

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. I No. II

March 1985

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Thursday, 14 March - Contra Costa County Genealogical Society
7:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Parkside Drive,
Concord
Diana King - "Witchcraft in Salem and New England"
- Tuesday, 19 March - San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society
10:30 a.m., upstairs meeting room, San Ramon Valley
Library, 555 South Hartz Avenue, Danville
Bette Root Kot - "Organizing Our Genealogy Materials"
- Monday, 1 April - DAR Genealogical Workshop sponsored by Acalanes
Chapter DAR. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., 1938 Tice Valley
Blvd., Walnut Creek (see enclosed flyer)

Our next meeting: "Organizing Our Genealogy Materials" by Bette Kot

From the first collection of family notes and photos in a shoe box to a room full of files, binders, books, and computers, most genealogists welcome tips on keeping everything organized. How quickly can we put our hands on a certain map or check our source of information?

Bette is a professional genealogist who seems to "have it all down to a system", and is willing to share with us how she does it. Bette is a popular teacher of Beginning and Intermediate Genealogy in the Acalanes and San Ramon Valley Adult Education classes.

Bette says she has some new and improved methods, so we hope to see another good crowd on Tuesday, 19 March.

Our last meeting: "Migration Patterns- To and within the United States"

A. Maxim Coppage showed maps and spoke on migration. Most migration was along navigable rivers. Thirty people attended.

Marian Marquardt (membership) distributed a list of members, the surnames they are researching and the locales in which they are interested. Marian will revise the list each month as new members join.

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS by Dorothy Stanton

1. Start with yourself. Send for your own birth certificate, marriage record, etc., if you don't have them already. Write down (or tape) your own memories of your family, parents and grandparents.
2. Get information from oldest family members as soon as you can; you may be too late if you delay. Visits or phone calls may be easier for them than answering a letter.
3. When asking for information from relatives, etc., try to narrow down times when events took place. Pinpoint locations so you will know where to begin your search.
4. Get proof! Don't take someone's word no matter how close they were to an event. Memories can play tricks. It's best to verify statements from independent sources and records.
5. Keep a record of all searches, even if you didn't find anything. Write down the name of the record and where you found it. You will avoid checking the same source twice. Later, if you find conflicts, you can recheck or weigh the relative merits of the source.
6. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) as a courtesy when requesting information from private individuals or agencies that do not have a budget to cover replies, i.e., libraries, genealogical and historical societies.

(continued next issue)

HERE AND THERE

- Ireland - The genealogical office has moved from Dublin Castle to:
Genealogical Office, c/o National Library, Kildare Street,
Dublin 2, Ireland. (Livermore Roots Tracer)
- Railroads - Railroad pension records may be obtained by writing: Railroad
Retirement Boards of the U.S.A., 844 Rush Street, Chicago, IL
60611. They will answer queries if enough information is supplied.
(Gen. Society of Sacramento)
- Witches - Was one of your ancestors a witch? A new society has been formed
to exchange data and provide the true story of the New England
witches. For information: New England Witchcraft Descendants,
1907 Burnwood Road, Baltimore, MD 21239
(Livermore Roots Tracer)
- Germany - The Historic Emigration Office in Hamburg has ship passenger
list of emigrants who sailed overseas directly from Hamburg or
indirectly via Hamburg from other European ports from 1850 to
1914 with the exception of January through June 1853. The lists
for Bremen have not survived. If the exact year of emigration
is known the cost is \$30.00. For every further year searched
an additional \$10.00 is charged. No refunds for an unsuccessful
search. For information: Historic Emigration Office, Museum
fur Hamburgische Geschichte, Holstenwall 24 - 2000 Hamburg 36,
Germany.
- San Francisco - Do you know of a relative killed in the 1906 earthquake/
fire? Mrs. Gladys Hansen, San Francisco City Archivist, has
made a thorough search of all available records. Her total of
826 known dead exceeds the official figure of 478. She encourages
anyone having information to contact her at: Public Library,
Civic Center, San Francisco, CA 94102
(New Orleans Genesis)

THANKS TO: by Jean Blackmur
Marian Marquardt for the membership lists showing ancestry and locales
being researched.
Sharon Krider who has become our Publicity Chairman.
Jim Dotson and Anne Moulds who comprise our By-Laws Committee.
Marilyn Fullam for serving as Secretary and Newsletter Chairman.

AN IDEA THAT WORKED

I had the address where my great grandfather lived in Wisconsin in 1900.
I wrote a letter to "Occupant" at that address and asked if they would send
me a picture of the house if it was still the one that had been there in
1900. I offered to pay for the picture. Not only did they send me six
pictures of the house but also a history of the house. They asked that
no money be sent them as it was their pleasure to help someone doing their
history.
(Marilyn Fullam)

APRIL MEETING

Now that we are beginning to know one another, it is time to become
acquainted with each others' ancestors. So, get your charts and photos
together and bring them to the April meeting to share.

SEE YOU MARCH 19 - bring an interested friend