

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Editor: William Allen
331 Eton Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Pres: Marilyn Fullam
415-828-1873

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 10 a.m.
except August & Dec; Danville
Women's Club House, 242 W. Linda
Mesa Ave, Danville 94522

Box 305, Diablo, CA 94528

Marilyn Fullam, President

JANUARY

1989

TUESDAY, JAN. 17, NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Barbara O'Rand, program chairperson, announces that she has invited author and teacher Ruth Sutter to be our speaker. Her topic will be "Voices in oral history." Ruth Sutter encourages people doing family research to make great use of recording devices. She sometimes does mock interviews during her presentations. She is a faculty member at Diablo Valley College in the history department. She is author also of "The Next Place You Come To: A Historical Introduction to Communities in North America" and "A time To Build Up: Immigrants and Community."

For the February speaker, VP O'Rand has lined up Barbara Ziel, a genetics counselor from Oakland Kaiser Permanente.

*****see you the 17th*****

BY-LAWS CHANGES TO BE PRESENTED

To be presented at this meeting will be recommendations for minor changes in our By-Laws. Voting will take place at another meeting according to our Constitution.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

As an experiment to verify public demand, the National Archives Pacific-Sierra Region, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, will be open for gen. research on three Saturdays in January, from 9 am to 4 pm (not open on 14th). That is, the library will be open January 7, 21, and 28 from 9 am to 4 pm.

MARK

YOUR

CALENDAR

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Joyce Gunderson, 2005 Lincoln Street, Apt. C, Berkeley, CA 94709

Ph: 845-0180 Interested in Patrick Joyce from Co. Galway, Ireland 1858 and Oakland CA 1894; William Hurt Dearien, VA 1816 & Antioch, CA 1887

Kate Prunte, 91 Madera Court, Danville 94526

Claire L. Wait, 1508 Pebblebrook Court, Walnut Creek, 94596; Researching Wooley, Illinois 1840; McGhee in MS 1868

Change of address for member Pat Monteath: 1932 Rancho Verde Circle, East Danville 94526; Ph: 866-6154

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS TO MEET

****The Southern interest study group will meet on January 26 at 10 am, Frances Lloyd's house and on February 23 at Dorothy Stanton's house, 501 El Capitan Drive, Danville.**

****The German interest group will meet once again immediately after the General Meeting on January 17, at 1 pm, Kate Puente's house, 91 Madera Court, Danville..**

****The Publishing interest group met on January 11 and will meet at Dorothy Stanton's house, February 22. Members who have already published research will share their experiences on the "how to do it." Diana Hancock in January told how she wrote her book on her computer and how she did the printing, collating and binding.**

****The New England Interest Group will hold its first meeting on Monday, January 16 at**

1 pm at home of Mary Ella Parrott, 400 Cliffside Drive, Danville. For further info call 837-967

****The Irish Group will meet January 31 at 10 am at home of Carol Glover, 333 Goshen Court, San Ramon. Those attending are asked to bring specific research problems or situations that have them stumped. Anyone with an interest in Irish Genealogy is invited to attend.**

ANGUS BAXTER TO SPEAK

Lecturer and author Angus Baxter has been invited by the joint efforts of East Bay Gen. Soc, Contra Costa Co. Gen. Soc, and the Hayward Gen. Society to give an all day workshop at the Elks Lodge Hall, 3994 Willow Pass Road, Concord, on Saturday, March 11. Cost: \$20 which includes lunch. Mr. Baxter will be speaking on British, Irish, Scottish, and German roots; on East and West Europe with an emphasis on Scandinavia and Slavic countries. For more details, see the flyer on the bulletin board at this month's meeting.

TOO LATE FOR LAST CHRISTMAS BUT EARLY FOR THE NEXT ONE

Here's a wish list for a genealogist come Christmas time. Dear Santa:

****Don't bring me new dishes; I don't need a new kind of game. Genealogists have peculiar wishes; for Christmas I just want a surname.**

****A new washing machine would be great, but it's not the desire of my life. I've just found an ancestor's birth date; what I need now is the name of his wife.**

****My heart doesn't yearn for a ring that would put a real diamond to shame. What I want is a much cheaper thing: Please give me my ancestress Mary's last name.**

WHERE WILL THE MONEY COME FROM?

As some of you will remember from the last issue of this newsletter and the discussion at the November meeting, the problem of funds shortage continues for our organization. Rent went up 63% recently; postage costs 25 cents per newsletter; duplication costs are up 1 cent per page. The fact that the cost of just running in place costs more and more money each year is not a new fact to you, the reader and society member.

The present budgeted income, derived solely from membership dues, barely meets annual expenditures. Your elected officers make decisions for your organization with cost the first consideration; fiscally, each is truly frugal.

Looking ahead

Now that our society has gone through the stage of organizational years and is operating smoothly, it is time that we take the next step in service to members. That is, the organization should be prepared to undertake special projects when there is a consensus of desire for such projects. Then, too, the VP in charge of programs would like to invite certain talented speakers who have unique presentations to make. But she is limited in making an offer of an honorarium usually given to such speakers. The present \$10 for gas given to each speaker is not going to cut it for the person who must drive a great distance to reach Alamo or who might have to take off time from work or who because of stature in the genealogy field will decline our invitation.

The bottom line is \$\$\$. . .

Hence, the \$500 working reserve which your Executive Board has determined to be a conservative need is a goal for which we must work in the coming months.

Several suggestions have been made and discussed at the last three Executive Board meetings. Four questions guide discussions about fund raisers for the \$500 reserve: Will the fund raiser detract from the monthly meeting's program and speaker? Will the fund raiser use time and energy of elected officers that should go into normally assigned duties? Will it consume time of the membership which should be spent on expanding the horizons of genealogical research? Will the fund raiser be "painless" for the membership?

If we can raise \$40-50 at each meeting for the next year, we will have our special reserve built up. A generous contribution from a few members each time, say \$4-5, would help immeasurably, of course.

As a kickoff to fund raising, the Executive Board decided to have a brief raffle. Tickets for \$1 each will be sold at the next meeting. The first drawing will be for a book (donated by one of our officers) now a best seller in Australia. Selling for \$19.95 retail, it is by Sally Morgan. The author has found in her genealogical history a line of Aborigine; it's fascinating reading. Second and third drawings will be for bottles of Parducci wine, a California vintage, donated also by a member.

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECIDES AGAINST PROGRESSIVE LUNCHEON IN FEBRUARY

Although 15 people had already volunteered their homes as possible places for having at least one course of a progressive luncheon for the purpose of fund raising, the Executive Board decided against the idea. But Dee Huckabone who was to head the luncheon committee wished to thank all of you who volunteered their homes.



BOOK REVIEW

Writing the Family Narrative by Lawrence P. Gouldrup, Ph.D., 1987, is a textbook for every serious genealogist who intends to write and publish a believable family history. The author looks at the family history project as a "scholarly effort and throughout his book he emphasizes the importance of thorough research of genealogical statistics and historical data before attempting any family story. He gives suggestions for "reading between the lines" of census, probate, and land records. He even suggests the use of the time-period Sears Roebuck Catalog for illustration of dress and lifestyle. The characterization chapter takes up the majority of the book and deals with the actual writing of biographical sketches and histories. It contains entertaining short story examples of both good and bad writing the content of which will bring the reader to both laughter and tears. He cites biographies, autobiographies, historical novels, poetry, diaries and journals. Each section of this book contains its own bibliography - great reading lists to keep one busy for a long time. With 159 pp., and soft cover it is published by Ancestry Inc., printed in USA. It is also available through Genealogical Resources by calling Frances Lloyd. At a cost of \$10.95 it is in my opinion, a must for any family historian who wants to know how to bring all their collected data together in a meaningful and enjoyable family story.

Delores Huckabone

YES, NOMINATING COMMITTEE TIME

President Fullam announced at the January 4 Executive Board meeting that she was in the process of appointing a

nominating committee for the 1989-90 slate of officers. She will be soliciting at least one member for the committee from the general membership at this month's meeting. Let's see a lot of hands go up when volunteers are called for. It is hoped that there will be a few hold-overs from this year's Executive Board in order to provide continuity of experience. However, a few of the officers have already indicated that they will not be available for office again.

HERE AND THERE . . .

****The last field trip to the National Archives in San Bruno was a success; nine people in one van saved headaches for several would-be drivers. They met in the parking lot of Alpha Beta in Danville. January 24 is the next trip--anyone interested?**

****Ellen Fulton and Pat Johnson have joined the Hospitality Committee. Three cheers for these two volunteers. We all enjoy the coffee pots marked "with lead" and "unleaded."**

****Did you see the general interest story in the local newspaper HERALD about genealogy? Our society's name was mentioned as a local active group. Check the bulletin board at this coming meeting for full details in the article.**

****We have, thanks to Wyn Kynett, the FAMILY TREE DIGEST newsletter from January, 1987 thru October, 1988; published in Wauseon, Fulton Co., Ohio. See Marilyn Fullam to borrow.**

****Theresa Ryan, 501 N. Paradise Rd., Aberdeen, MD 21001, writes us that she is editor of a family newsletter known as ELY HERITAGE. It is about the Ely surname and allied lineages; published quarterly for \$1 yearly; has unlimited free queries.**

1989 NATIONAL GEN. SOCIETY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ST. PAUL

The 1989 National Genealogical Society Conference will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota, May 17-20. Perhaps some of you will recall that member Jean Blackmur attended last year's conference, held in Biloxi. "Fantabulous" Jean said.

The official hotel will be Radisson St. Paul with overflow rooms available at nearby Twon Square Holiday and Civic Center Inns. Exhibits and booths will be housed at the Radisson. For a brochure write to NGS Conference, 4527 - 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207. Those of you doing Irish research might be interested in gen. research in the Celtic Collection at St. Thomas' O'Shaughnessy Learning Center.

DOINGS OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS

****The San Mateo County Gen. Society** had as its January speaker Judy Svoboda whose topic was "Probate Records and their Use." Ms. Svoboda has taught genealogy at seminars and various adult education facilities for the last eight years.

****At its November meeting** the Contra Costa C. Gen. Society had Robert Moog as its speaker. He made the Civil War come alive by describing the people who fought in it.

****The German Connection**, published by the German Research Association, P.O. Box 11293, San Diego 92111, is a very worthwhile periodical for anyone doing German research. The cost is only \$10. The April, 1988 issue had a good article by Joan Lowrey on "Locating Parish and Civil Records for Your Town." This periodical is full of bits of information helpful to German researcher.

Did you know that...

Some Chinese immigrants claimed citizenship as native born Americans when the earthquake of 1906 in San Francisco destroyed most of the birth and marriage records.***

The Black Death of 1360 killed about 50% of the people in London. Fires set to fumigate the victim's quarters destroyed many documents which could have identified ancestors.***

The names and birth dates of entire families may appear in town meeting records. It was quite common to record the birth of all children at one time. Marriages also may appear. Death records are less common. Many town records have been microfilmed and/or published. Most have been preserved and may be searched at the town hall.***

Most of the parish registers in England still "in Situ"--in the individual parishes.

Efforts are being made for a bill to be brought before Parliament to nationalize the records and put them in one place.

ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION MUSEUM TO BE FINISHED THIS YEAR

The new Ellis Island Immigration Museum, currently under construction and scheduled to open in 1989 will tell the story of the largest migration in modern history. The museum will be located in the 100,000-square foot Main Building--the most historically significant structure on Ellis Island. Upon entering this unique museum the visitor will begin to experience a variety of stimulating exhibits and audio-visual programs.

In addition to the exhibitry, the Museum visitor will discover other interesting, and meaningful areas to visit. One such area is the William Randolph Hearst Oral History Studio.

The Studio will be a central feature of the Ellis Island Museum. Hundreds of taped reminiscences of immigrants will be available to visitors for listening. These personal memories are a national resource dating back to the turn of the century. It is projected that the studio will eventually house the most extensive collection of oral histories on immigration in the world.

Plans for the Museum also include the creation of The Library for Immigration

Studies. Books, photographs and microfiche materials that deal with immigration through Ellis Island as well as with general patterns of immigration in the U.S. will make this Library a leading repository in this country for information on immigration. At a cost of \$140 million, all privately raised money, the Ellis Island project is the largest restoration project of its kind in American history.



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BOX 305
DIABLO, CA 94528