | <b>September 9th.</b> 10:00 a.m. Meets 2nd. Wednesday of the month at the home of Patty Erickson. 229-0889.                                                 |
| <b>MAC COMPUTER GROUP</b>     | <b>September 16 .</b> 10:00. At Barbara Dittig's house. 366 Jacaranda Dr., Danville. 648-9364.                                                              |
| <b>PUBLISHING</b>             | <b>Meets quarterly.</b> Meeting date to announced at the September General Meeting. For more information call Jane Steiner, 283-0867.                       |
| <b>ROOTS USERS</b>            | <b>September 15th.</b> For those learning to use Palladium Ultimate Family Tree. Group meets after the General Meeting in room AB. 7777 Norris Canyon Road. |
| <b>INTERNET</b>               | <b>Interested members</b> should contact Robert daRoza by e-mail, vrdaroza@ix.netcom.com to be added to the SRVGS list.                                     |

**OFFICERS TO CONTACT**

|                                          |                                 |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b> Dorothy Stanton        | 820-3757<br>dpstant@hotmail.com |
| <b>Vice president:</b> Victoria daRosa   | 820-7866                        |
| <b>Membership:</b> Patty Erickson        | 229-0889                        |
| 10 Ridge Place                           |                                 |
| Plesant Hill, CA                         |                                 |
| 94523-1609                               |                                 |
| <b>Annual Dues:</b>                      |                                 |
| Individual \$15.00                       |                                 |
| Family 20.00                             |                                 |
| <b>Membership year: June 1 to May 31</b> |                                 |

**SRVGS TREASURER'S REPORT****FUND BALANCES (8/31/1998)**

|                                             |          |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|
| General Fund Balance:                       | 2,771.31 |
| Hospitality Fund Balance:                   | 260.00   |
| Publications Fund Balance:                  | 771.17   |
| Special Projects Fund Balance:              | 200.00   |
| Tape Library Fund Balance:                  | 80.11    |
| Library Fund: Prior Year Gifts & Donations: | 1,210.68 |
| Current Year Donations:                     | 228.00   |

**OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE:**

5,521.27

**NEWSLETTER****EDITORIAL TEAM**

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Coordination:</b> Jean Hunt | 552-6564<br>jhunt88961@aol.com  |
| Don Gotthold                   | 651-0214<br>DRGMLGTCHTR@aol.com |
| Judy Gustafson                 | 820-6092<br>jujuBe G@aol.com    |
| Pat Isom                       | 820-2660<br>jisom@emailmsn.com  |
| Suzanne Johnston               | 838-8682<br>ssj145@aol.com      |
| <b>Mailing:</b> Barbara Dittig | 648-9364                        |
| Lucy Carver                    | 837-3146                        |

**MEMBERSHIP**

At the September Board meeting, Patty Erickson reported that our membership now stands at 181 members.

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Adam and Eve probably found genealogy a bit boring.

**SRVGS NEWS****Presidents Message**

Although our membership year starts in June, September is the month of new beginnings. **Patty Erickson** has our new directory ready. **Vern Segelke** has the new schedule for library trips and plans for member education classes. **Claudia Mortenson** has lined up some excellent speakers. Jean Hunt reports that the Newsletter Committee is functioning well. Our **SRVGS board** and committee members have been busy on our behalf and we can look forward to an enriching year.

Recently, we received news from some of our "away" members: **John Powers** (now living in Phoenix) reports the publication of a book with his cousin **Ben Race**: "*The Rees/Race Family in America*". **Bill Allen** (former newsletter editor) has sold his home in Walnut Creek and is living full-time in Visalia. He reports that the Sequoia Genealogical Association has a very large collection of materials and census data in the Tulare City Library. You might want to take a look if you are in the area.

At the July meeting we had reports from members who attended the meeting on the National Archives space planning. We will continue to monitor the situation. If you are online, check the **<ancestry.com>NARA** news site. The excellent article by **William Wong** is the best report on the meeting (we posted it in July). Note that the "historian/genealogist" mentioned refers to our **Robert daRoza**. We will post some of the other reports at the September meeting.

I hope all of you saw the article in the San Ramon Valley Times (Aug. 23) on "Voices in the Wilderness, Our 10 guardians of nature." We can thank our own **Manny Lindner** for saving Morgan Territory and Las Trampas as regional parks. We always thought genealogists were special people and we were interested to learn that Manny is exceptionally special. He was thinking of legacies for the future even before he became a family historian!

**Dorothy Stanton**

(continued from page 13)

If people and events come back to you now, write them down. Do you remember smells from the school, such as chalk dust, or a favorite mitt? What triggers when you think of coming home from school and entering the house?

The speaker suggests that the more you work at memory triggering, the more triggers you will develop. It is a way to recall long-forgotten details from your past, and thus fill in the blank spots in your memory.

Mr. Wendinger has a website with more details on memory triggering. You can reach it at [www.triggers.com](http://www.triggers.com).

**IN NOVEMBER, "DIG A LITTLE DEEPER" IN MONTEREY**

The annual Monterey County Genealogy Society's 1998 Central California Genealogical Conference will again be held in the charming city of Monterey.

Check your calendars for November 14th., 1998. 8:30 - 4:30. Registration Fee \$30.00 per person, includes Continental Breakfast and Box Lunch. Registrations received by Oct. 30 guarantees syllabus and lunch.

Registration and checking in between 8:30 & 9 a.m.

Vendor exhibits 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. At 3:45 to 4:30 there will be a silent auction and Vendor door prizes.

Registrants with special need requirements must detail these needs in writing and returned no later than Oct. 15th.

See the brochure at our September General Meeting on the Posting Board for details on classes.

**San Ramon Valley Genealogy Society Handbook & Directory**

As in each new year, we strongly iterate that the Handbook/Directory is **NOT** to be used for commercial purposes or bulk mailings of any kind.

## BOOK & MAGAZINE REVIEW

By Suzanne Johnston

### Reading Early American Handwriting

Author: Kip Sperry  
Cost: \$29.99 + \$3.50 for postage  
Available from:  
New England Historic Genealogical Society  
160 N. Washington St.  
Boston, MA  
02114-2120

Reading some of our early American records such as wills, church records, land records etc. can often be extremely difficult if not impossible. This excellent new book helps with that challenge by providing samples of alphabets, definitions of terms and abbreviations frequently used etc. There are also nearly 100 examples of records to work with at varying stages of complexity. The author's transcription appears on the facing page; allowing you the reader to practice and check your own transcription. An excellent book if you are running into records that are difficult to read.

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### Discovering Your Italian Ancestors

Author: Lynn Nelson  
Cost: \$16.99  
Available from:  
Betterway Books  
1507 Dana Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH  
45207

This book will be a great help to those needing help getting started in Italian research. It focuses on finding and using Italian birth, marriage and death records of the 19th. century. The author covers the use of North American records such as census and naturalization to lead to the Italian records, and shows the reader how to research back into the 1700's without visiting Italy. Especially helpful is the section on finding and reading Italian vital records. There is also a useful letter writing guide.

(continued)

### Heritage Quest: The Genealogy Magazine

A Genealogical magazine published 6 times yearly.

Cost: \$28.00 per year.

Available from: Heritage Quest Subscription Dept.

P.O. Box 329

Bountiful, Utah 84011-0329

This is an excellent publication that covers a vast amount of genealogical subjects from: How to's, New and little known researching tools, Experts on specific countries columns as well as new book reviews and much much more.

The May/June 1998 Issue #75 featured Internet columns and in the feature story "Using the Net" by Michael John Neill, the reader is led through a step by step direction of using the Geographic Names information System Online Data Base form, and the GENWEB page as well as the many many links one comes across in these areas.

This is definitely one issue to borrow from a library or friend if you are getting into online research.

## QUERIES

**Charles Henry and wife Joan.** Help needed in locating a Charles Henry (or Gustave Charles Henry) and wife Joan who left a (510) area code phone number at Kensico Cemetery near NYC on 11/1/95. The number (in San Ramon) is no longer current. If anyone knows the family or has a suggestion for locating them, contact Charles Cusack in Bend, OR, (541)389-9966. E-mail: [ccusack@transport.com](mailto:ccusack@transport.com) Mr. Cusack is researching a Gustave Charles Henry b. 1898, d. 1955 in NYC.

**Joyce Johnson Seely.** From the Tri-Valley Herald, 9/2/98, under Letters to the Editor, is the following query: "I am trying to trace my family history. Anyone with information please contact me at address below. I would like to get in touch with Joyce Johnson Seely. last know address was 1754 Agadin Court, Concord, CA 94518.

Nadine M. Biggs, 115 Prairie Rd. W., Helena, MT 59602, Phone (406)458-9597".

### INTERNET LINKS

by Shirley Siems Terry

shirley@tdl.com

Migration routes through Ohio <<http://www.infinet.com/~dzimmerm/Gwen/migration.htm>>

"Sierra Crossing: First Roads to California" by Thomas Fredrick Howard begins with the Bidwell Party in 1841. The book can be bought at <<http://www.amazon.com>>. Just type "Sierra Crossing" in the keyword search.

Please do not pass along virus warnings without thoroughly checking your information. See computer virus hoaxes and myths at <<http://www.kumite.com/myths>>. This goes for warnings about library and vital records closings also.

Land grant records from the eleven states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin can be found at <<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>>.

The syllabus for the GENTECH98 conference is available at \$10 each including shipping and handling within the U.S.. To obtain a copy send a check to: GENTECH '98 Syllabus, P.O. Box 140277, Irving TX 75014-0277. See <<http://www.gentech.org/syllabus.htm>>. For an idea of what is in the 126 page book, see the Conference Program at <<http://www.gentech.org/98prog.htm>>. GENTECH 99 will be in Salt Lake City next January.

The site has some really interesting topics including care of old documents and a list of epidemics with dates: <<http://www.usgenweb.org/researchers/researcher.html>>

Family Treemaker has an on-line genealogy university that you should check out. Karen Clifford and Marthe Arends are the instructors. <<http://www.familytreemaker.com/university.html>>

One of Marthe Arends lessons concerns on-line genealogy. She lists some good sites including <<http://www.lineages.com/vault/default.asp>>.

One of Ms. Arends' suggestions led to an interesting site for German research at <<http://genealogy.org/~palam/>> where you can add your own German immigrant information.

Dick Eastman's on-line newsletter written at the FGS conference in Cincinnati in late August reported many new computer-related announcements and products. You can find this particular issue at <<http://www.ancestry.com/columns/eastman/eastAug22-98.htm>>.

<<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/formsenglish/forms.htm>> includes a number of forms from the California DMV office. They include a Message Forwarding form in case you're trying to locate a missing relative you think lives in California.

Check out Shirley's "Tips of the Month" page at <<http://www.l-ag.s.org/tips.of.the.month.html>>.

## HEIRLOOM INVENTORY

Shirley SiemsTerry

I have taken my own advice given in the handout distributed at the Heirloom meeting in July 1997, and have prepared a computerized list of family possessions I consider to be "heirlooms". My heirloom list numbers almost two hundred items that we'd like to stay in our family. It does not include our ordinary household furniture, computer equipment, vehicles, etc.

Using WordPerfect 8, I set my table up in twelve columns on 8 1/2 x 14 paper. The table format makes it easy to do various sorts and to re-size columns. I set up my column headers as follows:

Heirloom

Description

Dated [approximate or known date of origin]

Category [Books, China, Ceramics, Clocks, Furniture, Jewelry, Kitchen, Lamp, Misc., Paintings, Silver, Tools]

Family [surnames of our eight grandparents]

Owned By [succession of ownership]

Location [present location within home or name of child, if already gifted]

Designated Heir [child or person you want to receive item]

Date Gifted [Be sure to keep this up to date]

Columns headed "Lori, Greg and Missy" for our three children

My heirloom list serves four purposes:

1. It's important for our family to know why an item is considered as heirloom, i.e. how it was acquired, who it belonged to, etc. I'm an only child and have so many family keepsakes that I can't remember all the details. My mother made notes for me, but I needed to put them together while my parents are still able to help. An heirloom without this information is like an unidentified family photo, something you hate to throw away but not of much value.
  2. If none of our three children want a specific "heirloom," I want to give it to someone else in the family. My husband has four siblings, all with children; and I have lots of first cousins. Each of our children has been given a copy of the list and asked to check items they want adding asterisks to those that are especially important to them. I have added this information to my table. Our decisions on who gets what will be added to the table. Then we can "get rid" of a few of those things next time we move or as we feel the particular child needs or would really appreciate them.
  3. The list give our kids knowledge of their heritage. Having written down should help them appreciate our family heirlooms and look forward to having some in their homes.
  4. I am hoping the list will make dividing up our property easier for our children without the arguments or hard feelings about who got what that is so common in families. The list will be added to our Living Trust.
- I urge all of you to take the time to make an inventory of your heirlooms. Or just show & tell on a video.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + \_\_\_\_\_

SURNAMES OF INTEREST: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are Single: \$15.00 Family: \$20.00 at same address.

Payable to SRVGS, Mail to: SRVGS, P.O. Box 305, Diablo, CA 94528, Attn: Membership Chairman.

Membership year is June 1 through May 31.

1998/99

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



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



Nancy Alexander, Historian  
50 St. Mark Ct.  
Danville CA 94526-5327

