

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.
3rd Tue. Of the month
(except August & December)
Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital
7777 Norris Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA

VOL. XIV No. 4

November 1998

THIS MONTH

by Claudia Mortensen

BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS IN SOUTHERN RESEARCH Presented by Electra Kimble Price

Electra Price is a long-time African- American researcher in our area. She is cofounder of the African-American Genealogical Society, Northern California, and has lectured on Souther Research to many of our local Historical and Genealogical Societies. She promises to show us how to break down barriers and climb over the wall of 1870. We can discover research opportunities in Southern genealogy using slave records in combination with discoveries we make about our own ancestor's records.

LAST MONTH

by Frank Williams

NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH

Jane Knowles Lindsey provided us with a witty and all-encompassing program on New England Research. She's obviously been there and done that; and has survived. She furnished a good guide to major New England resources, both there and locally in our Bay Area libraries.

Some eastern sources:

1. **The New England Historical Genealogical Society** in Boston, with its extensive northeast genealogical data and manuscript collection; information on other states, Canadian provinces and the British Isles; census records, a collection on northeast ethnic groups; and where New Englanders came from and where they went when they left. Jane described the Society's help provided to those visiting the office, and told a delightful story about an official who reviewed the group sheets of her and her husband, and commented "You've certainly married up, Mrs. Lindsey!" Personalized help is available through NEHGS staff for about \$30.00 an hour.

2. The Waltham, MA branch of the National Archives contains area census, military, and naturalization records for

all of New England. They also house the St. Albans records for immigrants from Canada.

3. **The Boston Public Library** has passenger lists, newspapers, newspaper obits, and cemetery records.

4. **The Massachusetts Historical Society** has an extensive collection of NE family histories.

5. **Strathmore College, PA** has very complete Quaker records.

Closer to home you should first exhaust the extensive NE holdings of Bay Area sources before making the long trip east; mentioning **Sutro Library, The California Genealogical Society, Oakland and other Family History Centers, The Mayflower Library**, and local public libraries to the extent their limited regional material is useful.

She suggested spending as much time as necessary at the **Salt Lake Family History Center** and its new **Joseph Smith Center**, and suggested going with a group for your first trip as it can be intimidating.

She mentioned the Internet site **cyndislist.com** with its links

MARK YOUR CALENDAR**NOVEMBER**

- 3** **Tuesday - 10:00 am Board Meeting** at Dorothy Stanton's, 501 El Capitan Dr. Danville. All Members welcome.
- 5** **Thursday - Publishing - 10:00 am.** Barbara Johnson's house. 616 Camino Amigo, Danville
- 10** **Tuesday - 7:30 pm Livermore-Amador Gen. Soc.** Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave, Livermore
"Hands-on CD Workshop". Learn how to use the resources of the Pleasanton Genealogy CD Center. If you have a portable Computer, Please bring it to the meeting.
- 17** **Tuesday - 10:00 am General Meeting** 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon Topic: " Southern Research by Electra Kimball Price
- 23** **Monday - 9:00 am Library Trip. Mayflower Library** 405 14th. Street, Oakland. 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, Lafayette. Call Vern at 838-8570 to be added to the list or to cancel.

DECEMBER

- 1** **Tuesday - 10:00 Member Education Class. "Introduction to the Family History Catalog**
by Pat Isom at the Family History Center, Stone Valley Road and Smith Road, Alamo, CA.
- 8**

JANUARY

- 5** **Cookie Exchange - Frances Lloyd's** 210 Town & Country, Danville. All members welcome.
- Tuesday - 10:00 am Board meeting** at Jean Hunt's house, 2173 Myrtle Beach Lane, Danville, phone 552-6564

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

OFFICERS TO CONTACT	NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL TEAM	SRVGS TREASURERS REPORT
Pres Dorothy Stanton 820-3757	Coordinator: Jean Hunt 552-6564	FUND BALANCES (10/31/1998)
Vice-	jhunt8961@aol.com	General Fund Balance: 2,608.04
President Victoria daRoza 820-7866	Don Gotthold 651-0214	Hospitality Fund Balance: 260.00
Membership: Patty Erickson 229-0889	Judy Gustafson 820-6092	Publications Fund Balance: 870.67
10 Ridge Place, Pleasanton Hill, CA	Pat Isom 820-2660	Special Projects Fund Balance: 200.00
94523-1609	Suzanne Johnston 838-8682	Tape Library Fund Balance: 80.11
Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00	Mailing: Barbara Dittig 648-9364	Library Fund: Prior Year Gifts &
Family 20.00	Lucy Carver 837-3146	Donations: 1,168.60
MEMBERSHIP YEAR JUNE 1 -		Current Year Donations: 243.00
MAY 1		OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE: 5,430.50

SRVGS NEWS

Presidents Message

We're halfway through our membership year - a good time to remind everyone of some of the special benefits of belonging To SRVGS. Besides monthly meetings with the excellent speakers **Claudia Mortensen** has been bringing us this year, we have the Special Interests Study Groups and our Tape Collection. Now, also, we have a sizeable collection of books in the reference section at the Danville Public Library.

Our Library Committee, chaired by **Jack Johnson**, recently selected some new titles to add to the collection. The committee wants to know which areas of research or book titles are of most interest to our members. We will be asking for your input at the next meeting. Also, we have a special deal for you! If you would like to have a particular title added to our collection and are willing to pay for half of it, our library fund will pay the other half (subject to committee approval). When the title is purchased and arrives, you will get the use of it in your own home for a couple of weeks before it is sent to be catalogued and placed on the library's shelf. It's a good way to be sure that a book useful to you (but too expensive for your home library) will be near at hand. Contact the Library Committee, if you are interested.

You may not be aware of another benefit. Because our society belongs to the Federation of Genealogical Societies, our members are eligible for a discount on a subscription to **FORUM**, the quarterly publication of FGS. The most recent issue contains its usual features on society projects and events across the nation, reviews of recently published books and CD-ROMs plus a message by John Carlin, Archivist of the US on NARA Spade Planning. Its lead article by Marion L. Smith, Historian of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service is titled "Certificates of Arrival and the Accuracy of Arrival Information Found in U.S. Naturalization Records."

The publication is well worth reading and keeping for reference. Our society receives one copy. It goes first to the Newsletter Committee and is the put in the "Freebie" basket to circulate to our members. If you would like your own subscription, send your name, address & check to FGS Business Office, FORUM Mailing List, P.O.Box

200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940. For the reduced member fee of \$11.00 (instead of the usual \$17.00), say you are a member of our society.

This month is the start of the season when families often gather together - a good time for sharing our newest discoveries and research with family members. happy Holidays!

Dorothy Stanton

Welcome New Members

Tada L. Darsie

937 Shorepoint Ct.

G. 301

Alameda, CA 94501

(510) 749-4901

Clarice Hart

608 Serrramonte Ct.

Danville, CA 94526

(925) 743-9245

Michael Hecker

spouse of member

Dorie Hecker

Membership Handbook changes & corrections

New Address: **Lois Taylor**

102 W. Sandusky St.

Fredericktown, OH 43019

Address Correction:

Michael Fiorenzo

15 Alamo Glen Ct.

Danville, CA 94507

(from page 29)

to over 30,000 genealogical sites.

Recommended books are:

1. Genealogist's Handbook for NE Research, 3rd. edition; by Marcia Linbers (NEHGS).
2. Shaking Your Family Tree, Ralph Crandall, Yankee Publ. Co. (out of print)
3. The Redbook, The Source, and The Library, Ancestry Publishing.
4. Book lending libraries such as NEHGS and the National Genealogical Society.
5. Genealogical publishing company catalogs (NEHGS, Genealogical Publishing Co., Picton Press, Higginson).
6. Periodicals of genealogical societies.

Review the following before making the long trip to New England:

1. Your records for gaps and weak supporting material so you know what you need to research.
2. Review records from family members, find out if you can get even more.
3. Re-check the available census records locally.
4. Check with the Internet New England sites to get the latest information on places you want to visit. Also check these places for days and times open as well as if they have what you will be looking for.

General tips useful to New England researchers are:

1. Canadians who moved to NE often hid their past lest they be branded Tories.
2. An ancestor's trade might determine where he lived. (sailor, hatter, miner, etc.)
3. Pursue all possible spelling of last names. Check siblings who may use variants.
4. If marriage records are nil, try divorce records.
5. Children sometimes disappear because they were "farmed out" to a family who could afford to raise them. Often their names were changed.
6. At Sutro use the card catalog or computer, because much of its material is available only on microfiche.

BOOK & MAGAZINE REVIEW

By Suzanne Johnston

ILLINOIS GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

By George K. Schweitzer

Published by: Heritage Quest

P.O. Box 329

Bountiful, Ut. 84011-0329

\$12.00

This book contains sources for tracing your Illinois ancestors. It includes detailed instructions with chapters including Illinois background, types of records, record locations, research procedures and county listings. Includes maps. 287 pgs.

DIGGING FOR GENEALOGICAL TREASURE IN NEW ENGLAND TOWN RECORDS

by Ann Smith Lainhart

Published by: New England Historic Genealogical Society

160 N. Washington St.

Boston, MA 02114

\$15.00 plus \$3.50 for postage & handling

If you have New England ancestors, this book will be of interest to you. The bulk of records you will be using are "town" rather than county records. This book helps the researcher to go beyond the published vital records into records such as those of freeman and inhabitancy, town officers, town business, land grants, boundary and border disputes, licenses, chattel mortgage books, school and church records, etc. This is an excellent reference book as well as a very "readable" book.

*The San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society
sends their deepest sympathy to the family of*

Kate Prunte whos husband

Fred Prunte

passed away in October 1998

CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

Jeremy Frankel, our September speaker wrote to point out that in the "Last Month" article on him that the Book Store is open Monday through Thursday not Monday or Thursday. Also the relative of Claudia Mortensen was her father not her grandfather.

Jeremy recently discovered that one can access GLADIS from the public library. When at the start page of MELVYL and choosing which catalog to use (TEN for the last ten years or CAT for the complete catalog), although it does not specifically mention it, if you type in GLADIS at the prompt, you will be presented with the screen to start using GLADIS. Though as I mentioned in my talk, although GLADIS may be more up-to-date, it is not as flexible for researching as in MELVYL.

If anyone missed Jeremy's talk in September he will be presenting it again at the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, on January 12, 1999.

Writing your Life Story Classes at the Danville Library is presented by Marge Stout on Thursday 10:00am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Classes are in the old building, forward of the new addition.

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF STANISLAUS

presents an **ALL-DAY GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR**

at the Modesto Centre Plaza, Pisache-Ginko Room, 1000 K St., Modesto, CA on Saturday, November 21. Featured will be Christine Rose, a certified genealogist and genealogical lecturer. She is a full time professional with 36 years of experience and an elected Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. She has researched in over 400 courthouses and many state and regional repositories. She has lectured at many national conferences including the National Genealogical Society. Christine Rose was the recipient of the 1987 Donald Lines Jacobus award. She will present an all-day program with a break for lunch. Her topics will be: **SUCCESSFUL COURTHOUSE RESEARCH; BOUNTY LAND RECORDS; NEGLECTED TREASURES; USING LITTLE KNOWN AND NEGLECTED SOURCES; AND AVOIDING THE CROOKED PATH - GENEALOGICAL**

(continued) GENEALOGICAL PROBLEM SOLVING.

It will be a full program that will help both beginners in family history research and the more experienced researchers.

The public is invited. Classroom seating with tables will be available for 85 persons. Chairs will be available if over 85 attend. Something new! Special devices for the hearing impaired will be provided if requested in advance. Registration begins at 8:30 am Registration before November 15, 1998 is \$18.00. At the door \$20.00. Send check payable to Genealogical Society of Stanislaus to Box

LOOKING FOR IRISH ANCESTORS?

An Irish Genealogical Seminar will be held by

Nora M. Hickey

Saturday, 12 December 1998

United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th. Ave.

San Francisco, CA 94144

(Opposite San Francisco Zoo: Parking Available)

Registration: \$30.00 includes coffee and seminar papers.

See registration form on the board at the November membership meeting or call or e-mail Nora M. Hickey (415) 435-1038 after 6pm, e-mail

sawarren@aol.com

Joyce Buckland's 2nd. Annual English Research Experience in London

April 30 - May 8, 1999

See forms posted on the board at the November membership meeting or call Joyce Buckland at (916)332-4359 or e-mail: jkbfa@worldnet.att.net

*The California Genealogical Society has moved to
The Latham Square Office Bldg., 1611 Telegraph Ave.
(Corner of 16th. St.) Oakland CA 94612-2152*

Phone: (510) 663-1358

New Hours: Thursday, Friday & Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SOUTHERN Meets the 2nd. Tuesday of the month at Nancy Alexander's home, 50 St. Mark Ct., Danville 820-1593

10:00 am. November 10th.

IRISH & Meets the 2nd. Wednesday of the month at the home of **Patty Erickson**, 10 Ridge Place,

CALIFORNIA Pleasanton 229-0889. *10:00 AM. November 11th. January meeting to be announce at the November General Meeting.*

MAC COMPUTER

GROUP To be announced at the General meeting.

PUBLISHING Meets November 5th. (Thursday), 10:00 am at Barbara Johnson's house. Manny Lindner has a book Ready to publish and will bring it to the meeting.

ROOTS USERS For those learning to use Palladium Ultimate Family Tree. Group meets after the General Meeting in room AB. 7777 Norris Canyon Road.

THE MASTER GENEALOGIST

Larry Renslow, a member of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society would like to get a TMG user Group started. He asks the L-AGS group and other local Genealogical societies this question. "Are there enough people using The Master Genealogist locally to make a Livermore area user's group viable?"

Doug Mumma and I attended a users' group in Santa Clara for a while. Some of the meetings were quite worth while as far as what I learned about TMG. We should be able to do as well on our own.

If there aren't enough of us to sustain a user's group over time, maybe we could get some good out of a short series of learning/discussion meetings.

I'd like to hear from anyone who would be interested in meeting. Please comment on which day/time you'd be willing to attend a meeting. Comment if you wish on what we should do at the meetings.

Please address a message to me, larry@tdl.com or write to Larry Renslow, 1181 Vintner Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Or voice: (925) 846-1947

GERMAN AID OFFERED

SRVGS member **Michael Hecker** has kindly offered to help others doing German research. He is fluent in German & reads the Old German script. Call him at (925) 648-2906.

ELLIS ISLAND WILL GET THE AMERICAN FAMILY IMMIGRATION HISTORY CENTER IN THE YEAR 2000.

Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation Chairman Emeritus Lee Iacocca announced the plans for the center.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is playing a key role in the establishment of a family history research center on Ellis Island, where in two years the public will have automated access to a computerized database containing 17 million U.S. Immigration records.

To date the LDS church has extracted 65 percent of the records and the remaining 35 percent will be extracted and digitized by the opening of the center which will be situated in the Ellis Island Immigration Museum.

1881 CENSUS INDEX OF ENGLAND, WALES & SCOTLAND

One of the most remarkable indexes compiled to date is the culmination of a joint project of the Federation of Family History Societies & the Genealogical Society of Utah which took years to complete.

It consists of a surname index, birthplace (strays) index, census place index, census as enumerated, miscellaneous notes, list of vessels in port, and lists of institutions.

Oakland FHL has acquired the entire collection, but portions of this amazing index can be ordered for use at our local FHL.

ON THE WEB

GENEALOGY WEB SITE SELLS YOUR NAME AND E-MAIL ADDRESS

The following is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 1997 by Richard W. Eastman & Ancestry, Inc. it is re-published here with the permission of the author.

It's a tough world. Lots of businesses sell their customer lists these days. The result is that you get junk mail and marketing phone calls from all sorts of companies trying to sell you something you probably don't want. The newest twist is "spam mail", unwanted e-mail that advertise all sorts of junk. Now a well known genealogy Web site is contributing to the spam mail that you receive and apparently is profiting from personal information that they obtain from you under the guise of helping you do genealogy research. In fact, the Web site apparently is a "front", as the main purpose seems to be gathering personal information about you and then selling that information.

The Family Tree House Web site at <http://www.usaafter.com> claims that it is "the Association for Family Tree Enrollment and Registry." The home page says, "This site offers free family tree software and links to key genealogy sites. The software is available on-line. You can build your Family Tree House in real time, no downloading is required."

They also say, "... you can create and register your own on-line Family Tree. And because it is on-line, you can enlist the help of other family members by giving them your personal access code to allow them to fill in the missing branches--it's a project the whole family can participate in no matter where they live." On another page the site advises, "When requesting information, please make sure you include your name, mailing address and the information you would like."

After they collect all the personal information from you and your other family members, the owners of Family Tree House apparently package the information and sell it to other companies that send junk mail or spam e-mails. On a different Web site, the owners of Family Tree House offer "a file of 33,600 last-12-month registrants of the Family Tree House, an association that offers Web site members free software and links to genealogy sites." The file they sell reportedly contains information about each person's date of birth, gender, e-mail address, state and ZIP code. The Web advertisement says that the file contains listings for 33,600 people who have left personal information on the Family Tree House site.

To check for yourself, first look at <http://www.usaafter.com> and then look at: <http://www.mediacentral.com/Magazines/DirectNewsline/Archive/1998100910.htm>

FROM SHIRLEY SEIMS TERRY'S NOVEMBER 1998 TIPS

shirley@tdl.com

If you have any reason to believe one of your ancestors had any dealings with George Washington, you'll have to check out this fantastic site! All of the George Washington Papers from the Manuscript Division at the Library of Congress consisting of approximately 65,000 documents....accumulated by Washington from 1741 through 1799 have been digitized at

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwhome.html>

I found some wonderful WPA interviews at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mdbquery.html>. I suggest being creative with your searches. Put in places (towns and/or counties), surnames, etc. Included is lots of information that would be especially interesting to relatives and descendants, i.e. "Description of informant 6 feet tall, weight 170 lbs. Structure rugged and coarse. Health good." Other points gained in interview -- Ancestors all six foot tall. His son only one of the "relations" less than six feet in height.

FROM THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

"WOMEN OF THE REVOLUTION" Vol II

Can be found the accounts of the following women

(Film # 0924084, order at FHC)

	Contents of Vol. II	30	Susannah Elliott	80
Chapter	Name	page	Sabina Elliott	84
26	Martha Washington	7	Mrs Lewis Morris	87
27	Abigail Adams	26	Jane Washington	89
	Mrs. Smith	31	Anne Elliott	90
	Mrs. Shaw	33	Sarah Hopton	94
	Mrs Cranch	34	Behethland Foote Butler	95
	Elizabeth Clay	34	Hannah Caldwell	107
28	Martha Wilson	37	Susan Livingston	115
29	Rebecca Motte	68	Catharine Livingston	116
	Mrs. Brewton	77	To be continued in the January 1999	

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL