

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-8308
President:
Barbara Johnson
Coord. Editor: Jean Hunt
Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd. Tue. of the Month
(except August & December)
LDS Danville Stake Building
Stone Valley Rd. at Smith Road
Alamo, CA

Vol. XIV No.5

November/December 1999



COME ONE, COME ALL SRVGS CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE



10 am to 12 noon, Tuesday, December 7

at the home of Frances Lloyd

bring 3 dozen of your favorite Christmas Cookies to exchange

This is not a meeting, its a party!

A time to visit with other members. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

THIS MONTH

by Claudia Mortensen

Jeremy Frankel will be sharing his wealth of Genealogical knowledge and researching knowhow in his presentation on Researching in Great Britain.

LAST MONTH

by Frank Wilson

"FROM EIRE TO ERIE TO ALAMO"

Barbara Langlois used this intriguing title for the Book of Remembrance she created to bring her ancestors to life for her grandchildren. The project started innocently enough when Barbara needed a topic for her travel column in a local newspaper, and got to thinking where her ancestors had lived and wondering what it would be like to visit their birthplaces in Ireland.

Searching out the family's past, she visited County Donegal and followed them as they emigrated to Erie, Pennsylvania early in the 19th. century. Later, with the opening of the transcontinental railroad her grandfather came west and settled near Danville on a hundred acre ranch straddling what is now I 680 and San Ramon Valley Boulevard.

Although not acquainted with genealogy she successfully gathered a lot of facts, but they "furnished only a skeleton". To flesh it out, she worked with family pictures and letters and descriptions of events - things like a description of a wedding dress, or her great-grandfather's voting record.

She described how she developed a pedigree chart and family group sheets, giving the impression she created her own forms as she went along. The results seemed remarkably similar to the standard forms we use today. As her book developed, she concentrated on her father as her main subject. His life ties together his parents; the immigrants, and the building of a home and respected career as a farmer in the San Ramon Valley. It tells of the family's development of the English walnut industry, and of the arrival of the railroad and trolley to the valley.

(Continue on page 117)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

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

16 Tuesday - 10:00 am General Meeting. LDS CHURCH, ALAMO ON STONE VALLEY ROAD AND SMITH ROAD. Exit I-680 at Stone Valley Exit or go via the Diablo Road route. Our guest speaker will be **Jeremy Frankel** presenting **Researching in Great Britain**.

Member Education Classes. No Classes until January, at which time **Pat Isom** will guide us through the vast possibilities of research at the **Family History Center Library on Stone Valley Road. 10:00 am, Thursday, January 20, 2000.**

9 Tuesday 7:30 PM L-AGS General Meeting. Congregation Beth Emek, College & "M", Livermore. Guest speaker will be **Traci Parent**, Supervising Naturalist, Black Diamond Mine Regional Preserve on **"How to Conduct an Oral History"**.

18 Tuesday - 9:30 am Library trip - **PLEASE NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE.** Pleasanton City Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton. This library holds the Genealogical collections that is sponsored by the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. To see a list of their huge Genealogy CD collection, go to: <<http://www.l-ags.org/pleasanton.cds.html>> Meet in the back parking lot of the new Albertson's Grocery Store (No longer Lucky Store's) 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.

DECEMBER

7 Tuesday - 10:00 am Board Meeting and Cookie Exchange **Francine Lloyd's** home, 810 Town & Country. Phone 837-9382. All members welcome.

JANUARY 2000

4 Tuesday Board Meeting - 10:00 am. **Barbara Johnson's** home, 616 Camino Amigo, Danville. Phone 837-2153.
Camino Amigo is a cross st. between Hartford & Del Amigo Rd., the 1st. street west of the Iron Horse Trail.



**HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING - A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A WONDERFUL TURN OF THE CENTURY!**



OFFICERS TO CONTACT	NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL TEAM	SRVGS TREASURERS REPORT
Pres.: Barbara Johnson 837-2153	Coordinator: Jean Hunt 552-6564	FUND BALANCES (10/31/1999)
Vice-Pres. Barbara Dyer 820-9738	jhunt88961@aol.com	General Fund Balance: 3,132.72
Membership:	Sue Hughes 837-8369	Hospitality Fund Balance: 30.78
Diana Hancock 820-1424	Pat Isom 820-2660	Publications Fund Balance: 829.79
512 Zephyr Circle, Danville, CA 94526-4923	Mailing: Barbara Dittig 648-9364	Special Projects Fund Balance: 200.00
94523-1609	Lucy Carver 837-3146	N.A.R.A. Fund Balance: 98.50
Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00	Deadline to put information in newsletter is the first Thursday of the month	Tape Library Fund Balance: 28.14
Family 20.00	SRVGS Home Page	Library Fund: Prior Year Gifts & Donations Balance: 306.04
Membership year June 1 - May 30	< http://www.ancestry.com/societyhall/ pages/sochall-503 >	Current Year Donations Balance: 256.00
		OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE: 4,881.97

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings to our members and Guests,

I want to thank our First Vice President, Barbara Dyer for filling in for me at the October Meeting, it sounds as though it was an enjoyable program. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our November General meeting.

Time to do research is getting short as the year winds down, however there are still several ways to take advantage of opportunities offered by the SRVGS. A library trip to the Pleasanton City Library is scheduled (look for the change in date), and the Library has an excellent collection of CDs. You can check out tapes from our collection and keep them until the January meeting.. See Barbara Dyer at the November Meeting for tapes. You can also stay after the meeting and work in the Family History Library Center, which will be open for the use of our members.

We do not have a newsletter or a General Meeting in December but I want to encourage our members to attend the Christmas Cookie Exchange. This will be held at Frances Lloyd's home on Tuesday, December 7, 10 AM until Noon. It is always a fun event and a good opportunity to share Christmas Cookies and take home a nice assortment.

Have you ever wondered what life was like for our ancestors during the 1890's? I wish that I had asked my grandparents more questions when I had the opportunity. I remember a few stories they told but would have liked to have learned much more.

This is your opportunity to write about life in the late 1990's and as the year 2000 begins. Your descendants will thank you for taking the time.

Barbara Johnson

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Barbara & Lee Drew

855 Terra California Drive #4

Walnut Creek, CA 94595-3004

E-mail LBDrew@silcon.com

John Lemak

3241 Bennington Ct.

Walnut Creek, CA 94598

E-mail JCLemak@email.MSN.com

Book Reports

by Sue Hughes

Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury by William F. Sherman with additions and index by Craig R. Scott, GGRS

A finding aid to what are probably the most under-used records by genealogists in the National Archives. This record group is the source for the settle accounts, the final pensions, claims, pay and employment and special claims commissions.

Willow Bend. 1997. 293pp. Softcover. Index. \$23.00

Item #B2-65688 (from the NEHGS Fall 1999 Catalog)

Here Be Dragons! Navigate the hazards found in Canadian family research: A Guide for Genealogists

By Althea Douglas

This book will advise researchers where trouble may lurk as they delve into the records looking for their Canadian roots. Genealogists will find helpful information on geography, naming practices, changing social customs, common knowledge that is now forgotten, migration patterns, and the splits and mergers that form today's religious denominations. Each chapter contains a list of useful published sources for further reading on the subject. Perfect for Americans who are conducting Canadian research!.

Ontario Genealogical Society. 1966. 74pp. Softcover

\$14.00 Item #B2-85381 (From the NEHGS Fall 1999 Catalog)

Mapping Your Ancestor's Hometown Via Internet

By Don Gotthold

For those using computers and online services in their genealogy efforts, there are many leads to follow up which are provided by our own members. I tried one which was contributed by our surfing artist Diana Hancock to search for an ancestral village in the Rhineland in Germany, with what I consider fabulous success.

The website in question is www.expediamaps.com (courtesy of Microsoft). I have used this site for travel information in the U.S., but never thought of using it in genealogy. Its particular value lies in the way in which it is used to nail down specific locations.

In the more traditional approach, one would try to find the map most appropriate in time, location and scale and then search on the map for the desired point of interest. Since there is a limit to the number of towns that can be drawn on a given area of a map, there is a good chance that the desired town will not be shown on the map.

When using expediamaps, one uses a reverse approach. The name of the desired town/village is entered, as closely as it is known, and the program replies with a list of names that are an approximate match. The list may run from none to dozens. Expediamaps appears to have put together a monster database of every town known to exist in every location and period, so there is a good chance of finding a match (one or more). When one then enters the match(es) of interest, the program draws a map of the desired region (with adjustable scale). Even though the desired point of interest was not shown on the original map of the region, the program now adds it to the map, the really magical part of this approach.

In my particular application, I knew that my great-grandmother Loutzenheiser's great-great-great-grandfather Conrad Lautzenhausser was christened and married in Sohren in the Rhineland-Palatinate. I had found Sohrens in various locations before. I then received a hint from a corresponding relative that the surname might be derived from a place name. Entering the Lautzen part of the surname into the program produced a location named Lautzenhausen and located it on a map near the Mosel River. I then entered the Sohren location and selected the

most likely of the matches. The program spotted it on a similar map near the Mosel River. Lo and Behold, it was within walking distance of Lautzenhausen!

This cleared up several mysteries at the same time. The village Lautzenhausen was probably too small to have its own church, so the ancestor attached to the one close by in Sohren. The surname was then undoubtedly a place name - Conrad of Lautzenhausen indicating that he occupied (hausser) one of the houses at Lautzenhausen (houses at Lautzen).

It is unlikely that the line possessed a surname before this time (~1630). Tracing further into the past could be a formidable project. At any rate, I would say that reaching this point was a considerable breakthrough, thanks to expediamaps & Diana Hancock's good lead.

(continued from front page)

After the book was assembled, instead of publishing it she handmade copies for each of her children and grandchildren. Noting that some of them were not very interested in the gift, she said "Keep it anyway, and in a few years it will be important to you!" The book and her findings prompted a large reunion in 1981 to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of her father's birth, and the 150th anniversary of her grandfather's birth.

Mrs. Langlois concluded with comments on her project, which began as idle curiosity about how her ancestors had lived; and ended with her book and the interest it stirred in her family. She indicated she would like to join our group to learn how to better gather information; but it is obvious she can teach us a lot in this area.

Do you know what would have happened if it

had been Three Wise Women instead of three Wise Men?

They would have asked directions,
arrived on time,
helped deliver the baby,
cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and,
brought practical gifts.

Author Unknown

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY **SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1999-2000**

PROGRAM

Sept. 21 1999

DAR & SAR Enlightenment
 Nancy Hoffer, Frances Lloyd, Dick
 Schmidt.

Oct. 19, 1999

Book of Remembrance
 San Ramon Valley Interest
 Former Mayor of Lafayette, Barbara
 Langloise

Nov. 16, 1999

Research In Great Britain
 Jeremy Frankel

No Meeting in December

Jan.18, 2000

Solving the Problem On-Site in 25
 Hours or Less
 Christine Rose

Feb. 15, 2000

Home Run - 400 Years of Research
 Don Allen

March 15, 2000

Topic Unknown
 Electra Price

April 18, 2000

Not scheduled yet

May 16, 2000

Probate

LIBRARY TRIPS

Nov. 18, 1999

Pleasanton City LibraryPleasanton,
 CA

No Trip in December

Jan. 25, 2000

San Francisco Public Library History
 Room & Newspapers, San Francisco,
 CA

Feb. 22, 2000

Califoornia Genealogical Society Li-
 brary, Oakland, CA

March 28, 2000

Sutro Library, San Francisco, CA

April 25, 2000

Sacramento State Library & Archives
 Sacramento CA.

May 23, 2000

Oakland Family History Center, Oak-
 land, CA

June 27, 2000

National Archives, San Bruno, CA

July 25, 2000

Santa Clara City Library, Santa
 Clara, CA

EDUCATION CLASSES

Sept. 30, 1999

Basic Genealogy & Documentation
 Workshop
 Frances Lloyd's

Oct. 21, 1999

Accessing the Federal Census
 Milie Freitas

November, no class scheduled.

December, no class scheduled.

Jan. 2000

Library Catalog, I.G.I. & Ancestral
 File

Pat Isom, Family History Library,
 Stone Valley Road, Danville

Feb. 2000

Libraries & Archives, Societies

Mary Jo Hosteny

March 2000

Newspapers, City Directories, Voter
 Registration

Carol Glover

April 2000

Probate Records

Dorothy Stanton

May 2000

Genealogy on the Internet

Diana Hancock



ON THE WEB



Web Sites to Check Out

(From The Santa Clara Roots Digger Feb 99)

GenConnect (sponsored by Root-L) is now featuring **Surname Forums**. Check out this site to help with your research needs. Look for the surnames you are researching!

<http://cgi.rootsweb.com/%7Egenbbs/indx/FamAssoc.html>

Was your ancestor a Doctor?

<http://users.itl.net/~glen/doctors.html>

England Public Records Office.

<http://www.pro.gov.uk/readers/genealogists/starthere.htm>

Alberta Canada Genealogy Resources:

<http://www.iosphere.net/~jholwell/cangene/ab.html>

America's First Families and Fraudulent Genealogies

<http://www.linkline.com/personal/xymox/>

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

And one of the old faithful sites, **Federation of East European Family History Societies:**

<http://www.feefhs.org/>

New York Emigrant Savings Bank Project

From our roving reporter, **Diana Hancock** This is a new site for the **Irish** researchers:

<http://www.genexchange.com/esb/index.cf>

Called the single most important genealogical source material for New York City discovered this century, the New York Emigrant Savings Bank, opened in 1850 and run by Irish immigrants, for Irish immigrants, contain records for emigrants from California, Michigan, Florida, upstate New York, new Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Alabama and Missouri and are a true treasure trove of information.

Visit the URL above to find out more about this site.

You Are Taking Genealogy Too Seriously If....

In order to put the "final touches" on your genealogical research, you've asked all your closest relatives to provide DNA samples.

Sites To Visit Over and Over

(From Net-Working Column by Linda Scott)

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

in the SMCS Newsletter Jan 1999 Vol 17-1 pg 12)

Finding Out What's New: Here is a good way to learn about new websites that might help you with your research. As you know, Cyndi Howells of Cyndi's List maintains the premier index of genealogical material on the net. To find out what she has recently linked, see

<http://www.CyndisList.com/whatsnew.htm>

You may register your e-mail address and receive notification when the page is updated. Also see What's New in WWW Genealogy Pages.

http://genhomepage.com/whats_new.html

Family Chronicle's has a colorful and annotated list of 39 worthy sites.

<http://www.familychronicle.com/worthsurf.htm>

75% of Libraries are on the Internet! Look up a local public library and see if they have an online local history collection: for example, Greene Co. MO. Greene Co. has a wonderful local history collection of abstracts and indexes of county records, full-text histories of Greene Co., 1600 Ozark folk songs, etc.

<http://thelibrary.springfield.missouri.org/>

Here's Yahoo's list, not complete, but sites are linked.

http://dir.yahoo.com/Reference/Libraries/Public_Libraries/

Genealogy Libraries in the U.S.: This is not a complete list, but helpful. Most of them are not linked, but you can put the name of the library in a search engine and see if they have a site.

http://www.greenheart.com/rdietz/gen_libs.htm/

Smart Searches: John Robertson gives a tutorial on how to conduct searches using major mailing lists, including their archives. You may access Rootsweb surname, mailing lists, ROOTS-L newsgroups, and the USGenWeb archives. If you click on "Searches" at the top of the page, you will go to his ROBERTSON page. Click "On Your Own", then you may search the Larry Stevens' mailing lists/archives. <http://www.shelby.net/shelby/jr/robertsn/rwsearch.htm>

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THE SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**A Newsletter in Search of an Editor and Staff**

By Jean Hunt

In October I submitted my resignation as Editing Coordinator of our Newsletter and would like to be able to help find a replacement for myself and also add to the staff in a way that would be beneficial to everyone that agrees to help put an interesting and informative paper before our Membership.

Having an Editorial Staff is not a new idea but it seemingly appears to the membership that only people who have a writing background and a knowledge of computers can do the job. Not so! In the following job descriptions you will see that all can help!

EDITOR-COORDINATOR

Attend monthly Board Meeting to gather pertinent news for newsletter. Receive the **Presidents Message, Treasurers Report, Membership Report, Program Coordinators Report** (speakers and descriptions of program topics), **Committee Reports (Especially Education and Library Trips), Special Interest Groups, (Meeting Dates and Places), Family History Library and news Reports** and anything else the Board feels should be reported.

Information from other sources that broaden our genealogical knowledge must also be gathered. Computer and Web Site News, Book Reports, The "Last Month Review" of our General Meeting programs, pertinent articles (gathered from magazines, Society Newsletters, Help Tips, Fellow Members, etc.

Finally it must be typed up and taken to the publisher by the end of the first week of the month where it is printed and then taken over by our Mailing Team.

At the present this job involves a LOT of typing and a LOT of reading. It helps when the reports come to me via e-mail then I can just copy and paste it into the newsletter and edit it there.

The Advantage is you get to read all the newsletters first (smile) and have all the news first.

I would be wonderful to have more people doing the following jobs:

Computer and Web Page Editor. You need some knowledge of both. A computer. Deadline for getting report to Coord. Ed. About a week before the Board Meeting.....Can you do this job?

Book Report Editor (access to magazines and books, etc. A steady handwriting, a typewriter or computer. Deadline same as above.

"Last Month Review Writer" Attend the General Meeting, help tape record or obtain the tape recording and do a review of the program. You need to have good hand writing, or a typewriter or computer. Same deadline as above.

General Article Writer. Anyone. Readable handwriting or a typewriter or computer. Same deadline as above.

Helpful Tips Writer. Same as above

The January Newsletter will be my last newsletter and I intend to donate the software I do the newsletter on to the SRVGS and my time to help get someone started.

I am a self taught (NO classes) computer person and I have learned a lot on this job, you can too.

Best Regards, **Jean Hunt**

PATTERN FOR A FIVE POINTED STAR

(taken from the Staar Genecal Journal, Morgan Area Genealogical Association Vol. 3 Issue 4 Oct. 95 IL)

HOW TO FOLD 8½"x11" PAPER AND CUT A FIVE-POINTED STAR

1. Fold sheet of typing paper (8½" x 11") in half horizontally

X... Mark center at left edge, by folding bottom to top

[This pattern was made by cutting sheet into four parts, and using 1/4 part]

lower right corner

Fold 8½ x 11 sheet here

2. Bring lower right corner to mark at left edge

Lower left FLAP

3. Fold lower left FLAP up

Upper right corner

4. Fold left-hand side even with right side.

Measure 3½" up from point on left, and 2" on right.

5. cut here. FOLDED SIDE 3½ INCHES ABOUT 2 INCHES

6. Star part.

7.

The Results:

a beautiful hand-cut star like one Betsy Ross cut out for General George Washington on May 28, 1776, which became the pattern for the first Stars and Stripes ever created.

Florence Hutchison, as a lecturer for the past 30 years on the "History of the Flag of the United States and The Truth About Flagmaker Betsy Ross", has shown hundreds of people the art of cutting out a perfect five-pointed star. Have fun showing others, especially children.

Mrs. Florence Hutchison
629 South Diamond
Jacksonville, IL 62450

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SOUTHERN Meets the **2nd. Tuesday** of the month 10:00 am. **Tuesday-November 9th.** at **Nancy Alexander's** House 50 St. Mark Court, Danville. 820-1593.

PORTUGUESE - Tuesday November 16. After the General meeting, Visit to San Lorenzo Library. Bring a bag lunch to eat on the way.

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

GERMAN Meets the **4th. Wednesday** of the month **10:00 am. November 17th.** (Note schedule Change due to proximity of Thanksgiving to regular date) At **Carol Huvane's** home. 4589 Walnut Blvd. Walnut Creek. 947-5669 thuv@aol.com

MAC COMPUTER GROUP Meets the **3rd. Wednesday** of the month. To be announced.

PUBLISHING Will schedule a meeting as needed.

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.

PLEASE, It would be very helpful if each Special Interest Group would assign one member to advise the Newsletter Editor of the date and place of that groups monthly meeting. The deadline for the newsletter is the Thursday after a board meeting. Phone (925) 552-6564 or e-mail <jhunt88961@aol.com>

(continued from page 119) **On The Web**

Searchable Newspapers: <http://www.ecola.com/news/press/>

United States Newspaper Project:

<http://www.neh.fed.us/html/usnp.html>

MAPS:

Color Land Form maps: <http://fermi.jhuapl.edu/states/states.html>

Worldwide Maps: <http://kartoserver.frw.ruu.nl/html/staff/oddens/oddens.htm>

U.S. Teritorial Maps, 1775-1920

http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MAP/terr_hp.html

Telephone Books, Worldwide:

<http://www.contractjobs.com/tel/>

Inflation Calculator: <http://www.westegg.com/inflation/>

Volunteer Translators:

<http://www.genexchange.com/tSearch.CFM>

Online Archive of California:

<http://sunsite.Berkeley.EDU/FindingAids/dynaweb/>

U.S. Cemeteries

<http://www.funeral.com/cemeterystates/>

YANKEE WISDOM

It won't be warm till the snow gets off
the mountain, and the snow won't get off
the mountain till it gets warm.

Nothing should be bought that can be
made or done without.



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING
AND
A MERRY CHRISTMAS**



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



FIRST CLASS MAIL