

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Tuesday, 21 October - SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
10 a.m., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo
Road, Danville. Speaker: Barbara Langlois "Bringing
Family History to Life".
- Saturday, 25 October - Everton Publishers workshop "Family Tree Climbing
Can Be Fun" at the San Lorenzo Community Church,
945 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo, CA 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, 1 November - Contra Costa County Genealogical workshop "Let's
Begin Your Genealogy" by Bette Kot at the Pleasant
Hill Adult Center, 3100 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant
Hill, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration fee
of \$20.00 includes handouts.
- Sunday, 9 November - California Genealogical Society open house, 300
Brannan Street, San Francisco. Everyone is invited
to the Society's new library.
- Wednesday, 19 November-SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY library trip
to the California Society of Mayflower Descendants'
Library, 405 17th St., Oakland. Carpools meet at
Alpha Beta, Danville at 8:30 a.m.

Our September meeting: Mr. Frank Glover from the Sutro Library spoke to us on the services available at that library. Sutro is valuable for obtaining secondary sources for our genealogical research. In addition, Mr. Glover stressed the use of the library for its general historical sources to get an overview of the geographical areas and historical times in which these ancestors lived.

Reminder: Sutro Library will lend books either through interlibrary loan or checking-out books in person. However, these two systems are not interchangeable.

Following this meeting by one week, a group from our Society made a trip to the Sutro Library where Mr. Glover met with us and explained in greater detail what is available at the library and how to find what we need through the use of catalogs and reference materials. Then we were free to use the library and put all our skills to use.

We thank Mr. Glover for his time as well as Dorothy Stanton for providing him as a speaker and to Jean Blackmur for setting up the library trip so we could try out our new-found knowledge.

Our October meeting: Barbara Langlois, a resident of Moraga and former mayor of Lafayette, will speak about ways of "Bringing Family History to Life". She will be presenting some of the ideas she used at a family reunion to interest the younger generation and to help them appreciate the lives of some of their ancestors. Whether or not you have a reunion coming up, you'll hear some interesting ideas about gathering and sharing family history.

TAPES

Our tape library is still growing. See Fred Potter for tape titles. Rental is \$1.00 per tape per month.

FREE BASKET

Be sure to check our free basket - it could contain a source for an answer on how to solve your research problem. Also, if you have something you no longer need, contribute it to the free basket - it may be someone's answer.

SURNAME FILE

Our file is growing - have you added your surnames? Have you checked the file to see if anyone else is researching your ancestor?

THANK YOU

To Bette Kot for donating a large coffee urn.

MEMBERSHIP LISTS

The lists are ready and will be passed out at our October meeting.

HELP

California Genealogical Society needs volunteers to unpack and shelve books on Thursdays and Fridays at their new library on Brannan Street in San Francisco. Contact Bette Kot at 531-0776 for further information.

WARNING

Received a post card from Elizabeth Ross, American Genealogies Inc., that for only \$29.85 + \$3.00 shipping I could receive "The Fullam Album". "The Fullam Album will: Reveal almost every Fullam home in the U.S.; Facilitate the location of relatives and namesakes;; Educate you in the fundamentals of genealogical research by describing: (1) Methods of researching family ancestors; ..." etc.

TIP FROM BETTE KOT

To obtain a photostatic copy of the original application for a Social Security number which gives, in the applicant's handwriting, his birthdate, birthplace and parents' names, send a copy of the death certificate (a photocopy will do) together with the Social Security number to SSA-L997, SSN Process Branch, 300 N. Greene Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. SASE not needed.

HERE AND THERE

PASSPORTS

- For a copy of a passport application send \$8.00 to U.S. Department of State Passport Services, Washington, D.C. 20520

(Calif. State Gen. Society, July 1986)

VALLEY FORGE

- Commissary General Society, DVF, Box 915, Valley Forge, PA 19481, is collecting information about officers and men who marched into Camp Valley Forge from December 19, 1777 through June 19, 1778.

(Tristate Trader via Fox Valley Gen. Society, February 1986)

ACADIAN ANCESTRY - Georgia A. Moncada, 13120 Cherbough St., New Orleans, LA 70129, would like to hear from anyone of Acadian ancestry who may have congenital problems. Ms. Moncada is a nurse at Tulane University Hospital and has become involved in a research project with the Department of Genetics. She has become the genealogist for the project and is seeking information from other genealogists that may have found similar problems.

(Chicago Gen. Society-contributed by
Dorothy Stanton)

TO SPILL THE BEANS (Oklahoma Genealogical Society Quarterly)

We were working on our family tree when our visitors arrived. "On my mother's side," I explained, "we're tracing the McNeills, Scots, who came to Carolina in the 1700's." "Fascinating," said the visitor. "I have Scots in my family too, the McBeans. They dropped the 'Mc' and were just known as the Beans."

"How interesting," I said. "From Scotland," he said, sipping a Scotch, "the Beans migrated all over the world and became quite famous."

"Well," I said, somewhat miffed, "the McNeills were pretty hot stuff. There was..." "I recollect," he interrupted, "hearing about an ancestor who fled to Peru after being persecuted by the British. Family's still there. The Lima Beans."

"Fascinating," I said, but the McNeills..." "Then there was John Paul Bean who commanded a frigate in the War of 1812. His male descendants have all been Annapolis graduates. A patriotic bunch, those Navy Beans."

"Now listen here," I protested. "There was McTavish Bean", he persisted, "a mercenary for a Polish Count in 1774. Stayed in Warsaw and started a line that exists to this day. Perhaps you've heard of them: the Pole Beans."

"Then, of course," he went on, "there was the German branch, industrialists, famed for their elegant automobiles, the Mercedes Beans".

"I don't believe this," I said. "You just don't know Beans," he said. "Lady Flora Dora Bean is immortalized in Madame Tussaud's London Wax Museum. She is known as the Wax Bean. Great uncle Amos settled in Mexico, where he perfected chili con carne. But he hated the Mexican heat and moved his family to icy Alaska. We call them..."

"The Chilly Beans?" I guessed. "Of course. I might add that Beans have always integrated fully with native culture. A branch of the Beans inter-married with a fine Cuban family - the famed Garbanzo Beans - and with a Mandarin line in China - the Soy Beans. Then there are the Black Beans in Swaziland - all of noble birth - and the Scots-Sioux line descending directly from Crazy Horse - the Red Beans."

"Your're trying to tell me that every last Bean was a paragon of virtue and nobility?" I asked. "Well," he said sheepishly, "there was Machine Gun Bean, a gangster. He got the electric chair. Odd thing though. The power failed just as they threw the switch. They had to make repairs before electrocuting him. We have a little joke in the family about him: The Refried Bean."

"This is going to far." "No, I could tell you stories," he said. The Swaziland Beans still stalk lions with spears - the Beanstalk, we call it. Then there is my idiot brother, the Bean Dip, and his ugly wife, the Bean Bag, and his maddening children, the Bean Sprouts, and the annual family dance, the Bean Ball..."

"Stop, stop," I cried, "I'll never mention the McNeills again." "Oh," he said downing his whiskey and rising to depart, "I nearly forgot the French branch of the family."

"I never heard of any French Beans," I said. "Of course not," he said. "They changed their name to Legume."

(Contributed by Fred Potter)