

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



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Loretta Uranesh, President

September 1987

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Let's all turn out for this first meeting of the fall. It promises to be a great day. Fancy goodies to eat are promised; coffee and tea will be hot. Your Executive Board will be there with their collective smile to welcome all returning members and any new ones who show up.

Peggy Frazier, program chairperson, announces that...

our speaker will be Jacquie Meypans. Her topic will be "Settlement patterns of the Westward Movement, up to 1835-1840." This includes settlements in Ohio, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama. Jacquie has just finished some extensive research on the Jackson Purchase Trace. The JP Trace led to the opening of western Kentucky.

Peg is trying to schedule speakers who will fulfill some of the needs expressed in the survey (remember the sheet passed around) about areas of the country and world for which you would like to have speakers. Results went this way: 26 people wanted more information on New England; 12 on the midwestern states; 25 on southern states; early California 2; foreign countries (Ireland, Germany, England, Scotland, Wales) had 24 votes; and 7 wanted info on Canada, Fr. Canada, Nova Scotia.

*******see you the 15th*******

Three Gala Wow The Audience ➡➡➡

PATTY, PEGGY, and JEAN

No, they're not an old soft-shoe routine, nor even a singing trio--something better for people interested in genealogy

We lucked out on July 21 when we lined up three of our own members to give a presentation.

Patty Connett spoke on "Getting Oral Interviews." Here are all too briefly some of her major points:

1. Get facts/stories from people while they're living.
2. Use a recorder; take extra cassettes.
3. Take pedigree charts and family group sheets along.
4. Probe for personal-touch type of info to build a character.
5. Take along pictures of any unidentified family members to seek answers.
6. Ask for memorable events in the life of person interviewed.
7. Ask questions about foods used, work in the kitchen, any visitors dropping by

Peggy Frazier spoke on "Getting Details from Memories." Peggy used her own grandmother's writings as an example of what to seek when interviewing an elderly person. She emphasized that it is important not only to get the facts down but encourage the interviewee to explain the impact of the event or attitude experienced at the time in the family. Peg read numerous excerpts from writings of her grandmother to illustrate the point that seemingly insignificant events to a person with a full life can become significant, unique, fascinating to a reader many years later. Examples: Cleaning the house, heating water, taking a bath, working during wash day.

Jean Blackmur advised the audience to become historians in their own lifetime.

1. Locate diaries of family members.
2. Save a page of the newspaper the day your child (or some other relative) is born.
3. Save family letters written by one member to another. Seek out old letters saved by an elderly family member.
4. Identify all people in pictures you take and date them. Date any material you save for later use by yourself or by some future generation.
5. Conduct a household inventory; identify items which have family history meaning.
6. Do a history of the house in which you live.

HI HO TO IRELAND WE GO

Some of our members take their genealogy quite seriously. So seriously that they pack their bags and go to far away places. Ireland, for instance. At the July meeting Marilyn Fullam, Patty Erickson, Virginia Rei, Patty Miller and Carol Glover were seen during the coffee break to be laughingly exchanging common experiences. All had recently returned from the emerald isle. It seems that besides musty tomes and deteriorating gravestones they also saw a lot of the countryside. One admitted to kissing the Blarney Stone.

From Bill's bulletin board



HANDY HINT: Use Double PC

You can purchase double post cards from the post office for 28 cents. Use them when you need a simple answer from someone and you can save on envelopes and SASE. Self address the second card and perhaps devise a check-list type format for your answer card. Caution: Not all post offices stock doubles. (Pasadena GS Newsletter, June, 1987)

HISTORIANS IN NEW YORK

From Riverside GS comes this bit of news: New York state law provides for a local historian for each town in the state. For the address of someone to contact in your area of interest, write to State Historian, State Education Bldg., Albany, NY 12207. Tell the State Historian the research area you're interested in and ask who/where the historian is for that area. Be sure to enclose a SASE for the answer. Keep in mind that most of these historians are part-time people and may have their offices in their homes.

VISIT THE CALIFORNIA ROOM

The California Room of the California State Library in Sacramento has in its collection a variety of materials of interest to the genealogical researcher.

Examples

cemetery records for various counties and sites, veterans' grave registrations, vital records from

Stockton, Sacramento, San Francisco newspapers; state special census of 1852; Great Registers of Voters (reg. voters from 1866-1944); phone directories dating from 1897; Pioneer Record File; Railway Passenger Lists of Overland Trains to SF and the West.

A 44-page guide, Local History and Genealogy Resources of the California State Library and its Sutro Branch, is available for purchase from the Calif. State Library Foundation (P.O. Box 2037, Sacramento 95809)

The California State Library, located in the Library-Courts Bldg., is open from 8 to 5 each week day. The Library maintains a list of qualified researchers.

UPDATE ON SALT LAKE CITY TRIP

The East Bay Gen. Society is sponsoring a research trip to the LDS Library in SLC, the mecca of genealogy libraries, for November 11-17. Latest airfare quotes: \$168 for non-refundable ticket; \$208 for 30-day advance payment. However, for details on hotel reservations, etc., contact either Bette Kott at 531-776 or Alamo World Travel at 837-8742.

Bette Kott, the "tour guide" for this trip, is holding a pre-trip workshop at the Pleasant Hill Adult School. This workshop is sponsored by our own society. So circle the date and time: September 26, 9 am to 3 pm. Bring a lunch.

...sprechen sie deutsch?...

Kate Prunte, 91 Madera Court, Danville, 838-9873, has contacted us to say that she is willing to help, for a nominal fee, those individuals who may be having trouble with reading old German handwriting and script. She is at present a teaching assistant in the San Ramon School District.

IN-HOUSE NEWS

Hospitality: Dolores Huckabone will have the key to the club house. She would prefer to prepare coffee rather than go the "instant" route. John Watson, former treasurer, donated his coffee urn. Now we have two of our own.

New Appointment: Diane Hayes has agreed to be our new treasurer. John Watson moved to southern California.

President goes to work Loretta, trained in nursing, has decided recently to wade into the work world, but just up to her ankles. She will be taking a part-time job, working on Mondays and Tuesdays! Tuesdays...Loretta...fie, fie! The Executive Board will meet on Wednesdays for a while.

Reminder time: Francis Lloyd, Membership, has her hand out these days, not for alms, but for past due dues. A membership form is attached to this newsletter. If you're one of those people who has been traveling while our meetings were going on and you have not paid your dues, please take advantage of the form. Mail it or bring it with you to this coming meeting. If you can't remember paying already, ask Francis.

MEETINGS TO BEGIN PROMPTLY

President Vranish informed the Executive Board at its September 2 meeting that general meetings were going to start promptly on time this new year. She asked Bill Allen to be the "bell ringer" and "herd" the crowd to their seats by 10 am sharp. Full agenda and more speaker time needed dictate the necessity for this reminder to all members.

DIRECTORY PRINTED SOON

If you want your name in this year's directory to be distributed at the October meeting, pay your dues on or before the September 15 meeting. Francis Lloyd indicated that this is the cut off date.

SUPPORT FOR BIGGER LIBRARY BUDGET

Your Executive Board continues to support the proposal to the County Board of Supervisors that County libraries receive a bigger piece of the pie when they build the yearly budget. Jean Blackmur has written a letter to the Supervisors indicating our support for this idea. More money for genealogy and history materials is especially needed.

SANDY KIMBALL AT IT AGAIN

Our own Sandy Kimball was the subject of two very lengthy newspaper articles in local papers quite recently. Her third book is out, History of Moraga. Her favorite chapter was about the Moraga Ranch and the Adobe. Sandy comes by her writing naturally--she has been a professional journalist.

VOTING ON BY-LAWS CHANGE

Members will be voting this time on a By-Laws change. The proposal clarifies the date for auditing our books. The change to Article 7, Section A, 7C will state that the Treasurer shall make all financial records available for audit *within six weeks after* the Annual Meeting. (change in italics)

BEGINNER'S GENEALOGY COURSE OFFERED BY PURDIE

You may be interested in a two-Saturday 10 hour course in genealogy for the beginner starting October 3. Julia Purdie will teach the course between 10 and 3 on October 3 and 10 at the Pleasant Hill Adult Center. The \$30 cost includes all printed materials. It might be wise to pack a lunch.

Ah, to go barefoot earlier

Nadine Stair, a young 85, in a recent national publication, had some good advice to us youngsters in our 40's, 50's and 60's:

If I had my life to live over, I'd dare to make more mistakes next time. I'd relax, I would limber up. I would be sillier than I have been this trip. I would take fewer things seriously.

I would take more chances. I would climb more mountains and swim more rivers. I would perhaps have more actual troubles, but I'd have fewer imaginary ones.

You see, I'm one of those people who lives sensibly and sanely hour after hour, day after day. Oh, I've had my moments, and if I had it to do over again, I'd have more of them. In fact, I'd try to have nothing else. Just moments, one after another, instead of living so many years ahead of each day.

I've been one of those persons who never goes anywhere without a raincoat and an aspirin. If I had to do it again, I would travel lighter than I have.

If I had my life to live over, I would start going barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would go to more dances. I would ride more merry-go-rounds. I would pick more daisies.

THE OLD CLICHE. . .but still true

If you are in business and not advertising, it is like winking at a pretty girl in the dark; you know that you're doing it but nobody else does. The same goes for genealogy data. If you collect it

The Genealogist's Psalm

Genealogy is my pastime, I shall not stray;
It maketh me to lie down and examine half-buried tombstones.

It leadeth me into still Court Houses,
It restoreth my ancestral knowledge,
It leadeth me in paths of census records and ships' passengers lists for my surname sake.

Yes, though I walk through the shadows of research libraries and microfilm readers,
I shall fear no discouragement;
For a strong urge is within me;
the curiosity and motivation they comfort me.

It demandeth preparation of storage space for the acquisition of countless documents;
It anointeth my head with burning midnight oil,
my family group sheets runneth over.

Surely birth, marriage, and death dates
shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of a family-history seeker forever.

--Wildamae Brestal

SWEDISH RESEARCH

If you are researching a Swedish background in Minnesota or western Wisconsin, did you know that the records of virtually every Swedish-American Church have been microfilmed and are available for use at the American-Swedish Institute, South Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN? (Immigrant Genealogical Society Newsletter Oct 86)

and keep it for yourself, it benefits no one else. Who knows, but each one of us may have some information another has been searching for. Sounds like a good answer to the question: Why should I publish?

1987-1988 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership VP: Francis Lloyd, Box 918, Danville, 94526

Name: _____ Ph: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Individual membership \$10 _____ Family membership \$15 _____

Make checks payable to: San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society
(Mail form and check to membership chairperson or pay at meeting)

Please indicate 3 surnames and areas of country you are researching:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



SLOVENIAN GENEALOGY--A PROBLEM AREA TO RESEARCH

The foremost problem for Slovenian genealogists is the scarcity of vital records in all parts of Slovenia, the lack of emigration records of any kind, and precious little data available in the genealogy departments of our public libraries.

Earliest available vital records in most of Yugoslavia reach back only to the 16th century. Furthermore, earliest archival documents were written either in Italian or German, and preceding that in Latin. Yugoslav names, usually difficult to pronounce, were often Italianized or Germanized in vital records books, while in the United States, for the most part, they were written phonetically.

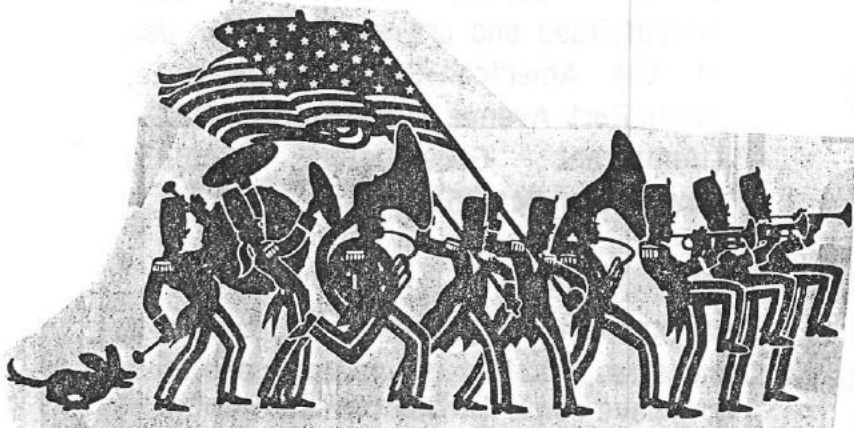
If you are searching for information on your Slovenian ancestors, you will be interested to know that there is a newly formed organization called the Slovenian Genealogy Society. For information, write to Mr. Al Peterlin, 6625 Jeffrey Lane, Lafayette, Indiana 47905.

(Contributed by our President, Loretta Vranish, who subscribes to a Slovenian publication.)



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New members signing up for membership at the July 21 meeting were **Arlene Grimes, Millie Wing and Nancy Williams**. They were fortunate to attend the excellent program we had.



If you have an ancestor associated with the signing of the U.S. Constitution, this is the year to blow your horn for that person. Pass the info on to your editor.

SOURCES AND IDEAS FOR RESEARCH

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF EMIGRANTS, 607-1660, published by Genealogical Publishing Co., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202. . . a comprehensive listing compiled from English Public Records of those individuals who took ship to America for political, religious, or economic reasons; about those who were deported for vagrancy, roguery, or non-conformity, and about those who were sold as laborers in the colonies. . . 600 pp. indexed, cloth, 1987, \$29.95

Iowa State Archives
E. 7th and Court, 4th Floor
Records and Property Center
Des Moines, IA 50319

Has info on Civil War and Spanish War vets, and some info on Mexican War and Iowa National Guard before 1900. Inquiry must supply (1) Infantry or Cavalry, (2) Regiment, (3) Company; Cost is 10 cents per page; anxious to help if possible; be specific; SASE required.

Angus Baxter's book HOW TO SEARCH FOR YOUR GERMAN ROOTS may be helpful to anyone who wants to, or must, do research by mail. It is a down-to-earth, practical guide that takes the researcher step by step through the process of German research. Published by Gen. Pub. Co., 1001 Calvert St., Baltimore 21202; \$9.95

The cheapest way to have your family tree traced is to run for office.--Arnold Glasgow

SALT LAKE'S FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

You and I may have referred to the Mormon library in Salt Lake as the genealogical library, but it is now properly called the Family History Library. It was founded in 1894 to gather genealogical records and help people trace their ancestry. In 1938 the library began gathering and preserving records on microfilm. Over 100 microfilm camera operators are now filming birth, marriage, death, probate, land, military, and many other records in 45 countries.

The library has the world's largest collection of genealogical information. In 1964 a system of local family history centers was established. Formerly known as branch genealogical libraries, more than 1,100 family history centers operate in 43 countries. Anyone may use the library and centers without charge, except for duplication and postage fees.

H. G. Wells in THE OUTLINE OF HISTORY was speaking to historians, but his message is just as apropro to genealogists:

Trust no statement without verification
Test all things as rigorously as possible
Keep no secrets
Attempt no monopolies
Give out one's best plainly and modestly
Serving no other end but TRUTH

NEW POSTAGE RATES

The cost of doing your genealogy work has gone up. Here are the new rates:

U.S. & Mexico	25 cents
+ 20 cents ea add. oz.	
post card	15 cents
Canada	30 cents
Overseas (1/2 oz)	45 cents

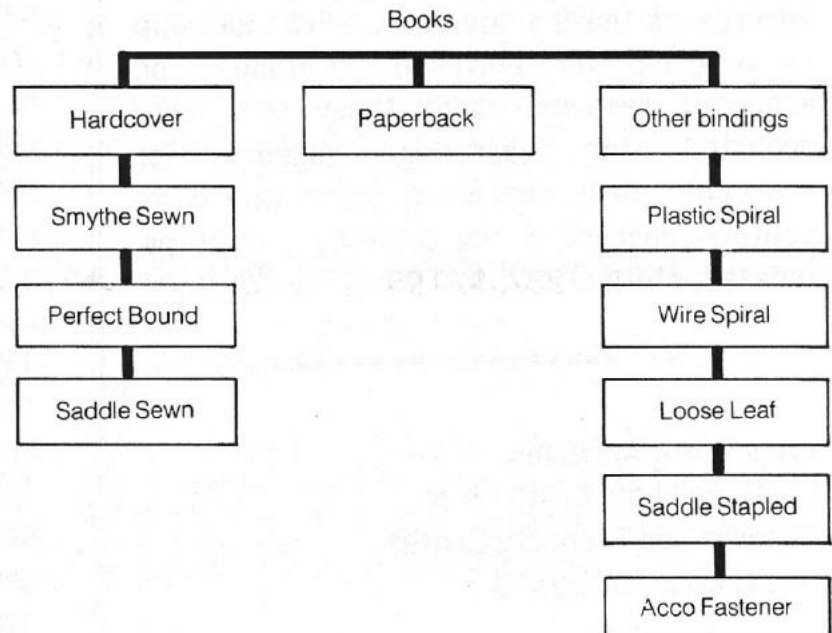
PUBLISHER'S CORNER

Eventually, almost all of us have planned to publish and distribute to relatives, friends, and libraries the results of our family research. That can be and will be more expensive than you had ever thought. Keep in mind that books come in many sizes, shapes, formats and qualities. The type of book you select determines the price, salability, durability, and ease of use. A chart of various book alternatives looks like this:

Notes: The **Smythe sewn** book lies flat when opened; it has all the pages sewn into the book with a heavy thread.

The **saddle sewn** hardcover book is restricted to books with 64 or less pages; the spine is sewn with strong thread; the hardcover is glued to the text with cheesecloth and end sheets.

A **saddle stapled** or saddle stitched book means that the folded sections of the book are shingled over each other like a saddle over a horse. The spine is then stapled with two or three wire staples.



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