

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday July 21 General Membership Meeting

R POTPOURRI

The program this time draws on the talents of our own members. Each speaker will have 10-15 minutes to make her presentation. As you can see from the three topics, there is variety--something for everybody.

Next

Meeting

Patty Connett--Oral histories--how to "extract" them

Jean Blackmur--Preparing a book on ancestors to be shared
with your ancestors

Peg Frazier--Recording reminiscences in a proper time frame

Come prepared to soak up some delightful ideas you can really use.

TACKITT GETS A HEARTY ROUND OF APPLAUSE



On June 16, Jim Tackitt, photographer, writer, teacher, and genealogist, made a highly informative presentation on photography to our association. His collection of many prints made from previous customers' old photographs made each abstract point of his talk on old-time processes understandable. Here are some highlights. See what you missed!

The Daguerreotype

Jim said that the very first photographic image-making process that was commercially successful was the daguerreotype, introduced by a Frenchman, Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre, in 1839. Within a few months photographs, called "daguerreotypes," were being made in every corner of

the then civilized world. It has been estimated that between 1840 and about 1860 more than 30 million daguerreotypes were made in the U.S. alone.

The Ambrotype

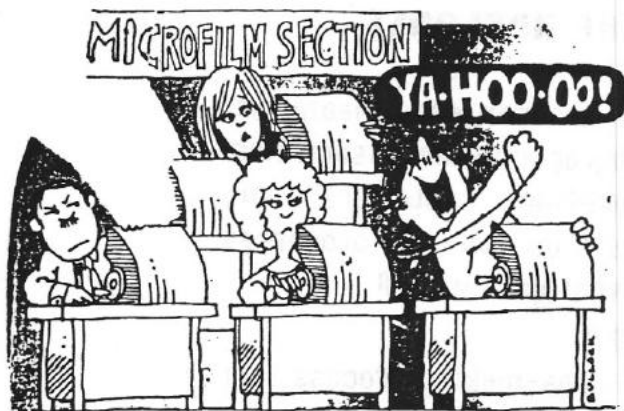
American photographers, looking for cheaper methods of making portraits than the daguerreotype, were quick to adapt to another process called Ambrotype. The ambrotype, being made of glass, was fragile, thus necessitating a protective glass cover and hard case. Essentially it was a wet-plate glass negative, somewhat underdeveloped and slightly bleached after development. When the plate was placed on a dark paper backing or if the glass was blackened with dark varnish, or if dark-colored glass was used to begin with, the image appeared as a positive. Ambrotypes were made between 1855 and 1870. They're rare. Hold on to them.

Tintype and Cartes-de-Visite

By the late 1860's, most photographers had converted their practices to "wet-plate" photography or tintype photography. The cartes-de-visite process also became popular at about this same time. This was a system by which a negative on glass was contact-printed on paper sensitized by the photographer. The print was then mounted on a small pasteboard card. Cartes-de-visite are easy to recognize because of their size, 4 1/4 by 2 1/2. They are positive prints on paper, are invariable mounted, and almost always have a sepia-brown tone to the image.

Toothpicks needed--for the teeth or eyes?

After our meeting was over, a few of us retired to the local sandwich and soup shop where we placed our order. After 52 minutes had passed, the food came. Ugh! We were saved from boredom and anger, however, because our guest speaker, Jim Tackitt, had come along. We picked his brain for more detail on genealogy and photography. The man is a walking encyclopedia! The least we could do was to buy his lunch. This definitely was not a two-martini lunch.



"You can always tell when a genealogist finds his Pilgrim."

Welcome to New Members

Our total membership will exceed the 100 mark before long. Is it our charm? our programs? our easy-to-find meeting place? You'll have to ask Barbara J. O'Rand and Barbara Dyer. They became members of our fold at the last meeting. Welcome to both of you.

Fred Potter, cassette loan volunteer, is looking for his replacement. He has served two years and would now like a breather.

HUCKABONE ACCOMPLISHES THE IMPOSSIBLE

Walking on water may be your game. Climbing the highest mountain may be a feat to be praised. But Dolores Huckabone, our own Society member, has done what few seasoned genealogists do or will ever do--publish the results of research. That's not the end of her feat. Starting her fact and picture gathering only last November, she made a pledge that by June, 1987 she was going to have her first effort in bound form. She did and she shared her result with us at the June 16 meeting.

She bashfully and hastily explained her accomplishment in an attempt to escape the spotlight. But WE didn't let her get away. Questions and more questions. How many pages? *200*. What kind of paper? *Regular xerox-type (the kind in my husband's office)*. How many copies? *50 although not all are sold to relatives yet*. How much are you charging in order to recoup your costs? *\$7 which includes postage and big envelope*.



FROM Reader's Digest, "Kidspeak", November 1986, p228. Contributed by Emily and Per Ola d'Aulaire.

A friend of ours took her eight-year old son to visit his grandmother in Texas. When they arrived, the boy ran to a large pecan tree in the front yard, put his arms around the massive trunk and asked, "Is this the family tree?"

Why did you choose the spiral type of binding with soft cover? *To make it affordable for anyone wishing to buy it*. Did you include oral histories? *Yes, much of the narrative is based on stories which have been in our family a long time or those told to me by elderly relatives*. What was your big hurry to publish (putting the rest of us to shame)? *I wanted to get as much of the facts and pictures out to relatives while some were still living and I was on a roll*.

How much of the duplicating and collating did you do? *All of it. I turned over to the binder stacks of copies ready for the spiral binding*. Did your use of many pictures run up the cost? *No, because I just xeroxed them along with the text. I felt that even a xerox picture was better than no picture at all. I did spend extra money for a big half-tone for the cover, however*. How many surnames did you include? *This is strictly a HUCKABONE publication. That's my husband's surname*.

A big hand, Ladies and Gentlemen, for the lady with the dark hair--Dolores Huckabone!

BY-LAWS PROPOSED CHANGE

At the Executive Board meeting Tuesday, June 2, there was lengthy discussion about the date for auditing our books and the date for the required annual meeting. The change will state that the Treasurer shall make all financial records available for audit *within six weeks after the Annual Meeting*. This change (in italics) will be voted on at the September meeting.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:
Tuesday, September 15
There will be NO meeting in August