

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-8308
Acting President:
Dorothy Stanton
Coord. Editor: Jean Hunt
Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tue. of the Month
(except August & December)
Alamo LDS Church
Stone Valley & Smith Roads
Alamo

Vol. XIV No.3

September 1999

THIS MONTH

by Claudia Mortensen

DAR and SAR Enlightenment. **Nancy Hofer** will present the DAR Information and **Dick Schmidt** will present the SAR Information. **Frances Lloyd** will man the slide projector.

LAST MONTH

by Frank Williams

SEARCHING FOR AND EVALUATING GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

Our speaker **Karen Wetherell** says the first important thing to know is that an Internet site does not necessarily give out true information. The net consists of 800 Million web pages and addresses. The best search engines (Northern Light, Snap, and Alta Vista are the largest) only cover about one-sixth of the total. Your mission is to use *Guides* and *Search Engines* to find the address that has the information you want.

Guides (also called Directories or Catalogs) are organized lists of sites that have been reviewed and cataloged by humans. They cover only a small portion of the Internet but usually have high quality references, are easy to browse, and are often the best place to start a search. Searching them resembles looking at the Contents section of a book. Examples are Yahoo, and Cyndi's List.

Since the coverage of Guides is limited, you usually end up using a *Search Engine*. Search Engines are data bases of Web sites which have been cataloged by a computer program. They are as good as the program and the title or subject information they can glean and work just like the Index of a book. Examples include *Hotbot* and *Infoseek*. Check

< searchenginewatch.com > for details and warnings about specific search engines; or < www.notess.com/search/ > for reviews and tips.

The remainder require *Specialized Search Tools* (Meta engines) that can a.] search a lot of engines for the most popular web pages on the topic (examples: Google and Direct Hit) or b.] answer questions posed in plain English (Ask Jeeves) or c.] provide databases for finding Internet businesses (Switchboard) or d.] find people or addresses (Yahoo People Search).

New Web pages typically run for about 6 months before being picked up by search engines.

Your search procedure involves choosing the most appropriate guide or search engine, learning how to use it and understand the results, and modifying your search if necessary and/or using another tool. It will help to anticipate the terms and language you might encounter. Try using a tool repeatedly, practicing with it until you get results. Print out the "help" section so you can consult it as you learn. Practice with a topic you know about until you are proficient.

Tips for *Power Searching*: Learn to use *Limiting Terms* in your search. For example, "Any" matches will return all hits on each of the specified topics. There may be thousands of responses. "All" matches gives responses only where all listed topics are present. Excluding, limits the response (for example, New England minus Vermont). You can put two topics in a phrase with quotation marks around it, thus Linking them. (continue on page 100)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September

- 7 **Tuesday Board Meeting - 10:00 am.** Frances Lloyd's home, 210 Town Country, Danville.
- 21 **Tuesday - 10:00 am General Meeting. LDS CHURCH, ALAMO ON STONE VALLEY ROAD AND SMITH ROAD.** Exit I-680 at Stone Valley Exit, Turn right and head east for a bit of a ride. Our guest speakers will be Nancy Hofer and Frances Lloyd of the DAR and Dick Schmidt representing the SAR. Their topic is **DAR & SAR Enlightenment.**
- 23 **Tuesday 7:30 pm L-AGS General Meeting.** Congregation Beth Emek, College & "M", Livermore. Program: **"What is New at the Pleasanton Library"** presented by **Billie Dancy**, Director of Library Services for the Pleasanton Library.
- 28 **Tuesday - 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.
- 30 **Thursday - 10:00 am Member Education Class** At **Francis Lloyd's** home, 210 Town & Country, Danville. Subject: **"Organizing your Research"**. Bring a bag lunch and a sampling of your documents or treasures and \$1.00 for handouts.

Betty Kot has classes beginning in September. For details see page 99.

October

- 5 **Tuesday - 10:00 am Board Meeting - Carol Thompson's** 308 Hartford Road, Danville. Phone 820-4103 All members welcome.
- 26 **Tuesday - 9:00 am Library Trip - National Archives, San Bruno, CA**

OFFICERS TO CONTACT

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 Family 20.00
Membership year June 1 - May 30

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Deadline to put information in newsletter is
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SRVGS Home Page
 < [http://www.ancestry.com/societyhall/](http://www.ancestry.com/societyhall/pages/sochall-503)
 pages/sochall-503 >

SRVGS TREASURERS REPORT

FUND BALANCES (8/31/1999)
General Fund Balance: 3,570.61
Hospitality Fund Balance: 30.78
Publications Fund Balance: 987.11
Special Projects Fund Balance 200.00
N.A.R.A. Fund Balance: 97.50
Tape Library Fund Balance: 166.84
Library Fund: Prior Year Gifts &
Donations Balance: 130.54
Current Year Donations Balance: 412.50
OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE: 5,595.88

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE BOARD

It is with deep regret that the Board of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society accepts the resignation of **Victoria da Roza** as President and that of **Frances Grotefend** as Vice-President for health and personal reasons. We thank them for their work on behalf of the Society and hope that they will continue to be active members as circumstances permit. **Dorothy Stanton** will serve as Acting President until others step forward to assume the vacancies.

At the board meeting on September 7th. the board accepted a proposal to investigate the insurance costs of raising the cap of our insurance coverage to \$3,000,000 or more in the event there is ever a need for it.

SRVGS NEWS

At the September 7th. Board meeting It was voted to accept the generous offer from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints of a meeting place for our Society. Starting in September, The San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society will hold it meetings at The LDS Church, Alamo on Stone Valley Road and Smith Road, Alamo.

A WELCOME VOLUNTEER

Member Barbara Johnson, hearing of SRVGS loss of a president and vice-president has stepped forward to accept the post of President. The membership deeply appreciates this act and will be voting on approval of and installation of a new President.

The Board hopes that they can gain a Vice-President in the very near future as well.

1930 CENSUS

Barbara Edkin reports that the 1930 Census will be released 1 April 2002. The following states will be soundexed: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, N.C., S.C., Tennessee, Virginia, parts of Kentucky and parts of West Virginia

FAMILY HISTORY CLASSES BY BETTY KOT SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

(OA55A) Beginning Genealogy Class

M 1:30-3:30 PM; Sept. 13 - Nov. 15 Walnut Creek

Sr. Center; Fee \$25. Register in class. Instructor: Kot
Personal, practical assistance in compiling a genealogy.

For beginners or those who need help with paper

(OA55C) Intermediate Genealogy

Th. 1:30-3:30 PM Sept. 16 - Nov 18: Walnut Creek Sr.

Center. Fee \$25.; Register in class. Instructor: Kot

Extend your pedigree chart by means of local libraries and their holdings. Come to share your problems and solutions. 3 library trips are planned.

Write your life Story

(OA55D) T 1:30-3:30 PM: Sept 14 - Nov 16 Walnut Creek Sr. Center; Fee \$25.

(OA55E) W 10:00-noon: Sept 15 - Nov 17 Rossmoor Acorn Room: Fee \$25.

(OA55F) W 1:00-3:00 PM: Sept 15 - Nov 17 Lafayette Community Center. Register in class; Fee \$25.00; Instructor: Kot

Join a trip down your memory lane. Write your memoirs or auto biography in a non-stressful environment, just write a couple of pages each week. Come to be inspired to create the world's most appreciated gift - your life

CEMETERY LISTINGS

From AOL MaxJean Nanamo 6/8/99

Owen Moore in Battersea, London, Eng. *Gone away...Owin' more than he could pay.* In Thurmont, MD. *Here lies an Atheist...All dressed up and no place to go.* Harry Edsel Smith of Albany, NY, *Born 1903...Died 1942...Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down. It was.* Uniontown, PA: *Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake...Stepped on the gas instead of the brake.* In Silver City, NV, *Here lays Butch, We planted him raw. He was quick on trigger, But slow on the draw.* In Ruidoso, NM, *Here lies Johnny Yeast... Pardon me for not rising.* In England, *Sir John Strange...Here lies an honest lawyer...and that is Strange.*

INTERESTING FINDS

FINDING THE MAIDEN NAME OF MY GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

Submitted by Member Clarice Gallant Hart

The parents of my grandfather, John Wesley Gallant, were both killed in a buggy accident when he was about seven years old. He and his brothers were "farmed out" to different families, and they were not reunited until they were adults, as a result, they did not know their parents' first names or anything else about them.

Starting with that, I found the family in the 1860 Lee County, Iowa Federal Census. Shown were Artemus Gallant born in Ohio and wife Eleanor born in Canada, followed by their five sons, the youngest being my grandfather, age one.

After several unsuccessful attempts to find more information on the family, I wrote to the Lee County Genealogy Society, who's secretary, Frances Sprunger sent me quite a bit of information. She noted that in the 1850 Lee County Federal Census there was a Mott family listed just above Artemus and Eleanor and the things she read there made her suspect that there might be a connection between the two families. The family's name was Mott. The head of household was a Mary Mott born in Ireland with two sons born in Canada. The sons were Absolam and Joshua. The oldest son Absolam was the same age as Eleanor. Eleanor Gallant had named two of her sons Absolam and Joshua.

Armed with that suspicion I and Frances went looking for a marriage record for Artemus and Eleanor, unsuccessfully. Then Frances recalled that there had been a boundary dispute between Iowa and Missouri in the 1840's, and some Lee County records might be recorded in Clark County, Missouri. She was right - a request to Clark County resulted in a copy of the recorded marriage of Artemus Gallant and Eleanor Mott on December 5, 1848. Was Mary Mott Eleanor's mother? I think so.

On the internet, I was later able to trace Artemus' family back to a James Gallant (b.1724 in England) but the real find was finding Eleanor's maiden name!

(continued from page 97) Finally, you can use Wild Cards (shown by *) to include multiple spelling choices (theater/theatre; sing/singing).

Analyzing results: If the first page of hits gives you no hint of results you can use, don't look further. Try another tool. Worry about quality, not quantity.

Here are some general rules for Internet search success:

- a. Caveat Lector - Let the reader beware!
- b. Evaluate URL's (Internet pages) for Authority (who publishes it; what are their qualifications), Accuracy (documentation included?), Objectivity, Datedness (how current is the information?), and Depth of Coverage.
- c. Save what you find, and be sure you note where you saved it. Make a unique download folder and save the text as HTML; so you double-click and view it as in the original. You can also right-click pictures to save them.
- d. Remember, what you are downloading is secondary evidence. See Elizabeth Shoun's book "Evidence" to understand its importance.
- e. Record the evidence with the email address, any further site information, and date secured.

Note: The speaker distributed a very good listing of Guides and Search Engines and their characteristics.

(continued from page 101) have the original music signed by the composer? That would surely be considered a primary source. In the meantime, the Ellicombe story is sweet but almost surly fiction rather than fact. Although it is only the origin of the music I investigated, perhaps the rest of the story has a basis in fact. At any rate let it circulate long enough and it might become tradition.

Traditions have a place in our family histories, even when they are proved to be fiction, for they color the lives of those that believed in them. But we owe it to ourselves, our ancestors, those whose glory is being usurped and to those who will see our research to label them as such, and to avoid passing them on as fact.

ON THE WEB

"BET YOU CAN'T USE JUST ONE"

US Land & Property Research

<http://users.am.net/~billco/uslpr.htm>

Royal Genealogy

<http://ftp.cac.psu.edu/~saw/royal/royalgen.html>

Genealogical Tips <http://biz.ipa.net/genrecord/>

<http://www.mindspring.com>

<http://www.concentric.net/~mikerice/helplist.shtml>

History, Boundry changes, maps, archives, libraries, research, gazettes:

<http://www.irit.fr/SSI/~Ralph.Sobek/genealogy/FAQs/>

<http://www.mit.edu:8001/geo>

<http://mapping.usgs.gov/www/gnis/gnisform.html>

<http://www.genealogy.org/%7Est-clair/counties/>

<http://www.peabody.yale.edu/other/gnis>

Primer Course for Historic Land & Property Research

Excellent <http://users.am.net/~billco/uslpr.htm>

German Immigration

<http://w3g.med.uni-giessen.de/gene/reg/WELT/usa.html#gener>

Canadian boundry sites

http://Geonames.NRCan.gc/english/cgndb_current.html

http://Geonames.NRCan.gc.ca/english/cgndb_historic.html

Italian Roots <http://www.italiangen.org/>

Government death certification

<http://www.mtjeff.com/~bodenst/ssdi.html>

Indian Studies - Cherokee Elder's Council

<http://www.geocities.com/CappitolHill/7662>

<http://Cherokee.digigo.com/tmoore>

<http://magicnet.net/~manatee/>

<http://www.nativeweb.org>

<http://history.cc.ukans.edu/heritage/kshs>

<http://hanksville.phast.umass.edu:8000/cultprop/contacts/tribal/NC.html>

If you have a critique of any of the above sites or earlier

HEWLETT PACKARD DESIGNJET UV INKSLAST MORE THAN 100 YEARS

While working on the revision of Print, Publish, Preserve, I came across this interesting bit of information. It might be applicable to anyone printing photos says **Dorothy Stanton**. If you're using an inkjet printer for distributing copies of family photographs, you will be interested in this news.

Hewlett><http://www.hp.com/pressrel/feb99/18feb99a.htm>->Hewlett>

Packard has announced the results of new tests done on inks by Wilhelm Imaging Research show that new pigmented UV inks developed by HP have a useful life of 100 years. This is in contrast to a 4 to 6 year life span of dye based inks. Posted by: Steve Knoblock.

If you go directly to the Hewlett Packard site, you'll find more detail. Maybe someone who knows more about them can tell me if it applies to home use. DS

PLEASANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY CATALOG

In an email to L-AGS Members, George Anderson states: We have added a link on the L-AGS Web site to the catalog of the Pleasanton Public Library, which is now a city library, independent of the Alameda County Library. To reach the Pleasanton-only catalog, which includes the L-AGS holdings, click on this series of links:

<http://www.l-ags.org>

Useful Internet Links

Libraries and Archives

Pleasanton Public Library

After reaching that page, you can add a personal bookmark to your browser for future quick connections.

You can still reach the catalog of the Pleasanton (and L-AGS) books by using the existing link to the Alameda County Library, but that brings up the books for all branches of the county library. The Pleasanton-only catalog still resides on the county server and is maintained by the county under a contract from the city.

FACT - FICTION - TRADITION

"The Story Behind Taps"

by Cath Madden Trindle from the SMCBS Newsletter

July/Aug 1999 Vol 17-7 pg. 126

Have you read the great story working its way around the genealogical scene lately? Called "The Story Behind Taps" it is the tale of Union Captain Robert Ellicombe and his son a Confederate soldier. After a day of battle, Ellicombe hears the moan of a soldier on the field and risks his life to bring the man back for medical attention. Upon reaching his own lines, he finds that not only has the man died, but it is his own son who had been studying music in the South at the outbreak of the war.

Ellicombe requests permission to give his son a full military burial despite the fact he was fighting for the enemy. His request is partially granted. He is allowed to bury him; however, there can be no funeral dirge played by the Army band. He is allowed one musician and chooses a bugler. The bugler plays a piece of music found in the dead son's pocket.... Thus began the practice of playing TAPS at funerals.

It is a wonderful story. So emotional. Who wouldn't love to have it as part of their family story. But is it true? In the all too typical mode of today, especially on the Internet, this story has no author listed and no one seems to know where it originated. I found no answers although I sent out quite a few requests and had others searching also.

So is it tradition, fiction, fact? I decided to do a little sleuthing..

First I tried "Home Sources". I checked three encyclopedias, two on CD and one printed edition for "Tap" and for Ellicombe". It wasn't going to be that easy. Next I tried a variety of music books that have accumulated through forty years of trumpets, trombones, keyboards and guitars. Although two versions of the song were found, neither one had a composer listed. So the "Home Sources" did not pan out.

Well, if the story found me over the Internet, perhaps the Internet could provide the solution. I spent over two hours checking every online encyclopedia, dictionary, almanac, and data base I could find. (continue on right column)

I found the song listed on CDs, but no composer was listed. I found the lyrics on another site, but again no composer was given.

Online dictionaries as well as those I had at home provided definitions of taps that related to the music. The following was perhaps the most complete: (taps) [treated as SING. or PL.] US - a bugle call for lights to be put out in army quarters. [ORIGIN: so named because the signal was originally sounded on a drum.]; n a similar call sounded at a military funeral. n Brit. (in the Guide movement) a closing song sung at an evening camp fire or at the end of a meeting. *The New Oxford Dictionary of English is the first dictionary of British English online. exclusively for AOL.*

Next I tried what I thought would be my trump card. My son-in-law comes from a family of musicians and composers. His father, George Walker has won the Pulitzer Prize for music and the rest of the family composes, teaches and plays. Ian, himself, is an award winning sound designer for theater... who better to know where to find the origin of a piece of music?

So after a brief conversation, where I learned that a my local reference librarian was probably my best source, I called the Redwood City Public Library. The reference librarian quickly transferred my call to the Audio/Visual desk and within minutes a wonderfully helpful Molly had located both a composer and a new story.

According to **The Great Song Thesaurus** by Roger Lax and Frederick Smith, Oxford University Press, 1984, Daniel O. Butterfield composed the music now referred to as **Taps**. In 1862 he was in command of a brigade of the Army of the Potomac within Confederate territory on the banks of the James River. While recovering from a wound received in the Battle of Gaines Mill in June of 1862, he wrote the song and taught it to O.W. Norton, bugler for Brigade Headquarters. Norton first performed the music at Harrison's landing on the James River in July of 1862. When and why the music gained the title **Taps** is not known, but Lax and Smith opined that it might be a derivation of the Dutch "Taptoo."

So is this the correct story? I only found reference to it in this one book; perhaps it is also in question. Daniel Butterfield was not listed in any of my encyclopedias, but it is possible that the Army has a record of that first performance. Does anyone (continued on page 100)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SOUTHERN Meets the 2nd. Tuesday of the month 10:00 am. **Tuesday-September 14.** The October location will be announced at the September General Meeting.

PORTUGUESE - Tuesday Sept. 21st. After the General meeting, 1:00 pm at Osage Park in Danville. Take I 680 east exiting on Sycamore Valley Road. Turn right at Brookside and straight into park. Bring a bag lunch.

IRISH & CALIFORNIA Meets the 2nd. Wednesday of the month 10:00 am Sept. 8th. at the home of **Patty Erickson**, 10 Ridge Place, Pleasant Hill. Phone 229-0889.

GERMAN Meets the 4th. Thursday of the month 10:00 am. **Sept. 23rd.** 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. **Sept. 13th.** At the home of Barbara Dittig 366 Jacaranda Drive, Danville. Phone 648-9364.

PUBLISHING To be announced.

ROOTS USERS For those learning to use Palladium Ultimate Family Tree. Group meets after the General Meeting. Meeting site and date to be announced.

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

UNITED STATES WWI DRAFT INFORMATION

Passed along from Diana Hancock to the SRVGS Computer Interest Group

Prior to the US' entry into WWI (approximately 1917-1918) every male between the age of 18 and 40 was required to register for the draft. The information found on the card was provided by the individual himself. The registration cards vary in information depending on the individual draft board. But by and large the cards include: The full name of the person (this means first, full middle name, any additional middle names and last name); the current address of the man; his age; his birth date (some include his place of birth); whether he is a US citizen or a naturalized citizen (some ask if his father was a naturalized citizen and his father's race); address or location of employment; name and address of his next of kin; some cards ask if the man is married or single and how many people he supports. The card is signed by the draftee. On the back of the card his physical description is noted: height is broken down by short, medium, tall although some cards give the actual height in feet and inches; Build by slim, medium, stout although some cards list actual weight along with the build, color of eyes and hair; any deformities or injuries are listed (such as one arm missing, blind in one eye, etc. the name and address of the draft board and the date (continue on right column)

When these original cards were transferred to the East Pointe NARA branch the LDS spent about 3 years microfilming these cards. There are hundreds and hundreds of boxes and the LDS opened one box at a time and filmed them in State order. However, within each state the cards were filed by the draft board, not by county or by draftee. This makes the searching of the microfilm difficult, to say the least.

The good news is that the Friends of the National Archives took each box after it was filmed (and checked) and sorted all of these thousands and thousands of cards into - State and then COUNTY order and then in alphabetical order by surname and put them in new boxes. The Friends deserve all the kudos we can give them for this monstrous task.

So...rather than spending hours searching the LDS microfilm you can order copies of the original cards from NARA if you know the County your ancestor lived in between 1917 - 1918. And BTW < Ancestry.com > lists WWI Draft cards in their searchable data bases, however I know for a fact that there are 22 cards for the surname WHITE found in McIntosh Co., OK and Ancestry only gave me 4 of them, so don't depend on that site. I was told that some reps from Ancestry had visited the archives a couple of weeks ago to talk about filming the cards, took one look at the hundreds and hundreds of boxes and simply left. For copies, (continue on page 104)

(continued from page 103) Send a letter requesting copy(s) to:

NARA

Southeast Region

1557 St. Joseph Ave.

East Point, GA 30344

In your letter be sure to say you want copy(s) of the **WWI Draft Application Cards**. Include the **Name of ancestor, Race, State and County**. If you want copies of **ALL** of the cards with a given surname, ask them the cost of the copies and send a **SASE** for them to let you know the copying cost. In your letter be sure and say you want a copy of the **FRONT** and **BACK** of the card. Be sure and send a **SASE** for the return of your copies.

The cost is 50 cents, 25 cents for the front and 25 cents for the back. If you only want one copy send a \$1.00 and say the difference is to be given to the **Friends of the Archives** because; after all, they did all the wonderful hard work for you. (continue to the right hand column)

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

**IMPORTANT !
MEETING LOCATION
CHANGE**

CLARIFICATION!!!

The original draft card applications (registrations) for The every state (the entire U.S.) are at EAST POINT. There are no plans to split these cards and move any of them to any other NARA location since EAST POINT has been charged with "custody" of these records and it is only the original cards that are in State/County/alphabetical order.

If you request copies from any other NARA branch, they will be searching the LDS microfilm and you will have to know the State and Draft Board for them to make copies.

SCOTTISH ILLEGITIMACY

From CSGA Newsletter Vol. 17, No 8 pg. 109

During the 18th. and 19th. century Scotland, there was little concern with the fact that children often preceded a marriage. Andrew Blaikie, writing in the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, argues that marriage became important only with the rise of property laws when there was something to inherit, whether land or a title. A "legal" heir had to be provable and the witnessed marriage contract provided that proof.