

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)
Guardian Rehabilitation Hospital
7777 Norris Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA

VOL. XIV No. 5

JANUARY 1999

THIS MONTH

by Claudia Mortensen

THE MISSING PERSONS OF GENEALOGY Presented by Marston Watson

Marston Watson, is a professional speaker, writer and Board member of the California Genealogical Society. He is currently State President of the Huguenot Society of California. He will speak on **THE MISSING PERSONS OF GENEALOGY** and give us some interesting material to help solve our own mysteries.

LAST MONTH

by Jane B. Steiner

BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS IN SOUTHERN RESEARCH

Electra Kimble Price began doing genealogy after she had put her mother's life story into her word processor and started editing it. She wanted to check parts of the story with the records, and that started her looking up records. She wasn't happy with what she found.

Going back from 1865, the only records of African-Americans are as property of slave owners. And that information depended on what the slave owner felt about his slaves. The 1860 Slave Schedule shows the name of a slave owner and a list of his slaves, e.g., 1 male, 35; 1 female, 20; and so on. Imagine how difficult it is to try to develop a family record from this.

But she learned if she started with 1920 and followed a surname back to 1870, that census can be the key. In the 1870 Census, along with the surname of the African-American, there is listed that same surname for a white person, the researcher should start to research the records of the white

family, the tax records and wills particularly. You hope to find in them some records of the slave, by name.

But, there is often a problem. At the time of the Emancipation, many slaves changed their names to be different from the owner, especially if they moved away. So now, what? There is no sure method, but you look at the surnames for neighboring plantations and farms. Look at their tax records, their wills, their diaries, everything you can get your hands on, because slaves were often used to pay debts.

Women could not own slaves, but fathers tended to give their daughters a slave when they married so that they could continue the life they had known. So the slave was then owned by her husband. The researcher now should trace his line as well.

Another good source is the Freedmans Bureau, which Electra describes as one of the first poverty programs in the country. It was formed right after the Emancipation to assist former enslaved people to settle into family life. The Bureau
(continued on page 40)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 5 **Tuesday - 10:00 am Board Meeting** at Jean Hunt's home. 2173 Myrtle Beach Ln., Danville. All members welcome
- 12 **Tuesday - 7:30 pm Livermore-Amador Gen. Soc.** Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave, Livermore
- 19 **Tuesday - 10:00 am SRVGS General Meeting** 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon Topic: "The Missing Persons of Genealogy." by Marston Watson.
- 26 **Tuesday - 9:00 am Library Trip.** California Genealogical Society (at new location in Oakland) A \$3.00 User Fee will be charged to non-CGS Members. 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.
- 28 **Thursday - 10:00 am Member Education Class.** "Using Newspapers, City Directories, Voter Registrations, etc." Presented by Carol Glover 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon, Phone 829-7207

February

- 2 **Tuesday - 10:00 am Board meeting** at Carol Thompson's home, 308 Hartford Road, Danville. Phone 820-4103

How to Compute A birthdate of Your Ancestor From a Death Date By Formula 8870

Taken from the Morgan Area Genealogical Association, Jacksonville, IL Newsletter

1. Enter the Death Date as Year/Month/Day, i.e. 1889.05.06 (1889.May.06)
2. Then subtract Age of Person i.e. - 71.07.09 (71yrs. 7ms. 9ds)
3. Result 1817.97.97
4. Subtract 8870 to correct months and days - 88.70
5. You will have a very close birth date 1817.09.27 (1817 Sep 27)

Try it -- You might like it!

OFFICERS TO CONTACT	NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL TEAM	SRVGS TREASURERS REPORT
Pres Dorothy Stanton 820-3757	Coordinator: Jean Hunt 552-6564	FUND BALANCES (12/31/1998)
Vice-	jhunt8961@aol.com	General Fund Balance: 2,466.58
President Victoria da Roza 820-7866	Don Gotthold 651-0214	Hospitality Fund Balance: 310.00
Membership: Patty Erickson 229-0889	Judy Gustafson 820-6092	Publications Fund Balance: 866.66
10 Ridge Place, Pleasant Hill, CA	Pat Isom 820-2660	Special Projects Fund Balance: 200.00
94523-1609	Suzanne Johnston 838-8682	Tape Library Fund Balance: 123.20
Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00	Mailing: Barbara Dittig 648-9364	Library Fund: Prior Year Gifts &
Family 20.00	Lucy Carver 837-3146	Donations: 1,156.78
MEMBERSHIP YEAR JUNE 1 -		Current Year Donations: 243.00
MAY 1		OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE: 5,366.22

SRVGS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As genealogists, we spend much of our time looking to the PAST. However the FUTURE looks exciting for genealogy, judging by recent articles in publications I receive. Some of the new projects I found are:

- The USGenWeb Census Project has thousands of volunteers transcribing census records to be posted on the Internet along with scanned images of the actual census pages. You can view them from you home or library computer

- City Directories will be searchable on the Internet. Currently 99 cities for the year 1859 are available. The project comes from Primary Source Media.*

- You can preserve your DNA information for future generations, thanks to a new service by GeneSaver.

- One example of the many CD-ROM disks now available is The Compilation of Official Records of the Union & Confederate Armies. In print it takes up 74 volumes and costs over \$1000. The CD is available for under \$60.

There are many more mind-boggling tools available, none of which could I have imagined when I started genealogy back in the dark ages when there were scarcely any copy machines! It's truly a wonderful time to be doing genealogy.

In the PRESENT, SRVGS has some good things in store for us. **CLAUDIA MORTENSEN** has coordinated a mini Vendor's Fair for next month -- a small preview of what will be found at the California Genealogical Society Fair at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds in April. The German Interest Group has been resurrected, thanks to the help of new member **MICHAEL HECKER**.

We thank **CAROL GLOVER** and **DIANA HANCOCK** for the upcoming member education classes. And **VERN SEGELKE** has arranged for us to visit the new CGS Library in Oakland this month. SRVGS promises an excellent year for our members in 1999!

Dorothy Stanton

FRAUDULENT LINEAGES

You should check

From Shirley Siems Terry, "Tipster of the month" on the January 1999 L-AGS Web site. http://www.l-ags.org/tips_of_the_month.html.

Shirley suggests you should check

<http://www.linkline.com/personal/xymox/fraud/fraud1.htm>

if you have any of the following surnames:

Andrews, Backus, Bacon, Beach, Bell, Blaisdell, Bloedel, Braman, Brooking/Broquin, Buckner, Caldwell, Carr, Carroll, Caruthers, Carter, Chalfount, Chaplin, Child, Church, Clement, Clise, Cochran, Cook, Copley, Corbie, Corliez, Corry, Crawford, Cunningham, Daniel, De Ronde, Devecman, Dickey, Dorman, Doty, Du Pont, Duncan, Erickson, Ficken, Fish/Fisk, Flanders, Freeman, Galway, Gill, Holliday/Halliday, Hulbert/Hurlbert/Hulbert, Hull, Hungerford, Jack/Jacques/James, Johnson, Johnson, Jones, Kennett, Klaus, Lane, Lee, Lenman/Leman/Lanham/Lenham, Lilly, Lincoln, Mark, Marshall, Mc Vickar, Mons/Mantz, Moore, Nicholson, Ord, Ormond, Parson, Pullman, Redburn, Richardson, Robinson, Rockwell, Roger, Ross, Runk/Runck, Russel, Schneider, Seaman, Shapleigh, Sproull, Stone, Stowell, Swift, Thaxter, Thompson, Tilney, Tone, Topping, Traylor, Turner, von Horn, Walley, Ward, Waterbury, Weld, Welling, Wheeler, Whitman, Wilson, Witherspoon, Wolff, Wooley, Worcester.

A FEW ONLINE BOOKSTORES

Taken from "Net-Working" compiled and written by Linda Scott

<http://www.AskQuailind.com> - info@AskQuailind@.

.....

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

<http://www.Amazon.com>

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

<http://www.genealogy-books.com/index.htm>

(continued from page 37)

issued tools, food, and clothing; they set up education; they arranged for transportation for people who wanted to look for their families; and most important for researchers, they set up a labor department.

This was particularly important because of the cotton economy in the South. Who was going to plant it now? Who was going to pick it? The Freedmans Bureau wanted to be sure that the slaves who were freed had some protection; an advocate, to ensure that they were not cheated, that they were given fair wages and were not mistreated in any way. Contracts were written. These were fairly standard contracts naming both the former slave and the plantation owner, the wage, what medical assistance was available and so forth. They list the laborers, their ages and the amounts they were to receive.

These records are in the National Archives, but they are not indexed. Researchers should go to the Archives branch closest to the place where they think their ancestor might have been and then go through the reels of film, reel by reel. A finding aid has been developed to help with these records and is available at the LDS Family History Center in Oakland.

African-American research is a continuous probing, looking for clues. She felt it was important to get people comfortable with the idea of researching their families, and was instrumental in forming the Afro-American Genealogical Society of Northern California in Oakland which has helped many of its members trace their families.

If you think your Irish or your Scandinavian research is difficult, you can see that it is easy compared to African-American research. But perhaps people who have southern ancestors can help them. There is an organization in Alabama called "African Ancestored Family Researchers" (AfriGeneas) which requests and encourages all descendants of former slave holding families to share any and all slave information encountered in their genealogical research. Records of the slave owner are generally the only clue to an ancestor with African ties. Many types of records are wanted. Literally anything that mentions a slave and any detail about the slave.

The collection of data will be permanently located in the Alabama Room of the Anniston-Calhoun Library. Mail information to: Anniston Public Library, Alabama Room, Slave Data Collection, P.O. Box 308, Anniston, AL 36202. For More information contact Valencia King Nelson, slavedata@aol.com

SLAVE DATA COLLECTION

RECORDS NEEDED INCLUDE:

Advertisements	Day Books/Logs	Military Records
Apprenticeship	Death Records	Misc. Records
Bible Records	Diaries-Journals	Pension Records
Bills of Sale	Inventories	Plantation Records
Birth Records	Letters	Run-A-Ways
Census Schedules	Legislative Acts	Slave Owners
Church Records	Litigation	Slave Sales
Cohabitation Records	Manumissions	Tax Records
Court Records	Marriage Records	Wills

SPECIFIC DETAILS NEEDED

Slave Owners Name	Source Document
Name of Slave	State
Parent(s) of Slave	County
Birth Place of Slave	Year of Source Document
Age of Slave	Other Information
Gender of Slave	
Color of Slave	
Other Physical Description	

DO YOU HAVE A TOPIC SUGGESTION FOR NEW TAPES FOR THE SRVGS CASSETTE LIBRARY?

Barbara Dyer will be adding to our Cassette Tape collection in March and would like to hear from the membership for any suggestions/requests that you would like to have her include in her order. Please let her know soon. Call: Librarian Barbara Dyer (925) 820-9738 or e-mail Bdyergen@aol.com

RESEARCH TIPS AND LITTLE KNOWN SOURCES

By Suzanne Johnston

Making Microfilm More Readable

Those washed out, dim microfilms can sometimes be made more readable by placing a sheet of colored paper over them. This seems to heighten the contrast, and make it easier to read the record. Yellow works very well, but you might also try other colors. Some colors work better than others on certain records. Make up a packet of colored paper and take it with you to the microfilm reader.

20th. Century Military Records

The Veteran's Administration has discovered some 10 million duplicates of 20th. century military records thought to have been destroyed in their 1973 fire. If you have been told that the records you need were burned, write again to: National Personnel Records, GS, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132. They will send you forms to obtain records if they are now available.

Census Record Don'ts

When you are working with those all important census records, here are some DON'Ts to keep in mind.

Don't

Stop with Soundex Findings, Go back to the original record.

Believe the census indexes to be correct or complete.

Assume the relationship to the head of the family is as stated.

Assume the wife is the mother of all or any of the children.

Assume the ages given provide a birth year.

Forget to copy the info at the top of the page, as well as all date to the right of the occupation.

Forget to copy all entries for your surname in the county. Better look over the neighbors too. Four Smith's in a row with a Jones in the middle could mean a married daughter and her family.

Think the records before 1850 cannot help. They may only have one name listed, but at least you'll know how many to look for, for a whole family.

Forget the 1900 veteran's census if your ancestor was in the military. Widows are also listed.

Reprinted from Genealogical Society of N. Orange CA. March 1995

New and Little Known Resources for - Kentucky

From Heritage Quest, Sep/Oct 1998 Issue #77

Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky to the General Assembly of Virginia 1769-1792 by James Roode Robertson. Originally published by The Genealogical Publishing Co., These early petitions to the Assembly are published verbatim in chronological order. The earliest is dated 1769 and the last 1931. They seem to pertain to that period when Kentucky was a county of Virginia. The documents themselves were found at the State Archives in 1910. An everyname index is found at the back.

Kentucky Death Certificates 1911-1944. Film #1904664 available at the LDS Family History Library.

Breckenridge County. Marriage records 1852-1946. Film #1877050 available at the LDS Family History Library.

Clinton County. Marriage records 1859-1987. Film #1877068 available at the LDS Family History Library. Order Books 1864-1911 Film #1877065 available at the LDS Family History Library.

Greene County. School census records 1895-1906 Film #1877094 available at the LDS Family History Library

Spencer County. Order books 1824-1922 Film#1877031 available at the LDS Family History Library.

Todd County. Deed 1820-1906 Film#1877112 available at the LDS Family History Library.

New and Little Known Resources for - Missouri

From Heritage Quest, Sep/Oct 1998 Issue #77.

Iron County. Deed records, 1814-1896; abstract and index to deeds, 1815-1887 Film#2028259 available at the LDS Family History Library.

Marriage records, 1857-1949, Film #2028265 available at the LDS Family History Library.

Madison County. Court records 1819-1915, Film #2027294 available at the LDS Family History Library.

Washington County. Military records 1865-1922: index, 1819-1996. Film#2030882 available at the LDS Family History Library.

Engagement Child

From Heritage Quest, Sep/Oct 1998 Issue #77

A child born less than nine months after the marriage of the parents was sometimes referred to as an "engagement child"

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SOUTHERN Meets the 2nd. Tuesday of the month 10:00 am at Nancy Alexander's home, 50 St. Mark Court, Danville, phone 820-1593. **This month, Jan. 12, 1999.**

IRISH & CALIFORNIA Meets the 2nd. Wednesday of the month 10:00 am at of Patty Erickson home, 10 Ridge Place, Pleasant Hill. Phone 229-0889. **No Meeting in January.**

GERMAN Meets Wednesday, **January 13, 1999** at 10:00 am at Dianna Hancock's home, 512 Zephyr Circle, Danville, Phone 820-1424.

MAC COMPUTER GROUP Next meeting **Wednesday January 20, 1999** at Barney Rubin's home, 447 Woodbine Ln., Danville, Phone 838-7238.

PUBLISHING **No meeting in January.**

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

INTERNET Interested members should contact Robert da Roza by e-mail vrदारोza@ix.netcom.com to be added to the SRVGS list.

CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BOOKS

The 1998-99 edition of "The California Locator: A directory of Public Records for locating people Dead or Alive in California" is now available and has been expanded and new features have been added.

This book tells where to write, call, FAX or go for genealogical information in each county in California. It is organized by counties and cities within the county and fully indexed by city. It also contains a map of California counties and county seats. It gives physical and mailing addresses, phone numbers and FAX numbers (if available) for each agency or organization listed below:

COUNTY OFFICES - tells which office to contact for birth, death, marriage, probate, naturalization and land records. tells what years are available and the cost

NEWSPAPERS - Denotes whether Daily or Weekly. Ethnic newspapers are included and marked accordingly.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES - Resource holdings such as state and federal censuses, vital statistics, newspapers. Tells what years are available, i.e. Alameda Journal: 1878-Current.

MORTUARIES - Dentes ethnicity if available.

CEMETERIES - Date Established and Type (Public, private, fraternal, religious)

Also **GENEALOGICAL LIBRARIES & SOCIETIES, STATE & NAT'L RESOURCES IN CALIFORNIA.**

Price \$26.99 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Contact Laurie Nicklas, Dept. GS298, 1320 Standiford, #4-300, Modesto, CA 95350.

Also available: "California Cemeteries" 1998-99 Edition. Alphabetical by Counties and cities within each county. Indexed by city with addresses, phone numbers, date established and type. (Includes National cemeteries in California) \$15.99 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. And "California County Courthouse Records" 1998-99 Edition. A directory of Vital Records found in each County office in California. Tells what years are available and cost of each record. \$7.99 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling.

ON THE WEB**Alameda County Records on the Web**

Taken from "The Live Oak, November/December Newsletter page 3.

The Alameda County Clerk/Recorder's Office now has a Web site enabling computer users to order birth, death and marriage certificates without making a trip to the Court House.

The site can be reached at www.co.alameda.ca.us.

The new service began in August with little or no publicity but by early October more than 100 people ordered documents through the web page. Alameda County is believed to be the only county in the state offering the service, according to an article in the Oakland Tribune (Oct. 12, 1998).

People can order the documents at any time of the day seven days a week and can specify how they want them sent - either by regular mail at no extra charge or by overnight service at a cost of \$15.50. Certificates themselves cost \$12.00 plus a \$5.00 credit card fee as electronic orders must be charged to a credit card.

DAR LINEAGE BOOKS NOW ONLINE

<http://www.ancestry.com>

Military Records for Genealogists with links to transcriptions and indexes of the military service and pension records on the internet for the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, Indian Wars, Spanish-American War, World War I & II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Medal Recipients and other Military Honorees, Academy Graduates, 1890 Veterans & Widow Census, Miscellaneous and How to do Genealogical Research in Military Records.
Go to: <http://usgenweb.com/military/index/htm>

MISCELLANEOUS WEB SITES**Ohio Migration Routes:**

<http://www.infinet.com/~dzimmerm/Gwen/migration.htm>

Virus Information

<http://www.kumite.com/myths>

Miscellaneous topics, including care of old documents and a list of epidemics with dates:

German research:

<http://genealogy.or/-palam/>

California DMV Office Forms:

<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/forms/english/forms.htm>

Shirley's "Tips of the Month" page:

<http://www.l-ags.org/tips.of.the.month.html>

"WOMEN OF THE REVOLUTION" VOL II

(Film #0924084, order at the FHC)

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**