

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 94528-1165

Box 305, Diablo, CA 94528

Volume 4

MARCH

Marilyn Fullam, President

1989

No. 8

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MARK

YOUR

CALENDAR

Barbara O'Rand, program chairperson, announces that she has invited Robert Moog as our speaker this month. His topic: PERSONALITIES OF THE CIVIL WAR. Mr. Moog has enough tales, both historical and otherwise, to fill more than his allotted time with us. He has been well received at other genealogical societies and comes highly recommended. As a seasoned genealogist, he teaches evening classes in the Adult School of the Acalanes High School District. He mesmerizes his students and audiences with his story telling. Don't miss this one--10 a.m., March 21.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD CONTINUES SEARCH FOR NEW HOME

The Executive Board continues its search for larger quarters as a meeting place for our Society. As most of you realize, our "family" continues to grow in attendance. The consequence is, we've outgrown our present meeting place. The Executive Board met this month at a local Danville church but found that parking would be inadequate for our numbers. The search goes on. The \$5 per hour price tag at

the church versus the \$20 per hour we pay for our present building was most appealing. Anyone out there have a secret spot or have special entree somewhere?

MONTHLY RAFFLE CONTINUES

The anonymously donated and beautifully home crafted 27" by 54" accent rug on display at the last meeting will still be available for ticket buying at this coming meeting. To encourage ticket sales, the Executive Board decided that tickets

for this item should be reduced from \$5 to \$1. Those individuals buying a \$5 ticket at the last meeting will be given an additional four tickets at the next meeting. Reminder: this item will not be awarded until at least 150 tickets have been sold.

However, other items for the monthly raffle will be available at the coming meeting. One item: an 18" x 30" U.S. map showing the names of all the counties in all the states--a genuine must-have for anyone doing research. Second item: Billy Yank, a book about the experiences of the common soldier during the Civil War. Third item: A \$15 gift certificate for genealogy books, redeemable and applicable for any purchase of materials from the company owned and operated by members Frances Lloyd and Betty Kott.

The goal of building up a \$500 special fund for special activities and speakers for the membership is now at the half way mark. We have \$243 in the kitty as a result of member donations and monthly raffles. As they say at KQED during fund raising time, "The sooner we reach our goal, the sooner we quit the fund raising activities." So get out your checkbooks and buy, buy, buy raffle tickets and make donations.

SPECIAL TRIP FOR LITTLE GREEN PEOPLE IS NOW ON

Care to hit two research libraries in one day? How's this for a trip: On Thursday, 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 or another restaurant of your choice. Those attending will be returning after the heavy commuter traffic is over. Keep

tuned--more details to be given by Carol Glover at our March meeting. Carol has indicated, though, that car pooling will be available at 9 a.m. behind the Danville Alpha Beta.

SPEAKER BARBARA ZIEL A BIG HIT

Barbara Ziel, a genetics counselor with The Permanente Medical Group, spoke at our last meeting. Her topic: GENETICS: HEREDITARY PATTERNS IN THE FAMILY TREE. She indicated that a good family history is a wonderful tool to the geneticist doing counseling with a family. Her job is to work with families having children with birth defects or pregnant mothers who may have a new-born with defects. She said that adults want to hear what the statistical chances are for having a particular defect in their new-born and what are the burdens the child and family members must bear.

There are thousands and thousands of genetic diseases we humans are subject to but rarely manifest. Everything depends on our genes and how they combine when conception takes place. Barbara showed her audience a slide of two young brothers close in age but dramatically different in size. One had Marfans syndrome which manifests itself when the person has extra height, long legs, arms and fingers--witness the 7 foot basketball player, etc. Barbara also emphasized that the age factor of the mother is very important to passing on genetic defects. For example, the mother who is age 22 has one chance in 1,666 having a child with Down syndrome, whereas the mother age 45 has one chance in 32 of having a child with the defect. Barbara likewise, in her low key manner of speaking, discussed Queen Victoria's passing on hemophilia to her descendants through the females.

THE ARTICLE YOU ARE ABOUT TO READ IS FOR REAL!

Member Carol Glover while reading through a copy of her evening paper, THE EXAMINER, came across this obituary. The opening lines are usual stuff, but read on, old buddy.

BUNSEN-MCKIRKEBY, Charlotte Jeanne — born September 26, 1935 in El Paso, Texas; died February 23, 1989 in Santa Rosa Community Hospital following prolonged illness; survived by: Rich G. McKirkeby, husband, Santa Rosa, CA, Paul Bunsen, brother, of Rio Linda, Howard Hansen, cousin, of Fresno; a blue-blood ancestry which provided the Bunsen Burner, a Founding Father, a Supreme Court Judge, cattlerustlers and the namesake of Hyde St. in San Francisco; confidante and secretary to the late, great astrologer-socialite Gavin ("Circle of Sex"), Arthur; an exquisitely gorgeous, dazzlingly tempestuous, barnstorming anti-war ultra-liberal; member of Peace and Freedom Party; reveler in the Beatnik/Hippy "Scenes"; selected tennis partner to Henry Miller, in Big Sur; a Jeanne-Moutreau lookalike; refusnik to competing in Miss America contest; fervant, if lapsed, Roman Catholic with Buddhist proclivities, raised in a convent; Juillard candidate with brilliant gift for music and drama; fiancée of a cousin of the Shah of Iran and wife to a bi-erotic activist with just enough time left over for involvement in volunteer work at the Marine Mammal Center, environmentalism, animal rights and feminism; also employed in Treasury at Southern Pacific where her family's 60 year proud history with company ranged from the Vice Presidency to radical labor organizers. Memorial service March 3, 1989, Friday at Paulist Center Chapel at #3 Embarcadero Center, 3:30 PM, Mass. and personal testimonials.

GRIMES REPORTS MAY LUNCHEON PLANS ARE PROGRESSING

Luncheon Chairman Arlene Grimes reported to the Executive Board at its monthly meeting that plans for the annual May luncheon are coming along nicely. After the book browsing has taken place, members will move to the inside where tables will be set up and lunch served. Soft drinks and wine will be furnished as part of the luncheon price. The exact price is yet to be determined since the caterer has not been selected.

All members are urged to bring any cut flowers they may have at that time to help decorate the tables. The luncheon has been a delightful experience each year; last year 43 people attended.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS MEET

****The Southern interest study group** met on February 23 at 10 am, Dorothy Stanton's house and will meet again on March 30 at Barbara Dittig's house. Any questions--call 866-9610

****The Publishing Interest Group** met at Dorothy Stanton's house, February 22. Three members who have already "published" shared their experiences on "how to do it." Next meeting: Wednesday, April 12, 10 a.m., Marilyn Fullam's house.

****The Roots 111 Group** will meet at 1 p.m., March 20, Mary Ella Parrott's house, 400 Cliffside Drive, Danville.

****The England Group** will meet at 10 a.m., March 27, Jean Blackmur's house; the New England Group at 1 p.m., Mary Ella Parrott's house.

****The German Group** will meet at Kate Prunte's house immediately after our regular March 21 meeting. Bring a bag lunch.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Mary McNamara, 260 Bolla Ave., Alamo 94507, 837-7767. Researching surnames: Phinney NY 1790-1860 and Barnes MA -- 1850

BY-LAWS CHANGES

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

DUBLIN'S DR. JIM RYAN TO SPEAK

On Saturday, March 25 from 1-4 p.m. Dr. Jim Ryan, author of Irish Record Sources for Family and Local History will be speaking for the California Genealogical Society. Cost: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. Mail to CGS, 300 Brannan St., Suite 409, San Francisco 94107. You Irish researchers will find this speaker very worth your time and money--remember, he's directly from the emerald isle and, moreover, a genealogist.

BETTY KOTT TO OFFER CLASS

Betty Kott, genealogist, teacher, and librarian for CGS, member of our society--among her many credentials--will offer a Beginner's Class in Genealogy, starting March 28. It will run for six weeks, cost \$40 (includes materials), and will meet at Frances Lloyd's house in Danville. A minimum of eight people will be needed to make the class go. Call Betty at 707/554-4814 or mail a check to her at 228 Sandy Neck Way, Vallejo 94591. Even though you've been doing research on your own for several years, if you have not taken a class from Betty to get the latest word on research methods, then you're short changing yourself. Betty, as a real pro in the field, always has the latest info. So don't let that name "Beginner's Class" fool you.

BRITISH STUDY GROUP GETS GOING

The first meeting of the British study group met February 27 at Jean Blackmur's house. Those attending favored the fourth Monday morning of each month although this time could be changed to accommodate future participants.

The group would welcome anyone with an interest in England, Scotland, or Wales to attend the next meeting, Monday, March 27, 10 a.m., Jean's home at 1941 Alameda Diablo in Diablo. Members decided to complete a form by furnishing information on their expertise, areas and time periods of special interest, and to list their immigrant ancestors and dates of their arrival.

ARCHIVES OPEN SATURDAYS

Care to do research on Saturdays? The National Archives in San Bruno will be open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through May 13. If you care to attend a genealogy workshop there which is held twice a month from now through July at a cost of \$5, call 876-9009 for more information.

WIN KYNETT DONATES REFERENCE BOOKS

Win Kynett has donated 1987 and 1988 copies of The Family Tree Digest published in Wauseon, Ohio. It is loaded with queries on Ohio families. Win has also donated the Vindicator Obituary Index covering 1870's to 1980's (national coverage). If you would like to borrow either of these publications, call President Marilyn Fullam at 828-1873.

BIG BOOK BROWSE AND GENEALOGY SALE AT MAY MEETING

The Third Annual BBB & GS is again scheduled for the morning of our May meeting. This is the occasion when we each gather together some of our favorite resources and take them to the "book browse." It is always fascinating to

examine each other's maps, manuals, charts, genealogy books, etc. which are displayed by subject matter on tables.

Several other tables will feature items for sale, (things which we may no longer need, but others may wish to purchase . . . in the manner of a garage sale), and will provide a good opportunity to recycle our genealogy inventories.

Jean Blackmur, chairman, reminds us to start sorting and organizing early so there will be much to browse through and buy.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT

From the August, '88 issue of FRIENDS comes this tale of an experience smacking a genealogical tone:

Last Year I went home to Texas for a special reunion of cousins. I hadn't seen any of them in more than 25 years, some not at all. To say the least, I was nervous and apprehensive. What would I talk about after all these years? And would I recognize anyone?

When I reached the park where the reunion was being held, my apprehension vanished. Everyone was friendly and they seemed so glad to see me. I didn't seem like a stranger at all.

After I got back to California, I learned I had been at the right park all right, but with the wrong family! At first I was very embarrassed, but not anymore. I met a wonderful new family and I've been invited back to their next reunion.

(Kelly Nahr, Vacaville, Calif.)

EMPTY GRAVES BUT A TOMBSTONE

When you run across the word "centaph" engraved on a tombstone, it indicates an empty grave. The stone is erected in memory of a person buried elsewhere--often in honor of a person lost at sea or totally cremated in an accident.



"You better be quiet or Granddad will leave you out of the family history he's writing."

WORDS MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN HISTORY

Don't read the wrong interpretation into terminology from yesteryear. Our language has changed a great deal in many areas, so it's important to know what certain terms meant in your ancestors' time.

For example: "Stepmother" was sometimes called "mother-in-law" in Colonial days. "Housekeeper" was the word for "property owner" in early America. "Infant" still means legally a person under 18 or 21. The word "tithing" once was another term for "town." "Mister" and "Gentleman" was once an honor granted only to men of wealth and/or education.

(Questing Heirs NL 7/1988)

RESEARCHING THE CIVIL WAR?

If you are researching the Civil War, you'll find in the Gov. Documents Room, Stanford University's Green Library all 70 volumes (with indexes) of the WAR OF THE REBELLION, which is a compilation of the official records of both the union and confederate forces.

IN WHAT WAR DID YOUR ANCESTOR FIGHT?

The following guide can help you determine which war in which your ancestor may have fought.

<u>If Born Between</u>	<u>War Name</u>	<u>Dates of War</u>
1625-1656	Bacon's Rebellion	1676
1639-1743	Intercolonial Wars	1689-1763
1713-1743	Pontiac's Rebellion	1763-1765
1720-1763	American Revolution	1775-1783
1740-1791	Indian Wars	1790-1811
1762-1794	War of 1812	1812-1815
1762-1812	Blackhawk War	1832
1796-1828	Mexican War	1846-1848
1806-1849	Civil War	1861-1865
1848-1880	Span. Amer. War	1898

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