

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

VOL. I No. III

April 1985

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 16 April - San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society
10:30 a.m., upstairs meeting room, San Ramon Valley
Library, 555 South Hartz Avenue, Danville
Guest Speaker: Julia Purdie, President, Contra
Costa County Genealogical Society
Program: "Meeting Our Ancestors"

Saturday, 20 April - Contra Costa County Genealogical Society Mini-
Conference, 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Pleasant Hill
Adult School, 3100 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill.

Our next meeting: "Meeting Our Ancestors". We hope some of us will come prepared to introduce a direct line ancestor, giving time period in which he or she lived and describing something of either special interest about the individual or about researching that ancestor. IN TWO MINUTES OR LESS. (We'll be timing). Save charts, books, etc. for another time.

Membership Drive starts.

Our last meeting: Bette Kot spoke on "Organizing Our Genealogy Materials". Thirty-five attended. A vote was taken on meeting during the summer - Yes 18, no 9. Signups were taken for beginning and intermediate classes to be taught by Bette Kot. Classes started April 9-beginning classes at 10 a.m. and intermediate at 1 p.m. Classes will be held for six Tuesdays except for the third Tuesday of the month. Dues were approved at \$10 per year for individuals and \$15 for family. By-laws were read.

HERE AND THERE

Pleasant Hill - On Saturday April 20 the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society is sponsoring its annual mini-conference at the Pleasant Hill Adult School (near the County Library) at 3100 Oak Park Blvd. Registration is \$5.00. Starting at 11:30 a.m. workshops will be held each hour until 3:30 p.m. in all levels of genealogy, Visiting Your Research Site, Computers and Genealogy, Land Records, Local Libraries, LDS Sources, and Church and Cemetery Records. A question and answer period will follow until 4 p.m. (Ed. note: Those who attended last year found the conference very helpful and the syllabus indispensable).

Danville - Here is a once in a lifetime opportunity to become a CHARTER MEMBER of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society. Annual dues have been set for \$10.00 for an Individual Membership or \$15.00 for a Family Membership. Those who pay their annual dues before June 1, 1985, will be considered Charter Members. Membership entitles you to vote and to continue to receive the society's newsletter. A membership application is enclosed for you to mail or turn in. We hope that all who have shown an interest in our new society will respond to our April and May Membership Drive.

Oakland - Mayflower Library hours for April: 8-12 Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The library is located at 405 14th Street, Terrace Level, Oakland

- California - New publication for the California State Library Foundation: "Newspapers in California" \$9.45 (includes tax and shipping). Includes Survey of California Newspaper Collections, Newspaper Indexing Projects, Newspaper Clippings Projects, Newspaper Archives and/or Morgues. Send check to California State Library Foundation, P.O. Box 2037, Sacramento, 95608
- Railroads - Our last issue listed where to write for information about railroad pensions. The Railroad Retirement Board does not maintain any listing by surname of persons who worked in the rail industry only before 1937. The only way they can determine if a person received benefits based solely on pre-1937 service is by knowing the actual claim number assigned to that person. Such a claim number consists of up to six digits preceded by the letter H or A.
- San Francisco - ACT is presenting Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" through April 20 at the Geary in San Francisco - wonderful lines on family, history, turn of the century, small town values - a delight for genealogists (Jean Blackmur).
- California - Vital Statistics Advisory Committee is seeking applicants. Among the major functions of this committee is the review of requests for access to vital statistic data for research purposes. Applications can be obtained by writing: Dept. of Health Services, Office of Advisory Liaison, 714 P St., Room 599, Sacramento, CA 95814
(California State Genealogical Alliance Newsletter, Vol, 2 No. 12)

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS by Dorothy Stanton (continued from last issue)

7. When writing to libraries or county clerks, your chance of success is greater if you are specific and to the point about what you want to find out; i.e., ask them to check an index for a specific name. Avoid long stories of genealogical relationships. They are busy people so one request to a letter is more likely to get an answer.
8. Check maps of the area and time period you are searching. What appears to be a lot of moving between counties and states may be just a matter of a few miles if they lived close to borders. Waterways and hilly terrain may be a clue to how far and in what direction your ancestor travelled for new land and to do his "courting". This will narrow the search.
9. When checking an index for a name, look for all possible spellings. Earlier times were more "creative" in their spelling of names. Make a list of every way the name could be misspelled or mispronounced. You will probably find an example of each before you are through.
10. As you check census records, cemeteries, etc., note the names of neighbors. Families who lived near each other in one place often migrated to new areas together. When you draw a blank with your own families, the neighbors' histories might give you a clue.
11. When looking at records in old Bibles, check the date the Bible was published. If the publication date is later than the dates of events recorded, you'll know they were written from memory or copied from another record and might be inaccurate.
12. Remember, just because it's in print doesn't mean it's true. Published genealogies and local histories vary in their reliability. Check their sources, if listed, and verify facts from other records.

QUERIES

SEEKING information on Samuel (6) BIGELOW (Abraham 5, Thomas 4, Samuel 3, John 2, Randle 1). Born 4 September 1773 in Weston, MA to Abraham (5) and Anna Fiske. Has a void in his life I am trying to fill: 1773-1803. Mary Ella Parrott, P.O. Box 996, Danville, CA 94526.

RESEARCHING the following surnames: Aland/Eland, Boyer, Forbes, Draves, Drews, Fleming. Donna Forbes, 927 Moreland St., Oshkosh, WI 54901

SEEKING any information regarding the surname RUDOLPHUS. Marilyn Fullam, 6933 Prince Dr., Dublin, CA 94568

Queries welcome - send to Marilyn Fullam, 6933 Prince Dr., Dublin, CA 94568

THANKS TO:

Mariou Victor for the cookies at our last meeting.

Marian Marquardt for providing a meeting place for the beginners' classes.

Cynthia Overmine for offering to do quickie research while on her trip to Vermont and Boston.

People from a distance who have attended our meetings: Bette Kot, Oakland; Joan Frayher, Alameda; Joy Thomas and Rose Marie Wade, Livermore; Ruth Phelps, Berkeley; Lee Moela, Sunol.

Seen at DAR Workshop from our group: Patty Erickson, Ruth Farrell, Jane Steiner, Helen Haney (who spoke on Ohio land records), and Jean Blackmur.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

June 1, 1985 through May 31, 1986

Dues payable by June 1, 1985

Name: Mr./Miss/Ms./Mrs. _____
(please type or print)

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

_____ Individual \$10.00 _____ Family \$15.00

I can help on the following committees: ___Program ___Publicity

___Membership ___Research ___Newsletter ___Hospitality ___Library

___Typing ___Fund Raising ___Special Projects

My genealogical interests are in the following families:

Surname _____ Given names _____

Area _____ Time period _____

Surname _____ Given names _____

Area _____ Time period _____

(For additional families, please attach a separate sheet)

Detach and mail with your check made out to San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society, Box 305, Diablo, CA 94528