

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. 8

April 1999

THIS MONTH

by Claudia Mortensen

"LIVES OF GERMAN ANCESTORS"

Our speaker will be a member of our Society, Michael Hecker who will tell us how he personalized his lineage with biographical data. Although his talk deals only with German ancestors, his approach and methods obviously apply to other ancestors as well.

LAST MONTH

by Jean Hunt

The "Beyond Census" presentation by Barbara Edkins was delightfully presented and was accompanied by excellent handouts.

Barbara answers the question of "Why should I use the Census?".

When you start with an ancestor you know was in a certain place at a certain time you will go to that Census and see what it has to offer. It will have many clues for you to follow. By looking forward to the next census year you will find out if he is still there or has he moved or other interesting things such as did the county line move.

Did you know his age? If you are looking in the 1920 Census and it shows he is 50 years old then you can figure he was born in 1870. Well then, where was he born in 1870? The 1920 census will likely say where he was born. If you are looking after the 1880 census then you will find everyone who lived in the household listed. You will find information on education, language spoken, occupation, each clue leading to another place to look to flesh out your ancestor.

If information runs dry on that particular ancestor, look for collateral relatives. Follow them for a bit and see if you get started on the trail again. Look at the names of neighbors.

Neighbors migrated together and intermarried. There's not too many places to look for mates when you came from small villages and farms.

Are you trying all sorts of spelling? Try many variations of what the name sounds like. Are you only looking at the Soundex? Don't! You will be cheated of a lot of information. The Soundex was created for people to help prove their birthdate when it came time for them to make Social Security Claims.

In the handout "Primary vs Secondary Sources", Barbara cites Suzanne Murray, NGS Educational Manager; "A Census record may be considered a PRIMARY source of information about where a *family was living* at the time the census was taken. It may also be considered a primary source of information about the *general composition* of a household (for example: that there was a boy [whose name may have been Thomas] who was about 15 years old in the family).

The record is a SECONDARY source of information about the ages, names, and places of birth of persons who were born many years before the census was taken. Remember, an individual (such as the head of the household), is not a primary source for the circumstance (continued on page 69)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL

- 6 **Tuesday Board Meeting - 10:00 am.** Frances Lloyd's home, 210 Town & Country, Danville. All Members welcome.
- 9&10 **Friday-Saturday - California Genealogical Society Fair.** Alameda Fair Grounds, Pleasanton.
- 13 **Tuesday - 7:30 pm Livermore-Amador Gen. Soc.** Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave, Livermore, Our guest **D. M. "Max" Noel** of San Ramon, Retired FBI Agent, will speak on **"Techniques to locate persons both living and dead."**
- 20 **Tuesday - 10:00 am General Meeting** 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon, Our guest **Michael Hecker** will speak on **"German Research"**. There will be a short business meeting and the Speaker will begin at 10:30.
- 26 **Monday - 10:00 am Member Education Class. "Federal Census Research and Soundex".** At Millie Freitas's home, 607 Diablo Road, Danville. Phone 837-2483.
- 27 **Tuesday - 9:00 am Library Trip. National Archives** 100 Commodore Dr., San Bruno. (650) 876-9009. 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.

MAY

- 4 **Tuesday - 10:00 am Board Meeting** at Carol Thompson's home. 308 Hartford Road, Danville. All Members welcome.
- 9&10 **Friday-Saturday - California Genealogical Society Fair.** Alameda Fair Grounds, Pleasanton.
- 27 **Tuesday - 9:00 am Library Trip.** National Archives, San Bruno (650) 876-9009

ITS ELEMENTARY

Sherlock Holmes and Matthew Watson were on a camping and hiking trip. They had gone to bed and were lying there looking up at the sky. Holmes said, "Watson, look up. What do you see?"

"I see thousands of stars," Watson replied. "And what does that mean to you?" "Well, I guess it means we will have another nice day tomorrow. What does that mean to you, Holmes?" Holmes replied, "To me, it means someone has stolen our tent."

OFFICERS TO CONTACT

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Vice-

President Victoria daRoza
820-7866

Membership: Patty Erickson
229-0889

10 Ridge Place, Pleasanton Hill, CA
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Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00
Family 20.00

Membership year June 1 - May 30

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SRVGS Home Page
<http://www.ancestry.com/societyhall/pages/sochall>

SRVGS TREASURERS REPORT

FUND BALANCES (3/31/1999)

General Fund Balance: 1,959.75

Hospitality Fund Balance: 310.00

Publications Fund Balance: 952.88

Special Projects Fund Balance 200.00

Tape Library Fund Balance: 163.20

Library Fund: Prior Year Gift & Donations: 0.00

Current Year Donations: 130.54

OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE: 3,716.37

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SRVGS reached a milestone at our March meeting. Membership Chair **Patty Erickson** announced that we now have 200 members--and we've added two since then! Our society has grown in many other ways besides numbers. We offer our members a variety of resources to increase their knowledge of research methods: Besides the speakers each month, and the book and tape collections, members help each other through our Special Interest research groups, the member education classes and our library trips.

Our society offers our members other resources through its membership in organizations in the larger genealogical community. We belong to the California State Genealogical Alliance and to the Federation of Genealogical Societies (nationwide). Now a new group is being formed called The San Francisco Bay Area Genealogical Consortium. This group hopes to include not just the genealogical societies in the area, but also other genealogical and historical groups, libraries and archives. A website is being set up to coordinate meetings and resources. One of its intended projects is a central listing of library holdings available in the area.. The purpose of the Consortium is to help each other by working together on common interests.

Another way our members help each other is by taking on the jobs which keep our Society functioning. We thank all of you who said "yes" when the Committee called on you. A special "thank you" goes to **Barbara Dittig** and **Lucy Carver** who agreed to do the newsletter mailing for the tenth year! The slate will be presented at our April meeting when nominations will be accepted from the floor (be sure to have permission from the nominee first). We will vote in May for the new 1999-2000 Board Members.

Dorothy Stanton

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Charla Mauedin

227 Chestnut Ct.

San Ramon, CA 94583

(925) 828-2945

John Maderos

231 Market Place Suite 511

(925)447-9407

Elizabeth Peterson

Jon B. Bryan

2639 Tahoe Dr.

Livermore, CA 94550

SRVGS TAPE LIBRARY REPORT

TAPE M-8 "RESEARCHING NEW ENGLAND ANCESTORS"

(Lecture by Edith Thomas, Nov 1986 to the SRVGS)

by Frank Williams

This tape was disappointing to me; although this speaker to our chapter was a knowledgeable about her subject. Her main problem was competing with some roofers redoing the building, to the accompaniment of much hammering and ripping up shingles. This went on during most of the first side of the tape. She was unflappable, though, and continued her presentation.

The tape was recorded at a pretty low level. Even with the volume turned up, it was difficult to pick up audience questions and comments. Since this has always been a very knowledgeable group there were fairly few questions, but lots of comments and interplay within the audience. Speaking to a large audience, I think Mrs. Thomas would have repeated questions before answering, and would have summarized audience interjections before proceeding; but she evidently felt this wasn't necessary for a small group. She also furnished several handouts and referred to them with comments that could only be a mystery without them.

Nevertheless, Mrs. Thomas (who was working at the Mayflower Society Oakland Library at the time of the speech) gave good tips on doing New England research. She stressed the importance of proving your line with birth and death records from New England towns and states. She discussed census records and regional record centers.

It is thirteen years since this speech was recorded. It is quite possible that some of the material is dated or now incorrect. I still think it would be worth a listen for a New England researcher.

REASONS FOR GENEALOGISTS TO HAVE GRAY HAIR

The 1820 & 1830 Wisconsin census records are with those of Michigan. The 1860 Nevada census is included with that of Utah. The 1860 schedules for the present state of Oklahoma are with those of Arkansas, which was then Indian Lands. The 1860 census records for the present state of Wyoming are with those of Nebraska and the 1860 schedules for Colorado are included in the Kansas census and a partridge in a pear tree!

ON THE WEB

LDS DATABASES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

PUBLIC TEST BEGINS FOR NEW GENEALOGICAL SERVICE

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has begun a brief public test of a new genealogical service for the Internet. The developmental test is open to anyone with internet access, and the site can be found at www.familysearch.org.

No special password or clearance is required. Present plans are for the test site to be available over the next few weeks. Due to test requirements the site may be unavailable at times or experience periods of slow response.

The Church believes that, once the test is completed and the service is formally launched, it will greatly enhance the way people trace their family history. Depending on evaluation of the test, the full service may be launched this spring or summer. At that time, but not until then, detailed explanation will be made of the site and its various elements.

The FamilySearch Web site says that it contains the following:

Ancestral File™ - Over 35 million names organized into families and pedigrees

International Genealogical Index R Over 285 million names extracted from vital records around the world

Family History Library Catalog™ Over 2 million rolls of microfilm and hundreds of thousands of books and maps described and catalogued

Family History Centers™ Locate the nearest Family History Center where you can access microfilm described in the Family History Library Catalog™ and SourceGuide™

SourceGuide™ - Over 150 research outlines, an extensive glossary of word meanings, and Catalog Helper

Web Sites - Thousands of web sites categorized by our volunteers

Collaboration Lists - Collaboration mailing lists created

(continued)

by registered users of FamilySearch Internet

The left side of every menu has a prominent link called HELP. I used it several times and found brief but useful help for each function that I tried. Genealogy novices and experts alike will find the Web site easy to use.

ANCESTRY'S FAMILYHISTORY.COM IS LAUNCHED

With unfortunate timing, the folks at Ancestry.com released a great **free** genealogy Web site this week. Since they made this announcement in the same week as the Mormons' announcement of their free Web site, I suspect that Ancestry will not receive the publicity that they deserve. Everyone is focused on the Mormons' new site! However, I would suggest that you shouldn't overlook this second gem.

The new free Web site, called FamilyHistory.com, offers the 10 million-name Ancestry World Tree and many free genealogy message boards.

The first thing that most people will use will be the Ancestry World Tree. Although this has been available for about two years on Ancestry.com, the FamilyHistory.com folds that database into a more full-fledged online service that now includes messages boards. Like several other online databases, FamilyHistory.com contains information submitted by thousands of people. Unlike some of the other Web sites, however, you can easily find out who submitted the information. You can even download the original file that was submitted.

Ancestry.com pledges to never require fees to access the information on this site and will never package and sell the content in any way. Ancestry.com does not sell this information on CD-ROM disks, nor does it charge fees to access the personal data submitted by hard-working genealogists.

Mr. Eastman's review of this site is long and very informative and well worth going to his news letter to get more details on what can be found there. Check Eastman's Online Newsletter at <http://www.ancestry.com/columns/eastman/eastnew.htm>

ADDITIONAL BOOKS TO ADD TO YOUR LIBRARY DIRECTORY IN YOUR SRVGS MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The books are shelved in the Reference Collection by call number so you will need to take your Directory with you to the Library to know which books are in our collection.

Membership Chair Patty Erickson still has a large number of Directories which have not been picked up by members. She brings them to each meeting. Be sure to ask her for one if you do not have yours. There will be no new Directory until September.

PLEASE NOTE: On the list of books in your 1998-99 Directory, books #45 to 53 have not yet been placed in the catalog or on the shelves. The Library Committee is working with the Contra Costa County Library to correct this situation.

NEW BOOKS IN SRVGS COLLECTION AT DAN- VILLE LIBRARY

57. U.S. Catholic Sources; A Diocesan Research Guide. Compiled by Virginia Humling. Ancestry, P. O. Box 476, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. 1995 R026.28273 HUMLING

58. A Useful Guide to Researching San Francisco Ancestry. Kathy Beals. California Genealogical Society, San Francisco, CA 94107. 1994. [Not yet in catalog]

59 Index to Georgia Civil War Confederate Pension Files. Transcribed by Virgil D. White. The National Historical Publishing Company, Waynesboro, TN. 1996. R929.7458 WHITE

60 Index to Texas CSA Pension Files. Transcribed by Virgil D. White. The National Historical Publishing Company, Waynesboro, TN. 1989. R929.3764 WHITE

61 Register of Florida CSA Pension Applications. Transcribed by Virgil D. White. The National Historical Publishing Company, Waynesboro, TN. 1989 R919.3759 WHITE

62 Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files; Volume I: A-E. Abstracted by Virgil D. White The National Historical Publishing Company, Waynesboro, TN. 1990. R973.34 WHITE

63 Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files; Volume II F-M. Abstracted by Virgil D. White The National Historical Publishing Company, Waynesboro, TN. 1990. R973.34 WHITE

64. Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files; Volume III: N-Z. Abstracted by Virgil D. White The National Historical Publishing Company, Waynesboro, TN. 1992. R973.34 WHITE

65. Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files; Volume IV: Index. Abstracted by Virgil D. White The National Historical Publishing Company, Waynesboro, TN. 1992. R973.34 WHITE

66. New England Marriages; Prior to 1700. Clarence Almon Torrey. Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD. 1985 R929.374 TORREY

67. Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages prior to 1700. Melinde Lutz Sanborn. Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD. 1991. 929.374 SANBORN

68. Second Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages prior to 1700. Melinde Lutz Sanborn. Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD. 1995. R929.374 SANBORN

69. Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Vol. I, 1623 - 1666. Nell Marion Nugent. Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, VA. 1992. R929.3755 NUGENT

70. Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Vol. II 1666 - 1695. Nell Marion Nugent. Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, VA. 1977. R929.3755 NUGENT

71. Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Vol. III, 1695 - 1732. Nell Marion Nugent. Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, VA. 1979. R929.3755 CAVALIERS

72. Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments. Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck. Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD 21202. 1996. R973.34 BOCKSTRUCK

73. Genealogical dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Volume I A-C. James Savage. The Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. ,Baltimore, MD 1998. R929.374 SAVAGE

74. Genealogical dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Volume II D-J. James Savage. The Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. Baltimore, MD. 1998. R929.374 SAVAGE

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75. Genealogical dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Volume III K-R. James Savage. The Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD. 1998. R929.374 SAVAGE

76. Genealogical dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Volume IV S-Z. James Savage. The Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD 1998. R929.374 SAVAGE

77. Index to Pennsylvania's Colonial Records Series. Compiled by Dr. Mary Dunn. The Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD. 1992. R929.3748

78. Genealogy Starter Kit, 2nd Edition. William Dollarhide. The Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc., Baltimore, MD. 1998. R929.1 DOLLARHIDE

79. The Complete Idiots Guide to Genealogy. Christine Rose and Kay Germain Ingalls. Alpha books/Simon & Schuster Macmillan Co., New York, NY. 1997. R929.1 ROSE

80. Genealogy Online for Dummies. Mathew L. Helm and April Leigh Helm. IDG Books Worldwide, New York,

THE YELLOW ACETATE TRICK

(From Doris Newbery)

We have had other yellow paper tips before but I liked this one allot. Purchase a sheet or two of yellow acetate and include it in your genealogy bag. If you are trying to copy old yellow, acidified pages from records or books, place the sheet of yellow acetate between the glass and the item to be copied. The contrast between the brown background and the writing will increase. The yellow acts like a camera lens filter. If you are trying to read a faded microfilm on a reader that focuses down on a white surface, place the yellow acetate (or yellow folder) over the area where the faded writing is projected and the ink appears darker. (Kinko's sells yellow clear plastic folders for 40 cents).

From the Lake Co. IL GS Spring 1998 - North Central IL GS Vol XX #4
via SMC GS Newsletter Jan 1999 Vol 17-1 13

CENSUS FINDING AID

You can't find your people in the 1910 Federal Census Soundex for one of the larger cities but you know they were living there? Sometimes they were overlooked when the Soundex was made. Or maybe the state wasn't indexed at all.

The National Archives in San Bruno has a finding aid which may help you. It's a census enumeration district locator: a listing of streets with the enumeration district where it can be found. In San Bruno, the locator is on a series of microfiche filed alphabetically by city name. The fiche are in a box on top of the file cabinets close to the film copying machine.

If you know the street address, you can locate the census enumeration district and follow the enumerator's path along the street until you come to the address you want. If the address you know is a current one, keep in mind that some streets were renumbered or even renamed over the years. If you don't know their address at the time, check

city directories at Sutro Library before you go to the Archives. If you don't find them at the address you expected, check at the end of the enumeration district where the census taker may have listed them when he made a return visit.

The National Archives has other finding aids called Census Enumerator Maps. They are not actual maps but a description of census districts on the 1880 through 1920 census records. These are not limited to large cities but divide the state into Supervisors' Districts and give a description of the enumeration districts within each. The 1900 district descriptions are on microfilm publication T1210. The 1910 ED numbers are on T1224 rolls 28 through 40. States are alphabetically listed with descriptions of districts by county, cities, civil divisions and wards.

Dorothy Stanton

WHO IS GENERAL FAILURE AND WHY IS HE
READING MY HARD DISK?

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SOUTHERN Meets the 2nd. Tuesday of the month 10:00 am at Dorothy Stanton's home, 501 El Capitan Dr., Danville, phone 820-3757. **April 13, 1999**

PORTUGUESE Meets the 3rd. Tuesday of the month after the General Meeting at Coco' Resturant in Danville. This will not remain the regular meeting place. Anyone with Portugese in their "roots" are welcome to join us. **April 20, 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. **April 14, 1999.**

GERMAN Meets Wednesday, **April 22, 1999** at 10:00 am at Diana Hancock's home, 512 Zephyr Circle, Danville, phone 820-1424.

MAC COMPUTER GROUP Meets the 3rd. Wednesday of the month. 10:00 am. Location to be announced.

PUBLISHING **April 15, 1999 - 10:00 am.** Meets at the home of Barbara Johnson, 616 Camino Amigo, Danville. Phone 837-2153. Will begin the revision of our PPP. Members who have suggestions for the revision are welcome. Other publishing topics will be discussed as well.

ROOTS USERS For those learning to use Palladium Ultimate Family Tree. Group meets after the General Meeting in Room AB. 7777 Norris Canyon Road. **April 20, 1999.**

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

(continued from 1st. page) of his own birth; he has been given that information by someone else.

The logic is that, when information is recorded that is contemporaneous with the event or the circumstance, that can be considered a primary source. The fact that several copies were made from the original schedule is a whole other subject. Strictly speaking, only the original schedule would be a primary source. Usually, the film copy by the National Archives is considered to be the "official" census. The fact that it may not be the original schedule is a good reason, however, in addition to the time lapse, to be skeptical about ages given as well as some of the other facts, because they could have been miscopied."

If you didn't find anything, try again. If you can't find you ancestor its not because he wasn't there but because he may have been overlooked. Take different approaches using your imagination for a guide and when all else fails, share your problem with sympathetic fellow genealogists.

TO STEAL IDEAS FROM ONE PERSON IS
PLAGIARISM; TO STEAL FROM MANY IS
RESEARCH

IS THIS ASKING TOO MUCH?

The following article was written by Barbara A. Brown and was originally posted in 1994 to the Nat'l Gen. Conference, FIDO Bulletin Board. We got it from Questing Heirs, newsletter of the Long Beach, CAGS via The Live Oak, Nov/Dec 1998 Vol.XVIII, no 4 pg.7.

I want ancestors with names like Rudimentary Montagnard or Melchizedick von Steubenhoffmannschild or Spetznatz Gianfortoni, not William A. Brown or John Hunter or Mary Abbott.

I want ancestors who could read and write, had their children baptized in recognized houses of worship, went to school, purchased land, left detailed wills (naming a huge extended family as legatees,) had their photographs taken once a year -- subsequently putting said pictures in elaborate isinglass frames annotated with calligraphic inscriptions, and carved and informative inscriptions on their headstones. I want relatives who managed to bury their predecessors in established, still extant (and indexed) cemeteries.

I want family members who wrote memoirs, who enlisted in the military as officers and who served in strategically important (and well documented) skirmishes. I want relatives who served as councilmen, school teachers, county clerks and town historians. I want relatives who "religiously" wrote in the family Bible, detailing the familial relationship of every visitor.(continued on page 70)

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In the case of immigrant progenitors, I want them to have arrived only in those years wherein passenger lists were indexed by National Archives, and I want them to have applied for citizenship, and to have done so only in those jurisdictions which have since established indices.

I want relatives who were patriotic and clubby, who joined every patrimonial society they could find, who kept diaries, and listed all their addresses, who had paintings made of their horses, and who dated every piece of paper they ever touched. I want forebears who were wealthy enough to afford, and to keep for generations, the tribal homestead, and who left all the aforementioned pictures, diaries and journals intact in the library.

Most of all, I want relatives I can find.!

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

CONFEDERATE ANCESTORS?

If you have Confederate ancestors and know the location of their graves, the Confederate Research Center would like some information.

Please send them: soldier's name, company and regiment, date of birth and death, name of cemetery, location of cemetery, and your name and address.

If you have letters, pictures, diaries, etc. they would like to have these items or copies of same for their archives.

Write to Peggy Fox, Confederate Research Center, P.O. Box 619, Hillsboro, TX 76645

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No. 2 Feb 98)
