

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



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

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 10 a.m.
except August & Dec; Danville
Women's Club House, 242 W. Linda
Mesa Ave, Danville 94526

Box 305, Diablo, CA 94528

Volume 4

FEBRUARY

Marilyn Fullam, President
1989

No. 7

TUESDAY, FEB. 21, NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Barbara O'Rand, program chairperson, announces that she has invited Barbara Ziel, a genetics counselor with The Permanente Medical Group to be our speaker. Her topic will be GENETICS: HEREDITARY PATTERNS IN THE FAMILY TREE. She uses slides to illustrate her major points. Do long noses and curly hair "run" in your family? Why is it sometimes critically important for adopted children to know their biological parents? If gr. gr. gr. grandmother had heart disease and each generation of girls after her also had this health problem, was it all coincidence? Ms. Ziel comes highly recommended; her presentations elsewhere have been very well received. So all of you will want to hear this speaker; see you on the 21st.

MARK

YOUR

CALENDAR

*****see you the 21st*****

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Executive Board will change its meeting place, temporarily, for its March meeting. Members will go to Room 100 at the Danville Community Pres. Church, 222 W. El Pintado Road. Any member, as always, is welcome to attend.

BY-LAWS CHANGES PRESENTED

Presented at the January meeting were recommendations for minor changes in our By-Laws. Voting will take place at another meeting according to our Constitution. Each person present was given a copy of the proposed changes.

CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS IN BRAZIL?

From the North San Diego Gen. Society via the Livermore-Amador Gen. Society quarterly comes this unusual bit of trivia for the genealogy researcher:

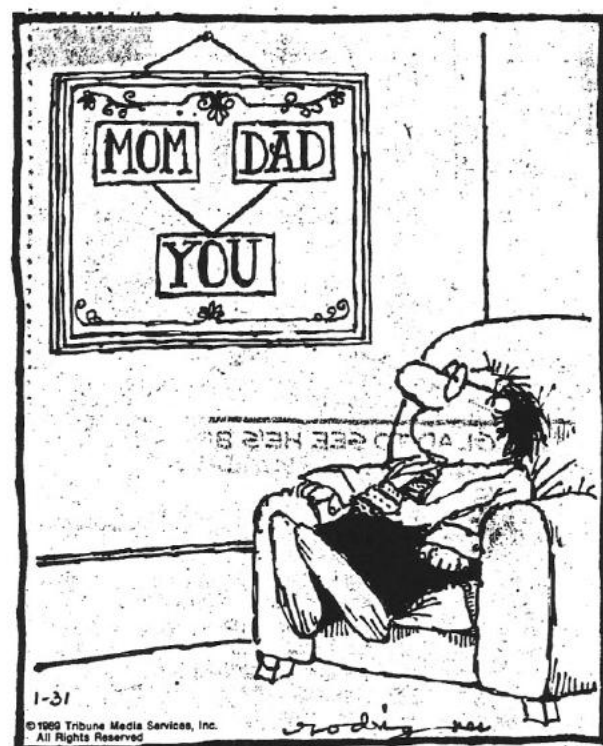
Your descendants of Confederate soldiers may be living in Brazil! Between the years 1865-68, five ships (four sailing from New Orleans and one from Galveston) set their sail southward. About 1800 people, including Confederate soldiers, their families, and sympathizers, left their homes in Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas.

Four of the ships landed in Santos, Brazil which is the seaport for Sao Paulo. A fifth landed at Belen, northern Brazil. Many of their descendants still live in the city of Campinas, about 60 miles from Sao Paulo. The original families established a Confederate cemetery on a farm not far from the Santa Barbara D'Oeste. This has been maintained by descendants.

A history of these families has been written by Mrs. Judith Jones entitled Soldado Descansa, Portuguese for "Soldier's Rest." For a list of surnames included in the book, see the Cooper State Bulletin of the Ariz. State Gen. Soc., Vol XXI, No. 3 and 4, Winter 1987, pp. 92-93.

INTERESTED IN A BRITAIN STUDY GROUP?

Jean Blackmur has kindly consented to chair a study group on Britain if there is sufficient interest. Where: Jean's house, 10 a.m., March 27. If you're one of those individuals who has been thinking about jumping from U.S. shores to jolly old England to trace ancestors, perhaps this is YOUR chance to learn sources and the "how to do it" techniques. Several members are already well versed in this area of research and are happy to share their experience.



Charlie's \$39.95 mail-order family genealogy, suitable for framing.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Margaret Dougherty, 7154 Kingston Place, Dublin 94568; Ph 833-1676; researching surnames Houle & Mulde (Norway) and Dougherty (Illinois)

Bill F. Gurule, 1208 Monticello Road, Lafayette 94549; Ph 283-2593; researching Grollet (Gurule) (France, 17th cent. & present); Chavez (Chaves, Spain & SoWest U.S. 15th cent. & present)

Jan Larsen, 230 Powhattan Ct., Danville 94526; Ph: 866-9181; researching surnames Hess (Illinois & CO); Norton (KS & CO)

Virginia Rood, 2107 Dunblane Court, WC 94598; Ph: 937-8659; researching surnames Campbell (Westmore Co. PA) & Hopkins (VT & MA)

Elizabeth B. Zilen, 1635 Humphrey Drive, Concord 94519; Ph: 685-2159; researching surnames Patterson (Scotland/N. Ireland) & Anderson (No. Ireland)

BOOK REVIEW

A Land Beyond the River by Jack Casey, 1988. I won't make it a habit to review romantic novels but this is a special book. My mother-in-law gave us this book because she knew of our interest in the Erie Canal of New York State where our grandfather went to work at the age of 11 driving team along the canal tow paths in 1881.

The time frame of the book is the early 1800's. The land is known then as the "great western frontier"; that rugged, forbidding terrain spanning the width of NY State from Albany on the Hudson River to what was then called Buffalo Creek on Lake Erie. The subject is the great Erie Canal which opened the doors of commerce from the ocean to the great lakes causing New York State to become the wealthiest of states and deserving of the designation of "the empire state".

Casey begins his book with Lake Erie, its importance in trade between British Canada and the US; the bootleg whiskey trade; the pirates, and the battleground the lake became in the war of 1812.

Casey uses both fictional and non-fictional characters throughout the book. Much of the book deals with the 15 year political battle of DeWitt Clinton, Martin VanBuren and others which leads to the approval for building the canal. Once the work is started, Casey writes of the hardships; the crossing of the great Montezuma swamp, mosquitos, malaria, hot-humid summers, cold-bitter winters. He tells of the thousands of Irish prisoners who were commissioned for the price of their freedom to dig the canal, how they worked and died and how some defected to Canada as soon as they were able. He tells also of the many farmers and land owners who took part in the construction.

The canal is finished in 1825. The celebration of its completion ends with a triumphant relay of canon blasts from Buffalo Creek, eastward along the canal and the many villages springing up along its banks, on to Troy, Albany, down the Hudson to NY City and then back the 500 miles.

If you have an interest in NY state or Canada, you will love this book. If you don't you will still enjoy reading a little bit of history and about the men and women who make this country the great country it is today.

Published by Bantam Books Inc., 660 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY 10103, paperback, \$3.95.

Delores Huckabone

SPECIAL TRIP IDEA IN THE WORKS

Care to hit two research libraries in one day? How's this for a trip idea: On March 23 go to the Sutro Library for several hours; then to the Irish Library at the Irish Cultural Center on 47th and Sloat in San Francisco (across from Zoo) before having an excellent dinner at the Center. Those attending would be returning after the heavy commuter traffic is over. Keep tuned--more details later.

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.

SPECIAL RAFFLE ITEM THIS MONTH

One of our members has most generously and anonymously donated a beautifully home crafted 27" by 54" accent rug. Just the yarn itself cost the member over \$80. The hours and hours of work going into the crafting of this rug can only be said to be a labor of love.

The Raffle Committee has decided that this item should not be awarded until at least 150 tickets have been sold. After you have seen the workmanship of this accent piece, you'll probably want to buy four or five tickets, thus increasing your chance of winning it! If the goal of 150 tickets is not reached this time, we will hold over this item until the March drawing.

However, other items for the raffle will be available at the coming meeting. An excellent reference book Cite Your Source and two bottles of Parducci wine will be awarded. In addition, last month's first prize winner of Australia's best seller by Sally Morgan, has donated it back to the Society. That, too, will be awarded. The winner last month thoroughly enjoyed the book and thought someone else should have the chance to read it.

SPEAKER RUTH SUTTER A BIG HIT

In January, Ruth Sutter from DYC shared her ideas for gathering oral history. Not only did she give some do and don't hints, she also shared some experiences of students who as part of their course work had gathered and written up an oral history assignment. Ms. Sutter especially emphasized that you shouldn't postpone interviewing elderly people (here today, gone tomorrow); be extra careful to see that your recorder is working and has a strong battery; avoid questions requiring only "yes" or "no" answers; and get written

permission from the interviewee to use the material obtained in the interview. Ms. Sutter also offered her talents to members of any study group wishing to organize for the purpose of polishing their individual skills in interview techniques. After the talk, about twelve members and the speaker went to lunch together in a nearby restaurant.

NEWSLETTER REVIEW COMMITTEE CONVENES

President Fullam appointed a committee to review the purpose and format of our newsletter. Members Jean Blackmur, Dorothy Stanton, and Bea O'Rand attended. The committee felt that our needs are primarily for communication within our society. Secondly, we should offer general genealogical information rather than attempt to provide limited genealogical and historical interest in the San Ramon Valley. Other observations made were these:

1. A volume and issue number should be on each newsletter.
2. A rather formal style should be used; reference should be made to the standards recommended by the National Genealogical Society.
3. There should be a "Highlights of the Executive Board Meeting" column.
4. There should be a "President's Message" column on a regular basis.
5. Ideally, there should be an assistant editor one year who in the next would become the editor, thus providing "on-the-job" experience and continuity.
6. Chairmen and officers should make a practice to furnish written reports to the newsletter editor for inclusion in each issue.

HAVING TROUBLE READING THAT WRITING?

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From the Livermore ROOTS TRACER comes this helpful bit of advice when it comes to reading writing in early manuscripts, especially the census schedules. Keep in mind that until the turn of the century, spelling was largely phonetic: a pair of shoes = a pare of shoos. Then too, each scribe had his own peculiar style of writing. Study examples of variants in handwriting below and the next time you're faced with handwriting that at first is undecipherable, you'll breeze right through your challenge.

A	<i>A A A A A</i>	<i>ua</i>
B	<i>B B B B B</i>	<i>lt</i>
C	<i>C C C C C</i>	<i>ex</i>
D	<i>D D D D D</i>	<i>dad del</i>
E	<i>E E E E E</i>	<i>ex</i>
F	<i>F F F F F</i>	<i>ft</i>
G	<i>G G G G G</i>	<i>gg</i>
H	<i>H H H H H</i>	<i>h</i>
I	<i>I I I I I</i>	<i>i</i>
J	<i>J J J J J</i>	<i>jj</i>
K	<i>K K K K K</i>	<i>kh</i>
L	<i>L L L L L</i>	<i>ll</i>
M	<i>M M M M M</i>	<i>m</i>
N	<i>N N N N N</i>	<i>n</i>
O	<i>O O O O O</i>	<i>oo</i>
P	<i>P P P P P</i>	<i>ph</i>
Q	<i>Q Q Q Q Q</i>	<i>q</i>
R	<i>R R R R R</i>	<i>r</i>
S	<i>S S S S S</i>	<i>s</i>
T	<i>T T T T T</i>	<i>t</i>
U	<i>U U U U U</i>	<i>u</i>
V	<i>V V V V V</i>	<i>v</i>
W	<i>W W W W W</i>	<i>w</i>
X	<i>X X X X X</i>	<i>x</i>
Y	<i>Y Y Y Y Y</i>	<i>y</i>
Z	<i>Z Z Z Z Z</i>	<i>z</i>

BEWARE!

ss <i>ss</i>	sh <i>sh</i>	Th <i>th</i>	
ch <i>ck</i>	ai <i>ea</i>	ou <i>au</i>	ie <i>ei</i>
d <i>t</i>	tt <i>ll</i>	dd <i>tt</i>	

Terminating *g* is often added.

Double consonants are often reduced to single.

Single consonants are often doubled.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS MEET

**The Southern interest study group met on January 26 at 10 am, Frances Lloyd's house and will meet again on February 23 at Dorothy Stanton's house, 501 El Capitan Drive, Danville. For more info call 820-3757. The place for the March 30 meeting has yet to be decided.

**The Publishing interest group will meet at Dorothy Stanton's house, February 22. Members who have already published research will share their experiences on "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 held its first meeting on January 16 at 1 pm at home of Mary Ella Parrott, 400 Cliffside Drive, Danville.

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BOX 305
DIABLO, CA 94528

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**The Irish Group again met on January 31, 10 am at home of Carol Glover, 333 Goshen Court, San Ramon. Those attending shared specific research situations that have them stumped. Solutions were offered. Anyone with an interest in Irish Genealogy is invited to attend future meetings.

ARE YOU UP ON YOUR NICKNAMES?

Arron = Ari, Arnie, Aron, Erin, Ron, Ronnie
Alexander = Al, Alec, Alex, Alix, Sandy
August = Augie, Augy, Gus, Guss
Benjamin = Benji, Bennie, Jamie, Jim
Bradford = Brad, Ford
Broderick = Brod, Broddy, Rick, Ricky
Calvin = Cal, Vin, Vinny
Charles = Carl, Carlo, Cary, Chad, Chaddie
Chick, Chip, Karl
Cornelius = Conney, Connie, Cornie, Cory, Neel
Dalton = Dal, Dalt, Tony
Edgar = Ned, Neddy, Ted, Ed, Teddy
Ezekiel = Zeke
Gilbert = Bert, Burt, Gib, Gil, Wilbur, Will
Hubert = Bert, Berty, Hugh, Hugo