

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. 9

May 1999

THIS MONTH

by Claudia Mortensen

Peggy Frazier, a long time SRVGS member, will share her Scottish research experience with us. She will give us information to apply in discovering useful sites and publications and how to go about gathering valuable documentation.

LAST MONTH

by Frank Williams

Our April speaker was **Michael Hecker**, a member of our Genealogy Club. Born in Germany and raised there and in Switzerland, he talked about "Lives of German Ancestors: How to Personalize Your German lineage With Biographical Data".

Michael showed us how those mere names on your pedigree can become living, fascinating people through your research. Learning about their activities and daily lives, their accomplishments and failures, and their personal makeup can give you insight into your own life.

You start by organizing the material you have now, and choosing which ancestors look most interesting. Then, read a good German history on the time period (he recommends "A Modern History of Germany" by Hajo Holborn for post WW II). Next, try to brush up on your German language skills and use them to request more information from German resources. Finally, write a first draft of a biographical sketch.

For resources use living relatives (tape their recollections if possible), family records, German genealogy Internet sites, German churches and city archives (pre-1865) and public registrars of vital statistics (post-1865), and finally libraries with German history and culture books. He cautions against

getting too involved with German professional genealogists who may raise a small request into an expensive project.

To manage your research, treat each ancestor as a separate research project. Decide what information you want about the person, and develop a plan: then modify it as the facts come in. Try to balance statistical and biographical data to keep it interesting. Finally, recognize the point of diminishing returns, and move on.

Document your findings and their sources, he says; and check your data for accuracy. Be truthful but kind in your write-up, and clearly note all of your assumptions as opposed to known facts.

He ended by showing four short ancestral biographies researched with these techniques. The subjects ranged from a noted psychiatrist to a Prussian soldier. I was personally surprised by the brevity of the articles; but I can agree with Mr. Hecker that this research is fun, and makes our ancestors

Happy Mothers Day

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY

- 4 **Tuesday Board Meeting - 10:00 am.** Carol Thompson's home, 308 Hartford Road, Danville. All members welcome.
- 11 **Tuesday - 7:30 pm Livermore-Amador Gen. Soc.** Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave, Livermore. Our guest speaker is **Doug da Rocha Holmes** of Sacramento, CA. He specializes in Portuguese and Hungarian-Slovak genealogy.
- 18 **Tuesday - 10:00 am General Meeting** 777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. There will be a presentation and installation of our new slate of officers. Our guest will be **Peggy Frazier** on Scottish Research.
- 20 **Thursday - 10:00 am through the afternoon Member Education Class & Workshop.** "An Introduction to the Ancestral File and the International Genealogical Index (IGI). Presented by **Vern Segelke** and **Pat Isom**. The class will begin at the home of **Vern Segelke**, 1121 Camino Tassajara, (near Diablo Road) Danville 838-8570. A continuation workshop will be at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road in the afternoon. Bag lunch suggested.
- 25 **Tuesday - 8:00 am Library Trip. California State Library** 900 N Street & **Calif State Archives** 1020 O St., hours 9:30 AM-4PM. 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. (Note special departure time as driving time, Danville to Sacramento is approximately 1 & 1/2 hours) Call Vern at 838-8570 to be added to the list or to cancel. For those leaving north of Danville, an announcement will be made at the General meeting.
- 29 **Saturday - 10:30 am - 3 pm SFBAGC (10:30-NOON) & CSGA (till 3pm) at David & Jolene Abrahams**, 737 El Caminito, Livermore. Phone (925) 447-9386.

JUNE

- 1 **Tuesday - 10:00 am Board Meeting** at Frances Lloyd's home, 210 Town & Country, Danville. There will be a pot-luck luncheon afterwards.
- 22 **Tuesday - 9:00 am Library Trip.** Family History Library, Oakland, CA.

***** Library trip to Sacramento *****

An Amtrack schedule from Martinez will be available at the General Meeting. Round trip fare is \$20.00 or \$17.00 for persons over 62. The train station in Sacramento is still a reasonable distance from the Libraries, say 12 blocks or so.

OFFICERS TO CONTACT	NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL TEAM	SRVGS TREASURERS REPORT
Pres Dorothy Stanton 820-3757	Coordinator: Jean Hunt 552-6564	FUND BALANCES (4/30/1999)
Vice-	jhunt88961@aol.com	General Fund Balance: 1,847.46
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: 952.88
10 Ridge Place, Pleasanton Hill, CA 94523-1609	Pat Isom 820-2660	Special Projects Fund Balance: 200.00
	Mailing: Barbara Dittig 648-9364	Tape Library Fund Balance: 160.90
	Lucy Carver 837-3146	Library Fund: Prior Year Gift &
	SRVGS Home Page	Donations 0.00
Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00	http://www.ancestry.com/societyhall/ pages/sochall	Current Year Donations: 130.54
Family 20.00		OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE: 3,601.78
Membership year June 1 - May 30		

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May marks the end of our SRVGS membership year. In this newsletter you'll find a form for your 1999-2000 dues. Please be sure to get your dues paid and your membership form to our Membership Chairman before the end of June so your name will be included in the new membership directory. The directory will be ready for distribution by September.

Our dues have remained at the same amount again this year because we've been fortunate in having the use of a free meeting room at Guardian Rehabilitation Hospital.. On behalf of SRVGS, I'd like to thank. Franco Diamond, CEO, and Nancy Blackburn, Director of Business Development and hospital employees who have made us feel welcome and made our stay so pleasant.

When you are filling out your membership form, please consider making a donation to our library fund. We're beginning to build a very useful collection of books at the Danville Public Library and we'd like to continue to increase it. Also please note that there is a space for you to indicate that you are adding one dollar to your dues for the Malcolm H. Stern National Archives Records Administration Gift Fund.

SRVGS is joining genealogical societies around the country in asking for a dollar per member to fund the creation of finding aids and the microfilming of valuable research materials now preserved in the National Archives. The projects NARA hopes to fund are the War of 1812 pension and bounty-land warrant records, the US Colored Troop Compiled Service Records and the Seaman's Protection Certificates. These microform copies will be distributed to the Regional National Archives for use by researchers throughout the country.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone, and especially, the Board members for making the past year an enjoyable one for me as President. We have a wonderful group of members and I feel confident that our new Board and Committee members will continue to do a fine job for the Society.

Dorothy Stanton

New Address

Victoria & Robert da Roza

1835 Monte Sereno Dr.

Alamo, CA 94507

NATIONAL ARCHIVES SPACE PLANNING NEWS

"We won!" says Dick Eastman in his Online Genealogy Newsletter [April 10, 1999]. Genealogists & historians who were concerned about the possible consolidation of regional archives and, especially, those who attended the NARA space-planning public meeting in San Bruno last year will be happy to hear that the plan has been abandoned.

A letter from Archivist John Carlin to NARA employees regarding Space Planning says that he learned from feedback at meetings that strong regional archives are needed. NARA will focus on its most immediate facility needs rather than on a comprehensive space plan. Mr. Carlin's notice listed three priorities summarized below:

1. Move the Southeast Regional Archives records from poor facilities at East Point GA to better & larger ones at Palmetto GA until they can build new SE archives still in the Atlanta area.
2. Meet the space needs of the military personnel records in St. Louis MO. They are currently in the custody of the Dept of Defense which will keep them for only 72 years. Mr. Carlin has taken official action to preserve them as archival records. They will need to be housed in archival space with environmental controls for long-term preservation. Many of them are fragile because of fire damage (1973) and some are on deteriorating paper stock and some have suffered from repeated handling. NARA has requested funds for special preservation treatment and to make them more readily available.
3. Develop storage facilities up to the same quality standards. for preservation of records in the custody of Federal agencies.

[The full text can be found online at

<<http://www.nara.gov/nara/space/spneed/html>> or at

<<http://www.ancestry.com/columns/eastman/eastApril10-99.html>>

From Southwestern Ohio?

(From CSGA Newsletter Vol 17 No 2 Feb 1999 pg 20)

Miami Valley OH Genealogical Index includes census, marriage, tax, county histories, genealogies and newspaper abstracts from twelve counties in Southwestern Ohio and is maintained by the Preble County District Library:

<http://www.pcdl.lib.oh.us/miami/index.html>



SRVGS OFFICER SLATE...1999

President.....Victoria da Roza
 First Vice President.....Frances Grotefend
 Second Vice President.....Claudia Mortensen
 Third Vice President.....Diana Hancock
 Recording Secretary.....Susan Hanck
 Corresponding Secretary.....Carol Thompson
 Treasurer.....Nancy Alexander
 Parliamentarian.....Dorothy Stanton



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

(ADDENDA)

- Please add to the library list published in the April Newsletter the following: Kathy Beals' book on San Francisco research [item 2] is catalogued under Kathleen Beals as R929.1072 BEALS.
- Also in the April Newsletter, the paragraph about the National Archives, San Bruno finding aid "Cross Index to Selected City Streets and ED's in the 1910 Census." The index is on 50 microfiche [#6331481].
- An index to the complete 1870 census of Illinois on CD-ROM is on loan to the Danville Family History Center on Stone Valley Road.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Suzanne Johnston

A GENEALOGIST'S GUIDE TO DISCOVERING YOUR FEMALE ANCESTORS: SPECIAL STRATEGIES FOR UNCOVERING HARD-TO-FIND INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FEMALE LINEAGE by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. Published by: Betterway Books, 1507 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45207 \$17.99 plus \$3.50 for shipping.

This book includes appendices, a bibliography, glossary, index and notes. It speaks to the unique task of researching female ancestors. Covered in the first

chapters of the book are sources generated by women, such as letters and diaries; sources created about women like church or court records; and sources for ethnic women. Many of these sources are often overlooked. The author outlines several practical and readily understandable methodologies, which should help uncover information about any woman ancestor, even those with scanty or minimal information.

ANCESTRAL TRAILS: THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO BRITISH GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY by Mark D. Herber, Published by: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1001 North Calvert, Baltimore, MD 21202-3897, \$34.95 plus \$3.50 for shipping.

This is a great book for anyone doing serious research in England. The book provides a very comprehensive descriptive description of the majority of records the researcher will encounter in English research. There are some problems for foreign researchers, but this book is hard to beat. There is an astonishing amount of information on a wide variety of records.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CGS

by Frances Lloyd

Congratulations to CGS on a well run interesting genealogy fair. Dealing with a new venue, new concessionaires and uncooperative weather made it a real challenge! The weekend activities ran smoothly.

Thank you and well done to CGS and the Fair Committee.

ON THE WEB

NUMAC

National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections

<http://cweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html>

(From The Live Oak, March/April 1999 pg. 7)

This is a free-of-charge cooperative cataloging program operated by the Library of Congress. A "union catalog" is what you call the result (whether in print, microfilm or online) of recording and describing the holdings of multiple libraries, archives or similar repositories.

Colleges, universities, historical societies, archives and libraries across the country have all sorts of one-of-a kind items, usually from people, places and things that aren't there anymore---people who are deceased, companies that are defunct, charities that folded, and so on. Items such as: family bibles, family papers, business records, church records, charity records, ethnic organization records, arts and cultural organization records, photographs, political and advocacy organizations records, maps posters, charts, letters, diaries etc.

NUCMC surveyed these repositories large and small across the entire US and published the results in many, many large volumes, which are still available in some libraries. Now NUCMC is online, meaning you can do a search on your family names, place names and institutions connected with the people you are researching.

You can search the companies they worked for, the clubs, societies and fraternal organizations they belonged to, the churches they attended and so on. There's never any guarantee that the records you seek were given to a proper repository instead of going in the furnace or dumpster, or that an ancestor left important papers, but try a simple search on your hometown and see what turns up. Then try a search on your surname. Those with Anglo names will probably have the most success.

Every record in NUCMC gives a detailed description of the item and identifies the institution that owns it, either using a code or, in most cases, giving the full name and address. But remember, the original documents are not online---just a catalog of those records. To get copies of original documents, you must contact the institution that owns them.

1895 U.S. Atlas

<http://www.livgenmi.com/1895.htm>

(From The Live Oak, March/April 1999 pg. 7)

This is a great site. It allows you to print out 1895 maps. Data is entered from the 1895 World Atlas into table format so those cities which someone cannot find in the 1880 or 1900 census may be found here. Some cities changed names about this time and this data will show the new names.

FuneralNet

<http://www.funeralnet.com/search.html>

(From The Live Oak, March/April 1999 pg. 7)

This site lists over 20,000 U.S. Funeral Homes and over 1,100 Canadian Funeral Homes.

Global Search Capabilities From Joan Hansen

From SMCBS Newsletter March 1999 Vol17-3 pg 48)

A new search template for the Ancestry.com Global Search Engine enables visitors to now specify a precise area of research in their searches such as military records, immigration records, Native American records and obituaries. Visitors can still request searches to go across the full Ancestry Library of more than 100 million name records but may find that a limited search is more useful for pinpointing exact information. Keyword searches can also now be applied to the entire collection or can be restricted to the site's massive collection of reference and how-to-information....The new Ancestry Global Search template at www.ancestry.com is similar, but more sophisticated than the search template currently offered by Ancestry.com's more than 850 Global Search Affiliates. Barely three months old, the Ancestry.com Global Search Affiliate Program lets any Web site add the Ancestry.com Global Search template to their site and collect a commission for anyone that uses the template and then subsequently subscribes to the Ancestry Library of searchable databases. Also new to the site is a proximity search feature, searching for an ancestor named John Smith would also retrieve records where John Davis and Louis Smith occur together in the same paragraph.

Specifying a particular proximity of five or ten words, for example, would retrieve only instances where "John" and "Smith" occur within five or ten words of each other, respectively.

HUMOR

Burial Patterns - Not!

(From NGS Quarterly Vol 87 No 1 March 1999)

Dear Diary: An older friend, recently returned from her home town in North Carolina, says they've spruced up the churchyard cemetery since her last visit several years back. "Lots of new greenery," she said. "And families are together now." "Together?" I asked, puzzled.

"Well, years ago they never much worried where they buried someone because everyone was a neighbor anyhow. They'd just dig a grave wherever it seemed to balance things. But they've redone it so people are with their children and grandchildren, instead of scattered."

"You mean they exhumed all those people and reburied them?"

"Oh no," she said. "They just shifted the headstones. Everyone agrees it looks ever so much nicer."

EPITAPHS

**Under the sod and under the trees
Lies the body of Jonathan Pease.
He is not here, there's only the pod
Pease shelled out and went to God**

(Grave from the 1880's - Nantucket, MA)

(From SMCGS Newsletter Mar 1999 Vol 17-3 pg 48)

Located at Brightwell Baldwin, Oxon. (England) Here is a bet on an epitaph.

**Here lies Stephen Rumbold
He lived to the age of a hundred and one
Sanguine and strong
A hundred to one you don't live so long.**

Located at Oxfordshire (England)

**Here lies the body of John Eldred,
At least he will be here when hi is dead;
But now at this time he is alive
The 14th. of August, sixty-five.**

(From "Epitaphs, Graveyard Humor & Eulogy," by W.H. Beale, 1971 via H.A.G.S. Informer Vol 21, No 2 Feb 1999 pg 19)

MORE HUMOR LETTERS TO LDS

Our 2nd great grandfather was found dead crossing the plains in the library. He was married 3 times in the endowment house and has 21 children.

Will you send me a list of all the Dripps in your library?

We are sending you 5 children in a separate envelope.

Enclosed please find my Grandmother. I have worked on her for 30 years without success. Now see what you can do.

We lost our Grandmother, will you please send us a copy.

IT'S ALL IN THE TRANSLATION

(From Prodigy Classics Comedy Bulletin Board by Douglas Jacobson via SMCGS Newsletter Mar 1999 Vol 17-3 pg. 43)

A guy is walking through China Town in New York. He is fascinated by all the Chinese restaurants, the shops, the signs and banners on all the buildings. He is having the greatest time just walking and looking around. He turns a corner and sees a building with a sign that says Hans Olafsen's Laundry. "Hans Olafsen," he thinks. "How in the world does that fit in here?" So, he walks into the shop and sees an old Chinese gentleman sitting in the corner. The visitor asks "How in the world did this place get a name like Hans Olafsen's Laundry?" The old man says "Is name of owner." The visitor asks "Who in the heck is the owner?" "I am he," answers the old man. "You? How in the heck did you ever get a name like Hans Olafsen?" The old man replies -- "Many years ago, when come to this country, I standing in line at immigration office. Man in front of me was big Swede. Lady look at him and say 'What your name?' and he say "Hans Olafsen." Next, she look at me -- 'What your name?' I say 'Saim Ting.'"

Cotton for opium during the WBS

(From The Odom Feb/Mar 1999 Sec. B)

During the War Between the States, the Confederate army had all the cotton it needed for uniforms, but no opium to kill the pain of its wounded.

The Union army had plenty of opium, but no cotton.

Throughout the war, north and south exchanged opium and cotton.

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. **May 11, 1999**

PORTUGUESE Meets the 3rd. Tuesday of the month after the General Meeting. 12:30 pm Oak Hill Park on Stone Valley Road, Danville. Bring a bag lunch. For information call Millie Freitas 837-2483. **May 18, 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. **May 12, 1999.**

GERMAN Meets Wednesday, **May 26, 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 Met in April so there will be no meeting scheduled for awhile.

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

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

EUROPEAN FOCUS NOTE

HOMETOWN VIDEOS, PHOTOS

From The Palatine Immigrant Vol. XXIV, No 2 March 1999 pg. 62&63

European Focus (James Derheim) provides photographs and videos of ancestral home towns in many European counties, and can sometimes get books of genealogical or historical interest from these towns. The website at <http://www.eurofocus.com> has been expanded and improved, a special new feature being "European Quest Gallery," hosted by the people at Heritage Quest. You will find it interesting to visit a few of the towns featured on the Gallery. Besides pictures, you will find tips, strategies, and ideas to advance your research, and also a complete list of every town and village that has been photographed. Address: European Focus, P.O. Box 550, Bountiful UT 84011-0550, 800/401-7802, EuroFocus@aol.com.

AUGUSTAN SOCIETY

From The Palatine Immigrant Vol. XXIV, No 2 March 1999 pg. 62&63

New address: P.O. Box 75, Daggett CA 92327-0075
Phone 760/254-9223, FAX: 760/254-1953. (Society for genealogy and heraldry)

MÜLLERS GROSSE DEUTSCHES ORTSBUCH WEB SITE

This well-known directory of 19 th. century German cities and places now has a web site: <http://www.nexus.de/orte>. There are links to some of the home pages of the cities.

Tip #7 If your immigrant ancestor loved past 1900 don't fail to find him/her in the 1900 Census. There's a bonus on this census. It asks how many years the immigrant has been in this country and if the immigrant has been naturalized. These are two important aids for finding the ship and passenger list and naturalization papers for your immigrant!

To request an IAR form send a SASE or to submit a completed form mail to: Penny Hartzell, IAR Registrar, 49 Woodbury Hill, Woodbury, CT 06798. Phartzell@compuserve.com.

Why did they have marriage bonds?

Marriage bonds were instituted in colonial Virginia to prevent couples from being married who were not qualified to marry. A disqualification might be that one of the parties was already married, or not old enough to marry, or an indentured servant without permission of the master or persons within Levitical degrees (to close a family tie). The Law providing for marriage bonds was passed by an Act of Virginia Assembly in 1666.

SRVGS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 1999-2000

Don't be left out! The SRVGS needs your interest, input, and good cheer to start a new millennium!

It is time for dues to support all our educational programs, helping hands, cross fertilization of minds and knowledge about our ancestors, and social meetings. Please fill out this form and send it with your check to Diana Hancock, 512 Zephyr Circle, Danville, CA 94526-4923.

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ PHONE: _____

Dues: \$15 Single _____ \$20 Family: _____

\$ _____ donation for Library addition, if desired.

\$ _____ \$1.00 donation suggested for a National Archives Record Administration (NARA) records microfilming project.

\$ _____ \$2.50 added, please, if you desire a handbook/Directory sent to your address and cannot pick up one at a meeting.

If you DO NOT wish a Handbook/Directory, please check here so we won't print unneeded copies _____

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FIRST CLASS MAIL