

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-8305
President: Dorothy Stanton
Editor: Jean Hunt
Meetings 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tues. of month
(except August & December)
Guardian Rehabilitation Hospital
7777 Norris Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA

VOL. XIV No. 6

FEBRUARY 1999

THIS MONTH

by Jean Hunt

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS A MINI FAIR

There will be a short business meeting then we will hear from the vendors participating in our Mini-Fair describing their products. Each of the participating vendors will donate an item for a drawing so prepare to be a lucky winner! Put your name in at the door.

Participating vendors are: Susan Swindell - Skeleton's Closet; Art Lazar - The Gold Bug-Maps; Elizabeth Peterson - Old Books; Marson Watson - Genealogy on CD; Walt Nakamura - Nakamura's Family Tree Video; Frances Lloyd - Books

LAST MONTH

by Betty Vail

THE MISSING PERSONS OF GENEALOGY

Marston Watson, former president of the Sons of the American Revolution, current president of the Huguenot Society of California and a board member of the California Genealogical Society, suggested clues for finding THE MISSING PERSONS OF GENEALOGY.

Mr. Watson stressed that genealogy is a mystery that gives a great feeling of satisfaction when a problem is solved. He challenged the audience to find the missing parents of Jonathan Nichols and his wife Sara (Bassett) Nichols after reviewing the known facts in the case. Society members suggested various sources such as land records, deeds and wills whence the needed information might be found.

Pointing out that "armchair genealogy" generally doesn't work, he recommended visiting pertinent small town libraries and newspapers, two rich sources of information. Some local library archives even house handwritten notes. Records in adjoining counties can be valuable, especially when local resources have been destroyed.

After stating that "Serendipitous information often comes out of the most remote places you can imagine," Mr. Watson illustrated the point with specific incidents in his own genealogical search.

he conceded that "internet genealogy" can often be rewarding by providing specific information and by bringing together people who are conducting the same family research, he added a word of caution. Such information is "just as reliable as the person who puts it in" and should always be confirmed with primary evidence.

Believing that the younger generation will be more apt to read family genealogies that are recorded on CD's, Mr. Watson and his wife have founded **Genealogy on CD**, (510) 234-1776. They specialize in putting family histories on CD ROM which can include documents and pictures. Although submitted material may be produced with any program, **Genealogy on CD** uses "Master Genealogist".

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Tuesday - Board Meeting - 10:00 am. Carol Thompson's home. 308 Hartford Road, Danville. All Members welcome.

Tuesday - 7:30 pm Livermore-Amador Gen. Soc. Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave, Livermore

Saturday - 3:00 - 5:00 pm Finding Your Roots: African American Family History Research With featured speaker, Rev. Franklin A. Dorman, author of "Twenty Families of Color" introduced by Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown. The Interstake Center, Temple Hill, 4780 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland.

Tuesday - 10:00 am General Meeting 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon, **SRVGS Mini Vendor Fair.** There will be a short meeting. There will be no "Freebie Table".

Thursday - 10:00 am Member Education Class. "Internet Demonstration of Genealogical Sites" by Dianna Hancock's home, 512 Zephyr Circle, Danville. Phone 820-1424. MAC and PC users welcome.

Monday - 9:00 am Library Trip. Sutro Library, Winston Ave., SF. 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.

MARCH

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

Tuesday - 10:00 - 1:00 Open House California Genealogy Society, Tour of the Library and Refreshments. 1611 Telegraph Ave. Suite 200, Oakland, CA 94612-2152. (510) 633-1358 or e-mail calgensoc@aol.com.

Tuesday - 9:00 am Library Trip. City of Santa Clara Library, "Bay Area Libraries" presented by Mary Jo Hosteny.



Tombstone Epitaphs

*gathered from the web by
Celeste Guillory & Margaret Gentry*

Here lies
Ezekial Aikle
Age 102
The Good
Die Young

Found in
East Dalhousie Cemetery
Nova Scotia

Taken from The San Mateo County Genealogical Society Newsletter Jan 1999 Vol: 17-1 pg. 3

OFFICERS TO CONTACT

NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL TEAM

SRVGS TREASURERS REPORT

Pres Dorothy Stanton 820-3757

Coordinator: Jean Hunt 552-6564

FUND BALANCES (1/31/1999)

Vice-

jhunt8961@aol.com

General Fund Balance: 2,330.34

President Victoria daRoza 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, Pleasanton 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 30

OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE: 5,219.98

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our February meeting will have an unusual format. The business meeting will be very short in order to give our vendors time to present their products and for everyone to examine them. Please read your newsletter carefully for future meeting dates and reports. We will post information on the Bulletin Board at the meeting rather than make announcements.

One item of business in February is the forming of the Nominating Committee which will start its work in March and make its report to the Board and then to the membership in April. We need a volunteer from the membership at large to join our Vice-President **Victoria daRoza** and Membership Chair **Patty Erickson** on the Committee. Contact me at the meeting on February 16 or call me or Victoria if you can help.

Claudia Mortensen has assembled an interesting group of vendors. The wares they have to show us will not only be of general interest, but should be of great help to our research and record keeping.

Dorothy Stanton

CONDOLENCES

SRVGS Wishes to express its sincere sympathy to the family of Suzanne Johnston who's Mother passed away last December 1998

(continued from page 48) interior is light and airy. It has white mosaic tile floors, art glass dome and beautiful stained glass windows. Wandering through its four tiers. you will notice many, many glass fronted niches enclosing a display of urns and special objects. One such niche contains the occupant's toy train.

In the Presidio, due west of the parade ground, is the National Military Cemetery. There are more than 24,000 burials in this cemetery, beginning with Pvt. John Brown on July 23, 1852. On Patten Street in the Presidio is a pet cemetery. Here is buried Bilbo Baggins, a white mouse. Sincerely,

Bill Pearson

Taken from HAGS Informer Vol 20 No. 4 Nov/Dec 1997 page 91

SRVGS MEMBERS OWN A WEALTH OF INFORMATION, DO YOU WANT TO SHARE YOURS?

By Jean Hunt

This has been tried before and we want to try it again.

We would like members who want to share the valuable cache of their libraries: books, CDs, newsletters, films, video-tapes, data collections etc. to join us by cataloguing their personal collections and then defining the way they would like to share information with fellow members.

it could be by allowing one afternoon per week or month for someone to come to your home and use your CDs, or search a book, or perhaps you would rather do the looking for someone and arrange to copy information with an agreement for compensation. What ever way you would like to do it would be up to you.

Inventories from members who don't want to share but might have that rare edition of, for example; The Cheney Family History by Pope, circa 1893, that could have just the last bit of proof to prove a family line, might be a great help to a fellow member.

If you could do this in the next six months we could have the information available for members to look at during our general meetings.

Doing your own inventory might surprise you as to what you actually have!

Now that I have a deadline to shoot for you will be seeing mine.

For those who wish to participate, please present your inventory to Barbara Dyer who will compile the inventories and make them available to the membership along with the Tape collection at our general meetings.

LAST CHANCE

TO HELP SELECT NEW TAPES FOR THE SRVGS CASSETTE LIBRARY

Search your mind and genealogical magazines and no doubt you will see a lecture series or write up about subjects that would be of value to you in your genealogical search. It would be a great way to get the information you want and benefit the society too.

Librarian Barbara Dyer can be reached at (925) 820-9738 or e-mail Bdyergen@aol.com

PSYCHIC ROOTS

By Carol Glover

Last year I attended a seminar sponsored by the Stanislaus County Genealogical society featuring Hank Z. Jones, author of "Psychic Roots" and "More Psychic Roots". The television show "Unsolved Mysteries" had previously featured one of the 'cases'. Mr. Jones told several stories such as the one about the frustrated researcher who kicked the library bookshelf and was conked on the head by a book which opened to the page with the information he had been seeking. I think Mr. Jones recommended having a talk with the elusive ancestor who was giving you fits. Hmmm. What did I have to loose? I had spent ten years (five trips to Salt Lake City and one to Wheeling, WV) searching for the parents of my great great grandfather, John Hamilton McCourtney. This is an unusual surname so I had the rest of the family including grandparents, great grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and a probable brother. After reading hundreds of rolls of microfilm and checking as many books, the closest I had come to his parentage was an 1835 Allegheny Co. PA Orphans Court record with a line conveniently drawn through the space for the name of the father.

Just before Christmas my job took me to Oakland for a day. I decided to go to the cemetery during lunch for 'that chat'. As I was leaving, I spotted a dime on the ground. Was this a sign? I decided I was a good candidate for a padded cell but I took it to Salt Lake City for good luck anyway. I wrapped it in scotch tape so I wouldn't spend it.

On my recent trip to Salt Lake City I had no research plan or even a list of films to read. I couldn't think of anything I hadn't already checked. On day two I suddenly remembered a little article I had read a couple of years ago in the SRVGS newsletter. It mentioned the St. Louis (most likely place he was married) Public Library had a set of films of early Saint Louis Catholic Church records. I decided to check the FHL computer (if you don't call it by by just the right name, it's not there!) catalog. They had them all, 125 rolls! I narrowed it down to the only three churches that had records prior to 1845. The index at the beginning of roll two listed "John H. McCortney to Margaret P., Evoy". I cautioned myself to celebrate the fact that I would soon have a (continued in next column)

record of their marriage and not to disappointed if it didn't name the parents. The record was in French and even though I nearly flunked it in the eighth grade, I could tell it said the groom was the son of James and Margarite Grate. The entry also contained the groom's crude signature. After I stopped crying, I took the film to the copy machine. I knew I was in the genealogy twilight zone when the dime I pulled out was wrapped in tape!

Since I had made friends with the FHL computer, I typed in the names of the family members I could now claim. I liked the idea that I might be descended from Lady Godiva as I once had hair to my ankles, but Odin? If you believe that, I have a bridge to sell you! Where would I go to have a chat with him?

CEMETERIES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Several genealogy newsletters lately have passed on a tidbit about there being no cemeteries in San Francisco. There was a time when most bodies in San Francisco cemeteries were moved to nearby Colma to make room for more buildings. however, not everyone was moved. Following is a letter written by our member, Bill Pearson, to one of the societies that published that tidbit.

To: The Carroll County Genealogical Society, Illinois

In the Fall 1997 issue of your newsletter is an article titled "No Cemeteries in San Francisco." This account, taken from Odem's Library, Family Tree is somewhat incorrect.

In the San Francisco Mission District at 16th. and Dolores is Mission Dolores, a structure completed in 1791.

Adjacent to the south side of the mission is a garden like area boxed in by high four foot thick walls. There you will find headstones of Mexican, Chilean, Irish, French, Italian and English residents of early San Francisco. There is also one plot dedicated to the 5,000 Native Americans buried outside the walls under the adjacent sidewalks, streets and buildings.

In the Richmond District, one block off Geary Boulevard, between Arguello and Stanyan is Loraine Court. At the end of this short residential street is the Columbarium. In this four story tall Pantheon-like building is the cremated remains of more than 10,000 San Franciscans. The Columbarium's (continued on page 47)

Book Revues

By Suzanne Johnston

GENEALOGISTS HANDBOOK FOR ATLANTIC CANADA RESEARCH

Edited by Terrence M. Punch and George Sanborn Jr.

Available through: New England Historical Genealogical Society 160 N. Washington St., Boston, MA 02114, \$15.00 plus \$3.50 postage.

This is a guide to research in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador. Acadian research is included. Listed are addresses, hours of operation and collection descriptions for most of the repositories in these Canadian Provinces. Details of newspapers, societies, cemeteries, immigration, libraries and repositories are given. This is an expanded upgrade over the first edition, and well worth the price.

SLAVES IN THE FAMILY By Edward Ball

Published by: Farrar, Straus and Girous, 19 Union Square West, New York, NJ 10003, \$30.00.

In this book, Edward Ball traces the history of not only his slave owning ancestors, but also his search for the descendants of the people his ancestors kept as slaves. This is one of the best non-fiction family history narratives written. It is very interesting and would also be an example to study for those who plan to write a narrative family history.

GOING TO AMERICA by Terry Coleman

Published by: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202-3987 \$19.95 plus \$3.50 postage.

This book is about the Irish and English emigrants who came to North America between 1845 and 1855. It details the journey, as well as illnesses, dishonest rackets, struggles with emigration etc. Anyone who had an immigrant from the British Isles in the mid-nineteenth century should read this book.

A Computer is a typewriter with an attitude.

A little a'disk and a little a'data.

The Humorous Side of Genealogy

Census Humor

The Sences taker in our town bein taken sick he deppertised me to go out for him one day, and as he was too ill to giv me informashun how to perceed, I was consekently compelled to go it blind. Sittin down by the road side I drawd up the follerin list of questions which I proposed to ax the peple I visited:

What's your age:

Whar was you born?

Air you marrid, and if so how do you like it?

How many children have you, and do they sufficiently resemble you as to proclood the possibility of their belonging to any of your nabers?

Did you ever hav the measels, and if so how many?

Hav you a twin brother several years older than yourself?

How many parents have you?

Do you read Watt's Hims regler?

Do you use boughten tobacker?

Wat's your fiting wate?

State whether you air blind, deaf, idiotic or got the heaves.

Was you ever at Niagry Falls?

Was you ever in the Penitentiary?

State how much pork, impending crysis, Dutch cheeze, popler suvrinty, standard poetry, childrens' strainers, slave code, catnip, red flannel, ancient histry, pickled tomaters, old junk, perfoomery, coal ile, liberty, hoop skirt, &c., you av on hand.

But it didn't work. I got into a row at the fust house I stopt to with some old maids. Disbeliven the answers they giv in regard to their ages I endeavored to open their mouths and look at their teeth, same as they do with hosses, but they floo into a vilent rage and tackled me with brooms and sich. Takin the sennses requires experiunse, like any other bizniss.

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. **Feb. 9, 1999.**

IRISH & CALIFORNIA Meets the 2nd. Wednesday of the month 10:00 am at the home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place, Pleasant Hill. Phone 229-0889. **Feb. 10, 1999.**

GERMAN Meets Wednesday, **Feb. 24, 1999** at 10:00 am at Jean Hunt's home, 2173 Myrtle Beach Lane, Danville Phone 552-6564.

MAC COMPUTER GROUP Meets the 3rd. Wednesday of the month 10:00 am at the home of Dianna Hancock, 512 Zephyr Circle, Danville. Phone 820-1424.

PUBLISHING No meeting in February.

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.

YOUR INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE

1999 CGS FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

APRIL 9 & 10, 1999

Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA

The 1999 Fair will encompass novices in genealogy to those using computers and the Internet. Classes will be offered throughout the two days on this full range of subjects. A computer demonstration classroom will feature the latest high-tech connections to acquaint all interested in using computers and the Internet for genealogy.

Vendors of items and services in genealogy will display their products in a larger pleasant "Trade Fair" atmosphere. The fair will be located in three exhibit buildings set around an international courtyard. Classrooms have been arranged so that the flow of traffic between classes will be through the vendor areas offering easy access to your interests. The fair will have an international atmosphere offering entertainment in the courtyard. Ethnic foods will be available in the foods area.

Look for brochures at the general meeting.

GENEALOGICAL ITEMS TO DONATE?

If you are thinking about spring cleaning and thinning out your Genealogical collections of books, videos, tapes and CDs, Please keep in mind the Family History Center in Alamo, CA. Also don't wait to long to visit there. They have very helpful volunteers who are glad to help new researchers and experienced researchers alike.

Most likely you will already know one or two of those volunteers as a number of them are also members of SRVGS.

If you do decide to donate items to their library they are very appreciative and will provide you with forms for tax exemption statements. Any questions contact Pat Isom, (925) 820-2660 or JSOM@msn.com.

WHO IS A YANKEE?

To foreigners, a Yankee is an American. To an American, a Yankee is a northerner. To a Vermonter, a Yankee is a person who eats apple pie for breakfast.

Anon. From the Newsletter of Highland Co. Gen. Soc. Vol. XI, 4

ONE LINER

"I'll be Bach." Johann Sebastian Schwarzenegger.

ON THE WEB

Causing an exciting buzz in the genealogical research world are two new and exciting web sites that have recently come online.

One is the **DAR Library Catalog** <http://dar.library.net>

On January 26, 1999 The Library Corporation of Inwood, West Virginia completed its work to post the DAR Library Catalog on the Internet. DAR owns the database of the records and contracts with TLC to run this catalog for us.

Take a look at this attractive site and read through *Tips for Searching the Catalog*, also *About the DAR Library* if you are unsure about its holdings.

Quoting from page 2 of 5, **NOTE:** The DAR Library does not loan or sell any of the books listed in its catalog, nor will the Library make photocopy reproductions of entire books. The Library is strictly a reference facility. All researchers are welcome to visit. Persons who cannot visit the Library may wish to contact the DAR Library Research Service at the above address for assistance. Additional information on the DAR, The Library and the Research Service may also be found at the DAR's website www.dar.org.

SRVGS has many members who belong to the DAR and could probably help you send for information as well.

The Second site is that of the **LDS Church**. From the **NewsNet @ BYU**, Saturday, February 6, 1999 http://newsnet.byu.edu/noframes/show_story.cfm?number=8836) The LDS Church to go online with family history Web site. The Family History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day-Saints is working to make genealogical files accessible from a family history Web site which is in the developmental stages. No set completion date has been given. The Ancestral files will most likely be accessible from the site, said Craig Foster, spokesman for FHC public affairs projects. What other files and information will be accessible from the site is not final.

SRVGS will keep the membership of the progress of the exciting new site.

Correction

From SRVGS Jan. Newsletter, Miscellaneous Web Sites, the URL was omitted on Miscellaneous Topics, including care of old documents and a list of epidemics with dates:
<http://www.ungenweb.org/researchers/researcher.html>

The Terry's New Address

Wayne & Shirley Terry
224 Saddle Court
Folsom, CA 95630
(916) 608-1709
e-mail <siemsterry@aol.com>

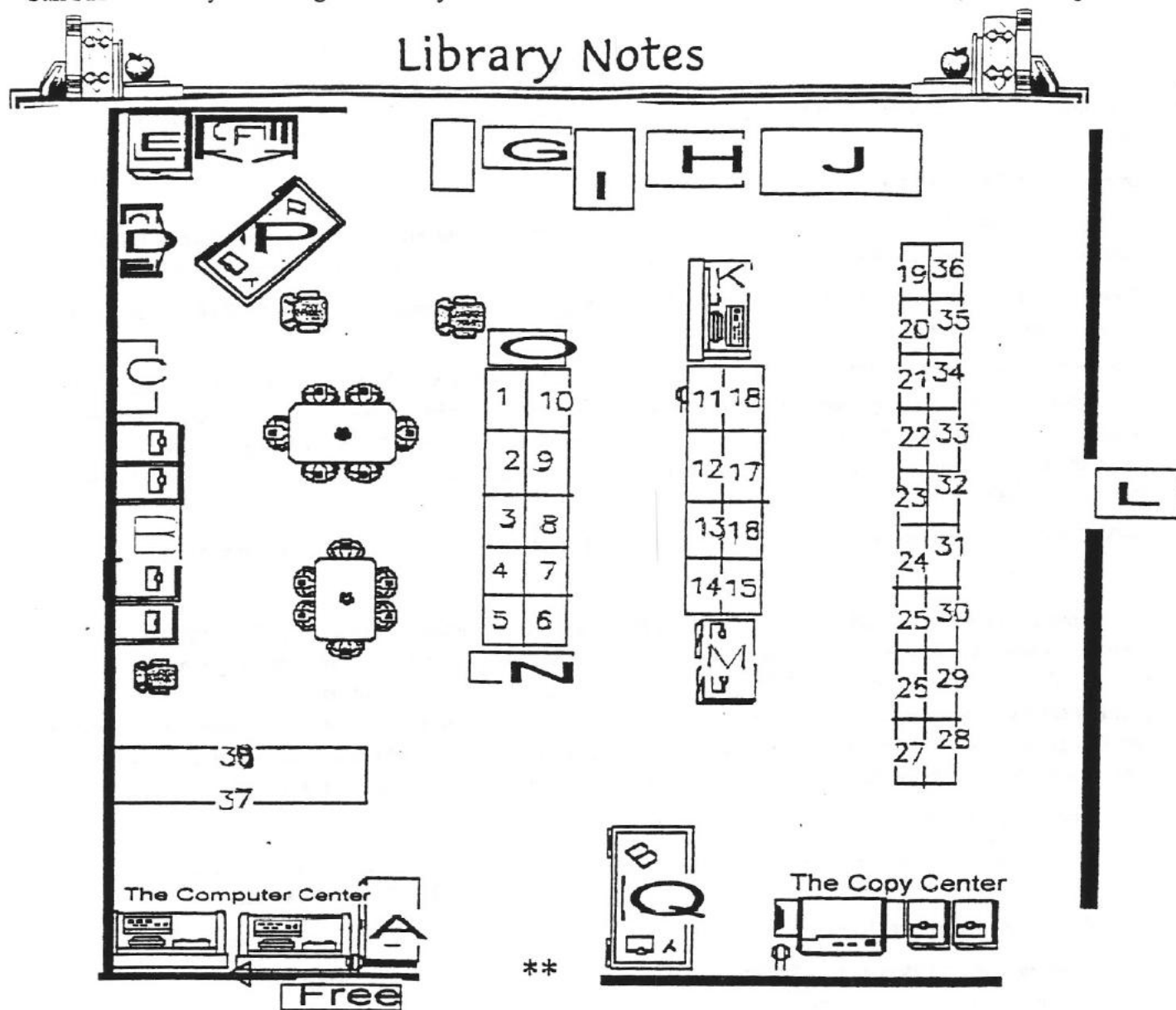
"WOMEN OF THE REVOLUTION" VOL II

(Film #0924084, order at the FHC)

(continued from SRVGS Jan. Newsletter page 44)

Chapter	Name	Page	Chapter	Name	Page
46	Anna Bailey	251	47	Mrs. Whitley	262
	Mrs. Wright - Mrs. Shattuck	255		Mrs. Harvey	266
	Rebecca Barlow	256		Mrs. Daviess	268
47	The Women of Kentucky	261		Mrs. Russell	270

Library Notes



SMCGS Library - 25 Tower Road - San Mateo CA
Hours - W, Th, Sat 1PM-4PM 2nd Tues 4PM-8PM

- A Form & Book Sales
- B Mortuary Files
- C Old Card Catalog
- D Library Processing Shelves
- E Society Files
- F Unprocessed Books
- G Cupboard/ 1919 SMC Map
- H Film Reader
- I Fiche Cabinet

- J Fiche Readers
- K Online Library Catalog & Databases
- L Storage Shelves
- M Obituary Files/ Surname Files
- N Sales Cart
- O Fiche / Film Printer
- P Librarian's Desk
- Q Volunteer Desk
- ** Sign in Here

Section

- 1 Research Aids - Library Collections
- 2 "
- 3 929.1 General Genealogy
- 4 "
- 5 Oversized Books
- 6 929.1
- 7 "
- 8 929.2 Surnames
- 9 929.3 Specific Records
- 10 929.6 Heraldry / Name Origins
- 11 THE TAPE COLLECTION
- 12 941— International Gen.
- 13 "
- 14 "
- 15 The United States Collection
- 16 "
- 17 "
- 18 "
- 19 "
- 20 "
- 21 "
- 22 "
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- 24 "
- 25 "
- 26 "
- 27 "
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34
- 35
- 36
- 37 Computer Books
- Society Binders
- 38 The Map Collection
- New Books

US books are arranged by
State in Dewey format
Look for yellow binder to
start each state

3-8 The Schellens Collection - on
top of shelves

**See the Feb. issue for
directions on using the
computer card catalog
and database files.**

An Explanation of the Collections

The Tape Collection - Society Meeting and

Seminar Tapes as well as tapes of other lectures.

These tapes are available for checkout if you join the
CD club. (Section 11)

The Oversize Collection - includes some

bound copies of The Times Gazette and large atlases
(section 5)

Society Binders - includes meeting minutes.

Collected Bay Area Research tips, Printed copies of
databases in progress etc. (section 37)

The Map Collection - includes bound atlas and

map books as well as boxes of loose maps divided by
area.(section 38)

The Schellens Collection

courtesy of the
Redwood City Archives - Collected San Mateo
County information from Multiple sources by Richard
Schellens. In boxes by area. Indexing is in progress,
portion that's done available on database computer.
(Sections 3-8)

The Mortuary Files - actually files from Crippen

& Flynn mortuary. These files may contain death
certificates, news clippings, letters from family etc.
Indexing in progress. (Section B)

The Obituary Files - Redwood City Tribune and

Peninsula Times Tribune obituaries. Fully indexed,
index available for sale in book form or on disk.
Copies available in library for research purposes.
(Section M)

The Surname Files - There are two types of

surname files available in the library.

- A. Surname files in folders mainly from the
collections of Alvin Montgomery contain family
trees, correspondence and other collected items.
(Section M)
- B Surname sheets - itemize the surnames SMCGS
members are researching. Fully indexed see front
of 1st binder or computer. (Section 37)

"WOMEN OF THE REVOLUTION" VOL II

(continued from page 51)

Chapter	Name	Page	Chapter	Name	Page
47	Mrs. Woods	271	50	Mrs. Griswold	297
	Mrs. Merrill	273		Hannah Mooney	298
48	Elizabeth Zane	275		Mrs. Wadsworth	302
49	Margaret Morris	281		Mrs. Munro	304
50	Miscellaneous Anecdotes	288		Mrs. Borden	305
	Mrs. Maxwell	288		Mrs. Heyward	306
	Mrs. Dissosway	289		Mrs. Shubrick	307
	Mrs. Jackson	290		Mrs. Hall	308
	Mary Bowen	292		Mrs. Conyngham	309
	Mrs. Walker	293		*****	
	Emily Geiger	295			

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FIRST CLASS MAIL