

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Thursday, 12 February - Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, 7:30 p.m.
Concord City Council Chambers, Parkside Drive,
Concord. Speaker: Joseph King "Irish Roots-Finding
the Parish and Townland".

Tuesday, 17 February - SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
10 a.m., Danville Women's Club, 242 Linda Mesa,
Danville. Program: "Keeping Your Records Straight".

Saturday, 21 February - Contra Costa County Genealogical Society workshop
"Ready, Set, Go!" 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. at Pleasant Hill
Adult Center, 3100 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill.
A half day workshop to prepare for researching in
Salt Lake City Genealogical Library conducted by
Bette Gorrell Kot. Cost is \$10.00.

Tuesday, 24 February - SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY library trip
canceled. See Friday, 27 February.

Friday, 27 February - SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY library trip
to Contra Costa County Library, Pleasant Hill for
an orientation to the "Heritage Collection" and
genealogy features of the library. Meet at the
front door of the library at 9 a.m.

Saturday, 28 February - Sacramento Genealogy Society Roots Cellar two day
Sunday, 1 March workshop on "Migration Patterns from the American
South" or "How Your Ancestors Got From There to Here".
Cost is \$25 pre-registration (by 21 February) or
\$30 at the door. Workshop is conducted by Arlene
Eakle at the American River College. Send pre-
registration to Root Cellar, P.O. Box 265, Citrus
Heights, CA 95611. Further details on bulletin board.

Saturday, 7 March - Contra Costa County Genealogical Society workshop
"Second Step" a one day workshop for intermediate
genealogists conducted by Bette Gorrell Kot at the
Pleasant Hill Adult Center, 3100 Oak Park Blvd.,
Pleasant Hill. Cost is \$20 for the 8:30 a.m. to
3:30 p.m. workshop. Further details on bulletin board.

Wednesday, 11 March - LDS Library, Salt Lake City trip March 11- March 17 led by Bette Gorrell Kot. Cost of \$325 includes airfare and hotel. For further information contact Frances Becker at 934-4962.

Our January meeting: Our speaker, Kevin Bender, brought a new perspective to anyone interested in preserving their family genealogy or passing on to their descendants, a family history. Kevin spoke on doing this with a video tape. What a wonderful way to make your work come alive. Kevin has started a tape of his family which he shared with us and he doesn't even consider himself a genealogist (though with all the research he's done we told him he was!). A genealogist who wants to undertake such a project as this has the advantage as his research is already well under way and now the organizing of materials would follow.

A tape could consist of the following:

Photos - these can be shot on film after getting them in chronological order and with a log for yourself so you can remember in which order they come for your narrative.

Home movies and slides - these can be transferred to video and then edited.

Script or narrative - this is your chance to be creative. This is the real core of the tape. Include oral interviews, portions of letters, diaries, etc.

Title and subtitles - to highlight events and identify photos.

Music - choose the subject's favorite songs along with the music of the times being presented.

In doing a video tape you are only limited by the amount of materials you have. More information on videotaping your family history can be gotten by contacting Kevin Bender at 415-763-3914.

Our February meeting: Our February program is "Keeping Your Records Straight". Peggy Frazier will speak on "What the Computer Can Do For You" and other members will share computer and non-computer methods of organizing their information and materials. Please bring charts, notebooks and any other ideas you use for organizing genealogical records.

CITY DIRECTORIES AS A SOURCE OF ORAL HISTORY by Patty Erickson

Early City Directories are not only informative to us, but can be used to share information with our older living relatives. I used the Los Angeles City Directories found at Sutro Library to trace the moving patterns and occupations of my Mother's family who came to Los Angeles 1885/86; also my Father's family 1910 and my step-Father's family 1900. My Mother and step-Father are still very bright, interesting people who turn 83 and 85 this year.

Sharing the City Directory findings with them jogged ever so many memories; such as - why someone moved, why certain family members were no longer listed (passed away, moved to a new area, took a new job, married/remarried-a new name), or why an aunt or uncle came to live with the family. The year of my Grandfather's death, 1909, I could not find either my Grandmother or great Grandfather listed in the City Directory; my Mother then remembered they all moved to a hotel, giving it's name and location.

Sharing all this information with each other was a richly rewarding afternoon.

You may go to France, but you will never become a Frenchman. You may go to Greece, but you will never become a Greek. You may go to China, but you will never become a Chinese, to Japan and never become Japanese, but anyone can come to America and become an American. This is the greatness of this country we call the United States of America. by Angie Papadakis
Reader's Digest February 1987

HERE AND THERE

- NATIONAL ARCHIVES - Due to budget cuts, public support is appreciated by the National Archives. Their second project is the duplication of the recently discovered immigration and naturalization records for the ports of San Francisco and Galveston. Send check, made out to the NARA Gift Fund to National Archives and Records Management, Washington D.C. 20402. Think what could be filmed if every genealogist in the U.S. sent in just \$1.00.
(Livermore Roots Tracer)
- GLEASONS
GLEESONS - The Gleason/Gleesons will gather in Ireland June 18 to June 27. For further information contact John Gleason, University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201 or call (414) 963-5879.
(Irish Herald Feb. 1987)
- UPSTATE NEW YORK - For those with a Central or Upstate New York connection, queries are printed on alternate Sundays in the Syracuse Herald American, P.O. Box 4915, Syracuse, New York 13221. Queries should be type or printed, 30 words or less and include name and date.
(Livermore Roots Tracer)
- CALIFORNIA - Cost of certificates from California increased as of January 1. The new rates are \$11 for birth and marriage and \$7 for death records. If you feel strongly on this increase in rates to fund programs not connected with production costs of the certificates, you should write your State Legislator.
(Contra Costa Co. Gen. Soc.)
- HILLIARD
HILLYARD - Ted C. Hilliard has started a newsletter entitled "Hilliard History" to be published each April, June and December to create a network of people who are searching Hilliard/Hillyard and related surnames and to put people in touch who would never have found one another. He estimates there are 19,000 Americans with the name or a variation: Hilleard, Hilliad, Hilyerd, Hyliard and Hyllyard. The name is of English origin, particularly from the York area. Cost is \$5.00 per year. Ted C. Hilliard, 3111 Pyramid Drive, Ceres, CA 95307.
(Irish Herald Feb. 1987)
- GERMANY - On March 29 in the year 1853, all persons from a village named Sespenroth, came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sespenroth was in Herzogtum Nassau, near Montabaur between Frankfurt and Koln (Cologne). Guido Feig is writing a historical account about this village and its emigration. He wishes to follow the history of the people who left this village to come to America. Contact: Herr Guido Feig, Koblenzer Strasse 22, 5430 Montabaur, West Germany.
(Fox Valley Wi. Gen. Soc.)